

Ag & Natural Resources



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service
Franklin County
101 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY 40601-8750
(502) 695-9035
Fax: (502) 695-9309
franklin.ca.uky.edu

OF COWS AND PLOWS FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



Frost Seeding Clover: A Recipe for Success

Legumes are an essential part of a strong and healthy grassland ecosystems. They form a symbiotic relationship with Rhizobium bacteria in which the bacteria fix nitrogen from the air into a plant available form and share it with the legume. Clover also increases forage quality and quantity and helps to manage tall fescue toxicosis. In the past, the positive impact of clover on tall fescue toxicosis has always been thought to simply be a dilution effect, but new research from the USDA's Forage Animal Production Unit in Lexington shows that compounds found in red clover can reverse vasoconstriction that is caused by the ergot alkaloids in toxic tall fescue. The primary compound found in red clover is a vasodilator called Biochanin A. Clover stands in pastures thin overtime due to various factors and require reseeding every three to four years.

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Clover stands in pastures thin overtime due to various factors and require reseeding every three to four years. There are several techniques for reintroducing clover into pastures including no-till seeding, minimum tillage, and frost seeding. Of these techniques, frost seeding requires the least amount of equipment and is the simplest to implement. Frost seeding is accomplished by broadcasting clover seed onto existing pastures or hayfields mid to late winter and allowing the freezing and thawing cycles to incorporate the seed into the soil. This method works best with red and white clover and annual lespedeza. It is NOT recommended for seeding grasses or alfalfa. This publication covers the important factors for successful frost seeding. Find this and related publications at the UK Forage Website under the “establishment” tab. <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/establishment>

Frost Seeding at a Glance (from the new pub.)

- Legumes are an essential part of sustainable grassland ecosystems.
- Overseeding may be required to maintain and thicken stands.
- Frost seeding is the simplest method for reintroducing clover back into pastures.
- Control broadleaf weeds fall prior to frost seeding.
- Soil test and apply any needed lime or fertilizer before frost seeding.
- Suppress the existing sod and reduce residue with hard grazing in the fall and winter.
- Choose well adapted varieties of red and white clover using the UK forage variety testing data.
- Calibrate seeder and check spread pattern.
- Broadcast 6-8 lb/A of red clover and 1-2 lb/A of white clover that has been inoculated in mid-February (no later than early March).
- Control competition from existing grasses by grazing pastures in short intervals until clover seedlings become tall enough to be grazed off.
- Put pasture back into your regular rotation once seedlings reach a height of 6-8 inches.

The 57th National Farm Machinery Show

February 15 – 18, 2023

“We look forward to seeing you Wednesday, Feb. 15 through Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023 for the 57th National Farm Machinery Show. This event is free and open to the public. Parking rates are \$12 for cars.

The National Farm Machinery Show has offered the most complete selection of cutting-edge agricultural products, equipment and services available in the farming industry. Business professionals from around the world gain knowledge and hands-on access to various technological advancements needed for the upcoming farming season during the four-day show.

The Kentucky Exposition Center is completely filled with more than 1,500 booths, making it the country’s largest indoor farm show. Nearly every major line of farming equipment will be on display allowing attendees to compare products side by side. The most innovative technology and new product launches are available to agribusiness

professionals, as well as alternative energy information and solutions to the challenges facing today’s agribusiness industry.

In addition to seeing the newest products on the market, visitors can attend free seminars led by industry experts.”

Plan Your Visit

Dates: Wednesday, February 15 through Saturday, February 18, 2023

Hours: 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. daily (EST)

Location: Kentucky Exposition Center, 937 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY 40209

Prices: Free Admission, Parking \$12 for cars and \$25 for busses.

Seminars: Seminars are free for all attendees.

Free seminars are scheduled for Feb. 15-18 in the South Wing.



Follow These Tips for Grass-Finished Beef

Posted January 3rd, 2023

Growth in the grass-finished beef sector has grown exponentially in the past decade. The desire for local foods by more consumers and the pandemic added a giant nudge to the grass-finished growth curve.

Some beef producers have experienced resounding success and profitability in the grass-finished beef space. Others have not or are still in an adjustment period. To be sure, raising grass-finished beef is not the same as taking care of a cow-calf herd. Maintenance isn't good enough — you need growth, and fast. Gary Bates, the director of the University of Tennessee's Beef and Forage Center, offers three important tips for farmers who have or want to develop a grass-finished beef enterprise. They are: 1. Minimize the use of Kentucky 31 (KY-31) tall fescue. The endophyte in KY-31 tall fescue produces alkaloids that negatively affect grazing cattle, including reduced weight gain in growing calves.



