

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

LaRue County
P.O. Box 210, 807 Old Elizabethtown Rd.
Hodgenville, KY 42748-0210
(270) 358-3401
larue.ca.uky.edu



AGENT REMARKS

As we wrap up the first month of the year and look back at the extreme weather conditions which we encountered the frigid temps coupled with the influx of precipitation led me to look for better days ahead. The bright spot was the fact that we did accumulate some much-needed moisture to replenish our depleted pasture and crop fields. But the flipside of moisture brings to light the battle of mud and the frustrations associated with its presence. It is important to consider the negative effects mud can have on our livestock and farming operations and how we can combat it with proper management. As we push forward into February focus begins to shift to spring related checklist items. Collection of soil samples, preparations for frost seeding clovers, maintenance of planters and sprayers, now is time to prepare for the future months. The National Farm Machinery Show held at the Kentucky Expo Center is Feb. 14th - 18th, it is the spark to remind me spring is on the way. There is still time to take advantage of educational opportunities through extension programming on the local and regional level, reach out to the extension office to find the opportunities best suited for your operation at (270) 358-3401.



Adam Thomas
LaRue County Extension Agent
for Agriculture & Natural
Resources Education

SOIL TESTING SERVICES ARE STILL OFFERED AT NO COST TO LARUE COUNTY RESIDENTS. SOIL PROBES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE TO ASSIST WITH PROPER COLLECTION.

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 1st - UK Winter Wheat Meeting- Hopkinsville, KY

February 7th - Intensive Soybean Management Workshop- Hardin County Extension Office

February 8th - Alfalfa/Stored Forage Conference- Warren County Extension Office, Bowling Green, KY

February 8th - Kentucky Crop Health Conference- National Corvette Museum, Bowling Green, KY

February 13th - Private Applicator Training- LaRue County Extension Office

February 13th - LaRue County Cattleman's Meeting- 7 pm

February 14th-17th- National Farm Machinery Show- KY Exposition Center, Louisville

February 22nd-24th- KY Volunteer Forum- Lexington, KY

February 26th - Beef Quality Care & Assurance Training- 6pm- LaRue Co. Extension Office

March 1st-2nd - KY Farm Bureau Beef Expo- KY Exposition Center, Louisville

March 4th - Beef Quality Care & Assurance Training- 10am- LaRue Co. Extension Office


March 12th - LaRue County Cattleman's Meeting- 7 pm

March 16th - Extension Expo- LaRue County High School



CAIP EDUCATION CREDIT PROGRAMS

- Heartland Master Cattleman's – Dates Posted
- KY Alfalfa and Stored Forages Conference- February 8th
- UK Winter Wheat Meeting- February 1st
- KY Crop Health Conference- February 8th
- "Simple Steps to a Profitable Forage Program"- Dr. Jimmy Henning- LC Cattleman's -February 13th
- "Genomic Testing-An Investment in Herd Profitability"- Dr. Gordon Jones- LC Cattleman's -March 12th

BQCA  Cooperative Extension Service
beef quality care and assurance *Training*

02/26/24 6-8PM *est*
03/04/24 10AM-NOON *est*

Register  270-358-3401 | **\$5** fee
Checks only please

LaRue County Extension Service 807 Old Elizabethtown Road, Hodgenville

As of 2023, SRQA is required for CAIP applications! Call the Extension Office at (270) 358-3401 for more information.



UK BEEF MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES

Registration is necessary, however, if you received this email directly from Darrh Bullock then you are already registered. If you received this from another source, or have not registered previously, then please send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with Beef Webinar in the subject line and your name and county in the message. You will receive the direct link with a password the morning of each meeting. This invitation will directly link you to the site and you will be asked for the password which can be found just below the link. Each session will be recorded and posted for later viewing. **All meeting times are 8:00pm ET/7:00pm CT.**

February 13, 2024 -**What's the Cost of a Cheap Mineral** – Katie VanValin, Assistant Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

NUISANCE WEED SPRAYING PROGRAM

APPLY NOW



February 1 - February 29

This program is ran through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and consists of weed spraying demonstration plots. The department will provide the sprayer and enough chemical for the treatment of 10 acres of agricultural land or 100 gallons of spot spraying mix to be used on agricultural land. The department's representative will demonstrate proper mixing and application techniques. A number of nuisance weeds can be treated under this program depending on the needs of the participant. This program is limited to broadleaf weeds.

