

Bourbon County Cooperative Extension Service

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



August
2023

Lindsay Arthur

Lindsay Arthur
Agent for Agriculture
& Natural Resources
Lindsay.arthur@uky.edu

**Bourbon County
Extension Service**
603 Millersburg Road
Paris, KY 40361
Office: (859) 987-1895
Fax: (859) 987-3120
bourbon.ca.uky.edu

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ August 17th–27th — Kentucky State Fair
- ◆ September 4 – Labor Day, Office Closed
- ◆ September 16 – Small Ruminant Field Day
- ◆ September 21– Beef Bash
- ◆ September 26th — Annual Farm Field Day

More details about events inside newsletter



Forage Timely Tips: August

Posted on August 2, 2023

- Do NOT graze cool-season pastures closer than 3 to 4 inches. This will help to conserve soil moisture and prevent overheating of the crowns.
- If drought conditions limit pasture growth, close off pastures and feed hay in a sacrifice area.
- Graze warm season annuals or perennials to allow cool season grasses to recover and to avoid endophyte-infected fescue.
- After first good rain in August, seed winter annuals (such as small grains, ryegrass, crimson clover, and brassicas) for late fall and early spring grazing.
- Plant alfalfa after first good rain in August to allow sufficient size going into winter and reduce potential for sclerotinia damage.
- Consider renovation of cool-season grass pastures that have thinned.
- In mid-August to early September, exclude livestock from pastures to be stockpiled and apply 60 lb N/A and any needed lime, P and K.

Cooperative Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506





Agenda

9:30-10am Check-in

10-10:20 Welcome

10:20-11:20 Equipment Needs, Shawn Harper, West KY Community & Technical College

11:20-12:20 Rotational Grazing/Hay Testing- Dr. Jimmy Henning, University of Kentucky

Lunch 12:20-1pm

Rotation:

Goat/Sheep Confirmation- 1-2:30 Taylor Graves, Washington County Agriculture Extension Agent

Hoof Trimming-1-2:30

Goat/Sheep Confirmation- 2:30-4:00 Taylor Graves, Washington County Agriculture Extension Agent

BEEF BASH 2023

DATE: Thursday, September 21, 2023

WHERE: University of Kentucky
C. Oran Little Research Center
1051 Midway Rd.
Versailles, KY 40383

TIME: Registration starts at 1:30 PM EST
Programs start at 2:00 PM EST

Tickets are \$15 and includes meal. To Pre-register, go to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search Beef Bash 2023

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US!

VISIT WITH:
COMMERCIAL EXHIBITORS
EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS &
DEMONSTRATIONS
UK PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATORS
KCA LEADERSHIP & STAFF

 University of
Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Beef Extension

 KENTUCKY
CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

 Beef Bash
2023

For More Information Visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/KyBeefIRM/>

Swinging for the Fences, Small Ball, and Water Issues

Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, University of Kentucky

My alma mater recently won the College Baseball World Series. All season long this team was ranked in the top five for home runs and total runs scored. Their approach was to “swing for the fences” or as it’s known in South Louisiana, “Geauxrilla Ball”. As impressive as their offensive stats were during the regular season, two areas of huge concern going into the World Series was their inability to play “small ball” (laying down bunts to advance the runner) and the inconsistent play of their bullpen. The College World Series for many years was played at historic Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Nebraska and it was known as a hitter’s ballpark. Several years ago, a new stadium was built and is oriented so that batters are hitting into the prevailing winds, therefore home run production dropped dramatically. So, if you can’t knock it out the park, pitching and “small ball” becomes more important. Although my alma mater struggled in these areas of the game throughout the season, fortunately during the World Series, pitching improved and for the most part, the weather conditions and wind direction were in their favor. So, was LSU just lucky? Not necessarily, but they did get a few lucky breaks as any championship team needs to win it all.

So how does any of this relate to water issues and producing beef? I think we can all agree that the subject of rainfall has been uppermost on our minds this spring and summer. At one point in late spring conditions seemed eerily similar to the drought of 2012. As I write this in early July, most areas of the state have received timely rains and hopefully this will continue. Mother Nature has a way of exposing the weak areas of production systems and the last several months are a prime example. Ask yourself a few questions. During the recent dry spell: Did you feel like you were overstocked? Were stock water ponds getting low and overused, resulting in poor water quality? Did you have any areas of the farm with ample grass but no access to stock water? Do you have a backup plan when rain doesn’t come? In our area of Western KY several of the crop farmers have installed irrigation pivots and this year the pivots have been in full use. But what about the years when we get ample moisture, were the pivots a waste of money? Farmers will tell you that even in wet years the pivots pay, because it allows them to “swing for the fences” in terms of plant population, genetics and fertilization strategies knowing that if the rains don’t come, the pivots can be turned on.

