

Montgomery County Extension Agriculture News & Events

Cooperative Extension Service
Montgomery County
106 East Locust Street
Mt Sterling KY 40353-1404
(859) 498-8741, 498-8742
montgomery.ca.uky.edu
ghamilto@uky.edu

Greetings Farmers:

August 12, 2024

August/September 2024

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Attend the OSU Farm Science Review – September 17

The Montgomery County Extension Service is attempting to get together a group to attend the 62nd Annual Ohio State Universities Farm Science Review on Tuesday, September 17. The Farm Science Review is an outdoor Farm Show that has hundreds of ag exhibitors, field equipment demonstration and many other ag related educational activities covering many acres. To learn more about the Farm Science Review you can visit: <https://fsr.osu.edu/home> . The Extension Service will be taking a 25 passenger bus to the Farm Science Review on Tuesday, September 17.



The bus will leave the Montgomery County Extension Office at 6:00 AM and travel to London, Ohio. The trip will take approximately 3.5 hours, getting us to the show around 9:30 AM. We will plan to leave the show at 5:00 PM and return to Mt. Sterling at approximately 9:00 PM. There will be no charge for those wishing to attend. All other costs will be on your own (meals, equipment purchases etc.). If you would like to attend, stop by the Montgomery County Extension Office by Friday, September 13th to register. If we don't have it on file, we will need a copy of your health insurance card and an emergency contact name and phone number. This is a policy required when riding on the Extension Office Vehicles.



Sincerely,

Gary D. Hamilton
Gary Hamilton,
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent
Montgomery County
ghamilto@uky.edu



GRAIN MOISTURE TESTING

Grain harvesting time is approaching and if you need to have grain tested for moisture, we have a moisture meter here in the office for your use at no cost. For a good sample to test, walk into the field several rows and get random samples. For corn, 3 to 4 ears should work. Be aware that the field does not always dry down at the same rate.



Do not allow the samples to lay in the truck since this too will give false readings on the condition of the field. If you can't get them into the office the same day you collect them, seal them in a plastic bag, but again do not leave this bag in the hot truck.

HAY TESTING—A WISE INVESTMENT



The Kentucky Department of Agriculture has an excellent hay and haylage testing program. The results can be used to accurately, efficiently and economically determine your feeding and supplementation program. The cost is \$10.00 per "lot". A "lot" of hay/haylage is hay/haylage taken from the same harvest, the same field, same type of harvest conditions, and with the same method of storage and same weather conditions during harvest. For more information about how to pull hay samples and getting the KDA forms to mail with samples, contact the Montgomery County Extension Office.

DECEASED ANIMAL REMOVAL

If you need to have dead farm animals removed from your Montgomery County Farm, Call Mike Hall at 606-359-4407. This program is sponsored by the Montgomery County Fiscal Court with partial funding from the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy and approved by the Montgomery County Ag Development Council.

FALL IS A GREAT TIME TO SAMPLE SOIL

If you think spring is the best time to take soil samples, you might want to rethink that. Fall is actually the optimum time to take soil samples for fertility analyses.

Fall sampling gives you plenty of time to follow fertility recommendations before planting season. As soon as you receive the soil test results, look at the recommendations for lime and pH, a measure of soil acidity that affects plants' uptake of all nutrients. If the soil pH is too low, it decreases the uptake of essential nutrients, and elements like aluminum and manganese can become toxic to growing plant roots.

Applying limestone neutralizes soil acidity. Because agricultural lime takes about six months to break down and react with the soil, it should be applied in the fall to be fully effective in the spring. Unlike fertilizer, lime is needed every three to five years, depending on your crop rotation and nitrogen fertilizer history. The only way to determine if your fields will need lime next year is by soil testing this fall.



The turn-around time for test results is much faster in the fall, usually within a week of submission, because fewer people are submitting samples. You can also apply all the recommended fertilizers, except nitrogen, in the fall. Often a fall application will save you considerable money, because fertilizer prices generally are cheaper in the fall as a result of lower demand. In addition to lower fertilizer prices, it's easier to get the spreader truck in the field during the fall, because the soil usually is drier.

If you don't soil test, you can only guess at the fertility needs of your fields, and far too often those assumptions are wrong. Guessing at the amount of fertilizer to apply often results in applying more than the recommended rate. Some producers want to be sure there's plenty of fertilizer available in case they have a bumper crop next season. However, studies have shown that crops need the same amount of fertilizer in a good year as in a poor year.

If you're interested in collecting fall soil samples, stop by your local county Extension office. We can give you details on how to take accurate soil samples and where to send the collected cores.