The broadcast spraying demonstration plots consist of:

- 10 acres of agricultural land will be treated with chemical provided by the department
- Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with boomless nozzles

If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 10 acres can be treated

Spot Spraying demonstration plots consist of:

- 100 gallons of broadleaf chemical mix which is applied until sprayer is empty
- Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with a handheld spray wand used by the tractor operator

If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 100 gallons can be sprayed

For each demonstration:

- The participant must provide water source
- The participant must provide tractor and operator
- All chemical products must be labeled and the product label will be strictly followed

A maximum of 7 participants per county

This program is designed to target weeds that have a negative impact on the participant's agricultural production. There will be an annual online application period to participate in this program. You may submit an application using KDA's web site at www.kyagr.com, click on the "online services" tab located on the top menu bar and finally click on "nuisance weed spraying program". The only time to apply for this program is between **February 1 to February 29** of each year.

IPM TRAINING SCHOOL

University of Kentucky
Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture Food and Environment

2024 IPM Training School
March 18th, 2024

Program

8: 00 AM Registration

Field Crops

8:25 AM	Herbicide Resistance Screening in the Commonwealth of Kentucky	Dr. Samuel Revolinski
8:50 AM	Herbicide Resistant Weed Control	Dr. Travis Legleiter
9:15 AM	Cover Crops	Dr. Lloyd Murdock
9:40 AM	Keeping Cover Crops from Becoming a Pest Problem	Dr. Chad Lee
10:05 AM	Break	
10:20 AM	Management of Important Soilborne Diseases of Soybean	Dr. Carl Bradley
10:45 AM	Efficacy of Insecticides in Bt-and non-Bt field Corn and Problems Capturing Pest Moths	Drs. Ric Bessin Raul T. Villanueva Dr. Edwin Ritchey
11:10 AM	The Agronomics and Economics of Various Nutrient Sources for Crop Production	Dr. Chris Teutsch
11:35 AM	Application of Low-Cost GPS Technologies to Improve Input Use	

Horticulture

1:00 PM	Understanding the Mildews – Downy versus Powdery	Dr. Nicole Gauthier
1:25 PM	Greenhouse Disease Management	Ms. Arundathi Sharma
1:50 PM	Cover Cropping in Vegetable Production Systems: Benefits, Challenges, and Considerations	Dr. Rachel Rudolph
2:15 PM	Break	
2:30 PM	Everything Old is New Again	Dr. Shawn Wright
2:55 PM	Impact of Invasive Species on IPM	Dr. Jonathan Larson
3:20 PM	Current and Future Wildlife Management Conflicts for the Mid-South	Dr. Matt Springer



	Pesticide Applicators CEUs	Certified Crop Adviser CEUs
Field Crops	Category 1A: 4	Soil & Water Management: 1 IPM: 2 Crop Management: 1
Horticulture	Category 1A: 3	IPM: 2 Crop Management: 1

Location	Contacts
Warren County Extension Office 5162 Russellville Rd. Bowling Green, KY 42101	Zenaida Vilorio zenaida.vilorio@uky.edu (270) 365-7541 Ext. 21336
	Ric Bessin r.bessin@uky.edu (859) 323-1120

FARM BILL UPDATE

– January 2024 Author(s): Will Snell
Published: January 30th, 2024

Following the expiration of the 2018 Farm Bill on September 30, 2023, Congress extended the 2018 Farm Bill late last year until September 30, 2024. Congress has been forced to address budget issues during the early weeks in 2024, with a continuing resolution passed in mid-January to prevent a government shutdown. However, ongoing budget discussions to keep the government open beyond early March, along with a major tax reform bill, border security, and foreign aid packages will continue to monopolize floor debate in the coming weeks, leaving minimal, if any floor time to address reauthorizing a new farm bill. Farm organizations and other farm bill participants are reorganizing their strategies moving forward in 2024, but as always, politics and dollars will battle to determine if this massive piece of legislation makes it across the finish line this year.

The two primary safety net programs for major crops remain the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) programs. In general, PLC program payments are triggered when the average market price for the covered crop in any given year falls below the “effective reference price” for that crop. Farmers have two options within the ARC program – a county revenue-based program (ARC-CO) and an individual farm revenue program (ARC-IC). Historically most farmers selecting the ARC program have chosen the county-based revenue program. ARC-CO program payments are triggered when the actual county crop revenue of a covered commodity is less than the ARC-CO revenue guarantee for the crop.

