

GRAVES COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

 **Martin-Gatton**
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

GRAVES COUNTY COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION SERVICE
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December 2023

IN THIS EDITION:

- Agent Notes
- Schedule of Events
- Announcements
- Crops
- Tobacco
- Livestock
- Horticulture
- Weather notes
- Miscellaneous





We have made it to December!

The gardens are put to bed, crops are out of the fields, and hopefully our hardworking ag community is welcoming in a nice break to be able to spend some time with their families and enjoy the holiday season!

I want to say thank you to all of the vendors and shoppers that made our very first Mayfield Downtown Farmers Market event a HUGE success! We estimated that we had about 175 shoppers who stopped in and shopped with local vendors! This is just the beginning for getting this new Farmers Market off and running and I'm very excited to see where it goes from here!

December and January will be months where you'll see fewer programs from me. I'll be working on getting classes planned for the late winter/ early spring and fitting in Private Applicator Trainings before planting season is upon us. We will kick our gardening and small farms series back off in early February, so be on the look out for those. As you look through this newsletter, you will find the dates set aside for the Winter Ag Conference hosted at Lowry Farms in Pilot Oak and GAP training for our tobacco producers has been scheduled as well. Our Cattlemen's annual meeting will be in March.

This season is when we all reflect upon our blessings and gifts that we have been given with gratitude in our hearts and minds. As we near the end of the calendar year and my first year as your ANR agent, I want to let you all know that I am thankful for the community that I serve and for the new faces I have met this past year. You all have been so gracious and patient with me as I learn how I can better serve Graves County, and I am so grateful. Thank to everyone who has brought me in on exciting projects going on in this great community. My prayer is that this Christmas season will find you happy, hopeful, safe, and loved. and that you enjoy this special time of year surrounded by your loved ones. I can't wait to see what is in store for us next year, Graves County! May your blessings be many as we move into 2024!

Miranda Rudolph

Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Graves County

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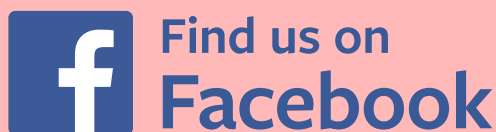
ANR: What's Happening?

Bolded events are hosted by the Graves County Extension Office.

- December 18: Alaska Ag Tour Informational Night, Marshall County Extension Office, 6pm

***** 2024 *****

- **January 8: Small Ruminant Quality Assurance Class, GCEO, 5:30pm** **needed if you receive CAIP funding for small ruminants**
- **January 11: Private Applicator Training, GCEO, 9am**
- **January 25: Private Applicator Training, GCEO, 5:30pm**
- February 1: Winter Wheat Meeting, James E Bruce Convention Center, Hopkinsville KY
- **February 6: Private Applicator Training, GCEO, 9am**
- **February 6: Seed Swap and Gardening Class, GCEO 5:30pm**
- February 8: Kentucky Crop Health Conference, National Corvette Museum, Bowling Green, KY
- **February 22: Private Applicator Training, GCEO, 5:30pm**
- **February 26: GAP Training, GCEO, 2pm**



Cooperative Extension Service

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If you are receiving CAIP funds for small ruminant improvements, SRQA is REQUIRED!



Are you providing the highest quality small ruminant products to your customers?

Increase your knowledge of best management practices necessary to insure your sheep and goat products are being marketed at the highest quality.

Attend the training...

Graves Co. Extension Office

January 8, 2024

5:30pm

Assure healthy animals and practices for maximum profits and quality products.



Why should you participate in SRQA?

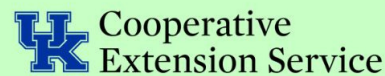
- To assure your product is not considered poor
- To show you value your animals' welfare and education for CAIP and quality in comparison to other products in the marketplace.
- To receive a Certificate useful in marketing
- Get 1.5 hours of education for CAIP and quality in comparison to other products in the marketplace.



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service



If you're not sure if your private applicator license is needing to be renewed, please call our office and we will look it up for you!



