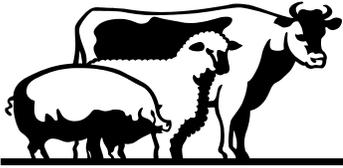


Bourbon County Cooperative Extension Service

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



December
2016



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

Kimberly D. Wilson

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

Save the Date

Dec 26 th - Jan 2 nd	<u>OFFICE CLOSED</u>
Jan 19 - 20 th	KCA Convention, Lexington KY
Jan 24 th	Cattle Handling & Care, BQA 5:00 PM
Jan 30 th	Pastures Please, Fayette Office 6:00 PM
Feb 15-18 th	National Farm Machinery Show

**DUE TO LIMITED SPACE IN OUR MEETING ROOM WE ASK THAT
YOU RSVP TO ALL MEETINGS BY CALLING (859) 987-1895.**

CATTLE HANDLING AND CARE & BQA

Bourbon County Extension Office

Cattle Handling and Care & BQA has been rescheduled for:

January 24th 5:00 pm

This session will count as the Educational Requirement for the CAIP program and will also allow you to update your BQA certification.

Cost is \$5 per producer and must be paid for producers to receive certification through the Kentucky Cattleman's Association.

BQA Certification is required to participate in the Large Animal (Cattle) Investment Area of the CAIP program and to sell through the CPH 45 program.

*Merry
Christmas*

Please note that the extension office will be closed from December 26th thru January 2nd for Christmas and New Years. During this time please feel free to contact me via email at kimberlywilson@uky.edu and I will get back with you as soon as I can. Enjoy this holiday season!

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.

MANAGING HORSES IN WINTER

Dr. Bob Coleman, Extension Equine Specialist

When winter arrives, horses feel it. You can lessen the blow and help your animals thrive in cold weather. Ultimately, the ideal time to prepare for winter is in the fall, but there are still things you can do now.

Think about preparing for two scenarios – acute cold and chronic cold. Acute cold is when we experience cold snaps that last for short periods of time. Chronic cold stays for a much longer time. Sometimes acute cold is actually more dangerous for animals because they aren't used to the cold and owners may not be as prepared as in regions where intense cold is more common and longer lasting.

Be it acute or chronic, horse owners should make sure animals have adequate shelter, fresh water, dry bedding and enough feed.

One way horses keep warm is through digestion; it helps generate heat. The average horse, with a low activity level, should eat between 1.5 and 2 percent of its body weight in feed per day to maintain weight.

As temperatures drop, feed needs rise because horses use up more calories to stay warm. Mature horses can adapt to and handle temperatures as low as 5 degrees Fahrenheit, but that is the lower critical temperature. When conditions fall below that, horses need to increase heat production or reduce heat loss to maintain core body temperature. One way to do that is to eat more. A drop in temperature to 5 degrees below zero will require 15 percent more

feed to supply needed calories. That means the horse would need to eat 2-3 more pounds of hay each day.

Make sure you have extra hay available to help your horses get through short-term cold snaps. For longer, more chronic cold exposure, you'll need to make some other management changes to meet your horses' calorie needs. Mature horses can maintain on a good quality legume-grass mixed hay, but young, growing horses or broodmares late in gestation may need a concentrate to meet their increased calorie needs.

One of the most time-consuming, but most critical tasks in winter is to make sure horses have access to clean, unfrozen water. Adequate water intake is essential to preventing colic due to impaction.

You need to provide some kind of shelter from wind and precipitation. If you choose to use blankets, make sure they are wind and waterproof. A wet blanket equals a wet horse and that disrupts the coat's ability to insulate the animal and can quickly lead to cold stress.

Make sure to keep an eye on your horses during cold snaps to make sure they are handling the effects of the cold. That will mean daily checks and quick action if the animals need extra attention. If possible, keep horses out of pastures and paddocks with ponds or open water sources to guard against them falling through ice into the water.

