

"HAVE YOU HERD?"



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

March issue of the Owen County Agriculture & Natural Resource Newsletter



Kendal Bowman
Owen County Agriculture Agent

February's weather certainly threw us some curve balls! Tree's are budding, daffodils are blooming, and everything in between. With this weather it's easy to get spring fever, but remember this is Kentucky and we could still experience winter. The green grass increases the risk for grass tetany, especially in lactating cows. You will find information and our mineral recommendation in this edition. Make sure to contact the Soil Conservation Office and apply for their cost share before the end of the month. On April the 6th, we have a program on Ag funding opportunities that will cover information on the CAIP Cost Share program. The Owen County Farm Bureau Federation is hoping the state will release the applications the day of this program.

The spring issue of the Sweet Owen Magazine is out!

Make sure to pick one up. Molly Haines and various contributors did an excellent job showcasing different farmers and agriculture in our community!

I'm also working on a project. If anyone has some old greenhouse hoops to donate please let me know!

With many new farmers in the community, it would be nice if we had an Ag Directory together. If you can provide me with; mobile tire repair, fencers, barn builder, painters, mobile mechanic, etc... We will try to put all of these resources together. Kendal.bowman@uky.edu

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.

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

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Your Time Will Come...

Stagnating leadership in agricultural can lead to ineffectiveness during changing times. Four insiders offer solutions so industry organizations stay relevant.

Applause erupts from the crowd at farm meetings around the country when leaders who've held their role for decades are called to the stage. They're handed a plaque. Cameras flash. Instrumental music plays while a slideshow depicts the honorees' early years.

These folks have dedicated countless hours and traveled thousands of miles for the sake of the organization's mission. Their personal schedules have revolved around the group's calendar for as long as anyone can remember.

"There are merits to this longevity, but there are some problems as well," says Steve Isaacs, 69, University of Kentucky Extension professor. The concepts he's used for succession planning at the farm and family level are important for organizations too, he says.

In a room of farmers at a recent conference, Isaacs shared this case study: Famer Harold has served as _____ board president for 46 years. Although he no longer drives, and his vision is failing, Harold, now in his 80s, has his eye on the state's longevity record for 49 years. He's held several other leadership positions in his community for decades as well. Since the time his children were young, he's never paid for a vacation because his travel to conferences around the country has been paid for.

"In 46 years, Harold has kept at least two other people from being president," Isaacs says. "He probably did his best work in the first 10 years of his tenure there."

"This case study of a president that goes into the office and holds for a lifetime and the country being proud



that they have never had any turnover is a legit problem that we have," confirms North Carolina famer Malarie Thompson, 34.

The agricultural industry has a culture of rewarding tenure over effectiveness, Isaacs says. It's time for some organizational succession planning. Everyone has a role to play.

FOR EXPERIENCED LEADERS:

EXAMINE YOUR MOTIVATION

"If you're trying to set a longevity record, get out of the way," Isaacs says.

You may not be an effective leader if you're serving because nobody else will or out of a sense of guilt. If you're serving just to live up to someone else's expectations, think again. "If you're just serving to get free vacations, goodness gracious, that's a lousy reason to be in a leadership position," says Isaacs.

REMEMBERING THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS

As Janet Jackson sang, "What have you done for me lately?" Are you still accomplishing new things for the organization?

The law of diminishing return states that benefits gained from something will represent a proportionally smaller gain as more money or time is invested.

"Leaders do their best work in the first five years or so," says Isaacs, an economist. "We get diminishing returns after that. Sometimes there's a stage three- negative returns, where

you've gone downhill."

At 69 years old, Isaacs acknowledges, "I have to ask myself the same kind of questions. Am I still adding value? Do I know how to transition things and move on?"

Seek feedback from your board or membership to understand your effectiveness on a regular basis.

ENGAGE YOUR TEAM

Instead of ordering or mandating a solution, a leader asks good questions to help the group arrive at a decision.

"Think about when you were 20 years old: Did you want someone to tell you what to do or how to think? I would guess not," past National FFA officer Miriam Hoffman, 22, says, addressing a farm shop full of industry executives last September. "But how many of you are here on this farm today because someone older believed in you, listened to you, and helped you discover where you needed to go?"

