

Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

January 2025

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More Info:
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A Word from the Agent . . .



Happy New Year! I can't believe that I have been in Clark County for over three years, and I'm very blessed to have made so many wonderful friendships in the county. I just want to thank you for always making me feel welcome here. I have been blessed to find myself in Clark County and cannot wait to see what is to come!

The Clark County Extension Office is always coming up with new and amazing programs, so be sure to also follow what FCS, 4-H, and Hort has going on.

As always, feel free to call the office to ask about upcoming programs!

Levi Berg
Clark County Extension Agent
for Agriculture and Natural Resources
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KEEPING YOU Informed

Forage Management Tips for January

- 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 to 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.
- Some hay can be fed as stockpiled grass is grazed to stretch the winter grazing period.
- Begin hay feeding as stockpiled forage is used up.
- Supplement hay based on hay quality analysis.
- Minimize waste by utilizing ring feeders.

KEEPING YOU Informed

Find us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/ClarkCountyExtension>



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



Winter Water Reminders for Livestock

Source: Jeff Lehmkuhler, UK Extension Beef Specialist

As temperatures get colder, most producers begin to focus their attention on getting stored forages to their animals. It's also a good time to remember available water for livestock in the winter is critical to health and survival.

Winter brings challenges of battling frozen waterers and frozen plumbing. Another factor is that animals may consume less water in the winter for a variety of reasons including environmental temperature, feed moisture, body size and level of milk production.

During cold weather, your animals' energy requirements will increase so they can maintain their body temperature. To meet that extra demand, you will likely increase their dry matter intake, if they can physically consume more feed. Water intake will affect their dry matter intake. If water sources are limited or frozen, animals won't be able to compensate for the colder temperatures.

You have several options to deliver clean, fresh water to livestock, even on the coldest days of the year. Think about your actual water source. Are you using natural surface water sources? Do you have waterers installed or are you thinking of installing them? Surface water presents challenges that will require more work. You have to make sure the water quality downstream is good and that streambank quality is preserved. You'll also have to check them often to make sure the surface is not frozen.

Large storage tanks are an option, but they still require frequent checks for ice. You could install a continuous flow valve in a storage tank to prevent freezing, but you'll have to have an overflow directing water away from the tank to prevent excessive mud.

If you have electricity available at the winter feeding site, you have a great number of watering options. You can add an electric heater to almost any watering system.

If electricity is not available, you could research ways to harvest geothermal heat. A variety of watering systems on the market harvest geothermal heat from the ground below the tank, keeping water thawed and available to livestock even in the coldest of environments. Most of these waterers use heat tubes buried deep into the ground, allowing for geothermal heat to rise and keep water supply lines and the drinking trough thawed. While these systems do a good job of keeping pipes and floats from freezing they are not ice-free. Depending on the amount of animal traffic using the waterer and environmental temperature, you may still need to remove a thin layer of ice over the drinking area on very cold days.

Regardless of the method you choose, your animals need clean, fresh and available water this winter.

For more information on livestock water and nutrition requirements, contact the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service at 859-744-4682.

2025 WINTER SCHOOL

 Cooperative
Extension Service

FREE!

February 4, 6, 11 and 13

6:00 pm (A meal will be served each night)

Clark County Extension Service

Topics for each night:

(For details about each night, please see the back of this flyer)

4th Beef Night

6th Farm Night

11th Hort Night

13th All Property Owners



To register:

 **859-744-4682**

 **cynthia.carr@uky.edu**

****These classes will qualify for CAIP educational hours!****

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Topics for 2025 Winter School:

February 4: **Beef Night** *Meal provided by Clark County Cattlemen's Association*

- **Different Nutritional Needs for Different Ages of Cattle**
Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, UK Extension Beef Specialist
Not all cattle have the same nutritional needs depending on their age and use. Learn the nutritional differences needed between calves, cows, replacement heifers, bulls, and feeder cattle.
- **Clark County Hay Contest Results and Understanding Forage Testing**
Levi Berg, Clark County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources
Not all hay is created equal. Learn about the best hays in Clark County and understand how to utilize a forage sample in making hay feeding decisions.
- **Clark County Cattlemen's Association Update**

February 6: **Farm Night** *Meal provided by Clark County Farm Bureau*

- **Understanding the Carbon Credit Market**
Dr. Jordan Shockley, UK Extension Professor for Ag Economics
More than ever, agricultural producers and landowners are hearing about carbon credits with little information about what carbon credits actually are. Learn the ins and outs of this growing industry.
- **Animal Liability Laws in Kentucky**
Attorney John Hendricks, Rowady Hendricks Law
Laws about animal liabilities can be confusing whether the animals are yours or your neighbors'. Come learn from a local attorney on how to minimize potential animal liabilities with regards to accidents.
- **Different Pesticide Certifications**
Levi Berg, Clark County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources
There are many different certifications for those looking to apply pesticides. Learn about the different certifications within the state of Kentucky.

February 11: **Hort Night** *Meal provided by Clark County FFA Chapter*

- **Growing Oyster Mushrooms**
Adam Leonberger, Franklin County Extension Agent for Horticulture
Are you a mushroom connoisseur? Have you ever considered growing your own? Oyster mushrooms are one of the easiest to grow and we will cover the basics of the different ways to grow them.
- **Seed Starting**
Carrie Spry, Clark County Extension Agent for Horticulture
Starting seeds and growing your own transplants can be very rewarding, and sometimes disheartening. Come learn the basics of seed starting and what factors go into the process of growing your own transplants.
- **Clark County FFA Update**

February 13: **All Property Owners** *Meal provided by Clark County Extension*

- **Pollinator Support**
Dr. Ric Bessin, UK Extension Entomologist
Learn about some of the top things you can do to support the important pollinators and their habits. Whether you are a livestock farm, homeowner, small landowner, or apartment dweller, everyone can do something.
- **Tree Assessment**
Carrie Spry, Clark County Extension Agent for Horticulture
Putting up a new fence beside existing trees? Have a large tree beside a building, home, or barn? Learn the basics of properly assessing a trees health so that you can decide if the tree should stay or go before it potentially causes damage.

