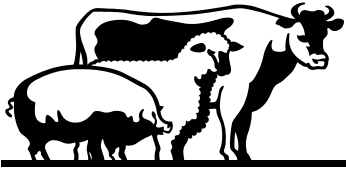


# Bourbon County Cooperative Extension Service

## AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



November  
2016



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

*Kimberly D. Wilson*

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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 5 <sup>th</sup> -	Student Beef Science Presentations	6:00 PM
Dec 6 <sup>th</sup> -	CPH Sale, Paris Stockyard	6:00 PM
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup> -	Purdue Goat Webinar	7:00 PM
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> -	Farm Management Mtg.	5:30 PM
Dec 19 <sup>th</sup> -	Cattle Handling & Care & BQA	10:00 AM
Dec 26 <sup>th</sup> - Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b><u>OFFICE CLOSED</u></b>	
Jan 19 - 20 <sup>th</sup>	KCA Convention, Lexington KY	
Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	Pastures Please, Fayette Co. Office	6-8:00 PM

The Third Session of the Farm Series for Women will be held  
**November 21<sup>st</sup>** at the

Scott County Extension Office at **6:30 PM**  
1130 Cincinnati Rd. Georgetown, KY

Topics will include Ag Finance and Farm Business Management  
RSVP to the Bourbon County Extension Office

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

### STUDENT BEEF SCIENCE PRESENTATIONS

**6:00 PM**    **BOURBON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

Bourbon County will be hosting a group from the University of Kentucky Beef Science class on **December 5<sup>th</sup>** at the **Fairgrounds Bland Building**. Four members from the class will present an educational session for producers that will count as your educational requirement for cost share.

Students will cover the topics including health, reproduction, nutrition and genetics related to cow-calf operations relevant to producers in Central Kentucky. The presentation will last approximately one hour and participants are asked to complete a survey for the students as part of their grade.

A meal will be served at 6:00 PM and presentations will begin at 6:30 PM.

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

**The Paris CPH Sale will be held December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. For more information regarding Kentucky CPH 45 sales visit [www.cph45.com](http://www.cph45.com)**

## **CATTLE HANDLING AND CARE & BQA**

Bourbon County Extension Office

Cattle Handling and Care & BQA has been scheduled for:

**December 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am**

**January 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30 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.

## **COST SHARE PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Cost Share application deadline has now passed for the 2016 application period. Phase I cost share applications have been scored and letters have been mailed. Projects completed after May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 will qualify if you are 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](mailto:kimberlywilson@uky.edu)

# 2016 Sheep and Goat Health & Production Webinar

Bourbon County Extension Office

**Date: Thursday, December 8, 2016**

**Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Refreshments will be served

RSVP is required to office at (859) 987-1895

## Presentation Schedule

**Direct Marketing of Goats-The Martin Meadows Experience.** Denise Martin, a 14 year meat goat and beef producer direct markets chevon online and through social media. Denise has developed unique value added goat products and passionately promoted goat products at expos and farmers markets. Denise will discuss the steps required to legally provide these products to consumers and her experiences in accomplishing that goal.

**Understanding Our End-product; Lamb and Goat Carcass Evaluation and what that means for your customers.** Dr. Stacy Zuelly, Assistant Professor of Animal Sciences, Meat Science, Purdue University. Dr. Zuelly will go into the Purdue Meats Lab and show you an animal on the rail and various meat cuts.

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## Bourbon County Farm Management Meeting

Bourbon County Fairgrounds - Bland Building

*Making Sound Business Decisions on Your Farm*

Grain - Equipment - Storage - Financing - Depreciation

December 15<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM

Presenter: Jordan Shockley, Assistant Extension Professor  
University of Kentucky Agriculture Economics

*(A meal will not be served at this meeting)*

## Save The Date

The Pastures Please Equine Meeting to be held at the Fayette County Extension Office January 30th 6:00-8:00 PM.

