

Clark County Ag and Natural Resources Newsletter



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

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A Word from the Agent . . .

The weather is finally starting to really warm up, and there will be plenty of crops being planted soon. Just remember to be careful while operating farm equipment, and this doesn't only mean the tractor. Many farmers are injured by atv's, utv's and other small farm equipment. Farm

equipment will be moving from area to area on the roads, and trust me, a tractor will win a fight with a car. Just be careful. No one wants to hear of a farming accident. Also, remember the sunscreen and hats. Melanoma is not a game, and that hat and sunscreen can save your life. In this newsletter, you will find information about Forage Crabgrass, New Antibiotic Regulations, Forage Timely Tips, Increasing Wildlife On Your Property and more. As always, please feel free to reach out to the Clark County Extension Office if you have any questions!

Levi Berg

Clark County Extension Agent
for Agriculture and Natural
Resources

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Forage Management Tips for May:

- Start hay harvests for quality forage. Consider making baleage to facilitate timely cutting.
- Seed warm season grasses for supplemental forage once soil temperature is at 60° F.
- Clip, graze, or make hay to prevent seedhead formation.
- Rotate pastures as based in height rather than time.
- Consider temporary electric fencing to subdivide larger pastures and exclude areas for mechanical harvesting.
- Scout pastures for summer annual weeds and control when small.

In This Issue:

- A Word from the Agent
- May Forage Tips
- Memorial Day Closing
- Antibiotic Stewardship: What to Do to Prepare for Changes Ahead
- Crabgrass and A Living Legend
- Get More Animals to Call Your Woodland Home
- Cost Share Information
- Soil Testing Information
- Clark County PVA Tax Assessment
- Recipe: Broccoli Brunch Casserole



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Antibiotic Stewardship -

What to Do Now to Prepare for Changes Ahead

Dr. Michelle Arnold, UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

On June 11th, 2021, The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) finalized a Guidance for Industry (GFI) #263, which outlines the process for animal drug manufacturers to change all remaining antibiotic formulations used in animal health care from over-the-counter (OTC) to prescription status. Products commonly used by beef producers such as injectable penicillin and oxytetracycline (for example, LA-

Box 1

KRS Sec 321.185 Veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR)

(1) In order for a veterinarian to practice veterinary medicine, a relationship among the veterinarian, the client, and the patient shall be established and maintained.

"Veterinarian-client-patient relationship" means that:

(a) The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making judgments regarding the health of the animal and the need for veterinary treatment, and the client, whether owner or other caretaker, has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian;

(b) There is sufficient knowledge of the animal by the veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal. This means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal by virtue of an examination of the animal or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept; and

(c) The practicing veterinarian is readily available or shall provide medical service for follow-up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy. A new regimen of therapy shall be contingent only upon cooperation of the client and availability of the subject animal.

(2) The veterinarian shall maintain records which document patient visits, diagnosis, treatment, and other relevant information.

300) will no longer be available without a prescription from a veterinarian as of June 2023. Specifically, all dosage forms of medically important antimicrobials approved for use in animals will only be available from, or under the supervision of, a licensed veterinarian, and only when necessary for the treatment, control, or prevention of specific diseases. Producers will need to consult a veterinarian to obtain all antibiotics in any form (injectable, bolus, topical, intramammary) or to request a prescription to purchase them from a distributor.

FDA's goal through GFI #263 is to curb the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and, in turn, reduce the risk of human infections that are difficult to treat due to ineffective antibiotics. To accomplish the goal, FDA is promoting the implementation of "responsible antibiotic stewardship practices in veterinary medicine" which are defined as "actions that preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics while maintaining animal health". Examples of responsible practices include 1) only using antibiotics when necessary to treat a sick animal; 2) establishing vaccination protocols and other disease prevention plans to reduce the need for antibiotics; and 3) livestock owners and veterinarians working together to make decisions to improve the overall animal health and welfare of the herd over the long term.

Given that this change is less than 6 months away, what can a livestock producer do now to prepare for it? For a veterinarian to legally sell or prescribe prescription products, FDA states, "A licensed

veterinarian may legally use or dispense a prescription animal drug only within the course of her/his professional practice where a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists. Veterinarians employed by drug manufacturers or distributors may not legally dispense prescription drugs to laypersons unless they meet the above criteria. Similarly, practicing veterinarians or their employees may not legally sell prescription animal drugs to walk-in customers unless the same criteria are met." Therefore, the first step to do now is establish a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR).

