

Bourbon County Cooperative Extension Service

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



October
2015

Kimberly D. Poe

Kimberly Poe
County Extension Agent,
Ag and Natural Resources

**Bourbon County
Extension Service**
603 Millersburg Road
Paris, KY 40361
Office: (859) 987-1895
Toll Free: 1-888-317-2555
Fax: (859) 987-3210

Upcoming Dates

October 16th - Southern States Field Day
October 17th - Annual Sheep/Goat producer conference
October 29th - Kentucky Beef Conference
November 2nd - B.C.L.I.A. Elite Heifer Sale
November 7-20th - N.A.I.L.E. Livestock Exposition
December 1st - Paris CPH Sale, Paris Stockyard

PHASE I COST SHARE UPDATE

The deadline for the 2015 application period was September 30th. There were 151 cost share applications received. Applications are being scored and letters will be sent shortly after scoring is complete. If you have applied for cost share you will receive a letter informing you of your score as well as a copy of your score sheet.

If you have any questions related to Phase I cost-share projects please call the office. It is always best to check to be sure your planned project is cost share acceptable before making a purchase.

Producers will only receive ONE check regardless of the number of projects turned in. You must be finished spending your approved funds before a check will be written.

All projects must be completed by May 1st 2016.

**DON'T FORGET TO GET
YOUR SOIL TESTED THIS
FALL. TESTING IS FREE
FOR BOURBON COUNTY.**

**FREE DEAD ANIMAL
REMOVAL:
1-888-744-1186**



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Farmers Wonder How **Low Calf Prices Will Go**

By Aimee Nielson

LEXINGTON, Ky., (Oct. 1, 2015) – Cattle producers have benefitted from high calf and feeder prices in the not too distant past. More recently, however, cattle markets appear to be weakening, and farmers are wondering just how low the prices could go.

“I don’t think many cattlemen and women are surprised that the cattle market has softened,” said Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment livestock marketing specialist. “But, I do think that many have been surprised at how quickly things have changed and how much lower prices have gone. Calf markets usually reach seasonal lows in October or November.”

The U.S. beef herd continues to expand, and Burdine said that plays a part in the current markets, although not a huge part. The growth in beef cow inventory hasn’t really had time to impact beef production yet. The cattle market is dealing with a growing supply of fed cattle and a significant increase in slaughter weights. These factors are working to increase beef production. At the same time, production of both pork and chicken has increased, which is applying additional pressure.

Beef cow slaughter continues to run below last year’s levels and most indications are that heifer retention continues. Long run calf prices typically continue dropping as the size of the beef cow herd grows. Burdine said this is all part of a typical cattle cycle where cattle numbers reach a sufficient level to pressure prices enough that producers respond by scaling back, selling more heifers instead of breeding them. Eventually liquidation causes prices to improve, producers once again expand the herd, and the prices begin to trend upward for a few years.

“It will be interesting to see how much impact the lower calf prices have on the pace of expansion this fall,” Burdine said. “Even though calf prices have softened, they remain profitable for most cow-calf producers.”

While the recent drop in prices may slow the pace of expansion, Burdine quickly pointed out that most producers are still likely to sell calves this fall on a very strong market by historical standards.

“The largest impact from lower calf prices may be what is paid for bred heifers this fall, as those prices tend to move together,” he said. “But the big picture message is the calf price environment is changing, and producers need to be thinking about managing their operations in a decreasing price market over the next several years. As we continue to grow the calf herd, we will also likely continue to see lower calf prices until the incentive to expand is no longer there.”

2015 Annual Producer Conference

*Kentucky Sheep &
Goat Development Office*
Direct Marketing in the US

October 17th 2015
Kentucky State Research Farm,
Frankfort, KY

Featuring Dr. Ken McMillan, Dr. Frank
Pinkerton and
Dr. Beth Johnson

Register at www.kysheepandgoat.org

Do Your Horses Have Enough Hay

For The Winter?

Source: Bob Coleman, extension equine specialist

With winter just around the corner, hopefully horse owners secured sufficient hay supplies. How do you estimate the amount of hay you will need? If you have mature horses at maintenance level, you would want to feed a mainly forage diet.

The estimate would be similar to a 1,100-pound horse eating 2 percent of its body weight. That equals 22 pounds of hay per day. Feeding for 120 days, December through March would equal 1.3 tons of hay per horse.

What can you do to make the best of your hay inventory? First, having a feed test is a good idea. That way, you can make the best use of the nutrients supplied by the hay and supplement as needed. If you are unsure about getting your hay tested, you can contact your county agriculture and natural resources extension agent for help.

Second, you should feed the amount your horse needs per day. That essentially means taking some control over the feed intake. Feeding free choice can result in your horses eating more than they need each day to meet their nutritional needs. This can be a difficult task for those who are using hay rolls rather than square-bales.

Third, use a suitable feeder for your horses to limit waste. Feeding on the ground can result in significant losses of feed. Researchers using square-bale hay, fed in controlled amounts, reported waste in the range of 20 percent, while others feeding roll-bale hay without a feeder, reported waste in the 35 to 38-percent range. In that case, horse owners would need at least a half ton more hay per horse.

And finally, when you are buying hay, purchase the best quality hay possible.

