

# Ag and Natural Resources Newsletter

## June 2023

Clark County Extension Service • 1400 Fortune Drive • Winchester, KY 40391 • 859-744-4682 • [clark\\_ext@uky.edu](mailto:clark_ext@uky.edu) • <http://clark.ca.uky.edu/>



### A Word from the Agent . . .

Many farmers have been busy for months, but it seems like June is when farm activity really heats up, especially in the hay fields. Just be safe out there! Be careful moving equipment on the roads. Wear your sunscreen and hats. Drink plenty of water. Overall just

take care of yourself.

June will always be a busy month, but also remember that the Clark County Extension Office is here to help you. We will gladly help identify pests, identify weeds, help determine crop issues, send off forage tests, and much much more. We understand you are busy so let us help you!

Finally, be sure to come to the 2023 Clark County Fair at the end of the Month! You can find a full list of events, project information, and more by going to [clarkcountkyfair.org](http://clarkcountkyfair.org)

**Levi Berg**  
Clark County Extension Agent  
for Agriculture and Natural  
Resources

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## Forage Management Tips

- Make plans to attend the KFGC's Summer Forage Tours.
- Continue hay harvests. Minimize storage losses by storing hay under cover.
- Clip pastures for weeds and seedheads as needed.
- Use slower grazing rotations allowing for a longer recovery periods.
- Use portable fencing to decrease paddock size and increase paddock number.
- Do NOT graze below the minimum desired residual height (4 in for most forages).
- When present, johnsongrass can provide high quality summer forage when managed.
- Crabgrass, a warm-season annual grass, can provide high quality summer grazing. It is a annual grass highly preferred by livestock. If desired, remember crabgrass needs some annual soil disturbance to keep coming back.
- Begin grazing native warm-season grasses. Start at 20-24" and stop at 8-10 inches.



**Training**  
Cost: **\$5.00**

Choose one of the trainings.  
Checks are payable to:  
**KBN**

**Monday,  
August 7**  
6:00 pm

OR

**Tuesday,  
August 8**  
9:00 am

**Clark County  
Extension Service**

**Clark County Extension Service**  
will be closed in observance of

**JUNETEENTH**

on  
**June 19, 2023**



# Water is Nutrient #1 for Horses



*Source: Bob Coleman, UK Extension Horse Specialist*

Horses rely on many nutrients to thrive including protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. However, water is the most important nutrient. Water accounts for nearly 75% of a horse's body weight. Most horses need at least 6-8 gallons every day, but the amount required will vary based on weather or diet. In hot weather, horses will need more water, and a horse eating hay requires more than one on pasture. Lactating broodmares always require more water.

Always prioritize fresh, clean water for your animals for many reasons. Adequate hydration reduces the risk of colic and plays a vital role in digestion. Water helps horses regulate their body temperature, lubricates joints, assists in muscle contraction strength and get rid of waste.

Most horse managers easily prioritize clean, fresh water in the barn. They have a daily routine of checking, cleaning and filling water buckets. But outside water may end up being more accidental than routine. You can't rely on streams and ponds for your water source. Horse traffic can break down stream banks, contaminate the water source and even cause animal injuries. Regularly check stock tanks and troughs, frequently change the water and clean the container.

Stock tank water may get a bit warmer than what some horses prefer, so watching the capacity of the watering device can help. Keep water cooler by changing it more often or having the water refreshed in the waterer more often. This can help provide water horses want to drink. Carefully consider where to dump dirty water in the field so you don't create muddy areas.

Forages contain moisture and grazing horses will get some daily hydration while munching on pasture. However, still offer free-choice water sources for horses to visit throughout the day.

Learn to recognize dehydration signs in your horses. By the time you see the signs, your horse may have already lost 5% of its body weight. Dehydrated horses appear weak, have sunken eyeballs, dry mucous membranes, slow capillary refill time and an increased heart rate. Pinch the horse's skin near the base of their neck for two seconds. If the skin stays pinched, your horse most likely needs water and possibly electrolytes.

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*For more information about horse management, contact the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service at 859-744-4682.*



KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND



## 2023 CAIP INFORMATION

Applications available at the:  
**CLARK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE**  
**667 TECH DRIVE; WINCHESTER, KY**

**DATES:** Thursday, **June 15th** thru Friday, **July 7th**  
*(Office closed June 19th and July 4th)*

**HOURS:** 8:30 am to 4:00 pm (M-F)



Call or email to  
schedule an  
appointment!



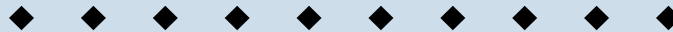
Angie Embry

(859) 744-2322

Angela.embry@ky.nacdnet.net

### EVERY OTHER YEAR RULE:

Producers approved for 2022 CAIP funding will not be eligible in 2023,  
but will be eligible for 2024 CAIP funding.



