

April 2025 ISSUE

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



Lindsay Arthur
Bourbon County Cooperative
Extension Agent For
Agriculture and Natural
Resources

UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

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



CAIP DEADLINE

DON'T FORGET THE DEADLINE FOR ALL CAIP
& YAIP PAPERWORK IS MAY 1ST BY 4:30 PM

ADMINISTRATOR STEPHANIE CROUCH WILL BE
AT OUR OFFICE APRIL 30TH & MAY 1ST FOR
QUESTIONS AND TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS

A note from the agent:

I hope this news letter finds everyone well. Spring weather seems to have finally arrived and not a moment too soon. The season is starting to spool up for everyone with grass finally coming on from what seemed like a long, cold winter. This newsletter contains several timely articles and programs coming up. As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out.

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



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Living with Alpha-gal Syndrome

Thursday,
May 29th
6-8:30pm



Learn more about AGS (red meat allergy) and how to reduce your risk with University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension. We will create alpha-gal friendly recipes and watch a statewide webinar.

Topics Covered

- ✓ AGS basics
- ✓ Tick bite prevention
- ✓ Diet & lifestyle management
- ✓ Q/A session



Call (859) 987-1895 or email bourbon.ext@uky.edu to register!

Bourbon County Cooperative Extension
603 Millersburg Road
Paris, KY | 40361



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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Selling vs. Marketing

Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

Do you “sell” your calves, or do you “market” your calves? With cattle prices at record levels, the difference between the two doesn’t seem to really matter that much, or does it? We are in unprecedented times in the cattle industry. Beef cow inventory is as low as it’s been since many of us were born. Carcass weights are at record highs and input costs continue to rise. With light weight calves hitting \$4.00 cwt it’s hard to argue against the mindset of load them up and haul them off, but I think we need be careful to not let these good times change our mindset.

Weight	LM 1-2 Steers	LM 2-3 Steers	LM 1-2 Bulls	LM 2-3 Bulls	Total Head	% Bulls	% Bulls + LM 2-3
300-399	219	41	314	75	649	60%	66%
400-499	746	92	606	144	1588	47%	53%
500-599	1584	48	698	190	2520	35%	37%
600-699	1929	198	425	104	2656	20%	27%
Total	4478	379	2043	513	7413	34%	40%

We are fortunate in Kentucky to have an excellent Market News division at Kentucky Department of Agriculture and lately I have poured over numerous KDA market reports working on PVAP closeouts. I thought I would share some of what I found. Table 1 shows the number of steers and bulls by weight (300-699 lbs.) and grade, large and medium frame, muscle score 1-2 (LM 1-2) vs large and medium frame, muscle score 2-3 (LM 2-3) as reported by the KDA Market News reporters for the week of December 8-14. I chose to summarize this particular report since it represents one of the largest marketing weeks in 2024 (24,085 feeder cattle). Note that 34% of the calves weighing 300-699 lbs. were bulls. This ranged from 60% for 3 wt. calves to 20% in the 6 wt. category. If you calculate the number of LM 2-3 calves, both steers and bull, you will see that 892 calves out of 7,413 (12%) failed to have the muscling and quality to make the LM 1-2 grade. So how does this affect price?

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Table 2 gives the corresponding weighted average prices (\$/cwt.) reported in that same week. Discounts for bulls vs. steers of similar quality (LM1-2) ranged from -\$14.41 for 3 wt. calves to -\$30.18 for 6 wt. calves. More severe discounts were reported for LM 2-3 steers and bulls with a range of -\$30.34 for 6 wt. LM 2-3 steers to a high of -\$75.15 for 3 wt. LM 2-3 bulls. This means that 40% of calves weighing between 300 and 699 lbs. experienced discounts ranging from \$14 to upwards of \$50 plus per cwt. Per head discounts on a 500 lb. calf ranged from \$125 per head for selling a LM 1-2 bull up to \$283 per head for selling a lower quality light muscled LM 2-3 bull. For the average 25-30 cow Kentucky cow herd, this could easily total \$2000 or more of lost revenue. The good news is these discounts can be avoided by simply castrating calves and using quality bulls with adequate muscling. The common argument against castration is added weight at weaning and the risk involved. Both of these concerns Table 1. Number of steers and bulls by weight and grade KDA Market News can be alleviated by castrating early (less than 3 months of age) and implanting. Early castration is easier on the calf and the person doing the castrating. Also, research has shown that early castration coupled with one growth promoting implant will result in similar weight at weaning as if the calf had been left intact.

