

May & June 2025 ISSUE

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



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Celebrating U.S. cattle production:

HAPPY BEEF MONTH



The Bourbon County
Ag Development
Council will meet
Wednesday, May 28th
at 6:00pm



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

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Living with Alpha-gal Syndrome

Thursday,
May 29th
6-8:30pm

UK Cooperative
Extension Service

Learn more about AGS (red meat allergy) and how to reduce your risk with University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension. We will create alpga-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!

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AFTER A BIG RAIN: N LOSS, EROSION, AND OTHER THINGS



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Interested in learning about nitrogen loss after abundant rainfall on soil and crops? Scan the QR to find out more!



SCAN ME

May Tips & Tidbits

Pasture Stocking Rates

Horses generally eat 1½ to 2% of their body weight daily. For example, a 1,000 lb horse will consume 15 to 20 lb of forage dry matter every day.

Recommended pasture allowance for a 1,000 lb horse is 2 to 4 acres per horse.

If pastures become overgrazed, they provide lower quality forages because of a lack of plant growth.

Under-stocking (a horse on more than 2 to 4 acres) can also be an issue because the horse(s) may not be able to keep up with the vegetation growth, result in greater selective grazing and lowering the quality of forage over time.

Mowing and Dragging of Pastures

Mow when weeds are in the stem elongation state, before flowers or seed heads are produced.

Mow or clip to promote a lush, weed-free pasture and to reduce seed production and the spread of undesirable weeds.

Mow to stimulate the production of tender new forage grasses for grazing.

Drag pastures when weather is hot and dry.

Drag to help to spread manure evenly across a pasture, adding to nitrogen

fertility and promoting more uniform grazing.

Drag to reduce the number of parasite populations that might exist in a pasture.

Consult with your county agent regarding the need to drag as not only manure management is an issue but you do not want to spread weed seeds across the pasture.

Routine Vaccination Horses

The American Association of Equine Practitioners divides their vaccination program into two categories: the Core and the Risk-Based Vaccination Guidelines.

Diseases in the core list are: Tetanus, Rabies, Eastern and Western Equine Encephalomyelitis and West Nile Virus.

Diseases in the Risk-Based list vary regionally, from population to population



within an area, or even between individual horses within a population. Diseases in the Risk-Based list are: Anthrax, Botulism, Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis), Equine Viral Arteritis, Equine Influenza, Potomac Horse Fever, Rotaviral Diarrhea, and Strangles.

All horses should be vaccinated annually against the diseases included in the core list; you may use a spring/fall schedule or give all vaccinations at one time.

If you have horses that travel to such activities as horse shows, sales, horse camps, and trail rides, consider vaccinating them against Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis), Influenza, and Strangles. These diseases are highly contagious and spread quickly when susceptible horses come in contact with infected horses. The best time to vaccinate against these diseases is about 2 to 3 weeks prior to the show season. Depending on the vaccine, you may need to give boosters every 6 months instead of annually.

Consult your veterinarian to ensure that you create an effective program to control infectious diseases in your horses.

If you purchase vaccines from retail stores, keep them cool on ice or in the refrigerator until right before you apply the vaccine to your horse; vaccines lose their effectiveness once they reach room temperature.

See UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment publication Core Vaccination Program and Infectious Disease Control for Horses (ASC-176) for more information.



June Tips & Tidbits

Prevent Overgrazing of Pastures and Paddocks

- Repeated overgrazing over time will deteriorate any pasture or forage system.
- A good way to check if you are overgrazing a horse pasture is to see if manure piles are in excess on a pasture field. While also observing how close the horse(s) are grazing to the manure, the closer they get, the more overgrazed the pasture has become.
- If you have no other options to reduce overgrazing, herd downsizing should be considered, or a supplemental feed source should be supplied.

Weaning Foals

- The process of weaning is a natural activity, but one horse owners need to prepare for.
- To minimize stress on the foal, the mare and the owner consider the following tips:
- Wean foals at 4 to 6 months of age.
- Get the foal used to consuming other feed—forage and the concentrate it will be fed after weaning—2 to 3 weeks prior to weaning. Use a creep feed at the rate of 1 pound of feed per day per month of age of the foal; remove any feed not consumed daily and replace with fresh feed.
- Make sure foals are healthy and used to being handled.
- Wean in a safe place the foals are accustomed to.
- Remove the mares. Total separation means moving 1 or 2 mares from the oldest foals to a place on the farm out of sight and hearing. Gradual separation means moving 1 or 2 mares to a pasture or paddock adjacent to the foals to allow for contact, but no nursing. After 5 to 7 days, move the mares out of sight and sound. Removing a couple of mares at a time will give the newly weaned foals companionship, which can aid in the adjustment process.
- Watch feed consumption of foals who have just been weaned. They may need up to 21 days to completely recover from the separation. During this time they may back off eating.
- Be prepared to deal with this stressful time.

Post Weaning Mare Management

- Reduce the grain intake of the mares to reduce milk production.
- Adjust the mare's feeding program to meet her requirements after milk production has stopped.
- Adjust Body Condition Score as needed by adding a grain ration to a mare in a BCS below a 5 or possibly removing the grain from the feeding program if the mare is gaining in body condition or is above a BCS of 7.

Plate it Up

Kentucky Proud Recipe



Strawberry Salsa

1 tablespoon olive oil	2 cups , coarsely chopped fresh strawberries	2 cups chopped cherry or grape tomatoes
2 tablespoons white vinegar or white balsamic vinegar	8 green onions, chopped	½ cup chopped fresh cilantro
½ teaspoon salt		

- 1. Whisk** olive oil, vinegar, and salt in large bowl.
- 2. Add** strawberries, green onions, tomatoes, and cilantro. Toss to coat.
- 3. Cover** and chill for 1 hour.
- 4. Serve** with tortilla or pita chips.

Yield: 7, ½ cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 40 calories; 2 g fat; 0 g saturated fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 170 mg sodium; 6 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 4 g sugar; 1 g protein; 60% of vitamin C.

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

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



Kentucky Strawberries

SEASON: May through June

NUTRITION FACTS: Strawberries are low in calories and high in nutrients. One cup strawberries contain 55 calories. Strawberries are a great source of vitamin C. They also contain vitamin A, iron, fiber, and folic acid. Folic Acid is especially important for childbearing women. When consumed in adequate amounts, it has been proven to prevent certain birth defects.

SELECTION: Choose fully ripened, bright red berries. Strawberries do not ripen after they have been picked. Berries should be plump and have a natural shine with bright green, fresh looking caps. Use strawberries as soon after picking as possible for the best flavor and highest nutritional value.

STORAGE: Store strawberries in the refrigerator, covered, unwashed, with the caps on. Do not crowd. If you have the space, gently spread the berries on a cookie sheet and cover with plastic wrap. Use berries within 2 to 3 days.

HANDLING: Handle strawberries gently. Never remove

the caps before washing. The cap prevents water from soaking into the berry, which lessens the flavor and changes the texture. To wash, cover berries in cold water and lift gently out of the water to drain. Dry by placing berries in a single layer on paper towels.

After washing, remove the caps if necessary. Give the cap a gentle twist or use the point of a sharp paring knife or pointed spoon.

Pat berries dry with paper towels before serving whole or sliced, fresh or cooked.

STRAWBERRIES

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Nutrition and Food Science students

March 2011

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