

Bourbon County Cooperative Extension Service

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



November -
December
2022

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

Agent Note:

Hello all. I truly cannot believe November is here and winter is starting to settle in. I hope each of you continue to have a safe harvest and take some time to spend time with loved ones this holiday season. As always, I am here if you have any questions or concerns.

~ Lindsay Arthur



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

HOLIDAY

**SUMMER SAUSAGE &
CHARCUTERIE WORKSHOP**

**\$10
payment
due by
Nov. 30th**

**Thursday, December 1st
5:30 PM**

**Sausage will be ready to be picked
up on Dec. 9th**

Call 859-987-1895 to register

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Five Things to Do to Improve the Efficiency of Winter Feeding

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.

Contact your local county extension office for more information about establishing an effective and efficient winter-feeding program.

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

BOURBON COUNTY ECONOMIC BREAKFAST SERIES

JOIN US FOR A LIGHT BREAKFAST AND UPDATES FROM UKY AG ECON EXTENSION SPECIALISTS

- November 29th - Carbon Markets, Dr. Jordan Shockley
- December 6th- Dr. Kenny Burdine
- January 2023 - TBD

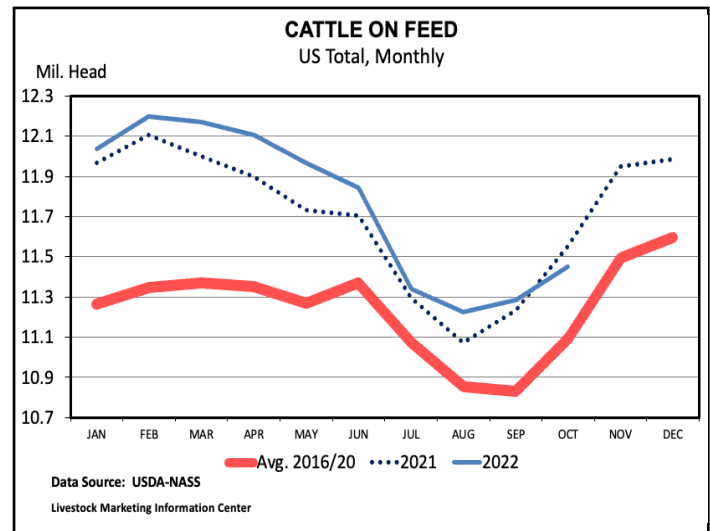
Each session will begin at 8 AM and end around 9 AM
 603 Millersburg Road
 Paris, KY 40361

Cattle on Feed Dips Below Year-Ago

The latest Cattle on Feed report was the first month in 2022 that feedlot inventories were below year-ago levels. The report was largely in line with pre-report expectations. Total cattle on feed as of October 1 was estimated at 11.45 million head which is about one percent lower than the same date in 2021. As shown in the pictured chart, inventory increased from September to October, but this was driven by the usual seasonal pattern of building inventories in the fall. The decline from a year-ago is a more telling comparison and has implications for inventories this fall and beef production in 2023.

Feedlot inventories were destined to dip below year-ago levels at some point. Declining calf crops the past few years should eventually lead to lower feedlot inventories. However, herd liquidation impacts and large placements of lighter cattle kept feedlot inventories elevated through the summer. More light cattle were placed in the spring and summer than usual. While that pushed up feedlot inventory numbers in the summer, those same cattle will not be around for placement this fall when they might have typically moved into feedlots.

Additionally, the number of heifers on feed is higher as producers have decided to retain fewer heifers for breeding purposes. Drought and high input costs are major drivers of these decisions. The latest report included the quarterly feedlot mix estimates and the percentage of heifers in feedlots was just under 40 percent on October 1st. This is the largest share of heifers in feedlots over the past 20 years as shown in the chart below. The number of steers on feed is about two percent below year-ago while the number of heifers is more than one percent higher.



This report could be the beginning of a streak of lower feedlot inventories when compared to a year ago. There is still uncertainty surrounding placements moving forward, though. Poor pasture conditions and an unfortunate outlook for winter wheat suggests continued placements of lighter cattle that might normally spend more time grazing.

