

## Tribute to Philip Konopka



It is with great sadness to inform you of the passing of Philip Konopka. He died on May 3<sup>rd</sup> due to a vehicle accident on his way to work. Philip was the Ag Agent in Lewis County and had served in that role since 2005. You may remember him at many of our area meetings, especially the

Master Cattlemen, Master Grazer, Tobacco GAP, Farm School for Women, and Farm and Family Night. He was committed to extension and always was willing to help farmers and families, not only in Lewis County, but in our area and across the state. I served on various committees with him and his dedication was always very evident. Mostly, I had the honor and pleasure to work with him on our Buffalo Trace Agent Team. We did so many projects together and that was one of my favorite parts of this job.

Philip was a true gentlemen, and would do anything, for anyone, and at any time. I never heard him speak negatively about anyone, and even during difficult times with our jobs, he would always say, "it will be alright".

Philip was a Germantown boy spending lots of time on his Grandparents farm, just across the county line. He loved agriculture and loved farming with his brother and family on that farm.

Please remember his wife Rebecca and his family during this difficult time.

Philip often wore a cowboy hat at extension events. We will miss that hat, but more importantly, we will miss the man that wore that hat.

## Cost Share Education

Cooperative Extension Service

Bracken County

1120 Brooksville Germantown Rd

Brooksville, KY 41004

(606) 735-2141

Fax: (606) 735-3871

<http://extension.ca.uky.edu>

Since the start of our 2023 Cost Share program, there have been over 30 opportunities to get your required education credit. Now with summer here and the farming community very busy, there are very few additional trainings scheduled. The only three at this time will be the Cattlemen's summer meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> (Membership is required to attend). Pasture Weed Control Demonstration at the Goecke Farm located on Dutch Ridge Road from 4:00 – 6:00 pm on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Your other option is through the on-line training through the Ag and Natural Resources web page. It can be found at this link, <https://anr.ca.uky.edu/> and under CAIP training.

Once you complete the training, send me a report of your certification and I will provide you with your educational credit.

Also, BQA certification is required to receive funding in the large animal program. If your certification has expired, (it is good for 3 years) you can take the on-line training and it can be found at <https://www.kybeefnetwork.com/>

I highly encourage you to get these task finished before August 1<sup>st</sup>. With Germantown Fair and State Fair, I will have very little time to help with any questions you have.

David Appelman, CEA for Ag & Natural Resources



# Beef Bash 2023

*Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Professor and Tyler Purvis, Beef Extension Associate, University of Kentucky*

Dr. Roy Burris started Beef Bash at the UKREC almost two decades ago. His vision was to create an event to encourage fellowship among producers, the industry, and the entities that serve the beef industry. A goal was to unite and empower the beef industry for the future.

The theme of Beef Bash 2023 is “Vision of the Future”. Our goal is to create an event illustrating the tremendous work done in the beef industry in Kentucky creating a vision of the future of the beef industry. We are redesigning the format to accentuate all the work being done in Kentucky to improve the sustainability of the beef industry. We will have rotations featuring current research from UK and the USDA ARS group, educational opportunities sponsored by UK and Kentucky Beef Network and we will have several demonstrations by the UK Foods group and by the Kentucky Beef Council. In addition to these rotations, we will have an update on new facilities being designed and developed for the new Beef Extension Education Facility in Princeton, the new Livestock Education Center in Versailles, and the new USDA ARS research facility located on campus. We should have something for everyone at this year's Beef Bash.

Beef Bash 2023 will be held Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-8 PM at the C. Oran Little Research Center. Registration will begin at 1 PM and the event will begin 2 PM. We will have the educational components from 2-4 PM and again from 6-8 PM. We will use 4-5 PM for participants to visit the tradeshow and interact with our vendors. We will rotate participants through the stations again from 6-8 PM.

Dinner will be provided by the Woodford County Cattleman's Association at 5 PM. Pre-registration for attendees will be \$15 and includes a meal ticket. To register, go to [Evenbrite.com](http://Evenbrite.com) and search for Beef Bash 2023. From there, you will be able to pre-register. If you have any questions on registration, please contact Tyler Purvis at [tapu228@uky.edu](mailto:tapu228@uky.edu). Come out to see a “Vision for the Future” provided by the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, and the USDA ARS.

For more information, please contact your local ANR Agent. We hope to see you there!

## Information for Seedstock Symposium

*Dr. Darrh Bullock, Extension Professor and Tyler Purvis, Beef Extension Associate, University of Kentucky*

In conjunction with the University of Tennessee, the University of Kentucky will be hosting a Beef Cattle Seedstock Symposium October 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. The symposium will target beef cattle seedstock producers (bull providers) and will be held in three locations with the intention of making travel more convenient for those attending. On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the Fayette County Kentucky Extension Office will be hosting, the October 18<sup>th</sup> session will be held at the Barren County Kentucky Extension Office and the October 19<sup>th</sup> session will be held in Spring Hill, TN. The sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m. and wrap up around 4:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided at 12:30 p.m. University of Kentucky and University of Tennessee specialists will cover topics such as genetics, nutrition, reproduction, health, and marketing along with special guest speaker Dr. Matt Spangler from the University of Nebraska. Funding for this program was provided by the Kentucky Ag Development Fund and a small registration fee will be collected to help offset the cost of the meal. To receive information as it becomes available, please email Maggie Ginn at [mmgi241@uky.edu](mailto:mmgi241@uky.edu) and indicate your interest and contact information.