COW - CALF PROFITABILITY CONFERENCE

Kenny Burdine, Jonathan Shepherd, and Greg Halich are hosting 4 in-person Cow-Calf Profitability Conferences this spring across several counties. These conferences were first hosted in 2020 with huge success and we're looking forward to furthering our connection with our state's beef producers. A huge thank you goes out to all of the Extension agents making these conferences happen and our project partners, the **Kentucky Beef Network** and **Kentucky Ag Development Fund**.

Dates:

- March 1** – Monticello – Wayne County Extension Office
- March 11** – Bowling Green – Warren County Extension Office
- March 12** – Elizabethtown – Hardin County Extension Office
- March 14** – Richmond – Madison County Extension Office

Interested in attending? Please contact the hosting Extension office listed above for additional details and to RSVP.

Several major farm organizations have endorsed increasing the reference prices for the major crops, arguing that input costs have increased significantly since these safety net levels were originally authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. The 2018 Farm Bill provided a mechanism to increase reference prices based on historical trends in crop prices. However, these adjustments face a cap of 115% of the statutory reference price. The table below presents the reference prices for major Kentucky crops for the 2024 crop year, indicating that the corn and soybean effective reference prices will increase marginally from their statutory level, while wheat will remain at the level established under the 2014 Farm Bill. Currently, these “safety net” prices remain below projected prices for the upcoming crop year. Relatively higher grain prices in recent years also led to greater price protection under the ARC programs by increasing the price component used to calculate the ARC revenue guarantee.

Farmers will have until March 15, 2024 to select either the PLC or ARC programs to protect their crops from major adverse market fluctuations for the upcoming crop year (click here for details). In recent years of relatively high commodity prices, most grain farmers have not received any PLC or ARC payments. Without significant declines in market prices (which could trigger PLC payments) or significant localized yield reductions (which could trigger ARC payments), analysts are generally not projecting payments for many of the major program crops in 2024, inducing many farm organizations to argue for higher reference prices in future years to protect against diminishing and vulnerable crop profit margins.

Besides higher reference prices, the farm community continues to lobby for protecting the critical piece of the farm safety net – crop insurance. In addition, in lieu of uncertain future disaster/ad hoc payments, there is growing support of expanding crop insurance coverage/subsidies to more crop and livestock producers, along with increasing funds for trade promotion, conservation, rural infrastructure programs, and ag research. However, additional funding remains a huge hurdle in this farm bill debate given rising concerns over federal debt levels. Maintaining the existing farm bill under its current structure is projected to cost nearly \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years, compared to \$867 billion for the 2018 farm bill at the time of its enactment.

Without additional new funding sources, lawmakers seeking increased farm bill funding will require finding dollars from other parts of the farm bill pie. Pulling dollars from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – over 80% of the current farm bill budget), is off-limits for many lawmakers who likely will be critical to its passage. Others are looking at acquiring funds from the climate change/carbon-smart agriculture conservation programs funded in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to provide for a stronger farm safety net in this farm bill and to boost available baseline spending in future farm bills. Again, opposition exists to redirect these funds. Others are looking at the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), USDA’s line of credit at the Treasury, for additional dollars to fund expanded farm bill Initiatives which is meeting resistance from some lawmakers who claim these funds should only be used in emergencies beyond paying for traditional farm safety net programs.

The bottom line is that passage of a new farm bill will be a huge challenge this year with 2024 being an election year determining who is in the White House and which political party controls majority status in the House and Senate. Floor time debate in the coming months for a farm bill could be challenged in this political environment. Furthermore, despite two years of debate, major differences still exist among farm bill participants relative to the distribution of farm bill dollars among farm safety net programs, conservation, and nutrition. If we don’t see farm bill movement prior to the August recess, perhaps the next opportunity will be during the lame-duck session after the November election, with another extension of the 2018 farm bill into 2025 certainly a possibility. Stay tuned!