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Figure 1: Excerpted from FDA "Antibiotic Stewardship in Veterinary Medicine" brochure; accessed 1/10/2023

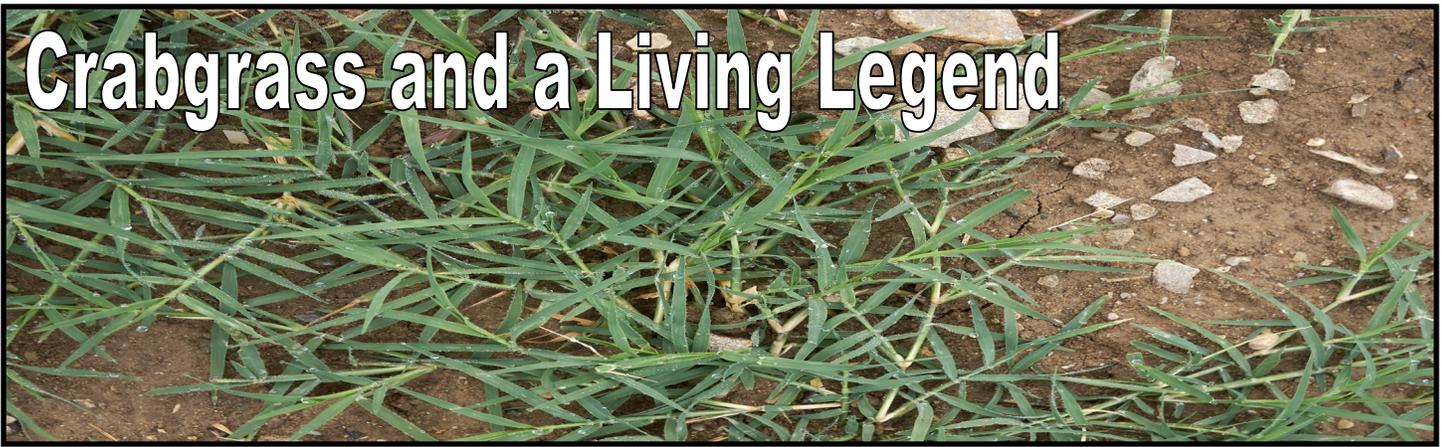
Kentucky has its own definition of a VCPR (see Box 1). Although the rules are straightforward, how to build a VCPR first requires communication with a veterinarian and asking the question, "What do I need to do to establish and maintain a VCPR with you?" The law requires the veterinarian to be familiar with the client, the livestock, and the management of the animals on the farm through "medically appropriate and timely visits" to the place the animals are kept. Scheduling routine veterinary visits to the farm at intervals *established by the veterinarian* is a perfect way to meet this requirement. At a minimum, the veterinarian needs to know the livestock business you are in (commercial cow/calf; stocker/backgrounder; seedstock operation), what vaccines are routinely given and when, what diseases are recurring problems at the farm and how you typically treat them (for example, pinkeye, foot rot, bronchopneumonia, calf scours, etc.) and any health concerns that may be on the horizon. Some veterinarians will execute a written VCPR agreement although it is not required.

Once the VCPR is established and recognized by both the client and the veterinarian, then the discussions can begin regarding how to obtain prescription antibiotics after June 2023. Working with the veterinarian to establish when antibiotics are necessary before illness occurs is crucial to having the drugs on hand when needed. Setting up treatment protocols in advance with the veterinarian for common problems on your farm, including a written plan of when to treat an animal (also known as a "case definition"), what drug to use (dose, route of administration, how often to give it), what treatment records should be kept, and how withdrawal times will be recorded and observed will reduce the need for emergency veterinary visits and expedite treatment. An important piece of the protocol is to establish when an antibiotic treatment should be considered a failure and what the next step should be when failure is recognized. The treatment protocol needs to be discussed with every person on the farm who may be involved in identifying, pulling and treating an animal in the herd.