Tighter cattle and beef supplies in 2023 appear to be a foregone conclusion at this point. Decreasing feedlot inventories this fall will likely lead to lower beef production in 2023 and there will be fewer cattle to be placed next year. Fewer cows and heifers to calve next year implies tighter supplies of feeder cattle next year, too. These market fundamentals provide significant support for stronger cattle prices moving forward.

Source: By Josh Maples



UKY ANIMAL SCIENCE STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Join us on Monday, December 5th at 5:30 pm at the Bourbon County Extension Office for a basic beef cattle management program presented by UK Animal Science Students with UK Extension Beef Specialist.

Presentation Topics:

Health

Reproduction

Genetics

Nutrition

Help show our support for these young professionals preparing to enter the animal science industry. Call to reserve your meal no later than Thursday, December 1st!

This meeting qualifies for CAIP education credit

Fall 2022 Wheat Planting Decision

Corn harvest is now underway and Kentucky grain farmers will soon decide if and how much wheat they will plant this fall. Compared to last year there are significant increases in wheat and soybean prices, major increases in all fertilizer prices, and fuel prices that have almost doubled. The following analysis quantifies these relative changes to estimate the profitability for crops harvested in 2023. The analysis includes estimated returns comparing double-cropped wheat/soybeans with full-season soybeans for the 2023 crop, and the likely implications for Kentucky grain farmers.

Additional costs associated with double-cropping are accounted for, including fuel, fertilizer, herbicides, machinery repairs and depreciation, labor, hauling, etc. The analysis assumes a blended mix of selling directly from the field and selling from storage for both wheat and soybeans, as well as expected basis for each crop with those scenarios. This results in 2023 crop prices of \$8.85/bu for wheat and \$13.75/bu for soybeans.

Two regions with different agronomic characteristics are evaluated. The first region is along the southwest tier of counties roughly between I-24 and I-65, which traditionally does a lot of double-cropping. The second region is along the northwest tier of counties (Ohio Valley region) that has some of the best yields for corn and soybeans, but traditionally plants less wheat. Cash rent is assumed to be \$175/acre for both

these regions for the average ground and \$225/acre on the best ground (note: this will vary substantially, but is done here for illustrative purposes only). Other major assumptions are: \$4.50/gallon fuel, 50 mile one-way grain hauling, \$.95/unit N, \$.67/unit P, and \$.72/unit K.

Southwest Tier Assumptions (Average Ground):

72 bu wheat

42 bu double-cropped soybeans

50 bu full-season soybeans

Resulting net profits:

+\$279 double-crop

+\$153 full-season soybeans

This results in a \$126 difference in favor of the wheat-soybean double-crop. The double-crop soybean yield would need to decrease to 32 bushels before full-season soybeans were as profitable. This would equate to a 36% yield loss of double-cropped soybeans compared to full-season soybeans.

Southwest Tier Assumptions (Best Ground):

90 bu wheat

51 bu double-cropped soybeans

60 bu full-season soybeans

Continued on Page 5

Fall 2022 Wheat Planting Decision (continued)

Resulting net profits:

- +\$502 double-crop
- +\$236 full-season soybeans

This results in a \$266 difference in favor of the wheat-soybean double-crop. The double-cropped soybean yield could drop down to 31 bu before full-season soybeans were as profitable. This would equate to a 48% yield loss of double-cropped soybeans compared to full-season soybeans.

Northwest Tier Assumptions (Average Ground):

- 65 bu wheat
- 42 bu double-cropped soybeans
- 50 bu full-season soybeans

Resulting net profits:

- +\$220 double-crop
- +\$153 full-season soybeans

This results in a \$67 difference in favor of the wheat-soybean double-crop. The double-cropped soybean yield would have to decrease to 37 bu in this case before full-season soybeans were as profitable. This would equate to a 26% yield loss of double-cropped soybeans compared to full-season soybeans.