Table 2. Weighted average price (\$/cwt) comparisons of steers and bulls by weight and grade KDA Market News (12/8/24 - 12/14/24)											
Weight	LM 1-2 Steers		LM 1-2 Bulls		LM 2-3 Steers		LM 2-3 Bulls		LM 1-2 Bulls vs LM 1-2 Steers	LM 2-3 Steers vs LM 1-2 Steers	LM 2-3 Bulls vs LM 1-2 Steers
	avg.wt.	price	avg.wt.	price	avg.wt.	price	avg.wt.	price			
300-399	361	357.81	355	343.40	353	310.67	353	282.66	-\$14.41	-\$47.14	-\$75.15
400-499	453	336.62	453	311.86	452	291.42	453	271.50	-\$24.76	-\$45.20	-\$65.12
500-599	554	302.80	547	277.52	552	262.22	554	246.26	-\$25.28	-\$40.58	-\$56.54
600-699	642	275.32	643	245.14	649	244.98	646	224.01	-\$30.18	-\$30.34	-\$51.31

So, what is the difference between “selling” and “marketing”? If the first step of marketing is avoiding discounts, maybe the second step is adding value. Weaned preconditioned calves continue to be in demand and the best place for a calf to be castrated and weaned is on the farm where it was born, and buyers recognize that. The Advanced Post Weaning Value-Added Program (PVAP) helps producers determine the profitability of weaning and preconditioning their calves prior to marketing.

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Calves must be weighed at weaning to determine the beginning value of the calves and expenses are recorded throughout the preconditioning period. When calves are sold, a one-page closeout detailing costs and returns and performance of the calves is provided to the participant. Table 3 is a summary of closeouts from the PVAP program during the marketing year April 2024 to January 2025. This summary contains the 25 closeouts that have been completed.

Date	No. Closeouts	No. Hd.	Wean Wt. lbs.	Wean Value \$/cwt	Sale Wt. lbs.	Sale Value \$/cwt	Total Gain lbs.	Days Fed	ADG lbs.	Feed lbs.	Prot. %	Feed \$/ton	Feed Cost \$/hd.	Forage lbs.	Forage Cost \$/hd.	Ration Cost Gain \$/lb	Price vs State \$/cwt	Net Added Value \$/head
2024 (All)	25	783	539	261.7	707	253.8	168	76	2.21	11.0	14.4	234	98.84	6.7	23.16	0.76	+7.01	\$215.99
2024 (Fall)	16	555	546	252.2	703	257.5	157	74	2.12	10.1	14.0	225	84.87	9.1	25.60	0.73	+9.00	\$277.66

Notes:
Wean Value = Weaning weight adjusted for estimated shrink (average shrink = 4.6%, with a range of 0-6) x price of average LM1-2 calves selling as close to the weaning date for the producer's sale barn of choice.
Sale Value = Average net value of the calves sold as listed on the sale check stub.
Health Costs = Includes cost of vaccines, dewormers, sale tags, prostaglandin, etc. necessary for preconditioning program. (2024 Average = \$15.70/hd.)
Ration Costs = Includes cost of feed, forage, and mineral during the preconditioning period. (2024 Average = \$126.76/hd.)
Interest = Interest rate of 6% was charged on the weaned value of the calf for the length of the preconditioning period. (2024 Average = \$17.15/hd.)
Death Loss = A one half percent death loss was assumed. This low rate was chosen since these are low risk home raised calves. (2024 Average = \$6.82/hd.)
Price vs State = weighted avg. sale price of preconditioned calves compared to the state average of non-value added calves sold the same week. (2024 Average = +\$7.01/cwt)
Net Added Value = Sale Value - (Wean Value + Health Costs + Total Feed Costs + Interest + Death Loss)

Note that 2024 was a historically profitable year for preconditioning calves. Net added value per head averaged \$216 vs selling the calf at weaning. Returns this fall were even higher, averaging \$278 per head with several closeouts in the \$300 plus range. Think about the “sellers” who sold their intact bawling bull calves straight off the cow in October vs the “marketers” who weaned their steer calves in October and preconditioned and marketed them in December. Market data and PVAP results from this fall indicate a potential \$403 (\$125 + \$278) per head revenue advantage to the “marketer”. Which for a typical 25 cow herd could have totaled an additional \$4000 and this does not include added revenue for preconditioned heifers. There are several other strategies that can enhance value and help you “market” your calves. Managing a tighter calving window will result in larger lot sizes. Upgrading genetics with breeders who offer buyback programs or special sales. Participating in stockyard precondition sales. Group selling with other producers with similar cattle and program. Whatever strategies you use, remember these prices won’t last forever so use your profits wisely to position yourself to be a “marketer” and not just a “seller”.