Although producers express frustration if a veterinarian does not honor a request for a prescription medication or veterinary feed directive (VFD), it is important to understand that any violative antibiotic residue detected at slaughter will result in an investigation *of the veterinarian who prescribed the drug*, even if the drug was administered improperly by the producer and/or instructions were not followed. In addition, if a drug is used in any manner differently from what is written on the label (known as Extra label drug use or ELDU), the meat withdrawal time usually must be extended. For example, if a higher than label dose is used, it changes when the residue concentrations will fall below the drug testing tolerance. Bear in mind that any drug delivered with a dart is considered extra label use and may require an extended withdrawal period, even when all other label directions are met. The only way a drug can legally be used extra label is when it is prescribed by a veterinarian, who must also issue an extended withdrawal interval. Veterinarians can contact the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) for guidance in establishing the required withdrawal time.

Bottom Line: *Talk to your veterinarian, sooner rather than later!*

Crabgrass and a Living Legend



Crabgrass is a summer annual grass that can be a valuable part of a full season grazing and hay program in Kentucky. Crabgrass is highly palatable and is well adapted to Kentucky although it is often thought of as a weed. It has often been part of Kentucky pastures, especially those that have been overgrazed. The advent of improved varieties of crabgrass has changed the perception of crabgrass as an opportunistic weed to a valuable high quality forage. This article is an update on the varieties available, quick establishment tips and a bit about the family behind the improved varieties of crabgrass.

Crabgrass can be established using a prepared seedbed, but it also has value as a renovation forage for tall fescue pastures, especially areas that have been disturbed by hay feeding or livestock trampling. Crabgrass will make good use of the soil nutrients left behind in hay feeding areas. These areas are ideal for the introduction of crabgrass because the soil is already disturbed. Crabgrass establishes best when it is worked into the soil between ¼ to ½ inch deep. No-till seedings are possible but depth control is critical.

For renovation, crabgrass should be broadcast at 3 to 6 lb/acre onto disturbed sod and rolled with a cultipacker. Chain harrowing after seeding can help cover the seed, which is essential for successful establishment. Seed may need to be mixed with a carrier such as pelletized lime to flow through spinner seeders. It is critical to check the spread of crabgrass seed as it typically only travels half as far as a carrier. Crabgrass can be seeded with red clover for additional yield and forage quality. For more information on using crabgrass for forage, see UK publication [AGR-232 Crabgrass](#). To get to the online version quickly, type 'crabgrass uky' into your web browser.

The driving force behind improved crabgrass varieties is one man, R.L. Dalrymple. RL spent a career at the Noble Foundation doing applied research and extension on pasture and grazing systems. Growing up he observed how his parents had used crabgrass for forage on their west central Oklahoma farm. As part of his Noble Foundation efforts, R.L. selected and released 'Red River' as a public variety in 1988 and he has released other varieties as shown below. All of these improved crabgrasses are erect, high yielding, high quality annual forages.

• **Red River.** The original improved variety, released by Noble Foundation as a public release. There are known

problems with uncertified seedlots, so it is best to specify Certified seed.

• **Impact.** Derived from Red River at the Noble Foundation, this variety was selected to grow longer into the fall. Barenbrug has the marketing rights. Impact is a component of the commercial blend 'Mojo'.

• **Dal's Big River®.** A refinement and improvement over Red River only available as trademarked, certified Seed. Red River and Dal's Big River have rough seed coats that can have variable amounts of 'fuzz' making the seed flow poorly through spinner spreaders and conventional seeding equipment. As noted above, carriers help seed flow.

• **Quick-N-Big®.** Quick-N-Big was released in 2010 and was selected to germinate earlier and provide quicker earlier growth than Red River or Dal's Big River. It is very upright in its growth habit.

• **Quick-N-Big Spreader®.** Released in 2016, this variety is much like Quick-N-Big except it tends to root more around the crown, if there is space to spread. Quick-N-Big and Quick-N-Big Spreader have smooth seed coats and flow more readily than Red River and Dal's Big River.

• **Mojo.** Mojo is a commercial blend of Impact and Red River varieties, owned and distributed by Barenbrug. Mojo is only available as coated seed, and the coating comprises 50% of the bag. Coating greatly improves the ability of the crabgrass to flow through drills and spread from spinner seeders.

Crabgrass usage in Kentucky is growing, such as producing grass finished beef at Michael Palmer's farm in Marshall County. Having a high quality summer grass alternative that can complement tall fescue is a valuable option.

I am sure R.L. would be work pretty hard to deflect any accolades for this work. Yet accolades are due. In my opinion he is one of the legends of forage agriculture, both for improved crabgrasses as well as a career of contributions to farmers and ranchers. And it is a privilege indeed to know a living legend.

~ Dr. Jimmy Henning, originally published in *Farmer's Pride*.

Get More Animals to Call Your Woodland Home

Christopher Reeves, UK Forestry ([UK Article FORFS 17-04](#))

Woodlands may already be home to birds, bats, snakes, salamanders, turkeys, white-tailed deer, and many other types of wildlife. But how can woodlands be improved to make them more attractive to wildlife? Like most things in life, a plan is para - mount. Do woodland owners want to attract more game species such as deer and turkey or more songbirds for bird watching? Narrowing down objectives can help determine the management activities that need to be implemented to meet goals.

In general, all wildlife need three basic things: food, cover, and water. It's just that each species needs different types of food, cover, and water. That's where contacting a natural resources professional such as a Private Lands Biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources or a Service Forester with the Kentucky Division of Forestry can help. These individuals can provide guidance on how to attract the kinds of wildlife desired in a woodland.

Woodlands provide various types of food for animals. Berries and fruits (referred to as 'soft' mast) and nuts and acorns ('hard' mast) are produced by numerous shrub and tree species. Thus, having a wide variety of these food producing plants in the canopy and understory of woodlands can attract a wide range of wildlife. Proper timber management and wildlife management usually go hand in hand. Consider thinning young stands with an emphasis on enhancing the dominance of a variety of mast-producing species in the main canopy. Thinning also opens the canopy allowing light to reach the forest floor. This light will allow for the development of more abundant cover and food in the understory.

Although larger trees typically produce more mast than smaller ones, size alone is not a good indicator of acorn or nut production. Individual trees success at producing large mast crops for several years is the best indicator of future success. Reduce competition around the crowns of these high mast-producing trees to ensure their survival



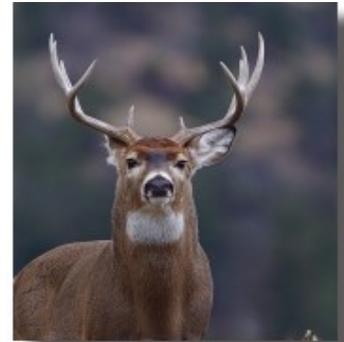
Golden-winged warblers need shrubby thickets for breeding but mature forests to raise their young.

and enhance their mast-production capabilities (see Making Your Favorite Trees Bigger and Better factsheet [FORFS17-06]).

'Cover' refers to any type of habitat that an animal considers their temporary or permanent home. Salamanders need streams, golden-winged warblers need open shrubby areas, cerulean warblers need older forests, frogs need ponds, and white-tailed deer can thrive in varying types of habitats. To attract a wide variety of animals to a woodlands, a wide variety of cover is required. If a specific animal is desired, increase that species' specific habitat.

Wildlife's specific habitat needs may depend on the age of the woodlands. Young woodlands are covered in thousands of tree seedlings, bushes, and vines. As

woodlands age they provide different types of habitat structures that are desirable for wildlife. Golden-winged warblers nest and lay eggs in densely packed young stands of tree seedlings and brush. After the young can fly, they move to mature forests. Disturbances can change the age or successional stage of the woodlands. Natural disturbances such as ice storms, fires, major wind events, or tornadoes may reset the age of the woodlands and attract wildlife that was not present before. Timber harvests and thinnings may be implemented to artificially create disturbance to attract a woodland owner's desirable species.



White-tail deer and all wildlife species need access to water.

Dead trees (snags) serve as significant sources of cover and food for wildlife. Woodpeckers and bats use cavities and bark or dead trees to shelter themselves and their young. Dead trees attract large amounts of insects, feeding on the decaying wood, which attracts birds and other animals to feed on the insects. If nature is not creating enough snags, consider creating some through girdling or herbicide application. But follow proper safety protocols (using chemicals or chainsaws), and don't create a hazard tree that could harm life or property.

Whether it is vital for survival (fish) or necessary for drinking (deer), water is an important factor when attracting wildlife. Constructing a large pond or lake could attract a huge amount of wildlife if water sources are not common in the area. But significant water features are expensive to construct and may fall under government regulations particularly where wetlands are concerned. However, constructing a small, shallow pond, one that only holds water in spring, can be valuable breeding habitat for numerous amphibians. Such ephemeral pools can be constructed with small equipment or even by hand. Shallow water impoundments can also be constructed and can provide valuable habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, and furbearers.

Woodland owners should be concerned about the protection of water resources during forest management activities. Leaving strips of undisturbed woodlands next to streams and lakes is advised to prevent sediment from reaching water bodies and potentially harming aquatic wildlife. Road and trail construction, ATV and horseback riding, and any chemical applications should take place a safe distance away from water.

Woodlands are already a great place for wildlife to live. Small woodland owners should review what habitats are present in their woodlands and compare them to their neighbors. By focusing on improving access to food, cover, or water, landowner's can attract even more of their favorite birds, frogs, bats, deer, or any other animals.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Clark County Conservation District will be accepting requests for cost share funding under the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program on a year around signup basis.

The next Cutoff for Kentucky State Cost Share Applications is November 1, 2023. This is when the application period ends.

The Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program was created to help agricultural operations protect the soil and water resources of Kentucky. Funding for practices will be approved by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission at the Kentucky Division of Conversation, located in Frankfort, as funds are available.

For more information, please contact your local conservation district office located at 667 Tech Drive, Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at 859-744-2322 or email angela.embry@ky.nacdnet.net



SOIL TESTING

Now is the time to prepare for spring planting by getting your soil tested. Nutrient and acidity levels in soil are analyzed so adequate fertilizer and lime recommendations can be made. Your report for a routine soil test will show the amount of Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Zinc, pH and buffer pH.

You may stop by the Extension Office between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday, to pick up a soil probe and soil bags. There is no charge for testing your soil.



CLARK COUNTY PVA OFFICE

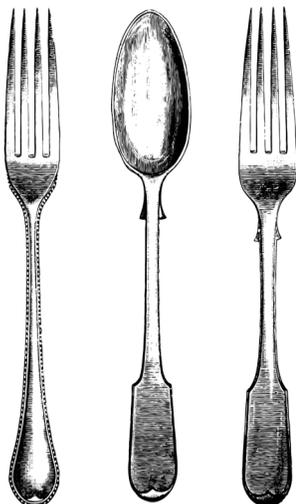
IF YOU RECEIVE AN AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTION YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED A NOTICE

DEADLINE TO APPEAL TAX ASSESSMENTS IS MAY 15

Please contact the PVA Office if you have any question or concerns:

PHONE: 859-745-0250 / IN-PERSON: 34 S Main St Ste. 7
EMAIL: jbrady@clarkpva.com

RECIPE



Broccoli Brunch Casserole

Nonstick cooking spray	1 1/2 cups shredded, part skim mozzarella cheese, divided	1 teaspoon ground black pepper
8 ounces ground turkey sausage	8 eggs	1/2 teaspoon salt
3 1/2 cups broccoli florets, chopped	1 cup part skim ricotta cheese	1 Roma (Plum) tomato , thinly sliced
	1/4 cup skim milk	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. **Spray** a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. **Place** a medium-sized skillet over medium heat. **Sauté** sausage until evenly brown, **drain** well, **crumble**, and **cool slightly**. In a medium bowl, **mix** cooked sausage, broccoli, and a 1/2-cup of mozzarella. In a separate bowl, **whisk** eggs until frothy and then **combine** with a 1/2-cup of mozzarella, ricotta cheese, milk, pepper, and salt. **Spoon** the sausage mixture into the prepared baking dish. **Spread** the egg mixture over the sausage mixture. **Sprinkle** with the remaining mozzarella,

and **arrange** the tomato slices on top. **Cover** with foil, and **bake** 30 minutes. **Uncover**, and **bake** for an additional 15 minutes. Let **stand** for 10 minutes before serving.

Yield: 8 slices

Nutritional Analysis:

260 calories, 16g total fat, 7g saturated fat, 0mg cholesterol, 550mg sodium, 7g total carbohydrate, 1g fiber, 1g total sugars, 0g added sugars, 20g protein, 6% DV vitamin D, 25% DV calcium, 10% DV iron, 6% DV potassium.