

# LEWIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE



## AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER



### IMPORTANT DATES

- July 21<sup>st</sup>-July 26<sup>th</sup>: Tollesboro Fair
- August 5<sup>th</sup>: Beef Quality Care Assurance Training
- August 9<sup>th</sup>: Customer Appreciation at Farmers Market
- August 14<sup>th</sup>: Cattlemen's Meeting
- August 14<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>: State Fair

### A Note From Your Agent

Hello All,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. If you still need to complete an Educational Component for CAIP, please get in touch. Please note that I'll be in and out of the office over the next few weeks due to the Tollesboro Fair, Kids Bucks, and the State Fair. If you have any questions feel free to reach out—I'm happy to help!

### 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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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.



# TIMELY TIPS

**DR. LES ANDERSON**  
**BEEF EXTENSION PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**

## **SPRING-CALVING COW HERD**

- Consider removing bulls from the cow herd by the end of the month and keep them away from the cows. A short calving season can concentrate labor during the calving season; group calves by age so that it is easier to find a convenient time to vaccinate, castrate, dehorn, etc.; and provide a more uniform group of calves at market time.
- Mid-July is a good time to deworm cattle, use a product that is effective against inhibited ostertagia. Re-implant calves which were implanted at birth if the type of implant and amount of time indicate. Calves which haven't been vaccinated for blackleg should be. Spraying or using a pour-on for flies while cattle are gathered can supplement other fly control methods. Remember to work cattle early in the morning when it is cool and handle them gently to minimize stress.
  - Watch for pinkeye and treat if necessary. Minimize problems by clipping pastures, controlling face flies and providing shade. Monitor the bulls' activity and physical condition as the breeding season winds down.
- Fescue pastures tend to go dormant in July and August, so look for alternatives like warm season grasses during this period of time. Try to keep the young calves gaining weight. Go to pastures which have been cut for hay to have higher quality re-growth when it is available.
- Consider cutting warm season grass pastures for hay if reserves have not been restored yet.
  - Heat stress can lead to low conception rates, low libido in bulls, and embryonic loss (abortion) between days 6 and 45 of pregnancy. Keep a close eye on your herd. Plan to diagnose your herd for pregnancy early this fall to identify open cows for future planning.

## **FALL-CALVING COW HERD**

- De-worm calves in mid-July with a product that is effective against inhibited ostertagia.
  - Fall-calving cows should be dry and pregnant now. Their nutrient needs are minimal, and they can be maintained on poor pasture to avoid over fattening. Keep a good free-choice mineral mix available at all times. You can use a lower phosphorus mineral supplement now, if you want to save a little money. These cows are regaining body condition after a long winter-feeding period.
- Each article is peer-reviewed by UK Beef IRM Team and edited by Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Specialist, Department of Animal & Food Science, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service University of Kentucky Beef IRM Team
- Get ready for fall calving and plan to have good pasture available at calving and through the breeding season.

## STOCKERS

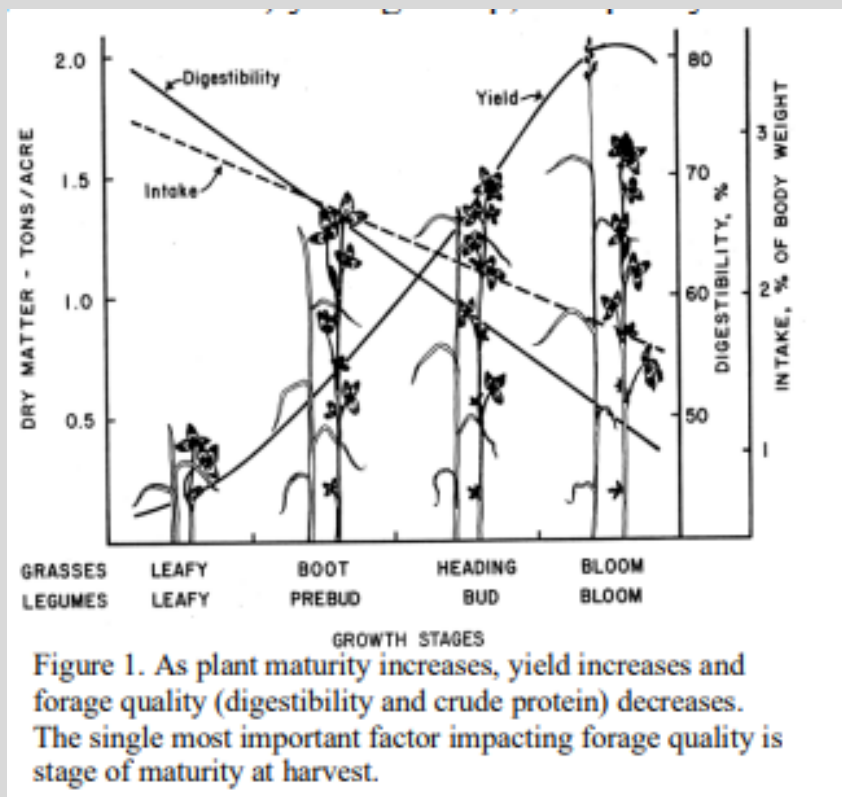
- Sell heavier grazing cattle before rate of gain decreases or they get into a heavyweight category. This will also relieve grazing pressure as pasture growth diminishes. They can be replaced with lightweight calves after pastures recover.
- Lighter cattle which are kept on pasture need to be rotated to grass-legume or warm-season grass pastures to maintain a desirable level of performance. Re-implant these calves and deworm with a product that is effective against inhibited ostertagia

