



From the Ground

Bath County Agricultural Newsletter

Bath County
Ag and Natural Resources

September
2024

Robert Amburgey



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Bath County field day—September 17th

Registration begins at 4:00 with the program at 5:00

See flyer in this newsletter for more details

Beginning and small farmer school

November 1st from 10:00am to 3:00 p.m

Morehead State University farm

See flyer for more details and QR code to register

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.

BATH COUNTY FIELD DAY

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

JEFF AND LEXIE CENTERS

Presented by:

LOCATED AT

BATH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

574 Burbridge Branch Rd.

BATH COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Owingsville, KY 40360

BATH COUNTY FARM BUREAU

NRCS

Registration begins at

4:00 pm

MEAL SPONSORS:

Program begins at 5:00 p.m.

BATH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

OWINGSVILLE BANKING COMPANY

PARIS STOCKYARDS

Meal prepared by:

BLUEGRASS STOCKYARDS—MT. STERLING

Bath County Cattleman's

PECKS FARM SUPPLY

MONTGOMERY TRACTOR SALES

Servers:

CITIZENS BANK

Bath County Farm Bureau Ladies

PEOPLES BANK

SOUTHERN STATES—OWINGSVILLE

Booths and displays on site!

AG PRO

AMBURGEY'S FARM SUPPLY

Bring a chair and enjoy!!

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BEGINNING & SMALL FARMER SCHOOL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1



10:00AM-3:00PM

9:30AM Registration



25 MSU FARM DRIVE

Arena Classrooms

TOPICS

- First Steps
- Farm Design & Layout
- Taxes & Record Keeping
- Enterprises to Consider
- Info from Partnering Groups

To register, use the QR code or call your local
Extension Office at: (606) 674-6121



Registration required by 10/25/24

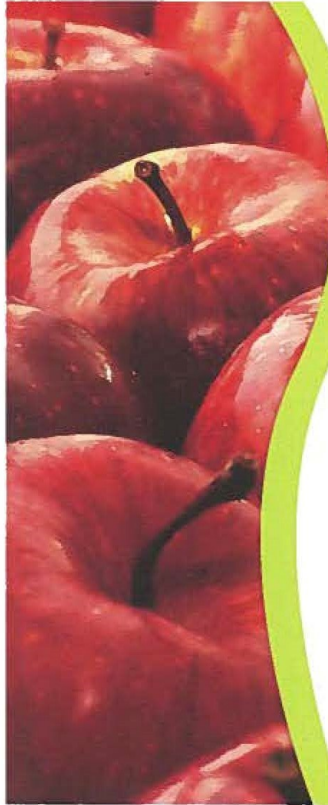
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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506





Baked Apples and Sweet Potatoes

5 medium sweet potatoes
4 medium apples

½ cup margarine
½ cup brown sugar
½ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon nutmeg
¼ cup hot water
2 tablespoons honey

- 1. Boil** potatoes in 2 inches of water until almost tender.
- 2. Cool** potatoes, peel and slice. **Peel**, core and slice apples.
- 3. Preheat** the oven to 400°F. **Grease** a casserole dish with a small amount of margarine.
- 4. Layer** potatoes on the bottom of the dish.

- 5. Add** a layer of apple slices.
- 6. Sprinkle** some sugar, salt, and tiny pieces of margarine over the apple layer.
- 7. Repeat** layers of potatoes, apples, sugar, salt and margarine.
- 8. Sprinkle** top with nutmeg.
- 9. Mix** the hot water and

- honey together.
- 10. Pour** over top of casserole.
 - 11. Bake** for 30 minutes.
- Yield:** 6 servings of 1 cup each
- Nutritional Analysis:**
300 calories, 8 g fat, 1.5 g sat fat, 59 g carbohydrate, 0 mg cholesterol, 320 mg sodium.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.



Kentucky Apples

SEASON: Early summer through December.

NUTRITION FACTS: A medium size apple, about 2 to 2½ inches round, has about 75 calories and provides bulk in the diet, which helps the body digest food. The apple is low in sodium and high in potassium, making it a great natural snack.

SELECTION: Look for firm, crisp, well-colored fruit. Avoid those with shriveled skins, bruises, worm holes, and decayed spots. Always handle apples gently to avoid causing bruises, blemishes, or other defects.

STORAGE: Use those with bruises or skin breaks as soon as possible. Apples that are slightly under-ripe should be stored in a cool place to ripen. Once ripe, apples will keep a week or longer stored in the refrigerator vegetable drawer or in a plastic bag.