2024 Private Applicator Trainings

Graves County Extension Office

January 11 at 9am

January 25 at 5:30pm

February 6 at 9am

February 22 at 5:30pm

RSVP by calling 270-247-2334

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



2024 WINTER AG CONFERENCE

“DRONES: FARMING ON THE FLY”

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

LOWRY FARMS

PILOT OAK, KY

KY & TN PESTICIDE

AND

CCA CEU'S PENDING



North to Alaska

July 29th - Aug. 4th 2024

Agriculture & Cultural Tours

Join Marshall, McCracken, Calloway, Livingston and Graves County Agriculture Agents on a Agricultural and Cultural Trip to Alaska! This 7 day land excursion will take you as far south as Kenai Fjord and as far north as Fairbanks! Prices start at \$3,325 and do not include airfare.

Interested participants can request an informational packet from their county office, and are highly encouraged to attend the informational night held at the Marshall County Extension Office on December 18th, 2023 at 6pm. Trip registration is due by January 15th, a \$500 non-refundable deposit is due by January 30th and the final payment is due April 1st.



Culture

Enjoy scenic views as we travel across Alaska! Tour landmarks like Denali Park, Talkeeta, Kanai Fjord, and more! Travel by coastal train and board a day cruise to the famous Resurrection Bay. View jagged cliffs, marine life and alpine glaciers from the boat. Embrace the culture by tasting traditional Alaskan cuisine, staying at a famous historic hotel in Anchorage, or by embarking on an optional fishing trip or airplane glacier tour.



Agriculture

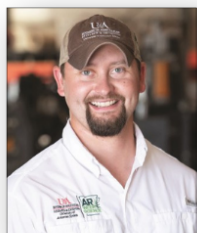
Explore Alaskan Agriculture! Enjoy touring farms and Alaskan industry! Tour a fruit and vegetable farm, fish hatchery, reindeer farm, birch tree syrup production facility, ox Farm, Alaskan brewery, Alaska Plant Materials Center, a shipping port & engage with an Alaska Extension Agent!

KCHC

Kentucky Crop Health Conference

Feb. 8, 2024 - National Corvette Museum - Bowling Green, Ky.

Speakers include University of Kentucky Extension Specialists and invited nationally prominent Extension Specialists from across the United States



Thomas Butts
University of Arkansas
Topic: Drone Herbicide Applications: What Do We Need to Know for Success?



Nicholas Seiter
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Topic: Above- and below- ground traits for insect management in corn – new tools, old pests, and resistance



Gregory Tylka
Iowa State University
Topic: Soybean Cyst Nematode: Past, present, and future

Carl Bradley
University of Kentucky
Topic: Red Crown Rot of Soybean: Disease Management and Potential Impacts of this New Disease on Soybean Production in Kentucky



Travis Legleiter
University of Kentucky
Topic: Dealing with the Stretch - Early Planted Soybean and Weed Control

Raul Villanueva
University of Kentucky
Topic: Abundance of Emergent Pests in the 2022-23 Corn and Soybean seasons in Kentucky



Kiersten Wise
University of Kentucky
Topic: It's always something! New corn disease concerns for Kentucky



Tickets on sale now - breakfast and lunch included
Conference sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m. CST

Scan QR Code or <https://kchc2024.eventbrite.com> (non-refundable after Jan. 25, 2024)

CREDITS — CCA: 5 CEUs, IPM — PAT: 6 CEUs Category 1A (Ag Plant); 1 CEU Category 11 (Aerial)



2024 GAP TRAINING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH AT 2PM

**GRAVES COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
4200 US HWY 45 N
MAYFIELD, KY**

RSVP TO 270-247-2334



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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



What is the Cost of a Cheap Mineral?

Dr. Katie VanValin, Assistant Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

The quality and cost of mineral supplements can vary greatly, and it can be overwhelming trying to make sense of all the numbers and information listed on the feed tag. While I am always a proponent of trying to manage feed costs, I caution producers against exchanging an adequate mineral for a poor-quality mineral. While saving a couple of dollars on a bag of mineral can certainly add up, it is important that the mineral being provided is still adequate to meet the needs of the herd to prevent mineral deficiencies which can become costly!

