

# Clark County Ag and Natural Resources Newsletter

December 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 . . .



Happy Holidays! I hope everyone is staying warm out there. With cold weather comes ice so be sure to be prepared for future cold weather with regards to defrosting waters, winterizing equipment, charging equipment batteries, feeding livestock and more. In this newsletter, you will find information on the forage timely tips, winter horse care, beef mineral needs, and more.

As always, please contact the Clark County Extension Office if you have questions, and have a great Holiday season!

  
**Levi Berg**  
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<https://www.facebook.com/ClarkCountyExtension>



## Forage Management Tips for December

- Begin utilizing stockpiled pastures. Graze pastures with orchardgrass and clovers first. Save tall fescue pastures for late winter grazing.
- Using polywire, strip graze stockpiled pastures to improve utilization. Start at the water source and allocate enough forage for 2-3 days. Back fencing is not necessary.
- Make plans to frost seed red and white clover onto closely grazed tall fescue pastures in February.
- Supplement hay as needed.
- Minimizing waste by utilizing ring feeders.



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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# What is the Cost of a Cheap Mineral?

*Dr. Katie VanValin, Assistant Extension Professor, University of Kentucky*



The quality and cost of mineral supplements can vary greatly, and it can be overwhelming trying to make sense of all the numbers and information listed on the feed tag. While I am always a proponent of trying to manage feed costs, I caution producers against exchanging an adequate mineral for a poor-quality mineral. While saving a couple of dollars on a bag of mineral can certainly add up, it is important that the mineral being provided is still adequate to meet the needs of the herd to prevent mineral deficiencies which can become costly!

In the fescue belt, cattle are especially susceptible to selenium deficiency. Symptoms

of selenium deficiency include white muscle disease in calves and decreased immune function and growth. Unfortunately, signs of mineral deficiency can be difficult to spot, and often producers may not realize they have an issue until testing is completed as part of a necropsy. Many complications from mineral deficiencies can be avoided all together by feeding an adequate mineral.

In the United States, concentrations of selenium in the feed are regulated by the Federal Drug Administration. This regulation exists to prevent selenium toxicity from occurring due to over supplementation which could have negative impacts on the health of livestock, wildlife, and humans. Since the inclusion rate of selenium is regulated not to exceed 3 mg per head per day, rarely will you see differences in selenium concentration in free-choice minerals formulated for a similar intake. For example, mineral supplements formulated to be consumed at 3 oz. per head per day will typically contain 35 parts per million of selenium. Since more selenium cannot be added to the mineral supplement, the type of selenium included in the supplement is especially important. Research from the University of Kentucky has shown that feeding a mix of selenium sources can be better than a single selenium source. For this reason, it is recommended that producers choose a mineral that provides 50% of the selenium from sodium selenite and 50% from a selenium yeast.

What is the cost of providing a better form of selenium in the mineral? Recent price comparisons have shown that the difference in price for providing a 50/50 blend of selenium sources increases the cost of the mineral by as little as \$1 per bag, assuming all other inclusions were similar. If we assume that a cow typical consumes 1.4 50 lb. bags of mineral per year, that is a difference of \$1.40 per cow per year. How does that compare that to cost of losing a single calf due to selenium deficiency?

Fortunately, it is possible to manage mineral costs while still providing a mineral that will meet the nutritional needs of the herd. Take some time to evaluate your mineral tag this year. What source of selenium is included? How much zinc or manganese is included in the mineral? Current recommendations from the UK Beef IRM Basic Cow-Calf Mineral are 3,200 ppm for zinc and 3,750 ppm for manganese. We rarely see deficiencies of these minerals in the state, so over feeding might be adding to your mineral cost without providing an added benefit. Producers can purchase the UK Beef IRM Mineral from local feed suppliers or use the sheet as a guide for selecting a mineral available locally. It is not uncommon for producers to show me a couple of mineral tags and ask me which they should be feeding. Much to their surprise, I don't always recommend the more expensive mineral. Sometimes the better mineral is cheaper, but this isn't always the case. It is important to evaluate mineral choices and select the mineral that meets the needs of your herd, without providing excess quantities of minerals or other ingredients that may not be beneficial.

*For help evaluating mineral choices, please reach out to the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service at 859-744-4682.*

*Join us for an evening  
of all things hay!*



Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
University of Kentucky.

# CENTRAL KENTUCKY HAY PROGRAM

## PROGRAM FEATURES:

- ✓ Central KY Hay Contest Results
- ✓ Understanding your forage test results
- ✓ Supplementing for your livestock needs



**When:** Monday, December 4th, 2023

**Where:** Fayette County Extension Office,  
1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY 40504

**Time:** 6:00 - 8:00pm

Please RSVP to the Fayette County Extension Office  
at 859-257-5582 before November 27th!