“Research has shown that 500- to 600-pound steers only gain 1 pound per day on infected tall fescue compared to 2 pounds per day when on orchardgrass or nontoxic tall fescue,” Bates notes. “This is a dramatic difference if you are trying to finish cattle on pasture.” Bates says that one of the first steps to improve cattle weight gain is to provide a nontoxic forage species for growing cattle. The list of alternatives to KY-31 includes orchardgrass, annual ryegrass, wheat, or novel endophyte tall fescue species.

2. Maintain red and white clover in every grazing pasture. Adding legumes to grass pastures will enhance calf weight gains. Legumes will boost the protein and energy content of a pasture, which will result in improved performance. Bates cites research showing that adding clovers can increase the weight gain by 0.25 to 0.5 pounds per day. He suggests seeding 2 pounds of white clover and 4 pounds of red clover per acre in late winter or early spring.

3. Provide plenty of available forage. “Grazing cattle have a remarkable ability to select a high-quality diet,” Bates asserts. “If there is enough forage available in a pasture, an animal might consume a diet that is several percentage units higher in protein and energy than the average of what is available.” Leaves have higher energy and protein than stems, and because grazing animals prefer the leaves of grasses and legumes, letting the animals have selectivity will result in a higher quality diet and better weight gain. “This means that you shouldn't force animals to graze all of the forage in a pasture, but you should let them graze the high-quality portion of the plants, then move them to another field where more forage is available,” Bates says. “You can let cows come in and clean up the field that has been picked over. This principle holds true regardless of the species you are grazing,” he adds.

Producing high-quality beef on pasture requires different forage strategies than that for the cow herd. At the top of the list is to minimize the use of KY-31, utilize legumes in all pastures, and don't overgraze or over stock a pasture to ensure plenty of available forage, which allows the animals to select a high-quality diet.

~ Mike Rankin, Hay and Forage Grower. Go to hayandforage.com/ for more articles or to receive your free copy.



THIRD THURSDAY THING

Every third Thursday of the month,
January through November, at 10 a.m. ET

January 19: USDA Farm and Home Loans | Natural Resource Management

February 16: Organic Agriculture

March 16: Small Ruminants

April 20: Pest Control | NRCS Programs

May 18: Aquaculture

June 15: Farmers Markets | Juneteenth Celebration

July 20: Fencing | Pastured Poultry

August 17: Sustainable and Organic Agriculture

September 21: Pawpaw

October 19: Small Ruminants

November 16: Small Farms Conference

Join us in person at the Harold R. Benson
Research and Demonstration Farm or online
at [YouTube.com/kysuag/live](https://www.youtube.com/kysuag/live)



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UNIVERSITY**

Cooperative Extension Program

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Mix of Organic and Inorganic Selenium May Increase Beef Cow Fertility

Published on Jan. 5, 2023

By Aimee Nielson

LEXINGTON, Ky., — Fertility is a driving factor for a sustainable and profitable cow-calf enterprise. Selenium plays a significant role in fertility, and in states like Kentucky and Tennessee, producers must supplement because their soil is selenium deficient. In an ongoing study at the [University of Kentucky](#), researchers are pitting the industry-standard inorganic selenium against a 50/50 mix of inorganic and organic selenium to determine the most productive option.

“Selenium is an essential micronutrient that is incorporated into selenoproteins. These act as antioxidants, basically getting rid of free radicals, protecting the integrity of cells which allow them to function better,” said Phillip Bridges, associate professor in the [UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Department of Animal and Food Sciences](#). “Animals can use organic or inorganic forms, but we typically supplement using an inorganic form. With this work, we are finding that the form of selenium supplemented can affect a variety of reproductive processes.

For the study, Bridges supplemented sodium selenite as the inorganic form versus a 50/50 mix of sodium selenite and a yeast-derived organic form. They found animals that got the mixed form had increased progesterone levels by days six and seven of the estrous cycle and then throughout pregnancy. Bridges said the early increase in progesterone is perhaps the most intriguing part of the study.

“We’ve known for decades that increased early luteal phase progesterone stimulates uterine development, length of the conceptus and indicators of fertility,” Bridges said.

