

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 17 Quality Hay Production Field Day
- May 20-June 10th CAIP Application
- May 27 -Memorial Day Holiday (Office Closed)
- May 29- Scale Checks
- May 30- CAIP Informational Meeting
- June 19- Juneteenth Holiday (Office Closed)

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Cooperative
Extension
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MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS



KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Eligible Investment Areas:

- Agricultural Diversification Ag Tech*
- Ag. Tech & Leadership Development*
- Large Animal - Small Animal*
- Farm Infrastructure*
- Fencing & On-Farm Water*
- Forage & Grain Improvement*
- Innovative Ag. Systems*
- On-Farm Energy*
- Poultry & Other Fowl*
- Value Added & Marketing*

Administered by
**LEWIS COUNTY CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**
38 W KY8 Suite D
Vanceburg, KY 41179
606-796-3831

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are available for Lewis County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important farm investments.

Application Period:

MAY 20, 2024 - JUNE 10, 2024

**No applications will be accepted before
MAY 20, 2024 or after JUNE 10, 2024 4:30 pm**

Informational Meeting

May 30th at 6p.m. Lewis County Extension Office

Application Availability:

**LEWIS CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Monday – FRIDAY (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)**

For More Information:

**Contact ANGIE PATTON at (606) 796-3831 or
email angela.patton@ky.nacdnet.net**

*All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria
set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.*

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Greening up the Beef Cow Herd

Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Spring is my favorite season as the flowers wake up and bloom and the grass takes off growing. This past week I noticed some bluegrass already flowering and given our warm spring, I suspect your forage in your hay fields will be ready to cut early. Have your hay equipment ready and keep an eye on the weather forecast to get that first cutting at early flower stage for fescue which could be in just a couple weeks here in mid-May. Making the first cutting at early flower stage for tall fescue is a point that provides good yield and quality. Additionally, removing the flower removes the plant hormone suppressing leaf elongation and tillering while weather is cool and soil moisture is available to promote regrowth. Hay supplies are depleted and getting an extra cutting this year will help replenish the barn. Additionally, getting that first cut earlier will increase quality and reduce winter supplementation needs.

We continue to see research groups investigating strategies to reduce the impact livestock have on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Essential oils and extracts, tannins from plants, supplementation with fats and plant oil, increasing grain supplementation within forage systems as well as using ionophores are all potential inhibitors. These feed additives have a direct impact on the bacteria that produce methane. One hurdle with this approach is that the animals must consume these products frequently. However, recent studies at UK suggest there can be a carryover effect on methane production for some products.

As the beef industry is charged with reducing GHG emissions, one should take a step back and simply think about the inputs and outputs used in a life cycle assessment for the potential GHG emissions from beef systems. The main GHG gases include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). These gases can be derived from burning of fossil fuels in equipment (CO₂), microbial digestion of feed (CH₄), and chemical fertilizers (N₂O). To better understand the impacts of various industries on GHG emissions, a life cycle assessment (LCA) is meant to provide a standardized approach to estimating the potential impact on global warming.

A life cycle assessment is a holistic approach to determining the overall impact on global warming via GHG emissions to produce a good or commodity. The analysis considers all stages of production of the item. There can be some subjectivity regarding what is and is not included in the assessment. For livestock systems, emissions are included from the application of herbicides and fertilizers, transportation of animals to market, the production of purchased feedstuffs, harvesting and processing of the animals, transportation of the end product, as well as direct inputs for producing the animals. The goal is to find opportunities to reduce GHG emissions.

Several researchers have conducted LCA for beef production systems. Repeatedly, the cow-calf sector of the industry is reported to be the largest contributing sector of GHG. This is due to the consumption of forage-based diets combined with a large proportion, 60-70%, of daily feed intake relegated to maintenance of the cow. In one study, LCAs were performed for 295 Canadian beef operations (Alemu et al., 2017). The operations were separated into high- and low-emitting with respect to CO₂ equivalents. The authors identified key factors separating the low- and high-emitting operations. The following summarizes several of the factors observed for low-emitting operations: cull open cows, higher culling rates, higher birth weights, greater weaning weights, increase in total pounds marketed per cow, greater plane of nutrition, fewer annual forages and greater use of perennial forages, reduced use of N fertilizer and greater utilization of stockpiled manure. Each of these are further discussed in the

research article. Increasing pounds marketed per cow fits right in line with the Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) data findings which indicated the key driver for herd profitability was pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed.

Focusing herd management to increase pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed has been a long-standing premise of our educational programs. Use of crossbreeding to increase fertility, controlling the breeding season, implementing preventative herd health protocols, and improving grazing management all have impacts on production efficiency and the ability to lessen the potential impact of GHG on global warming.

Spend some time reviewing your operation and see if there are opportunities to improve your production efficiency. Even if you don't have a scale, you can assess your weaning percentage and age separation between the first and last calf born in the calving season. The discussions on GHG emissions should not scare you. You can get a quick introduction from this article [Going Green: Ten fundamentals of greenhouse gas emissions for beef systems at https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ASC/ASC261/ASC261.pdf](https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ASC/ASC261/ASC261.pdf). Being knowledgeable on the subject will help you with finding opportunities as well as having discussions with those that may question beef production systems impacts on global warming.

Moving Transplants to the Garden

Whether you buy plants or grow your own, the time comes to plant them outside.

Follow these eight steps:

1. Transplant on a shady day to prevent wilting
2. Soak transplants' roots thoroughly before transplanting.
3. Handle the plants carefully.
4. Dig a hole large enough to hold the roots.
5. Pour 1 cup of starter solution around the plant.
6. Leave a slight depression for water to collect.
7. Shade the plants for a few days after transplanting by putting newspapers or cardboard on their south sides.
8. Water the plants once or twice during the next week.