**Organized and Sponsored by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council,
UK Cooperative Extension Service, and the Master Grazer Program**

This program is designed for producers and agricultural professionals to learn the newest fencing methods and sound fencing construction through a combination of classroom and hands-on learning

WHEN: April 22 – Lewisport, KY
April 24 - Tompkinsville, KY

WHERE: St Columbia Church
815 Pell St
Lewisport, KY 42351

Monroe County Extension Office
252 Commerce Drive
Tompkinsville, KY 42167



COST: \$35/participant -- includes notebook, glasses, hearing protection, and catered lunch

Registration DEADLINE: 2 weeks prior to workshop

ONLINE Registration with Credit Card:

_____ Lewisport, KY <https://2025FencingDavies.eventbrite.com/>

_____ Tompkinsville, KY <https://2025FencingMonroe.eventbrite.com/>

Registration by U.S. Mail: Caroline Roper
UK Research and Education Center
P.O. Box 469
Princeton, KY 42445

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Number of participants _____ x \$35 per participant = _____ **Total Cost**



Make CHECKS payable to: KFGC (Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council)



For more information contact Caroline Roper at 270-704-2254 or Caroline.Roper@uky.edu

Please call the office at (859) 987- 1895 for the agenda or to register

2025 Kentucky Fencing Schools

Reclaimed Plugged Up Pastures

Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Research and Education Center at Princeton

Wet conditions this winter have resulted in almost complete disturbance in and around hay feeding areas. Even well designed hay feeding pads will have significant damage surrounding the pad where animals enter and leave. These highly disturbed areas create perfect growing conditions for summer annual weeds like spiny pigweed and cockle bur. Their growth is stimulated by lack of competition from a healthy and vigorous sod and the high fertility from the dung, urine and decomposing organic material around hay feeding areas.

Our most common approach to revegetating these areas is trying to reseed cool-season perennial grasses (tall fescue and orchard grass) and legumes (red and white clover) in mid- to late-spring. On the surface this seems to be a logical approach. However, it rarely works as well as we would like. The problem is that cool-season perennial grasses usually don't have enough time to become fully established before the weather turns hot. In addition, summer annual weed pressure can be fierce during establishment. The net result is that these attempts at reseeding plugged up pastures often fail. An alternative strategy involves planting summer annual grasses in late spring or early summer. This approach has a much higher probability of success. Summer annual grasses, especially sorghum-sudangrass or sudangrass, have very rapid emergence and canopy closure. This will prevent summer annual weeds from germinating and provide forage for grazing or harvesting during the summer months (Figure 2). Perennial cool-season grasses can then be reseeded under more ideal conditions in late summer or early fall.

If you decide to use summer annuals grasses, there are several things that you can do to enhance your success. These are listed below.



Figure 2. Sorghum-sudangrass is easily established once soil temperatures reach 60 F and provides rapid growth and canopy cover outcompeting common summer annual weeds.

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Plant adapted summer annuals species. Always plant forages that are well adapted to Kentucky and the soils and conditions on your farm. Summer annuals that can be used to reclaim hay feeding areas include sudangrass, sorghum-sudangrass, pearl millet, and crabgrass. Detailed information on the adaptability, establishment, and management of these species can be found in AGR-229,-229, Warm Season Annual Grasses in Kentucky. Use the high end of the seeding rate. Seeding rates are normally given as a range. Make sure and use the high end of this range. Even with summer annuals, rapid canopy closure is critical for reducing summer annual weeds.

Plant after soil warms. For summer annuals grasses to germinate and rapidly emerge, soil temperatures at planting should be at least 60 degrees F. As a general rule, this is about two weeks after the “ideal” corn planting date. This should allow plenty of time to let the area dry out and to get it smoothed up prior to planting. If there is a delay in planting the summer annuals after final tillage, it may be a good idea to do one more pass of light tillage to disturb any weed seedling that may have germinated.