As the feeding season progresses, monitor your horses to make sure they are maintaining body condition and adjust feed as needed. If you are short on hay, you may need to

feed some concentrate to provide all the nutrients your horses require.

If you estimate correctly, you should have some hay left when spring grass finally arrives. It is better to have some leftover than to run out in March.

A hay probe is available at the office to test hay for feeding purposes. Hay testing is \$10 per sample through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Forage Testing Program. Hay samples can be brought to the Bourbon County Extension Office.

A Connection Between Moldy

Hay and Heaves

Horse owners know you can't underestimate the power of being prepared. As such, most of us start to stock our winter hay supply in the summer, which is also the time when producers are harvesting and putting up new hay. According to the National Weather Service, Central Kentucky experienced higher-than-average rainfall in the early summer months of 2015. While that amount of rain, combined with warm spring and summer temperatures, allowed for green pastures, it also posed a significant challenge for hay producers. Much of the hay produced this year might have been put up with a higher degree of moisture concentration and, therefore, is at risk of becoming moldy. Never feed moldy hay to horses, as it can cause several respiratory problems, the most important of which is heaves. Heaves is a chronic performance-affecting respiratory disease in horses that begins as an allergic reaction to eating moldy hay and breathing in other organic particulates. We suggest you pay close attention to your hay and dispose of any moldy bales you find. While it might be too late to test your summer-purchased hay for moisture content, you can invest in a hay moisture tester for future hay purchases, so you never again have to buy hay that was baled too wet.

Grazing Corn

Extending the Grazing Season

Meet At: Legion Park

Date: October 16, 2015

Time: 2 P.M.

R.S.V.P to (859) 987-1895



Southern States is hosting an on-farm demonstration with Bourbon County farmer, John Sparks. Participants will meet at Legion Park and travel to the farm at 2 P.M on October 16th.

Grazing standing corn can be a valuable method to extend the grazing season and reduce stored feed needs without the expenses of harvesting and feeding equipment.

Producers will have the opportunity to see a corn plot planted for the purpose of grazing cattle and learn best management practices for grazing corn successfully.

R.S.V.P. for this field day to learn how corn can fit into your grazing system and extend your grazing season.



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KENTUCKY BEEF CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 29, 2015
10:00 AM — 3:00 PM

*Fayette County Cooperative Extension Service
1140 Red Mile Place, Lexington, KY 40504*

Program Sessions

Current Beef Cattle Situation
Marketing Strategies for 2015

Calving During Winter Weather

Grading Feeder Calves

Breeding Stock Investment in an
Expanding Beef Market

New Veterinary Feed Directive

Presentations by:

Dr. Michelle Arnold - *University of Kentucky, Ruminant Veterinarian*

Dr. Kenny Burdine - *University of Kentucky, Livestock Economist*

Tim Dietrich - *Kentucky Dept. of Agriculture Beef Marketing Specialist*

Troy Applehans - *Analyst for Cattle-Fax*

Contact your local County Extension Office for more details and registration information.

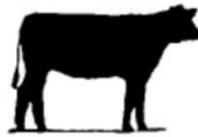
25th Annual **ELITE BRED HEIFER SALE**[®]

Presented by Bourbon County Livestock Improvement Association

WEBSITE: www.eliteheifer.com

Monday, November 2nd, 2015 – Sale 6:00 PM E.D.T.

Inspection 1-5 PM E.D.T.



- ✓ Approximately 400 heifers available- approximately 200 AI (Angus & Angus X, Charolais X, Simmental X, Red Angus)
- ✓ All heifers calfhooed vaccinated
- ✓ All heifers have tested negative for **BVD, PI**
- ✓ Sale lots will be grouped to calve in 45 days
- ✓ Heifers bred to calving ease bulls with EPD's available, some bred AI
- ✓ Heifers have met minimum pelvic measurement requirements
- ✓ Heifers have met target weight requirements for their breed types
- ✓ Fall health work completed (Bovi Shield Gold 5 FPL5 & Pour-on wormer, 45 days before sale)
- ✓ All heifers meet Large or Medium frame
- ✓ No shorts, bad eyes, no horns, no rat tails (Inspected by Ky Dept of Ag)
- ✓ All heifers are Source Verified AND Electronically Identified
- ✓ FREE DELIVERY OF 10 OR MORE HEAD, UP TO 500 MILES
- ✓ Heifers owned and managed under Elite Heifer guidelines since 12/1/13
- ✓ All heifers guaranteed pregnant 60 days post sale. Heifers may be palpated by a licensed veterinarian up to 60 days post sale and buyer be refunded \$5.00/head for heifers palpated
- ✓ **Heifers are qualified for Phase 1 Cost-Share Programs**

Sponsored by:

Kentucky Bank
Southern States – Paris
Woodford Spears & Sons – Paris
Central Ky Ag Credit
Pfizer Animal Health

Sale Location:

Paris Stockyards
US 68 North
Paris, KY
(Restaurant Open)

Sponsored by:

Novartis
KABA-Select Sires
Farm Credit
Gro-Tec Premixes
Mormans Mfg.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Kimberly Poe

Bourbon County Extension Office – 859-987-1895 or Toll Free 1-888-317-2555

SALE DAY PHONE: 987-1977