GRASS GUIDE: KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

Life Cycle: Cool-season perennial

Native to: Europe

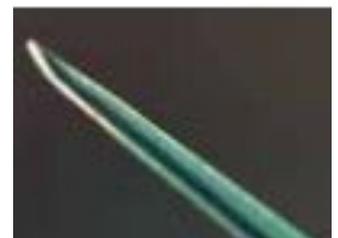
Uses: Pasture

Identification: Boat-shaped leaf tip

Bluegrass is synonymous with Kentucky and for good reason. Kentucky bluegrass is well adapted to the cool, humid growing conditions found in Kentucky and throughout the transition zone of the eastern United States and most northern states. It grows well in a wide variety of soils. Kentucky bluegrass is very winter hardy but does not tolerate hot, dry summers found further south. It is low-growing and, therefore, low-yielding. As such, it is

not an ideal forage for hay, but is excellent for horse pasture. It is highly nutritious, very palatable, and tolerant of close, frequent grazing. Kentucky bluegrass also forms a tight sod, providing good pasture footing. This grass species is slower to germinate than most cool season grasses, taking at 7 to 21 days.

Source: The Grass Guide, Bluegrass Equine Digest
equine.ca.uky.edu/bed



FAMILIES ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN DEATH TAXES

Alert: it's not death taxes that destroy family farms, it's families.

While they sound dangerous and everyone (especially politicians) hates them, inheritance taxes are really not a threat to most family farms. Since the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 set a permanent federal estate tax exemption of \$5 million per spouse, the “death tax” has ceased to be a threat to 99% of American farm families. In fact, that exemption was indexed to inflation, and any unused portion can be transferred to a surviving spouse (that’s called “portability” in the tax code). So for 2016 the total exemption is \$10.9 million. That protects almost all farm families. A 2015 ERS report indicated that 97.9% of farm operator estates would not even have to file an estate tax return, another 2.2% would need to file the return, but would owe no estate taxes. Only 0.8% would owe taxes. A cautionary note: for those in the 0.8% with large estates, the tax implications can be quite significant, and those owners should plan well ahead to shield their successors from a large tax bill that could damage, but not likely destroy the farm.

The death tax issue has motivated many farm families to attend transition and succession planning workshops. That, along with the aging of principle farm operators are two major factors that have driven the interest succession planning. The average age of farmers has increased by one year in each

five-year ag census cycle since 1977 and stands at 58.3 in the 2012 census. While it’s true that the certainty of death and taxes are threats to family farms, simple observation suggests that families are a much bigger threat. When family businesses work, they’re beautiful; when they don’t, they’re ugly. Every farm family has either experienced or knows someone who has experienced the death of a family business caused by family disputes. Families, not taxes, destroy family farms.

So, if families are such a danger, what can be done about them. It’s usually too late to pick your relatives so efforts must be made within the family to avert disaster. While many factors can contribute to turmoil, most of them boil down to a failure to communicate. Communication should start with the older generations. Succession planning is a difficult conversation for children to initiate without seeming intrusive or greedy. And, too often the older generation finds it a difficult conversation as well. “Don’t worry, I’ll take care of you” may be well intentioned but often means “don’t ask me about it again.” Open and frequent conversations ensure that everyone is on the same page...or at least making an effort to find the right page.

Source: Dr. Steve Isaacs; UK Farm Management Specialist

BALE GRAZING CAN SPREAD NUTRIENTS

Winter feeding hay is a necessity on many beef cattle farms. During the winter, feeding hay in a sacrifice lot can reduce the negative impact on soil structure and plant persistency to a defined area. However, the use of a sacrifice lot also concentrates nutrient deposition from wasted hay, urine and feces in these areas that often have no forage that can benefit from these nutrients the following growing season. Bale grazing allows for a more uniform distribution of these nutrients on pasture areas. The process involves placing hay bales in a field in an organized fashion. Temporary fencing is used to provide access to a row of hay bales while preventing contact to the other bales until they are fed. Using hay rings is not required, but using rings will minimize the amount of hay loss. This systematic feeding of hay placed within a large area of the field distributes the nutrients from

hay waste and animal excrement more uniformly. This method of feeding will improve subsequent pasture and hay production through increased nutrient recycling and lower the purchased fertilizer needs. The use of bale grazing is more suitable in climates that are very cold allowing for the ground to freeze or the western U.S. where less winter precipitation reduces soil compaction and muddy conditions. Currently though, we have a few operations implementing this practice within Kentucky. You can learn more about one producer’s experience by watching the following video <https://youtu.be/1AzktSfF4N8>

Source: Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

This information was originally found in the December 2016 issue of Forage News from the University of Kentucky.