Control broadleaf weeds. Once warm-season annual grasses are established, some herbicides can be applied to control summer annual broadleaf weeds. If you plan to reseed cool-season perennials in the fall, make sure and check the label for reseeding restrictions prior to application. Always consult and follow label directions. For more information on using herbicides on summer annual grasses, contact your local extension agent.

Grazing summer annuals grasses. Allow taller growing summer annuals like sorghum-sudangrass and pearl millet to reach a height of 18-24 inches before grazing and stop grazing at 8-10 inches. Regrowth can be stimulated by applying 40-60 lb N/A after each grazing, but the last. Crabgrass can be grazed once it reaches a height of 6 to 8 inches. Cattle should be pulled off once it has been grazed to a height of 3 to 4 inches.

Haying summer annual grasses. Allow taller growing to reach a height of 30 to 40 inches before mowing. This will optimize yield and forage quality. If regrowth is desired, do not mow closer than 6 inches apply 40 to 60 lb N/A after each cutting, but the last. Crabgrass should be cut for hay at the late boot-stage. Care should be taken to not mow crabgrass closer than 3 to 4 inches.

Reseeding cool-season grasses in the fall. Pastures should be sprayed with a non-selective herbicide in late summer to control any remaining summer annual grass and any weeds that have germinated. Coolseason grasses can be no-tilled into the killed pasture area.

2025 Kentucky Beginning Grazing School

Helping livestock producers improve profitability with classroom and hands-on learning

When: April 29-30, 2025
Where: Logan County Extension Office
Cost: \$60/Participant – includes all materials, grazing manual, grazing stick, morning refreshments, and lunch both days

Program Registration: DEADLINE is April 21, 2025
Online Registration with CREDIT CARD AT:
<https://Spring2025GrazingSchool.eventbrite.com>

Registration limited to 35 participant/s!!!

Registration by U.S. Mail with CHECK:
 Caroline Roper
 UK Research and Education Center
 348 University Drive, Princeton, KY 42445



Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Cell Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Number of participants _____ x \$60 per participant = _____ Total Amount
 Call for student rates.

Please make checks payable to KFGC



2025 Kentucky Beginning Grazing School

Helping livestock producers improve profitability with classroom and hands-on learning

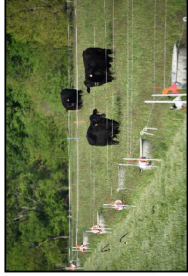
Meet at Logan County Extension Office

- 7:30 Registration and refreshments
- 8:00 Welcome and introductions
- 8:15 Getting stocking rate right-Ray Smith, UK
- 8:30 Forage plant growth and grazing management-Chris Teutsch, UK
- 9:00 Grazing system design-Jeff Lehmkuehler
- 9:45 Break
- 10:15 Forage species-Chris Teutsch, UK
- 10:45 Hands on forage identification-Ray Smith, UK
- 11:30 Grazing system planning exercise-Adam Jones, NRCS
- 12:00 Lunch at church
- 12:45 Travel to host farm
- 1:00 Introductions and farm overview
- Soil sampling pastures
- Hay sampling
- Pasture condition scoring
- Hay sampling
- Grazing planning exercise

Meet at Logan County Extension Office

- 7:30 Refreshments
- 8:00 Interpreting soil test results-Iohn Grove, UK
- 8:30 Meeting the nutritional needs of grazing livestock-Katie VanValin, UK
- 9:15 Electric fencing-Jeremy McGill, UK Extension
- 10:00 Break
- 10:30 How I made grazing work on the farm-Local Producer
- 11:00 Rejuvenating run-down pastures-Chris Teutsch, UK
- 11:30 Financial assistance for improved grazing infrastructure- Local NRCS
- 12:00 Lunch at extension office
- 12:45 Travel to host farm
- 1:00 Hands on electric fencing
- Hands on watering system
- Grain drill calibration and set up
- Frost seeding demonstration
- Presentation of grazing plans
- Surveys and graduation

For more information, please contact **Caroline Roper** at 270-704-2254 or Caroline.Roper@uky.edu.



Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, or disability. For more information, contact your local Extension office. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky counties. Cooperative Extension, Lexington, KY 40546



Disabilities: accommodations with prior notification.



Historical Corn and Soybean Yield

Improvement in Kentucky

Dr. Dennis Egli, University of Kentucky

It won't be long before Kentucky farmers start planting the 2025 corn and soybean crops. At this time of the year farmers are always optimistic, expecting record yields if the weather cooperates. This expectation is a result of the yield trends over the last nearly 100 years. Corn yields in Kentucky trended upward since 1940 (Fig. 1), that's 84 years of steadily increasing yield (ignoring fluctuations due to weather). If one takes the long view, however, increasing yield was not always a given (Fig.1).

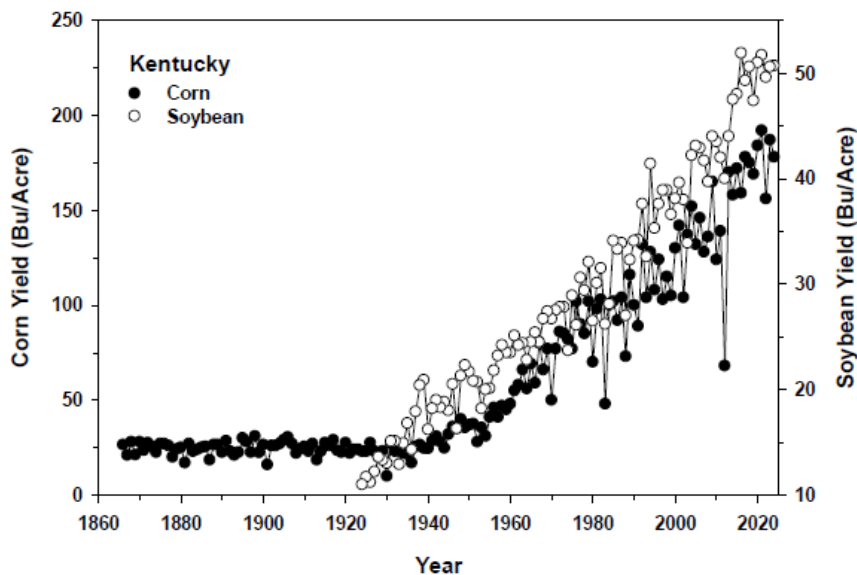


Fig. 1. Kentucky corn and soybean yields. From National Agriculture Statistics

Corn yield did not change from the time of the Civil War (1866) to roughly the beginning of World War II (1940) (Fig. 1). The yield curve during this period was flatter than a pool table, creating a yield plateau that lasted for 74 years. It's hard to imagine a situation where a farmer's corn yield was the same as his father's or even, perhaps, his grandfather's. Now that's a significant plateau! Yield during this period averaged 24.3 bushels pr acre in Kentucky. This plateau was not limited to corn in Kentucky; corn in all the Corn Belt states, wheat in Kentucky and other crops in other countries exhibited similar plateaus.

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There was no plateau for soybean (Fig. 1) because it was not grown for grain in the US until the early 1900's and yields were not estimated by the National Agricultural Statistics Service until 1924. Soybean yield trended upward from 1924, when the yield was 11 bushels per acre, until the present. The initial yield increases were probably a result of producers learning how to grow this new crop and selecting better lines from the initial lines introduced from China.

Midwestern agriculture during the plateau period for corn was low-input, obviously sustainable (it lasted for 74 years) and would probably be considered organic by today's standards. Cropping systems were based on rotations including corn, small grains (wheat and oat) and hay. Nitrogen came from animal manure and legumes in the rotation. Weeds were controlled by mechanical cultivation (there were no herbicides), farmers grew open-pollinated corn varieties, saved their own seed and farms were small (< 50 acres).

Animal power was replaced by the internal combustion engine and mechanization replaced hand labor near the end of the plateau. These changes greatly reduced the need for feed production and probably improved the efficiency and timeliness of management operations. Extension programs in the early 1900's trained farmers to identify the perfect corn ear to save for seed for the next crop. University research focused on soil fertility and other aspects of crop management. Interestingly, none of these activities had any effect on yield and the plateau persisted.

Some cataclysmic change in crop production systems in the 1930's ended the plateau and initiated the period of steady yield growth that continued to the present day. The big question is - what change(s) drove the steady increase in yield?

