

## A WORD FROM THE AGENT



Happy New Year! I can't believe that I have been in Clark County for over four years, and I'm very blessed to have made so many wonderful friendships in the county. I just want to thank you for always making me feel welcome here. I have been blessed to find myself in Clark County and cannot wait to see what is to come!

The Clark County Extension Office is always coming up with new and amazing programs, so be sure to also follow what FCS, 4-H, and Hort also have going on. As always, feel free to call the office to ask about upcoming programs!

Levi Berg

Clark County Extension Agent  
for Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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Coming in  
**FEBRUARY**  
**2026**

**Winter**  
**School**

See enclosed Winter School Flyer  
for details!



<https://www.facebook.com/ClarkCountyExtension>

KEEPING YOU  
**Informed**

**FORAGE MANAGEMENT TIPS**  
**FOR JANUARY**

- Continue strip-grazing of stockpiled tall fescue for maximum utilization.
- Remove animals from waterlogged pastures to limit pugging and soil compaction.
- Feed best hay to animals with highest nutritional needs.
- Supplement poor quality hay as indicated by forage testing.
- Feed hay in poor pastures to increase soil fertility and enhance organic matter.
- Consider 'bale grazing' - set out hat throughout field when the ground is dry or frozen. Then use temporary fencing to allocate bales as needed after that.
- Use variety trial results to select seed for spring renovation.
- Prepare for pasture renovation by purchasing seeds, inoculant, etc. and getting equipment ready.

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



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# Fall Overgrazing is a Scary Proposition

~article in Hay and Forage Grower by Mike Rankin.

Overgrazed pastures continue to haunt the livestock industry. In case you didn't notice, that was a purposeful and obligatory Halloween reference, but one loaded with truth. Overgrazing occurs for a variety of reasons. Rarely does it occur in the spring unless cows are put out on a limited pasture base too early. Summer is a different story, as pasture growth is often slowed by inherent dormancy or drought. If time-on-pasture adjustments aren't made to compensate, forage overutilization occurs. When you treat cattle with the opportunity to overgraze, the tricks cometh in the form of:

- Delayed plant regrowth and recovery, setting the pasture up for another round of overgrazing
- Slowed development of new tillers
- Removed plant carbohydrate storage structures at the base of the plant
- Enhanced weed encroachment
- Severely impacted root mass and growth
- Pasture vulnerability to soil erosion
- Reduced livestock performance

So, what about overgrazing in the fall? Typically, a single event when a pasture is grazed shorter than 3 to 4 inches can be rectified with a longer recovery period. In the fall, that may not be possible. Although it's true that cool-season grass growth benefits from the cooler temperatures and moisture that fall usually brings, plants are also preparing to overwinter. This means that carbohydrates are being stored in lower stems and, in some cases, roots. These storage structures need to be protected for overwintering capacity and early spring regrowth. For this reason, many experts recommend that 4 to 5 inches of residual growth be left going into winter.

Overgrazing during the fall also inhibits the regeneration of new roots and tillers that will be critical for the next spring's growth. In fact, fall is a great time to apply fertilizer nutrients that will enhance additional root and shoot growth. However, fertilizer needs to be applied before plant growth shuts down for the winter.

There are two situations when overgrazing a fall pasture might be done to enhance forage utilization and/or quality. Employ these strategies cautiously and only on a limited number of pastures or paddocks. First, overgrazing is an effective strategy to stagger regrowth. Grazing certain pastures shorter in the fall will delay green up in the spring, and these paddocks can be set aside for the back end of the grazing rotation next year. It offers one means of controlling what is commonly referred to as "the spring flush."

Another case where overgrazing in the fall might be beneficial is for paddocks that will be frost seeded before next spring. Overgrazing, or at least getting growth down to a 3-inch stubble, will expose more bare soil for improved seed-to-soil contact, and this will also reduce early competition from existing plants with the new seedlings.

<https://hayandforage.com/article-5502-Fall-overgrazing-is-a-scary-proposition.html>

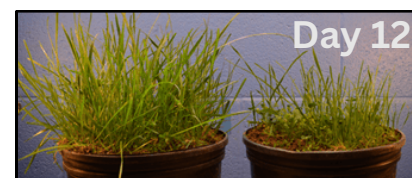
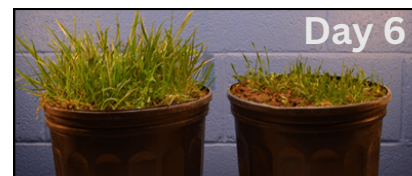


Listen to the recording of the KY Fall Grazing Conference that was held the last week of October with the theme "Grazing for Profit: Optimizing Returns in Grass Based Operations". Simply google "KYForages YouTube" and look for the last presentations. Below is the direct link:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrq6psn95pUzj-eWj2W4kFHPUKyMoEQuB&si=ye4sCkzzPoYuKR3d>

Our special invited speaker was Jim Gerrish. All the speakers and their topics are listed below:

- **Seven Things That I Have Learned About Profitable Ranching in the Last 45 Years**  
Jim Gerrish, American Grazing Lands Services
- **Nutrient Cycling in Grassland Ecosystems**  
Dr. Ricardo Riberio, University of Kentucky
- **Forage Management and Shifting Weather Patterns**  
Dr. Chris Teutsch, University of Kentucky
- **Breeding a Functional Cow that Works in Your Environment**  
Cody Rakes, Manager, Loretto Motherhouse Farm
- **Forage Spokesperson Contest**
- **What We Have Learned About Bale Grazing**  
Dr. Greg Halich, University of Kentucky
- **Managing Feed Costs in Ruminant Livestock Production Systems**  
Jim Gerrish, American Grazing Lands Service



Sod taken from two pastures and put in the greenhouse in late March in Kentucky. The one on the left went into the winter with about 3" of growth and was not grazed during the winter. The one on the right was grazed into the ground all winter long. Spring regrowth was much faster on the rested pasture and there were less weeds. The three photos show day 0, day 6 and day 12 of regrowth.



# WINTER SCHOOL 2026

**February 3, 5, 10, and 12**

**6:00 pm** (A meal will be served each night)

**Clark County Extension Service**

(1400 Fortune Drive; Winchester Kentucky)



**3RD BEEF NIGHT**

**5TH FARM NIGHT**

**10TH ALL PROPERTY OWNERS NIGHT**

**12TH HORT NIGHT**



~ For details, see the back of this flyer ~

**\*\*\* These classes will qualify for  
CAIP Educational Credit\*\*\***

*Register  
Now*



859-744-4682



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**Cooperative  
Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities  
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# WINTER SCHOOL 2026

## NIGHTLY TOPICS AND DESCRIPTIONS

### FEBRUARY 3RD: BEEF NIGHT

- **PARASITES IN CATTLE:** Dr. Hannah Tiffin, UK Veterinary Entomologist  
Learn about the new parasites affecting cattle such as new world screw worm and ticks which are creating management hardships for KY Cattle Producers.
- **BEEF BREEDING HEALTH:** Dr. Les Anderson, UK Beef Extension Specialist  
Are your cattle in the right condition for breeding season? Learn how body condition affects breeding for bulls and cows.
- **CLARK COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

Meal provided by:



### FEBRUARY 5TH: FARM NIGHT

- **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT LAWS:** Jake Ward, Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Game Warden  
Learn what you are legally allowed to do when you have nuisance animals on the farm.
- **FENCING 101:** Jeremy McGill, Hopkins County ANR Extension Agent  
Learn the basics of different types of fencing and how to properly install those fences for years of to come.
- **HAY CONTEST:** Levi Berg, Clark County ANR Extension Agent  
Learn about the winners of the 2025 Clark County Hay Contest and how Clark County fared in the Central KY Hay Contest.
- **CLARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU UPDATE**

Meal provided by:



### FEBRUARY 10TH: ALL PROPERTY OWNERS NIGHT

- **SMALL ENGINE MAINTENANCE:** Kyle Porter, GRCHS Agriculture Teacher/FFA Advisor  
Come learn tricks for keeping that small engine running from year to year. No one likes repairing small engines when work needs to be done.
- **GRUBBY GROUNDHOGS:** Carrie Spry, Clark County Hort Extension Agent  
Groundhogs can be one of the most persistent critters out there. They can cause problems around homes, barns, buildings, pastures, and lawns. We will cover the basics of how a groundhog thinks and how to control them.
- **SOIL TESTING:** Levi Berg, Clark County ANR Extension Agent  
Soil testing should be the first step to building any farm or starting your gardening endeavors. Learn the basics of how and why you should test your soil.
- **CLARK COUNTY FFA UPDATE**

Meal provided by:

Clark  
County



### FEBRUARY 12TH: HORT NIGHT

- **ALL ABOUT ANTS:** Dr. Jonathan Larson, UK Extension Entomologist  
Let's talk about ants! From the home invading ant, general info on ant control, along with some Fire Ant awareness, Dr. Larson is back by popular demand to bring us lots of good information on the mighty ant.
- **THE REALITY OF FRUIT TREES IN KY:** Carrie Spry, Clark County Hort Extension Agent  
Growing tree fruits sounds like a fun and rewarding venture, until reality sets in for some. We will cover some of the most commonly overlooked struggles and misconceptions about growing fruit trees here in Kentucky.
- **EXTENSION SERVICE UPDATE**

Meal provided by:





# KCA CONVENTION 2026 & AG INDUSTRY TRADE SHOW

JANUARY 15-16 • OWENSBORO

For registration information and agenda:

<https://keca.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/2511COWC%2021%20%282%29.pdf>

Registration Fee: \$85.00

Mail to: KCA Convention Registration  
176 Pasadena Drive; Suite 4; Lexington, Kentucky 40503  
Or Fax (859) 260-2060