PREPARATION: Raw apples will darken when the cut surface is exposed to the air. Protect cut or peeled apples from darkening by mixing with ascorbic

acid such as lemon or orange juice. Only work with about five apples at a time to prevent darkening. Mix 1 teaspoon ascorbic acid with 3 tablespoons of water. Toss gently with apple slices. Apples may be preserved by several methods: freezing, drying, or canning. Please contact your county Extension office for more information.

VARIETIES: More than 2,500 varieties are found in the United States. The following are easily available and popular in Kentucky: Lodi, Red Delicious, Rome, Winesap, Gala, Jonathan, Cortland, and Golden Delicious.

APPLES 1

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. For more information, contact your county's Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or visit www.ca.uky.edu/fcs.

Source: USDA



Timely Tips

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Spring-Calving Cows

Bulls should have been removed from the cow herd by now! They should be pastured away from the cow herd with a good fence and allowed to regain lost weight and condition. It is a good time to evaluate physical condition, especially feet and legs. Bulls can be given medical attention and still have plenty of time to recover, e.g., corns, abscesses, split hooves, etc. Don't keep trying to get open spring cows bred – move them to fall calving or sell them when they wean this year's calf. If you don't have a bull pen and want to tighten up the calving season, remove the bull and sell him. [Plan](#) on purchasing a new bull next spring.

Repair and improve corrals for fall working and weaning. Consider having an area to wean calves and retain ownership for postweaning feeding rather than selling "green", light-weight calves. Plan to participate in CPH-45 feeder calf sales in your area.

Limited creep feeding can prepare calves for the weaning process since they can become accustomed to eating dry feed. This will especially benefit those calves which you are going to keep for a short postweaning period – like the CPH-45 program. It's time to start planning the marketing of this year's calf crop.

Begin evaluating heifer calves for herd replacements – or culling. Each time you put them through the chute you can evaluate them for several traits, especially disposition. Consider keeping the older, heavier heifers. They will reach puberty before the onset of the breeding season and have higher conception rates.

This has generally been a good year for pastures, but many parts of the state are starting to get a bit dry. Evaluate moisture condition and consider stockpiling some fescue pastures. It's not too late to apply nitrogen for stockpiling fescue if moisture conditions have improved.

Stresses associated with weaning can be minimized by spreading-out other activities commonly associated with weaning – like vaccinations, deworming, castration and dehorning (which should have already been done!). Therefore, this month is a good time to do a "preweaning" working of cows and calves.

When planning the preweaning working, consult with your veterinarian for advice on animal health products and procedures. One procedure that can be done now is pregnancy checking cows. Early pregnancy diagnosis will allow time to make culling decisions prior to weaning time. Feeding non-productive cows through the winter is a costly venture so pregnancy diagnosis is a sound business decision a producer can make.

Fall-Calving Cows

Fall-calving should start this month. Get your eartags ready. Cows should be moved to a clean, accessible pasture and be watched closely. Tag calves soon after they are born and record dam ID and calf birthdate, etc. Castration is less stressful when performed on young animals and calves which are intended for feeders can be implanted now, too. If you haven't started calving quite yet, then it's time to get ready. Be sure you have the following:

- record book
- eartags for identification
- iodine solution for newborn calf's navel
- calf puller castration equipment

Watch for those calves which may come early and be prepared to care for them.

Be on the guard for predators – especially black vultures.

Move cows to high quality fall pasture after calving. Stockpiled fescue should be available to these cows in November-December to meet their nutritional needs for milking and re-breeding.

Start planning now for the breeding season. If using AI, order supplies, plan matings and order semen now.

Stockers

Calves to be backgrounded through the winter can be purchased soon. A good source is Kentucky preconditioned (CPH-45) calves which are immunized and have been preweaned and “boosted”.

Plan your receiving program. Weanling calves undergo a great deal of stress associated with weaning, hauling, marketing, and wide fluctuations in environmental temperature at this time of year. Plan a program which avoids stale cattle, get calves consuming water and high-quality feed rapidly. Guard against respiratory diseases and other health problems.

General

Always keep a good mineral mix available. The UK Beef IRM Basic Cow-Calf mineral is a good option.

Do not give up on fly control in late summer, especially if fly numbers are greater than about 50 flies per animal. You can use a different “type” of spray or pour-on to kill any resistant flies at the end of fly season.

Avoid working cattle when temperatures are extremely high – especially those grazing high - endophyte fescue. If cattle must be handled, do so in the early morning.

Provide shade and water! Cattle will need shade during the hot part of the day. Check water supply frequently – as much as 20 gallons may be required by high producing cows in very hot weather.

Plan the winter-feeding program. Take forage samples of hay you will feed this winter. Re-

Fall Is A Great Time To Sample Soil

Source: Frank Sikora, UK soil test coordinator

If you think spring is the best time to take soil samples, you might want to rethink that. Fall is actually the optimum time to take soil samples for fertility analyses.

