



**AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2023**

Hello

The transition to fall is right around the corner as the calendar has turned to August. Thank you to everyone who has assisted in making this transition as the new Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent a fun and smooth experience. Just in one short month I have met so many individuals across LaRue County who are passionate about agriculture and have great ideas on continuing the rich tradition and history of all facets of agriculture. If we have not had the opportunity to meet yet I would like to introduce myself. My wife, Ashley, and I have two daughters and focus on raising Chiangus and Simmental genetics in addition to raising market goats for 4-H and FFA members. I always enjoy visiting about agriculture production and look forward to assisting the community.

Sincerely,

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **August 17th –27th**
Kentucky State Fair, Louisville
- **August 31st**
Field Crop Pest Workshop
Princeton
- **September 7th**
CPC Field Day, Fountain Run
- **September 12th**
LC Cattlemen’s Meeting
7pm, Extension Office
- **September 16th**
Small Ruminant Field Day
Lebanon
- **September 21st**
Beef Bash, Versailles
- **September 27th - 28th**
Fall Grazing School, Versailles



2023 BEEF BASH

Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Professor and Tyler Purvis, Beef Extension Associate, University of Kentucky

Dr. Roy Burris started Beef Bash at the UKREC almost two decades ago. His vision was to create an event to encourage fellowship among producers, the industry, and the entities that serve the beef industry. The goal was to unite and empower the beef industry for the future.

The theme of Beef Bash 2023 is “Vision of the Future”. Our goal is to create an event illustrating the tremendous work done in the beef industry in Kentucky creating a vision of the future of the beef industry.



We are redesigning the format to accentuate all the work being done in Kentucky to improve the sustainability of the beef industry. We will have rotations featuring current research from UK and the USDA ARS group, educational opportunities sponsored by UK and Kentucky Beef Network and we will have several demonstrations by the UK Foods group and by the Kentucky Beef Council. In addition to these rotations, we will have an update on new facilities being designed and developed for the new Beef Extension Education Facility in Princeton, the new Livestock Education Center in Versailles, and the new USDA ARS research facility located on campus. We should have something for everyone at this year's Beef Bash.

Beef Bash 2023 will be held Thursday, September 21st from 1-8 PM at the C. Oran Little Research Center. Registration will begin at 1 PM and the event will begin at 2 PM. We will have the educational components from 2-4 PM and again from 6-8 PM. We will use 4-5 PM for participants to visit the tradeshow and interact with our vendors. We will rotate participants through the stations again from 6-8 PM. We extended the rotations into the evening for those who want to attend but cannot get off work. Dinner will be provided by the Woodford County Cattleman's Association at 5 PM. Pre-registration for attendees will be \$15 and includes a meal ticket. Come out to see a “Vision for the Future” provided by the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, and the USDA ARS.

FORAGE TIMELY TIPS: AUGUST

- Do NOT graze cool-season pastures closer than 3 to 4 inches. This will help to conserve soil moisture and prevent overheating of the crowns.
- If drought conditions limit pasture growth, close off pastures and feed hay in a sacrifice area.
- Graze warm season annuals or perennials to allow cool season grasses to recover and to avoid endophyte-infected fescue.
- After first good rain in August, seed winter annuals (such as small grains, ryegrass, crimson clover, and brassicas) for late fall and early spring grazing.
- Plant alfalfa after first good rain in August to allow sufficient size going into winter and reduce potential for sclerotinia damage.
- Consider renovation of cool-season grass pastures that have thinned.
- In mid-August to early September, exclude livestock from pastures to be stockpiled and apply 60 lb N/A and any needed lime, P and K.

STOCKPILE FORAGES TO EXTEND THE GRAZING SEASON

Source: Ray Smith, UK plant and soil sciences professor

Good pasture management can help extend the grazing season further into the fall and early winter. Take advantage of good growing conditions to obtain high-quality pasture for late fall and early winter grazing. Stockpiling helps broaden the pasture season for the cow herd, reduces feed and labor costs by lowering the amount of hay needed and provides an ideal location for the beef cow herd to winter and calve.

It's easy to begin to stockpile. Simply take cattle off pastures in late summer, apply nitrogen fertilizer and allow grass to accumulate growth through late fall. Then, put cattle on the pasture one section at a time until they've finished grazing the whole field.

Take soil samples for analyses to determine pasture requirements for phosphorus, potassium and lime. You'll need this information to renovate with clover in the spring.

Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass are the best grasses to stockpile in Kentucky. Both retain green color and forage quality late into winter, are somewhat resistant to low temperatures and form a good sod. Tall fescue produces more fall and winter growth than Kentucky bluegrass.

Nitrogen and moisture are critical to successfully stockpiling grasses.