Will Your Fertilizer Spreader Be Ready for Go Time?



Fertilizer is very corrosive and can cause a lot of rust issues, especially when met with rain or moisture. Photo courtesy of Heartland Ag.

As more and more growers invest in their own dry fertilizer applicators, end-of-season equipment inspections have become increasingly important to help protect the machine investment and ensure timely fertilizer applications the next spring.

“We can’t stress enough how doing a complete and thorough inspection when you’re done with the machine this season, and performing any necessary repairs before storing for winter, will make it that much easier to get started when your fields are ready next season,” says Nathan Druffel, NW regional operations manager for Heartland Ag Systems in Idaho “Keep it simple. Make a checklist so you don’t forget anything and continue using that checklist year after year,” Druffel advises. “Or consider partnering with a trained and experienced technician.” Druffel recommends following these key steps:

Perform a comprehensive cleanup: Completely clean the machine’s exterior and interior, including the box, frame, booms, axles, suspension, steering components, spinners, hydraulic system – everything. Meticulously inspect for cracks, leaks, hidden damage from use or anything that might need to be repaired before next season.

For self-propelled machines, inspect and clean the chassis, engine, transmission, rear end and hubs. Discard all trash from inside the cab, vacuum the interior, inspect air conditioning filters and consider placing rodent bait or repellent to keep critters out.

For air boom systems, clean the booms and belts to be sure they are free of any corrosive materials. It’s also important to inspect the fan and fan housing to look for damaged blades, as holes in the fan housing can adversely affect the airflow to the

booms and, in turn, the spread quality.

Remove all fertilizer debris: Fertilizer is very corrosive and can cause a lot of rust issues, especially when met with rain or moisture. When washing the outside of the machine – the box, booms and spinners – be sure to remove all corrosive fertilizer dust and granules to prevent rust and corrosion. It’s also important to clear corrosive materials from electrical wiring and connections to prevent rust that can block electrical signals.

Clean conveyor belts, oil chains and check if missing pieces. To further protect against corrosion and rust, keep the chains and joints free and in good shape by removing fertilizer from all metal surfaces and greasing the chains. Help prevent metal from binding to metal by greasing the pivot points and shafts.

Keep the machine covered: Moisture in the air rusts metal parts of unprotected equipment. If you can cover the machine during seasons impacted by rain and/or snow – whether it be in a shed, shop or even with a large tarp – it will be better protected and in a better condition the next time it’s used. “These practices also help to protect the machine’s resale value when you’re in the market to upgrade” Duffel advises.

Growers who don’t have the time or interest in performing equipment inspections can turn to companies for an annual inspection. Post-season inspection and maintenance provides the potential for extensive savings and increased productivity at the start of the next season.

~ [excerpt of article by Nathan Druffel, Progressive Forage.](#)

BEEF MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES

If you are interested and would like to be registered send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with Beef Webinar Series in the Subject and your name and county in the message to receive a Zoom link and password. You will receive an invitation and password the morning of the presentation.

January

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Important Traits for Bull Selection in Kentucky

Dr. Matt Spangler, Professor, University of Nebraska

February

11

Marketing Opportunities for the Spring

Dr. Kenny Burdine, Professor, and Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

March

11

Preparing for a Successful Spring Breeding Season

Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

April

8

Health Update and Internal Parasite Field Study Results

Dr. Michelle Arnold, Extension Veterinarian, and Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

If you have questions or need additional information, please email dbullock@uky.edu.

If you have already registered, you will get a Zoom invitation the morning of each session with the link and password.

Mark your
Calendar

Important
Dates

Private Applicator Training Dates



Tuesday, January 7

9:00 am
Extension Office

Thursday, January 23

5:30 pm
Extension Office

Kentucky

Cattlemen's Convention



**Thursday and Friday
January 16 and 17**
Owensboro, Kentucky

Beef Quality Care and Assurance Training



Wednesday, February 26

9:00 am
Extension Office

RECIPE



Cabbage Jambalaya

1 pound lean ground beef
1 ½ cups chopped celery
1 ½ cups chopped onion
2 cloves garlic, minced

1 (13 ounces) package turkey smoked sausage, sliced
1 medium head cabbage, chopped (about 10 cups)

1 (14.5 ounces) can diced tomatoes
2 cups water
1 cup brown rice
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon Cajun seasoning

Heat a large stockpot over medium high. Add ground beef, and cook until it starts to brown, about 6 minutes. Add the celery, and cook for 2 minutes. Add onion and garlic, and cook 4 minutes while stirring. Add smoked sausage, and cook an additional 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in cabbage, and cook until it wilts, about 3 minutes. Add tomatoes, water, rice, garlic powder, and Cajun seasoning.

Bring to a boil, and reduce heat to medium. Cover, and simmer for 40 minutes. Serve hot.

Yield: 10, 1-cup servings

Nutritional Analysis:
250 calories, 8 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 60 mg cholesterol, 400 mg sodium, 26 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 6 g sugars, 0 g added sugars, 18 g protein