

MAY 2025

MCCREARY COUNTY EXTENSION

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

Water is Nutrient No. 1 for Horses

Horses rely on many nutrients to thrive including protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. However, water is the most important nutrient. Water accounts for nearly 75% of a horse's body weight. Most horses need at least 6-8 gallons every day, but the amount required will vary based on weather or diet. In hot weather, horses will need more water, and a horse eating hay requires more than one on pasture. Lactating broodmares always require more water.

Always prioritize fresh, clean water for your animals for many reasons. Adequate hydration reduces the risk of colic and plays a vital role in digestion. Water helps horses regulate their body temperature, lubricates joints, assists in muscle contraction strength and get rid of waste.

Most horse managers easily prioritize clean, fresh water in the barn. They have a daily routine of checking, cleaning and filling water buckets. But outside water may end up being more accidental than routine. You can't rely on streams and ponds for your water source. Horse traffic can break down stream banks,



OUR OFFICE HAS MOVED!

McCreary County Extension is now located
at 131 N. Hwy 27 in Whitley City
(mile marker 9).

Stay tuned for our Grand Opening!

Going forward, all programs scheduled will
be located at the new facility unless
otherwise stated.

McCreary County Extension

131 N. Hwy 27

Whitley City, KY 42653

606-376-2524

Open M-F, 8am-4:30pm

Closed daily for lunch 12-1pm



contaminate the water source and even cause animal injuries. Regularly check stock tanks and troughs, frequently change the water and clean the container.

Learn to recognize dehydration signs in your horses. By the time you see the signs, your horse may have already lost 5% of its body weight. Dehydrated horses appear weak, have sunken eyeballs, dry mucous membranes, slow capillary refill time and an increased heart rate. Pinch the horse's skin near the base of their neck for two seconds. If the skin stays pinched, your horse most likely needs water and possibly electrolytes.

Source: Bob Coleman, UK Extension Horse Specialist

For more information, contact the McCreary County Extension Office.



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McCreary County Cooperative Extension Service
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UPCOMING EVENTS MCCREARY CO. EXTENSION

McCreary County Farmers Market
Opening Day
Saturday, May 3rd
9am-1pm

McCreary County Fair
Entries- Accepted May 5th- 8th
9am-4pm
Winners displayed the following week

Library Lunch Program
Companion Planting
May 13th, 12pm

McCreary County Fun-Makers
May 13th, 4pm

McCreary Cattlemen's Association
May 13th, 6pm

Air Fryers 101
May 21st, 1pm

Scott/McCreary Grow Appalachia
May 22nd, 5:30pm
Scott Christian Care Center
Oneida, TN

Get Healthy McCreary Hiking:
Crack in the Rock
May 28th, 10am

Call 606-376-2524 for
registration info

Follow us!



SCAN ME



May Garden Tips

Now is the time to plant crops that are particularly sensitive to cold and frost: this includes tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and okra. It is very important to protect these plants from frost.

The last frosts of the season usually occur in early May in western Kentucky, mid-May in central Kentucky, and later May in eastern Kentucky.

If you are growing in raised beds or containers, the soil will dry out faster than it does in a regular garden. Water when the top of the soil feels dry. Containers may need to be watered every day or two. Raised beds usually need to be watered about twice a week, unless it rains.



Check out planeatmove.com for garden info & seasonal recipes!



CATTLEMEN'S CORNER SUMMER TIPS

Get your hay equipment ready!

- Sharpen or replace blades
- Check belts and hoses
- Inflate tires
- Lubricate and check fluids
- Take inventory and stock up on needed supplies (twine, wrap, etc.)

Coordinate bull turnout with calving season. For Spring calves, turn bulls out in late spring/early summer.





MCCREARY JR. CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Our Jr. Cattlemen's Association members participated in the first ever East KY cattle working contest at UK Robinson Center in Jackson. They earned chute-side BQCA certifications and left with some valuable skills under their belts.

Youth age 9 and up are welcome to join! Contact us at 606-376-2524 for enrollment info.



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