Years ago, Ohio farmer Jane Marshall, 60, rallied rural residents to prevent the expansion of a local landfill. "As a leader, I have to know what the ultimate goal is. If I know how I'm going to do it, why do I need anybody else? We knew we wanted to stop it," Marshall says of the landfill change. "I didn't have a clue how to do that by myself. That's why you bring more heads in. We got that group together and came up with a plan.

"As a leader, it's not my job to say, the plan is A, B, C. I think that's what a lot of leaders, and politicians, want to do. But, you need to take people along with you," Marshall adds. "If they're not coming along, you're not leading well. A leader cannot micromanage. Leadership isn't being a boss. It's being a servant."

Continued on next

START MENTORING

As Isaacs presents around the country, he gets feedback from experienced leaders who believe their group would “fall to all pieces” if they weren’t leading. If you’re concerned about the future of an organization without you, the best way to serve may look different than you think, he advises.

Like founders of companies or farms, people who’ve been around since the earliest days of an organization may find it especially difficult to step back. Founder’s syndrome is real, Isaacs says. If you recognize it in yourself, acknowledge it to the group and work toward a plan that allows the organization to mature while maintaining the healthy level of involvement you desire.

“One of the primary roles of a leader is to raise up new leaders. If a leader is doing a good job, they have been trying to bring somebody along,” says Isaacs.

If your board regularly develops a strategic plan, goals for developing new leaders should be discussed, he adds.

FOR YOUNG FARMERS: PURSUE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

“Leaders are not born, they’re made,” Isaacs declares.

If you have an opportunity to engage in specific, targeted leadership development activities, do it. The professor encourages young farmers to seek out their state’s ag leadership program.

Forty-one states have programs that belong to the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership (IAPAL). Most IAPAL member programs have a two-year curriculum designed for up to 30 key leaders selected through application processes.

“There are other leadership development programs out there that are sponsored by states or cities or county chambers of commerce, sometimes by Extension,” says Isaacs.

START SMALL

Your organization doesn’t have to be huge to make a difference. “We’re not changing the world. We’re changing our own little part of the world,” says Marshall of one of her organizations.

SHOW UP

“I am convinced that leadership, particularly at the local level, is done by those folks who show up,” says Isaacs. “I don’t care if you’re not on the board. Go to the meetings. Ask questions. Volunteer for things. Help them set up and tear down. Even if you don’t have a title, get there.”

Marshall has served everywhere from local government to national agriculture organizations. “Leadership takes showing up, in all senses,” she says. Be prepared with mental, physical, and emotional energy. Simply attending a meeting is what kicked off 36-year-old Oregon farmer Jon Iverson’s Farm Bureau leadership career. At his first meeting out of college, Iverson was elected to the county board. Over the past 10 years, he’s grown to hold state and national roles.



SAY ‘YES’

Iverson says when he first returned to his family’s diversified farm he didn’t think of himself as a leader. “I wasn’t the one who was going to stand up. I was the one looking left and right wondering, ‘Who is going to stand up? Someone should say something.’”

“I think there’s so many of us in agriculture who think, ‘There’s

someone better than me,’ and that limits us. We need to be thinking, ‘I could be the one doing that,’” he says.

FOLLOW CHESTERTON’S FENCE

Chesterton’s fence is the idea that changes should not be made until the reasoning behind the status quo is understood.

Hoffman, who served as Eastern Region vice president for FFA in 2021, cautions, “As young people, we are so excited about change and progress and innovation that we can quickly become enamored with tearing the fence down before we’re stopped to ask why the fence was there to begin with.”

Respect the progress of previous generations. They’re not going to support your idea if it feels like you’re unraveling their work.

FIND MENTORS

“Most of the time when we make changes as a result of overlooking something important, it’s because we’ve simply never had someone take us seriously enough to help us see what we’re missing,” Hoffman says.

Find somebody to learn from. Initiate a relationship.

“I have found very few formalized mentoring programs that work,” says Isaacs. “I have found very few informal mentoring programs that didn’t work. The ones that worked well are the ones that the mentee, not the mentor, was driving.”

