

Overview of Importance of Commodities

Please check the box for the importance of the following commodities. Importance may be measured by dollar value of sales, number of acres, potential value or number of people involved.

Commodity	Rank in Districts 6 & 7			
Forages	3			
Goats	7 (tie)			
Beef	1			
Equine	6			
Grain Crops	2			
Commercial Vegetable Production	5			
Farmers Markets	7 (tie)			
Organic Agriculture	8			
Forestry	4			

How do farmers prefer to receive information? Rank the following in order with 1 being most preferred:

- 1 (tie) Newsletters (mailed to home)
- 2 Newsletters (emailed)
- 3 Internet/web page
- 1 (tie) Meetings
- 4 Satellite Service
- _____ Other (please specify) – one-on-one (2), farm visits

Are farmers increasing their use of the UK College of Agriculture’s electronic newsletters (emailed) or WEB based resourses (such as the Grain Page or Forage Page)?

Yes 22 No 5

Forages

1. What do farmers need in your county in regards to educational programs and research needs in the area of hay production, storage and utilization?

Hay storage (3)	Haylage specialist
Hay quality (2)	Legume persistence
Variety info (2)	Friendly endophyte fescue
Baled silage (2)	New/improved orchardgrass/timothy
Hay testing (cheaper)	Nutritive value
Timely harvest	Fertilization
Hay judging	Yield
Weed control	Disease resistance
Phase I storage program	

2. What do farmers need in your county in regards to educational programs and research needs in the area of pasture production and utilization?

Grazing management (3)	Renovation
Fertilization (2)	Yield
Legume persistence (2)	Nutritive value
Pasture management (2)	Friendly endophyte fescue
Variety selection	New/improved orchardgrass/timothy
Weed control	More Grazing Schools – Western KY

3. What do the farmers need in you county in regards to educational programs and research needs in the area of non-traditional forages such as warm season grasses and grazing corn?

Establishment (2)	Economics
Where they fit/practical benefits (2)	Variety info
Bermudagrass (2)	Grazing schedules
Nutritive value (2)	Wildlife interest
County research	Maintenance
Expand corn silage trials	

4. A Master Grazer Program was identified as a possible major educational emphasis by the 2004 Beef Summit. In you county, how much interest would there be in a Master Grazer Program?

- A. Little to None - 1
- B. Some - 17
- C. A Great Deal - 4
- D. Not A Good Idea

Livestock: Equine

Which of the following major areas relating to horses should be addressed through county extension programs? Rank your top 3 or 4, with a 1 being your highest priority, 2 second, etc.

Marketing - 4
Genetics - 1 (1 county)
Facilities - 5
Forages -2 (tie)
Other _____(please specify) _____

General Health -2 (tie)
Parasite Control - 6
Management/Industry - 3
Supplemental feeds and feeding -2 (tie)

What new can be done to meet the equine educational needs in your county?

Statewide newsletter
Continue horse production short courses
UK equine specialist – Western KY

Master Horseman program
KEEP – CES collaboration

Livestock: Beef

1. Is the CPH45 program available in your county?

1 – no rest - yes

2. Do you have suggestions for the CPH45 program or any other value added program for beef cattle?

More buyers
More calves
Closer sales
Group by breed, not color

Drop no scurs rule
Emphasize importance of increased gain, not just price
Realize special sales promoted by pharmaceutical companies are in direct competition with CPH-45

3. Which of the following major areas relating to beef cattle should be addressed through county extension programs? Rank your top 3 or 4, with a 1 being your highest priority, 2 second, etc)

Marketing - 4
Genetics - 2
Facilities - 6
Forages - 1
Other _____(please specify) _____

General Health – 5 (tie)
Parasite Control -
Management/Industry - 3
Supplemental feeds and feeding – 5 (tie)
Reproduction

What new can be done to meet the educational needs in beef cattle for your county?

Statewide newsletter (2)
Continue cost-share programs
Forage production
Hay preservation
Keep providing PowerPoints, calendars, pocket record books
More agent access to Grazing School PowerPoints
Emphasize consumer demands as driving force behind what industry wants from producers

Hay testing
Management goals
Animal ID
Correspondence course – producers

2005 Ag. Advisory Council Grain Production Questionnaire

1) Besides price and high fertilizer prices, what are farmers' biggest hindrances to profitability in corn production?

Land rental (3)	Land availability
Marketing (3)	Gray leaf spot
Seed costs/tech fees (2)	Disease, pests in corn-after-corn
Variable yields	Production costs
Weather	Overfertilization
Late planting	Soil compaction

2) Besides price, what are farmers' biggest hindrances to profitability in soybean production?