In the fescue belt, cattle are especially susceptible to selenium deficiency. Symptoms of selenium deficiency include white muscle disease in calves and decreased immune function and growth. Unfortunately, signs of mineral deficiency can be difficult to spot, and often producers may not realize they have an issue until testing is completed as part of a necropsy. Many complications from mineral deficiencies can be avoided all together by feeding an adequate mineral.

In the United States, concentrations of selenium in the feed are regulated by the Federal Drug Administration. This regulation exists to prevent selenium toxicity from occurring due to over supplementation which could have negative impacts on the health of livestock, wildlife, and humans. Since the inclusion rate of selenium is regulated not to exceed 3 mg per head per day, rarely will you see differences in selenium concentration in free-choice minerals formulated for a similar intake. For example, mineral supplements formulated to be consumed at 3 oz. per head per day will typically contain 35 parts per million of selenium. Since more selenium cannot be added to the mineral supplement, the type of selenium included in the supplement is especially important. Research from the University of Kentucky has shown that feeding a mix of selenium sources can be better than a single selenium source. For this reason, it is recommended that producers choose a mineral that provides 50% of the selenium from sodium selenite and 50% from a selenium yeast.

What is the cost of providing a better form of selenium in the mineral? Recent price comparisons have shown that the difference in price for providing a 50/50 blend of selenium sources increases the cost of the mineral by as little as \$1 per bag, assuming all other inclusions were similar. If we assume that a cow typical consumes 1.4 50 lb. bags of mineral per year, that is a difference of \$1.40 per cow per year. How does that compare that to cost of losing a single calf due to selenium deficiency?

Fortunately, it is possible to manage mineral costs while still providing a mineral that will meet the nutritional needs of the herd. Take some time to evaluate your mineral tag this year. What source of selenium is included? How much zinc or manganese is included in the mineral? Current recommendations from the UK Beef IRM Basic Cow-Calf Mineral are 3,200 ppm for zinc and 3,750 ppm for manganese. We rarely see deficiencies of these minerals in the state, so over feeding might be adding to your mineral cost without providing an added benefit. Producers can purchase the UK Beef IRM Mineral from local feed suppliers or use the sheet as a guide for selecting a mineral available locally. It is not uncommon for producers to show me a couple of mineral tags and ask me which they should be feeding. Much to their surprise, I don't always recommend the more expensive mineral. Sometimes the better mineral is cheaper, but this isn't always the case. It is important to evaluate mineral choices and select the mineral that meets the needs of your herd, without providing excess quantities of minerals or other ingredients that may not be beneficial. For help evaluating mineral choices, please reach out to your local Cooperative Extension Service.



Keeping your houseplants happy during wintertime

Even though your houseplants do not have to deal with the cold like your garden does, you should still change how you care for them this season, ensuring they stay healthy and continue to grow well. Following these tips, your leafy friends will bring lushness and natural beauty into your home, even in winter.

- **Decrease watering**

- In general, less light means less water. Plants need less water in the winter because they don't get as much sunlight, compared to spring and summer. To test soil moisture, push your finger into the potting soil at least one inch deep. If the soil is dry, water thoroughly. It is better to water plants well less often than water just a little bit every day. In the winter, it is possible that you will only need to water once every two to three weeks.

- **Pay attention to the Sun**

- If possible, move your plants closer to the windows. If they're on the ground, put them on a plant stand. Every week or two, rotate the pots to ensure all sides of the plants get some sunlight.

- **It's okay if a few leaves fall off**

- Plants outside over the summer will probably lose some leaves when they come back inside. This is normal because they are getting used to the lower light levels inside. It's normal for plants that stay inside all year to lose a few leaves as winter approaches. This is just their way of getting ready for less light.

- **Avoid temperature extremes**

- **Keep plants away from cold drafts, radiators and hot air vents. Sudden hot or cold drafts can kill plants, stress them out, or dry them out.**

- **Put the fertilizer on hold**

- Winter is a time for most houseplants to rest. They don't need fertilizer because they usually aren't actively growing. In the fall, stop fertilizing and start back up again in the spring when plants get more sunlight and start growing again.

