

Clark County Ag and Natural Resources Newsletter

February 2024



Clark County Extension Service • 1400 Fortune Drive • Winchester, KY 40391 • 859-744-4682 • clark.ext@uky.edu • <http://clark.ca.uky.edu/>




A Word from the Agent . . .

We are still in the middle of winter, and the cold isn't making things easier on the farm. However, now is a good time to be planning for the upcoming year with soil testing, planting, weed control, and more. Our office can help with all of those! We are accepting soil samples so you know exactly which soil amendments are needing. We can also help with information about those sewing pastures and hayfields or controlling weeds. Also, we have a lot of great programming coming this month which will count towards CAIP education. Now is a good time to meet those educational requirements before things on the farm really starts to be busy in the spring and summer. As always, please give us a call (859-744-4682) if you have questions!


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Forage Management Tips for February

- Continue grazing stockpiled tall fescue if available.
- Assess grass stands. If thin, consider adding legumes.
- Begin frost seeding with at least 6 lb/A red and 1 lb/A white clover on closely grazed pastures.
- On pastures with lower fertility, consider adding 10-15 lb/A annual lespedeza to the above recommendation.
- Consider applying nitrogen in mid to late February on some pastures to promote early growth.
- Sign up for shared use drills for spring renovation.
- Service and calibrate no-till drills



SOIL TESTING

THE
Time
IS NOW

Now is the time to prepare for spring planting by getting your soil tested. Nutrient and acidity levels in soil are analyzed so adequate fertilizer and lime recommendations can be made. Your report for a routine soil test will show the amount of Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Zinc, pH and buffer pH.

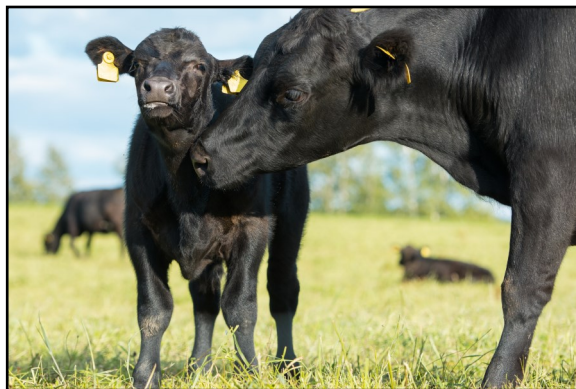
You may stop by the Extension Office between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday, to pick up a soil probe and soil bags. There is **NO CHARGE** for soil testing.



Beef Timely Tips

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

- Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem. Consider preparing a feeding area with gravel over geotextile fabric or maybe a concrete feeding pad. Bale grazing is an option for producers to help control mud while spreading nutrients across pastures.
- Increase feed as the temperature drops, especially when the weather is extremely cold and damp. When temperature drops to 15°F, cattle need access to windbreaks.
- Provide water at all times. Cattle need 5 to 15 gallons per head daily even in the coldest weather. Be aware of frozen pond hazards. Keep ice "broken" so that cattle won't walk out on the pond trying to get water. Automatic waterers, even the "frost-free" or "energy-free" waterers can freeze up in extremely cold weather. Watch closely.
- Consider renovating and improving pastures with legumes, especially if they have poor stands of grass or if they contain high levels of the fescue endophyte. Purchase seed and get equipment ready this month.



Tips to Stretch Short Hay Supplies

Source: Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, PhD, PAS,
UK Beef Extension Professor

Below are a few tips to consider stretching limited hay supplies. For additional information contact your local Extension agent. It is recommended to consult with your feed nutritionist or County ANR Agent before making drastic changes in your feeding program.

- **Inventory Hay** – know how much hay you have available; weigh a few bales to get an average weight or estimate the weights based on available information from Extension publications.
- **Minimize Storage Losses** – keep hay off the ground on a surface that will allow water to drain away; keep bales covered or stored inside a barn; if bale grazing limit the number of bales placed in the field to provide 2-4 weeks of feeding to reduce weathering losses.
- **Reduce Feeding Loss** – consider minimizing feeding losses; using hay rings with skirts / metal on the bottom, tapered ring designs, chains to suspend bales, or cone inserts to keep hay inside the feeder has been proven to reduce hay feeding losses compared to hay rings with openings at the bottom; using an electrified temporary poly-wire placed down the center of unrolled hay will reduce losses from cows laying on the hay, trampling it into the mud, and defecating on the hay; feeding processed hay into a bunk or large industrial tire reduces waste compared to feeding processed hay on the ground.
- **Cull** – consider selling less productive females, open cows, and cows with structural/functional issues to reduce the number you must over winter; consider selling the bull as the market may provide the opportunity to sell a mature bull and replace him with a younger bull next spring.
- **Limit Time Access to Hay** – research has shown dry cows in mid-gestation can be maintained on good quality hay when they have restricted access time to only 6-8 hours a day; the hay savings comes from less waste as feeding behavior is altered; all cows must be able to access hay at any given time; this is not recommended for young or thin cows, lactating cows or growing animals.
- **Substitute Hay with Grain** – calories and protein can be provided from supplements; grain/commodity mixes can be used to replace hay; cows can be maintained on a low hay diet by using grain supplementation that balances the nutrient supply and animal requirements; consult a nutritionist before making extreme feeding changes.
- **Deworm Young Animals** – animals with an internal parasite burden will have reduced efficiency.
- **Feed an Ionophore** – if grain supplementation will be used, consider adding an ionophore to increase the energy efficiency of the feed consumed. Consult your nutritionist to discuss inclusion rates and developing a supplement program. Previous work has shown that feeding 200 mg of monensin allowed cows to maintain body condition on 10-15% less hay.