## GENERAL

- Check pastures for downed wild cherry trees after storms (wilted wild cherry leaves are toxic to cattle).
- Be sure that clean water is always available, especially in hot weather. Make routine checks of the water supply. Cattle need 13 to 20 gallons of clean water in hot weather. Cattle should have access to shade.
- Maintain a weed control program in permanent pastures and continue to “spot-spray” thistle, honey locust, etc.
- Have forage analyses conducted on spring-cut hay and have large, round bales covered. Begin planning the winter feeding program now. Most of the hay was cut late due to a wet spring.
- Start soil testing pastures to determine fertilization needs for this fall.
- Be aware of the heat when planning your cattle handling. Work cattle early in the morning to avoid excessive heat stress.
- Avoid grazing pastures containing endophyte-infected fescue if possible. The alkaloids (chemicals) produced by the fungus exacerbates heat stress in livestock and can lead to numerous negative outcomes including decreased growth rate and decreased conception rate.

## HAY TESTING EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN 2025 DR. CHRIS TEUTSCH, UK RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER AT PRINCETON

In many parts of Kentucky first cutting hay was delayed. Although yields were good, forage quality is another story. As the grass plant reaches maturity (gets mature seed) yield goes up, but quality decreases (Figure 1). This year we were on the right side of this figure, good yield but lower quality. We have already got our hay testing results back from the lab for our first cutting and that is exactly what they show (Table 1).





I wish we could have been more timely in our hay harvest this spring but weather conditions were just not conducive to dry hay harvest. In fact, weather records indicate that we are seeing a trend toward fewer baling days in May (baling day = 3 curing days + 1 harvest day). It is just getting tougher to be timely with our first cutting harvested as dry hay. So, the question becomes what do we do? The list of practical solutions is short; in fact, there is really one viable alternative and that is baleage. High quality baleage can be made with a curing window as short as 2 days (one day to mow and wilt and a second day to bale and wrap). This provides more opportunities to harvest at the correct stage of maturity (late boot to early head).

Field	CP <sup>†</sup>	ADF	NDF	TDN	Meet CP Requirements		Meet TDN Requirements	
	%	%	%	%	Dry	Lactating	Dry	Lactating
1	8.9	40.1	59.1	55.5	yes	no	yes	no
2	9.9	39.4	60.0	56.2	yes	no	yes	no
3	8.2	41.6	67.2	53.8	yes	no	yes	no
4	10.6	41.0	64.5	54.5	yes	yes	yes	no
5	8.3	40.7	65.6	54.8	yes	no	yes	no
Avg	9.2	40.6	63.3	55.0	yes	no	yes	no

Table 1. Forage quality of 2025 first harvest hay at UK Research and Education Center in Princeton. <sup>†</sup>CP, crude protein, ADF, acid detergent fiber, NDF, neutral detergent fiber, TDN, total digestible nutrients.

**Hay Testing Even More Important in Wet Years** In years like this one, hay testing becomes even more important. Since most of Kentucky's first cutting hay was put up at an advanced stage of maturity, testing is going to be a critical part of making sure that we meet the nutrient requirements of our cows this winter. The single most important factor impacting rebreeding in cow herds is body condition at calving. To design an effective supplementation program for our lower quality hay we must know what the quality is. If you have never tested your hay, this is the year to start for our lower quality hay we must know what the quality is. If you have never tested your hay, this is the year to start!

#### FORAGE MANAGEMENT TIPS

✓	Test first cutting hay and use the results to develop a supplementation strategy for this winter.
✓	Graze summer annuals pastures and fertilize with 40-60 lb N/A if regrowth is desired.
✓	Identify pastures to stockpile for winter grazing. Pastures should be well drained and have a strong sod. Limit summer grazing so that they are ready to grow as conditions cool and rain comes in late summer.
✓	Do NOT mow hayfields or graze pastures closer than 4-5 inches.
✓	Soil test pastures to determine nutrient needs.
✓	Use UKY variety testing results to select varieties that will be planted in the fall.
✓	If drought occurs, confine animals to one pasture and feed hay.

