

Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter



Clark County Extension Service • 1400 Fortune Drive • Winchester, KY 40391 • 859-744-4682 • clark.ext@uky.edu • <http://clark.ca.uky.edu/>

Clark County Extension Service will be closed November 27th & 28th. Will reopen December 1st.

A Word from the Agent



November is upon us and it seems like October has been a blur. October seemed to never slow down.

I want to thank all of the volunteers who helped with our Fall Fest in early October. We had over 800 individuals attend to learn about extension, play games with the family, and try tasty fall treats. Without your help, this could not have happened nor been nearly as successful.

At the extension office, we are always looking for volunteers and ideas for new programs. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have a great idea for a new program. I would love to have a discussion with you on how my programs can better serve the county.

Thank you for everything that you do, and I hope you enjoy this newsletter!

Levi Berg

Clark County Extension Agent
for Agriculture and Natural Resources
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Forage Management Tips for November

- Apply 30-40 lb N per acre to strengthen cool-season grass sods.
- 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 until after these plants have dried up.
- Graze winter annuals that will not overwinter such as brassicas 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.

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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

KY Cattle Owners!

What's buggin' you and your cattle? We want to know!

Tell us about pests of your cattle to inform research and education in Kentucky



Investigators

Hannah Tiffin, PhD
Assistant Professor
Entomology Dept.
MC-CAFE
University of Kentucky



Kenneth Burdine, PhD
Professor
Agricultural Economics Dept.
MC-CAFE
University of Kentucky



Thank you for helping us better serve Kentucky cattle producers!

Cattle Pest Survey

By: Dr. Hannah Tiffin
University of Kentucky, Department of Entomology

Are you dealing with pests like flies, ticks, and no-see-ums on your cattle? We want to hear from you. Researchers at the University of Kentucky are conducting a short survey to learn which pests are affecting Kentucky cattle and what control methods you've tried on your farm.

Your responses will guide the development of Extension resources that are useful to producers and help shape research on better pest management strategies. The survey only takes a few minutes, and your input will directly support UK's efforts to improve cattle health and productivity across the state.

To access the survey, please click on the QR code or use this link:
https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1G3v1QaTKqGhBcO



Managing Horses in Winter

Source: Bob Coleman, Extension Equine Specialist

When winter arrives, horses feel it. You can lessen the blow and help your animals thrive in cold weather. Ultimately, the ideal time to prepare for winter is in the fall, but there are still things you can do now.

Think about preparing for two scenarios – acute cold and chronic cold. Acute cold is when we experience cold snaps that last for short periods of time. Chronic cold stays for much longer time. Sometimes acute cold is actually more dangerous for animals because they aren't used to the cold and owners may not be as prepared as in regions where intense cold is more common and longer lasting.

Be it acute or chronic, horse owners should make sure animals have adequate shelter, fresh water, dry bedding and enough feed.

One way horses keep warm is through digestion; it helps generate heat. The average horse, with a low activity level, should eat between 1.5 and 2 percent of its body weight in feed per day to maintain weight.

As temperatures drop, feed needs rise because horses use up more calories to stay warm. Mature horses can adapt to and handle temperatures as low as 5 degrees Fahrenheit, but that is the lower critical temperature. When conditions fall below that, horses need to increase heat production or reduce heat loss to maintain core body temperature. One way to do that is to eat more. A drop in temperature to 5 degrees below zero will require 15 percent more feed to supply needed calories. That means the horse would need to eat 2-3 more pounds of hay each day.

Make sure you have extra hay available to help your horses get through short-term cold snaps. For longer, more chronic cold exposure, you'll need to make some other management changes to meet your horses' calorie needs. Mature horses can maintain on a good quality legume-grass mixed hay, but young, growing horses or broodmares late in gestation may need a concentrate to meet their increased calorie needs.

One of the most time-consuming, but most critical tasks in winter is to make sure horses have access to clean, unfrozen water. Adequate water intake is essential to preventing colic due to impaction.

