

Marion County Ag Extension Newsletter

December 2023

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A Word From Your County Agent:

What a year! It is hard to believe we are entering the last month of 2023. I hope 2024 is filled with opportunity and blessings for everyone.

As a reminder, our office will be closed December 25-January 2.

I am excited to announce the Master Cattlemen program that will start in the new year. Also in 2024, Junior Cattlemen will begin. This is the first time Marion County has had a Junior Cattlemen program. This program is for kids ages 9-18. Lastly, with new programs offered in 2024, the Marion County Cattlemen are offering a dead animal removal program. Read more about these 2024 programs throughout this newsletter. As always, please call us if you have any questions.

Chelsea SAPP

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**Cooperative
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Agriculture and Natural Resources
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Community and Economic Development

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Upcoming Events

December 4th

LAST DAY for CAIP education

December 5th

ALL CAIP Paperwork is due to
Natalie.

December 5th

Wreath Making Workshop
6:00-8:00pm
Class is FULL

December 6th

Wreath Making Workshop
10:00am-12:00pm
Class is FULL

December 7th

Wreath Making Workshop
6:00-8:00pm
Class is FULL

December 12th

Sheep and Goat Meeting
6:30pm

Dues can be paid at this meeting.

December 19th

Homemaker Candy Making Class
9:00am - Class Full
4:30pm- Call to register

January 17th

Ag Advisory Council Meeting
6:00pm

January 18th

JUNIOR Cattlemen Interest Meeting
6:00pm

January 18th

Kentucky Commodity Conference
Bowling Green, KY



**Marion County Extension
Office will be closed December
25, 2023- January 2, 2024.**

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The 2023-2024 Winter Outlook for Kentucky

Derrick Snyder – National Weather Service, 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.

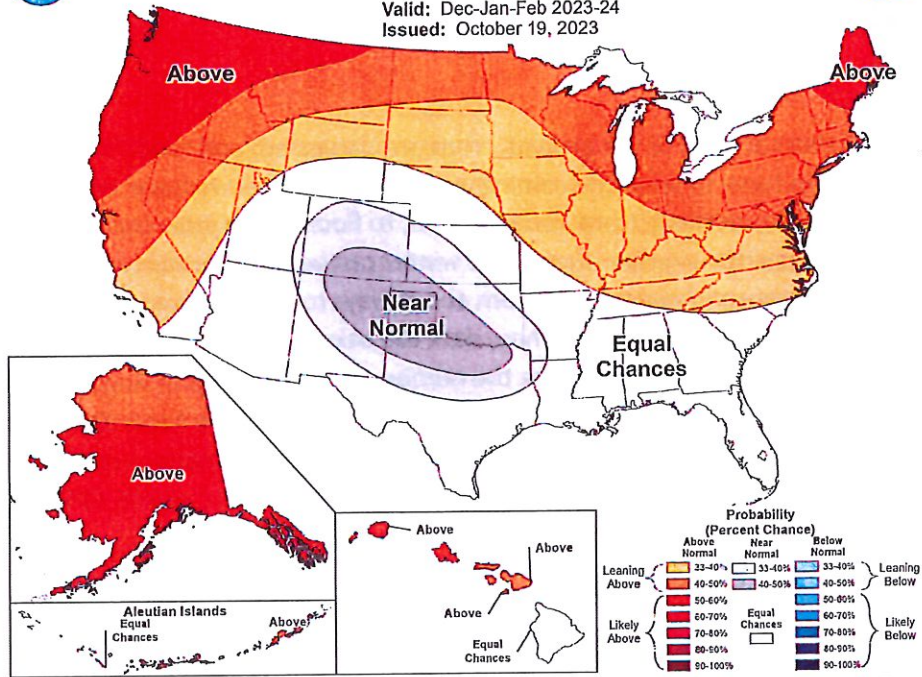
In Kentucky, the outlook for this winter slightly favors above-normal temperatures across the entire state. For precipitation, the great majority of the state has an equal chance of seeing above-, below-, or near-normal precipitation. However, across far northern Kentucky, the outlook does slightly favor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