- **Scan for pests**

- If you are bringing plants inside for the winter, be sure to check the leaves, stems and soil surface for pests. Wipe leaves down with a wet cloth or remove pests by hand before bringing the plants inside. Small bugs that feed on sap, like aphids and scales, tend to show up more in the winter. Another common winter pest is the spider mite which likes warm, dry places to live. When watering, flip the leaves over and look at the undersides and along the stems. If you find bugs, use your fingers or damp cloth to remove them. Neem oil and insecticidal soap may be options for managing houseplant pests. With any product, be sure to read the entire label for application instructions and precautions.

- **Increase the humidity**

- In the winter, the air inside our heated homes is often drier. Most houseplants, especially those from tropical areas, do best when the humidity is between 40 and 50%. However, in the winter, most homes have humidity levels between 10 and 20%. Putting plants close together is an easy way to make the air around them more humid. Plants can also be put on trays with pebbles and water to make the air more humid. To keep the roots from rotting, pot bottoms should be above the water. As the water evaporates, it makes the air around your houseplants more humid. Keep plants away from vents with blowing air.

More information on caring for houseplants is available at the Graves County Extension office.





The 2023-2024 Winter Outlook for Kentucky



By Derrick Snyder- NWS, Paducah, KY

As the leaves change colors and fall to the ground, crops are harvested, and tendrils of frost form on plants, conversation often turns to what the coming winter will bring. As we have seen, winter in Kentucky can bring a bit of everything, from ice and snow, to flooding, to bitter cold - even severe weather. Given how variable the weather during the winter can be, is it possible to predict what will happen? Many of us have heard homespun wisdom about ways to predict what an upcoming winter will bring. Some of the more popular ones include how dark the hair of a wooly worm is in the fall, the shape of the seed inside of a persimmon, and counting the number of morning fogs in August. Unfortunately, these tales are not necessarily based in truth. The National Weather Service has a division called the Climate Prediction Center (CPC). The climatologists use historical data and pattern recognition, along with latest trends and observations, to predict a seasonal outlook. This past month, CPC just issued the outlook for the upcoming 2023/2024 Winter Season. So how does it shake out?

The winter outlook compiled by CPC covers the months of December, January, and February. It is not possible to give a day by day forecast of what will happen, but it is possible to forecast whether a region will see a greater chance of above-, below-, or near-normal temperatures and precipitation (rain and melted snow and ice). If there is not a strong signal either way, the outlook will say that a region will have an equal chance of seeing above-, below-, or near-normal temperatures and precipitation. It is important to remember that these outlooks cover a three-month period. Periods of cold weather can occur when above-normal temperatures are favored, and the opposite can happen when below-normal temperatures are favored. The same rule also applies for precipitation.

This year, the United States is entering into a strong El Niño pattern. During El Niño, trade winds weaken in the Pacific Ocean. Warm water is pushed back east, toward the west coast of the Americas. El Niño means Little Boy in Spanish. South American fishermen first noticed periods of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean in the 1600s. The full name they used was El Niño de Navidad, because El Niño typically peaks around December.

El Niño can affect our weather significantly. The warmer waters cause the Pacific jet stream to move south of its neutral position. With this shift, areas in the northern U.S. and Canada are dryer and warmer than usual. But in the U.S. Gulf Coast and Southeast, these periods are wetter than usual and have increased flooding

In Kentucky, the outlook for this winter slightly favors above-normal temperatures across the entire state. For precipitation, the great majority of the state has an equal chance of seeing above-, below-, or near-normal precipitation. However, across far northern Kentucky, the outlook does slightly favor below-normal precipitation amounts. How will this end up playing out over the winter? - We shall have to wait and see!