Open-pollinated varieties were replaced by hybrids (hybrids were planted on nearly 90% of the acres in Kentucky by 1950) which forced farmers to buy their corn seed from commercial companies. The use of inorganic fertilizers increased rapidly after 1945, fueled, in part, by the availability of nitrates from plants that produced explosives during World War II. The development of herbicides and pesticides improved weed, insect and disease control. increase in off-farm inputs.

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These inputs were supported by changes in management practices (e.g., higher corn populations, narrow rows – made possible by herbicides and mechanization – and better disease and insect control). Some argue that changes in the environment (e.g., more solar radiation resulting from the clean air act and a cleaner atmosphere) contributed to yield growth. These changes stimulated a dramatic shift from a low- to a high-input system during this period with a big increase in off-farm inputs.

The work of plant breeders was the driving force behind the increase in corn and soybean yields. The changes in inputs and management practices were essential, but they would not be effective without improved higher-yielding hybrids and varieties. You can't manage a 1960s hybrid to produce today's yields and today's hybrids won't produce today's yields with 1960's management. Hybrid (variety) vs. management is the classic interaction – neither can get the job done on their own.

T. R. Malthus, a preacher and economist in England, argued in his 1798 book (*An Essay on the Principle of Population*), that exponential population growth would always outpace the linear growth in food supplies so that humankind would always live on the ragged edge of starvation. World population in 1798 was roughly 1 billion, now, 226 years later, the population is 8.2 billion and the world faces an obesity epidemic - Malthus was wrong. He did not anticipate the dramatic growth in crop productivity and the area cropped in the high-input era that outpaced population growth to maintain a generally well-fed world. The key to the growth in yield was the efforts of plant breeders that produced improved hybrids (varieties), management practices that allowed them to reach their potential productivity, and an agri-business system that made the necessary inputs readily available to producers.

But what will the future hold? Will yield growth continue in the more hostile environments created by climate change or will it plateau, ultimately proving Malthus correct? I would be optimistic, especially given the declining rate of population growth, if it were not for the looming presence of climate change and societies' apparent unwillingness to do anything about it.

"They are ill discovers that think there is no land when then can see nothing but sea" Francis Bacon, essayist, philosopher and statesman, 1561-1625.

Adapted in part from: Egli, D.B. 2008. Comparison of Corn and Soybean Yields in the United States: Historical Trends and Future Prospects. *Agron. J.* 100: S-79 – S-88.



**BEEF QUALITY CARE
& ASSURANCE
(BQCA) TRAINING**

Required for Large Animal CAIP Investment Area

Tuesday, April 15th
9:00 a.m.
or
Tuesday, April 22nd
5:30 p.m.

Bourbon County
Extension Office,
603 Millersburg Rd., Paris

Call 859-987-1895 to reserve a spot

**FREE for
the month
of April**

Forage Timely Tips: April

- Graze cover crops using temporary fencing.
- As pasture growth begins, rotate through pastures quickly to keep up with the fast growth of spring.
- Creep-graze calves and lambs, allowing them access to highest-quality pasture.
- Finish re-seeding winter feeding sites where soil disturbance and sod damage occurred.
- As pasture growth exceeds the needs of the livestock, remove some fields from the rotation and allow growth to accumulate for hay or haylage.
- Flash graze pastures newly seeded with clovers to manage competition.

Spring Seeding

Currently, no-till seeding is the best method to seed in your pasture when a spring seeding is planned.

NOTE: The next window to seed cool season forages is August 15 to September 15 depending on moisture conditions.

Consult with your county agent to select the appropriate forage types for your area and intended use (see the listing of all county agents at the end of the calendar).

See UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment publication Establishing Horse Pastures (ID-147) for more information.

Mineral and Salt Supplementation

Put mineral and salt products in a suitable feeder that protects the minerals and salt from the elements.

Place feeder for easy access to your horse.

Check for consumption. Regular consumption should be 1 to 1½ ounces per adult horse per day.

The amount may vary depending on animals sweating.

Use only products designed for horse and read the label to know what you are providing.

Use loose product to promote greater intake than with block products.

Pasture Rotation

Divide pastures into smaller paddocks to

April Tips & Tidbits

help reduce selective or spot grazing, resulting in more complete utilization of available forage.