A good mentor likely won’t give you all the right answers. They’ll ask good questions, so you can discover the answer yourself, says Hoffman.

Continued on next

FOR ORGANIZATIONS:

LOOK AT YOUR LIFE CYCLE

In the first stage of an organization's life cycle, a bunch of people will come together to get something done.

They don't have any money, but they do have a lot of passion, Marshall explains.

If the group accomplishes the goal and decides to stay in existence, what do the members do? "Your core values should never change, but maybe the mission gets broader. Here you have a little more money, you have bylaws, and you've elected officers," Marshall says.

In the third and final stage, people camp out, she says. "This is where the organization exists, not for any mission but to keep the people in jobs. This is where you see bureaucracy," she adds.



EMBRACE CHANGE

"In agriculture, we embrace change when it has technology or new paint. We're all over that. We'll trade in the old to get the new one. But when it comes to institutional change, we tend to be very conservative. I think that has hindered institutional development," says Isaacs.

The "but we've never done it that way before" mind-set is a tremendous impediment to all kinds of organizations, he says.



"If you don't have anyone under 55 in the room, you need an overhaul," says Isaacs.

ENGAGE YOUNG LEADERS

"Once folks get through these leadership development programs, we need to find a way to get them engaged," says Isaacs.

Although it's not explicitly stated, after people age out of groups such as Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers at 35, many groups seem to have the attitude, "OK, go off for about 20 years and come back. We'll have something for you," Isaacs says.

Kentucky Farm Bureau has developed a program called Generation Bridge for 36- to 49-year-olds. The state organization's bylaws were amended so a member of Generation Bridge has a seat on the board.

STUDY YOUR STRUCTURE

Officer rotations or term limits are usually a function of a group's bylaws.

"Some local organizations have given the chair or their board appointment authority for two positions on the board rather than having everything elected," Isaacs says. "We know in local elections name recognition counts for everything, so people are going to vote for folks they know. If the person with appointment authority sees someone that has potential that might not win an election, they can be appointed."

TRY LEADERSHIP EVALUATIONS

Although it's rare in farm organizations, Isaacs suggests leadership evaluations could be a helpful standard practice.

During this designated exercise, the board can determine if the leaders are still effective, Isaacs suggests. He acknowledges this can be tough in local organizations where members are neighbors and have to live with each other.

STRIVE FOR DIVERSITY

"We tend to think of diversity as ethnicity or gender, but its age as well. We need that," says Isaacs.

Cognitive diversity is also key. "It has nothing to do with how smart you are. It has to do with how you approach decision-making," he adds.

Depending on the organization, you may want people from different types of operations. Livestock people, row crop growers, and specialty producers may all see the same situation very differently.

START NOW

"Transition is inevitable, so start now," says Isaacs.

By Natalina Sents Bausch, Associate Digital Director

**TUNE IN
WEDNESDAYS**

FROM THE WOODS
TODAY

**11:00 am EDT
via Zoom**

March 1: What is a Tree?, Tree Identification

Match 8: Kentucky Maple Day

March 15: World Wood Day, Tree of the Week

March 22: The Importance of White Oak

March 29: Top 10 Landowner Issues, Wildlife Sounds

For "From the Woods" zoom link email:

rdwill5@uky.edu & Kebo233@uky.edu



BEGINNING MAY 12TH

Boone County Extension is excited to launch its first Kentucky Master Naturalist Volunteers Cohort.

This 10 to 12-week program will teach participants a wide range about their environment including:

- Wilderness Safety
- Water quality
- Wildlife
- Plants
- Geology
- And so much more!



THIRD THURSDAY THING

Every third Thursday of the month, January through November, at 10 a.m. ET

- January 19:** USDA Farm and Home Loans | Natural Resource Management
- February 16:** Organic Agriculture
- March 16:** Small Ruminants
- April 20:** Pest Control | NRCS Programs
- May 18:** Aquaculture
- June 15:** Farmers Markets | Juneteenth Celebration
- July 20:** Fencing | Pastured Poultry
- August 17:** Sustainable and Organic Agriculture
- September 21:** Pawpaw
- October 19:** Small Ruminants
- November 16:** Small Farms Conference



Join us in person at the Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm or online at [YouTube.com/kysuag/live](https://www.youtube.com/kysuag/live)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Applications available February 6th, 2023

Cost \$200, scholarships are available

Contact for more details
Call: (859) 586-6101
Email: lacey.laudick@uky.edu
Instagram: [bcenvironmentaledu](https://www.instagram.com/bcenvironmentaledu)
Facebook: [bcenvironmentaledu](https://www.facebook.com/bcenvironmentaledu)

**SAVE
THE DATE!**



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
Kentucky

College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Interested in joining the Owen County Farm & Craft Market?