Northwest Tier Assumptions (Best Ground):

- 75 bu wheat
- 51 bu double-cropped soybeans
- 60 bu full-season soybeans

Resulting net profits:

- +\$374 double-crop

+\$236 full-season soybeans

This results in a \$138 difference in favor of the wheat-soybean double-crop. The double-cropped soybean yield would have to decrease to 40 bu in this case before full-season soybeans were as profitable. This would equate to a 34% yield loss of double-cropped soybeans compared to full-season soybeans.

Given the current expected market conditions, planting wheat looks extremely attractive this fall in all four scenarios, and this is the first year that I have done this analysis that this has occurred. On the best ground in the southwest tier of counties, the wheat-soybean double-crop is projected to net \$266/acre more than full-season soybeans. On the best ground in the northwest tier of counties, the wheat-soybean double-crop is projected to net \$138/acre more than full-season soybeans.

This analysis doesn't account for potential payments from Farm Bill programs. However, these programs would pay on base acre crop allocation and not planted acres, so there would be no effect on the planting decision. This analysis does not also account for potentially harvesting straw, which is typically more common in Central Kentucky.

To change the assumptions above to your specific conditions and evaluate your expected profitability, go to the grain budget site at: <http://agecon.ca.uky.edu/budgets>

The Corn-Soybean Budgets and Wheat Budgets can be downloaded or opened directly from this page.

Source: By Greg Halich— He can be contacted at Greg.Halich@uky.edu or 859-257-8841

Forage Timely Tips: November

- Apply 30-50 lb nitrogen per acre to strengthen cool-season grass pastures and grass hay fields.
- If not already done, inventory hay supplies and assess hay quality. Hay prices are increasing.
- Using a grazing stick or rising plate meter, estimate stockpile forage 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 are 6-8 inches tall and are well anchored. Do NOT graze closer to 4 inches.
- Graze winter annuals that will not overwinter such as brassicas and spring oats.
- Alkaloid content in tall fescue can also be high in the fall some years, but will begin decline after a hard freeze (low 20's).
- Talk to local NRCS conservationists about a grazing plan and cost-share opportunities.

From Kentucky Forage News

Goat Producers

The Goat Producers will hold their Christmas Party on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the Extension Office at 6:00 p.m. Meat and drinks will be provided; please bring a side dish. Officers will also be elected.

EXTENSION OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

THANKSGIVING:

*Closed Thursday, November 24
and Friday, November 25*



CHRISTMAS:

*Closed Monday, December 26
through Monday, January 2*

BEEF QUALITY CARE & ASSURANCE (BQCA) TRAINING

CAIP Educational Component Eligible

Tuesday, December 13th
5:00 p.m.

Bourbon County
Extension Office,
603 Millersburg Rd., Paris

—
Call the Extension Office
at 859-987-1895 to
reserve a spot

—
\$5 Fee - Checks only,
make out to KBN

Plate It Up Kentucky Proud Recipe



Broccoli Chowder

2 tablespoons canola oil	3 cups broccoli florets	all-purpose flour
½ cup chopped onion	½ teaspoon dried Italian seasoning	3½ cups low sodium chicken broth
3 cloves garlic, finely minced	½ teaspoon salt	½ cup half-and-half
½ cup chopped carrots	¼ teaspoon pepper	½ cup low-fat, shredded cheese
2 cups diced, unpeeled red potatoes	3 tablespoons	

In a large heavy pot, **heat** the oil over medium heat. **Add** the onion and garlic and **sauté** 2-3 minutes. **Add** the carrots, red potatoes and broccoli one at a time; **sauté** each about 2 minutes. **Add** the Italian seasoning, salt, pepper and flour and **toss** until vegetables are coated. **Cook** 1-2 minutes. **Add** the chicken broth and bring to a boil. **Reduce** heat to low, **cover** pot and **simmer** for 15

minutes. **Remove** lid and **stir** in the half-and-half. Bring back to a **simmer** and **remove** from heat. **Ladle** into bowls and top with cheese to serve.

Yield: 8,1cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 180 calories; 8g total fat; 2.5 g saturated fat; 15 mg cholesterol; 340 mg sodium; 18 g total carbohydrate; 3 g dietary fiber; 4 g sugar; 8 g protein.



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.