To start the study, animals received no selenium supplementation for 45 days. Bridges said the animals were not selenium-deficient after the 45 days, but levels did significantly decrease. For the next 45 days, he supplied the industry-standard inorganic selenium. The next 90 days, cattle

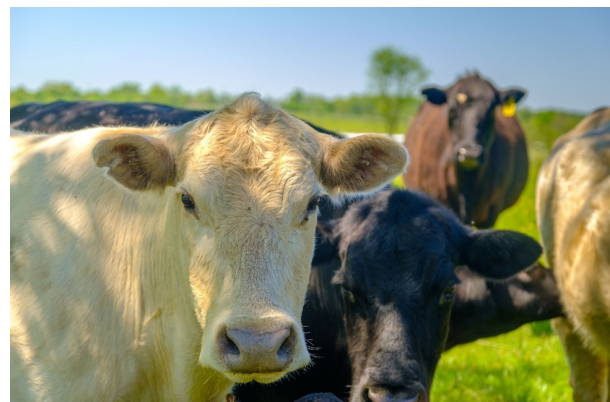
received either inorganic or a mix of inorganic and organic selenium before researchers bred the animals and examined blood and tissues for differences.

Bridges said that by day 17 after breeding, he noticed an altered abundance of progesterone and interferon-tau-induced gene transcripts in the endometrium and an overall increase in conceptus length. He said scientists believe larger conceptuses may help ensure continued establishment and progression of a pregnancy.

Although the work is ongoing, Bridges believes using the 50/50 blend of organic and inorganic selenium will improve fertility at the production level. The grant-funded work will continue through early 2024.

“If you’re in an area where you have to supplement selenium, it appears the mixed form should increase fertility,” he said. “If you’re in a state like Kentucky, Tennessee or other cow-calf states, this is a great benefit to those beef cattle producers in terms of sustainability and profitability.”

This material is based upon work supported by the [National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture](#), under award number 2018-67015-27613. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Agriculture.



Reproductive Issues with Small and Backyard Poultry Flocks Webinar



February 7, 2023

4:00 PM EST



During her webinar on an overview of poultry anatomy, Dr. Jacquie Jacob from the University of Kentucky mentioned several things that can go wrong with the reproductive system of female poultry. She was asked to give a webinar on this topic - so here it is. Dr. Jacob will discuss some of the reproductive problems that can occur in a poultry flock including prolapse, egg binding, and internal laying.

Register in advance for this webinar:

<https://uky.zoom.us/webinar/re...QGe9ExRAuaV-O-YIQzvw>

Recordings from all past webinars are available at [PAST WEBINARS – Small and backyard poultry \(extension.org\)](#)

We also have a YouTube channel - @poultryextension - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRMPDhvzuDXb2sjDTF3Tj7w>

And a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/poultryextension>

Join us for the 16th annual

Pastures Please!!

Monday, February 6th, 5:30 – 8:00 pm



Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington
Hosted by the UK Cooperative Extension and UK Ag. Equine Programs

Program

- 5:30 Refreshments
- 6:00 Pasture Recovery and Rejuvenation, Dr. Ray Smith
- 6:30 Meeting Your Equipment Needs, Dr. Morgan Hayes
- 7:00 Weed Control after a Drought, Dr. Bill Witt

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Equine Programs



RSVP online using the QR code or call:
859-257-5582

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Winter Areal and River Flooding



Jane Marie Wix - National Weather Service Jackson, KY

When we receive enough water that the ground can't absorb anymore, it begins to accumulate on the surface - we call that runoff. The water either begins to pond, or runs into the nearby creek and river channels. However, when ponding water begins to rise and blocks roadways or impacts residences, or the streams and rivers can't hold any more water and spill out of their banks - we call this flooding. This time of year areal flooding is more likely simply because the cold temperatures may keep part of the ground frozen and because there is a lack of vegetation - both of which cause a reduction in the amount of water the ground can absorb, and increases the amount of runoff. Flood waters can be the result of heavy rain, excessive or rapid melting snow and ice, or a combination of the two.

Thinking back to February of 2021 here in Kentucky - large portions of the state received 3 large snow and ice events, with quite a bit of snowpack on the ground. This was then followed by a round of heavy rain, which melted the snow. With the ground still frozen, the liquid had nowhere to go. Low lying areas, creeks, streams, and eventually the rivers all slowly filled up - leading to widespread areal and river flooding across the state, especially in the east and along the main stem rivers.

When weather conditions become more favorable for flooding, the National Weather Service will issue more directed products about conditions on rivers and large creeks.

A Flood Watch will be issued on days when flooding is more likely on a river or large creek.

A Flood Watch means flooding in the area is more likely than on a normal day, but that flooding is not currently expected.

A Flood Warning will be issued when flooding is forecast or occurring. A Flood Warning means flooding is expected or has been reported at designated river forecast points.

Flood Advisories may be issued for minor flooding on rivers and creeks.

Areal Flood Warnings may be issued for flooding on parts of rivers or large creeks not covered by designated river forecast points.

