

# About the Program

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## What is the Master Cattleman Program?

The Master Cattleman program is a Kentucky Beef Network Program Funded by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. It has been developed and is delivered by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

The program:

- Consists of the following 4-hour sessions focusing on beef production and the beef industry

Management Skills  
Forages  
Nutrition  
Facilities and Animal Behavior  
Environmental Stewardship and Industry Issues  
Genetics  
Reproduction  
Herd Health  
End Product  
Marketing and Profitability

- Is designed to enhance the profitability of beef operations by equipping producers with vital information
- Provides participants with a ready reference on the 10 educational sessions and introduces them to several different record-keeping programs
- Allows participants to network with specialists, facilitators and other beef producers

## Completion requirements:

- Attend 8 of the 10 sessions
- Beef Quality Assurance Certification

## Who can participate?

- Any beef producer or person involved with the beef industry
- Minimum of 25 and a maximum of 35 participants per group

## How can I get involved?

- Contact your local Extension Agent for Agriculture to inquire about participating

## What is the cost?

- Registration fee is determined by the group

## What are the benefits?

- A ready reference of materials covered during the sessions
- Master Cattleman farm gate sign
- Preparation for other educational programs offered through the University of Kentucky

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **WHAT IS A MASTER CATTLEMAN?**

A Master Cattleman in Kentucky is someone who has successfully completed the curriculum for the Kentucky Master Cattleman program which includes: attending at least 8 of 10 4-hour sessions and holding a current Beef Quality Assurance certification. It is expected that Master Cattleman graduates demonstrate a working knowledge of sustainable practices in beef production and management upon completion of the program.

## **HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHERE MASTER CATTLEMAN PROGRAMS ARE BEING OFFERED?**

Contact your local Extension office to find out whether the program will be offered in your area. If it is not, contact Ben Crites, at [benjamin.crites@uky.edu](mailto:benjamin.crites@uky.edu) or (859)-257-7512 to find out about other programs across the state.

## **HOW DO I ENROLL IN THE MASTER CATTLEMAN PROGRAM?**

Start by contacting your local Extension office to find out when the program will be offered in your area. Each multi-county group sets their own registration deadlines, fee schedules and meeting locations. Your local agent for agriculture and natural resources should be able to direct you.

## **EXPLAIN THE MASTER CATTLEMAN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND CURRICULUM.**

The Master Cattleman Program in Kentucky consists of 10 4-hour sessions on the following topics: There are also optional hands-on field days held at the University of Kentucky Research Farms in Princeton and Versailles that cover a broad range of topics from health practices to reproduction.

- Management Skills
- Forages
- Nutrition
- Facilities and Animal Behavior
- Environmental Stewardship
- Genetics
- Reproduction
- Herd Health
- End Product
- Marketing and Profitability

To complete the Master Cattleman program, a producer must attend at least 8 of the 10 sessions and hold a current Beef Quality Assurance certification. Upon successful completion, graduates will be recognized at the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention and receive a custom Master Cattleman farm gate sign.

## **HOW DOES BQA FIT INTO THE MASTER CATTLEMAN PROGRAM?**

Producers do not have to be BQA certified to enroll in Master Cattleman, but BQA certification is required for completion of the program. Producers are responsible for completing BQA certification on their own through their county Extension agent.

## **WHAT IF A SPOUSE OR FAMILY MEMBER WANTS TO ATTEND WITH A PARTICIPANT?**

Participants may bring one immediate family member (spouse, child, parent) who lives in the same household. Only one set of materials will be provided per household. Since registration fees cover the cost of meals and facilities, each family member will be expected to pay the registration fee.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **IF I MISS A SESSION, WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?**

Producers who miss a session in their home group can make that session up in any of the other groups around the state. In order to make up a session, producers are asked to contact Ben Crites at [benjamin.crites@uky.edu](mailto:benjamin.crites@uky.edu) or (859)-257-7512 to arrange a make up session. If you cannot make up the session within the current year, you have up to two years from the time of registration to do so and still be eligible for completion and a farm gate sign.

## **CAN PARTICIPANTS ATTEND SESSIONS IN OTHER COUNTIES TO MEET THE 8 OF 10 SESSIONS REQUIREMENT?**

Yes, if it is more convenient for you, sessions can be made up in another area. This can be done by contacting Ben Crites at [benjamin.crites@uky.edu](mailto:benjamin.crites@uky.edu) or (859)-257-7512 for other groups' dates and locations.

## **WILL THE MASTER CATTLEMAN PROGRAM VARY IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE STATE?**

The Master Cattleman curriculum is consistent across the state. The only things that may vary according to location or calendar are the presenters, locations of the End Product Sessions, and locations of the Field Days.

## **CAN PARTICIPATION IN PAST PROGRAMS COUNT TOWARD COMPLETING THE PROGRAM THIS YEAR?**

Yes, if a producer began the program last year but was unable to complete, sessions attended last year can be combined with current sessions to complete the 8 of 10 requirement.

## **HOW LONG DO PRODUCERS HAVE TO COMPLETE THE MASTER CATTLEMAN PROGRAM?**

Two years from the time they register.

## **HOW MANY LOCATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AND HOW ARE THEY DISTRIBUTED?**

Each year proposals are submitted by multi county groups across the state, each with a maximum of 35 participants. Participating locations are determined by local interest and Extension Agent involvement.

## **HOW CAN I GET PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR USE AT LOCAL MEETINGS?**

Contact Ben Crites at [benjamin.crites@uky.edu](mailto:benjamin.crites@uky.edu) or (859)-257-7512 to get more information.

## **HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES OR IMPROVEMENTS IN MATERIALS?**

Please contact Ben Crites at [benjamin.crites@uky.edu](mailto:benjamin.crites@uky.edu) or (859)-257-7512.

## **RELATED LINKS:**

- University of Kentucky Beef IRM - [www.uky.edu/Projects/BeefIRM/](http://www.uky.edu/Projects/BeefIRM/)
- Kentucky Cattlemen's Association - [www.kycattle.org/](http://www.kycattle.org/)
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture - [www.kyagr.com](http://www.kyagr.com)
- UK Beef Publications - [www.uky.edu/Agriculture/AnimalSciences/extension/beefpub.html](http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/AnimalSciences/extension/beefpub.html)
- UK County Extension Offices - [www.ca.uky.edu/county/](http://www.ca.uky.edu/county/)
- Kentucky Agriculture Development Board- <http://agpolicy.ky.gov/board/index.shtml>

# Contact Information

<p><b>Management Skills</b> Dr. Greg Halich Agricultural Economics greg.halich@uky.edu 859-257-8841</p> <p><b>Forages</b> Dr. Ray Smith Agronomy raysmith1@uky.edu 859-257-3358</p> <p><b>Nutrition</b> Dr. Roy Burris Animal Sciences rburris@uky.edu 270-365-7541 x 208</p> <p>Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler Animal Sciences jeff.lehmkuhler@uky.edu 270-257-2853</p> <p><b>Environmental Stewardship &amp; Industry Awareness</b> Dr. Steve Higgins Biosystems &amp; Ag. Eng. stephen.higgins@uky.edu 859-257-3000 x 120</p>	<p><b>Facilities &amp; Animal Behavior</b> Dr. Roy Burris Animal Sciences rburris@uky.edu 270-365-7541 x 208</p> <p><b>Genetics</b> Dr. Darrh Bullock Animal Sciences dbullock@uky.edu 859-257-7514</p> <p>Kevin Laurent Animal Sciences klaurent@uky.edu 270-365-7541 x 226</p> <p><b>Reproduction</b> Dr. Les Anderson Animal Sciences landerso@uky.edu 859-257-2856</p> <p><b>Marketing &amp; Profitability</b> Kenny Burdine Agricultural Economics kburdine@uky.edu 859-257-7272 x 229</p> <p><b>Herd Health</b> Dr. Michelle Arnold Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center michelle.arnold@uky.edu 859-257-7190</p>	<p><b>End Product</b> Dr. Gregg Rentfrow Animal Sciences gregg.rentfrow@uky.edu 859-257-7550</p> <p><b>Questions &amp; Information</b> Ben Crites Animal Sciences benjamin.crites@uky.edu (859)-257-7512</p>
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<http://agpolicy.ky.gov/board/index.shtml>