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



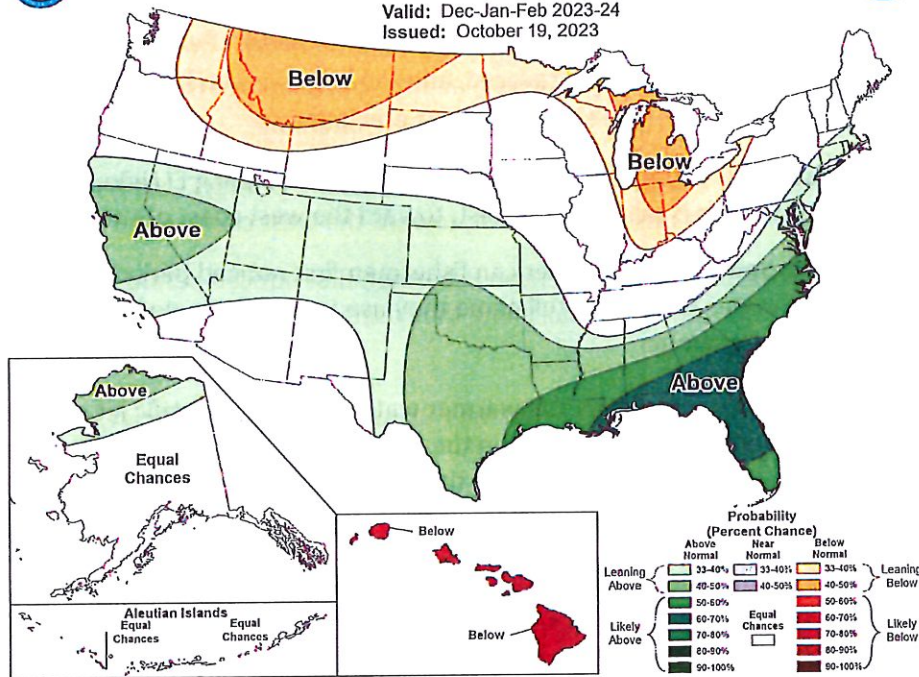
Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2023-24
Issued: October 19, 2023



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



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





Venison Steak

Servings: 8 Serving Size: 4 ounces



Ingredients:

- 2 pounds round venison steak
- ½ cup flour
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 4 ounces fresh mushrooms, if desired
- 3 carrots, diced
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 1 cup low-sodium beef broth

Directions:

Cut steak into eight 4-ounce servings. Mix flour, salt, pepper, and garlic powder and coat steak with flour mixture. Brown in oil on each side. Layer steak in slow cooker. Add mushrooms, carrots, and onion. Pour beef broth over steak. Cover and cook on low 8 to 10 hours.

Source: Adapted from Venison Recipe Collection, Compiled by Becky Nash, Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences

Tips

Rabbit or squirrel can be substituted for venison.

Nutrition facts per serving: 220 calories; 7g total fat; 1.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 95mg cholesterol; 310mg sodium; 11g carbohydrate; 2g fiber; 3g sugars; 28g protein; 20% Daily Value of Vitamin D; 2% Daily Value of Calcium; 20% Daily Value of Iron; 10% Daily value of Potassium



KENTUCKY  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

HOW CAN WE
serve you??

Take our ten-minute survey to help us develop programs addressing needs in your community. Scan the code above or visit go.uky.edu/serveKY

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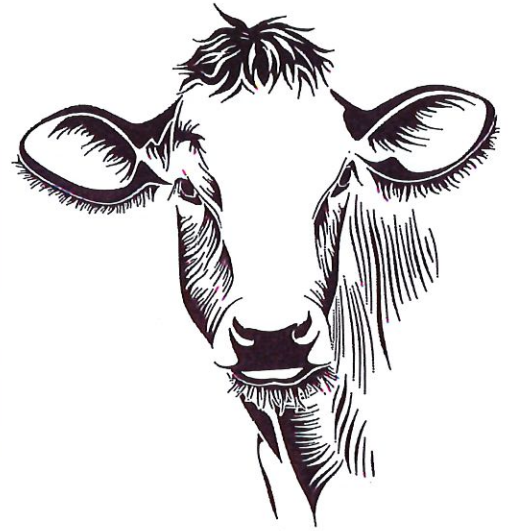
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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Contact your local Extension Office for a paper copy of the survey.