Remember, spending some effort on soil sampling this fall can keep you from wasting time and money. Fall soil samples also can provide big returns for next year's crop. Soil testing from Montgomery County is Free to our county residents. Out of county residents will pay \$8 each sample.

LATE SUMMER IS THE BEST TIME TO ESTABLISH COOL-SEASON FORAGES

The period from late summer into early fall is the best time to establish common cool-season grasses such as orchardgrass, tall fescue, timothy and bluegrass for pasture or hay in Kentucky. These four grasses make up 95 percent of our pasture acreage.



Many years of research have shown this period provides the best chance for successful establishment. Mother Nature has a hand in this because seed produced in late spring remains dormant until late summer, and early fall rainfall provides the moisture necessary for the seed to germinate.

To increase your success rate, remember these four points:

* First, address soil fertility needs by applying lime and fertilizer based on a current soil test. Inadequate levels of phosphorous, potassium or limestone will limit the success of late-summer seedings. For pure grass stands, apply nitrogen at the rate of 40 to 60 pounds per acre.

* Second, control competition. Late-summer seedings most often fail from competition and lack of water. When you control existing vegetation with herbicides or tillage, the emerging seedlings will have access to whatever water and nutrients are present without having to compete with weeds.

To maximize the success of seedings, use a burn-down herbicide ahead of planting to kill annual weeds. Translocated herbicides can be used where labeled to kill or suppress perennials such as johnsongrass.

Remember to wait two to three weeks after spraying translocated herbicides before you plant in no-till situations. This will allow time for killed weeds to dry out and for residual effects of the herbicide to decay.

* Third, select high quality seed of an adapted variety. Planting high quality seed is an essential step toward establishment and longevity of a pasture. These seeds have high percentages of germination, low percentages of weed seed and freedom from noxious weed seed.

Use varieties that have a proven track record of performance in Kentucky. The University of Kentucky conducts extensive research on varietal performance, which can be found on the UK Forages website, https://forages.ca.uky.edu/variety_trials. Here you will find all of the current results for the major forage crops in Kentucky, including cool-season grasses.

Look for varieties that have performed well across several test years and locations. These varieties will have improved yield, quality, persistence, disease resistance or other positive traits.

If you're uncertain about a variety's adaptation and performance, you can obtain information on the leading performers in the UK forage variety tests by contacting me at the Montgomery Cooperative Extension Service.

* Fourth, seed at the proper time and depth. Seed legumes and grasses before mid-September. Grasses are less sensitive to later seeding than legumes. The major cool-season grasses will not do well if you simply broadcast them onto existing overgrazed or mowed pastures. Forages should be seeded no deeper than one-fourth to one-half inch.

Late-summer alfalfa seedings are susceptible to sclerotinia stem and crown rot. If sclerotinia has been active in your area or farm, strongly consider waiting until next spring to seed. Source: Jimmy Henning, extension forage specialist

LIMITING WEANING STRESS FOR BEEF CATTLE

Source: Jeff Lehmkuhler, UK beef cattle specialist

Weaning is usually a stressful time of year for calves. Limiting weaning stress in beef calves can increase their daily gain. Calves often experience four types of stress: physical, environmental, nutritional and social. You can help them avoid or minimize these with proper management.



Physical stress usually happens during long periods of standing in working facilities, mishandling in the working chute and hauling to a weaning facility. Castration and dehorning during weaning can significantly increase stress, so castrating at birth and vaccinating before weaning will help decrease this type of stress.

Environmental stress can be man-made or a product of the climate. The weaning pen is the main human-induced factor in this type of stress. When you transfer calves from a clean pasture to a dry lot, it can add stress as they are not familiar with the new surroundings. Plus, moving calves to dusty dry lot, where they walk around in a confined space turning up dust, can cause respiratory problems and decreased weight gain. Climate issues such as rain, ice, snow and wind are out of your control, but you can try to plan weaning time to avoid those conditions.

Social stress is usually caused by removing the calf from its mother. While this is an inevitable part of weaning, you can decrease the stress by using a cross-fence method. The cross-fence method is where you separate the calves from the mothers with a good fence that will keep them apart, but allow them to be nose-to-nose. This will keep the calves calmer and separation won't be such a large issue. Even with more distance, as long as the calves can see the cows, it will reduce stress levels.



Nutritional stress happens when calves are transitioned from a milk and pasture diet to a stored forage and grain diet. You should have high-quality pasture available to calves during weaning time in the spring and the fall. For fall weaning, calves can graze fields cut for hay that are beginning to regrow or stock-piled fescue fields. Fall weaning pastures should be grazed or clipped between mid-August to mid-September to allow enough time for regrowth. We recommend turning calves into the pasture when grasses are 8 to 12 inches tall and letting them graze until grasses are 3 to 4 inches tall.

