



NEWSLETTER

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Clark County Extension Service
2400 Fortune Drive
Winchester, KY 40391
859-744-4682
clark.ext@uky.edu
<http://clark.ca.uky.edu/>

A Word from the Agent . . .



Colder temperatures have come to the bluegrass. Personally, I love fall, but this time of the year is a scramble for most agricultural producers because winter is just around the corner. A lot of crops have been harvested, but they are not done. This means that you need to be on the lookout for harvest equipment on the roads. Slow down. It might save a life. Also, for livestock producers, start thinking about preparing your winter-feeding areas, make sure waterers are functioning properly, and be sure you have plenty of feed for the winter. Winter is not far off. In this newsletter, you will find information on the rescheduled Deer Field to Fork, Market Ready Program, Winter Horse Hay Supplies, Forage Timely Tips, dealing with ice, and winter feeding tips. As always, please contact the Clark County Extension Service if you have questions!


Levi Berg
Clark County Extension Agent
for Agriculture and Natural
Resources

 **Find us on
Facebook**
[https://www.facebook.com/
ClarkCountyExtension](https://www.facebook.com/ClarkCountyExtension)



**FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

November Forage Management Tips:

- Apply 30-40 lb N/A to strengthen cool-season grass sods.
- Using a plate meter or grazing stick, estimate stockpile available for winter grazing.
- Adjust animal numbers or purchase additional hay to balance forage-feed supply to livestock needs.
- Graze crop residues and cover crops that will not overwinter. Be careful to avoid fields that contain johnsongrass.
- Graze winter annuals that will not overwinter such as brassics and oats.
- Graze other winter annuals once they are 6-8 inches tall and are well anchored. Do NOT graze closer to 4 inches.
- Sugar content will rise in tall fescue with the cool temperatures and short days of fall. Alkaloid content of tall fescue can also be high in some years, but will begin decline after a hard freeze.
- Talk with local conservationist about developing a grazing plan and cost-share opportunities.



**Thanksgiving
Holiday
Closings**

November 24 - 25





Estate Planning: Family Conversations

Source: Steve Isaacs, UK Agricultural Economist

Family conversations about inheritance, money and business leadership are never easy and can sometimes be downright awkward. But these are extremely important conversations that you need to have with your children or heirs to make sure your wishes for your farm and business are followed.

Don't wait on your children to bring up this conversation. This is one of the times that you need to take the reins and initiate the conversation, and it should be in person. To help the conversation get flowing, you may want to start at the end and discuss your wishes for your funeral and then move into division of your assets. You may also ask your financial planner or lender to be in attendance, and they can help you start the conversation.

Before you have this conversation, think of each of your children, their personalities and their interests. Ask yourself questions like:

- Are they all interested in the family farm?
- Are they currently part of the farm's operations?
- Is one better with business matters than others?
- Will they follow your wishes for family farm preservation?



You never want to create an unnecessary burden or obligation on children who may have no interest in the farm. Your heir(s) should see the estate as an opportunity to continue the family business, not an obligation. At this point, you may need to start sharing information about your farm and its profitability with your heir(s), if you have not already done so. Moving forward, they will need to know where the farm financially stands.

These conversations can put you in a tough position. Land values are high, and some of your heirs may feel like they are getting shortchanged, even if they have no interest in farming or running a business. Be realistic and clear about your wishes but also empathetic to your children/heirs. Remember they need to be treated fairly and not necessarily equally. Perhaps those who do not want to farm may be given non-farm assets, life insurance proceeds or off-farm investments. Realize that you may not be able to achieve equality in some situations.

Always put your wishes in writing, and have an attorney prepare a will or an estate plan. Dying without these documents could put your successful farm transition in jeopardy. While a will may seem like a final step, it should not be. Revisit it every few years. People change, circumstances change, and sometimes a child that has no interest in farming five or 10 years ago may suddenly express an interest.

While these conversations are not easy, clearly stating your wishes to your family members can help prevent family disputes after you are gone.

For more information on estate planning, contact the Clark County Extension Service at (859) 744-4682.

Did You Know?

It's time for **SOIL** and **FORAGE TESTING**



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 testing your soil.

As we continue to make hay in preparation for the winter feeding season, feel free to stop by the Clark County Cooperative Extension Office and check out a probe for forage testing. **Please call before you come, to be sure a probe is available.** Once you have pulled a forage sample, we can mail it in and receive an accurate measure of the forages nutritional value.



Does Your Horse Have Enough Hay?



Winter is almost here, and if you're a horse owner, you should already be preparing your winter hay supplies. One question I usually receive is "How much hay will I need?" My answer will never be simple. Every horse will have different nutritional requirements depending on stage of life, but for this article I will focus on a mature horse at light work.

A mature horse at light work to maintenance should be receiving mainly a forage-based diet, and a 1,100-pound horse eats around 2 percent of its body weight. That equals 22 pounds of hay per day. Feeding for 120 days, December through March would equal 1.3 tons of hay per horse. That is a nitty-gritty estimate for finding how much hay is needed.

You can do a few things to make the best of your hay inventory. A feed test is a good idea and can get you started in making the best use of the nutrients supplied by hay and supplements. If you are unsure about how to take a sample for a hay test, you can contact the Clark County Extension Service (859) 744-4682 for help.

Remember to feed the amount your horse needs each day. That essentially means taking some control over the feed intake. Feeding free choice can result in your horses eating more than they need each day to meet their nutritional needs. This can be a difficult task for those who are using hay rolls rather than square-bales.

Use a suitable feeder for your horses to limit waste. Feeding on the ground can result in significant losses of feed. Researchers, using square-bale hay fed in controlled amounts, reported waste in the range of 20 percent, while others, feeding roll-bale hay without a feeder, reported waste in the 35 to 38 percent range. In that case, horse owners would need at least a half ton more hay per horse.

And finally, when you are buying hay, purchase a quality grass/legume hay as possible.

As the feeding season progresses, monitor your horses to make sure they are maintaining body condition and adjust feed as needed. If you are short on hay, you may need to feed some concentrate to provide all the nutrients your horses require.

If you estimate correctly, you should have some hay left when spring grass finally arrives. It is better to have some leftover than to run out in March.

For more information on winter hay feeding, contact the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service at (859) 744-4682.

Five Things to Do to Improve the Efficiency of Winter Feeding This Year

Dr. Katie VanValin, Assistant Professor Beef Nutrition, University of Kentucky



Undoubtedly, 2022 has had its fair share of challenges thus far. High input prices likely led to fewer hay acres being fertilized, which with the added pressure of drought, can lead to lower quality and quantity of stored forages moving into this winter. You might be in for sticker shock if you haven't purchased feed recently. It can be easy to get caught up in things we have little to no control over, so here are five things we can do to improve this year's winter-feeding program.

- 1) **Body condition score the herd:** Calves should be weaned from the spring calving cows (or will be very soon). It's easy to get caught up focusing on the weaning weight of the calves or managing a pre-conditioning program but don't forget about the cows. Now is the time to assess the body condition score of the herd. Spring calving cows will have their lowest nutrient requirements of the entire year shortly after weaning the calf. Now is the time to efficiently add condition to thin cows to set them up for success during the 2023 breeding season. Sorting cows by body condition score can allow for more efficient herd management and for those thin cows to receive the extra nutrition they require without overfeeding them in adequate condition. It is much more challenging to add condition to cows as they approach calving or have a calf at side. The ideal body condition score for mature cows is 5, while targeting younger females to a BCS 6 can ensure they have the extra condition required to meet their additional nutrient requirements for supporting growth.
2. **Test your hay:** This is something we always recommend, but in years like 2022, this becomes even more important. Hay tests provide valuable information about the energy and protein concentrations in the sample. All lots of hay should be tested, and a lot is defined as hay harvested from the same field on the same day and stored under the same conditions. Testing all lots of hay allows producers to match lots of hay to the herd so that the lowest quality hay is being fed when the cows' nutrient requirements are the lowest while saving the best quality hay for when nutrient requirements are their highest. Feeding the right hay to the right cow at the right time can drastically decrease the amount of supplement required to maintain body condition.
- 3) **Evaluate supplement costs:** At some point throughout the year, some supplementation is likely required to meet the energy and protein requirements of the herd. Using hay test results can help determine the most efficient supplement to match the energy and protein deficits in the hay. The University of Kentucky Forage Supplement tool is a simple-to-use online tool that provides recommendations for supplementation based on hay test results. Also, reach out to your local county extension agent or nutritionist to assist in interpreting hay test results. Now is the time to sharpen the pencil and determine which supplement options will be the most economical to pair with available forage. Remember, the feed that was the most economical last year may not be the most economical choice this year. Just because one feed costs more on a \$/Ton basis does not mean it is the most expensive supplement to feed. The amount of a particular supplement required must also be considered.
4. **Feed hay efficiently:** Regardless of quality, when the quantity of hay is tight, available hay stores must be fed efficiently. Research has shown that feeding hay in a hay ring prevents feeding waste, especially rings that contain a solid skirted bottom. Hay feeding pads and fence line feeders can also reduce hay feeding losses. While these measures will not completely reduce hay feeding losses, these losses can be reduced from 45% to as little as 6% by using hay rings. Moving hay rings or utilizing bale grazing can help to limit trampling damage around these hay feeding sites and help to distribute manure evenly across the feeding area.
5. **Stockpiling forages:** Although nitrogen application can increase the amount of stockpiled forage available to graze during the winter, tall fescue can still stockpile even without a nitrogen application. Closing off certain fields during the fall growing season can allow the forages in these fields to stockpile, which can then be grazed during the late fall and early winter. While the nutrient quality of stockpiled fescue declines over time, nutrient content can remain adequate for supporting dry cows. Consider setting up a simple strip grazing system using temporary electric fencing to prevent trampling losses when turning cattle out on stockpiled forages.



MARKETREADY ADV. TOPIC TRAINING

MarketReady's Adv. Topic Training is a 5 week series diving deeper into the core business functions discussed in our Producer Training. Trainings will start at 11:30AM EST.

This training is free, but space is limited. Register today!

Training Dates & Topics:

- Nov. 16: Marketing w/ KDA's KY Proud Program
- Nov. 30: Quality Assurance & Food Safety w/ Bryan Brady & the FSIC
- Dec. 7: Risk, Contracts, & Markets w/ KDA's attorney Clint Quarles
- Dec. 14: Logistics & Distribution w/ What Chefs Want
- Dec. 21: Packaging & Labeling w/ Rockford Packaging

REGISTER AT: MARKETREADY.UKY.EDU/EVENTS



Complaint Procedure

To file a complaint of discrimination, contact Tim West, UK College of Agriculture, 859-257-3879; Dr. Sonja Feist-Price or Terry Allen, UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 859-257-8927; or the USDA, Director Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Bldg., 14th & Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 (866) 632-9992.



2023 Winter School

Our 2023 Winter School is tentatively scheduled for February 16, 21, and 25.

Mark your calendars now, so you won't miss out. Updates will be forthcoming in the newsletter.



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

**FIELD
to
FORK**

HARVEST YOUR OWN LOCAL MEAT

DEER HUNTING WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, NOV. 19, 2022

TOPICS COVERED
Deer Biology, Hunting Tactics, Field Dressing, Butchering, and more!

9:00 a.m. — 5:30 p.m. (Eastern)

Register Online: fw.ky.gov/FieldtoFork
Location: Clark County Cooperative Extension Services

More info: Levi.Berg@uky.edu or 859-744-4682




Are You Ready for ICE?

Information was obtained from Mindy Hubert, South Dakota State University Extension.

Luckily in Kentucky, we don't have harsh winters, but we still have to deal with ice whether around our homes or in the barn. I have written before about the necessity of water for livestock, and how important it is to have fresh clean water at all times. Also, winter feeds such as hays and grains are low in moisture, so the animals' water needs can be increased during cold weather. If ice is present, your animals could become severely dehydrated. Below are a few options for keeping fresh water to your animals.

The first is the automatic waters, and provide following water to the animals at all times. These units can be expensive, and require electricity. This means, when the electric is out, your animals are out of water. Heaters can be purchased with this unit to ensure the water doesn't freeze, and non-heated waters can still freeze if not used frequently by the animals.

The second option is electrical tank heaters/deicers. These units are the least expensive, and are usually floating or submerged units that are placed in your water tanks/troughs. The down fall with these units is that they can be pulled out of the tank by the animals, can have a short working life, and require electricity.

The third option is heated buckets. These are similar to the electrically tank heaters. The heater is built into the

tank, and usually only holds around 5 gallons of water each. These units are a little more expensive than the electrical tank heaters, and have the same down falls of the electrical tank heaters/deicers.

The fourth option is a propane stock tank. These are around the same price as an automatic water, and requires a large propane cylinder which will need to be refilled. These will work without electricity, but requires a pilot light to be on at all times.

The final options are water circulators. These devices do as their name states, they circulate water. These small devices are battery powered, and can be found for each tank. Some of their downfalls is that the batteries do not last forever, and they do not warm the tank. These units just move water to help prevent freezing.

There are a ton of options to keep water thawed during the winter, so you don't have to go bust ice every morning and every evening. Winter is here, so don't let it play havoc with your livestock waterers.



Venison Stew



Source: Adapted from Venison Recipe Collection, Compiled by Becky Nash, Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences

Ingredients:

Servings: 6
Serving Size: 2 cups

- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 pound venison, cubed
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 3 cups water
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 potatoes, cubed
- 3 carrots, sliced
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 bay leaves

Directions:

Combine pepper, salt, garlic powder, and flour in a plastic bag or large bowl. Add cubed venison and shake bag or toss to coat meat. Brown meat in hot oil, in a large, heavy saucepan. Stir in water. Add remaining ingredients and cook on high until it begins to boil. Reduce heat and simmer for approximately 1 hour. To thicken, in a small mixing bowl, stir ½ cup warm water into 2 tablespoons of flour. Add mixture into stew. Stir until thickened and bubbly. Cook an additional 30 minutes or until vegetables and meat are tender.

Alternative to stove-top cooking: use slow cooker set on low for 8 hours.

Nutrition facts per serving:

270 calories; 4.5g total fat; 1g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 65mg cholesterol; 490mg sodium; 36g carbohydrate; 5g fiber; 5g sugars; 22g protein; 0% Daily Value of Vitamin D; 6% Daily Value of Calcium; 20% Daily Value of Iron; 25% Daily value of Potassium



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

Find this Cook Wild Kentucky recipe and others for Fish, Venison, Rabbit, Dove, Frog Legs, and more at: <https://planeatmove.com/recipes/>, then browse by Category, and choose Cook Wild Kentucky.