

LEWIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE



AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES JANUARY NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

- January 1st & 2nd: Office Closed
- January 8th-February 12th: Master Cattlemen Series
- January 12th: Private Applicator Training 5:30PM-8:30PM
- January 19th: Office Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 20th: Private Applicator Training 9AM-12PM
- February 16th: Private Applicator Training 5:30PM-8:30PM
- February 19th: Cattlemen's Meeting at Lewis County High School

A Note From Your Agent

Happy New Year! We have several programs coming up in January and February. If you need your Private Applicator Pesticide Training, be sure to attend one of the scheduled sessions.

Our 2026 Beef Integrated Resource Management Calendars are here at the office so be sure to stop in and get one!

**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

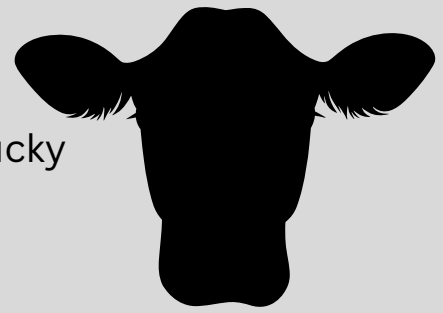
Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

TIMELY TIPS

Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky



SPRING-CALVING COW HERD

Study the performance of last year's calf crop and plan for improvement. Plan your breeding program and consider a better herd sire(s). Select herd sires which will allow you to meet your goals and be willing to pay for superior animals.

- Consider vaccinating the cows to help prevent calf scours.
- Keep replacement heifers gaining to increase the probability of puberty occurring before the start of the spring breeding season.
- Start cows on the high magnesium mineral supplement soon. Consider protein supplementation if hay is less than 10% crude protein. If cows are thin, begin energy (grain) supplementation now. Cows must reach a body condition score of 5 before calving to maximize their opportunity for reproductive success. Supplementation now allows adequate time for cows to calving in adequate body condition score.
- Get ready for the calving season! See that all equipment and materials are ready, including obstetrical equipment, record forms or booklets, ear tags, scales for obtaining birthweights, etc. Prepare a calving area where assistance can be provided easily if needed. Purchase ear tags for calves and number them ahead of time if possible. Plan for enough labor to watch/assist during the calving period.
- Move early-calving heifers and cows to pastures that are relatively small and easily accessible to facilities in case calving assistance is needed. Keep them in good condition but don't overfeed them at this time. Increase their nutrient intake after they calve.

FALL-CALVING COW HERD

Provide clean windbreaks and shelter for young calves.

- Breeding season continues. Keep fall calving cows on accumulated pasture as long as possible, then start feeding hay/grain/supplement. Don't let these cows lose body condition!
- Catch up on castrating, dehorning and implanting.

GENERAL

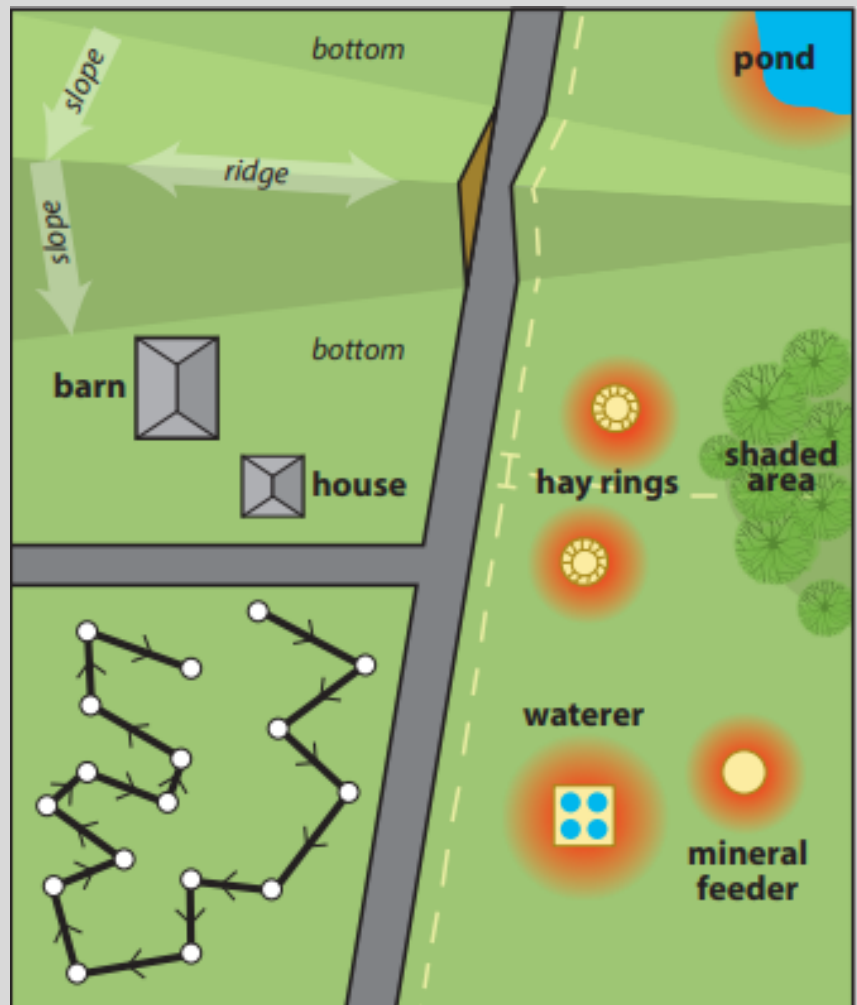
- Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem. Consider preparing a feeding area with gravel over geotextile fabric or maybe a concrete feeding pad. Bale grazing is an option for producers to help control mud while spreading nutrients across pastures.
- Increase feed as the temperature drops, especially when the weather is extremely cold and damp. When temperature drops to 15°F, cattle need access to windbreaks.
- Provide water at all times. Cattle need 5 to 11 gallons per head daily even in the coldest weather. Be aware of frozen pond hazards. Keep ice "broken" so that cattle won't walk out on the pond trying to get water. Automatic waterers, even the "frost-free" or "energy-free" waterers can freeze up in extremely cold weather. Watch closely.
- Consider renovating and improving pastures with legumes, especially if they have poor stands of grass or if they contain high levels of the fescue endophyte. Purchase seed and get equipment ready this month.