You need to provide some kind of shelter from wind and precipitation. If you choose to use blankets, make sure they are wind and waterproof. A wet blanket equals a wet horse and that disrupts the coat's ability to insulate the animal and can quickly lead to cold stress.

Make sure to keep an eye on your horses during cold snaps to make sure they are handling the effects of the cold. That will mean daily checks and quick action if the animals need extra attention. If possible, keep horses out of pastures and paddocks with ponds or open water sources to guard against them falling through ice into the water.



Controlling Fall Weeds

One of the most comprehensive yet concise weed publications in the country is Dr. J.D. Green's 2 page publication "Broadleaf Weeds of KY Pastures." Dr. Green updated this pub just over a year ago. One side has photos of the major weeds and the other side lists the weeds with the products that are most effective controlling them. He also indicates the time of the year that's best to spray. Fall is a good time to kill many problem winter annual weeds like poison hemlock when they are small. An additional benefit of fall weed control is that when spraying standard herbicides like 2,4-D/dicamba there will be no residue come February when it's time to frost seed. Remember that buttercup will continue to germinate throughout the winter so it's best to spray in early March. Some people have used Duracor or GrazonNext to control fall weeds and limit germination of buttercup over the winter, but these products have a long term residual so you cannot frost seed the following spring.

Remember that the best weed control is a good grass cover, so try to avoid overgrazing in the fall. Pastures that have a 4" residual going into the winter will green-up several weeks earlier in the spring. Go to this pub on the UK Forage Website or the direct link is:

<https://publications.mgcafe.uky.edu/agr-207>

Learn to Use Body Condition Scores as Indicators of Herd Health

Source: Les Anderson, UK Extension Beef Specialist

You can determine body condition score by looking at the degree of sharpness or thinness in several areas of the cow's body. The ribs and backbone are two primary regions you need to examine to help establish body condition score. Other important areas are the tailhead, shoulder and brisket regions of the cow. In general, cows with more fat appear smoother in these areas to the point that individual bones are difficult to see.

Early winter is an optimum time to prepare your spring-calving herd for reproductive success. Adequate nutrition from about 50 to 80 days prior to calving is critical to maximizing a cow's ability to rebreed and maintain a 365-day calving interval. If a cow gets inadequate nutrition or is thin at calving and breeding, she will take longer to come into heat and will require more services to conceive.

The best method to evaluate the nutritional status of your herd is to do body condition scores. A body condition score is an estimate of the degree of body fatness of an animal, which gives us an estimate of the amount of body energy reserves available to the cow. Scores range from 1 to 9, with 1 meaning a cow is emaciated or extremely thin, while a 9 is an animal that is extremely obese. Beef producers should train themselves to identify cows that are too thin, cows that are marginal and cows that have an optimal body condition score for rebreeding. Body condition scoring is a tool to help plan your supplemental feeding program so you can maintain adequate productivity in your herd.

Cows that are too thin, scores of 3 or less, have easily identifiable fore and rear ribs, sharpness across the backbone, sharpness over the hook and pin bones near the tailhead and sharpness across the shoulders. These cows need to gain approximately 150-200 pounds before calving if you want them to rebreed in a timely fashion.

Cows that are borderline have a body condition score of 4. These cows have easily identifiable 12th and 13th ribs, but their fore ribs are covered. The backbone and hooks and pins are still prominent but are not sharp in appearance. The shoulders are less defined. These cows need to gain about 75 to 100 pounds before breeding season.

Cows that are in optimal body condition have scores of 5 or 6 and have a good overall appearance. No ribs are visible unless the animal has been shrunk. The backbone, hooks and pins appear rounded and not easily seen and the area around the tailhead is filled in but not mounded. These cows simply need to maintain their weight until calving.

Research has shown that cows with scores less than 5 at calving have lower pregnancy rates and take longer to rebreed than cows with scores of 5 or higher. The optimum body condition score for mature cows is a 5 or 6. Heifers that are calving their first calf need to have a score of at least 6 to maximize rebreeding success.

The best way to use body condition scoring is sort cows according to their score at 90-100 days before calving and feed these groups according to their score and nutrient needs to optimize reproduction. Each body condition score typically represents 75 to 100 pounds of body weight. Analyze your feedstuffs so that you can accurately balance rations to meet the needs of each group of cows. This method not only ensures adequate breeding potential of your cowherd, but is also an efficient method of supplying nutrients to your cows.

Contact the Clark County Extension Office, 859-744-4682, for more information.

Forest Management Plans: A Roadmap to a Healthier Woodland

Source: Jacob Muller, Assistant Professor and Extension Forestry Specialist



If you own woodland, you already know it's more than just trees — it's a living, breathing ecosystem full of potential. Whether your goals include timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation, or conservation, a Forest Management Plan is your most effective tool for bringing your vision to life.

Think of a Forest Management Plan as a roadmap. It outlines your long-term goals for your land and lays out the steps to achieve them. It helps you understand what resources you have, what your land is capable of producing and how to manage it sustainably. From hunting and hiking to timber harvesting and habitat restoration, your plan can be tailored to fit your unique objectives. Creating a plan isn't a one-time event — it's a process. Here are 10 key steps to developing and implementing a woodland management plan:

1. **Identify goals and objectives.** What do you want from your woodland?
2. **Conduct an inventory.** Assess tree species, soil, water, and forest health.
3. **Revisit objectives.** Adjust based on what your land can realistically support.
4. **Record area details.** Map and document conditions by stand.
5. **Designate management areas.** Divide your land into zones based on use.
6. **Select practices and schedule activities.** Choose actions like thinning or planting.
7. **Implement practices.** Put your plan into action.
8. **Keep records and evaluate.** Track progress and forest response.
9. **Refine as needed.** Update your plan based on results and changing goals.
10. **Enjoy Your Woodland!** Spend time in it to better understand how it responds.

If developing a plan seems daunting, the good news is that you don't have to do it alone. In fact, a professional forester or natural resource manager is the best resource available to you to help you articulate your goals, assess your land's potential, and design a realistic, achievable plan. They'll also help you navigate challenges like invasive species, disease and access issues. Costs may vary significantly depending on the size of your woodland and the complexity of your goals. Hiring a consulting forester to develop a plan may be beneficial, as it affords you, the landowner, some flexibility and ensures that someone visits your property in a timely manner. However, many state agencies, such as the Kentucky Division of Forestry, offer this service to landowners at no cost to them. One potential downside is that you may have to wait for a forester to become available to assist you in managing your woodlands.

Regardless of whom you work with, when it comes to implementing your plan, many state and federal programs offer financial assistance — and some even require a written plan to qualify. In Kentucky, for example, the Forest Stewardship Program offers technical and financial support to landowners who commit to sustainable management.

A Forest Management Plan isn't just a document — it's a commitment to your land's future. Whether you're managing 10 acres or 1,000, taking the time to plan today will pay off for decades to come.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

IT'S YOUR REALITY EVENT

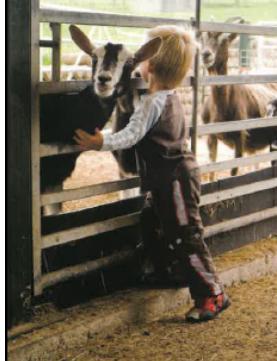
We are in search of volunteers to help with our Reality Store event at Robert D. Campbell School on November 24th from 9:00am-3:50pm. This event is a hands-on, real-life simulation activity that gives 8th graders the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those that will be faced as an adult. The youth will visit 20 booths that are manned by community volunteers, local business men and women, and extension staff. When manning a booth you will give youth options on a financial decision and initial their cards (i.e. entertainment, clothing, insurance, etc.).

