

"HAVE YOU HERD"



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



April issue of the Owen County Agriculture & Natural Resource Newsletter



Kendal Bowman
Owen County Agriculture Agent

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Spring is on its way, and it sure is a welcome sight! Unfortunately there was a lot of damage around the county from the storms last month. If you received damage on your farm please take pictures and keep track of your receipts. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is trying to see if we can get funds for restoring damaged capital expenses.

As I'm writing this the weather is beautiful and I also have spring fever. But, remember this is Kentucky and we are still susceptible to a killing frost into the early parts of May. If your plants have already bloomed or budded, remember to cover them or bring them inside on these chilly nights.

Remember April is typically when the state releases the C.A.I.P. Cost Share application for us. We don't know the date they will release it, but we are hopeful we will have it available at the Ag Funding Workshop & C.A.I.P. informational meeting on April 6th at 6:30pm. We are expecting a big crowd so please call to RSVP so we can make meal plans.

I hope you find this issue very beneficial! There are several educational classes offered locally that I would highly encourage you to attend. We are starting a new bull program that will include discounted Breeding Soundness Exams offered locally for the participants that come to both educational sessions. Please see the infographic attached for more information.

Please take advantage of our soil testing program. It's better to know before you grow. Please, please borrow one of our soil probes and take an accurate sample.

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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, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



AG Funding Workshop

& C.A.I.P. Cost Share Info Meeting

April 6th
6:30pm

**Owen County
Extension Office**

RSVP For Meal
502-484-5703

How To Complete CAIP Cost Share Application
Local & State Soil Conservation Programs
Farm Service Agency Programs
KSU Small Farm Grants
KY Proud Grants
Ag Loans

Sponsored By



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April 5: Road Layout for Fire Lines, Planting Trees and Tree Ordinances

April 12: Bird ID, Tree of the Week, Steps to Stewardship

April 19: All Things Earthy! (Earth Day Special), Wildlife ID

April 26: Benefits of Urban Reforestation, Wildlife Sounds

For "From the Woods" zoom link email:

rdwill5@uky.edu & Kebo233@uky.edu & kebo233@uky.edu

Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays

12:30-1pm

Register Here

<https://tinyurl.com/mtz8384h>

April 5, 2023

How To Read a Seed Packet

Sharon Flynt, UK Horticulture Agent for Scott County

April 12, 2023

Tulip Tips

Dakota Moore, UK Horticulture Council

April 19, 2023

Early Season Apple Tree Care

Shawn Wright, UK Horticulture Specialist

April 26, 2023

An Often Unsung Annual...Marigold!

Dennis Morgenson, UK Horticulture Agent for Washington County

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Do you purchase restricted used pesticides? Then mark your calendars for one of the upcoming trainings.

April 7th 9:30am, Owen Co Extension

MUST RSVP call 502-484-5703

**LAST
CHANCE
Must
RSVP**

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



TOPIC: SPRING FORAGE CONSIDERATIONS

Wednesday, April 19th

United Producers, Inc.
86 Bramblett Lane
Owenton, KY 40359

8:30-9:30 AM
Before the Sale
502.484.5703

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April 21st Topic: Bull EPD's & Genomic Testing

United Producers, Inc.
86 Bramblett Ln,
Owenton KY 40359

5:30-6:30pm
Before The Sale
502-484-5703

SALE DAY ADDRESS
Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development
DVAuction

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OWEN COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Thursday, April 27th

6:30 PM

Owen County Extension Office

Please RSVP 502-484-5703

Weed Management for Pastures and Hayfields

Guest Speaker Dr. JD Green

Join us to learn how to control stubborn weeds in your pastures and hayfields.

- Pigweed
- Butternut
- Hemlock
- Johnsongrass
- Curly Dock
- Chicory

Tuesday, April 4th

7:00-8:30 PM

Henry County
Extension Office
RSVP (502) 845-2811

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CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Interested in joining the Owen County Farm & Craft Market?

Join us for an in-person meeting

6:30 P.M. | FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023

at the Owen County Cooperative Extension Office

265 ELLIS ROAD | OWENTON, KY 40359

As a reminder, we accept produce vendors (must be grown by the vendor), crafts (handmade only), and baked goods (email for details).



CAMPBELL COUNTY FARM & LIVESTOCK EXPO

Saturday, April 29th

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Alexandria Fairgrounds



For more information:

Campbell County Cooperative Extension
michelle.simon@uky.edu
(859) 572-2600

Campbell County Conservation District
patti.dischar@campbellkyconservation.org
(859) 635-9587

Programs & Activities

- Tractor Driving Contest for all Ages
- Herding Dog Demonstration
- Kentucky State University: Mobile Processing Unit for Poultry, Rabbit & Fish
- Sheep & Goat Hoof Trimming & Shearing
- Building Your Own Cattle Scales
- Matching Equipment to Your Farm Needs
- Equipment Auction



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

University of
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SAVE
THE DATE!

THIRD THURSDAY THING

Topics: Farmers Markets and Water Quality

April 20, 2023 | 10 AM EDT



Join us in person at the Harold R. Benson Research & Demonstration Farm or online!

1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

youtube.com/kysug/live

BCS: DO YOU KNOW YOUR HORSE'S SCORE?

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Kenton County
Fairgrounds

Light refreshments
will be served

Learn the technique to evaluate a horse's body condition at this hands on program. Experts will teach you ways to assess if the horse is too fat, too thin, or about right.



REGISTER TODAY!

Call (859)356-3155 or visit kentoncountyextension.org

Don't Forget To Test Your Soil

FARMERS MARKET SCALE CERTIFICATION

If you are selling items by weight, please drop your scale off at the Extension Office by April 4th. We will call after the state inspects them.

Homebased Microprocessing Workshop

Join our in-person workshop! Homebased microprocessors are farmers who grow and harvest produce to use in their value-added products. Homebased microprocessors are required to grow a predominant ingredient in the products they make. The first step to becoming certified as a home based microprocessor is to attend a Home based Microprocessor (HBM) workshop presented by the University of Kentucky. The cost of the workshop is \$50.00.

Tuesday, April 11th

9:30AM-2:00PM

Henry Co Extension

502-845-2811

Tuesday, April 18th

9:30AM-2:00PM

Grant Co Extension

859-824-3355

EDEN SHALE FARM UPDATE

As I have mentioned before, we use a rotational system with our winter feeding so that the cows will eat their winter hay from four different locations. This allows the manure to not be concentrated into one location and lessens the amount of drudgery that animals have to endure to get to the hay.

The two locations that get the worst are the heifer calving facility and the mature cow calving facility. The heifers eat their hay on an existing concrete pad and it builds up enough that we will scrape it clean 2-3 times during the calving season. This location has a manure stack pad that we store the manure in until conditions are right to spread the manure on pastures and hay fields.

The cow calving facility also has a stack pad that stores the manure. This barn is equipped with 6 different flooring treatments that give the floor structural support when it is wet, but it also has drainage which allows the moisture to percolate down away from the bedding. This helps keep the flooring surface dryer and makes for a better surface for the new calves.



Of the different flooring types, my favorite is still the geo grid. This product has small honey comb shaped opening that are back filled with gravel. The geo grid is a sturdy product that scrapes just like concrete. You can spin circles on the stuff and it will stay in place every time.



Much like any good product, it is not cheap. Total installation of the geo grid is the same cost as pouring concrete. Therefore, if I am building a feeding structure outside, I prefer to pour concrete. If the structure is under roof, I like the geo grid because of the drainage.

If you are interested in learning more about the different flooring types you can go to our website at <https://www.edenshalefarm.com/producer-resources.html>. Click on "Bull Barn Facilities" and "Calving Barn Facilities".

Preparing Cows for Breeding

Reproductive management begins with evaluation and management of BCS. Body condition score is a numerical estimation of the amount of fat on the cow's body. Body condition score ranges from 1-9, 1 is emaciated while 9 is extremely obese. A change in a single BCS is usually associated with about a 75 pound change in body weight. Evaluation of BCS prior to calving and from calving to breeding is important to ensure reproductive success.

Rebreeding performance of cows is greatly influenced by BCS at calving. Cows that are thin at calving take longer to resume estrous cycles and therefore are delayed in their ability to rebreed. Research has clearly demonstrated that as precalving BCS decreases, the number of days from one calving to the next (calving interval) increases in beef cows. Females with a precalving BCS of less than 5 tend to have production cycles greater than 1 year. For example, cows with a precalving BCS of 3 would be expected to have a calving interval of approximately 400 days, while a cow with a precalving BCS of 6 would have a calving interval of approximately 360 days. South Dakota research illustrates the influence of precalving BCS on the percentage of cows that initiated estrous cycles after calving. This experiment demonstrated that the percentage of thin cows that were cycling in the first month of the breeding season (June) was considerably lower than for cows that were in more moderate body condition. During the second month of the breeding season, 55% of the cows with a BCS of 4 had still not initiated estrous cycles, while more than 90% of the cows in more moderate condition had begun to cycle. Thin cows need a longer breeding season, which results in more open cows in the fall. They may also result in lighter calves to sell the next year because the calves from these thin cows will be born later in the calving season.

Management of BCS after calving also impacts rebreeding efficiency. Maintenance requirements for energy and protein increase 25-30% for most beef cows after calving. Ranchers need to plan their supplementation to match or exceed this increased nutrient requirement. Rebreeding efficiency is enhanced in cows that calved thin if their energy intake is increased. Although the best management plan is to calve cows in a BCS of 5+, increasing the energy to cows that are thin at calving can boost reproductive performance.

Dystocia (calving problems) can severely delay the onset of estrus after calving. Research shows that every hour a female is in stage 2 active labor there is a four-day delay in the resumption of estrous cycles after calving. Early intervention helps; 16% more cows conceived when cows were assisted within 90 minutes of the start of calving.

The best method is to reduce the incidence of dystocia via selection but early calving assistance will increase the opportunity of cows to rebreed.

I have worked in reproductive management for nearly 20 years and it amazes me how many cattlemen still do not vaccinate their cow herd against reproductive diseases. Several diseases are associated with reproductive loss (lepto, BVD, vibrio, trich, etc). The main problem is that most reproductive loss due to disease is subtle and ranchers don't notice the loss unless they have a massive failure. Most cattlemen are not aware of their losses due to abortion. Ranchers need to work with their local veterinarian to develop an annual vaccination plan to enhance reproductive success.

Lastly, ranchers need to develop a plan to enhance the rebreeding potential of their first-calf heifers and late-calving cows. Young cows and late-calving cows have one characteristic in common that will greatly impact their reproductive success; anestrus. After each calving, cows undergo a period of time when they do not come into estrus. This anestrus period can be as short as 17 days but can also last as long as 150 days depending upon a number of factors. Typically mature cows in good BCS will be anestrus for 45- 90 days (average about 60-70 days) while first-calf heifers will be anestrus for 75-120 days. Research has shown that only 64% of mature cows have initiated estrous cycles about 70 days after while only 50% of first calf heifers have initiated estrous cycles at nearly 90 days after calving. Let's consider the impact of anestrus and calving date for a herd that calves from March 1 until May 10. Bull turnout is May 20th and the length of anestrus for mature cows is 60 days and for young cows is 90 days. A mature cow that calves on March 1 will begin cycle on May 1 and is highly likely to conceive early. However, the mature that calves on April 20 and her opportunity to conceive early is very limited. A first-calf heifer that calves on April 20 won't begin to cycle until July 20 and will have limited opportunities to conceive. Cattlemen can reduce the anestrus period by fence-line exposure to a mature bull or by treating the cows with progesterone for 7 days prior to bull exposure. Sources of progesterone include the feed additive melengestrol acetate (MGA) or an EAZI-Breed CIDR insert (Zoetis Animal Health). Both sources have shown to induce estrus in anestrus cows and exposure of anestrus cows to progesterone for 7 days before the bull exposure will not reduce fertility. Pregnancy rates will actually be increased in these females because inducing estrus will increase the number of opportunities these cows have to conceive in the breeding season.

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

BULL Selection Testing Evaluation Genetics Series



April 20th 6pm
Bull Selection,
Examination, & Testing

April 21st 5:30pm
Guide to EPD's &
Genomic Testing

April 29th 8-12pm
Breeding Soundness Exams
By Appointment Only

United
Producers, Inc.
86 Bramblett Ln,
Owenton KY 40359

To RSVP & Book A BSE
Appointment Please
Call 502-484-5703

**Discounted Price On BSE For Participates
Who Attend Both Education Classes**

**Appointments must be scheduled & have limited availability*
*Please RSVP for the meal on the 20th**

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Battery Powered Fence Staple Gun
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\$150 Refundable Deposit
Staples Available For Purchase



Soil Probe
Available For 2 Weeks
6 Free Samples A Year

**BElectric 4-8 Comb, Honey Extractor,
Electric Knife, & Bucket**
Available For 1 Week
\$150 Refundable Deposit

Hay Probe
Available For 2 Weeks
6 Free Basic Samples A Year



**Digital Moisture &
Temperature Probe**
Available for 2 Week

Soil Compaction Meter
Available For 2 Weeks

SOUTHERN STATES

7' & 10' Great Plains Seed Drill
\$100 per day.
Saturday & Sunday count as a day.



Lime Buggy
\$100 per day, \$60 1/2 day.
Saturday & Sunday count as a day.
-Lime \$25 per ton @ the store.
-Or order your own lime from the quarry.

Fertilizer Buggies:
\$25 per load or up to 4 hours.
\$50 pickup fee if buggy kept over 4 hours.

300g Sprayer
\$100 per day.

-Customer must purchase tank cleaner and clean the sprayer before and after use.



Anderson and H & S Wrappers In Line Wrappers
\$100 per day.
- Customer provides his own plastic.

OK Corral/Chute
\$100 per day.



What is the Difference Between Cool Season and Warm Season Vegetables?

Cool season plants grow best with a relatively cool air temperature (50 to 60F). These plants are the first ones to be planted in the garden year and then again in the fall. They grow well during the short and cool days of spring and fall. They can be planted several weeks up to a couple of months before the last frost date (around May 10th). Plant cool season crops as soon as the soil is workable in the spring. If planted too late in spring, the heat of summer will reduce their quality. They may become bitter, have lower yields or bolt (form flowers and go to seed). Light frost will not injure them.

Many cool season crops can be sown in early spring and again in fall. For fall planting, they must be planted early enough to reach maturity before winter weather, although there are a few winter hardy vegetables. Some of the best quality vegetables are produced during fall's warm days and cool nights. Plants grown in the fall have a higher sugar content and better flavor.

Examples of cool season vegetables include asparagus, beets, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, chives, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Swiss Chard, kale, leek, lettuce, onion, parsnips, peas, radishes, spinach, and turnips.

Warm season vegetables should be planted after the threat of frost has passed. These plants require warm soils and air temperature for growth and fruiting. They grow best with long warm days and mild nights.

The growing season in our area is too short to allow for some warm season crops to be directly seeded in the garden. For example, if you plant a tomato seed, it will take 60-80 days to reach maturity depending on the variety. To be able to get tomatoes earlier in the season they are started indoors and then transplanted to the garden once the danger of frost has passed.

Examples of warm season vegetables include beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, melons, peppers, zucchini and summer squash, pumpkin and winter squash, sweet potato, and watermelon.

Earliest and Latest Planting Dates for Central Kentucky Gardens

Crop	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Asparagus	March 15	(Spring only)
Beans (snap)	April 25	July 25
Beets	March 15	August 10
Broccoli (plants)	April 5	August 1
Cabbage	March 25	July 15
Carrots	March 20	July 15
Cauliflower (plants)	April 5	July 20
Celery	April 5	July 1
Collards	March 10	August 20
Sweet Corn	April 20	July 10
Kale	March 20	August 1
Lettuce (leaf)	March 25	August 15
Lettuce (head)	March 25	July 15
Onions (sets)	March 10	(Spring only)
Onions (plants)	March 25	July 1
Peas	March 1	(Spring only)
Irish Potatoes	March 15	July 1
Radishes	March 10	September 15
Rhubarb (crowns)	March 10	(Spring only)
Snow Peas	March 1	August 1
Spinach	March 1	September 1
Turnips	March 10	August 10
Watermelons	May 5	July 1

April 2023

Best Day's of March

Breed Animals: 7-8
Wean animals: 8, 12
Castrate Animals: 9-16
Slaughter Livestock: 6-8

Best Day's of March

Prune Trees: 7,8,11-12
Transplant: 7,8,15,16
Plant aboveground crops:
4,5,21-23,39-31

Mow for Growth: 1-5,20-30

These are based off the Almanac, not Extension research

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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Kendal Bowman

County Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Lean Green Lettuce Tacos

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 large lettuce leaves | ¾ pound extra lean ground beef | 1 tablespoon finely chopped cilantro |
| 1½ cup cooked brown rice | 1 small zucchini, chopped | 1 teaspoon lime juice |
| ¾ cup fresh corn kernels | 1 ounce packet low-sodium taco seasoning | 1 tomato, chopped |
| 1 cup canned black beans, drained and rinsed | 4 ounces low sodium tomato sauce | 1 small red onion, chopped |
| 1 tablespoon olive oil | | |

Wash and **dry** lettuce leaves. **Prepare** rice according package directions. **Cut** corn off cob. **Drain** and **rinse** black beans. In a skillet, **heat** the oil to medium; **add** ground beef and begin to **cook**. When beef begins to brown, **add** zucchini, corn and black beans to skillet. Continue to **cook** until vegetables are tender and beef is done. Do not overcook. **Add** in taco seasoning and tomato sauce and heat through. **Add** cilantro and lime

juice to the cooked rice. **Place** equal amounts of rice mixture and taco mixture into lettuce leaves. **Top** each taco with chopped tomato and onion.

Yield: 8 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 180 calories, 4.5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 350 mg sodium, 23 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 12 g protein.