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Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to

Equal Opportunity Office, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546,

the UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or

US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

KY ALFALFA & STORED FORAGE CONFERENCE

2024 KY Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference *Getting Started in the Hay Business*

WHEN	WHERE	COST
Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:00 to 3:30 CT	Warren County Extension Office 5162 Russellville Road Bowling Green, KY 42101	\$40 General Admission \$15 Students (includes refreshments, catered lunch, printed proceedings)

8:00 Registration, Sponsor Displays, Silent Auction

8:45 Welcome and Program Highlights

Dr. Ray Smith, Forage Specialist, University of Kentucky

9:00 Operating a Major Hay and Straw Farm in Ohio

John Russell, J.D. Russell Hay and Straw, Pemberville, Ohio

9:45 Teaching Hay Buyers What Their Horses Really Need

Dr. Laurie Lawrence, Professor, Equine Nutrition, University of Kentucky

10:45 How to Find and Evaluate Used Equipment

Dennis Wright, Alfalfa Producer in Logan County, Kentucky

11:15 Panel: Establishing a Market(s) for Your Hay and Straw

Jeff Stephens, Stephens Hay & Straw, Ewing, Kentucky

Ellis Deweese, Deweese Hay Emporium, La Center, Kentucky

11:50 Lunch, Alfalfa Awards, KCA Hay Quality Awards, and Silent Auction Winners

12:50 Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council Update

Brandon Sears, Agri. and Natural Resource Agent, University of Kentucky

Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council President

1:00 50 Years of Alfalfa Production in Kentucky: Observations, Reflections and Opportunities

Dr. Gary Lacefield, Professor Emeritus, University of Kentucky

1:45 Basics of Fertilizing for Successful Hay Production

Dr. Edwin Ritchey, Soil Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

2:10 How I Got Started in the Hay Business: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

John Russell, Clayton Gerald, Dennis Wright, Brad Hines

3:15 Take-Home Lessons from Today's Meeting

Dr. Ray Smith, Forage Specialist, University of Kentucky



Kentucky
Forage and
Grassland
Council



KADF
KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Kentucky Master Grazer
Educational Program

2024 KY Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference

Getting Started in the Hay Business

This program is designed for alfalfa and hay producers to learn more about improving their hay yield, hay production, marketing and promotion

WHEN

Thursday, February 8, 2024
8:00 to 3:30 CT

WHERE

Warren County Extension Office
5162 Russellville Road
Bowling Green, KY 42101

COST

\$40

(includes refreshments, catered lunch,
printed proceedings)



Register online by
scanning the QR
code with your
camera!



SCAN HERE

<https://2024ASFConference.eventbrite.com>

Mail-in Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

# of tickets	General Admission	# of tickets	Student Admission
_____	x \$40 +	_____	x \$15 =

Make checks payable to
KFGC (Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council)
and send to:



Kentucky
Forage and
Grassland
Council

University of Kentucky REC
Attn: Caroline Roper
348 University Drive
Princeton, KY 42445



TIPS TO STRETCH SHORT HAY SUPPLIES

Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, PhD, PAS, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Below are a few tips to consider stretching limited hay supplies. For additional information contact your local Extension agent. It is recommended to consult with your feed nutritionist or County ANR Agent before making drastic changes in your feeding program.

1) **Inventory hay** – know how much hay you available; weigh a few bales to get an average weight or estimate the weights based on available information from Extension publications.

2) **Minimize storage losses** – keep hay off the ground on a surface that will allow water to drain away; keep bales covered or stored inside a barn; if bale grazing limit the number of bales placed in the field to provide 2-4 weeks of feeding to reduce weathering losses.

3) **Reduce feeding loss** – consider minimizing feeding losses; using hay rings with skirts / metal on the bottom, tapered ring designs, chains to suspend bales, or cone inserts to keep hay inside the feeder has been proven to reduce hay feeding losses compared to hay rings with openings at the bottom; using an electrified temporary poly-wire placed down the center of unrolled hay will reduce losses from cows laying on the hay, trampling it into the mud, and defecating on the hay; feeding processed hay into a bunk or large industrial tire reduces waste compared to feeding processed hay on the ground.