Scale Checks

Lewis County Extension Office must drop off on May 28th and pick up after lunch on May 29th

Learn more by checking out *Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky (ID-128)*.
An Equal Opportunity Organization.

Follow our new facebook page at Lewis County Cooperative Extension-Agriculture & Natural Resources



Strawberry Salsa

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 tablespoon olive oil | 2 cups , coarsely chopped fresh strawberries | 2 cups chopped cherry or grape tomatoes |
| 2 tablespoons white vinegar or white balsamic vinegar | 8 green onions, chopped | ½ cup chopped fresh cilantro |
| ½ teaspoon salt | | |

- 1. Whisk** olive oil, vinegar, and salt in large bowl.
 - 2. Add** strawberries, green onions, tomatoes, and cilantro. Toss to coat.
 - 3. Cover** and chill for 1 hour.
 - 4. Serve** with tortilla or pita chips.
- Yield:** 7, ½ cup servings.
Nutrition Analysis: 40 calories; 2 g fat; 0 g saturated fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 170 mg sodium; 6 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 4 g sugar; 1 g protein; 60% of vitamin C.
Source: www.fruitsandveggiessmatter.gov

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



Kentucky Strawberries

SEASON: May through June

NUTRITION FACTS: Strawberries are low in calories and high in nutrients. One cup strawberries contain 55 calories. Strawberries are a great source of vitamin C. They also contain vitamin A, iron, fiber, and folic acid. Folic Acid is especially important for childbearing women. When consumed in adequate amounts, it has been proven to prevent certain birth defects.

SELECTION: Choose fully ripened, bright red berries. Strawberries do not ripen after they have been picked. Berries should be plump and have a natural shine with bright green, fresh looking caps. Use strawberries as soon after picking as possible for the best flavor and highest nutritional value.

STORAGE: Store strawberries in the refrigerator, covered, unwashed, with the caps on. Do not crowd. If you have the space, gently spread the berries on a cookie sheet and cover with plastic wrap. Use berries within 2 to 3 days.

HANDLING: Handle strawberries gently. Never remove

the caps before washing. The cap prevents water from soaking into the berry, which lessens the flavor and changes the texture. To wash, cover berries in cold water and lift gently out of the water to drain. Dry by placing berries in a single layer on paper towels.

After washing, remove the caps if necessary. Give the cap a gentle twist or use the point of a sharp paring knife or pointed spoon.

Pat berries dry with paper towels before serving whole or sliced, fresh or cooked.

STRAWBERRIES

Kentucky Proud Project
County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Kentucky, Nutrition and Food Science students
March 2011

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Effective strategies to prevent plant diseases in your garden

- Select the right location for your garden. Opt for a sunny, well-drained area.
- Choose disease-resistant plant varieties.
- Crop rotation can help prevent the buildup of soil-borne diseases.
- Maintain a weed-free garden throughout the growing season.
- Avoiding mechanical injury to plants can prevent openings for pathogens.



Source: Rick Durham, extension professor, Department of Horticulture An Equal Opportunity Organization.

QUALITY HAY PRODUCTION FIELD DAY



FRIDAY, MAY 17th

LOCATION: 1965 MARTHA MILLS RD, FLEMINGSBURG

9:00AM-2:00PM

RAIN DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 17

SPONSOR

- **9:00AM:** REGISTRATION, DONUTS, & VENDORS OPEN
- **10:00AM-NOON:** UK SPECIALISTS COVER VARIETY OF TOPICS ON WEED ID, VISUAL COMPARISONS OF HAY QUALITY AND MORE!
- **NOON:** LUNCH & VENDORS
- **12:30PM:** LOCAL EQUIPMENT DEALERSHIPS DEMOS

UK Cooperative Extension Service



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USE THE QR CODE OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE TO REGISTER:

BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141
FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641
LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732
MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
ROBERTSON COUNTY: (606) 724-5796



PLEASE REGISTER BY: MAY 3RD

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



Forage Timely Tips for May

Start hay harvests for quality forage. Consider making baleage to facilitate timely cutting.

Seed warm season grasses for supplemental forage once soil temperature is at 60 F.

Clip, graze, or make hay to prevent seedhead formation.

Rotate pastures as based in height rather than time: TF 8 to 10 / 3 to 4; OG 8 to 10 / 4-5; Bermuda 4 to 6 / 1 to 2; Sorghum Sudangrass 20 to 24 / 8 to 12

Consider temporary electric fencing to subdivide larger pastures and exclude areas for mechanical harvesting.

Scout pastures for summer annual weeds and control when small.

UK Wheat Field Day

May 14, 2024

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- **Evolution of Carbon Markets: Are There Opportunities for Kentucky Wheat Producers?** - Dr. Jordan Shockley
- **Wheat Disease Update** - Dr. Carl Bradley
- **Wheat Breeding: Process and Methods** - Dr. Dave Van Sanford
- **Wheat Fertilization** - Dr. Edwin Ritchey
- **Residual Herbicide Timing for Ryegrass Control in Wheat** - Dr. Travis Legleiter
- **International, Domestic, and Local Trends That Inform Wheat Marketing Decisions** - Dr. Grant Gardner
- **Wheat Variety Trial (Walk Through) and Selection Process for Desirable Genetic Traits** - Bill Bruening

UKREC Farm
1205 Hopkinsville St.
Princeton, Ky 42445
9 am - NOON (Central time)
Registration: 9 am

EDUCATIONAL CREDITS:
CCA: PM 1hr, CM 0.5hr,
Prof Dev 0.5
Pesticide: 1 CEU cat 1A,
1CEU cat 10

For additional information contact Collette Laurent: (859) 562-1721 or claurent@uk.edu