So, if farming under pivots allows for “swinging for the fences”, what is the right strategy for pasture systems? Since most pasture systems do not have the access to irrigation, maybe a combination of stock water development along with a “small ball” approach might be more appropriate. Having water within 800 feet of grazing animals during the summer grazing season is a good goal. Missouri research shows that water within 800 feet results in improved forage utilization and more even nutrient distribution. Fencing and developing water access to the “back forty” or that field that has only been historically used for hay could also be considered. Water development will allow for rotational grazing and rotational grazing will enable you to better withstand dry periods and grow more forage. How you use that extra forage is the next decision. Do we increase stocking rates or do we summer stockpile for drought insurance or winter stockpile to reduce feeding days? Deciding what to do with extra forage is a great problem to have.

A quote from a presentation by John Genho, of Eldon Farms in Virginia at the 2019 Forages at KCA Symposium comes to mind.

“The economic optimum is always under the biological optimum when it comes to stocking rates. We should always run a few less cows than a field can actually carry to make the most money.”

The proceedings of his talk can be found on the UK Forages webpage at the following link: [Profitability at Eldon Farms: Guiding Principles \(uky.edu\)](https://www.ukforages.com/profitability-at-eldon-farms-guiding-principles)

We are currently experiencing “World Series Championship Prices” for our cattle. These prices only come along every 8-10 years. Hopefully these prices result in added income that can be used to improve infrastructure in our grazing programs. These improvements when coupled with “small ball” stocking rate strategies, will help ensure economic survival over the long haul to make it to the next “Championship” price year. Or we could simply sit around hoping that every year the wind blows in our favor.

Economic & Policy Update

E-newsletter Volume 23, Issue 6

Editors: Will Snell & Nicole Atherton



Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Kentucky

JUNE
2023

2022 Financial Overview of Kentucky Farms

Author(s): Tarrah Hardin

After coming off a record high Net farm income (NFI) in 2021, grain farms in Kentucky Farm Business Management (KFBM) program saw their net farm income decrease to levels below pre-pandemic. Net farm income is the value of farm production less total operating expense and depreciation. There were 199 grain farms that provided farm data to KFBM in 2022 for an average NFI of \$532,234. The main cause of the downturn in NFI, comes from the increase in operating expenses. From 2021 to 2022, the average went from \$1,676,458 to \$2,123,466 respectively. That is an increase of \$447,008 in expenses, while gross farm returns only increased \$130,767 in 2022.

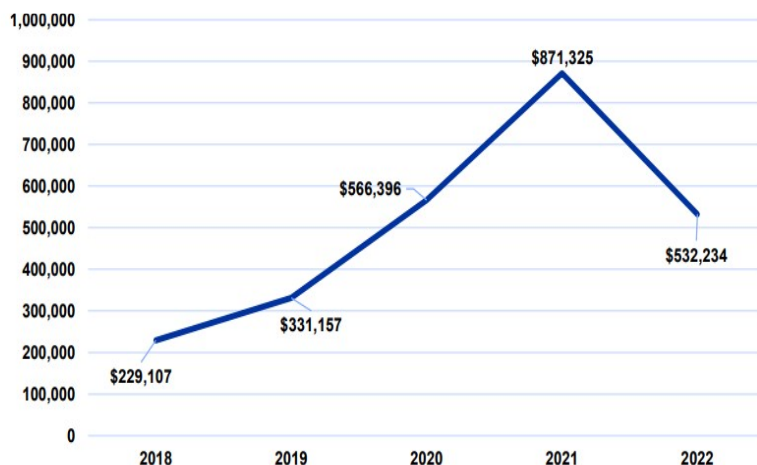
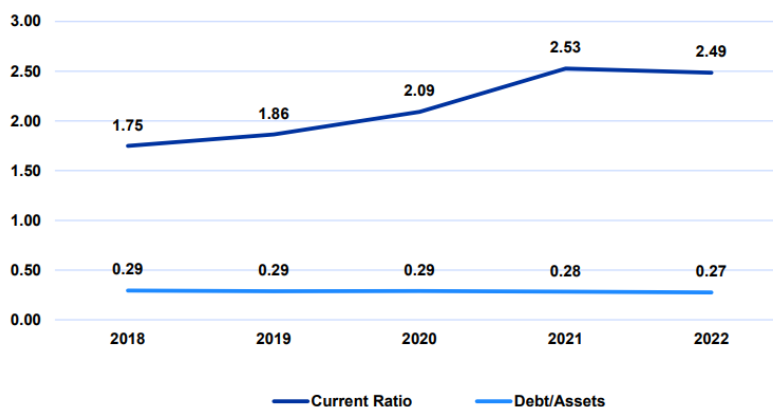


Figure 2: Liquidity and Solvency of KFBM Farms, 2018-2022



Even though profitably decreased on average in 2022, farm liquidity remained high. When a farm is liquid it means the farm can turn assets into cash very easily. The current ratio, total current assets divided by total current liabilities, is one way to measure liquidity with the goal of that number being close to 2. For 2022, the current ratio was 2.49 down from 2.53 in 2021 but still above the target. Solvency is also another measure of financial well-being, and determines the ability to pay off debt. Debt to Asset ratio is a good measure of solvency with below 0.3 being the goal. Over the few years, the grain farms that participate in FBFM, have remained just under the goal. In 2022, the debt to asset ratio was 0.27, while in 2021 in was 0.28.