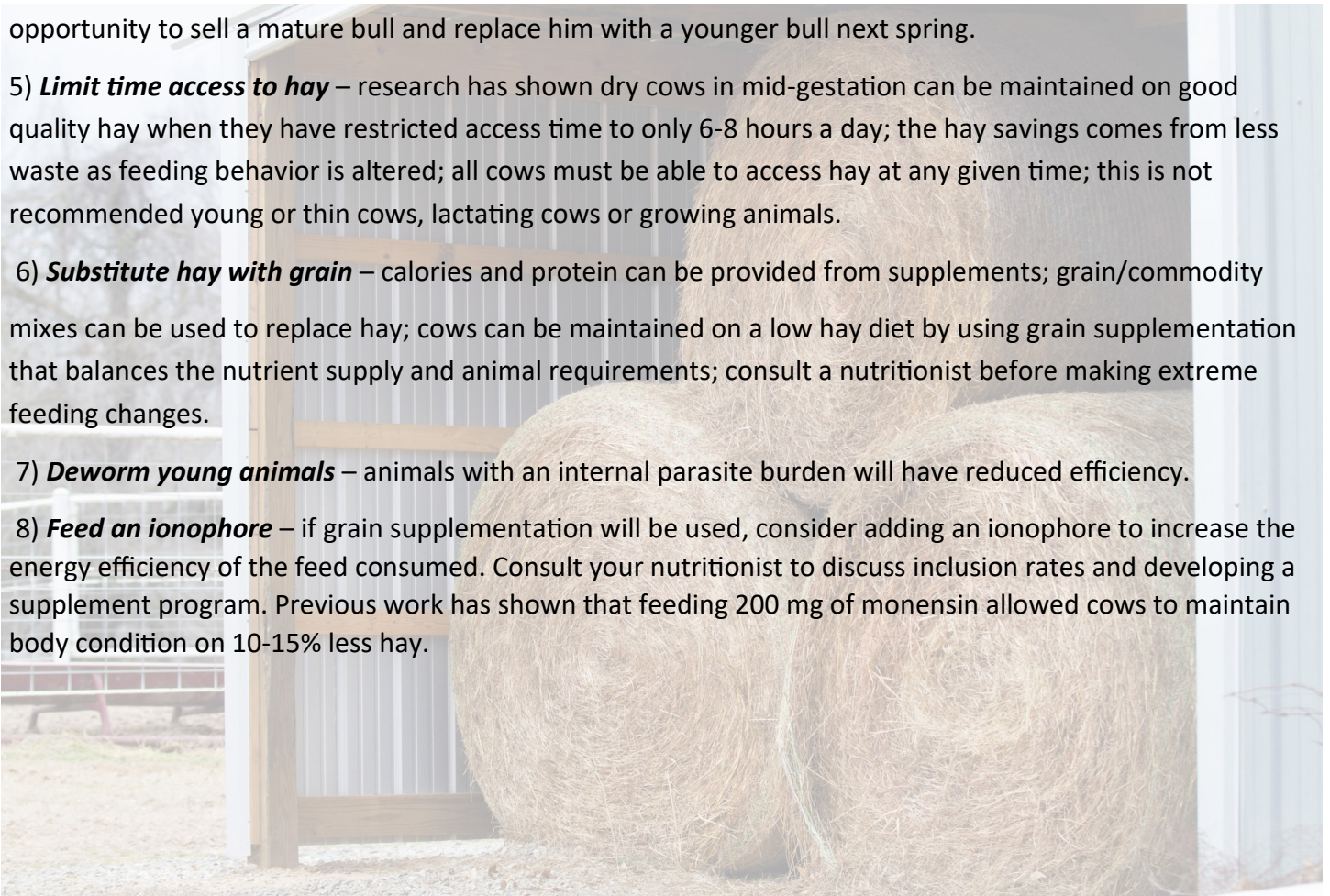
4) **Cull** – consider selling less productive females, open cows, and cows with structural/functional issues to reduce the number you must over winter; consider selling the bull as the market may provide the opportunity to sell a mature bull and replace him with a younger bull next spring.

5) **Limit time access to hay** – research has shown dry cows in mid-gestation can be maintained on good quality hay when they have restricted access time to only 6-8 hours a day; the hay savings comes from less waste as feeding behavior is altered; all cows must be able to access hay at any given time; this is not recommended young or thin cows, lactating cows or growing animals.

6) **Substitute hay with grain** – calories and protein can be provided from supplements; grain/commodity mixes can be used to replace hay; cows can be maintained on a low hay diet by using grain supplementation that balances the nutrient supply and animal requirements; consult a nutritionist before making extreme feeding changes.

7) **Deworm young animals** – animals with an internal parasite burden will have reduced efficiency.

8) **Feed an ionophore** – if grain supplementation will be used, consider adding an ionophore to increase the energy efficiency of the feed consumed. Consult your nutritionist to discuss inclusion rates and developing a supplement program. Previous work has shown that feeding 200 mg of monensin allowed cows to maintain body condition on 10-15% less hay.



TIMELY TIPS

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Spring-Calving Herd Get ready for calving season this month!