Join us for an in-person meeting

6:30 P.M. | FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 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).



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.

Friday, April 15th

9:30AM-2:00PM

Pendleton Co Ext

859-654-3395

Tuesday, April 18th

9:30AM-2:00PM

Grant Co Extension

859-824-3355

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.

CFAES

ONLINE FRUIT PRUNING SCHOOL

TWO-PART SERIES: MARCH 9 and MARCH 14, 2023

Hosted by **Dr. Gary Gao**,
Professor and Extension Specialist
Ryan Slaughter, Research Assistant

Come join us for a two-part, online workshop to learn proper pruning techniques to improve production and quality in your fruit tree and small fruit plantings. You will be online with Ohio State University South Centers experts, who will give live presentations with short pre-recorded videos. There will also be a live Q&A.

Register for free by visiting:
go.osu.edu/pruningschool

Focusing on Fruit Trees, Grapes, Blueberries and Raspberries

- Training and pruning apple, peach, and pear trees
- Training and pruning grapevines
- Pruning raspberry and blueberry bushes
- Pruning demonstrations videos

2023 SCHEDULE

PART 1 - Thursday, MARCH 9

9:30-12:15 p.m. **Tree Fruit Pruning**
Apple, Peach, and Pear Trees

PART 2 - Tuesday, MARCH 14

9:30-12:15 p.m. **Small Fruits**
Blueberries, Grapes, and Raspberries,

We will also have drawings for some locally-produced goodies. Must be logged in live to win.

LOCATION: ONLINE via Zoom

COST: FREE

QUESTIONS: Bridget Robertson
robertson.731@osu.edu
614-247-9757

DEADLINE TO REGISTER:
Monday, March 6, 2023



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SOUTHCENTERS.OSU.EDU

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Brunch & Learn
Every 3rd Wednesday Morning Except July & January



**Wednesday
March 15th**

**8:30-9:30am
Before The Sale**

United **Producers, Inc.**

**86 Bramblett Ln, Owenton
KY 40359
502-484-5703**

Topic: Solar Applications For Small Farms

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 Colleges, Cooperating.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**Friday Farmer
Fundamentals**
Every 3rd Friday Night
Except July & January

March 17th Topic: Bull Selection & Management

United **Producers, Inc.**

**86 Bramblett Ln,
Owenton KY 40359**

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



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

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FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

2023 WINTER SCHOOLS



6:00 P.M.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE
101 LAKEVIEW COURT

MARCH 9TH - FRANKLIN COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S EDUCATIONAL MEETING

Enjoy a meal with fellow Cattlemen and learn From Dr. Les Anderson, UK Beef Specialist about the "X10D" app as an information hub for cattle producers to manage, connect and learn about things that matter to their enterprises.

RSVP to: Crystal Harrod @ (502) 330-5084
RSVP required for the meal, non-members are welcomed too!

MARCH 16TH - BQCA CERTIFICATION*

Beef Quality and Care Assurance enables beef and dairy producers to enhance their product, maximize marketability and strengthen consumer confidence. This is a requirement for KADF CAIP Large Animal Program participation but a good idea for anyone raising livestock.

Does not qualify for the educational credit & a \$5 fee will be charged, make checks out to "KBN" .


PLEASE RSVP TO 502 695-9035 TO REGISTER AND FOR NOTIFICATION IF A CLASS IS CANCELED!

The logo for the Owen County Cattlemen's Association features the text "OWEN COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION" in blue and red, with a red silhouette of a cowboy on a horse. The background is a light beige with faint illustrations of cacti and sunflowers.

Thursday, April 27th
6:30 PM
Owen County Extension Office
Please RSVP 502-484-5703

The background is a blurred image of a field with tall grass. A circular stamp with stars and the text "CAIP-ED APPROVED WITH PRIOR APPROVAL" is in the top right corner.

Spring Forages
March 21st, 2023 6pm
(Weather date March 28th)
Scott Co Extension Office
Dr. Ray Smith will discuss forage reseeding and varieties



The Owen Co. Conservation District is offering a Local Cost Share Program to any farmer who needs assistance with Pasture Liming, Livestock Watering Facilities, Heavy Use Area, or Pasture Renovation. If you are interested in applying for any of these practices you may complete an application at the District's office at 205 West Perry St, between hours of 8-4:30. Applications will be accepted through March 24th.

Sustainable Ag Webinar

with Jackson Rolett from



THURSDAY
MARCH 23
2023
6:30pm ET/
5:30pm CT

Join us to learn about implicating appropriate or no-tillage, cover cropping, & mulching in small-scale market gardens.

REGISTER



This webinar series is part of a Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) project.

8:15 am - Kickoff, Meet & Greet with Coffee and Treats

9:00 am - Farm Safety & Trailing Livestock - Dale Dobson, KY Dept. of Ag

10:00 am - Pasture Mgmt. - Traci Johnson, Oldham Co. Extension & Bob Coleman, University of KY Equine Extension

11:00 am - Raising Hope KY - Dr. Cheryl Witt

11:15 am - Preserving the Family Farm for Future Generations - Mary Lowry, Alta Vista Farm

11:30 am - Lunch & Icelandic Horse Demonstration



Farm Safety & Pasture Management

March 17, 2023

Lettleiki Icelandics
6105 Eminence Pike
Shelbyville, KY

Registration requested. Call Oldham County Extension

(502) 222-9453



KENTUCKY FAMILY FARM
& AUTO INSURANCE
WWW.KENTUCKYFAMILYFARM.COM
KELLI WEARLY, AGENT | 502-744-9020



Private Pesticide Applicator Training

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

~~Feb 28th 6pm, Scott Co. Extension 502-845-8458~~

~~March 6th 6pm, Owen Co Extension 502-845-8458~~

April 7th 9:30am, Owen Co Extension 502-845-8458

MUST RSVP call 502-484-5703

LAST CHANCE Must RSVP

Introduction TO HOMESTEADING AND SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE

March 31 - April 1

Harold R. Benson Research
and Demonstration Farm
1525 Mills Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601

These workshops will cover a wide variety of subsistence agriculture topics with the goal of introducing participants to the concept of becoming self-sufficient by utilizing their resources to grow food for themselves and their families.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided free of charge upon request. Language access services for limited English proficient individuals, will be provided free of charge upon request. Please contact David Peery at david.peery@kysu.edu
All requests should be made by 3/1/2023

Topics Include:

- Introduction to Home-Based Processing
- Introduction to Growing Perennial Fruits and Nuts
- Lunch and Networking with Vendors
- Annual Fruit and Vegetable Production
- Introduction to Beekeeping
- NRCS Technical Assistance and Cost-Share Opportunities
- Introduction to Caring for Cattle
- Introduction to Caring for Sheep and Goats
- Lunch and Networking with Vendors
- Introduction to Caring for Pigs
- Introduction to Caring for Poultry
- Meat Processing



Register Now:

<http://bit.ly/3HSzWmt>



**KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Cooperative Extension Program



Hours open at 8:00AM for registration, donuts, and coffee

2023 BLUEGRASS BEEKEEPING SCHOOL

March 11th 2023

@ Kentucky State University

9AM-4PM EST

\$35
LUNCH INCLUDED

7 HOURS OF
EDUCATION &
NETWORKING

Speakers & Classes Include

Cameron Jack
University of Florida

Reed Johnson
Ohio State University

Beginner Classes

Intermediate Classes

Advanced Classes

VENDOR DISPLAYS

DOOR PRIZES

SCAN HERE



TO REGISTER

<https://beeschool.eventsmart.com/events/bluegrass-beekeeping-school-2023/>

Hosted by:

Bluegrass Beekeepers Association
Capital City Beekeepers &
Kentucky State University

Life got you
feeling
pretty grey
lately?

Someone
is here
to listen

Please Call
988 or Text
"KY" to 988

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

BEEF WEBINAR SERIES

BEEF MANAGEMENT UPDATE

MARCH 14
8 PM

EMAIL TO REGISTER
dbullock@uky.edu

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 or origin, creed, religion, political beliefs, 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.

Preventing Grass Tetany

As spring approaches and grass begins to grow, grazing livestock may experience a forage-related problem known as grass tetany, grass staggers, lactation tetany, or hypomagnesemia. Grass tetany is a metabolic disorder caused by reduced magnesium (Mg) levels in the animal's blood. In cattle, it generally affects older, lactating cows but can also be seen in dry cows, young cows, and in rare cases, growing calves. Symptoms often observed include nervousness, lack of coordination, muscular spasms, staggering, convulsions, coma, milk yield decrease, and death. If you suspect cattle are stricken with grass tetany, a veterinarian should be contacted immediately as early treatment can save animals.



Young cool-season grasses and small grains are commonly associated with this disorder. Grass tetany occurs most frequently in the spring, but may occur in the fall and winter when these forages start growing rapidly again or when cereal grain forages are grazed. High levels of nitrogen (N) and potassium (K) in the soil can increase the risk of grass tetany because they reduce the availability of magnesium to the animal. Farmers should refrain from placing cattle in a field that has been recently fertilized or has resulted in the disease before. Pastures where a significant amount of manure has been applied often have excessive potassium fertility increasing the risk to grass tetany. A farmer can also increase the legume content in his/her pastures with clover or alfalfa since they have higher magnesium levels to compensate for the lack of it in the new lush grass.

Feeding high magnesium or high “mag” mineral supplements is the preferred method to reduce the occurrence of grass tetany. High “mag” mineral mixes are available at most feed stores and contain higher inclusions of magnesium oxide than other complete mineral mixes. Cattle should begin consuming this high “mag” mineral during the late winter months and into early spring when new plant growth is starting. In late spring once temperatures are consistently above 60°F, a producer can quit feeding the high “mag” mixtures. High mag mineral does not need to be fed year round, but is not problematic if it is. Free-choice high mag mineral should contain 12 to 15% magnesium from magnesium oxide. Cattle need to consume four ounces of the mineral supplement daily. Magnesium oxide is unpalatable, which can result in low mineral intake. Co-product feedstuffs such as dried distillers grains, molasses or a flavoring agent is added to the mineral mix to increase palatability.

If free-choice mineral is not a viable option, producers can also mix their own supplement by adding the appropriate amount of magnesium oxide to another palatable feedstuff, i.e. feeding in or with 1 to 2 lbs. of corn or other by-product that provides 20-25 grams of magnesium. For dairy cows, magnesium oxide can be added to the grain mix to provide an intake of 20 g of magnesium per cow per day. Magnesium oxide may be routinely used as a buffer in these grain mixes for dairy cows, so producers should check with their nutritionist to make sure adequate amounts and proper sources are being used to prevent grass tetany.

Besides magnesium oxide, another source of Mg is magnesium sulfate, which is more palatable than magnesium oxide. The downside to feeding magnesium sulfate is it can be an issue where cattle are consuming high sulfate water or other feedstuffs high in sulfur. Producers that are feeding corn co-products (distiller's grains or corn gluten feed), adding additional sulfur to the diet in the form of magnesium sulfate, or have high sulfur water could create a sulfur toxicity.

Grass tetany blocks provide magnesium similar to that of a mineral supplement. The major disadvantage of this method is that all the animals may not consume an adequate amount of the block. Multiple blocks should be available

UK Beef IRM Mineral Recommendations
(free-choice supplements for grazing beef cattle)

Date: January, 2021

<i>Level</i>	<i>Basic Cow-Calf Mineral¹</i>	<i>High Magnesium Mineral²</i>	<i>Stocker Mineral with Monensin³</i>
Salt, %	22 - 25	15	22-26
Mg, % (from MgO)	2	12 ⁴	0.15
Ca, % (minimum)	11	11.5	9
Ca, % (maximum)	12	13	10.5
P, %	4.0	6.0	6
K, %	0.5	0.1	0.8
S, % (maximum)	1.0	1.0	0.8
Cu, ppm ⁵	1,600	1,400	2,000
Zn, ppm	3,200	3,000	4,000
Se, ppm ⁶ (See below)	35	26	35
I, ppm	65	50	60
Co, ppm	15	12	15
Manganese, ppm	3,750	3,700	3,000
Fe (iron) Added ⁷	None	None	None
Vit A, IU/lb	150,000	100,000	150,000
Vit E, IU/lb	150	100	150
Monensin, grams/Ton ⁸	None	None	1,620
Nutritional adequacy based on intake (oz/hd/day)	3	4	3

¹Distillers dried grains (40 lb/ton), wet molasses (20 lb/ton), and mineral oil (20 lb/ton).

²Distillers Dried Grains (no less than 150 and up to 250 lbs/ton as space allows), wet molasses (20 lbs/ton) and mineral oil (20 lbs/ton). (May substitute 50 lbs of dehy molasses for distillers grains to improve intake). To be fed when conditions for grass tetany exist. Formulated for cows during pre- and early lactation.

³Contains Monocalcium phosphate 29.49%, Dried cane molasses 20%, Ground limestone 13.75%, cane molasses 3%, Distillers dried grains 5%, Mineral oil 1%. FDA approved free-choice formula.

⁴Magnesium oxide should be the source of magnesium, not dolomitic limestone or magnesium mica. Prilled magnesium oxide is not available currently and has been removed as a recommendation.

⁵Minimum one-fourth of copper in an "organic" (chelate, proteinate, etc.) form. No copper oxide shall be used.

⁶Minimum of 50% of selenium shall come from selenium yeast product (i.e. Sel-Plex®). Three oz. supplement intake at 35 ppm or 4 oz. intake at 26 ppm provides 3 mg of selenium per head daily.

⁷No iron oxide for coloring.

⁸Three oz. supplement intake provides 152 mg of Monensin per head daily.

NOTES:

If an additional ingredient is needed to meet the 2,000 lb formula, we specify distillers dried grains with solubles.

These products are not recommended for sheep, goats or Jersey cattle due to potential copper toxicity.

Please note, the University of Kentucky has formulated these recommendations specifically for otherwise healthy cattle based upon National Research Council (NRC) guidelines for animal requirements, average forage analyses in Kentucky and research on mineral availability in forages. Actual forage levels may vary. If you have any concerns about the health or special needs of your herd, you should contact the Extension Service or your veterinarian. While the University provides these recommendations based upon currently available data, it assumes no responsibility for any errors on the part of the supplier or producer, including but not limited to mixing, handling, or other formulation errors.



Crops	Earliest Safe Planting Date			Latest Safe Planting Date ¹		
	Western	Central	Eastern	Eastern	Central	Western
Asparagus (crowns)	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	(Spring only)		
Beans (snap)	Apr 10	Apr 25	May 1	July 15	July 25	Aug 1
Beans (lima)	Apr 15	May 1	May 10	June 15	June 20	July 1
Beets	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 15
Broccoli (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
B. Sprouts (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cabbage	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Carrots	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cauliflower (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	July 20	Aug 5
Celery	Apr 1	Apr 5	Apr 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Chard	Mar 15	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 15	July 15	Aug 1
Collards	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 15	Aug 20	Aug 30
Sweet Corn	Apr 10	Apr 20	May 1	June 15	July 10	July 20
Cucumbers	Apr 20	May 1	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Eggplant (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Garlic	-	-	-	Nov 1	Nov 7	Nov 15
Kale	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Kohlrabi	Mar 15	Mar 20	Mar 25	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (leaf)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	Aug 1	Aug 15	Sept 1
Lettuce (bibb plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (head plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Muskmelons	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Okra	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Onions (sets)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Onions (plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	June 15	July 1	July 15
Onions (seed)	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Parsley	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Parsnips	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Peppers (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Irish Potatoes	Mar 15	Mar 15	Mar 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Sweet Potatoes	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 1	June 10	June 15
Pumpkins	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 1	June 15	July 1
Radishes	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Sept 1	Sept 15	Oct 1
Rhubarb (crowns)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Rutabaga	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	July 1	July 10	July 15
Southern Peas	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Snow Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	July 20	Aug 1	Aug 8
Spinach	Feb 15	Mar 1	Mar 10	Aug 15	Sept 1	Sept 15
Summer Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Tomatoes (plants)	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Turnips	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 20
Watermelons	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Winter Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15

¹ Based on average of early maturing varieties. Mid-season and late-maturing varieties need to be planted 15 to 30 days earlier than latest date. Nearly all of the fall-planted garden crops will require irrigation during dry periods. Additional insect controls may be necessary for these tender young plants.



March

Best Day's of March

Breed Animals: 11, 12
Wean animals: 8, 12
Castrate Animals: 17, 18
Slaughter Livestock: 11, 12
Mow for Growth: 1,2,28-30

Best Day's of March

Prune Trees: 10-12,15-16
Transplant: 10-12,19-20
Cultivate: 19-18
Plant aboveground crops:
1-2, 23-24,28-29

Save the date!

- Weed Mgn. for pastures & hay April 4th 7pm (Henry Co)
- Ag Funding/CAIP Info Meeting April 6th
- Farm Market Scale Certification April 4th
- Owen Co Cattleman's April 27th
- Farm & Livestock Expo April 29th (Campbell Co)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Heart	Belly	Belly	Reins	Breast	Heart	Heart
	Pesticide Applicator Training: Owen Co. Extension 6pm (Must RSVP)		From the Woods: Kentucky Maple Day Via ZOOM 11AM	Pruning Webinar: Via ZOOM 9:30AM-12:15PM App's for Cattle Management: Franklin Co. Extension 6PM (Must RSVP)	Info Meeting, new vendors welcome 6:30pm (Owen Extension Office)	Beekeeping School Kentucky State University 9AM-4PM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Secrets	Thighs	Thighs	Knees	Knees	Legs	Legs
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Feet	Feet	Head	Head	Head	Neck	Neck
		Spring Forages: Scott Co. Extension 6PM (Must RSVP)	From the Woods: The Importance of White Oak Via ZOOM 11AM	Sustainable Ag Webinar: No Till Growers Webinar 6:30 PM	Soil Conservation Cost Share DEADLINE 4:30 PM	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Arms	Arms	Breast	Breast	Breast	Heart	
		Field to Fork: Shotgun Patterning Workshop Fern Creek Sportsman's Club, 15400 Brush Run Rd.,Louisville 5:3PM -8PM Must RSVP: 502-330-8487	From the Woods: Top 10 Landowner Issues, Wildlife Sounds Via ZOOM 11AM		Homesteading & Subsistence Agriculture: 3/31-4/1/23 10am-5:30 (KSU Farm)	Youth Turkey Weekend April 1-2nd



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

Cooperative Extension Service

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Kendal Bowman

County Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources



Baked Apples and Sweet Potatoes

5 medium sweet potatoes
4 medium apples

½ cup margarine
½ cup brown sugar
½ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon nutmeg
¼ cup hot water
2 tablespoons honey

- 1. Boil** potatoes in 2 inches of water until almost tender.
- 2. Cool** potatoes, peel and slice. **Peel**, core and slice apples.
- 3. Preheat** the oven to 400°F. **Grease** a casserole dish with a small amount of margarine.
- 4. Layer** potatoes on the bottom of the dish.

- 5. Add** a layer of apple slices.
- 6. Sprinkle** some sugar, salt, and tiny pieces of margarine over the apple layer.
- 7. Repeat** layers of potatoes, apples, sugar, salt and margarine.
- 8. Sprinkle** top with nutmeg.
- 9. Mix** the hot water and

- honey together.
- 10. Pour** over top of casserole.
 - 11. Bake** for 30 minutes.
- Yield:** 6, 1 cup servings.
Nutrition Analysis: 300 calories, 8 g fat, 59 g carbohydrate, 0 mg cholesterol, 320 mg sodium.
Source: USDA Food Stamp Nutrition Connection, Recipe finder. June, 2008.

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

