WATERLOGGED SOILS SLOW VEGETABLE GROWTH

Rainfall has not only slowed planting, but we are also seeing its effects in vegetable plantings. It's as if some vegetables are standing still. We think of roots taking up water, but for roots to function they also need access to oxygen from the pore space in soil. When soils are waterlogged, roots can't get the oxygen they need for normal processes, namely taking up moisture and nutrients.

Some plants may wilt in waterlogged soils. Many times older leaves will be yellowed — this is a symptom of nitrogen deficiency. Another symptom sometimes seen is a downward curling of leaves and stems. This condition is called epinasty and develops when ethylene concentrations build up in roots in soils that are too wet. Root die-off can occur in soils that stay saturated for long periods of time.

What can be done? The short answer is be patient and let the soil dry out before getting in or working it. Once it dries out, work on weed control and supplying nutrients through drip irrigation or sidedress fertilizer applications. If you haven't tested soil, wait for it to dry out a bit and pull samples to check soil pH and needed nutrients.

Traci Johnson
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

Photo Credit: UK Vegetable IPM Team

What's Inside?

Todd County Extension · 240 Pond River Rd · Elkton, KY 42220 · 270-265-5659

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

TWILIGHT TOUR

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

4:00 pm Twilight Tour Begins

Leroy Hoover Farm
1890 Rennie Road, Elkton

Tour will focus on:

- sweet corn from field to fork
- sweet corn rust
- winter squash and pumpkin
- cucumber production - greenhouse vs. field
- spider mite management
- late-season tunnel tomatoes - grafting, low tillage, raised beds
- packing shed setup

Guests include:
Dr. Kiersten Wise, UK Plant Pathology
Dr. Raul Villanueva, UK Entomology
Ryan Mairs, Kentucky Dept of Agriculture

Dinner served after the tour.

Pre-registration not required.

Event Sponsors

MILLER A HUBER COMPANY

Rupp

Sauder
SAUDER FARM COUNTRY MARKET
959 BRITMART RD 270-885-1048
ELKTON KY 42220 FAX 270-886-8017

TORO

Timac AGRO USA

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER
CONTACT US AT 270.886.6328

Dr. Darrell Johnson Kelly Jackson

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

UPCOMING AG EVENTS

KATS Drone Pilot Certification Workshop
June 16-17, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Madisonville
https://kats.ca.uky.edu/

Todd County Horseman's Association Meeting
June 23, 5:30 pm
Todd County Extension

Twilight Tour, Commercial Vegetables
June 24, 4:00 pm
Leroy Hoover Farm
1890 Rennie Road, Elkton

Beef Quality & Care Assurance Certification (BQCA)
June 27, 8:30 am
Todd County Extension
(or online any time at https://www.kybeefnetwork.com/

Evaluating Mid-Year Farm Cash Flow Needs
July 15, 6:00 pm
Todd County Extension Office
Call 270-265-5659 to reserve your meal for this special event.
Presented by Kayla Brashears
UK Farm Management Specialist

UT Soybean Scout School
July 17, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
5233 Belt Road, Springfield, TN
Register by contacting tmann1@utk.edu or 615-384-7936
CEU's Available

UK Corn, Soybean, & Tobacco Field Day
July 22
UKREC, Princeton

HARRISON EARNS CATTLEMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP

Madi Harrison earned the 2025 Todd County Cattlemen's $500 scholarship. Madi manages a small cattle herd with her grandfather and produces hay and firewood. She has been active in both FFA and 4-H, most recently serving as FFA Reporter, and will serve as a Kentucky FFA Foundation Ambassador.

Madi will attend Murray State University this fall, pursuing a degree in Nursing and Agriculture. Pictured with Madi (left to right) are Todd County Cattlemen's Association treasurer Tony Berry, vice-president Jack Paine, and president Don Laster.

Photo Credit: Heather Harrison

CAIP COST-SHARE EDUCATION AND DEADLINES

Farmers approved for CAIP cost-share are required to complete an education credit. Educational meetings/programs completed between June 21, 2024 and July 18, 2025 will qualify, provided they are related to your cost-share project. The CAIP education form requires a signature from your county extension agent — please have your sections of the form completed before bringing in for a signature.

