

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE**  
*Changing Lives*

*When you support Extension, beef producers use new information to make decisions that positively impact the efficiency and profitability of their farming operation.*

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*The Central Kentucky Beef Conference provides updates on marketing, economics, herd health, and best management practices.*

## **Extension Provides Central Kentucky Beef Producers with Updates that Improve Production Efficiency**

*The 2017 Kentucky Beef Conference hosted 200 producers from 27 counties.*



[extension.ca.uky.edu](http://extension.ca.uky.edu)

**“[Central Kentucky Beef conference] is like the state of the nation for the cattle industry. I made management decisions using the updates provided by Extension Specialist in Agriculture Economics. I received insight on current and potential health concerns that I should be addressing.”**

*Anderson County Beef Producer*

Over the past twenty years, Kentucky agriculture has transitioned from predominately tobacco to beef production, becoming the largest beef producing state east of the Mississippi. In order to prepare producers to be efficient and profitable, both Central Kentucky County Extension Agents for Agriculture & Natural Resources and Beef Extension Specialists present the Kentucky Beef Conference annually.

The farm operations of producers attending vary in size, with most (46%) of the producers having 26 to 75 cows. A few (8%) of the producers in attendance owned more than 200.

During the conference, over 200 beef producers were updated on the current trends on beef cattle production, marketing. In addition, they distinguished the challenges, and opportunities of distillery by-products, discovered risk management strategies including hay and pasture insurance, discussed abortion diagnostics, evaluated the outcomes of artificial insemination and controlled reproduction, and summarized marketing strategies.

Fifty percent of those attending reported their intention of adopting one or more changes in their operations because of the conference. Those changes include changing reproduction management (50%) and accessing insurance for hay/ silage/ pastures/ risk management (33%). Other intended changes include animal health and



*Beef producers, who have adopted Extension best practices in reproduction, have reported higher weaning weights and profit margins.*

vaccinations (17%), evaluating cow size and marketing strategies (10%).

Of those producers who have attended past conferences, all reported using information to make decisions related to profits, risk management and satisfaction in their operation. For example, one Anderson County producer adopted rotational grazing practices, which has enabled him to extend the days he does not have to supplement diet with hay, reducing his expenses. He has experienced storms in the past, which has damaged his pastures. After this conference, he plans to enroll in the insurance program. Another producer had participated in reproductive management research. The practices have resulted in higher weaning weights and profit margins.