**USE THE DRIVE TO FIND OUT WHERE
YOUR BEEF CHECKOFF DOLLARS ARE
GOING**



**To access The Drive scan using
smartphone camera
or
type in the website below!**

<https://www.beefboard.org/the-drive-sign-up-form>

Marion County Cattlemen Dead Animal Removal Program

At the annual Cattlemen meeting held on November 16, 2023 membership voted and approved to allot \$10,000 towards the Marion County Cattlemen Dead Animal Removal Program starting in January 2024. **Beginning in 2024, paid members of the Marion County Cattlemen Association are eligible for this program . Paid members can fill out an application and turn it in at the Marion County Extension Office.**

This is not a reimbursement program. This program will end when the cattlemen association has paid out \$10,000 OR December 31, 2024, whichever comes first. **Please note, paying for removal of dead cattle will stop once \$10,000 has been appropriated even though given member has not had 3 dead cattle removed from the operation.**

Dead Animal Removal Application is on the following page. If you are interested and a paying Marion County Cattlemen member, please complete the form and turn it in to the Marion County Extension Office.

The coordinator of this program is Harry Young.

Reminder: The Marion County Extension Office is closed December 25- January 2 for Christmas and New Years.



Agreement between Marion Co. Cattlemen Association (MCCA) and

Name of Member _____

Name of farming operation if different _____

Mailing address _____

Cell phone number _____

Land line _____

This is the name that will be turned in to Marion Co. Fiscal Court (MCFC) who is responsible for dead animal removal. If a different name is used, the MCCA is not responsible for the pickup cost.

Applicant must be a paid member of MCCA for membership year 2024.

Only those members who sign up for the program will be eligible for the program. Returning this signed form to either the Marion County Extension office, the coordinator, the president or secretary of MCCA, is applying for program.

Those that have applied by December 20, 2023 will be eligible on January 1, 2024.

Those that apply by the 20th of a given month will be eligible on the first day of the following month.

MCCA will pay funds to MCFC for removal of up to 3 head of dead cattle starting January 1, 2024 for those who have applied. No reimbursement will be made to member.

MCCA will only pay for cattle that MCFC will pick up.

MCCA will only pay for 3 dead cattle per member or operation. If two or more members have one operation, the Association will only pay for 3 dead cattle. Once three dead cattle have been removed from an operation, MCCA has no responsibility to pay for removal of any more cattle.

The program will end when MCCA has paid out \$10,000 or December 31, 2024, whichever comes first. Paying for removal of dead cattle will stop once \$10,000 has been appropriated even though given member has not had 3 dead cattle removed from the operation.

The coordinator of this program will be Harry Young (270-402-3015). If applicant has an issue or gets a bill from MCFC on cattle that qualify for program, they should contact Harry Young first. If there is a dispute or misunderstanding in the program, applicant can appeal to MCCA Board of Directors and their decision is final.

By signing below, member states that dues for 2024 have been paid and this document has been read and understand the conditions of the agreement.

Member

Date

TRI-COUNTY MASTER CATTLEMEN

**JAN
22**

NELSON COUNTY
*Reproduction / Record-keeping
Les Anderson*

**FEB
05**

WASHINGTON COUNTY
*Nutrition
Katie VanValin*

**FEB
19**

MARION COUNTY
*Marketing
Kevin Laurent*

**MAR
04**

MARION COUNTY
*Winter Feeding
Josh Jackson & Morgan Hayes*

**MAR
18**

WASHINGTON COUNTY
*Health
Michelle Arnold*

**APR
01**

NELSON COUNTY
*Genetics
Darrh Bullock*

All programs will take place from 6:00 - 9:00 PM.

There is a \$100 registration fee that covers meals and materials you will receive. You must be able to attend all 6 programs to receive your certification. If for some reason you can not attend a session please let us know in advance to make arrangements.

Please contact your Extension Office to register between now and January 8th:

Washington County:
(859)336-7741

Nelson County:
(502)348-9204

Marion County:
(270)692-2421

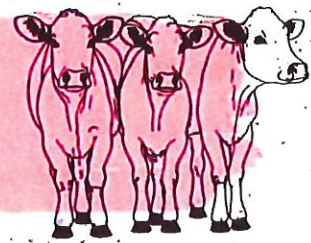


JUNIOR CATTLEMEN INTEREST MEETING



When: January 18th

Time: 6:00pm



Where: Marion County
Extension Office



Do you want to learn more
about beef cattle production?

Are you interested in agriculture
and being involved in our community?

