



From the Ground Up

Bath County Agricultural Newsletter

February

2023

Robert Amburgey

*Bath County Extension Agent for Agriculture
and Natural Resources*

Cooperative Extension Service
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PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, YOU CAN CONTACT THE BATH COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE AT 674-6121**

BQCA TRAINING

February 21—10:00 a.m.—Bath County Extension Office

There is a \$5.00 registration fee—checks made to KBN

BEEF MINI SERIES

All meetings will begin at 6:00

February 16—Animal Health—Michelle Arnold—Menifee County Extension Office

**March 7—Managing reproductive efficiency in beef cattle—Les Anderson—
Bath County Extension Office**

SEE FLYER IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR MORE DETAILS

RSVP TO THE BATH COUNTY EXT OFFICE AT

674-6121



BEEF PRODUCTION SERIES



Presented by:

UK Extension Service

Bath, Menifee, Montgomery Counties

Cooperative Extension Service

Bath County

2914 E. Hwy 60

Owingsville, KY 40360

(606)674-6121

Fax: (606)674-6687

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Bath, Montgomery and Menifee County Extension Offices are offering a beef cattle production series during the months of:

* **January**—Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler—Managing the cows nutritional needs pre and post calving

Montgomery County Extension Office

January 17th at 6:00 p.m.

RSVP TO BATH COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE BY JANUARY 15TH—674-6121

* **February**—Dr. Michelle Arnold—Requirements for a healthy beef cattle herd.

Menifee County Extension Office

February 16—6:00 p.m.

• **March**—Dr. Les Anderson—Managing reproductive efficiency in beef cows.

Bath County Extension Office

March 7th, 6:00 p.m.