Upcoming educational meetings are listed on page 3. Online classes are available at https://anr.ca.uky.edu/caip-training. Contact me with any questions about the education requirement at 270-265-5659. Note that BQCA is a REQUIRED prerequisite for Large Animal projects, but it does not count as the CAIP education credit.

REMINDER OF IMPORTANT CAIP DATES:

- **Eligible purchase time frame: June 21, 2024—June 20, 2025**
- **Last day to submit paperwork (invoices/receipts, cancelled checks, education form, producer report form, etc.): July 18, 2025**
- **Last day to complete project: July 18, 2025**

Turn in all required paperwork to: Todd County Conservation District, 101 Elk Fork Road, in Elkton.

HOW DO YOU SELECT YOUR BULLS?

Source: Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky and Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska

Bull selection is one of the most important decisions that a beef producer makes and can have a lasting impact on profitability. Factors such as the market endpoint of calves (e.g., newly weaned or finished cattle), whether replacements will be retained, and the level of nutritional management provided to the cow herd all impact which traits should be selected for and at what level. Understanding this complex relationship can be the difference between buying a "good" bull and buying the right bull.

The eBEEF.org team, a group of beef cattle geneticists from across the US, is trying to determine how beef producers are currently selecting their bulls and will use this information to develop educational materials to help improve this process. Knowing which traits to select for is often not the problem, it is the degree to which each should be emphasized that can be highly variable from producer to producer and can often be challenging to determine. Too often this process is more 'seat of the pants' rather than by factors affecting profitability. For example, trying to find the optimal level of calving ease without sacrificing profit by not emphasizing traits like sale weight of the calves enough.

To assess how beef producers are selecting bulls, within their level of management, we are asking you to fill out a brief survey. This should take approximately 10 minutes of your time and provide a wealth of information for the beef industry! This information will be used to compare the survey results to values generated by iGENDEC, a software package that determines the most profitable level of emphasis that should be placed on each trait within a specific production system.

Beef Bull Selection Survey

Chance to win one of five $100 gift cards sponsored by the Beef Improvement Federation

https://corexmsd9bfwdhxgbhmw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFqYgoQpZMJLRLE

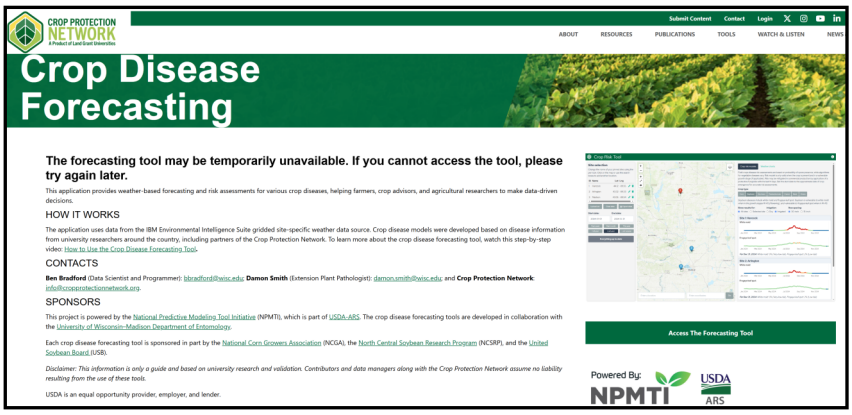
Several incentives are being offered to encourage participation in this survey. The first is a random drawing for five $100 gift cards generously donated by the Beef Improvement Federation (beefimprovement.org). The second is a special webinar that will be offered to everyone that completes a survey, and provides their email address, to discuss the findings of the survey and resulting bull selection strategies. Lastly, and possibly most importantly, knowledge gained by beef producers by going through this process and the entire beef industry through better bull selection decisions.

Survey Link: https://corexmsd9bfwdhxgbhmw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFqYgoQpZMJLRLE

NEW CORN DISEASE FORECASTING TOOL NOW AVAILABLE

Source: Kiersten Wise, UK Extension Plant Pathologist

Farmers and agricultural professionals now have access to a new tool to help assess corn disease risk: the Crop Risk Tool, https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/crop-disease-forecasting available through the Crop Protection Network. This interactive tool is built using data from multiple years of university research trials, including over 20 trials in Kentucky. Currently, it includes two models for corn diseases: gray leaf spot, an annually important disease in Kentucky, and tar spot, disease that has recently emerged in the state. While tar spot has not yet caused significant yield losses in Kentucky, it remains a concern due to its impact in northern states.