2024 Horses & Horsemen:

Join us for the 17th annual

PASTURES PLEASE!!

Tuesday, March 5

Schedule:

5:30—Meal

6:00—How to Rescue a Pasture for Short Term Use, *Dr. Jimmy Henning*

6:30—Selecting Herbicides for Targeted Weed Control, *Dr. Bill Witt*

7:00—Not just Triple 19 - Fertilizing Pastures Based on Need, *Keenan Bishop*



Scan QR code to RSVP



or go to tinyurl.com/pasturesplease24

Scott County Extension Office
1130 Cincinnati Rd
Georgetown, KY 40324
502-863-0984

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HOMEBASED MICROPROCESSING WORKSHOP 2024



Cost: \$50

In-person and virtual

The first step to becoming certified as a homebased microprocessor is to attend a Homebased Microprocessor (HBM) workshop presented by the University of Kentucky. Homebased microprocessors are a predominant ingredient in the products they make.

Friday, March 1st

9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Clark County

Cooperative Extension Service

 **Cooperative Extension Service**

For more information and to register call 859-744-4682 or visit https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Yo5F1BUNLHUFff

Clark County Extension

2024

WINTER SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 6, 8, 13

6:00 pm

Clark County Extension Service

1400 Fortune Drive; Winchester

NO COST! - Meal served each night!

FEBRUARY 6: BEEF NIGHT

- **Reading EPD's and How That Affects Buying Bulls**
Dr. Darrh Bullock, UK Beef Specialist
- **Fertilizer Needs for Pastures and Hay Fields After Drought**
Dr. Ray Smith, UK Forage Specialist
- **Benefits of Storing Hay Inside**
Levi Berg, Clark County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

MEAL PROVIDED BY:
Clark Co. Cattlemen's Assoc.

FEBRUARY 8: FARM NIGHT

- **The In's and Out's of Pond Construction**
Scott Aldridge, NRCS Resource Soil Specialist
- **Farm Planning and Layout for Water and Feed Areas**
Dr. Steve Higgins, UK Biosystems Specialist
- **NRCS Programs for Producers**
Heath Mineer, NRCS-Clark County, NRCS Programs for Producers

MEAL PROVIDED BY:
Clark County Farm Bureau

FEBRUARY 13: HORT NIGHT

- **Bats in Your Backyard**
Dr. Matt Springer, UK Assistant Extension Professor of Wildlife Management
- **Backyard Biters**
Dr. Jonathan Larson, UK Extension Entomologist

MEAL PROVIDED BY:
GRC High School FFA

TO REGISTER:



859-744-4682



cynthia.carr@uky.edu

Six Easy Steps to Maximize Your Pasture Success with Clover Frost Seeding

Source: Jimmy Henning, UK Plant and Soil Science Professor



Kentucky's weather conditions are predictably unpredictable. During the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council assembly in November, board members discussed a possible shift in optimal timing for frost seeding clover -- broadcasting red clover into winter wheat just before green-up -- due to the increasingly milder winters. With that said, be careful when making statements about Kentucky weather as weather variation complicates predicting the optimum period for frost seeding clovers.

As legumes, clovers are an essential part of a strong and healthy nitrogen cycle in grasslands. Distributing six pounds of red clover and one to two pounds of white clover over a grassy area with some bare soil in the later part of winter, combined with minimal competition control, can develop high-quality pasture.

The advantages of cultivating clover are substantial, encompassing natural nitrogen fixation, and enhanced forage quality and yield. Particularly noteworthy is recent U.S. Department of Agriculture research indicating that red clover can significantly mitigate the vasoconstrictive effects of toxic endophyte tall fescue, making it an exceptionally valuable crop.