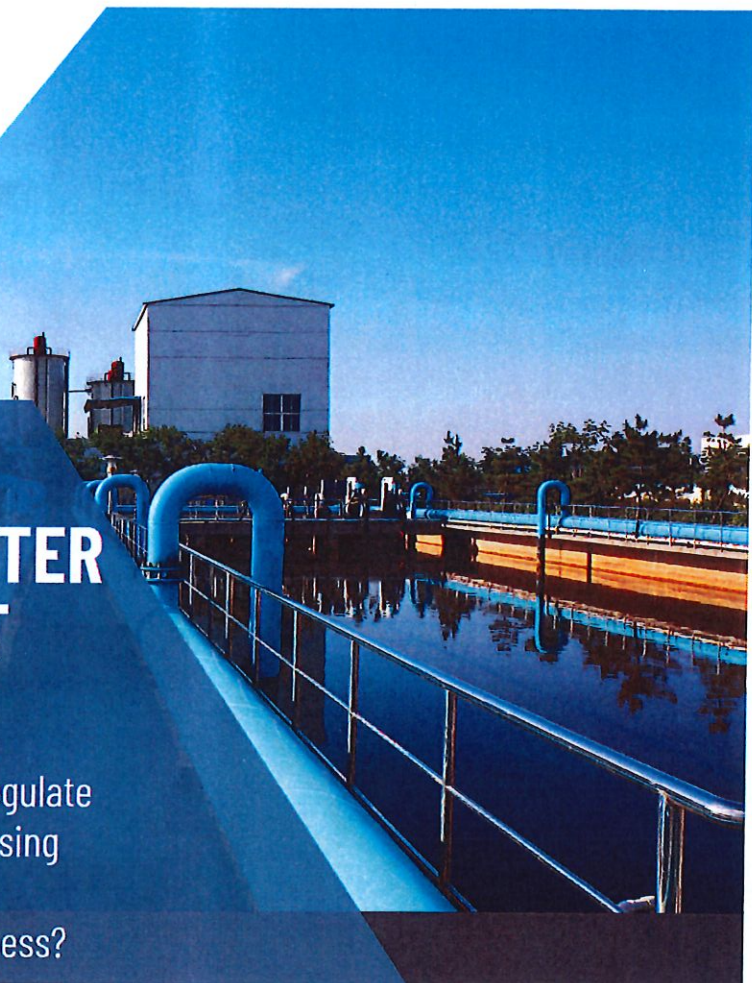
JOIN US! Food will be provided!
Please call to sign up 270-692-2421.





EPA PROPOSED WASTE WATER TREATMENT FOR MEAT PROCESSORS

Have you heard about the EPA's intent to regulate wastewater in the meat and poultry processing industry and how it might put hundreds or thousands of small processors out of business?



Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced earlier this year that it intends to update its water pollution rules for meat and poultry processing facilities for the first time in nearly 20 years, following a lawsuit from environmental groups and animal rights activists arguing current standards are too weak.

Proposal

Meat and Poultry facilities of nearly all sizes are impacted.

Initial costs of **\$5,000 to \$3.2 million** to regulate conventional, nitrogen and phosphorous in wastewater.

Annual operating costs of **\$5,000-\$400,000**

Unknown what equipment is necessary.

Unknown what the level of support will be available for the annual maintenance and testing.

**These are estimates from the EPA but precise numbers have not been made available*

Impacts



Food Supply Chain

The cost, both up front and annually for maintenance will be too much for small to midsized processors to afford. This will cause many to close their doors permanently. When processors close, there will be a significant change in the food supply chain. Many farmers will lose their ability to have their livestock slaughtered or face hardships finding a new processor. The loss of meat and poultry processors will cause a major disruption to the food supply chain in the country.



Economic impacts

For those processors who do remain open, they will have to raise their prices to cover the costs of meeting the demands of these regulations. That will make many noncompetitive in the market, and their viability will be in question. When small and midsized processors close, it creates an opportunity for larger processors to pay farmers less for their livestock while charging more to the consumer. The economic impacts will be well beyond just those of the industry; it will be felt in the pockets of consumers nationwide. The loss of processing plants would also cause a significant loss of jobs.

These regulations could cost meat and poultry processors MILLIONS in an already volatile market!