FORAGE TIMELY TIPS: JANUARY

- Continue strip-grazing of stockpiled tall fescue for maximum utilization.
- Remove animals from waterlogged pastures to limit pugging and soil compaction
- Feed best hay to animals with highest nutritional needs.
- Supplement poor quality hay as indicated by forage testing.
- Feed hay in poor pastures to increase soil fertility and enhance organic matter
- Consider 'bale grazing' - set out hat throughout field when the ground is dry or frozen. Then use temporary fencing to allocate bales as needed after that.
- Use variety trial results to select seed for spring renovation
- Prepare for pasture renovation by purchasing seeds, inoculant, etc. and getting equipment ready

SOIL TESTING HAYFIELDS & PASTURES

- Sample pastures and hayfields every two to three years
- Sample in the spring or fall
- A single soil sample should not represent more than 20 acres
- Sampling depth should be 4 inches
- Collect 15 to 20 cores randomly throughout each pasture/hayfield area
- Put cores in plastic bucket, hand crush, and mix thoroughly
- Do not take samples directly in manure pats and urine spots



EAST KY HAY CONTEST RESULTS

This year's Eastern Kentucky Hay Contest was a great success, with hundreds of entries submitted from across the region.

Lewis County producers were well represented, including many first place ribbons!

EKHC 2025 Award Winners

1st Place Hay (Alfalfa-Grass): Frank Mawk

1st Place Hay (Small-Grains): Jeff Kamer

2nd Place Hay (Grass): Frank Mawk

2nd Place Hay (Alfalfa): Darren Stanfield

2nd Place Baleage (Grass): Jeff Kamer

2nd Place Baleage (Summer Annual): Jeff Kamer

3rd Place Hay (Small Grains): Tim Lykins

In the 21 counties that entered into the contest, Lewis County placed 2nd overall!

Congratulations to all Lewis County participants for their hard work and dedication.



PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

- January 12
5:30PM-8:30PM
- January 20
9AM-12PM.
- February 16
5:30PM-8:30PM

TO REGISTER: CALL 606-796-2732

AT LEWIS COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: 3 DAYS PRIOR TO CLASS

CLASSES ARE CANCELLED IF NO ONE REGISTERS

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AGRONOMY DAY

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

9:00AM-3:00PM

AT MASON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

FREE TO ATTEND!
REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY:
FEBRUARY 7th

TOPICS

(In no particular order)

- PESTICIDE UPDATES & DRONE APPLICATIONS
- WEED CONTROL IN GRAIN CROPS
- PESTICIDE APPLICATION EQUIPMENT & PROPER USE
- SOIL FERTILITY & DIFFERENCES IN LAB RESULTS
- CONTROL OF INVASIVES
- APPLYING PESTICIDES/PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

APPROVED CEUs:
2 CEUs- CAT 1A
1 CEU- CAT 10
1 CEU- CAT 11

USE THE QR CODE OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE TO REGISTER:

BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141
FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641
LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732
MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
ROBERTSON COUNTY: (606) 724-5796

**LUNCH
PROVIDED**



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**LEWIS
COUNTY
CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**

**Feburary 19th 7p.m. at
the Lewis County High
School**



**Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment**

**2026
Beef Integrated Resource Management Calendar**

TOBACCO GAP TRAINING

**March 12, 2026
6:00PM**

MASON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
800 US-68, MAYSVILLE, KY

TO REGISTER USE THE QR CODE OR CALL
YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE.



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- MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
- ROBERTSON CO.: (606) 724-5796

**Cooperative
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**GAP
CONNECTIONS**

****BE SURE TO BRING YOUR
TOBACCO GAP CARD WITH YOU****

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**STOP BY THE OFFICE AND
GET YOURS!**

UK 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. (If you have previously registered, you do not need to re-register). You will receive an invitation and password the morning of the presentation. Zoom will start at 8:00 Eastern/7:00 Central.



January 8

Making the Most of the Good Years: Profits, Reinvestment, and Tax Management in Beef Cattle - Jonathan Shepherd, Agricultural Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky



February 12

Impact of Bull Nutrition During Development on Semen Quality - Dr. Pedro Fontes, Associate Professor, University of Georgia



March 12

Bull Selection Practices in Kentucky: What are we Doing Right and What Could we Improve! - Dr. Darrh Bullock, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

If you have any questions or need additional information please email dbullock@uky.edu. If you are already registered you will get a Zoom invitation the morning of each session with the link and password.