

Nicholas County

October 2016

Agriculture & Natural Resources



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

Cooperative Extension Service
Nicholas County
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Carlisle, KY 40311
(859) 289-2312
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A Word from the Ag Agent:

It is now harvest time for 2016 and overall I don't think we can complain about the growing season we have had. The biggest issue we had this year looking back was the surplus of rainfall that we had at times. We didn't have so much of a "surplus" as it was just enough of a nuisance to make our hay harvest very difficult. However, I still think there is some great hay available in the county for winter feeding. Our summer rainfall created a few issues for our tobacco crop in the form of bacterial hollow stalk, but I think most of these issues were spotty and not a wide spread epidemic. Now, with the hot and dry trend we have had in the last thirty days, it's hard to believe we have had a surplus of rainfall just a couple of months ago. I have already heard a couple of producers talking about breaking into their winter hay supplies to begin feeding early due to the dry weather and short grass. With that being said, we may not have a surplus hay crop like we thought we would have earlier in the year.

In this month's newsletter you will find a variety of useful information. We have some tips about beef cattle management, a few little ways to make your herd better. An article going over prussic acid poisoning of livestock, an issue that occurs when some forages experience frosty conditions (its had to believe that our first frost is probably right around the corner!). Information about the benefits of fall soil testing is also in this letter. Along with upcoming events including an area Farm School for Women class, a Nicholas County Cattleman Association Meeting, and an upcoming Beef Conference.

I hope this letter finds everyone well, and as always contact me at the extension office!

CAIP (Phase 1) Program update:

By now everyone who has applied for the CAIP cost-share program should have received a letter stating their application score and whether they were approved or denied. If you applied and have not received this, or have any questions, please contact us at the Extension Office. Once again, the Governor's Office of Ag Policy sets the rules, regulations, and scoring on this program but, we will be glad to try to answer any question you may have about it.

For those who have been approved, the due date for all completed projects, is April 28th 2017. You need all required paperwork and your project completed by this time! Before you start your project, you are required to bring in a copy of your driver's license and your most recent utility bill to verify your place of residence. We will make copies of these and keep them on file. Other required paperwork includes an educational class that you are required to attend in order to be funded, there are some opportunities listed for that in this newsletter. There will also be more opportunities between now and next spring. If you can't make it into the office email is an option to get these to us as well. If you have any questions about your project feel free to contact the Extension Office.

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Timely Tips

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

Spring-Calving Cows

- This has been a good year (so far) for pastures. You may not HAVE TO wean as early as usual.
- Stresses associated with weaning can be minimized by spreading-out other activities commonly associated with weaning – like vaccinations, deworming and, perhaps, 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. Some procedures which can be done now are pregnancy checking cows (which will allow time to make culling decisions prior to weaning time). The remainder of the work, like booster shots, can be done at weaning time.
- 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 post-weaning 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, including disposition.

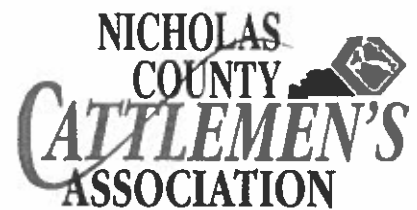
Fall-Calving Cows

- Fall-calving should start this month. Get your ear tags 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.
- Watch for those calves which may come early and be prepared to care for them.
- Be on guard for predators – especially black vultures.
- Start planning now for the breeding season. If using AI, order supplies, plan matings and order semen now.
- Move cows to best quality fall pasture after calving. Stockpiled fescue should be available to these cows in November-December to meet their nutritional needs for milking and rebreeding.

MEETING NOTICE!!!

When: October 20, Thursday, 6:00pm

Where: 4-H Show Barn/Classroom



Please join us as we will be having an open meeting to discuss general matters of our organization. We are looking for YOUR input into types of field days, meeting topics, and recruiting ideas to help grow the association.

We will start the meeting by having local veterinarian Dr. Dawn Bush-Crouch discuss the upcoming Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) process.

We look forward to seeing you there, and encourage all cattlemen of Nicholas County to join the association!

If you have any questions, please call the Extension Office at 289-2312

Prussic Acid Poisoning

October 2011 Article

Grazing certain forages and weeds can bring the threat of prussic acid poisoning to livestock. If caution is used, this threat can be greatly reduced. Plants such as sorghum, sudangrass, sorghum-sudan hybrids, Johnsongrass, wild cherry, and others can contain cyanide-producing compounds. After a frost or during a drought it is important to use extreme caution and it is advised to keep livestock off these pastures for up to three days after a killing frost. If soils that are deficient in phosphorus and potassium are applied with high levels of nitrogen, the levels of prussic acid may increase. Leaves, new shoots, and tillers have higher levels of prussic acid.