Bath—(606) 674-6121

Menifee—(606) 768-3866

Montgomery—(859) 498-8741

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

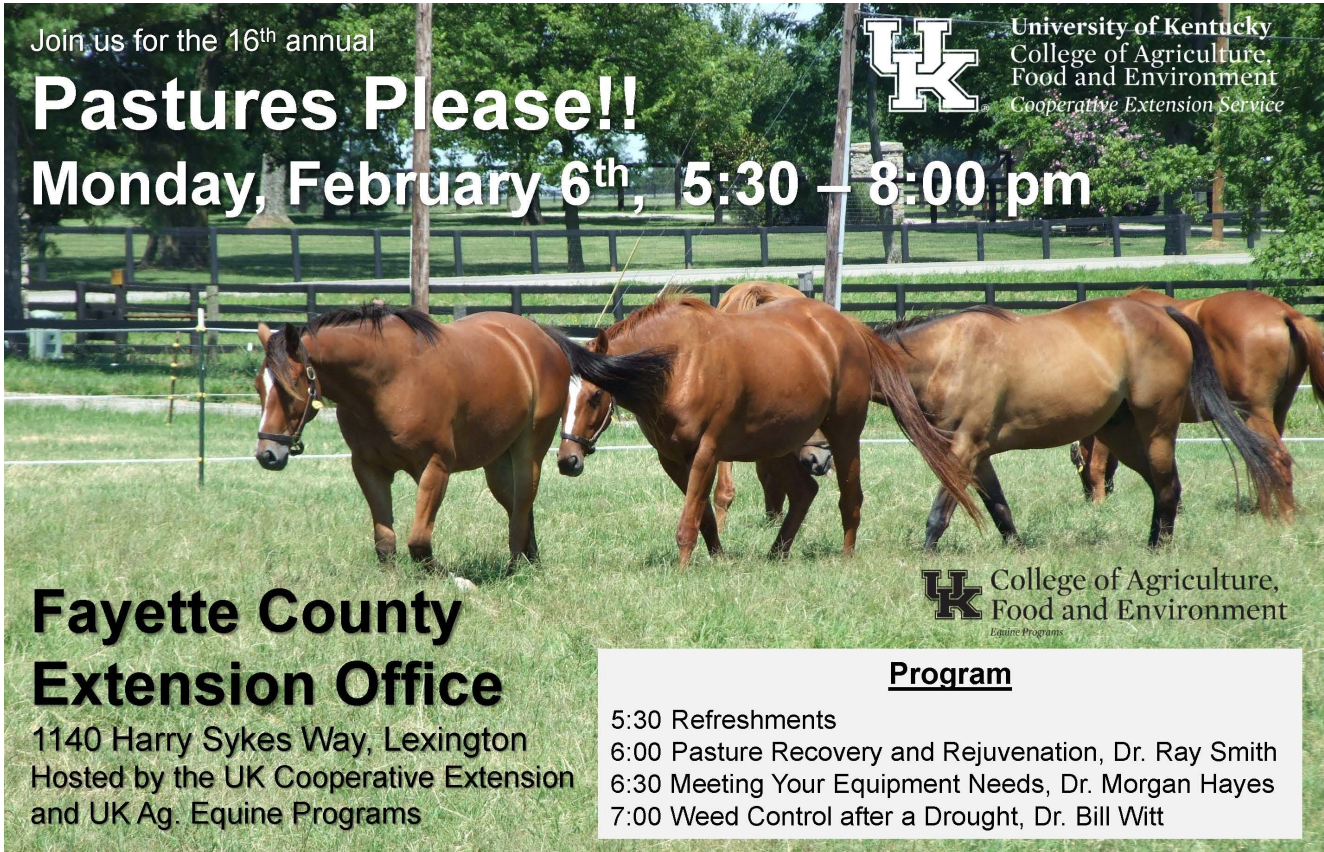
Join us for the 16th annual

Pastures Please!!

Monday, February 6th, 5:30 – 8:00 pm



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



Fayette County Extension Office

1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington
Hosted by the UK Cooperative Extension
and UK Ag. Equine Programs

 College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Equine Programs

Program

- 5:30 Refreshments
- 6:00 Pasture Recovery and Rejuvenation, Dr. Ray Smith
- 6:30 Meeting Your Equipment Needs, Dr. Morgan Hayes
- 7:00 Weed Control after a Drought, Dr. Bill Witt



RSVP online using the
QR code or call:
859-257-5582

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2023

46th Annual Kentucky Turf & Landscape Management Short Course

February 21-23, 2023

Hardin County Extension Center
111 Opportunity Way
Elizabethtown, KY

 University of
Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

 Kentucky
Horticulture
Council

<https://2023KYTurfShortCourse.eventbrite.com>

MID-SOUTH STOCKER CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 21, 2023
5:30PM REGISTRATION
6:00PM PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 22, 2023
8:30AM REGISTRATION
9:30AM PROGRAM

REGISTER HERE:



WKU L.D. BROWN AG EXPO CENTER
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stands

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STORED FORAGE CONFERENCE

**HAY PRODUCTION, MARKETING
AND MECHANIZATION**



**FEB.
21
8AM**

CENTRAL TIME

CAVE CITY CONVENTION CENTER

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Kentucky
Forage and
Grassland
Council

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT KATE AT (513) 470- 8171

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: ear tags and applicator (put numbers on ear tags 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 veterinarian's 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. Commercial respirators are also available. 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.

Frost Seeding at a Glance

- * Legumes are an essential part of sustainable grassland ecosystems.
- * Overseeding may be required to maintain and thicken stands.
- * Frost seeding is the simplest method for reintroducing clover back into pastures.
- * Control broadleaf weeds prior to frost seeding.
- * Soil test and apply any needed lime or fertilizer before frost seeding.
- * Suppress the existing sod and reduce residue with hard grazing in the fall and winter.
- * Choose well adapted varieties of red and white clover using the UK forage variety testing data.
- * Calibrate seeder and check spread pattern.
- * Broadcast 6-8 lb/A of red clover and 1-2 lb/A of white clover that has been inoculated in February or early March.
- * Control post seeding competition by grazing pastures until clover seedlings become tall enough to be grazed off. Put pasture back into rotation once seedlings reach a height of 6-8 inches.

**For more information on frost seeding contact the Bath County Extension Office at 674-6121 or visit the [UK Forage Extension Website](#)*

<http://forages.ca.uky.edu/>

2023 KY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC PEST AND RECYCLING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Public Pest and Recycling Assistance Branch is here to help the citizens of Kentucky with environmental concerns by providing pro-active, voluntary programs, with no financial or regulatory cost to the participants.

NUISANCE WEED SPRAYING PROGRAM

NOTE: The registration period for this program is the month of February, and all registration must be done online at <http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx>. This program 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.

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. Applications can be completed from February 1st to February 28th. To submit an application, please go to

<http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx>

TASTY FRUIT QUESADILLA



This makes
for a great
kid-friendly
breakfast!

- *Cooking spray*
- *1 tablespoon peanut butter*
- *1 whole grain tortilla*
- *½ banana, thinly sliced*
- *2 strawberries, sliced*
- *½ teaspoon cinnamon*

1. Spray a medium skillet with cooking spray and place skillet on medium heat.
2. Spread the peanut butter over the tortilla.
3. Arrange strawberry and banana slices over half of the tortilla and then fold the tortilla in half.

4. Place the quesadilla on the skillet and cook 1-2 minutes on each side until just browned.
5. Remove quesadilla and cut into 3 pieces.
6. Sprinkle cinnamon on top and serve!