Fall sampling gives you plenty of time to follow fertility recommendations before planting season. As soon as you receive the soil test results, look at the recommendations for lime and pH, a measure of soil acidity that affects plants' uptake of all nutrients. If the soil pH is too low, it decreases the uptake of essential nutrients, and elements like aluminum and manganese can become toxic to growing plant roots.

Applying limestone neutralizes soil acidity. Because agricultural lime takes about six months to break down and react with the soil, it should be applied in the fall to be fully effective in the spring. Unlike fertilizer, lime is needed every three to five years, depending on your crop rotation and nitrogen fertilizer history. The only way to determine if your fields will need lime next year is by soil testing this fall.

The turn-around time for test results is much faster in the fall, usually within a week of submission, because fewer people are submitting samples.

You can also apply all the recommended fertilizers, except nitrogen, in the fall. Often a fall application will save you considerable money, because fertilizer prices generally are cheaper in the fall as a result of lower demand. In addition to lower fertilizer prices, it's easier to get the spreader truck in the field during the fall, because the soil usually is drier.

If you don't soil test, you can only guess at the fertility needs of your fields, and far too often those assumptions are wrong. Guessing at the amount of fertilizer to apply often results in applying more than the recommended rate. Some producers want to be sure there's plenty of fertilizer available in case they have a bumper crop next season. However, studies have shown that crops need the same amount of fertilizer in a good year as in a poor year.

If you're interested in collecting fall soil samples, stop by the Bath county Extension office. We can give you details on how to take accurate soil samples and where to send the collected cores. We also have soil probes that you can check out and use to pull samples. Remember, spending some effort on soil sampling this fall can keep you from wasting time and money. Fall soil samples also can provide big returns for next year's crop.

The Bath County Extension office is providing free soil testing this fall! Now is the time to take advantage of this program.

For more information, contact your Bath County Cooperative Extension Service.

Some Thoughts on Mineral Supplementation

Dr. Roy Burris, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Mineral nutrition of beef cattle is poorly understood. Or, at least, there are a lot of differing opinions. And, there are major minerals and trace minerals, different form and availability of minerals, antagonists, interrelationships and ratios, additives, expensive and cheap minerals, different mineral needs for various classes of cattle and stages of production which all can be considered. We also have FDA regulations that govern what we can legally do. Don't despair. We can still take what we know about mineral nutrition and meet the animals' needs as economically as possible.

First, individual mineral consumption can be quite variable. The biggest thing that effects consumption is the supply. Minerals should be available at all times. It isn't the end of the world if cattle go a few days without minerals but a pattern of empty feeders will not allow the cows to "level off" their mineral intake. Feeders should be located near shade and/or water so that cattle will come in contact with minerals frequently. Most mineral supplements are formulated for 2 to 4 ounces of intake and are, of course, best if consumed at that level. Salt is the primary driver of intake so DON'T add salt to the feeders.

Speaking of feeders – they need to be covered. I heard a presentation recently about looking for the most "weather-fast" mineral supplements. Supplements were being tested for their stability in open feeders. I have a thought on that, too. Loose minerals are too expensive to feed in open tubs. They should be protected from the weather. "Bull proof" feeders, with a flap on top work well for this purpose.

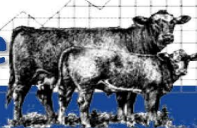

Calcium (Ca) and phosphorus (P) are the individual minerals that we think of first. We prefer about a 2 to 1 ratio of Ca to P. Forages are usually high in Ca and need some extra P added. Phosphorus is expensive and Calcium (think limestone rock) is cheap. So this can add to the cost. However, when feeding grain or grain by-products the opposite is true. Phosphorus is high and we need to add ground limestone to raise the calcium level for prevention of "water belly". This is getting more common in this area, with the feeding of grain by-products and some finishing of cattle and sheep.

Trace minerals are important, too – especially Copper (Cu), Selenium (Se), Zinc (Zn) and Manganese (Mn). They should be included at the required levels and in the required form to be most available and beneficial. Interestingly, we got really interested in mineral supplementation in Kentucky many years ago when we found that copper oxide was the primary form used for copper and that it was not available to the cattle, so we started a more active research and education program in beef minerals.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates how we use mineral supplements and the claims that can be made. For example, there is a huge difference between free-choice and feed mixing mineral supplements. If directions are given for mixing into a feed, it isn't cleared for free-choice feeding – meaning the work hasn't been done to prove efficacy or intake. We shouldn't go off label. We are also governed by the veterinary feed directive (VFD) for antibiotics which are also used for humans.