Mark your  
Calendar

Important  
Dates

## Private Applicator Training Dates



**Tuesday, February 17th**  
**9:00 am**

**Tuesday, February 24th**  
**5:00 pm**

**Thursday, March 12th**  
**5:00 pm**

## Beef Timely Tips

By: Dr. Les Anderson, UK Beef Extension Professor



### Spring Calving Herd

- Be sure that weaned heifer calves are on a feeding program that will enable them to reach about 65% of their mature weight before the start of the breeding season. Rations should be balanced to achieve gains sufficient to get heifers from their current weight to that "target" weight. Heifers should reach their target weight approximately 30 days before the start of the breeding season.
- Body condition is important, plan an adequate winter program cows to be at least body condition score 5 (carrying enough flesh to cover the ribs) before the calving and breeding season. This will help them to

breed early in the spring. Thin cows should be fed to regain body condition prior to winter. Don't let cows lose weight/condition. Supplementation will most likely be needed. Find low-cost supplemental feeds to meet the nutrient needs of cattle.

- Divide the herd into groups for winter feeding: - weaned heifer calves - first-calf heifers, second-calvers and thin mature cows - the remainder of the dry cows which are in good body condition - herd sires
- Begin feeding the lowest quality forage to dry cows which are in good condition during early winter and save the best hay for calving time or for weaned calves.
- Order and number ear tags for next year's calf crop this winter. It is also a good time to catch up on freeze branding and replacing lost ear tags.

### Fall Calving Herd

- The fall breeding season has started. Breeding can best be accomplished on stockpiled fescue pasture; otherwise, cows with calves should be fed 25-30 pounds of good quality hay or its equivalent. Supplement with grain, if needed, and minimize hay waste. **DON'T ALLOW THESE COWS TO LOSE BODY CONDITION PRIOR TO OR DURING THE BREEDING SEASON.** It is easy to wait too long to start winter feeding.
- If you haven't turned bulls out yet, have a Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) performed on them (even if you used them this spring). A BSE is a risk management tool as BSE's accurately identify infertile bulls.
- Observe performance of bulls during breeding season. Watch cows for return to estrus, if you see several in heat, try to determine the cause and consider changing bulls.

### General

- Complete soil testing pastures to check for fertility and pH.
- Consider putting down geotextile fabric and covering with gravel in feeding areas before you begin hay feeding to minimize waste of expensive hay. Or, perhaps, construct concrete feeding pads for winter feeding areas.
- Another option to consider for winter feeding is bale grazing. Bale grazing helps spread nutrients across the pasture and can have regenerative effects on your pastures.
- Monitor body condition and increase feed, if needed, for all classes of cattle. It often gets cold in December and the nutrients needs of cattle increase as temperatures fall below their comfort level. Be especially mindful of cold, wet conditions and increase energy availability. Consult your nutritionist to ensure that your rations are meeting the nutrient requirements during stressful weather.

# 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](mailto: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. **Note: Meeting days have changed to the second THURSDAY of each month!!!**



## JANUARY 8, 2026

*Making the Most of the Good Years: Profits, Reinvestment, and Tax Management in Beef Cattle Operations*  
Jonathan Shepherd, Agricultural Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky



## FEBRUARY 12, 2026

*Impact of Bull Nutrition During Development on Semen Quality*  
Pedro Fontes, Associate Professor, University of Georgia



## MARCH 12, 2026

*Bull Selection Practices in Kentucky: What are we Doing Right and What Could we Improve!*  
Darrh Bullock, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky



### For additional information please contact:

Levi Berg, Clark Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension,  
[levi.berg@uky.edu](mailto:levi.berg@uky.edu) or call the office at 859-744-4682

## RECIPE

### Hunter's Helper

Servings: 8    Serving Size:  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup  
Source: Cook Wild Kentucky Project

#### Ingredients:

8 ounces (half a box) elbow macaroni	1 can (16 ounces) no-salt-added diced tomatoes
1 tablespoon canola oil	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup water
1 pound ground venison	1 teaspoon salt
1 onion, chopped	1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 green bell pepper, chopped	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon onion powder
3 ounces tomato paste	$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground black pepper
1 tablespoon honey	1 package (8 ounces) shredded low-fat cheddar cheese



#### Directions:

Wash hands with warm water and soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. Wash fresh produce under cool running water, using a vegetable brush to scrub veggies with firm surface. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spray a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes, or until al dente; drain. Meanwhile, heat canola oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat until it begins to smoke. Sauté onion and garlic until onions are translucent. Approximately 10 minutes. Add venison and cook, stirring to break apart, until browned and cooked. Stir in tomato paste, honey, diced tomatoes, and water until combined. Season with salt, garlic powder, onion powder and pepper. Mix together drained macaroni and venison mixture and pour into prepared baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with shredded Cheddar cheese. Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Uncover and continue baking until the cheese is bubbly and browned, about 15 minutes. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.

**Nutrition facts per serving:** 220 calories; 7g total fat; 1.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 95mg cholesterol; 310mg sodium; 11g carbohydrate; 2g fiber; 3g sugars; 28g protein; 20% Daily Value of Vitamin D; 2% Daily Value of Calcium; 20% Daily Value of Iron; 10% Daily value of Potassium