- Have calving equipment, supplies and labor ready for the spring calving season. Some supplies that may be needed are: eartags and applicator (put numbers on eartags now), tattoo pliers and ink, record book, scales for calf weights, iodine for calves' navels and colostrum supplement. Calving equipment (puller and chains, etc.) and facilities should be ready and clean. Keep your veterinarians phone number handy!
- Overall condition of the cow herd should be evaluated. Cows losing weight now are more likely to have weak or dead calves. These cows will likely be a poor source of colostrum milk for the newborn calf. Feed cows, if necessary, to keep them in good body condition. Cows need to calve in a BCS of 5, minimum, to expect them to rebreed in a timely fashion. Calve you heifers a little heavier, BCS of 6.
- Heifers may begin head-start calving in early February. Move them to a clean, accessible pasture, away from cow herd and near facilities so that calving assistance can be given. Cows may start calving later this month. Signs of calving are relaxation of pelvic ligaments, enlargement and swelling of the vulva, and enlargement of the udder. Expect calving difficulty if (1) calf's head and two feet are not visible, (2) only the calf's tail is visible, and (3) the cow has been in labor for 1½ hours. Be sure calf is being presented normally before using calf puller. Recognize situations that are beyond your capability and seek professional help as early as possible. Calves that aren't breathing should receive assistance. Try sticking a straw in nostril to stimulate a reflex or try alternate pressure and release on rib cage. Calves should consume colostrum within 30 minutes of birth to achieve good immunity.
- Record birthdate, cow I.D., and birthweight immediately (use your Beef IRM calendar). Identify calf with an ear tag and/or tattoo. Registered calves should be weighed in the first 24 hours. Male calves in commercial herds should be castrated and implanted as soon as possible.
- Separate cows that calve away from dry cows and increase their feed. Increase feed after calving to 25-27 pounds of high quality hay. Concentrate (3-4 lb. for mature cows and about 8 lb. for first-calf heifers) may be needed if you are feeding lower quality hay. Hay analysis will greatly aid any decisions regarding type and amount of supplementation. Supplementation may have a beneficial effect on date and rate of conception. It's an important time to feed a beef cow after calving. Thin cows don't come into heat very soon after calving. We must have cows in good condition, if we plan to breed them early in the season for best pregnancy rates, especially on high-endophyte fescue pastures.
- Sub-zero weather can mean death for newborn calves. During extremely cold spells, bring the cow(s) into a sheltered area as calving approaches to protect the calf. Be prepared to warm-up and feed newborn, chilled calves. Calving in mud can also cause problems.
- Watch for scours in newborn calves. Consult your veterinarian quickly for diagnosis, cause, and treatment. Avoid muddy feeding areas so that cows' udders won't become contaminated and spread scours. Don't confine cows to muddy lots.
- Replacement heifers should be gaining adequately to reach target breeding weights by April 1st. Be sure that their feeding program is adequate for early breeding.
- Start looking for herd sire replacements, if needed.

Fall-Calving Herd

- Breeding season should end this month – maybe Valentine’s Day. Remove bulls and confine them so that they regain condition.
- Consider creep feed or creep grazing (wheat, etc.) to supply extra nutrition to fall-born calves which may have to depend solely on their dam’s milk supply for growth. They are not getting much except their dam’s milk now (i.e. there is nothing to graze). February/March is the worst time of the year for fall-born calves.
- Provide windbreaks or clean shelter for calves.

General

- Increase feed as temperature drops. When temperature falls below 15 degrees, cattle need access to windbreaks. For each 10 degrees drop below 15 degrees, add three pounds of hay, two pounds of corn, or six pounds of silage to their rations.
- Always provide water. Watch for frozen pond hazards. If cattle are watering in a pond, be sure to keep ice “chopped” to keep cattle from walking on the ice and, possibly, breaking through. Keep automatic waterers working.
- You should be feeding a mineral supplement with adequate magnesium to prevent grass tetany (~ 15% Mg) now. The Hi-mag UK Beef IRM mineral can be used.
- Control lice. Watch for signs such as rubbing.
- Begin pasture renovation. You can overseed clover on frozen or snow-covered pastures. For more information

FORAGE TIMELY TIPS: FEBRUARY

- Continue grazing stockpiled tall fescue if available.
- Assess grass stands. If thin, consider adding legumes.
- Begin frost seeding with 6-8 lb/A red and 1-2 lb/A ladino white clover on closely grazed pastures.
- On pastures with lower fertility, consider also adding 10-15 lb/A annual lespedeza.
- Consider applying 40 lb/A nitrogen in mid- to late February on some pastures to promote early growth.
- Sign up for shared use drills for spring renovation.
- Service and calibrate no-till drills.
- Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test if not done in fall.

