



Clark County Extension Service
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Clark County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter



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June 2024

<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 and the crop 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 be a busy month, but 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. Also, we will be working on the Central Kentucky Hay Contest, so give me a call if you would like to participate. This is a free of charge service which we provide. We understand you are busy so let us help you!

Finally, be sure to come to the 2024 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

Levi Berg
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Forage Management Tips for June

- 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.



Clark County Extension Service will be CLOSED June 19th!



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**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Going Against the Grain to Work with Mother Nature



By: Dr. Katie VanValin, Assistant Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Approximately 70% of the nation's cow herd calves between January 1st and June 30th each year, typically calving in February and March, a breeding season ranging from May through July, and weaning calves in the fall. On the other hand, those with fall calving herds will calve in September and October, breed from December to February, and wean in the spring. While fall-calving herds are in the minority and may seem to "go against the grain," this system offers producers unique opportunities to work with mother nature, especially in the fescue belt.

Environmental conditions are often more favorable for fall calving, starting with calving. While heat can be an issue, especially for calves born early, the cold, wet, and muddy conditions often seen in February and March are a non-issue. Cool-season forages pick up again in the fall as the summer heat begins to subside, providing a forage base for the lactating cows. Tall fescue stockpiles will and can be a good option for helping to maintain the fall calving herd. One downfall to fall calving that I often hear talked about is the need to overwinter both the lactating cow and her calf. While this is true, and conserved forage plus energy supplementation is often required to meet the nutritional requirements of the lactating cow, these costs can be offset by marketing calves into what is typically a seasonally higher market in the spring.

One of the most significant environmental differences between spring and fall calving herds is observed during the breeding season. Heat stress occurs when the combination of temperature and humidity reaches a threshold that causes cattle to generate or take on more heat than they can

dissipate. Heat stress is compounded by cattle experiencing fescue toxicosis because of the vasoconstrictive effect of the ergot alkaloids found in endophyte-infected tall fescue. Heat stress has profound impacts on reproduction in both the cow and the bull, including temporary infertility. As our climate continues to change, periods of heat stress may become more prevalent during the typical May-July breeding season for spring calving herds, and of course, this will be exacerbated in herds grazing endophyte-infected fescue during this time. Fall-calving herds can avoid complications from heat stress during a winter breeding season. Profitability in the cow-calf sector starts at breeding by getting cows bred on time. In the mid-south, we are more likely to encounter challenges from mother nature during the spring-summer breeding season than during fall-winter.

Weaning is another critical dichotomy between the spring and fall calving seasons. With spring calving herds weaning in the fall, producers looking to pre-condition or background their calves may have limited forage resources for both the cow herd and weaned calves. Fall-calving cows weaning in the spring are often weaned at a time when grass growth is plentiful, and it can often grow faster than our cow herd can graze it. Keeping with the theme of working with mother nature, one consideration with fall calving herds is to delay weaning until calves are a bit older. Running fall-born calves on grass can be a great way to take advantage of the relatively cheap cost of gain while adding value and pounds to the calf. Once calves have reached 5-6 months of age, the cow produces much less milk compared to peak lactation, as the calf, at this point, is getting most of its nutrients through grazing. Keeping the calf on the cow a bit longer in

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the spring can also help to prevent fall cows from becoming overly conditioned after weaning. By delaying weaning later into spring, fall calving producers can also avoid the cool, wet, and muddy conditions often seen in March. March in the mid-south seems to be one of the dreariest months of the year, and I have found myself saying on more than one occasion, “I don’t like weaning in March for the same reasons I don’t like calving in March.”

Nearly ¾ of the nation’s cow herd calves in the first part of the year, and there is a reason for that. As a nutritionist, I know fall calving has its challenges, and managing winter feeding is a big one. It is critically important that those fall-calving

cows don’t lose condition during the breeding season while typically consuming stored forages. However, when considering the big picture or the overall system, fall calving can have much to offer cow-calf producers in the fescue belt. In the fall calving system, we can work with Mother Nature and avoid extreme heat and fescue toxicosis during the breeding season and cold, wet, and muddy conditions at both calving and weaning (if timed correctly). In return, fall-calving herds can market calves at a time of the year when markets are expected to reach their seasonal highs. Fall calving won’t be for every operation, but it is something to consider when managing cows in the fescue belt. Sometimes it pays to go against the grain.



By: Tom Priddy and Matthew Dixon, UK Agricultural Meteorologists

Summer is almost here. We’ve already experienced some heat, just a taste of what’s to come. Humans aren’t the only ones who suffer when the temperatures rise. Farm animals feel it, too. You can recognize when your livestock may be in danger from the heat and what you can do to increase their comfort.

Livestock become uncomfortable when the heat index reaches about 90 degrees. The heat index is a combination of air temperature and humidity, and is used to describe how it feels outside.

The University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center regularly monitors heat indices across the state and provides an index of its own – the Livestock Heat Stress Index – to help producers know when heat stress could create a problem for their animals. The county-by-county index indicates three levels of heat stress: no stress, danger stress and emergency stress.

Periods of heat stress call for livestock producers to be vigilant in making sure their animals are adequately prepared. One of the most important things you can do is provide cool, clean drinking water. Providing an adequate source of drinking water helps keep animals’

internal body temperatures within normal limits. You should shade above-ground water lines so they do not act as solar water heaters and make the water too hot to drink.

It is also important for animals to have shade and for buildings to be as open as much as possible for adequate ventilation. Sprinkler systems that periodically spray a cool mist on the animals can also be beneficial.

It is best to avoid working your animals during periods of heat stress. You should also avoid transporting livestock during those times. When you must transport livestock, haul fewer animals per load. Planning trips so the animals can be loaded immediately before leaving and unloaded quickly upon arrival can likewise help you minimize the risk.

To keep up-to-date with the livestock heat stress index, access the Agricultural Weather Center’s website <http://www.wagwx.ca.uky.edu> or go to the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service’s website <https://clark.ca.uky.edu/> and click on the weather link.



~ CAIP INFORMATION ~

The County Agriculture Investment Program Informational Meeting will be held Monday, June 3, at 6:00 pm at the Clark County Extension Office, 1400 Fortune Drive. *(Review Guideline Changes & Investment Areas).* **Attending the CAIP Informational Meeting will increase your application score.**

CAIP Applications will be available at the Clark County Conservation District office starting Monday, June 10 until Monday, July 1 during the hours of 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday — Friday or at ccdky.com under forms. **Please call or email to schedule an appointment.** (NOTE: The office will be closed on Wednesday, June 19).

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

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

EVERY OTHER YEAR RULE: Producers approved for 2023 CAIP funding will not be eligible in 2024, but will be eligible for 2025 CAIP funding. NO applications will be accepted after July 1.

~ CAIP INVESTMENT AREAS ~

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

Maximum local cost share is \$1,500.00 on a 50/50 matching basis upon the investment area completion.

Submit the following:

- ① Education Certification Form
- ② Project invoices
- ③ Proof of payment for cost share reimbursement. **(NO cash receipts)**

Safe Handling of Poultry and Other Animals



Information was obtained from Jacqueline Jacob, UK Extension Poultry Project Manager

Most times when we hear about safe handling of livestock, we think about the safety of the animals. However, many times we don't think about our own safety in regards to diseases, bacteria, and such. Livestock such as poultry, horses, ruminants, and others have digestive systems that can convert forages into usable nutrients, and this is possible because of bacteria, fungi, and protozoa living in the intestinal tracts of those animals. These microorganisms breakdown complex plant material such as cellulose into high energy compounds, and use those compounds for growth, lactation, or gestation. However, it is easy for this microorganisms to be passed through the animal's intestinal tract, and can be found in the animal's manure.


Manure from livestock and other animals can contain some nasty microorganisms that can cause serious infections in humans, and can cause extreme ailments. The outbreaks of salmonella is a harsh reminder of how easy these ailments can happen. The salmonella outbreaks happened because individuals were not using proper personal hygiene, and were snuggling and kissing their backyard poultry friends. Numerous diseases like salmonella are easily transmitted to humans through contact with fecal matter, and fecal matter could be hanging on the animal's hair, fur, feathers, feet, and many more areas. If handling animals, be sure to use proper personal hygiene after handling your animals, and sanitize your hands to kill bacteria.

The easiest way to protect yourself is to wash your hands, and prevent animal fecal matter from

touching your skin, mouth, and eyes. This means that washing your hands is extremely important, and make sure to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap. While washing your hands, be sure to wash each part of your hands from under finger nails to your wrists. Every inch of your hands need to be washed. If running water isn't present, use an antibacterial hand sanitizer or wipes. This will at least give you a good chance of killing potential harmful bacteria. Also, children should always be monitored while they are around animals. As many of us know, children love to put anything and everything in their mouths, and that is an extremely easy way for kids to contract certain diseases.

I understand everyone loves their animals and livestock, but be sure to protect yourself. Personal hygiene is easy and can prevent you from obtaining a nasty disease caused by bacteria. Also, be sure to monitor children around animals because most bacterial infection cases are children, so be safe by washing yours and your children's hands.





**Clark
COUNTY FAIR**

June 22-29, 2024

The 2024 Clark County Fair Books will not be published this year. The only way to access the Fair Book is online at:

<https://clarkcountykyfair.org/>

Mark your calendar 

Beef Quality Care and Assurance Training

Monday, July 29
9:00 am
OR
Tuesday, August 6
6:00 pm

Clark County Extension Service

No Charge!

RECIPE

What's Cooking?



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 | | |

- Whisk** olive oil, vinegar, and salt in large bowl.
 - Add** strawberries, green onions, tomatoes, and cilantro. Toss to coat.
 - Cover** and chill for 1 hour.
 - 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.

