April issue of the Owen County Agriculture & Natural Resource Newsletter



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Spring is on its way, and it sure is a welcome sight! Unfortunately there was a lot of damage around he 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 suspectable 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. Its better to know before you grow. Please, Please borrow one of our soil probes and take and accurate sample.

Cooperative Extension Service

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









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

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

12:30-1pm

Register Here

https://tinyurl.com/mtz8384h

April 26, 2023

An Often Unsung Annual... Marigold!

Dennis Morgenson, UK Horticulture Agent for

Washington County



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





TOPIC: SPRING
FORAGE
CONSIDERATIONS
Wednesday, April 19th

Producers, Inc. 86 Bramblett Lane Owenton, KY 40359

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

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
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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, relational origin, prescretigion, political bellef, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregiannor, martial status, genetic information, age, veteran status or physical or montal disability, University of Kentucky Kentucky State University U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.



Disabilities accommodated





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

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Owenion 37 40359

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

SALE DAY ADDRESS

Cooperative Extension Service

12 Agriculture and Natural Resources
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4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

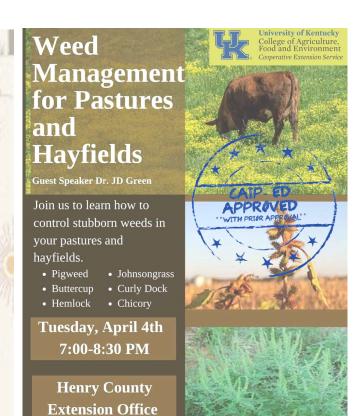






Thursday, April 27th 6:30 PM

Owen County Extension Office Please RSVP 502-484-5703



RSVP (502) 845-2811

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Interested in joining the Owen County Farm & Craft Market?

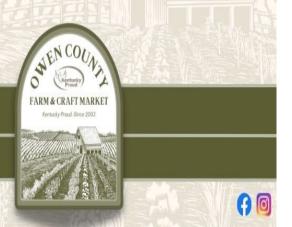
Join us for an in-person meeting

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).







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.

TODAY!

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

REGISTER

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FARMERS MARKET SCALE **GERTIFICATION**

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



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 moister 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 numeral 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 valving 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 considerable 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.

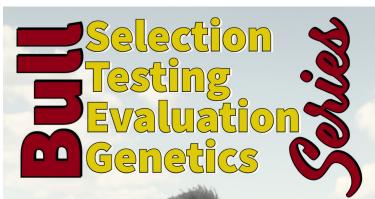
Dystocia (calving problems) can severely delay the onset of estrus after calving. Research shows that every hour a female is in stage 2 active labor there is a four-day delay in the resumption of estrous cycles after calving. Early intervention helps; 16% more cows conceived when cows were assisted within 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 latecalving 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 anestrous 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 anestrous and calving date for a herd that calves from March 1 until May 10. Bull turnout is May 20th and the length of anestrous 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 anestrous 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 anestrous cows and exposure of anestrous 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, **Examination**, & Testing

April 21st 5:30pm

Guide to EPD's & **Genomic Testing**

April 29th 8-12pm

Breeding Soundness Exams *By Appointment Only*

roducers, Inc. 86 Bramblett Ln, **Owenton K740359**

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 *





COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Kentucky.

SHARED USE EQUIPMENT

EXTENSION OFFICE

Battery Powered Fence Staple Gun Available For 1 Week \$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

Hav 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.



\$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.



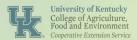
- Customer provides his own plastic.

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.

Earliest and Latest Planting Dates for Central Kentucky Gardens

Earliest Date	_
carriest Date	Latest Date
March 15	(Spring only)
April 25	July 25
March 15	August 10
April 5	August 1
March 25	July 15
March 20	July 15
April 5	July 20
April 5	July 1
March 10	August 20
April 20	July 10
March 20	August 1
March 25	August 15
March 25	July 15
March 10	(Spring only)
March 25	July 1
March 1	(Spring only)
March 15	July 1
March 10	September 15
March 10	(Spring only)
March 1	August 1
March 1	September 1
March 10	August 10
May 5	July 1
	April 25 March 15 April 5 March 20 April 5 March 20 April 5 April 5 March 10 April 20 March 20 March 25 March 25 March 25 March 10 March 10 March 15 March 10 March 15 March 10 March 10 March 10 March 10 March 10 March 1

The growing season in our area is to 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 om 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.

April 2023

Best Day's of March Wean animals: 8, 12 Breed Animals: 7-8

Mow-for Growth: 1-5,20-30... Slaughter Livestock: 6-8 Castrate Animals: 9-16

Prune Trees: 7,8,11-12 Transplant: 7,8,15,16

Best Day's of March

Plant aboveground crops:

These are based off the Almanac, not Extension research 4,5,21-23,39-31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Youth Turkey Weekend April 1-2nd
2 belly	3 belly	Farmers Market Scale Drop-off For Certification Owen County Extension Pasture Weed Management: 7pm Henry County Extension RSVP 502-845-2811 Belly	From the Woods: Road Layout for Fire Lines, Planting Trees and Tree Ordinances Via ZOOM 11 AM Horticulture Wednesday: How To Read a Seed Packet Via Zoom 12:30	6 AG Funding Workshop & CAIP Cost Share Info. Meeting 6:30 PM Owen County Extension RSVP 502-484-5703	Private Pesticide Applicator Training 9:30 AM Owen County Extension RSVP 502-484-5703	8 secrets
9	10	Microprocessing Workshop: Tuesday, April 11th 9:30AM-2:00PM Henry Co Extension 502-845-2811	From the Woods: Bird ID, Tree of the Week, Steps to Stewardship VIA ZOOM AM Horticulture Wednesday: Tulip Tips Via Zoom 12:30	13	Farmers Market: Info Meeting, new venders welcome 6:30pm (Owen Extension Office)	General Turkey Season April 15-May 7th
	17 feet	Homebased Microprocessing Workshop: Tuesday, April 18th 9:30AM-2:00PM Grant Co Extension 859-824-3355	Bfunch & Leam: Spring Forage Considerations 8:30am(UPI Stockyard) From the Woods: All Things Earthy VIA ZOOM 11AM Horticulture Wednesday: Early Season Apple Tree Care Via Zoom 12:30 head	Z (KSU: Third Thursday Thing Farmers Markets & Water Quality 10am (KSU Farm) Bull Series: Bull selection, Examination, & Testing 6 (UPI Stockyard) RSVP 502-484-5703	Bull Series & Friday Farmer Fundamentals: Guide to EPD's & Genomic Testing 5:30 (UPI Stockyard) RSVP 502-484-5703	22
23	24 arms	25	26 From the Woods: Benefits of Urban Reforestation, Wildlife Sounds VIA ZOOM AM Horticulture Wednesday: An Often Unsung AnnualMarigold! Via Zoom 12:30 breast	27 COUNTY ASSOCIATION 6:30 PM Owen County Extension Office heart	28	2 Q Bull Series: Breeding Soundness Exam's (UPI Stockyard) *Appointment Only* 502-484-5703 Farm & Livestock Expo: 9-2pm Alexandria Fairgrounds,rt
30 belly		We have th	rs d			



Cooperative Extension Service

Owen County 265 Ellis Hwy

Owenton, KY 40359 Phone: (502)484-5703 Fax: (502) 484-5704 Owen.ca.uky.edu

Email: Kendal.bowman@uky.edu

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Kendal Bowman

County Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources



Lean Green Lettuce Tacos

8 large lettuce leaves 1½ cup cooked brown

rice

34 cup fresh corn kernels

1 cup canned black beans, drained and rinsed

1 tablespoon olive oil

34 pound extra lean ground beef

1 small zucchini, chopped

1 ounce packet lowsodium taco seasoning

4 ounces low sodium tomato sauce

1 tablespoon finely chopped cilantro

1 teaspoon lime iuice

1 tomato, chopped

 small red onion, chopped

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.