### SOIL TESTING

Soil testing is one of the best ways to optimize crop production by knowing what amendments are needed for your crop application. Not only can you gain yield on your crop, but you can also apply only needed fertility and lime and save dollars by not over applying wasteful fertilizer. Now is the very best time to test your soil so lime can be applied in the fall if needed to allow time for it to react with the soil to make pH changes for next year's crop. Even if you are not sure of what crop you will be growing, you can still use the soil test information and adjust the crop selection for a new recommendation. If you have never taken soil samples, we have core samplers here for you to check out and publications that will help you collect the best representative samples. Proper soil sampling is hard work, but the payoff can be very beneficial. On the other hand, poor sampling will only give you in-accurate results which may or may not benefit you at all. Starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, soil test will be free for producers and land owners in Bracken County. Some exclusions may apply, call the office for details.

# 2023 International Grasslands Congress

The 2023 International Grasslands Congress was held the week of May 14<sup>th</sup> at Covington KY. In its 100 year history, this was only the third time to be held in the United States and it was an honor to host it here in Kentucky. Researchers, Educators, Students and Producers from 50 countries attended the event and over 600 participated in the weeklong programs. Over the 6 day program, numerous keynote speakers highlighted issues related to forage production and utilization. This year, many social issues discussing livestock and methane resulting from ruminants was the dominant topic. Each presenter used various methods to highlight the role of grasslands in sequestering carbon, increased production from fewer animals to limit methane production, and the need for human nutrition from grass that only ruminant animals can provide.

Some of the highlights in the presentations included the following:

1 in 4 children do not receive the proper nutrition to meet their developmental needs (they don't get the necessary amino acids that come from animal proteins).

90% of ruminant nutrition comes from forages and grain by-products that humans cannot use. The majority of diets that poultry and swine eat, could be used for human food. Because of this fact, the net protein contribution is 3 times higher for ruminants compared to poultry and swine.

Virtual Fencing for livestock is currently being studied in a number of countries. Unlike the invisible fence used for pets in yards, the boundary for this concept is established and changed on your computer or phone app. Cows wear collars that emit sounds and or a shock to train them to newly established boundaries. This can allow for grazing management without the need to move fences. Reports indicate cows readily adapt to the system and have no stress from wearing the collars.

By keeping animals healthy, we can reduce the number of non-productive days, thus reducing greenhouse gases.

Cool Season grasses in the south are showing decline due to warmer temperatures and with warmer night temperatures considered the main problem.

New herbicides will soon be available that control broadleaf weeds, while maintaining white clover in pastures.

Near Infra-red Spectroscopy (NIRS) forage testing is very accurate, can reduce testing cost, and shorten turn-around time for test results.

Many silage drive over piles are not meeting density standards to reduce storage losses. More focus must be put on packing equipment, and amount of time and effort to assure adequate density of silage piles.

KY 31 Fescue, why it is so productive, and the problems it causes with livestock. How new Novel Endophyte varieties can replace it, and be very productive without affecting animal performance.

Red Clover and the work of Dr. Norman Taylor (originally from Bracken County) He was a researcher and plant breeder at the University of Kentucky and had a vast collection of red clover varieties from around the world.

Animals grazing mixed fescue / clover pasture will have higher gains than a straight fescue pasture fertilized with nitrogen.

In addition to these oral presentations, there were over 150 total presentations and over 150 posters, highlighting research projects from all over the world. Also, attendees enjoyed a day touring the region with 4 tours in Kentucky, 2 in Ohio, and 1 in Indiana.

Some of the final thoughts on the event included that forages will play a vital role in society as we continue to produce human food from grasslands and livestock. Forages will also help to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon in the soil and legumes will help reduce the need for nitrogen fertilizers. We also know that the need for forage researchers, is greater now than ever before. We need to encourage the next generation of scientist to consider this amazing field of study. The next International Grasslands Congress will be in Germany in 2027.

## **Start Monitoring for Garden Pests Today**

Whether it's slugs, squash vine borer, or Colorado potato beetle, home gardeners know that every year some creepy crawly is looking for a free meal in their vegetable patch. Unfortunately, pest management in home gardens often relies on a reactive, spray-oriented approach to these pests rather than taking a more engaged attitude that helps to prevent problems. You can change that through integrated pest management and focusing on monitoring for pests before they become a true issue.