## CAIP INVESTMENT AREAS

- Agricultural Diversification
- Fencing & On-Farm Water
- Forage & Grain Improvement
- Innovative Agriculture Systems
- Value-Added & Marketing
- Poultry and Fowl
- Large Animal
- Small Animal
- Farm Infrastructure
- On-Farm Energy
- Technology & Leadership Development

# “You Don’t Know What You Don’t Know”

Source: Dr. Les Anderson, UK Extension Professor



Centuries ago, the Greek philosopher Socrates coined the phrase “You don’t know what you don’t know”. I randomly heard this last week, and it struck me how apropos this is to cow-calf producers and the beef industry. So, what “don’t you know”?

According to the USDA NAHMS survey in 2017, less than 20% of cow-calf producers in the US obtain a breeding soundness exam (BSE) on their bulls. A breeding soundness exam is performed by your herd veterinarian and is designed to identify INFERTILE bulls; those bulls that do not have the ability to breed cows. A BSE is inexpensive insurance that your bull can breed cows. It eliminates bulls that have physical issues that would prevent them from breeding cows, and it eliminates bulls that no longer can produce viable sperm. A producer occasionally, but not always, can tell if a bull pulls up lame and if they have an injury to the reproductive tract. But it is impossible to determine if the bull no longer produces viable sperm without performing a BSE. So “you don’t know what you don’t know” unless you have a BSE done annually in your herd sires.

This same USDA survey, less than 20% of cow-calf producers have pregnancy diagnosed in their herd. Pregnancy diagnosis is another simple, inexpensive tool that can be used to help increase production efficiency and profitability. Pregnancy can be determined via rectal palpation (including ultrasound) by your herd veterinarian. Rectal palpation can not only indicate if a cow is pregnant but can also indicate the stage of pregnancy to help plan calving. Pregnancy can also be determined using blood sampling, but blood sampling only provides pregnant or non-pregnant information. Researchers in Ag Economics at UK (Erol and Dillion) have developed a model that demonstrates pregnancy diagnosis increases revenue by 69% in typical beef cow-calf operations. This model assumes that open cows without a calf at side are culled. If cow-calf operators don’t get pregnancy diagnosed, when do they realize their cow will not produce a calf? Again, without pregnancy diagnosis,

“you don’t know what you don’t know”.

The last example is record keeping. Beef cattle producers are exceptional note takers (we seem to write a bunch of information down) but we are terrible record keepers. What’s the difference? A record keeper takes their notes, creates a report, and uses the data to make management decisions. Creating reports from hand-written records stinks, can be a time-consuming task, and is likely what prevents most cattle producers from using records. A great option for a producer is to use an electronic method for record keeping but survey data indicates that only 3% of beef producers use electronics to manage their records. So, we are an industry of note takers, we are an industry of “you don’t know what you don’t know”.

If we are not keeping records, how are we making sound management decisions? Instead of “knowing”, we guess, or, in most cases, we try to remember. The UK IRM Farm program helped connect producers with information including information about their own operations. We taught cattle producers how to keep and use records to run their small business (cattle). Within two years, revenue was increased by 34% on the 147 farms that participated. The key.....keep records and make management decisions based upon the data. Our goal with this program was to reduce “what you don’t know”, record the results, and use the data to improve management. The average size of these farms was 40 cows and managing with data helped increase the percentage of cows that weaned a calf, the pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed, and gross revenue. On these farms, producers stopped guessing and started managing and it made a difference.

Running cattle as your side business is not generally a high-profit small business venture. Most cattle producers are in it because they love it. I argue that producers can love it and make money at the same time. How? ... **“You know when you know”!**

# Don't Let Chiggers Eat You Up

*Sources: Lee Townsend and Mike Potter, UK Extension Entomologists*



It's chigger time across Kentucky. Just talking about them may make you itch. Chiggers are actually the immature stage of certain mite species. You'll find them most often in overgrown bushy areas. They also congregate in shady, humid areas near stream banks, under or around shade trees or in berry thickets.

Only the larval (immature) stage of this family of mites causes the itching problem. After hatching, larvae crawl around until they find and attach to a suitable host. In addition to humans, chiggers feed on a variety of wild and domestic animals, including snakes, turtles, birds, rodents and domestic pets such as dogs and cats.

A widespread myth is that chiggers burrow into your skin and feed on your blood. This isn't true. Instead, they attach to a skin pore or hair follicle and then inject a salivary fluid that produces a hard, domed area around them, and they use a feeding tube to withdraw liquefied tissues from hosts. The red welt rash and intense itching are allergic reactions to the salivary secretions and can last for up to two weeks or longer.

Larvae feed for about three or four days; then drop off and eventually mature into non-parasitic adults.

There are ways you can protect yourself from these itchy pests. Avoid walking through unmown fields, brush and other overgrown areas. Instead, walk in the center of mown trails to avoid brushing up against vegetation where chiggers congregate.

Create a chigger barrier when you hike or camp in potentially chigger-infested areas so that chiggers can't come in contact with your skin. Wear long pants that are tucked into boots or socks and long-sleeve shirts. Clothing made of tightly woven fabrics keep chiggers from reaching the skin as easily.

You can also apply an insect or tick repellent; just be sure to read and follow the directions on the container. Products containing DEET or picaradin are easy to find and use. Also, there are clothing treatments containing permethrin.

Showering or bathing immediately after coming indoors effectively removes chiggers that have not yet attached. If that is not possible, thoroughly and briskly rubbing your skin with a dry towel may remove many chiggers before they are able to attach and feed.

While chiggers are most common in wild overgrowth, they can also make a home in shady areas of yards, parks, camps, picnic sites and recreation areas. You can control chiggers in your outdoor environment with effective vegetation management that allows penetration of sunlight and reduces humidity. Prune trees and bushes and mow closer to allow more sunlight and to lower humidity. Remove scrub brush piles and accumulated debris to reduce protection for small animals and are important hosts for chiggers. As an added benefit, these steps will reduce problems with ticks as well.

# CLARK COUNTY FAIR

## 2023 Schedule of Events

### Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>

No Gate Admission – No Carnival \$3/head fair beef show entry fee

8:00 am District Beef Show  
5:00 pm Fair Beef Show

### Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>

GATE ADMISSION \$5 – No Carnival

10:00 am Tiny Miss & Mister *followed by*  
Tiny Tot Miss & Mister  
10:30 am District Sheep Show  
11:30 am Duke & Duchess Pageant  
the Prince & Princess Pageant  
2:00 pm Little Mr. & Miss Pageant

### Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>

No Gate Admission – No Carnival

1:00 - 3:00 pm 4-H, FFA, Home Ec. entries received  
2:00 pm Horse Show

### Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>

No Gate Admission – No events – No Carnival

9:00 am - 1:00 pm 4-H, FFA & Home Ec. entries received

### Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

GATE ADMISSION \$12 – RIDE ALL RIDES

Children 2 and under enter free. A \$6 hand stamp is needed if they wish to ride.

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm 4-H, FFA, Home Ec. Exhibits open  
6:00 pm Goat Show  
7:00 pm Ag Hall of Fame  
7:30 pm Miss Clark County Pageant  
7:00 pm KOI Drag Race

### Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> – FAMILY NIGHT!

GATE ADMISSION \$10 – RIDE ALL RIDES

Children 2 and under enter free. A \$5 handstamp is needed if they wish to ride.

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm 4-H, FFA, Home Ec. Exhibits open  
6:00 pm Pedal Pull followed by the...  
Mutton Busting  
Old Fashion Fair Games  
Rabbit Show - Clark Co. only  
Poultry Show  
Donkey Races  
Miss Teen Clark County

### Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

GATE ADMISSION \$12 – RIDE ALL RIDES

Children 2 and under enter free. A \$6 hand stamp is needed if they wish to ride.

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm 4-H, FFA, Home Ec. Exhibits open  
6:30 pm Concert - Sam L. Smith Band & Jordan Miller  
7:00 pm Open Youth Swine Show  
7:00 pm CGTPA Garden Tractor Pull  
7:30 pm Miss Pre-Teen Clark Co. Pageant

### Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>

GATE ADMISSION \$12 – RIDE ALL RIDES

Children 2 and under enter free. A \$6 hand stamp is needed if they wish to ride.

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm 4-H, FFA, Home Ec. Exhibits open  
6:00 pm Open Sheep Show  
7:30 pm Mud Run

### Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>

GATE ADMISSION \$12 – CARNIVAL RIDES EXTRA \$15

Children 5 and under free gate admission ONLY.

9:00 am-11:00 am 4-H, FFA, Home Ec. Exhibits - Pickup  
7:00 pm Power Wheels Derby/Demolition Derby

Clark County Fairgrounds • Kentucky Hwy 15 – Winchester, KY

## Farmer's Market Skillet Bake

½ small onion, finely chopped	2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided	4 medium sized tomatoes, sliced
2 cloves garlic, minced	1 medium summer squash, sliced	1 teaspoon salt
4-5 small red potatoes, sliced	1 medium zucchini, sliced	1 teaspoon pepper
1 tablespoon olive oil		5 fresh basil leaves, finely chopped, divided

**Preheat** oven to 375 degrees F. **Prepare** onion, garlic and sliced potatoes (about ¼ inch thick). **Heat** olive oil over medium heat in a 10 or 12-inch oven safe skillet. **Add** onion, garlic, and potatoes to pan and **stir** to coat with oil. **Cook** over medium heat, **stirring** occasionally until golden brown and tender. **Add** 1 cup mozzarella cheese. In a bowl, **toss** together the squash, zucchini and tomatoes with salt, pepper, and half of the finely chopped basil. **Layer** squash

and tomato slices over the potato and cheese layer. **Top** with remaining mozzarella cheese. **Bake** 35 minutes or until vegetables are tender and cheese is melted. **Remove** skillet from oven and **top** with remaining basil.

**Yield:** 8, 1 cup servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 200 calories, 8 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 490 mg sodium, 24 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 10 g protein.