Make sure the energizer for the temporary fence is working properly and your watering system is ready to go.

Graze one paddock at a time.

Move animals to the next paddock when forage is grazed down to 3 to 4 inches.

Some areas will have more forage, but if the majority of the paddock is 3 to 4 inches in height move the horses.

Move horses back into the paddock once the forage is again 6 to 8 inches in height, which is normally after a 14 to 21 day rest period.

Rest periods can be longer depending on growing conditions.

Use a grazing stick to help evaluate the forage availability. Walk the pastures or paddock to see how the forage is being grazed.

See UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment publication Using a Grazing Stick for Pasture Management (AGR-191) for more information.

Compost Unused Hay/Bedding

A typical horse weighing 1,000 pounds will produce approximately 50 pounds of

manure per day, and horses housed in stalls may generate an additional 20 pounds of soiled bedding per day.

Improper management of this waste has the potential to pollute Kentucky's surface and ground waters.

Composting, when done correctly, is a viable option as composting converts organic matter into a stable humus-like material.

Composting can be accomplished through many ways such as bins or windrows.

How to Compost:

Turn compost piles or windrows. Aerobic (with oxygen) decomposition is more efficient than anaerobic and is achieved through aeration.

Turn the pile 3 to 5 times every 2 to 3 days when the moisture content is between 40 and 70 percent.

Maintain temperatures between 135°F and 160°F. A temperature of 150°F is ideal for killing the eggs of parasites.

Apply stable compost to pastures, gardens, and around trees and shrubs as a mulch or soil amendment.

See UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment publication Composting Horse Muck (ID-168) for more information.



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

Plate it Up

Kentucky Proud Recipe



Dijon Chicken Asparagus Roll Ups

3 tablespoons Dijon mustard	2 teaspoons dried thyme	4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (about 5 ounces each)
½ cup low fat mayonnaise	2 teaspoons black pepper	4 slices skimmed mozzarella cheese
1 lemon, juiced (approximately 3 tablespoons)	½ teaspoon salt	1 cup panko bread crumbs
	16 spears fresh asparagus, trimmed	

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. **Grease** an 11-by-7-inch baking dish. In a bowl, **mix** together the mustard, mayonnaise, lemon juice, thyme, salt and pepper; set aside. **Place** asparagus in a microwave safe dish and **microwave** on high 1-1½ minutes. **Place** chicken breasts between two sheets of heavy plastic (a re-sealable freezer bag works well) on a firm surface. **Pound** the chicken breasts with the smooth side of a meat mallet to thickness of ¼ inch. **Place** one slice of cheese and four asparagus spears on each breast. Tightly **roll** the chicken breasts around the asparagus

and cheese. **Place** each, seam side down, in the prepared baking dish. **Apply** a coating of the mustard mixture to each chicken breast and **sprinkle** each with the panko crumbs, **pressing** the crumbs into the chicken to secure. **Bake** 35 minutes or until the chicken temperature is 165 degrees F. For crisper chicken, **place** roll-ups under the broiler for 1-2 minutes on high.

Yield: 4 servings

Nutritional Analysis:

370 calories, 10 g fat, 3.5 g saturated fat, 115 mg cholesterol, 1060 mg sodium, 2 g fiber, 2 g sugars, 41 g protein.

Kentucky Asparagus

SEASON: April through May.

NUTRITION FACTS: Asparagus is a good source of vitamin A and folate. One-half cup of fresh, steamed asparagus has 22 calories, 2 grams of protein and 4 grams of carbohydrate.

SELECTION: Choose bright green stalks with tightly closed tips. The tenderest stalks are apple green in color with purple-tinged tips.

STORAGE: Fresh asparagus will keep 1 week or more in

the refrigerator. Store upright with cut ends in water or with cut ends wrapped in wet paper towels in a plastic bag.

PREPARATION: One pound of asparagus will yield 4 one-half cup servings, about six spears per serving. Wash asparagus thoroughly in cool, running water. Eat asparagus raw or lightly boil, steam, stir-fry or grill. Overcooked asparagus will be mushy. Try seasoning it with herbs, butter or Parmesan cheese.

KENTUCKY ASPARAGUS

Kentucky Proud Project
County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students
March 2017

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers market, or roadside stand. <http://bit.ly/dieteticsca.uky.edu>



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