Prescribed fires planned for wildlife management areas this spring

Officials with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources will work with local officials in a number of Kentucky counties to use prescribed fires as part of ongoing habitat management on the department's Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Throughout March and April, fire experts will conduct these controlled burns across the state to help restore the health of local ecosystems that depend on fire

Properties will be scheduled for one- or twoday prescribed fires as local activity permits and when weather conditions are optimal from both environmental and safety standpoints.

Fire managers will take into consideration wind, air temperature, relative humidity, soil moisture and other factors before determining when to conduct the fires. If favorable conditions do not occur, projects may be pushed to later dates.

Usually, only portions of a property will be closed to accommodate a prescribed fire, leaving large portions of the property unaffected. Signs will be posted and gates will be closed at all access points to project locations and adjacent landowners will be notified of the burns. The prescribed fire areas will be monitored until all fire, embers and smoke are extinguished before reopening to the public.

Prescribed fire is an efficient tool for habitat management. The management goals of the fires are to increase production of nuts and soft fruits and to enhance the regeneration of oaks. Burning sets back woody plant growth in fields and along edges, creates desirable open spaces on the ground's surface by removing leaf litter, improves native grass and wildflower composition within fields and helps control invasive plants.

Prescribed fires are expected to be conducted in the following area counties and WMAs: Breckinridge, Yellowbank; Butler, Gabbard Branch; and Ohio/Muhlenberg, Peabody.

Prescribed fire is a safe way to apply a natural process, ensure ecosystem health and reduce wildfire risk. When there's smoke in the air, individuals can protect themselves and their families by following the advice at Fires and Your Health | AirNow.gov.

More information about public lands is available by visiting the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife (fw.ky.gov) Wildlife Management Area & Public Lands Search webpage.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Without public notices in the newspaper, this may be all the information you get.

PUBLIC NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS.Where public information is accessible to the public.

Ohio County Middle School 3rd nine weeks honor roll

All As

Seventh Grade: Kobi Baah, Constance Baker, Kynlee Barker, Briar Blacklock, Ethan Boblett, Saralynn Boling, James Bradshaw, Brylee Camp, Mya Castro, Kylee Clark, Emileigh Cole, Jesse Daugherty, Vivianne Decker, Brantley Embry, Ellie Embry, Ava Figg, Riley Flatt, Mia Freels, Joslyn Gibson, Bobby Goff, April Gosk, Elijah Grogan, Adra Hall, Colt Holsclaw, Javier Juarez, Senaida Lopez Jimenez, Jordan Luttrell, Ma'Kel Mandeville, Ketzia Mora-Arce, Jordan Morris, Reagan Osborne, Jaxten Lily-Mae Overton, Pendley, Neil Quisenberry, Addison Hattie Riggs, Rusher, Emberlynne Shirel, Nevaeh Small, Freeman Smith. John Stone, Mason Swift, Harper Taylor.

Eighth Grade:
Brooklyn Baize, Harmony
Barrett, Mindi Bernard,
Justus Brandon, Charlie
Brown, Camille Burden,
Jaylynn Cannon, Aiken
Castro, Thomas Chinn,
Kynnadi Culbertson,
Isabella Easterling,
Hannah Everly, Mahayla
Farris, Kamrhen Geary,

Ivy Geary, Vina Ho, Jace Brennan Hurst, Sophia Jackson, Zachery Johnson, Khloey Johnson, Gabrielle Kavanaugh, Erin Keith, Austin Kussman, Aubree Lanham, Brennan Leszkai, Makayla London, Amelia Mayers, Caroline McKown, Carver McLean, Ahna-Leigh Minton, Violet Nanny, Eva Payne, Jacob Phipps, Victor Rodriguez Jr., Greidys Sandria-Arce, Paytin Sherron, Abbi Simpson, Anna Sorrels, Jake Story, Alayna Thompson, Shelby Towery, Justice Walker, Ella Westerfield, Aubrey Wilson, Lillian Woods.

As and Bs

Seventh Grade: Khloe Allen, Gabriel Allen, Tatum Andersen, Paislee Anderson, Isabella Armstrong, Lilly Ann Arnold, Kayla Arriaga-Reza, Emily Ayers, Maci Barron, Kayla Baughn, Neely Bishop, Elliot Blackburn, Ruby Bruner, William Bryant, Matthew Chinn, Kylee Clark, Jace Clark, Amelia Cole, Anthony Coles, Michael Cottrell, Kaislee Cox, Jesse Craig, Kennedy Creek, Levi Daugherty, Vivianne Decker, Neveah Edgell, Daisy Embry, Dixie Estep,

Clayton Frizzell, Aiden Fulton, Juan Garcia, Garner. Jyle Serenity Gibson. Elizabeth Graham, Sarah Greenwell, William Guy, Kaylee Hall, Jaxon Hayden, Aiden Hays, Landon Hoover, John House, Alivia Hughes, Emerson Jackson, Brandon Johnson, Gunner Key, Jayla Lamar, Masi Laughary, Cali Litteral-Short, Kyleigh Lynch, Kenzie McFadden, Molly McKee, Presley Merritt, Emma Miller, Abigail Miam Montgomery, Murray, Lucas Payton, Mia Pickerill, Abigail Poston, Samuel Rachels, Alexander Raines, Raydan Raymond, Emerson Richards, Jadiel Robles, Jazlyn Sebastian, Eli Simpson, Asher Slack, Kvndal Smith-Oldham. Caleb Stevens, Caroline Stevens, Tyson Stevens, Briar Stofer, Brittany Tejeda-Sanchez, Baylee Willis, Mia Young, Jenna Zamora.

Eighth Grade:
Thea Adkins, Cooper
Adkins, Haylee Barnett,
Alleigh Bennett, Bayla
Bickwermert, Maecy
Brandon, Cameron
Burden, Kenneth Burden,

Fitzgerald, Ivan Burton, Reighlynn Cannon, Ava Clothier. Sophie Coots, Shaylee Cornett, Adley Crowe, Addison Curry, Tucker Embrey, Lillian Gutierrez, Caidence Hanson, Alleyah Hatfield, Belle Hatfield, Aubrey Hayes, Aiden Heflin, Dannie Hibbard, **Emily** Iler. **Bristol** Johnston, Levi Johnston, Mary Juan-Matias, Sophia Juan-Matias, Isaac Kirtley, Austin Kussman, Patrick Lamb, Lincoln Lanham, **Brantley** McBride, Kendalyn McCoy, Gracie-Mae Meadors, Ahna-Leigh Minton, Eliza Murphy, Nathanial Murphy, Tyler Napier, Angeles Ortiz Aguilar, Jayma Pulliam, Cutler Raymon, Stella Rearden, Levi Riggs, Aidin Ringkor, Yenifer Roblero Morales, Isaias Rodriguez, Adonai Rueda-Calles, Ian Saalwaechter, Maxwell Sanderfur, Greidys Sandria-Arce, Tristan Sandria-Arce, Johana Sandria-Diaz, Briar Schroader, Ryan Simpson, Dylan Sinclair, Timothy Smith, Lilly Smith, Sadie Snodgrass, Hailey Tooley, Emily Valdez-Jejeda, Breanna Watson, Zoey

USDA update on progress of five-pronged strategy to combat avian flu and lower egg prices

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins hosted stakeholder update on March 20 to provide the first progress report on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) five-pronged strategy combat highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and lower egg prices. Less than a month after the plan's rollout, USDA significant reports advancements across all five areas.

"Egg prices are falling, farmers are getting the relief they need, and we are seeing meaningful progress in the fight against avian flu," said Secretary Rollins. "USDA is making targeted investments and driving innovation to keep our food supply strong and affordable delivering real results for American families and producers."

Since February 26, wholesale egg prices have dropped nearly 50%. The New York wholesale egg price, which peaked at \$8.53 per dozen, has steadily declined to \$4.08 as of March 19. While seasonal Easter demand may cause fluctuations, the downward trend underscores the effectiveness of USDA's approach.

Progress on USDA's Five-Pronged Strategy Strengthening Biosecurity Measures

Biosecurity Measures

USDA has expanded biosecurity assessments to commercial poultry producers nationwide, prioritizing egglaying facilities in topproducing states. More than 130 facilities have undergone assessments in 2025, with 38 assessments completed last week alone.

To help prevent further outbreaks, USDA now offers two free, voluntary biosecurity assessments: focused on wildlife risk mitigation and another on general biosecurity improvements. Additionally, all farms affected by HPAI must complete a biosecurity audit before restocking flocks. USDA is covering up to 75% of costs for the highest-risk biosecurity improvements.

Expediting Relief for Farmers to Accelerate Repopulation

To provide financial relief and support faster repopulation, USDA increased the indemnity rate for layer hens by 2.41x on February 27, raising compensation to \$16.94 per bird.

Reducing Regulatory Burdens to Expand Supply & Lower Prices

USDA is working with FDA and industry stakeholders to evaluate solutions that can help expand supply safely, minimize burdens on farmers and consumers, and promote innovative approaches to disease management. Department continues to explore ways to reduce the extent of depopulations while maintaining food safety standards.

Investing \$100 Million in Avian Flu Research & Vaccine Development

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) launched a \$100 million funding opportunity, consultation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to support research into HPAI prevention, therapeutics, and potential vaccines. In consultation with HHS, USDA will also explore prevention strategies to promote biosecurity in agriculture and in humans, to ensure limited impact on American farmers. Funding will

be awarded through a competitive process, with priority given to projects that: Develop novel therapeutics to address HPAI in poultry; Advance research avian influenza risk pathways to improve biosecurity and outbreak response; and Explore vaccine candidates to protect poultry while minimizing disruptions.

Wise, Isaac Woodson.

USDA APHIS will host a webinar on April 1 at 12 p.m. ET that will provide details for interested applicants.

Exploring Temporary I m p o r t - E x p o r t Adjustments to Stabilize Supply

USDA has secured new egg import commitments from Turkey and South Korea, with discussions ongoing with countries to further expand supply in the short term. Additionally, U.S. shell egg exports have declined by 8%, ensuring more eggs remain in the domestic market to help stabilize prices.

USDA continues working closely with HHS, CDC, NIH and FDA to coordinate a science-based response to HPAI and remains committed to regular public updates on progress.