Marketing (3)	Weather
Land rental (2)	Late planting
Seed cost/tech fees (2)	Fungicides
Yield (2)	Fertilizer management
Soybean rust	Production costs
Land availability	

3) Besides price, what are farmers' biggest hindrances to profitability in wheat production?

Marketing (3)	Land availability
Yield (2)	Poorly-drained soils
Disease/head scab (2)	Seed costs
Weather	Production costs
Land rental	Whether to no-till
Late planting	

4) On which topics do you anticipate the greatest grain-related educational needs over the next 2-3 years? (What will be the biggest issues for grain producers?) Please rank from most important to least important (1 being the most important) Feel free to add additional topics.

1 - Soybean rust	2 (tie) Proper crop fertilization (inc. starters)
2 (tie) Herbicide resistance issues	3 - Proper use of manures/litter as fertilizer
4 (tie) Water quality issues	5 - GMO-related issues
7 - Worker Protection Issues	4 (tie) Integrated Pest Management
6 - Specialty grain crops (edible soybeans, etc.)	
2 (tie) Precision Agriculture	

5) We now know that Soybean Rust has reached the United States. If it causes serious crop losses here (as it has in South America), what changes do you anticipate in the cropping patterns and/or crop management practices of farmers?

^ Corn (4)	^ Scouting
^ Fungicides/cost (2)	^ Precision agriculture
v Double-crop soybeans (2)	^ Farmers doing own spraying
^ Other crops (milo) (2)	^ Sentinel rows on-farm
v Soybeans	

7) What new can be done to meet the educational needs of your farmers in the area of grain marketing?

Marketing (8) – keep Riggins/marketing specialist, basic market training for young & small/mid-sized producers, marketing options, risk management, sell some when profitable
Current info/rapid delivery Program for those who “don’t like meetings”

Horticulture, Organic Agriculture and Alternative Agriculture

1. In your county, approximately how many growers of commercial fruits and vegetables are there and which crops have the most acreage devoted to them (list top 3 vegetables and top 3 fruits)?

3 – 30; avg. 12; none; 10 – 15; 4 – 300.

Tomatoes, corn, squash, peppers

Apples, strawberries, blueberries

2. How many commercial greenhouse operations are there in your county?

23; 32; 10/county; 1, 10, 3.

3. Do you have a strong farmers' market? How many members?

-2 yes, 1 no 27, 12.

-3 no, 4 moderate avg. 15 v strong 1 regional market 33, county market 21

-not strong 2 yes, 3 no

-3 no

4. Does anyone in your county currently raise nursery products (trees and shrubs) for wholesale? Yes – 10 No - 9

For retail? Yes – 13 No - 6

5. Does your county have any current growers of organic products?

Yes – 7 No – 9 + 1 area NO

If not, are there any growers who might try organic production if more information and help were available?

Yes – 4 No – 6 + 1 area Not Likely

6. List any other enterprises that growers are producing that may not fit well under any of the previous 5 questions (e.g. mushrooms, herbs, cut flowers, worms, rabbits, honey, etc).

Herbs (3) Sweet sorghum

Honey (3) Gourds

Bedding plants (3) Agritourism

Rabbits (2) Mushrooms

Cut flowers (2) Mums

Worms (2)

Forestry

1. What are the top concerns landowners regarding forestry as an enterprise?

Marketing/price/contracts (4)

Harvest restrictions/regulations/logging damage/post-harvest recovery (4)

Management (2)

Fire

2. Do you have commercial forestry companies or activity in your county?

A few sawmills (area)

Yes 6 No 2 (area)

Yes 6 No 1 (district)

If yes, what is your best understanding of their top concerns of forestry as an enterprise?

Environmental regulations (2)

Continued quality supply (2)

Master Logger requirements

3. What programs do you currently have in your county regarding forestry?

Forestry field days (3)

Master Logger (2)

“What is Forestry?”

4. Are you planning forestry programs in the near future?

Yes 2 No 5 (district)

If so, what are they?

Master Logger (2)

Field days

5. Please list any areas of forestry that you feel may need more emphasis from UK.

Landowner awareness/marketing options

Wildlife habitat

Contact info (Division of Forestry, etc)

1 county government is planning logger registration program

Thanks for your time.

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Questions? Call Jimmy Henning at 859 229 4989 (cell phone) over the Christmas Break or 859-257-1846 (office).