## DECIDING WHO TO CULL

*Michelle Arnold, DVM University of Kentucky*

Which cows in your herd are making you money and who is losing you money? Every year, the cow-calf producer needs to critically evaluate each animal in the herd and decide if she is paying her upkeep. Open cows (those that are not pregnant) at the end of breeding season obviously are the top of the cull list. With variable costs running \$400-\$500 per year per head and an additional \$100-\$300 in fixed costs, keeping open cows is a financial black hole. Beyond pregnancy status, what other variables are important to evaluate? Structural soundness, body condition score, age, performance, and disposition are vital components in developing a culling order specifically for your farm. This culling order is exceptionally important during times of drought or a year with marginal hay production as you may have to cull deeper to manage through a difficult season. To begin, it is best to think about who in the herd has the least chance of being productive in the long term or is farthest away from being productive. Equally important are factors such as disposition and phenotype that affect the marketability of offspring. The following is a list of factors to consider when deciding who to cull this year.

- Disposition - A cow's attitude is an important consideration in any cattle operation. Bad behavior has both a genetic component and is also learned by calves at an early age. Mean cattle are dangerous to people, damage facilities, tear up fences and make gathering and working cattle a nightmare. Remember a good cow can be protective without being dangerous and destructive.
- Pregnancy Status - A cow should produce a calf at least once a year and the sale of that calf needs to pay her way. Diagnosing a cow as "open" (not pregnant) is as simple as veterinarian palpating for pregnancy at least 40 days after breeding or removing the bull. A simple, inexpensive blood test can also be used 28 days post-breeding to determine pregnancy status. If many cows are found open at pregnancy check, work with your veterinarian to determine if reproductive disease, poor nutrition, bull infertility or inability was the cause. Remember that cows that calve late in the season have less opportunity to breed back in a controlled (for example, 90 day) breeding season.

Summer heat and fescue toxicosis can be important contributors to low conception rates.

- Structural Soundness - Bad hooves or claws, lameness due to hip/knee injury, eye problems, and poor udder conformation are all examples of structural problems that adversely affect performance. Good feet and legs are essential for weight maintenance, breeding, calving, self-defense, and raising a calf. The udder should be firmly attached with a level floor and high enough that newborn calves can easily find and latch onto teats. Cows with blind or light quarters, funnel or balloon shaped teats, or any history of mastitis are strong candidates for culling.
- Cows with chronic conditions that will not improve such as progressive weight loss, early cases of cancer eye, repeated episodes of vaginal prolapse during pregnancy, and extreme sensitivity to the effects of fescue toxicosis should be removed from the herd as soon as the calf is weaned. Cows with confirmed disease conditions such as Johnes disease, bovine lymphoma, or advanced cancer eye should not be returned to a commercial market. The most common reasons for carcass condemnation at slaughter include emaciation, lymphoma, peritonitis, cancer eye, blood poisoning, bruising, and other cancers.
- Age - Cows are considered most productive between 4-9 years of age. Look at the teeth to assess the age but evaluate them in light of diet-cows that eat gritty or sandy feeds and forages have increased tooth wear beyond their years. Cows with badly worn or missing teeth will have a hard time maintaining body condition. Older cattle die of natural causes, too.
- Poor Performance - Record keeping is an invaluable tool for evaluating performance. Readable visual tags on both the cow and calf allow you to match calf sale weights to the dams and identification of cows that did not produce a calf. Inferior genetics and poor milk production produce lightweight calves that do not grow well. An overweight cow or large framed cow with a small calf that doesn't gain weight usually means the cow is not producing much milk. Sick baby calves may be an indication of poor quality colostrum and poor mothering ability.

*Cont. on next page*

- Phenotype - These are cows that do not “fit” the herd because of external features such as unusual breed, size, muscling and color. These challenges may be overcome to some degree by choice of sire to balance out the unwanted traits. Remember that buyers of commercial calves look for uniformity in color, weight, and frame in a set of calves.
- The last ones to go - Hopefully culling will never have to go this deep in your herd. Bred cows over 9 years old, replacement heifers (especially those that did not breed in the first 30 days), and bred cows 3-9 years old should be the last sold. Thin cows that conceive late in the breeding season should go first.