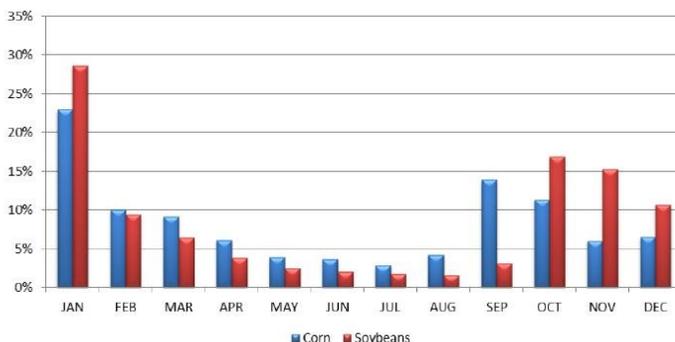
GRAIN STORAGE IN KENTUCKY

Jordan Shockley, Assistant Extension Professor

Kentucky has over 280 million bushels of grain storage capacity across the state (USDA-NASS). Of that, on-farm storage accounts for 73% or 205 million bushels. While overall storage capacity in Kentucky is lower than the neighboring states of Indiana and Illinois, the percent of on-farm storage is significantly higher (64% in Indiana and 51% in Illinois). With the abundance of on-farm storage across the state, it is typically underutilized. On average, only 46% of on-farm capacity is used for storage. This presents an opportunity for producers with on-farm storage to rent out storage space that is not being utilized to increase farm revenue during times of low commodity prices. If renting out on-farm storage space is an option, the following link can help you determine a fair rental value (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/html/c2-24.html>). The North Central Farm Management Extension Committee (which includes Kentucky) conducts a Farm Building Rental Rate Survey which includes grain storage rates. The most recent survey in 2014 had an average rental rate of \$0.027/bushel/month.

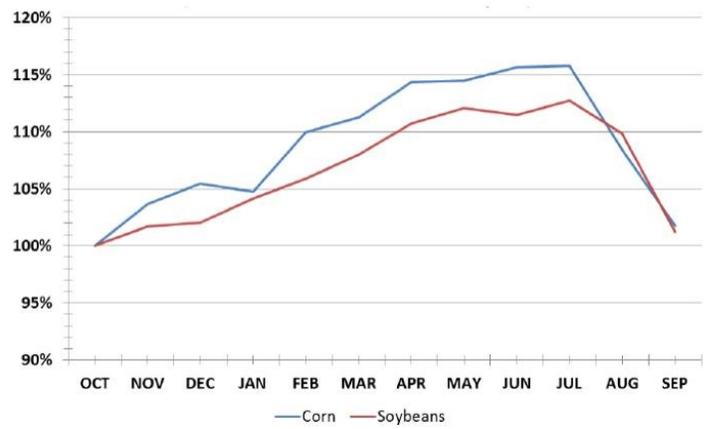
Kentucky producers utilize grain storage to market their crops throughout the year. Figure 1 illustrates the average percent of grain marketed off-farm by month in Kentucky for both corn and soybeans. Most grain in Kentucky is held until January with the intention of capturing higher prices or carry in the market and for accounting (tax) purposes.

Figure 1. Average percent of grain marketed off-farm by month in Kentucky (USDA-NASS)



As mentioned earlier, grain is stored to capture higher prices or carry in the market. Figure 2 illustrates historical carry in the market and the cash price received by month as a percent of the October harvest price for both corn and soybeans in Kentucky. Averaging the past five years, a Kentucky corn producer received a 16% increase in cash price over the October price if corn was held in storage until June.

Figure 2. Kentucky monthly cash price as a percent of October price (USDA NASS: 2010-2015).



While capturing carry in the market presents a great opportunity for grain producers, understanding the costs (both ownership and operating costs) of storing and drying grain are essential in deciding if and how long to store. Decision tools that outline the cost of owning and operating a storage system in Kentucky will be available soon on the following website: http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AgEcon/shockley_jordan.php

Source: Dr. Jordan Shockley, Assistant Extension Professor

This information was originally published in the November 2016 Economic and Policy Update from the Ag Economics Department at the University of Kentucky.

RYAN AND MIRANDA CHAPLIN WIN FARM BUREAU EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD



Ryan Chaplin (center left) and Miranda Chaplin (center) received the 2016 Excellence in Agriculture Award at Kentucky Farm Bureau's 97th annual meeting, held in Louisville. The award was presented by Mark Barker (center right), for Farm Credit Mid-America, Mark Haney, KFB President (left), and David S. Beck, KFB Executive Vice President (right).

Ryan and Miranda Chaplin of Bourbon County won top honors in Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Excellence in Agriculture Awards program during the organization's 97th annual meeting in Louisville this week.

The Excellence in Agriculture competition awards first, second and third place distinctions each year to individuals or couples under the age of 35 who contribute to and exhibit leadership growth from consistent involvement in Farm Bureau and other agriculture and civic-oriented organizations. To qualify, contestants must not have the majority of their income subject to normal production risks associated with farming.

For the win, the Chaplins will go on to represent Kentucky in the national competition at the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) annual convention, held in Phoenix, AZ, January 6-11,

2017. The Chaplins were presented with a John Deere Gator, courtesy of Farm Credit Mid-America, and an expense-paid trip to the AFBF annual meeting courtesy of Kentucky Farm Bureau.

Ryan Chaplin is a research facilities manager for the Meats Laboratory at the University of Kentucky. Miranda Chaplin is the operations/outreach director for Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education. They were both raised on beef cattle and hay family farms.

Ryan and Miranda purchased a 60-acre farm in northern Bourbon County in 2011 where they produce beef cattle, hay, and raise their two boys, Beau and Reid. They are active in the community through extension, Farm Bureau, and Ryan serves on two volunteer fire departments. Congratulations to the Chaplin Family!

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<http://bourbon.ca.uky.edu/>



WHY HAVE A CALVING SEASON??

Dr. Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist

One of the most asked questions in the cattle industry in the Southern United States: If I "pull" the bulls out for part of the year, won't I lose an opportunity to get a few calves? Should I leave the bull out with cows year-round?

Here is the answer: A research analysis of 394 ranch observations from the Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico SPA (standardized performance analysis) data set provided insight into the age old argument about "leaving the bull out" or having a defined breeding season. Oklahoma State University and Texas A&M Agricultural Economists (Parker, et al) presented a paper at the 2004 Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists. They found a positive relationship between number of days of the breeding season and the production cost per hundredweight of calf weaned. Also they reported a negative relationship between number of days of the breeding season and pounds of calf weaned per cow per year.

The data suggested that for each day the breeding season was lengthened, the annual cost of producing a hundred pounds of weaned calf increased by 4.7 cents and pounds of calf weaned per cow per year decreased by 0.158 pounds. The range of breeding seasons in the data set was from extremely short (less than one month) to 365 days or continuous presence of the bull. The trend lines that resulted from the analysis of the data give us an opportunity to evaluate the economic importance of a defined breeding season. The producer that leaves the bull out year-round (365 days) would sell 45.82 fewer pounds of calf per cow per year on the average than producers with a 75-day breeding season. That same producer would have \$13.63 greater costs per *hundredweight* of weaned calf than the producer that used a 75-day breeding season. In this era of cost/price squeezes, a well-defined breeding and calving season provides a better opportunity to survive the volatility of cattle prices and input costs.

COST SHARE PROGRAM UPDATE

Projects completed after May 1st 2016 will qualify if you were approved for funding. Updates will appear in this portion of the newsletter as well as the newspapers. Please keep the following important information in mind as you begin cost share projects. Changes may have occurred since you last applied and received funds. If you have questions about projects, it is always best to ask!

Reminders for turning in completed projects:

- NO CASH PURCHASES
- No reimbursements for purchases from or payments to immediate family members
- No purchase of transport equipment (trailers, wagons, carts)
- No purchase of fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide, and soil amendments. Lime is covered.
- Reimbursements for rental of spray equipment, safety switches & rollover bars have been added.
- Certification for Educational Requirement (Purple Form) is required. You must attend an educational session and provide the signed form for reimbursement.
- Only one individual per household is eligible to receive CAIP funds within a program year. If applicable, proof of residency may be requested to verify that multiple individuals within the same household are not applying.
- Tenant farmers are required to obtain written permission from the landowner to use the landowner's FSN on a CAIP application. Written permission must be submitted with the application to be eligible.
- For funding, a producer must submit all paperwork: Producer Report, Educational Certification, Cancelled checks, receipts, pictures and any additional documentation required
- Beef Quality Assurance Certification (BQA) is required for purchases made in the Large Animal category.
- If you do not have a smart phone or digital camera, I am happy to visit your farm and take pictures of your completed project for you. Call to schedule a farm visit! You can email pictures of your completed project to kimberlywilson@uky.edu