The Crop Risk Tool uses local weather data to estimate the likelihood of disease development by evaluating both fungal spore presence and environmental conditions. Users can generate risk predictions on a weekly, monthly, or yearly or seasonal basis for specific locations. Risk is expressed as a percentage with higher values indicating a greater chance of disease development, while lower values suggest less favorable conditions for disease.

It is important to note that disease can still occur under low-risk conditions, though it is less likely to reach economically damaging levels. **The risk predictions are relevant when corn is at vulnerable growth stages, specifically from the 10-leaf collar (V10) to milk stage (R3).** High risk predictions outside of these stages typically do not require action. Like every prediction tool, the risk probabilities are not a guarantee but can be used as another source of information when making informed decisions about fungicide application for disease management.

An interesting feature of the tool is its ability to review historical risk data. For example, in Princeton, Kentucky, the 2024 model showed that:

- Gray leaf spot risk was highest between May and November, which aligns with actual observations during the growing season.
- Tar spot risk peaked in mid-May and mid-November, outside of the critical V10–R3 window, explaining why it didn't reach damaging levels despite being observed in the area.

The Crop Risk Tool is set to replace the Tarspotter app, which will be phased out. Users who previously relied on Tarspotter should now use this new tool for tar spot predictions.

Development and ongoing improvement of the Crop Risk Tool is funded by the National Predictive Modeling Tool Initiative (NPMTI) through the USDA-ARS and supported by the National Corn Growers Association. The tool is developed and managed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with ongoing contributions from Kentucky and other states to expand and refine disease models. New models for other corn diseases, including northern corn leaf blight and southern rust, are currently in progress. The tool will be updated annually with new university data to improve accuracy and expand coverage.

MANAGING CROP MARKETS WHEN TRADE DISRUPTS PRICES

Source: Grant Gardner, UK Extension Economist; Will Maples, Mississippi State University Extension Economist. Note: This article was originally written for Southern Ag Today.

International markets support U.S. agriculture, especially in the Southern states. Exports make up a significant portion of cash receipts for many major commodities produced in the Southern states (Figure 1). From 2010 to 2023, an average of 84% of cotton receipts came from exports, underscoring the crop's reliance on global trade. Wheat and soybeans also depend heavily on international markets, with exports accounting for 64% and 55% of their respective receipts. In contrast, corn is less export-oriented, with just 19% of receipts linked to foreign buyers[1]. This level of exposure makes Southern agriculture especially sensitive to tariff changes and trade policy shifts. During periods of uncertainty, a well-informed marketing and risk management strategy is often the best defense producers have against market volatility.