Since 20% of gross receipts in a typical cow-calf operation come from the sale of cull animals, pay attention to price seasonality and body condition score before sending these animals to market. Prices are highest in spring and lowest in late fall/early winter when spring born calves are weaned & culls sent to market. Adding weight and body condition to culls is an opportunity to increase profitability but can be expensive. Work with a nutritionist to come up with realistic cost projections before feeding cull cattle for a long period of time.

When it comes to making decisions on who to cull, remember to consider functionality in your environment. Is she an “easy keeper”? Does she keep flesh and condition and raise a good calf, even when feed and forage is limited? On the opposite side, does she give too much milk or is her frame size so large that you can’t keep weight on her, even when pasture is plentiful? Is her pelvis so small and tight that calving is a problem and will be a problem in her offspring?

Functionality leads to longevity and improved efficiency. By retaining more young cows in the herd, you can decrease the number of replacement heifers needed and cull cows that are only marginally profitable. Young cows also increase in value as they mature because the body weight of the cow and her calf’s weaning weight will continue to increase from 2-5 years of age. Longevity may also be improved through crossbreeding because hybrid vigor adds essentially 1.3 years of productivity or one more calf per cow.

In summary, a herd of easy-keeping, efficient cows is possible through rigorous culling and careful selection of replacements. Match your genetics to your

management and environment for maximum efficiency, longevity, and ultimately, maximum enjoyment of cattle production.

### **Example of a Culling Order**

1. Mean Disposition
2. Open Females
3. Structurally Unsound/Chronic Condition
4. Age
5. Poor Performance-Records
6. Phenotype-color, stature
7. Replacement Heifers
8. Bred cows over 9 years of age
9. Bred Cows 3-9 years of age

### **Cull Cow Language**

Breakers (75-80% lean)- Highest conditioned cull cows (BCS  $\geq$  7), excellent dressing percentages

Boners or “boning utility” (80-85% lean)- Moderately conditioned (BCS 5-7), wellnourished commercial beef cows (usually highest price cull)

Leans (85-90%)- Lower BCS (1-4), lower dressing percentages, susceptible to bruising during transport and expect more trim loss. Moving cows from lean to boner status can usually be done efficiently

This article was originally published in  
Off The Hoof magazine  
*Published Monthly by Dr. Les Anderson,*  
*Beef Extension Specialist,*  
*Department of Animal & Food Science*  
*University of Kentucky*

# The Bourbon County 26<sup>th</sup> Annual **ELITE BRED HEIFER SALE**

*A total of 389 head sold for an average of \$1493*



## HOW TO LIMIT DAMAGE TO HIGH TRAFFIC PADS

UK GRAZING NEWS 2016

High Traffic Area pads are a management option to reduce soil disturbances on any farm that is home to livestock. Heavy use pads are made using geotextile fabric under a 4 to 6 inch base layer of No. 3 or 4 gravel, topped by 2 to 3 inches of dense grade. These pads are about a third of the cost of concrete, but require regular maintenance and the addition of gravel over time. High traffic area pads reduce wheel traffic damage and soil compaction caused by tractors associated with winter feeding. They improve hay feeding efficiency by reducing trampling losses and lowering the risk for soil erosion. They can also improve health and reduce the risk of animal injury due to excessive mud.

Six steps to installing a high traffic use area include:

1. Construction — develop your plan.
2. Excavation — remove topsoil in the desired area until you have stable soil base.
3. Geotextile Fabric — lay heavy duty geotextile fabric to provide subgrade stabilization.
4. Gravel Base Layer (No.3 or 4) - carefully spread an even layer (4 to 6 inches) over the geotextile fabric.  
This provides stability and space for drainage of water.
5. Dense grade surface layer — spread 2 to 3 inches evenly over the gravel.
6. Compaction — use compaction equipment to create a road-like surface.