SOURCES

EPA website
SBREFA presentation
EPA press release

CONTACT US

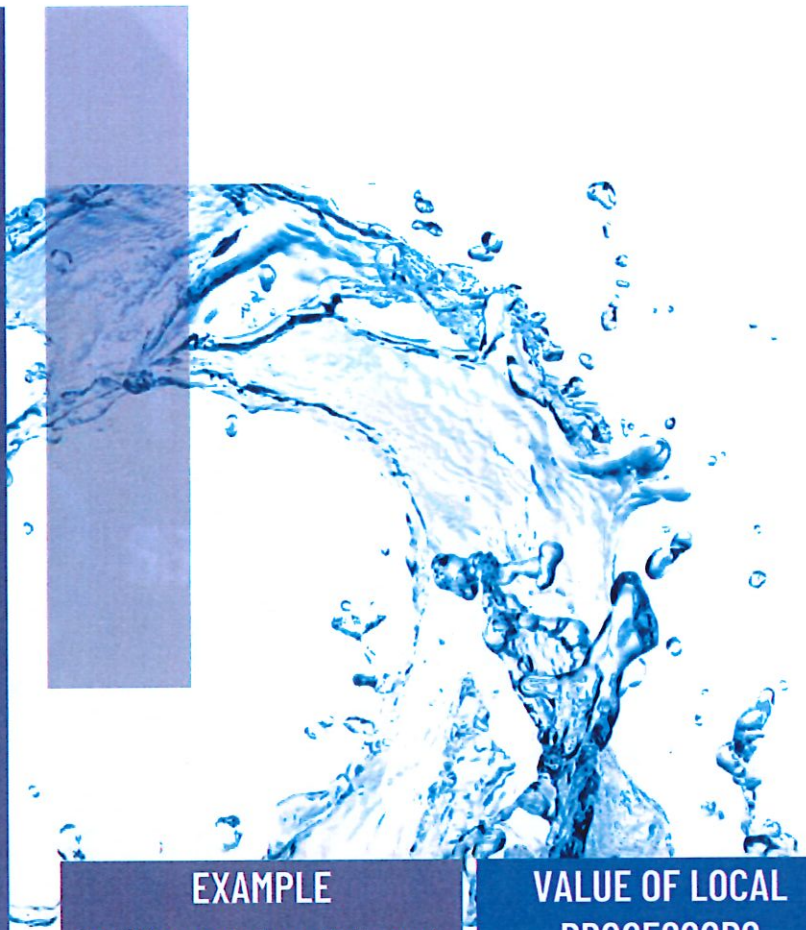
jennifer@kymeatprocessors.org
kymeatprocessors@gmail.com

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the process of updating the water pollution rules for meat and poultry processors for the first time in nearly 20 years, following a lawsuit from environmental groups and animal rights activists arguing current standards are too weak.

TIMELINE

Proposed regulations are scheduled to come out in December 2023, followed by a public comment period.

Final regulations are expected to be implemented in December of 2025.



EXAMPLE

One EPA example shows that a meat processing plant processing more than 1 million pounds per year (the equivalent to processing 16 – 1200 lb. beef per week), may have initial capital costs of \$800k and annual operating costs of over \$40k to meet the proposed regulations.

VALUE OF LOCAL PROCESSORS

Small to mid-sized meat and poultry processors have a vital role in the industry and the economy. This was proven during the pandemic and ensuring food was available to families. We must save these facilities!

WHO IS IMPACTED

The EPA shows disconnect as to how this will impact facilities and the industry. The proposed changes are NOT sustainable for most processors.



Poultry Processors

This will impact poultry processors of all sizes.



Consumers

Shortages in the store and rising prices for proteins



Meat Processors

Meat processors across the country will be impacted.



Farmers

Limited options for processing of their poultry & livestock. Being compensated less.

Example Regulatory Structure: Indirect Meat Further Processor

Production (million lbs/yr)*	<1	1 – 20	>20
Regulated Pollutants	No numeric discharge standards	Oil & Grease, TSS, BOD	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, TSS, BOD, Oil & Grease, Ammonia
Technology Basis	Pollution Prevention	Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF)	DAF, Chemical P Removal, Nitrification/Denitrification
High-Chloride Waste Streams	No requirements	Pollution Prevention	Segregation and management via zero discharge
Example Facility Size (Mlb/yr)	0.5	10	30
Wastewater flow (gal/day)	1,500	8,500	80,000
Capital Cost (one time)	\$5,000	\$800,000	\$3.2 M
Annual O&M	\$5,000	\$41,000	\$400,000
Annual Monitoring Cost**	No requirements	\$4,000	\$6,000

*Examples for illustration – production thresholds in proposed rule will be based on statutory factor analysis

**Assumes monthly samples for all regulated pollutants

It's time to
TAKE ACTION



1. Contact your state's congressmen and senators and tell them you want to see this stopped or amended.
2. Make sure meat processors and livestock producers are aware of this potential regulation and how it might devastate their businesses.
3. Watch for the EPA's proposed regulations and make your voice heard during the comment period.