Makes 1 servings

Serving size: 1 quesadilla

Nutrition facts per serving: 280 calories; 9g total fat; 1.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 0mg cholesterol; 200mg sodium; 43g carbohydrate; 6g fiber; 12g sugar; 9g protein



For more information about nutrition, contact your local UK Cooperative Extension office: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/county>

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



UK University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



(Even) More Reasons to Love Red Clover

Dr. Jimmy Henning, Extension Professor, Forage Specialist, University of Kentucky

Clover has been cool in Kentucky for a long time. Clover has long been known to benefit ruminant producers because of its high yields, biological nitrogen fixation, summer time production and dilution of the negative effects of tall fescue. New research from the USDA-ARS Food Animal Production Research Unit embedded in the UK College of Agriculture Food and Environment is adding even more reasons to love red clover.

Red clover directly counteracts the vasoconstriction caused by the toxic endophyte of tall fescue. The constriction of the exterior blood vessels makes ruminants much less able to regulate their body temperatures, causing heat stress in summer and cold stress in winter. Red clover has been found to contain a natural compound that actually causes these constricted blood vessels to dilate, restoring blood flow and relieving temperature stress. These compounds, called isoflavones, are also present in white clover and alfalfa, but at lower levels than red clover.

Surprisingly small amounts of red clover in the diet have large effects. Research by USDA-ARS group found that pastures overseeded with red clover as well as hay with 15 and 30% red clover improved growth of steers and relaxed the exterior blood vessels of steers grazing toxic tall fescue. Even more significant, other studies have shown toxic fescue symptoms are alleviated by feeding mineral that contains 20% red clover. Could red clover be the ‘silver bullet’ for toxic fescue that we have been looking for? It sure seems like it to me.

Addition of clover to toxic tall fescue pastures has long been known to improve conception rates of cattle. It is also known that isoflavones are estrogen-like compounds (phytoestrogens) which can suppress reproduction when fed at high levels, especially in sheep. USDA-ARS scientist Dr. Brittany Harlowe has begun to study the effects of high levels of red clover on the reproductive efficiency in cattle. Her preliminary results found reproductive efficiency was not suppressed in heifers fed a mineral that contained 20% red clover compared to a non-red clover control. The heifers receiving the red clover mineral shed their winter hair coat better and experienced less heat stress in hot, humid weather than those fed the non-red clover mineral.



Red clover improves rumen fermentation. Rumen microorganisms do some magical things, like converting forage fiber into steak. One of the things you would change about the rumen if you could is the way that the microorganisms digest forage protein. Some rumen microorganisms will excessively break down forage protein and release ammonia. Red clover suppresses some of the rumen bacteria that are especially active in degrading forage protein. This lets more forage protein flow intact from the rumen, improving animal performance.

Better than alfalfa? Alfalfa has long been known as the queen of forage crops for its ability to produce high yields and high animal performance. Red clover has some qualities that in some ways make it superior to alfalfa. Before you burn me at the stake for this bit of forage heresy, hear me out. Both of these legumes are highly digestible, but alfalfa as it matures tends to accumulate more lignin associated with plant fiber than red clover. Lignin in mature forages reduces the digestibility of the fiber. Lower lignin values in red clover give it an energy advantage. Also, when I ran the mobile forage testing lab at the University of Missouri, red clover always testing lower in fiber than comparable alfalfa bales. Comparing red clover to alfalfa may be like comparing Porsche to Ferrari since both are high performance entities. Just remember that red clover brings a lot of nutrition to the table too.

With red clover you get all of these benefits plus free nitrogen from the rhizobia bacteria embedded in root nodules. Don't forget that red (and white) clover can be readily introduced into tall fescue pastures by overseeding now. This establishment method is commonly known as frost seeding because the freezing and thawing of winter creates enough seed-soil contact that clover will germinate in late spring. For more information on frost seeding clover, type 'frost seeding uky' into your internet browser or go directly to <https://grazer.ca.uky.edu/content/frost-seeding>.

More than ever, red clover needs to be part of your strategy for managing toxic tall fescue.

Happy foraging.

This article first appeared in Famer's Pride January 27 for February 3 Issue



NEW AND UPDATED HORSE PUBS AVAILABLE

[Traveling with Your Horse: First-Aid Kits](http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ASC/ASC253/ASC253.pdf)

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ASC/ASC253/ASC253.pdf>

[Traveling with Your Horse: Trailer and Truck Packing](http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ASC/ASC252/ASC252.pdf)

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ASC/ASC252/ASC252.pdf>

[Traveling with Your Horse: Caring for Your Horse Away from Home](http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ASC/ASC251/ASC251.pdf)

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at the
Lewis County Extension Office
March 14, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

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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.





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