Apply nitrogen in mid-August. Topdress at the rate of 40 to 60 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre for Kentucky bluegrass. Use 40 to 100 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre on tall fescue.

Numerous studies show wise fertilizer use and timing results in high yields during fall and early winter. Tall fescue crude protein and digestibility are better during fall and early winter than at any other time of the year.

Yields can be very good when water is available during the stockpiling period. Tall fescue can produce two tons of dry matter up to late November. With adequate water, producers can achieve 25 pounds of dry matter for each pound of nitrogen used.

After frost, let cattle graze grass-legume fields quickly before plants deteriorate. Then, put animals on the stockpiled grass fields. For the most efficient use of stockpiled fields, establish a strip grazing system by using a temporary electric fence to section off areas of the field. The first grazing area should have water and mineral sources. When animals have grazed this area, move the fence to open a new strip. Repeat this process until the entire field has been grazed.

Stockpiled grass is an excellent choice for fall-calving cows because it can be used to meet high nutritional needs after calving and during the breeding season. Grazing stockpiled grasses may offer the most benefit to spring-calving cows in thin body condition during the fall. Growing, weaned cattle can be grazed on stockpiled fescue. Using stockpiled grasses helps lower feed costs when backgrounding cattle.

WATCH FOR TRUE ARMYWORM

Posted on August 2, 2023

The numbers are up for the true armyworm from trap counts at the UK Lexington Research Station. The current numbers don't guarantee damage, but are one of the tools UK Entomologists use to predict the potential for damage. Keep in mind this is a different species from the fall armyworm. The true armyworm has a strong preference for grasses and can be a serious pest of forage grasses. However, it can feed on broadleaf plants in the absence of grasses.

So with the increasing numbers, the message for producers is to be on the lookout for true armyworm in their fields. Like fall armyworm, they are mainly active at night, but may be out during the day on heavy overcast or rainy days. Since they may be hidden, it is important to look for their signs, including ~2mm frass pellets and blade damage to the grasses. Armyworms commonly feed on the edges of leaves. If they are found, the thresholds and the pesticides for fall armyworm (2/sqft) and are the same for true armyworm. The best time to look for them would be early morning/late afternoon.

True Armyworms have dull orange lines on the side of the body, dark honeycombed markings on an orange head capsule, and dark markings on the outside of each proleg. Fall armyworm has a white inverted "Y" mark on the front of the dark head. Although similar in size, the corn earworm feels rough like sandpaper when rubbed. ~ Ric Bessin, UK Extension Entomologist.

SMALL RUMINANT FIELD DAY



AGENDA

9:30-10AM CHECK-IN

10-10:20 WELCOME

**10:20-11:20
EQUIPMENT NEEDS, SHAWN HARPER, WEST KY
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**11:20-12:20
ROTATIONAL GRAZING/HAY TESTING - DR. JIMMY
HENNING, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**

LUNCH 12:20-1PM

ROTATION:

**GOAT/SHEEP CONFIRMATION - 1-2:30
TAYLOR GRAVES, WASHINGTON COUNTY
AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AGENT**

**1-2:30 PM
HOOF TRIMMING**

**2:30-4:00
GOAT/SHEEP CONFIRMATION
TAYLOR GRAVES, WASHINGTON COUNTY
AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AGENT**

**2:30-4:00
HOOF TRIMMING**

FIELD CROP PEST WORKSHOP



Aug 31, 2023

8:00 am to 2 pm
(sign in @ 7:30)



Field Crop Pest Workshop

Demonstrations and Talks

- Importance of Spray Droplet Size for Herbicide Applications
- Herbicide Symptomology
- Fungicide Spray Application Efficacy
- Fungicide Applications With Drones
- Tank Mixing and Adjuvants
- UK Pesticide Safety Education Program- Overview and Updates
- Diversity and Control of Stink Bugs in Ky Crop Fields

University of Kentucky
Research and Education Center
1205 Hopkinsville Street
Princeton, KY 42445



CCA and PAT: Pending

Pre-registration is required

KATSFieldCropPestWorkshop.eventbrite.com

\$65 Registration fee



kats.ca.uky.edu

For more information contact
Travis Legleiter (Travis.Legleiter@uky.edu)
or Lori Rogers (lori.rogers@uky.edu)



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LEXINGTON, KY 40546

LaRue County
PO Box 210, 807 Old Elizabethtown Road
Hodgenville, KY 42748-0210

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

HAY TESTING



We will again be offering free hay (dry and high moisture) testing this year. If you'd like to get on the list we will need to know by September 30th. We will do the testing within the first couple of weeks of October. Contact the LaRue County Extension Office at 270-358-3401 or email adam.thomas@uky.edu to get on the list.