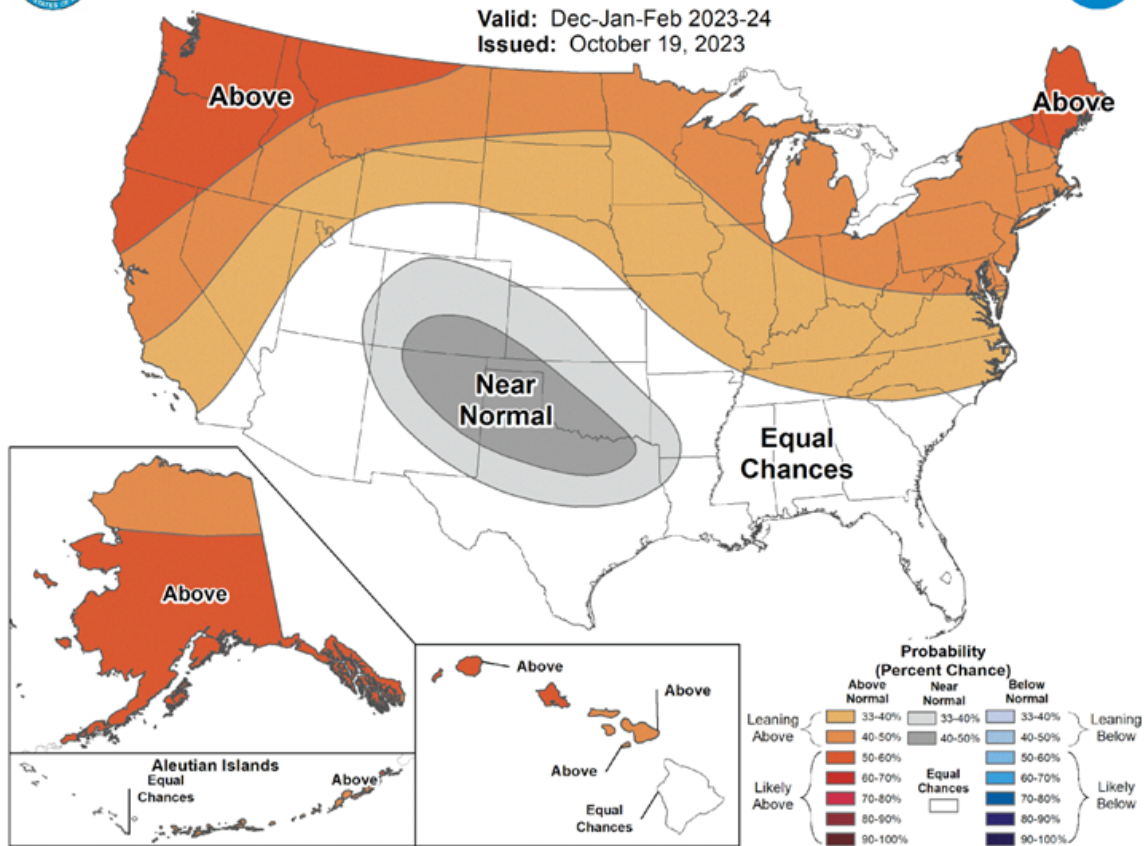




Seasonal Temperature Outlook



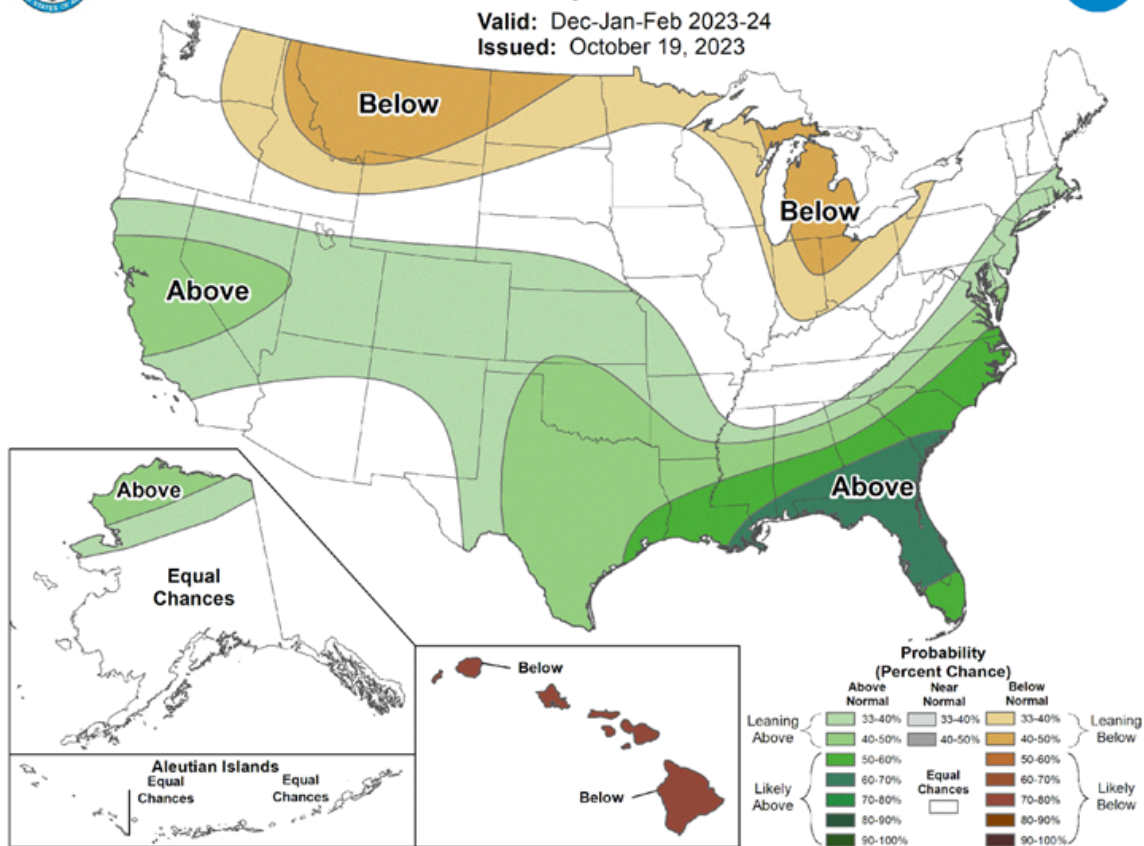
Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2023-24
Issued: October 19, 2023