# Preparing Horses for Winter

Source: Bob Coleman, Extension Equine Specialist



Winter will be here before you know it. It's a good time to start thinking about your horses' needs before the cold, snow and ice arrive. Winter can be a particularly stressful time for horses, but there are a few simple things you can do to make them more comfortable.

- 1 When temperatures start to dip below freezing, you have to make sure your horses still have constant access to fresh water. Check your water sources now. Are the heaters in good repair? Turn them on and check the water temperature.
- 2 Shelter is important to give horses a place out of the elements. A good wind-blocking shelter in the pasture can lessen cold stress on your horses. Make sure you have fresh bedding and the shelter is clean. It doesn't take long for bedding to get wet, so you need to check it often.
- 3 Horses need to eat between 1.5 and 2 percent of their body weight in food each day to maintain their weight. That figure doesn't account for any activity. In colder weather, horses will need to eat more to stay warm. An average horse of 1,000 pounds, in good body condition, will need to eat at least 20 pounds of hay per day in normal weather. The amount of feed required to meet requirements can increase quickly when the weather turns cold. In many cases the horse will not be able to eat enough hay to meet requirements, so owners will need to add concentrate to the program.
- 4 Check your hay supplies now and make sure you have enough and that you have a place to store it out of the weather.
- 5 Take time to send in a feed or hay sample for testing, so you'll know if your hay has adequate nutritional balance and quality.
- 6 It's a good idea to get a body condition score on your horses before it gets cold, so you can start making adjustments now if necessary.
- 7 Putting a blanket on your horse requires you to think about several things. The blanket needs to be waterproof, in good condition, and you need to make sure it fits the horse. An ill-fitting blanket can do more harm than good. If your horse is outside, has a good coat of hair and access to adequate shelter, you probably don't need to use a blanket. If you do use one, check it often. If the blanket gets wet, you need to quickly change it.

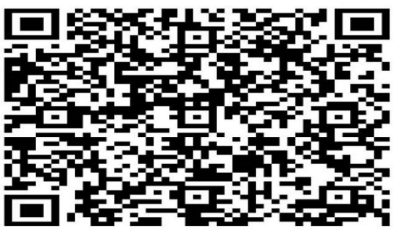
For more information on caring for your horses during cold weather, contact the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service at 859-744-4682.

# MANAGING CATTLE IN CONFINEMENT CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 14, 2023  
HARDIN COUNTY  
EXTENSION OFFICE

2:30 ET – 8:30ET

 **Martin-Gatton**  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
University of Kentucky.



For any questions email  
maggie.ginn@uky.edu

**KADF**  
KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL  
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KENTUCKY BEEF NETWORK

## TOPICS:

- **Moving to Confinement: Challenges & Opportunities**
- **Managing Nutrient Resources**
- **Confinement Facility Options and Considerations**
- **Economic Considerations for Confinement Facilities**
- **Producer Panel**

## REGISTER NOW:

- **Register via the QR code**
- **Early registration \$15 until Dec. 4**
- **Late registration \$20**
- **Registration includes dinner**

# Beef Production Basics

*Come and learn beef basics from students of the University of Kentucky Beef Production Class*

**Wednesday, December 6th**

6:00 pm (*Dinner Provided*)

Clark County Extension Annex Building

## TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- **Benefits of a Shorter Calving Season**
- **Mineral Supplementation**
- **Crossbreeding**
- **Best Practices for Cattle Health**



# UK Beef Webinar Series

We will be restarting our UK Beef Webinar Series in December. These sessions are open to any beef producers, but a one-time registration is required. If you have received notices in the past then you are registered and should get the notification, if not, you can register by sending an email with your name and county to

[dbullock@uky.edu](mailto:dbullock@uky.edu) with the topic heading of UK Beef Webinar Registration. The dates and topics are:

- **December 12, 2023** – Shooting the Bull – UK Beef Specialists will provide information on a hot topic in the beef industry and answer any questions posed by the attendees.
- **January 9, 2024** – Prebreeding Vaccination Considerations – Dr. George Perry, Texas A&M University
- **February 13, 2024** – What's the Cost of a Cheap Mineral – Dr. Katie VanValin, University of Kentucky

All webinars start at 8:00 EST/7:00 CST. All registered members will receive a Zoom invitation the morning of the presentation with the link and password.

For more information contact Darrh Bullock at [dbullock@uky.edu](mailto:dbullock@uky.edu)



## 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
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley

### 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



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.