

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024



AGENT REMARKS

Fall harvest is progressing rather fast due to the weather conditions: however, the dry conditions over the past few weeks are a double edge sword. Pasture conditions are declining due to the lack of rainfall which leads to hay feeding earlier than expected for most. Although there are some regions across the state where hay supplies are tight locally our supply is above average. The local harvest of corn and beans looks to be well ahead of pace. Field reports indicate there is a lot of variation of quality and yield, but most yields seem average at best. Final thoughts are although harvest season will wind down as the month progresses be mindful of those around you in agriculture, give thanks and tell them how much you appreciate all they do so we can all reap the benefits of a safe and wholesome food supply. As always stay safe and HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!



Adam Thomas

LaRue County Extension Agent
for Agriculture & Natural Resources Education

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **November 5th** - Election Day- Office Closed
- **November 7th-21st** - North American International Livestock Expo, Louisville
- **November 12th** - LaRue County Cattleman's Meeting 7pm. Extension Office
- **November 12th** - CAIP Informational Meeting 7pm Extension Office
- **November 14th-15th** - KY Agriculture Summit, Louisville
- **November 28-29th** - Thanksgiving Holiday- Office Closed
- **December 4th-7th** - KYFB Annual Meeting- Louisville
- **December 10th** - LaRue County Cattleman's Christmas Dinner 7pm Extension Office
- **December 25th - January 1st** - Christmas and New Year's Holiday- Office Closed

CAIP

COUNTY AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

INFORMATIONAL MEETING



TUESDAY
11/12/24
7 PM*

* DURING BEEF CATTLE MEETING

COME FIND OUT
WHAT YOU
NEED
TO KNOW FOR
THE UPCOMING
PROGRAM .

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Extension Service

LaRue County Extension Service
807 Old Elizabethtown Rd., Hodgenville

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



FORAGE TIMELY TIPS:

- Apply 30-40 lbs/N/acre to strengthen cool-season grass sods going into winter.
- If not already done, inventory hay and assess hay quality.
- Using a plate meter or grazing stick, estimate stockpile available for winter grazing.
- Adjust animal numbers or purchase additional hay to balance forage-feed supply to livestock needs.
- Graze crop residues and cover crops that will not overwinter. Be careful to avoid fields that contain johnsongrass that have recently frosted.
- Graze winter annuals that will not overwinter such as brassics and oats.
- Graze other winter annuals once they are 6-8 inches tall and are well anchored. Do NOT graze closer to 4 inches.
- Sugar content will rise in tall fescue with the cool temperatures and short days of fall. Alkaloid content of tall fescue can also be high in certain years, but will begin decline after a hard freeze.
- Talk with local conservationist about developing a grazing plan and cost-share opportunities.

GENERAL LIVESTOCK TIPS:

- Have your hay supply analyzed for nutritive quality and estimate the amount of supplementation needed. Consider purchasing feed now.
- Take soil tests and make fertility adjustments (phosphate, potash, and lime) to your pastures.
- This is a good time to freeze-brand bred yearling heifers and additions to the breeding herd.
- Graze alfalfa this month after a "freeze-down" (24 degrees for a few hours).
- Don't waste your feed resources. Avoid excessive mud in the feeding area. Hay feeding areas can be constructed by putting rock on geotextile fabric. Feed those large round bales in hay "rings" to avoid waste. Concrete feeding pads could be in your long-range plans.

BEEF MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES

If you are interested and would like to be registered send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with Beef Webinar Series in the Subject and your name and county in the message to receive a Zoom link and password. You will receive an invitation and password the morning of the presentation.

November

12

Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef Related Questions!

Updates and Roundtable discussion with UK Specialists

December

10

Winter Feeding Strategies to Extend Short Hay Supplies

Dr. Lawton Stewart, Professor, University of Georgia

January

14

Important Traits for Bull Selection in Kentucky

Dr. Matt Spangler, Professor, University of Nebraska

February

11

Marketing Opportunities for the Spring

Dr. Kenny Burdine, Professor, and Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

March

11

Preparing for a Successful Spring Breeding Season

Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

April

8

Health Update and Internal Parasite Field Study Results

Dr. Michelle Arnold, Extension Veterinarian, and Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

If you have any questions or need additional information please email dbullock@uky.edu. If you are already registered you will get a Zoom invitation the morning of each session with the link and password.

KENTUCKY AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

Join us for a premier event to celebrate the crossroads of Kentucky's future in farm, food, fuel, and fiber on **November 14-15 in Louisville**. The Kentucky Agriculture Summit will feature farmer and dynamic leadership speaker **Matt Lohr**, former USDA-NRCS chief and current Virginia Sec. of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Kentucky Agricultural Council will reveal the ever-evolving Strategic Roadmap for Kentucky Agriculture: 2025-2030, and guests will be treated to a delicious Taste of Kentucky reception showcasing our farmers and the Commonwealth's finest local food and beverages.