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2023-24
Issued: October 19, 2023





Sweet Potato Crisp

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 large fresh sweet potatoes, cooked until tender. | 1 teaspoon vanilla | ½ cup all-purpose flour |
| 8 ounces reduced fat cream cheese, softened | 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon | ⅔ cup quick cooking oats |
| 1 cup brown sugar, divided | 2 medium apples, chopped | 3 tablespoons butter |
| | | ¼ cup chopped pecans |

- Preheat** oven to 350° F. Lightly spray a 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan with non-stick spray.
- Mash** sweet potatoes. Add cream cheese, ⅔ cup brown sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Mix until smooth.
- Spread** sweet potato mixture evenly into pan.
- Top** sweet potatoes with chopped apples.
- In a small bowl, **combine** flour, oats, and ⅓ cup brown sugar. **Cut** in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbles. **Stir** in pecans.
- Sprinkle** mixture over apples.
- Bake** uncovered for 35-40 minutes or until topping is golden brown and fruit is tender.

Yield: 16, ¾ cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis:
 240 calories, 6 g fat, 3 g sat fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 200 mg sodium, 44 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 20 g sugar, 4 g protein.



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

Kentucky Sweet Potato

SEASON: All year—peak season is October through March.

NUTRITION FACTS: Sweet Potatoes are a good source of fiber, complex carbohydrates and vitamins A and C.

SELECTION: Two varieties of sweet potatoes are grown in Kentucky. The pale sweet potato has a light yellow skin and pale yellow flesh that is dry and crumbly. The darker variety has a dark skin and orange sweet flesh that cooks up moist. Choose small to medium-sized ones with smooth, unbruised skin.

STORAGE: Store unwrapped in a cool (50 degree) dry, dark place with good ventilation for up to 2 months or at room temperature for 2 weeks.

PREPARATION: Scrub well. Leave whole or peel, then slice, dice or shred.

Baking: Pierce skin in several places and rub with

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

margarine if desired. Arrange in a single layer and bake uncovered in a 375° F oven until soft when squeezed (45-60 minutes.)

Boiling: In a 3-quart pan, boil 4 whole medium-size potatoes, covered in 2 inches water until tender when pierced. Drain.

Microwaving: Pierce skin, place on a paper towel in microwave. If cooking more than 2 at a time, arrange like spokes. Microwave on high, turning halfway through cooking time. Allow 4-5 minutes for one potato.

SWEET POTATOES

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
 University of Kentucky, Nutrition
 and Food Science students

OCTOBER 2012

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COOPERATIVE
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MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

GRAVES COUNTY
AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES

