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Woodford County
Cooperative Extension Service
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WOODFORD COUNTY



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A Note from the Agent:

Greetings Woodford Countians,

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. My name is Beau Neal and I began as the extension agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources on January 2nd. Having roots in Central Kentucky, I already feel right at home. Woodford County is remarkably diverse in agriculture and I'm glad that I'll get to take part in the great strides and progress that are already taking place here. I believe the success of my predecessor was largely due to the exceptional producers and community members he was able to work with. I look forward to serving and supporting the producers of this great county in any way I can. That being said, my door is always open. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if I can be of any assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BN', written in a cursive style.



Upcoming Events



PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

WHEN: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2024
10 A.M. OR 1 P.M.
SELECT ONLY ONE TIME SLOT.

WHERE: WOODFORD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
184 BEASLEY DRIVE
VERSAILLES, KY 40383

PLEASE RSVP BY EMAIL TO BEAU NEAL (BEAU.NEAL@UKY.EDU) OR CALL THE
WOODFORD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AT (859)873-4601.



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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



 Cooperative
Extension Service

BEEF QUALITY & CARE ASSURANCE (BQCA) TRAINING

WHEN: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH, 2024
10 A.M. OR 1 P.M.
SELECT ONLY ONE TIME SLOT.

WHERE: WOODFORD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
184 BEASLEY DRIVE
VERSAILLES, KY 40383

PLEASE RSVP BY EMAIL TO BEAU NEAL (BEAU.NEAL@UKY.EDU) OR CALL THE WOODFORD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AT (859) 873-4601.

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Central Kentucky Tobacco Producers Meeting: March 7th
More information will be forthcoming.

Forage Information

Tips to Stretch Short Hay Supplies

Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, PhD, PAS, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Below are a few tips to consider stretching limited hay supplies. For additional information contact your local Extension agent. It is recommended to consult with your feed nutritionist or County ANR Agent before making drastic changes in your feeding program.

- 1) Inventory hay – know how much hay you available; weigh a few bales to get an average weight or estimate the weights based on available information from Extension publications
- 2) Minimize storage losses – keep hay off the ground on a surface that will allow water to drain

away; keep bales covered or stored inside a barn; if bale grazing limit the number of bales placed in the field to provide 2-4 weeks of feeding to reduce weathering losses.

3) Reduce feeding loss – consider minimizing feeding losses; using hay rings with skirts / metal on the bottom, tapered ring designs, chains to suspend bales, or cone inserts to keep hay inside the feeder has been proven to reduce hay feeding losses compared to hay rings with openings at the bottom; using an electrified temporary poly-wire placed down the center of unrolled hay will reduce losses from cows laying on the hay, trampling it into the mud, and defecating on the hay; feeding processed hay into a bunk or large industrial tire reduces waste compared to feeding processed hay on the ground.

4) Cull – consider selling less productive females, open cows, and cows with structural/functional issues to reduce the number you must over winter; consider selling the bull as the market may provide the opportunity to sell a mature bull and replace him with a younger bull next spring.

5) Limit time access to hay – research has shown dry cows in mid-gestation can be maintained on good quality hay when they have restricted access time to only 6-8 hours a day; the hay savings comes from less waste as feeding behavior is altered; all cows must be able to access hay at any given time; this is not recommended young or thin cows, lactating cows or growing animals.

6) Substitute hay with grain – calories and protein can be provided from supplements; grain/commodity mixes can be used to replace hay; cows can be maintained on a low hay diet by using grain supplementation that balances the nutrient supply and animal requirements; consult a nutritionist before making extreme feeding changes.

7) Deworm young animals – animals with an internal parasite burden will have reduced efficiency.

8) Feed an ionophore – if grain supplementation will be used, consider adding an ionophore to increase the energy efficiency of the feed consumed. Consult your nutritionist to discuss inclusion rates and developing a supplement program. Previous work has shown that feeding 200 mg of monensin allowed cows to maintain body condition on 10-15% less hay.

Click the button below to view the Farm Bill Update!

Farm Bill Update - January 2024

Estate Information

Estate planning: Time to Act

Source: Steve Isaacs, UK agricultural economist

Getting the ball rolling on your estate plan or farm transition is one of the hardest things to do. Hopefully by now you have had meaningful conversations about your estate with your heir(s) and have assembled a team of professionals to help you with the transition. If not, you should do so before putting a plan into motion.

Work with your attorney to develop a will that reflects your wishes. Wills are the only way to guarantee a successful transfer of assets to your heir(s). Keep the will in a safe place and make sure your heir(s) know its location. After all the hard work you have put into developing a will, you do not want it somewhere that no one knows about and as a result, cannot produce it after you are gone.

Once your will is in place, now is the time to start incorporating your heir(s) into your business, if you have not already done so. Remember that leaders and managers are trained, not born. Now is the time to share your business' financial records and status. If you work with the Kentucky Farm Business Management program, now is the time to introduce your heir(s) to your farm analyst. It is also a good time to start dividing your farm responsibilities with your heir(s) and fully bringing them into the operation. You may also encourage your heir(s) to take leadership and/or management classes. The University of Kentucky offers great professional development opportunities and resources for young farm managers including the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program, MarketReady Program, Center for Crop Diversification and the Kentucky Small Business Development Center. Kentucky commodity groups also offer ample opportunities for professional development.

It may be a good idea to start using a calendar or multiyear timeline to set specific goals and completion dates for action items in your farm transition. This can help keep you on track and will create an overall smoother transition.

Remember just because you have a will or farm transition plan in place, it is not final until you die. People and circumstances change. Revisit the plan every few years to make sure it continues to align with you and your heir(s) goals.

Click the button below to view the USDA Weekly Kentucky Cattle and Grain Summary!

USDA Weekly Kentucky Cattle and Grain Summary



Baked Apples and Sweet Potatoes

5 medium sweet potatoes	½ cup margarine	1 teaspoon nutmeg
4 medium apples	½ cup brown sugar	¼ cup hot water
	½ teaspoon salt	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.



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