Farmers, agribusinesses, food partners, and health leaders, will offer fresh perspectives. Attendees will:

- Discuss experiences, legal needs, and challenges of farmland transitions with a young farmer, lawyer, and experts.
- Listen to how Kentucky can increase its workforce development efforts and meet farm and agribusiness needs.
- Consider economic development for Kentucky's future and trends impacting agriculture's future.
- Gather ideas around innovation from agribusinesses with experience.
- Network in a meaningful way with leaders shaping the future of farm, food, fuel, and fiber.
- Collect unique ideas to take agriculture into classrooms.
- Explore how to be a part of creating a healthier Kentucky through the products we grow and the people who grow them.

Day 1 begins at Hyatt Regency Louisville (11 a.m. ET)
 Day 2 begins at Kentucky Expo Center (8:30 a.m. ET)
 \$50 for both days (3 meal functions).
 Student and single-day options are available.
 Summit registration deadline is **October 25**.
 Learn more and register at www.kyagcouncil.org.



Keynote speaker **Matt Lohr**



Commissioner **Jonathan Shell**



KY Economic Cabinet Secretary **Jeff Noel**



KY Venues President & CEO **David Beck**

It's not just another meeting. It's the merging of minds and meaningful content.

Kentucky Agriculture Summit Sponsors



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.

DECISION MAKING IN A DECLINING ECONOMY

Michael Forsythe | KFBM Area Extension Specialist

Published on Oct. 31, 2024

As the farming economy enters a period of decline, farmers are facing issues many of them have not had to deal with in recent years. Net Farm Incomes are low or even negative in many cases. Cash flows are becoming extremely tight. Some farmers are having difficulty renewing operating loans. These issues, along with others, are requiring farmers to take a close look at their management practices and what they can do to improve profitability and cash flow. In doing so, there are several options a farmer can consider in determining what decisions they need to make to improve their operation.

Input Costs - Fertilizer, seed, and chemical expenses are some of the biggest expenses a farming operation has each year so this is the first area that should be examined to decide what improvements can be made. Farmers are very loyal to their input suppliers, but they may need to compare prices among input suppliers to find if they are getting the best prices on the market. Proper soil testing is another practice to implement, to ensure they are putting the correct amount and type of fertilizer needed for each farm. If farmers are not having soil tests done, they may be spending more money on fertility than needed or there may be a deficiency resulting in lower yields. Farmers need to closely look at their input costs to make sure they are getting the most benefit out of every dollar they spend.

Equipment - Equipment costs are another extremely large and important expense a farmer needs to examine to decide what improvements can be made. In years past, many farmers have traded combines and other major purchases every year or two to keep newer equipment and to take advantage of tax benefits these purchases provide. Many farmers have already cut back on equipment purchases, but there are other decisions they need to consider regarding equipment. Do they have the right-sized equipment needed for their current operation? Can they downsize some of their equipment or find more acres to run it over through custom-hire situations? Is there any equipment that they do not need and can sell to lower their equipment costs?

Another major decision concerning equipment is whether a purchase or a lease is the best option. There are times when purchases are more advantageous and there are times when leases are more advantageous. In some cases, farmers trade a piece of equipment they own for a leased item that lowers the annual lease payment on that new item. There is one major issue with this transaction that many farmers fail to consider. The amount received for the item traded-in will have to be counted as taxable income, while the only expense offsetting this income is the lease payment. This is very different from the potential write-off a farmer can receive from an equipment purchase that includes a trade-in.



Labor – Depending on the size of the farm and the type of operation, labor can be a large expense for a farming operation. In many cases, a farming operation may have more employees than is really needed. A farmer may need to closely look at their labor costs and determine if they can cut back on this expense without hurting the operation. In some cases, this may require the farmer to provide more of the labor than they are used to.

Land Rent – Land rental agreements can vary from farm to farm and from area to area, but they are another expense that may need to be examined. In cash lease situations, the farmer should put pencil to paper to make sure the land is profitable enough to justify the rent they are paying for each farm. If not, they are subsidizing that farm with income from other farms and decreasing their total profitability by keeping this rental agreement. In most share lease agreements, other than 75/25, the landlord is paying at least some of the input costs on that farm, but that is not always the case. The farmer should look closely at these leases and make sure the landlord is paying the amount of expenses they need to pay. The farmer may need to sit down with the landlord and try to renegotiate their rental agreement. If the landlord is unwilling to agree to a renegotiation, the farmer may need to examine whether they should keep farming that farm, especially for less productive ground.

Grain Marketing and Storage – Many farmers currently still have quite a bit of 2023 grain, especially corn, which is unsold due to the low prices. As we get further into the 2024 fall harvest, farmers are being faced with decisions of having to sell old crop grain at low prices to clear up storage for 2024 grain or find other ways to store the 2024 grain because bins are full with 2023 grain. If grain is stored at an elevator, the farmer needs to consider if the potential upswing in prices they are hoping for will be enough to offset the storage fees and interest they may be paying. There may come a time when the farmer must decide to cut their losses and sell the old crop grain because they need the cash flow and storage space.

Cash Flow – Overall, farmers need to take a close look at what they can do to improve their cash flow situation. One way to do this would be to closely look at your equipment purchases over the last several years to determine if any of them were paid for with cash or by the operating loan. If so, these purchases may need to be refinanced on a term loan to free up operating funds for other expenses. There are many expenses, such as land rent and inputs, that may be due at the very end of the year or the very beginning of the following year and the market situation may not be at a point where the farmer wants to sell grain, but they need money to cover those expenses. Two options that farmers may want to consider are to either take an advance on grain that will be sold later or to take out a CCC loan on a portion of their grain inventory. If a farmer is interested in taking out a CCC loan on grain inventory, they need to start that process now because it can be a lengthy process that should not be put off until the last minute. In some extreme situations, a farmer may even have to examine the possibility and need of selling capital assets, such as land and equipment, to increase cash flow.

This economic downturn is greatly impacting farming operations of all sizes. If they have not already started examining their management decisions and practices, they need to start soon to be as proactive as possible. The longer they put off making the decisions, the more likely they are to get into a financial situation that may take them a long time to recover from.

FALL 2024 FARM OBSERVATIONS ACROSS KENTUCKY

Author: Kentucky Farm Business Management, October 31, 2024

The observations below are from Area Extension Specialists from the Kentucky Farm Business Management (KFBM) program for the Lincoln Trail Area.

The 2024 growing season across Central Kentucky was very dry and producers were not looking forward to harvest. Harvest is well underway, and yields are better than expected for corn. Hurricane Helene brought widespread storms that resulted in patches of broken corn that could affect overall yields. In many places the corn crop cannot take another bad storm. Soybean harvest started before the rain set in, so yields are unknown. Unfortunately, there are places that soybeans are sprouting. Considering this, there will be a rush to get the crop harvested once field conditions improve. Optimism for a market price rally is absent and producers are trying to make the best of a poor situation.

On the cattle and pasture side, the rain was much needed, as producers started feeding hay weeks ago. Due to high cow prices, producers are not looking to purchase breeding stock and are planning on keeping their own replacements. Dry conditions throughout summer and early fall made hay production challenging for some producers. In parts of Central Kentucky, hay supply will be tight and will be a challenge for some to purchase.

Producers have stated they want earlier tax planning. This is a result of crop carryover for many years with some producers still having 2023 crop in the bins. Even though net farm income is projected to be lower than 2023, income tax liability will still be an issue for most.

FALL CROP PROTECTION WEBINAR SERIES

Sign up now for a popular webinar series that addresses timely topics regarding integrated pest management for field crops. University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Extension Specialists have once again organized the Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series, hosted through the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center. Each webinar will begin at 10 a.m. ET/9 a.m. CT, and will be one hour in length. Continuing education credits for Certified Crop Advisors and Kentucky pesticide applicators will be available.

The remaining webinar dates are, November 12 & November 26. **Pre-registration is required to attend each webinar.**



Webinar #3: Nov. 12 — Dr. Travis Legleiter, Extension Weeds Specialist
Title: Spray Application Parameters – The Offensive Line of Herbicide Applications
Webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rxH9T0W4T4a3HZRFAqGA1w



Webinar #4: Nov. 26 — Dr. Carl Bradley, Extension Plant Pathologist
Title: Management of important wheat diseases in Kentucky
Webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NURPmPdgQICwWGHR-qOCEw



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2024 INVASIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

NOV 12, 9-3 ET

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forestry.ca.uky.edu/
invasive-plant-conference

HAROLD R. BENSON RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION FARM, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, FRANKFORT, KY \$45, LUNCH INCLUDED



UK Cooperative Extension Service



Slow Cooker BBQ Turkey Legs



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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was partially funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — SNAP.

USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Putting Healthy Food Within Reach

This work is supported by the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.




Slow Cooker BBQ Turkey Legs

- 2 wild turkey legs with thighs
- ¼ teaspoon ground pepper
- ¼ cup ketchup
- 1 8-ounce can no-salt-added tomato sauce
- ¼ cup water
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons prepared yellow mustard
- 3 tablespoons vinegar
- 2 teaspoons paprika

1. Wash hands with warm water and soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds, especially after handling raw meat.
2. Season turkey meat with pepper and place in 6-quart slow cooker.
3. To make sauce, combine the remaining ingredients and stir well.
4. Pour sauce over turkey.
5. Cook, covered, in slow cooker on low for 7 hours, or until meat is tender and falls off the bone or has reached an internal temperature of 165 degrees F.

Yield: 6 servings
Serving Size: 6 ounces of meat

Nutrition facts per serving:
370 calories; 4.5g total fat; 1g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 170mg cholesterol; 470mg sodium; 12g total carbohydrate; 1g dietary fiber; 9g sugars; 7g added sugars; 72g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 4% Daily Value of calcium; 15% Daily Value of iron; 15% Daily Value of potassium.



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4-H


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