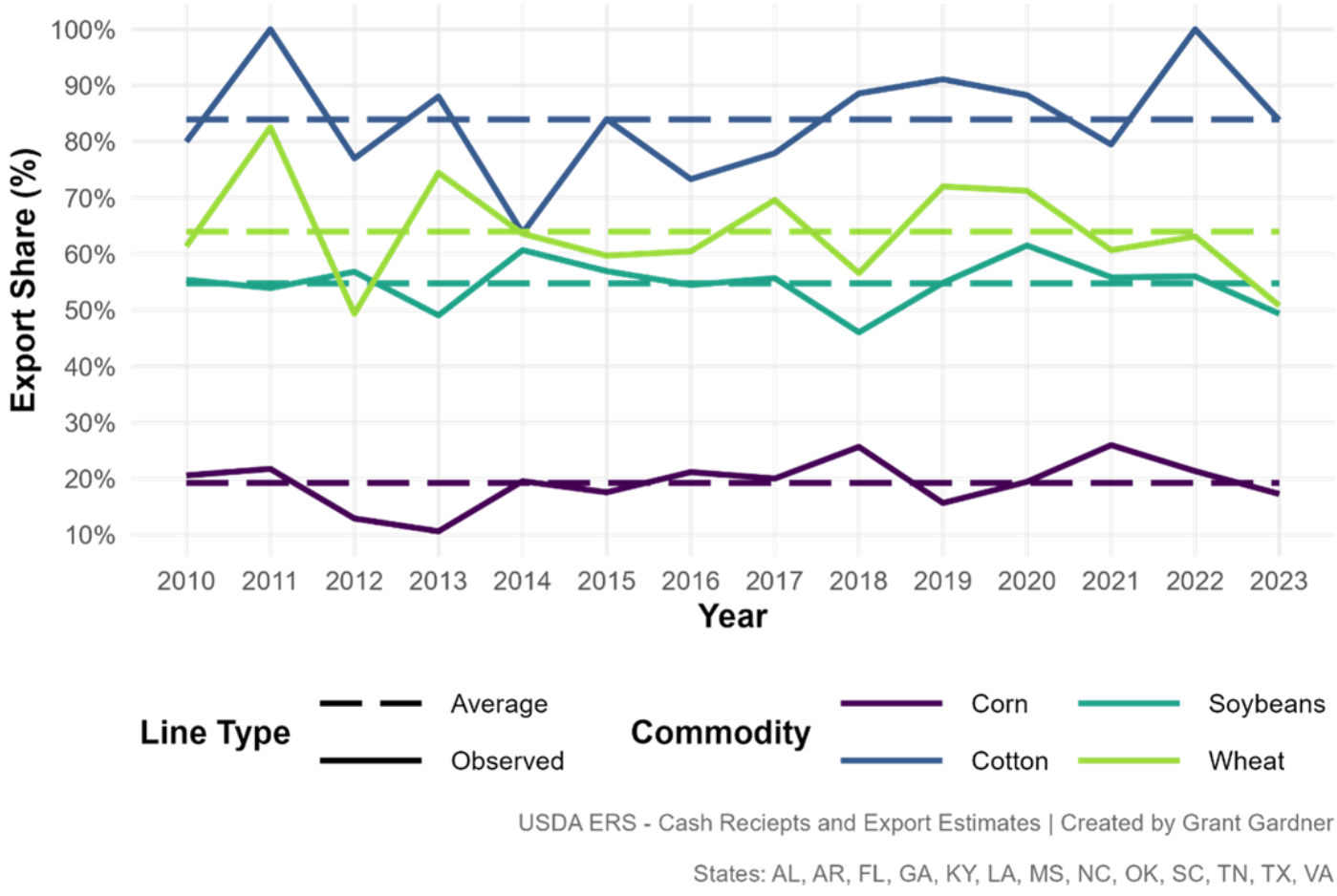


Figure 1. Export Contribution to Southern Ag Receipts, Observed and Average Share by Commodity, 2010-2023

A well-developed marketing and risk management plan is essential for producers facing today's volatile markets. While trade uncertainty is a significant source of price swings, volatility is a constant in agriculture—driven by weather, input costs, and global events. Trade is one of the dominant factors right now. Regardless of the cause, producers should expect uncertainty and be ready to manage price risk each crop year. A strong marketing and risk management plan is the best tool for navigating uncertainty. Crucially, the plan should be written down and shared with everyone involved in the operation to ensure clear communication and timely decisions. Growing a crop and marketing a crop involve two completely different skill sets, so communication between those in charge of production and those in charge of marketing and risk management is essential.

The most significant value of a marketing plan is determining sales timing, which should coincide with when production risk is reduced, and what action should be taken at different price points. Trying to time price peaks in markets shaped by unpredictable trade shifts is often ineffective and can be risky. Instead, a solid marketing plan sets decision dates, creating structure around when and how much to sell if markets achieve price targets. Dates should be tied to when production risk is reduced and be informed by realistic price targets, helping producers stay disciplined and focused on financial goals while taking some of the emotion out of pricing decisions. The key is to make sales when prices meet or exceed profit objectives at strategic points in the production/marketing year—even if prices might rise later. Especially in tight-margin years, locking in profits when available can be critical to the operation's financial success.

Producers may benefit from a more proactive sales strategy in today's challenging market environment when profit opportunities arise. For instance, a summer weather rally that pushes prices higher could present a good time to forward the contract or price additional bushels before harvest. While aggressiveness in pre-harvest marketing will vary depending on each producer's risk tolerance, defining that comfort level in advance is essential. The best marketing decisions are those made with forethought—not in the heat of the moment. In years with tight margins, relying on chance is a risk most operations can't afford.

[1] Estimates do not include by products for crops such as ethanol, dried distiller grains (DDGs), soybean oil, and soybean meal.