In general, areal flooding along rivers and large creeks is somewhat gradual - meaning there will be some time to prepare. Make sure to monitor your nearby creeks and rivers in heavy rain events or during large snow melts. Listen to the NOAA Weather Radio for flood watch/warning/and advisory information, and have a plan in place for getting you and your animals out of danger. Connect with your family and neighbors about local flood risks and planning needs ahead of time. NEVER attempt to cross a flooded roadway or bridge!!! If you can't get out, seek higher ground.

Maple Day Showcases the State's Growing Syrup Industry

Published January 9, 2023

By Jordan Strickler

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky maple syrup producers will open their facilities to the public Feb. 4 for the fourth annual Kentucky Maple Day. Sponsored by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and the Kentucky Maple Syrup Association through the [Kentucky Maple Syrup Project](#), the day allows the public to visit the state's maple syrup producing farms and sugarhouses to observe syrup's production and purchase locally produced maple syrup products.

In the 1930s, during the great depression, sugar rationing forced those who sought maple syrup to produce their own. After that, the number of people making their own syrup steadily decreased to the point where the practice was nearly extinct. In recent years, however, Kentucky has seen a rebirth in maple syrup production.

"There is currently a great deal of interest in the maple syrup industry in Kentucky," said Billy Thomas, extension forester with the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. "Kentucky Maple Day is not only a great opportunity for the public to learn more about our growing syrup industry, but according to producers, it has also increased their visibility and revenue. In addition, the day provides a reminder to all that Kentucky's woodlands are a valuable resource which provides many benefits."

Activities will vary at each location. Producers will showcase their operations and sell pure maple syrup and syrup products, and some will also offer tours of their sugar bush and sap-collection systems.

Even though sugar maple trees are more familiar, Jacob Muller, assistant professor of hardwood silviculture and forest operations extension in the UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, said red maple trees make a syrup that is as good as sugar maple syrup. Tapping red maple trees is a good start for those interested in entering the industry.

"There are more red maple trees that are an inch or larger in diameter in Kentucky than any other species," Muller said. "Landowners should consider their woods an asset. Many in the state have maple trees on their property and can take advantage of the trees' benefits."

Organizers recommend those interested in attending call local producers in advance if they have any questions about what activities and products their location offers.

More information, including event times and a map of all participating farms, is online at <https://ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu/ky-maple-day>. It's also not too late for producers to sign up to participate in this year's activities. Those interested in hosting should visit bit.ly/3jNJEgX before Jan. 27.

"Kentucky Maple Day highlights a Kentucky forest product that is not only delicious but can serve as an important agritourism catalyst during winter for Kentucky's farm operations," Thomas said.

The Kentucky Maple Syrup Association began as a product of the Kentucky-Virginia Maple School offered by UK Cooperative Extension in 2016.



Baeten's Nursery led a group of people through the basic process of maple syrup production at the Boone County Arboretum during the 2022 Kentucky Maple Day. Photo by Steve Patton, UK Agricultural Communications.

2023 KY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PUBLIC PEST AND RECYCLING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Public Pest and Recycling Assistance Branch is here to help the citizens of Kentucky with environmental concerns by providing pro-active, voluntary programs, with no financial or regulatory cost to the participants.

NUISANCE WEED SPRAYING PROGRAM

NOTE: The registration period for this program is the month of February, and all registration must be done online at <http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx>. This program consists of weed spraying demonstration plots. The department will provide the sprayer and enough chemical for the treatment of 10 acres of agricultural land or 100 gallons of spot spraying mix to be used on agricultural land. The department's representative will demonstrate proper mixing and application techniques. A number of nuisance weeds can be treated under this program depending on the needs of the participant. This program is limited to broadleaf weeds.

Broadcast Spraying demonstration plots consist of:

- 10 acres of agricultural land will be treated with chemical provided by the department
 - Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with boomless nozzles
- If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 10 acres can be treated

Spot Spraying demonstration plots consist of:

- 100 gallons of broadleaf chemical mix which is applied until sprayer is empty
- Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with a handheld spray wand used by the tractor operator

If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 100 gallons can be sprayed

For each demonstration:

- The participant must provide water source
- The participant must provide tractor and operator
- All chemical products must be labeled and the product label will be strictly followed

A maximum of 7 participants per county

This program is designed to target weeds that have a negative impact on the participant's agricultural production. There will be an annual online application period to participate in this program. Applications can be completed from February 1st to February 28th. To submit an application, please go to

<http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx>

FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

2023 WINTER SCHOOLS**FREE CLASSES!**

These schools qualify for the KADF CAIP Educational Credit

6:00 P.M.

**CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE
101 LAKEVIEW COURT**

**FEBRUARY 23 -
BALE GRAZING**

Will it work for you? If you attended Farm City Field Day last year you heard Dr. Greg Halich, UK Livestock Management Specialist, discuss Bale Grazing. Dr. Halich will explain the process in detail, plus how and when it works.

**MARCH 2ND -
OFF-GRID SOLAR**

Need to light a barn, charge a fence, run a pump? Dr. Morgan Hays, UK Biosystems and Ag Engineering, will explain options for where power is difficult and/or expensive to run for farm applications..

MARCH 9TH - FRANKLIN COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S EDUCATIONAL MEETING

Enjoy a meal with fellow Cattlemen and learn From Dr. Les Anderson, UK Beef Specialist about the "X10D" app as an information hub for cattle producers to manage, connect and learn about things that matter to their enterprises.

RSVP to: Crystal Harrod @ (502) 330-5084

RSVP required for the meal, non-members are welcomed too!

**MARCH 16TH -
BQCA CERTIFICATION***

Beef Quality and Care Assurance enables beef and dairy producers to enhance their product, maximize marketability and strengthen consumer confidence. This is a requirement for KADF CAIP Large Animal Program participation but a good idea for anyone raising livestock.

Does not qualify for the educational credit & a \$5 fee will be charged, make checks out to "KBN" .

PLEASE RSVP TO 502 695-9035 TO REGISTER AND FOR NOTIFICATION IF A CLASS IS CANCELED!



Recipe



Tex Mex Spaghetti Squash Casserole

1 small (about 2 pounds) spaghetti squash	2 teaspoons dried cumin	1 (4 to 5 ounce) can chopped mild green chilies
1 pound lean ground beef	¼ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper	1½ cups low fat cheddar cheese
½ cup chopped onion	½ teaspoon salt	1 tablespoon chopped cilantro
½ cup chopped red bell pepper	1 cup chopped fresh tomatoes	
1 teaspoon minced garlic		

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. **Prepare** the squash by carefully **cutting** it in half lengthwise with a sharp knife and **scooping** out the seeds. **Place** on a lightly greased baking sheet, cut-side down and **bake** for 30-35 minutes, or until a sharp knife can be easily inserted into the rind. **Remove** the squash from the oven and **cool**. Use a fork to **scrape** out the stringy flesh from the shell and **place** in a colander. **Press** out as much liquid as possible. **Place** squash in a medium bowl and keep warm. In a skillet, **cook** the ground beef over medium heat until browned. **Add** the onion, red bell pepper and garlic. Continue to **cook** until the vegetables are tender. **Add** the cumin, cayenne pepper and salt. **Drain** well and set aside. In a small bowl

combine the chopped tomatoes and green chilies. **Spray** a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with non-stick coating. **Layer** half of the spaghetti squash in the bottom of the pan. **Spread** half the meat mixture on top of the squash. **Layer** half of the tomatoes and chilies on top of the meat and **top** with half of the cheese. **Repeat** the layers. **Bake** at 350 degrees F until the casserole is hot all the way through and the cheese is bubbly, 15-20 minutes. **Sprinkle** with the cilantro and serve.

Yield: 9 servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 140 calories, 4 g fat, 1.5 g saturated fat, 30 mg cholesterol, 400 mg sodium, 11 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 17 g protein.

Raising Turkeys in Small and Backyard Flocks Webinar

March 7, 2023 4:00 PM EST

Dr. Jacquie Jacob

Many people are interested in raising turkeys for home consumption. Dr. Sally Noll from the University of Minnesota will be discussing raising turkeys in small and backyard flocks. It is important to remember, however, that if you plan on selling the turkeys you raise, state regulations regarding the selling of poultry meat vary from state to state. It is important to check with your local Department of Agriculture regarding your state's rules before starting a flock for selling to the public. All check for accessibility to locally approved processing facilities.

Register in advance for this webinar:

<https://uky.zoom.us/webinar/re...Zg6gv2Sny30IzwmzmyghA>



SAVE THE DATES:

January 31	Private Applicator Testing Training 8:00 am Scott Co. Extension Office RSVP : 502-863-0984
February 21-22	Mid-South Stocker Conference— Bowling Green
February 23	Winter School—Bale Grazing
February 28	Private Applicator Testing Training 6:00 pm Scott Co. Extension Office RSVP : 502-863-0984
March 2	Winter School—Off-Grid Solar
March 9	Franklin Co. Cattlemen’s Educational Meeting
March 16	Winter School—BQCA Certification

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

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**Keenan Bishop, County Extension Agent
for Agriculture and Natural Resources
Education**

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