Here's something to watch for – the FDA regulates (approves or disapproves) label claims that are proposed for products. However, a company can avoid this by naming their mineral supplement as they please. That is a big deal here in the “fescue belt”. Since I could name my mineral supplement “Best Fescue Mineral” which implies that I have a label claim for improved performance when I might not. Look for approved label claims and pay less attention to testimonials and names of products. Naming products suggestive names and/or calling them “feed mixing” minerals circumvents the process of getting products approved and labeled properly.

Proper mineral supplementation is important for optimum growth, reproduction and immunity of beef cattle. I have added a feed tag of the mineral supplement that we use at UK-Princeton. You can use it as a guide for free-choice mineral.

 University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service		<i>"Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Opportunities"</i>	
<h1>Kentucky Beef Conference</h1>			
<h2>October 24, 2024</h2>			
Fayette County Extension Office 1140 Harry Sykes Way Lexington, Kentucky 40504		10:00—Welcome & Sponsor Recognition Beau Neal, Woodford County Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent	
		University of KY Remarks & Welcome Dr. Laura Stephenson, UK Director of Extension	
9:00—10:00 Registration, visit sponsors		Genomics Technology Dr. Troy Rowan, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Beef Genetics Extension Specialist	
\$10 registration fee		11:00— Marketing Update & Outlook Dr. Kenny Burdine, UK Beef Economic Extension Specialist	
RSVP by October 22nd to Fayette County Extension Office 859.257.5582		12:00 Lunch	
		1:00— Animal Tagging Update Dr. Michelle Arnold, UK Extension Ruminant Veterinarian	
		1:30— KY Beef Cattle Health Update Dr. Steve Velasco, KY Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian	
		2:00—Adjourn	
Cooperative Extension Service <small>Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development Community and Economic Development</small>		MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT <small>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 receipt 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</small>	
		 	

2024 Kentucky Intermediate Grazing School

Helping livestock producers improve profitability with classroom and hands-on learning

When: September 25-26, 2024

Where: Woodford County Extension Office
184 Beasley Drive, Versailles, KY 40383

Cost: \$60/Participant – includes all materials, grazing manual, grazing stick, morning refreshments, and lunch both days

Program Registration: DEADLINE is September 20, 2024

Online Registration with CREDIT CARD AT:

<https://2024FallGrazingSchool.eventbrite.com>

Registration by U.S. Mail with CHECK:

Caroline Roper
UK Research and Education Center
PO Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445



Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of participants _____ x \$60 per participant = _____ Total Amount



Please make checks payable to KFGC



Kentucky Master Grazer
Educational Program



2024 Kentucky Intermediate Grazing School

Helping livestock producers improve profitability with classroom and hands-on learning

Emphasis on ruminants - beef, dairy, sheep, & goats

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Thursday September 26, 2024

MEET AT WOODFORD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE EACH MORNING

7:30 Registration and refreshments	7:30 Refreshments
8:00 Introduction of staff and participants	8:45 Understanding and managing nutrient cycles in grasslands-Dr. John Grove, UK
8:15 Grazing math and small group planning for field exercise-Dr. Katie VanValin, UK	9:30 Managing shade in grazing systems-Dr. Katie VanValin, UK
9:00 Break & travel to field demonstration area	9:30 Break
9:30 Getting comfortable with electric fencing- Jeremy McGill	10:00 Drought proofing your grazing system- Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK
10:00 Portable water system setup-Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, UK	10:30 Utilizing the Graze Model for planning- Dr. Jimmy Henning, UK and Adam Jones, NRCS
10:30 Methods to assess forage availability-Dr. Ray Smith, UK	11:15 How I made grazing work on the farm- Todd Clark, Clark Family Farm
11:00 Hands-on: setting up small paddocks for grazing demonstrations-All Instructors	12:00 Lunch (Woodford County Cattlemen)
12:00 Return to Woodford County Extension Office	12:45 Optimizing the use of existing forage resources-Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK
12:30 Lunch (Woodford County Cattlemen)	
1:00 Hands on plant ID-Dr. Ray Smith, UK	1:15 Travel to field demonstration area
1:30 Options for getting water to livestock-Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler and Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK	1:45 Field exercise: observe grazed paddocks and hear reports from each group
2:30 Managing tall fescue in grazing systems-Dr. Jimmy Henning	3:00 Frost seeding clover-Brittany Hendrix and Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK
3:15 Exploring plant root systems-Dr. Ray Smith and Dr. Chris Teutsch	3:45 Annuals for extending grazing-Dr. Ray Smith, UK
4:00 Discussion	4:45 Final comments, diplomas, and adjourn
4:30 Adjourn	



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