Frost seeding is a preferred establishment method due to its minimal equipment requirements. Typically, a small spinner seeder attached to a tractor or four-wheeler is all you would need for seed distribution. Red and/or white clover are well-suited for frost seeding as they exhibit rapid germination, shade tolerance, and vigorous root and shoot development in their seedling stages. Their small, smooth seeds are readily incorporated into the top quarter inch of soil through natural weather patterns or animal movement.

Despite the numerous advantageous clover traits are for establishment, it is crucial to adhere to the fundamental requirements of forage establishment, even in low-input methods like frost seeding. These essentials include:

- 1) **Conduct soil analysis and apply necessary nutrients.** Clovers thrive in soil with a pH of 6.5 to 7 and medium to high levels of phosphorus and potassium. Nitrogen should only be added when diammonium phosphate is required for phosphorus provision.
- 2) **Choose a high-quality variety.** Opt for an improved variety with established performance and genetics. Selecting a superior red clover variety can yield up to three tons more hay per acre and extend the stand's lifespan compared to common, unclassified seeds. The University of Kentucky provides extensive yield data and persistence of white and red clover varieties for hay and pasture, available at http://forages.ca.uky.edu/variety_trials. It is advisable to check with seed suppliers to see if your favorite variety is available.
- 3) **Apply an adequate quantity of seed.** Typical seeding rates range from 8 to 12 pounds of red clover and one to two pounds of white/ladino clover per acre. A reduced rate, such as six pounds of red and one pound of white clover, still results in over 55 seeds per square foot (37 red and 18 white).
- 4) **Ensure seed contact with bare soil.** Removing excess grass or thatch, revealing bare ground, is imperative before overseeding. A major cause of frost seeding failures is excessive ground cover. Farmers can achieve bare soil exposure through controlled cattle movement or mechanically using a chain harrow.
- 5) **Achieve optimal seed-soil contact.** Frost seedings rely on precipitation and the freeze-thaw cycle to integrate clover seeds into the top quarter inch of soil. Utilizing a corrugated roller post-seeding can further enhance soil contact.
- 6) **Manage competition the following spring.** Avoid additional nitrogen application on overseeded fields. Be prepared for timely mowing to control grass or weed overgrowth above the clover. Although clover seeds are inherently vigorous, controlling competition can expedite and improve establishment.

With careful attention to soil fertility, variety selection, seeding rate, seed placement and competition management, clover can be successfully frost seeded into existing grass pastures.



YAIP INFORMATION

Youth Agricultural Incentives Program (YAIP) is a cost share program designed for applicants that are enrolled in elementary, middle, high school or home school, that are at least 9 years of age at the time of the application, and are actively engaged in agriculture. Starting **Monday, February 26**, until **Friday, March 15**, during the hours of 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday the applications will be available at:

Clark County Conservation District Office
667 Tech Drive; Winchester, KY
(also available at cccdky.com under forms)

For more information:
Angie Embry: 859-744-2322
angela.embry@ky.nacdnet.net

YAIP INVESTMENT AREAS

- Agricultural Diversification
- Supervised Agriculture Experience
- Forage & Grain Improvement
- Showmanship
- Animal Production
- Country Ham Projects

Maximum local cost share is \$1,500.00 on a 50/50 matching basis upon the investment area completion. Submit education certification form, project invoices & proof of payment for cost share reimbursement. (NO cash receipts)

RECIPE

What's Cooking?



Zippy Corn Chowder

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 medium onion, chopped | and chopped | 3 cups fresh or frozen whole kernel corn |
| 1 green pepper, chopped | 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard | 4 green onions, chopped |
| 1 tablespoon butter | 1 teaspoon basil | 2 cups skim milk, divided |
| 1 (14.5 ounce) can low-sodium chicken broth | ½ teaspoon paprika | 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour |
| 2 large red potatoes, cubed | ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes | 1 teaspoon salt (optional) |
| 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded | | |

In a large saucepan, **sauté** onion and green pepper in butter until tender. **Add** broth and cubed potatoes. Bring to a **boil**. **Reduce** heat; **cover** and **simmer** for 15 minutes or until potatoes are almost tender. **Stir in** jalapeno, mustard, basil, paprika and red pepper flakes. **Add** corn, green onions and 1½ cups of milk. Bring to a **boil**. In a separate bowl, **combine** all-purpose flour and remaining ½ cup

milk, **stirring** until smooth. Gradually **add** mixture to soup. Bring to a **boil**. **Cook** and **stir** for 2 minutes or until thickened and bubbly.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 190 calories, 2.5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 350 mg sodium, 34 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 10 g sugar, 7 g protein



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