Pasture weaning really does offer a lower stress alternative to the conventional dry lot weaning programs. It reduces the environmental and nutritional stress simultaneously because calves are already used to pasture and their diet doesn't drastically change. To have success with this method, it will take planning on your part regarding high-quality, available pastures.

FARM RECORD BOOKS AVAILABLE -For many years, the UK College of Agriculture has printed and made available an easy to keep but effective farm record book for farmers. We have a supply of the record books in the Montgomery County Extension Office.

Civil Rights Act-Compliant statement - The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the bases of race, color, ethnic origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to Equal Opportunity Office, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546, the UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

2024 Kentucky Intermediate Grazing School

Helping livestock producers improve profitability with classroom and hands-on learning

When: September 25-26, 2024

Where: Woodford County Extension Office
184 Beasley Drive, Versailles, KY 40383

Cost: \$60/Participant – includes all materials, grazing manual, grazing stick, morning refreshments, and lunch both days

Program Registration: DEADLINE is September 20, 2024

Online Registration with CREDIT CARD AT:
<https://2024FallGrazingSchool.eventbrite.com>

Registration by U.S. Mail with CHECK:

Caroline Roper
UK Research and Education Center
PO Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445



Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____

Number of participants _____ x \$60 per participant = _____ Total Amount

Please make checks payable to KFCG



Kentucky Master Grazer Educational Program



KADF
KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



2024 Kentucky Intermediate Grazing School

Helping livestock producers improve profitability with classroom and hands-on learning

Emphasis on ruminants - beef, dairy, sheep, & goats

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

MEET AT WOODFORD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE EACH MORNING

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| 7:30 Registration and refreshments | 7:30 Refreshments |
| 8:00 Introduction of staff and participants | 8:45 Understanding and managing nutrient cycles in grasslands-Dr. John Grove, UK |
| 8:15 Grazing math and small group planning for field exercise-Dr. Katie VanValin, UK | 9:30 Managing shade in grazing systems-Dr. Katie VanValin, UK |
| 9:00 Break & travel to field demonstration area | 9:30 Break |
| 9:30 Getting comfortable with electric fencing- Jeremy McGill | 10:00 Drought proofing your grazing system- Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK |
| 10:00 Portable water system setup-Dr. Jeff Lehmkuehler, UK | 10:30 Utilizing the Graze Model for planning- Dr. Jimmy Henning, UK and Adam Jones, NRCS |
| 10:30 Methods to assess forage availability-Dr. Ray Smith, UK | 11:15 How I made grazing work on the farm- Todd Clark, Clark Family Farm |
| 11:00 Hands-on: setting up small paddocks for grazing demonstrations-All Instructors | 12:00 Lunch (Woodford County Cattlemen) |
| 12:00 Return to Woodford County Extension Office | 12:45 Optimizing the use of existing forage resources-Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK |
| 12:30 Lunch (Woodford County Cattlemen) | 1:15 Travel to field demonstration area |
| 1:00 Hands on plant ID-Dr. Ray Smith, UK | 1:45 Field exercise: observe grazed paddocks and hear reports from each group |
| 1:30 Options for getting water to livestock-Dr. Jeff Lehmkuehler and Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK | 3:00 Frost seeding clover-Brittany Hendrix and Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK |
| 2:30 Managing tall fescue in grazing systems-Dr. Jimmy Henning | 3:45 Annuals for extending grazing-Dr. Ray Smith, UK |
| 3:15 Exploring plant root systems-Dr. Ray Smith and Dr. Chris Teutsch | 4:45 Final comments, diplomas, and adjourn |
| 4:00 Discussion | |
| 4:30 Adjourn | |

Thursday September 26, 2024



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





BEGINNING & SMALL FARMER SCHOOL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1



10:00AM-3:00PM

9:30AM Registration



25 MSU FARM DRIVE

Arena Classrooms

TOPICS

- First Steps
- Farm Design & Layout
- Taxes & Record Keeping
- Enterprises to Consider
- Info from Partnering Groups

To register, use the QR code or call your local Extension Office at:

859-498-8741



Registration required by 10/25/24

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Small and Backyard Poultry Upcoming Webinars

- Molting a backyard layer flock and taking care of broody hens (September 3, 2024 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- Deciding on coop plans for backyard hens (October 1, 2024 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- * Budgeting for a backyard or urban poultry flock (November 5, 2024 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- Poultry Poopology 101 (December 3, 2024 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- Incorporating chickens into schools (January 7, 2025 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)
- * Rat snakes and poultry flocks (February 4, 2025 @ 3 PM Eastern Time)

Go to this link for more information and to register: <https://poultry.extension.org/webinars>
All Webinars are Free.