If you are available and willing to help please email Aubrey Lawson at aubrey.lawson@uky.edu



**NEW TO
GOAT AND SHEEP
FARMING?
WE CAN HELP.**

Now offering \$2,000
short-term loans with
0% interest



NEW FARMER RECRUITMENT LOAN

The New Farmer Recruitment Program is a competitive loan program offered by the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Council and is designed to help grow Kentucky's sheep and goat industries. The loans are \$2,000 short term (1 to 2 year) loans with 0% interest. Up to two loans (one goat and one sheep) are awarded each year to eligible individuals.

Eligible individuals are:

Graduates of the Small Ruminant Profit School educational program who are Kentucky residents at least 18 years of age and have been in sheep or goat production for less than 5 years.

Funds may be used to purchase sheep and/or goats for breeding purposes as well as livestock guardian animals.

Applications accepted annually April - June.

www.kysheepandgoat.org/check-off



2025 KENTUCKY MAPLE SCHOOL



kmsa.kymaple@gmail.com



See below,
for info!

SAVE THE DATE

November 1st

Clark Co. Extension Office
Winchester, KY



The Kentucky Maple School has its roots in a regional event that took place in December. As interest from maple syrup producers increased, the event expanded alongside the establishment of the Kentucky Maple Syrup Association, transforming it into a statewide gathering with the date shifted to fall, typically in November. Annually, the School provides an opportunity for maple syrup producers to convene and explore contemporary topics in maple production. It also fosters connections among producers, encouraging the sharing of ideas and experiences.

For additional information, and to register:

<https://kymaplesyrup.com/events/ky-maple-school/>



Are you ready to bring sheep or goats to your farm?

The Small Ruminant Profit School is an online course for new producers and those looking for more knowledge on a wide range of topics that are vital to the success of all goat and sheep operations.

15 Online Learning Modules:

- Business plan creation guidance
- Market Trends & Niche Marketing
- Facilities and Fencing
- Guardian Animals
- Health Management
- Nutrition
- Foot Care and Hoof Trimming
- & much more

A Record Keeping System is included for Production & Finances



Scan the code to register

35th Annual Elite Bred Heifer Sale

WWW.ELITEHEIFER.COM

Inspection
1:00 - 4:30 PM

Monday, November 3rd 2025
6:00 pm
Paris Stockyard - US 68 North

Approximately 300
CAIP Eligible Heifers
- Half AI Bred



Bourbon County Extension Office: 859.987.1895
Sale Day Phone: 859.987.1977



RECIPE

Wild Turkey and Broccoli Casserole

Servings: 8 / Serving Size: 1 slice

Source: Adapted from: "Fish & Game Cookbook" Bonnie Scott. 2013.

Ingredients:

2 packages (10 ounces each) frozen broccoli, or 2 bunches fresh broccoli, washed and cut into pieces
4 cups cubed, cooked wild turkey meat
1 cup light mayonnaise
2 cans (10.5 ounces each) low-sodium cream of chicken soup
1 teaspoon curry powder or 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
1 teaspoon lemon juice
½ cup grated cheddar cheese
½ cup panko breadcrumbs
1 tablespoon melted butter



Directions:

To cook turkey breast, preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Add vegetable oil to roasting pan. Place turkey breast in roasting pan. Season meat lightly with garlic powder and black pepper. Cover with lid or aluminum foil. Cook at 325 degrees F until internal temperature is 165 degrees, about 1 ½ to 3 ½ hours for 4 to 8 pounds of meat. Let meat cool in pan for 5 minutes before cutting into cubes. Steam broccoli until tender. Drain. Grease a 2-quart casserole dish or 9-by13-inch pan. Place turkey on the bottom and arrange the broccoli over the turkey. Combine mayonnaise, cream of chicken soup, curry powder or mustard, and lemon juice. Combine cheese, breadcrumbs and butter. Sprinkle over casserole. Bake at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes.

Nutrition Facts per Serving: 270 calories, 12g total fat, 3g saturated fat, 0g trans fat, 65mg cholesterol, 660mg sodium, 17g total carbohydrate, 0g dietary fiber, 2g total sugars, 23g protein, 6% DV calcium, 6% DV Iron, 8% DV Potassium