**Integrated Pest Management:** Integrated pest management, also known as IPM, is a philosophy of pest management that intends to use all the available tools at our disposal to help suppress pest populations. This can look different depending on the pest being managed and the situation in which the pest is an issue. In the home garden, some simple pest management tools can include cultural methods such as:

Fall garden sanitation, which removes overwintering habitat for pests, Physical methods, such as floating row covers, which exclude pests from plants, and insecticidal control, such as spraying Bt when dealing with caterpillars.

IPM is not an organic approach necessarily; IPM can include synthetic insecticides when they are the appropriate method of suppression.

**Need for Monitoring:** IPM can only be successful when monitoring is included as a step in the process. Large scale growers, home pest control operators, and even mosquito abatement coordinators all use monitoring to know where their target pest populations are in their life cycle and population size. Home gardeners, too, need to remember this important tactic. Monitoring for signs and symptoms of insects and other arthropods allows you to know if your management tools, like sanitation, have been successful or can also tell you when to enact physical control strategies, such as floating row covers or when to spray specific insecticides. Monitoring is also the easiest thing to neglect in a pest management plan; it takes time and resources and can seem like a drain (especially when you aren't catching anything).

This spring, you can commit to using monitoring to better understand what pests are trying to infiltrate your garden. The simplest form of monitoring is to just use your eyes to look for known pests in the garden; they tend to be visible, and if they aren't noticeable, then the damage they create will be. Holes chewed into leaves or flowers, cupped and curled leaves, honeydew on leaves, and insect droppings—all of these methods can help with identification of a problem and tell you it's time to act. You can also get a little more technical and start using traps to catch pests even earlier in the process.

**Trapping for Garden Pests:** First, trapping for garden pests should not be considered a control tactic. The tools listed here likely won't suppress pest populations in your garden. They will tell you what pests are around though, so consider them sentries or security guards for you. This list also isn't comprehensive but should be a good start for those who are interested. Finally, traps only work if they are checked. Putting out any of these traps in May and then remembering it in September means that it wasn't monitoring, but just slowly rotting in the field. Check traps every other day or weekly, as your schedule allows, to look for possible upcoming pest problems.

**Yellow sticky cards:** These glue-covered traps will work for monitoring aphids, thrips, whiteflies, mealybugs, mites, and fungus gnats. They work in the home garden as well as near houseplants or in high tunnels. The cards should be placed at plant height and adjusted through the growing season to track with the tops of plants. They can be clipped to bamboo poles or other objects to achieve this.

**Baited traps:** Using shallow containers (such as water dishes, lids to jars, etc. or 2-liter bottles with the top 1/3rd cut and then inverted into the rest of the bottle) you can create a baited trap that pests will be attracted to but will be unable to escape from. Baits can include beer (for slugs), fruit juices (for various pests), or apple cider vinegar (various fly pests), amongst others.

**Yellow bowl traps:** A yellow plastic bowl filled with soapy water can attract and capture things like squash vine borer, aphids, and many other pests. The bowls act as a super stimulus the insects can't ignore, and the soapy water will kill them as they fly in.

**Board or newspaper traps:** Placing boards or newspaper on the ground in the garden can create an attractive harborage for squash bugs, slugs, and other garden pests. These can be checked in the morning for pest presence and can also be a good "corral" where you can kill pest groups early in the morning before they warm up and get moving.

**Trap plants:** These are low cost, easy to grow plants that can be placed near desired plants to act as a monitoring plant. They are attractive to specific pests and will recruit them before the actual crop does. Once on the trap plant, you can either control them there or enact a protective measure for your actual crops. Blue Hubbard squash (squash bugs and squash vine borer), sunflowers (stinkbugs), amaranth (cucumber beetles), and marigolds (mites) are some examples.

With these traps in the garden, you'll be better prepared to catch pests before they cause damage and hopefully end up with more produce on the table this summer!



University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
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# BEEF EDUCATION SERIES

PRESENTED BY THE BUFFALO TRACE COUNTIES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICES

- **11/2: CATTLE HEALTH @ FLEMING COUNTY EXTENSION**
- **11/9: CATTLE NUTRITION @ MASON COUNTY EXTENSION**
- **11/16: CATTLE FACILITIES @ LEWIS COUNTY EXTENSION**

**6PM**

MEAL PROVIDED

CALL TO REGISTER OR USE QR CODE:

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



**HEALTH**

**NUTRITION**

**FACILITIES**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY:  
10/27/23 TO PLAN FOR MEAL**

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## **Program Dates & Educational Credit Opportunities:**

July 13<sup>th</sup> Bracken County Cattlemen's Summer Meeting  
Dr. Kenny Burdine, UK Ag Economics will be our presenter

July 27<sup>th</sup> Pasture Weed Control Demonstration, Goecke Farm  
Located on Dutch Ridge Road 4:00 – 6:00 PM  
\*(last chances for in-person cost share education credit)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bracken County Extension Office  
1120 Brooksville Germantown Road  
Brooksville, KY 41004

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