**INTERESTED IN ENTERING SAMPLES IN EAST KY  
HAY CONTEST??-SEE FLYER BELOW**



## Beef Quality Care & Assurance Training (BQCA Training)

**\*\*Required for Large Animal CAIP Investment Area\*\***

**Tuesday, August 5th at 6:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, September 9th at 6:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, September 17th at 10 a.m.**

**Lewis County Extension Office  
284 2nd Street., Vanceburg**

**Call the office to RSVP at 606-796-2732  
\$5-check only written out to KBN**

**FREE In September**

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Community and Economic Development

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**LEWIS COUNTY FARMER'S MARKET**

**SUPPORT LOCAL**

**TUESDAY: 3PM-6PM  
THURSDAY: 8AM-SELL OUT  
SATURDAY: 8AM-SELL OUT**

**LOCATION: BETWEEN THE MCDONALDS AND DOLLAR GENERAL IN VANCEBURG**

**SELL OUT IS AROUND NOON**

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**FREE! HAY TESTING**

**2025 EAST KENTUCKY HAY CONTEST**

**SIGN UP EVEN IF YOU THINK YOUR HAY ISN'T THAT GOOD!**

**UK Cooperative Extension Service**

**TESTING PROVIDES: NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF HAY & HAYLAGE; RATINGS; & CAN RESULT IN: REDUCED FEED COSTS, INCREASED ANIMAL PERFORMANCE, & INFORMATION TO IMPROVE FORAGE STANDS**

**USE THE QR CODE OR CALL: (606) 796-2732 TO SIGN-UP**

**DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP IS 9/2/25**

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**UK Cooperative Extension Service**

**2025 KIDS BUCKS**

**SPONSORED BY THE LEWIS COUNTY FARM BUREAU & VEGETABLE PRODUCERS**

**Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> 3pm-6pm.  
Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> 9am-11am  
Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> 9am-11am  
Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> 9am-11am  
Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> 9am-11am.  
(Customer Appreciation Day)  
Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup> 9am-11am**

**Lewis County Farmers Market  
Location: Between the McDonalds and Dollar General in Vanceburg**

**ALL CHILDREN AGES 4-17 THAT COME WITH A PARENT TO THE FARMERS MARKET WILL RECEIVE \$5.00 IN KIDS BUCKS TO SPEND ON PRODUCE FROM THE FARMERS MARKET ON THAT DAY.  
ALL BUCKS MUST BE SPENT ON THE SAME DAY OF THE PROGRAM**

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### CAIP EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES-LEWIS COUNTY

**ONLINE AT ANYTIME:** Visit: <https://anr.ca.uky.edu/caip-training> for instructions

Visit: <https://campus.extension.org/enrol/index.php?id=1970> to access the online training site

**ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:** Programs listed in this newsletter may qualify. **CONTACT: (606) 796-2732 OR KENNEDY.CANNON@UKY.EDU FOR MORE INFO**

## Proactive Pinkeye Management in Cattle

Pinkeye (IBK) is a major, costly disease for beef producers, quickly spreading and causing issues like reduced weaning weights and sale discounts. **Early risk reduction is vital.**

### Pinkeye Prevention Strategies:

- Ensure good nutrition (trace minerals) and clean water.
- Minimize dust and UV exposure.
- Use IGRs, ear tags, dust bags, and back rubbers.
- Promptly treat symptoms with vet-prescribed antibiotics and isolate.
- Use commercial or custom vaccines 4-6 weeks pre-season, with boosters.

Contact your local county extension office for more information.

Source: Michelle Arnold, UK Extension  
An Equal Opportunity Organization.



LEWIS  
COUNTY  
**CATTLEMEN'S**  
ASSOCIATION

**August 14<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m.  
at the Tollesboro  
Fairgrounds**

## Fresh Corn Salad

**5 ears** of fresh corn  
**½ cup** diced red onion  
**3 tablespoons** cider vinegar  
**3 tablespoons** olive oil

**½ teaspoon** salt  
**½ teaspoon** black pepper  
**½ cup** freshly chopped basil

**Shuck** and remove silks from corn. In a large pot of boiling water, cook the corn for 4 minutes. Drain. Cool by immersing in ice water. When corn has cooled, cut the kernels off the cob.

**Toss** the kernels in a large bowl with the red onion. Combine vinegar, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Pour over corn and gently toss.

**Chill** to allow flavors to blend. Just before serving, add fresh basil.

**Yield:** 10, ½ cup servings.

**Nutritional Analysis:** 70 calories, 5 g fat, 101 mg sodium, 10 g carbohydrate, 2 g protein, 1 g fiber.

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

