

# Ag & Natural Resources OF COWS AND PLOWS FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



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## Fescue Foot Can Flare in Cold Weather

Posted on [November 1, 2022](#) UK Forage News

The symptoms of a bad case of fescue toxicity are well-documented. One symptom — fescue foot — can become more apparent when temperatures drop during the winter.



Photo: Eldon Cole, University of Missouri

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“As the cold weather moves in, you are likely to notice some cows or yearlings on fescue pastures may be slow-moving early in the day,” notes Eldon Cole, a livestock specialist with the Univ. of Missouri. “This might be an early warning sign of fescue foot,” he adds.

Toxic alkaloids in Kentucky 31 tall fescue cause the restriction of blood vessels. The animals’ extremities are especially susceptible to restricted blood flow such as ears, tails, and feet. Calves can lose the tips of their ears or switches from their tails which lowers market value.

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

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“For affected cows, producers may notice slight swelling in the rear ankles and possible breaks in the skin from the top of the hoof to up above the dew claw,” Cole notes. “Early detection of limping is key. By the time hooves on hind feet show red, gangrene may have set in.”

If a limping animal is detected, Cole suggests putting it in a chute and checking its lower leg. “If the animal’s leg feels cooler than the rest of the leg, move the affected animals from that toxic pasture and dry lot them or at least put them on a different pasture,” Cole recommends. The colder extremity is the result of a lack of blood flow.

Don’t graze toxic fescue pastures too short. Research shows that toxins stay in the lower 2 inches of the fescue plant during the fall. Intensive rotational grazing with frequent movement of cattle will help ensure plants are not grazed too short.

Consider feeding stored hay during late fall and early winter cold spells. Toxin levels in stockpiled fescue pastures decline over time. Grazing these pastures in mid- to late winter is rarely a concern.

Cows that develop fescue foot have difficulty walking or grazing, which drastically impacts performance. While there is no cure for the condition, preventative measures such as planting a novel endophyte tall fescue variety can essentially eliminate the problem. Other strategies are also available for mitigating the disease, such as including legumes into a toxic tall fescue pasture. ~ Mike Rankin, Hay and Forage Grower. Subscribe today to receive free online or print copy of this magazine at [Hay and Forage Grower Magazine](#). See the full article at [Fescue foot flares in cold weather | Hay and Forage Magazine](#) .

**NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION**  
**Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville**  
**THE LIVESTOCK EXPO**

NAILE is the largest all-breed, purebred livestock exposition in the nation, with nearly 30,000 entries and more than 140 competitions spanning 17 days and 10 different species. It’s here that global industry standards are established, with breeders merchandising bloodlines and genetics to local and international interests.

Tickets for The Livestock Expo are purchased at the door.

**Ticket and Pass Information**

Gate Admission Adults – \$8.00

Children – Free (5 & under)

Parking Fee – \$10.00 per vehicle

Full Event Pass \$60.00 – Good for 10/30 – 11/18/2022

Event Pass 1 \$35.00 – Good for 10/30 – 11/8/2022

Event Pass 2 \$35.00 – Good for 11/8 – 11/18/2022

\*Event Passes cover parking and admission and allow unlimited access onto the grounds during the duration of the pass. If you have not pre-purchased an event pass, per individual, you **MUST** pay admission at the gate upon every entry.



The Franklin County Cattlemen's Association held their Annual Membership Meeting Oct 13th at the Harrod Family Farm. Before the meal, attendees viewed some of the registered Charolais yearling bulls and embryo transfer calves the Harrod family produces. The Franklin County Conservation District, Shelby Vet Clinic and Bluegrass Stockyard Lexington sponsored the meal for the 84 members and guests. Tara Watkins from Firmly Rooted Flowers Farm provided beautiful table center pieces from her vast selection of cut flowers grown next door.

Todd Akers, FCCA and FCCD board member gave an update on the Conservation District including their local & state cost-share opportunities. Jimmy Chambers, the new Woodford County FSA Director introduced himself and provided a brief update. Darrh Bullock, UK Beef Cattle Genetics Extension Specialist, presented a Power Point presentation on choosing herd sires using EPDs and explained the benefits of genomic testing. Dr. Alex Hagan DVM from Shelby Vet Clinic wrapped up the evening's education discussing fall herd health. Bluegrass Stockyard and KCA provided items for door prizes.



## SAVE THE DATE

**November 15th—17th—KSU Small Farm Conference**

**November 24th—25th—Extension Office Closed for Thanksgiving**



## Cushaw Pie

**2 cups** cooked and  
mashed cushaw  
squash  
**¼ cup** butter  
**¼ cup** sugar

**½ cup** brown sugar  
**2** eggs  
**1 teaspoon** lemon  
extract  
**1 teaspoon** vanilla  
extract

**½ teaspoon** nutmeg  
**¼ teaspoon** ground  
cinnamon  
**1 9-inch** graham  
cracker pie shell

**1. To prepare squash:** Wash and remove rind from the squash. **Cut** flesh into 1 inch squares.

**Steam** squash cubes until tender. Drain and mash.

**2. Preheat** oven to 400° F. In a large bowl, mix together the cushaw, butter, and sugars. **Add** eggs, lemon extract, vanilla extract, nutmeg and cinnamon. **Mix** until smooth.

**3. Pour** mixture into pie shell.

**4. Bake** 15 minutes at 400° F.

**5. Reduce** oven temperature to 350° F and bake pie for an additional 45 minutes or until filling sets.

**Yield:** 8 slices

**Nutritional Analysis:** 250 calories, 13 g fat, 5 g saturated fat, 2.5 g trans fat, 70 mg cholesterol, 140 mg sodium, 33g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 3 g protein.

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



*Keenan R Bishop*

Keenan Bishop, County Extension Agent for  
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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.