Over all, the 199 farms in KFBM's data did well considering all the uncertainties 2022 brought. For the farms in the program, they will be able to use their information from 2022, to help determine how to budget and be able to discuss where they are financially with their lender. If you would like more information about the Kentucky Farm Business Management program, please contact one of the Kentucky Farm Business Analysis Specialist in your area.

The Markets

Week over week comparison are difficult due to the July 4th holiday impacting last week, but markets were generally stronger. Boxed beef values were 4% below last week, but well above last year. Fed cattle were steady, but also much stronger than 2022. Futures prices for live cattle, feeder cattle, and corn were higher last week.

Cattle Market Report Prices \$/cwt. Sources: USDA, LMIC, and CME		For Weeks Ending On			% Chg	% Chg	Chg Prev. Week
		7/14/23	7/7/23	7/15/22	Prev. Week	Prev. Year	
500-600 lb. Feeder Steers	Mississippi M/L #1-2	\$223.55	N/A	\$152.46	N/A	47%	N/A
	Arkansas M/L #1	\$243.77	\$229.15	\$168.31	6%	45%	\$14.62
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	\$250.24	\$223.22	\$169.44	12%	48%	\$27.02
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	\$260.31	N/A	\$180.35	N/A	44%	N/A
	Alabama M/L #1	\$248.22	N/A	\$163.19	N/A	52%	N/A
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	\$243.13	\$240.33	\$166.97	1%	46%	\$2.79
	Missouri M/L #1-2	\$258.70	N/A	\$181.57	N/A	42%	N/A
700-800 lb. Feeder Steers	Mississippi M/L #1-2	\$201.56	N/A	\$135.17	N/A	49%	N/A
	Arkansas M/L #1	\$225.38	\$220.47	\$147.76	2%	53%	\$4.90
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	\$221.88	\$225.98	\$156.11	-2%	42%	(\$4.11)
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	\$235.06	N/A	\$159.60	N/A	47%	N/A
	Alabama M/L #1	\$211.57	N/A	\$148.27	N/A	43%	N/A
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	\$219.85	\$203.37	\$149.72	8%	47%	\$16.47
	Missouri M/L #1-2	\$226.10	N/A	\$161.15	N/A	40%	N/A
Negotiated Fed Steers	Live Price	\$184.27	\$182.06	\$142.12	1%	30%	\$2.21
	Dressed Price	\$291.34	\$289.99	\$229.48	0%	27%	\$1.35
Boxed Beef	Choice Value, 600-900 lb.	\$309.95	\$321.97	\$268.27	-4%	16%	(\$12.02)
Cutout	Select Value, 600-900 lb.	\$280.09	\$290.65	\$242.03	-4%	16%	(\$10.56)

Futures Prices		7/14/23	7/7/23
Live Cattle	August	\$180.18	\$177.00
	October	\$182.63	\$179.38
	December	\$185.77	\$183.18
Feeder Cattle	August	\$246.65	\$245.43
	September	\$249.23	\$248.60
	October	\$250.48	\$250.23
Corn	July	\$6.00	\$5.61
	September	\$5.07	\$4.87
Source: CME Group			

Plate It Up Kentucky Proud Recipe



Cucumber, Corn, and Bean Salsa

2-3 large cucumbers

2 tomatoes

1 yellow bell pepper

1 small red onion

¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro

½ cup black beans

½ cup fresh whole kernel corn, cooked

1 ounce package dry ranch dressing mix

¼ cup cider vinegar

2 tablespoons sugar, optional

Wash all vegetables. Finely **chop** cucumbers, tomatoes, pepper, and onion. **Combine** in a large mixing bowl with chopped cilantro.

Drain and rinse beans and add to chopped vegetables. **Add** corn. If using canned corn instead of fresh, **drain** off liquid prior to adding to vegetables.

In a small bowl, mix together ranch

dressing packet, vinegar, and sugar. **Pour** dressing over vegetables and mix well. **Serve** immediately or refrigerate until chilled.

Yield: Makes 20, ½ cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 50 calories, 0 g fat, 130 mg sodium, 7 g carbohydrates, 2 g fiber, 70% Daily Value of vitamin C and 6% Daily Value of vitamin A

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



*The Extension Office
will be **closed** for
Labor Day
Monday, September 4th*



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment