

Ag and Natural Resources Newsletter



August 2023

Clark County Extension Service • 1400 Fortune Drive • Winchester, KY 40391 • 859-744-4682 • clark.ext@uky.edu • <http://clark.ca.uky.edu/>

A Word from the Agent . . .



It seems like the heat of summer is not letting up any time soon, but now is really a time to be thinking about planting your grass pastures and hay fields for the fall. Start thinking about the process of controlling weeds, choosing grass types, purchasing seed, fertilizing,

and planting. However, the first step should always be a soil sample. Our office will gladly send off your soil samples, so you know exactly which nutrients need to be added. Plus, fall is a great time to sample your fields because the results turn around times are usually shorter than in the spring. In this newsletter, you will find information about August forage tips, stockpiling fescue pastures, cattle market update, and upcoming programs in the area. As always, please feel free to contact the Clark County Extension Office if you have agricultural or natural resources questions!

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Forage Management Tips for August

- Continue grazing available summer annuals (millets, sorghum/Sudangrass, crabgrass, etc.)
- Apply 40-60 lb N/acre to stimulate summer annual regrowth.
- Identify fescue pastures for stockpiling. Choose pastures that are well drained, have a strong sod, and have not been overgrazed.
- Soil test pastures to determine fertility needs.
- Using UK variety trial results, select varieties to plant in the fall and order seed.
- Use a designated sacrifice lot to feed livestock hay and supplements as you wait for drought stressed pastures to reocset in and no forage is available for grazing.

Kid's Day
Saturday, August 12
8 AM to 12 NOON
Located on Depot Street

Beef Quality Assurance Training
You only need to attend one of the trainings.

Monday, August 7
6:00 pm
OR
Tuesday, August 8
9:00 am

To register, call the Extension Office at 859-744-4682



Stockpile Forages to Extend the Grazing Season

Source: Ray Smith, UK Plant and Soil Sciences Professor



Good pasture management can help extend the grazing season further into the fall and early winter. Take advantage of good growing conditions to obtain high-quality pasture for late fall and early winter grazing. Stockpiling helps broaden the pasture season for the cow herd, reduces feed and labor costs by lowering the amount of hay needed and provides an ideal location for the beef cow herd to winter and calve.

It's easy to begin to stockpile. Simply take cattle off pastures in late summer, apply nitrogen fertilizer and allow grass to accumulate growth through late fall. Then, put cattle on the pasture one section at a time until they've finished grazing the whole field.

Take soil samples for analyses to determine pasture requirements for phosphorus, potassium and lime. You'll need this information to renovate with clover in the spring.

Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass are the best grasses to stockpile in Kentucky. Both retain green color and forage quality late into winter, are somewhat resistant to low temperatures and form a good sod. Tall fescue produces more fall and winter growth than Kentucky bluegrass.

Nitrogen and moisture are critical to successfully stockpiling grasses.

Apply nitrogen in mid-August. Topdress at the rate of 40 to 60 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre for Kentucky bluegrass. Use 40 to 100 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre on tall fescue.

Numerous studies show wise fertilizer use and timing results in high yields during fall and early winter. Tall fescue crude protein and digestibility are better during fall and early winter than at any other time of the year.

Yields can be very good when water is available during the stockpiling period. Tall fescue can produce two tons of dry matter up to late November. With adequate water, producers can achieve 25 pounds of dry matter for each pound of nitrogen used.

After frost, let cattle graze grass-legume fields quickly before plants deteriorate. Then, put animals on the stockpiled grass fields. For the most efficient use of stockpiled fields, establish a strip grazing system by using a temporary electric fence to section off areas of the field. The first grazing area should have water and mineral sources. When animals have grazed this area, move the fence to open a new strip. Repeat this process until the entire field has been grazed.

Stockpiled grass is an excellent choice for fall-calving cows because it can be used to meet high nutritional needs after calving and during the breeding season. Grazing stockpiled grasses may offer the most benefit to spring-calving cows in thin body condition during the fall. Growing, weaned cattle can be grazed on stockpiled fescue. Using stockpiled grasses helps lower feed costs when backgrounding cattle.

For more information about pasture management and other topics, contact the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service at 859-744-4682.

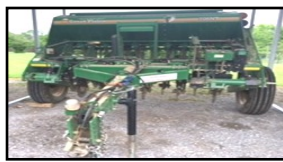
Did You Know?

The Clark County Conservation District currently has two seed drills (see pictures below) that are available for rent at a rate of \$55 per day or \$5.50 per acre.

The District recently purchased a 500 gallon boomless pull type sprayer (see picture below) that is available for rent at a rate of \$50 a day plus a \$16 container of liquid tank cleaner.



Haybuster 10' wide



Great Plains 7' wide



Boomless Pull Type Sprayer

For more information about availability, contact the Clark County Conservation District Office at (859) 744-2322.

Margin Calls in a Rising Market

By: Dr. Kenny Burdine, Extension Professor, Livestock Marketing, University of Kentucky



The feeder cattle market has been on a tear since fall of 2022. In most markets, heavy feeders are selling for \$30 to \$50 per more than they were in the 4th quarter and the price improvement in calf markets has been even greater than that. The August CME[©] feeder cattle futures contract that was trading below \$200 per cwt in early fall is now trading in the mid-\$230's. There is much reason for optimism as many profit opportunities exist in the current environment. But sharp price increases can also create challenges for producers, and I wanted to specifically discuss one of these challenges that came up last week as I was having lunch with a friend of mine that works in the agricultural lender sector.

While there are several price risk management strategies that can be employed by cattle producers, some of those strategies involve potential for margin calls. And a lot of margin can be needed when markets make major runs like the cattle markets have been doing. This can create a significant challenge for producers that assumed a short futures position (or wrote a call option) as part of their marketing plan. Sure, much of this will be recouped when cattle are eventually sold on the higher market. But the short-term liquidity strain can be a serious problem and is compounded today by much higher interest rates on borrowed money. I wanted to share a few thoughts on this situation that are applicable this year, and in future years.

First, farmers should have a fully transparent relationship with their lender. If a farmer's risk management plan involves potential for margin calls, the lender should be aware of that from the start so that capital access can be discussed. While it may not be possible to plan for all possible scenarios, examining the impact of major market

moves is important. Evaluating the effect of declining prices may be commonplace, but walking through rising price scenarios is also important due to possible liquidity concerns when margin potential exists.

Secondly, producers should at least consider risk management strategies that do not involve the potential for margin. Forward contracts immediately come to mind and are used by some. But they can be pretty elusive in volatile times as buyers are hesitant to price far in advance. Put options and LRP insurance would also fall in this category as they allow a producer to have some downward price protection, while retaining upside potential. Premium is paid in both cases, but no margin is required as markets move.

Producers should also remember that there are ways to move out of a marginable position and into something different if conditions necessitate doing so. For example, someone with a short futures position could offset that position and purchase a put option or LRP insurance. And the price floor set would be reflective of the current, stronger market. Shifting to one of these strategies will require premium to be paid but will eliminate the potential for future margin calls. These strategies also have the added advantage of allowing the producer to capitalize if prices continue to rise, which they were unable to do with the short futures position.

Finally, producers that like the more solid downside price protection that comes from a short futures position, could also consider a synthetic put. An example of this would be keeping the short futures position but combining it with a call option. Premium is paid on the call option, but this also allows the producer to capitalize on rising prices as he/she gains on the call. Plus, as the call option becomes more valuable that works to offset the margin expense to some extent.

To be clear, there is nothing wrong with utilizing a risk management strategy that involves margin. In fact, there is good merit in many of those strategies. I like to say that if a farmer is not leaving money on the table occasionally, they are probably taking too much risk. However, I do think that producers should consider all risk management tools at their disposal, including those that do not carry potential for margin calls. And most importantly, they should fully think through the implications of major market swings in both directions.

**Organized and Sponsored by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council,
UK Cooperative Extension Service, and the Master Grazer Program**

This program is designed for producers and agricultural professionals to learn the newest fencing methods and sound fencing construction through a combination of classroom and hands-on learning

WHEN: November 7-Scott County, KY
November 9-Caldwell County, KY

WHERE: Scott County Extension Office
1130 Cincinnati Road
Georgetown, KY 40324

Kentucky Soybean Board Office
1000 Highway 62 West
Princeton, KY 42445



COST: \$35/participant -- includes notebook, refreshments, safety glasses, hearing protection, and catered lunch

Registration DEADLINE: 1 week prior to workshop

ONLINE Registration with Credit Card:

___ Georgetown, KY [Register for KY Fencing School in GEORGETOWN](#)

___ Princeton, KY [Register for KY Fencing School in PRINCETON](#)



Registration by U.S. Mail: Christi Forsythe
UK Research and Education Center
P.O. Box 469
Princeton, KY 42445

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Number of participants _____ x \$35 per participant = _____ Total Cost

Make CHECKS payable to: KFGC

For more information contact Krista Lea at 270-625-0712 or Christi.Forsythe@uky.edu



2023 Kentucky Fencing Schools



2023 Kentucky Beginning Grazing School

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

When: September 27-28, 2023

Where: Woodford County Extension Office

184 Beasley Drive, Versailles, KY 40383

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

Program Registration: DEADLINE is September 22, 2023

Online Registration with CREDIT CARD AT:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-kentucky-beginning-grazing-school-fall-tickets-666511101647?aff=oddtcreator>

Registration by U.S. Mail with CHECK:

Christi Forsythe

UK Research and Education Center

348 University Drive, 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 KFGC





COOPERATIVE

EXTENSION

BEEF BASH

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



Thursday, September 21
C. Oran Little Research Center
1051 Midway Rd. Versailles, KY

Registration opens at 1:30 PM
Program begins at 2:00 PM
Tickets are \$15 and include meal.

VISIT WITH:

- Commercial Exhibitors
- Research Demonstrations
- Educational Exhibits
- KY Ag Leaders
- UK Personnel & Admin
- KCA Leadership & Staff

Register by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beef-bash-2023-tickets-653214491127>

Tyler Purvis, UK Beef Extension
tapu228@uky.edu (859) 257-7512

For More Information Visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/KyBeefIRM/>



UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



Italian Chicken Summer Squash Skillet

1 red bell pepper, diced
1 yellow bell pepper, diced
1 sweet onion, diced
2 large tomatoes, diced
3-4 garlic cloves, finely diced

3 medium summer squash, sliced crosswise
1 cup whole grain rotini pasta, uncooked
1 1/4 pounds boneless skinless chicken breast
Nonstick cooking spray

1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce
2 tablespoons dried Italian seasoning
1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
Salt and pepper, to taste

Slice squash into 1/4 inch pieces. **Combine** all vegetables, with garlic in a bowl. **Set** aside. **Cook** pasta according to package directions. **Cut** chicken into bite size pieces. **Spray** large nonstick skillet with cooking spray; **heat** to medium. **Add** chicken; **cook** 6 minutes or until no longer pink, stirring occasionally. **Add** vegetable mixture to the skillet. **Add** tomato sauce and dried Italian seasoning. **Stir** well. **Increase** heat, **cover** and **bring**

to a boil. **Reduce** heat to medium; **cook** 10 minutes or until summer squash is tender, stirring occasionally. **Stir** cooked pasta into chicken/vegetable mixture. **Sprinkle** with cheese. Season as needed.

Yield: 8 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 200 calories, 4.5 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 50 mg cholesterol, 300 mg sodium, 19 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 8 g sugars, 20 g protein.



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