If large amounts of prussic acid are consumed, the compound interferes with oxygen utilization and livestock can die from respiratory paralysis. Symptoms appear quickly after forage is consumed. These symptoms may include cherry red colored blood, staggering, labored breathing, spasms, foaming at the mouth, falling, thrashing, severe convulsions, and death. Immediate treatment by a veterinarian is needed to save livestock suffering from prussic acid poisoning.

When cut for hay, prussic acid content decreases significantly during the curing process. A fair amount of this poison escapes as gas during fermentation when used for silage. Although the risk decreases, it is still important to be cautious when feeding forages with possible high prussic acid content.

Using caution when grazing these forages during times of stress can usually eliminate the possibility of prussic acid poisoning in livestock. Wait the recommended time before grazing after a frost. Mixing nonthreatening forages into the diet can be beneficial as well. Using "test" animals is another option rather than turning the whole herd onto a field.

The risk of prussic acid poisoning this season can be reduced by following these practices:

- Wait 10-14 days after non-killing frost with no additional frost action before grazing.
- Do not graze after a killing frost until plant material is dry (the toxin usually dissipates within 72 hours.)
- Do not graze at night when frost is likely. High levels of toxins are produced within hours after frost occurs.
- Delay feeding silage for six to eight weeks following ensiling.

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 your local county Extension office. We can give you details on how to take accurate soil samples and where to send the collected cores. 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.

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

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Farm series

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Introductory Meeting Tuesday October 18th at 6:30 pm

Bourbon County Extension Office

Call 859-987-1895 to register



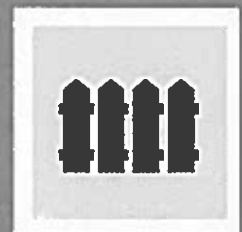
**Farm Business
Management**



**Taxes & Record
Keeping**



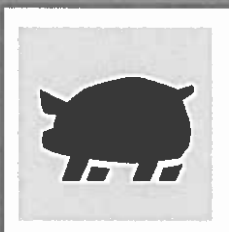
**Forage Production &
Weed ID**



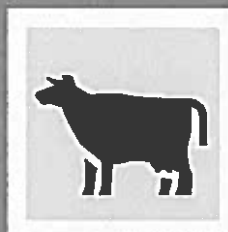
AGvocacy Media



Farm Tours



Ag Hot Topics



**BQA, Livestock
Handling & Care**



**Ag Facts
Hormones/Implants**



**Fruit & Vegetable
Production**



Natural Resources



**Soil Testing/ Private
Applicator Pesticide
Training**



**Basic Machinery
Maintenance**

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KENTUCKY BEEF CONFERENCE

*"Today's Challenges,
Tomorrow's Opportunities"*

November 3, 2016

*If you would like a ride
please contact Clay
859-289-2312*

- 9:00** Registration
Fayette County Extension Office, 1140 Red Mile Rd, Lexington
- 10:00** Presiding
Nick Carter, *Fayette Co Agent, Ag & Natural Resources*
Welcome and Opening Comments
University of KY College of Agriculture, Food & Environment
Dr. Nancy Cox, *Dean*
- Current Beef Cattle Situation**
Troy Applehans, *Analyst for Cattle-FAX*
- 11:00** Mineral Supplementation
Dr. Michelle Arnold, *UK Ruminant Extension Veterinarian*
- 11:30** Profitability in Today's Market
Dr. Kenny Burdine, *UK Extension Livestock Economist*
- 12:15** Lunch
- 1:00** Proven Management Strategies for Current Market
Dr. Les Anderson, *UK Extension Beef Specialist*
- 1:45** Veterinary Feed Directive
Dr. Darrell Johnson, *UK Regulatory Services Director*
- 2:15** Marketing Strategies for 2016
Troy Applehans, *Analyst for Cattle-FAX*
- 3:00** Adjourn

Contact your local County Extension Office for more details and registration information.





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Roasted Root Vegetables

6 medium beets
2 large sweet potatoes
3 parsnips
2 tablespoons olive oil

1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
Dressing (recipe follows)

Dressing

$\frac{1}{3}$ cup white wine vinegar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil
2 tablespoons horseradish
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
2 teaspoons honey
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon each salt and pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Stir together ingredients and drizzle over vegetables.
3. Peel beets, sweet potatoes and parsnips and cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-thick cubes.

4. Toss vegetables with olive oil and place in a single layer on a greased baking sheet.
5. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
6. Bake at 400°F for 20 – 25 minutes until tender. Cool. Arrange vegetables on a serving dish and drizzle with dressing.

Yield: 6 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 210 calories, 10 g fat, 1.5 g sat fat, 3 g protein, 30 g carbohydrate, 0 mg cholesterol, 750 mg sodium, 7 g fiber.

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

