

Ag Newsletter

Cooperative Extension Service

September 2023



I want to leave you with a few thoughts regarding Bracken County Agricultural and the Bracken County Extension Service.

Bracken County
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Brooksville, KY 41004
(606) 735-2141
Fax: (606) 735-3871
<http://extension.ca.uky.edu>

The Extension Service is a grass roots organization and you can be a part of that by helping to identify the issues in our county. I think just about anyone that has served as a volunteer will tell you they gained more than they expected through learning opportunities, meeting and sharing experiences with others, and seeing new and exciting research.

Encourage our youth and the next generation to consider a career in agriculture. The advancements that are taking place in agriculture are truly amazing. The future will be focused on food production, water conservation and use. We may think that only large farms can support a family, and often that is the case. But there may be opportunities for smaller operations to capitalize on high value products to increase income opportunities.

Never stop learning. One of the benefits of working for the extension service was the continued educational opportunities we had. Learning about the most up to date research helped to guide our producers with information that was backed by tested research. Not the miracle potion that promised huge yields for just a few dollars, or just a few ounces of stuff that would replace hundreds of pounds of fertilizer. Read about your business, attend meetings with your commodity organization, go to field days and see what new varieties are working for our area. There will be new and exciting changes for agriculture and you want to keep up with those and take advantage of those that have merit.

Try new things, but don't bet the farm on them. There are a lot of companies involved in the development of production additives for crops and livestock. Many of these won't have research based information to study. If you are interested in trying some of these products, put them to the test, but only on a small scale. Be sure and determine if true results take place. Not just the crop turned green and looked

It is hard to believe that this is my last newsletter I will share with you. Each time I sit down to write one, I start out wondering what I can write about. Before you know it, the girls are cutting me off and telling me the newsletter is full. I hope that with each newsletter, you gained some helpful information.

First and foremost, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your county agent. I have been welcomed on hundreds of farms and homes over my career and I will always be grateful to have enjoyed your hospitality. I hope when I did visit, I was able to provide you with an answer or at least some helpful information.

One of the greatest privileges of Extension, is working with our leaders and volunteers. The many accomplishments that have taken place over the years are because of the tireless work of our many volunteers. Field days, demonstrations, trial plots, advisory councils, youth supporters, fairs, commodity groups, and cost share programs, all supported by volunteer leaders. And this is just a small list of the many groups that make up all our extension programs. To everyone that has helped me along the way, thank you!!!

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

good. Did it provide an economical yield difference?? Some of these products will be a big part of our production future, and it will take university research to help answer those questions. Soil Test, Soil Test, Soil Test – It will tell you what you do need and what you don't need.

Take time to accurately collect your soil samples – 4 inches for pasture and hay, 6 inches for plowed ground. Numerous cores are needed to improve accuracy. One acre, 4 inches deep is equal to 1,200,000 lbs. of soil. Does your sample provide an accurate representation???

Vaccinate your livestock. We have the proven science to prevent or greatly reduce animal diseases. Healthy animals don't require antibiotics and there will be continued pressure to reduce the amount of antibiotics used in food animals. We want to keep these tools for when they are needed.

Fescue is the glue that keeps Bracken County from washing into the river. It is also one of the biggest challenges for animal agriculture. It can be managed to reduce its negative impact on animals. The bottom 3-4 inches of the plant is the most toxic part of the plant. By moving animals and not allowing them to overgraze, you can reduce the toxicity. The second most toxic part of the plant is the seedheads. Keeping the plants vegetative, and not allowing seedheads to be grazed by animals will help reduce toxicity. By managing our KY 31 fescue, we can capitalize on its value. If you are reseeding pastures, consider using the new Novel Fescue.

I could go on with numerous topics related to our farms, facilities, and homes. It has been an honor to work with you and I am thankful to have had the opportunity to be a part of this exciting time in Bracken County Agricultural history.

David Appelman, CEA for ANR



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

BEEF BASH

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Thursday, September 21 | 1:00 - 8:00 PM

UK Oran C. Little Research Farm

1051 Midway Road Versailles, KY



- Growing list of 40+ industry exhibitors
- Farm tours & presentations from USDA Researchers, UK Extension Faculty, Meat Science Researchers
- Updates on research & education facilities
- Dinner prepared by Woodford Co. Cattlemen's Association

To register, search "Beef Bash" at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Questions? Contact Tyler Purvis, UK Beef Extension, tapu228@uky.edu

 **Martin-Gatton**
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

**KENTUCKY**
CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

**PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE LARGEST BEEF PRODUCING
STATE EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

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The right time is **now.**
The right way is **BQCA.**

Thanks to a partnership and University of Kentucky are offering **FREE BQCA CERTIFICATION** online or through your county extension office **September 1st** through **September 30th, 2023.**





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AREA FARM FIELD DAY

BRACKEN, FLEMING, LEWIS, MASON & ROBERTSON COUNTIES

DOOR PRIZES!!

**Must attend a morning & afternoon session to be eligible for door prizes

- YETI COOLER
- ELECTRIC FENCE CHARGER
- & MORE!



**THE FARM FIELD DAY WILL TAKE PLACE AT SEVERAL FARMS ON HELENA ROAD **

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

WILL BEGIN AT MASTERS ACRES: 3850 HELENA RD, FLEMINGSBURG

MORNING TOPICS:

- ALL ABOUT BEES
- GENERAL SHEEP & GOAT PRODUCTION
- CATTLE VACCINES
- INSECT ID
- ELECTRIC FENCING DEMO

AFTERNOON TOPICS:

- IDENTIFYING WEEDS IN PASTURE & HAY FIELDS
- HIGH/LOW TUNNELS
- UTILIZING DRONES IN PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE

9:00AM-2:00PM

- 9:00 AM- VENDORS & SIGN-IN
- 9:50 AM- WELCOME
- 10:00 AM- FIRST MORNING SESSION SPEAKERS
- 11:00 AM- 2ND MORNING SESSION SPEAKERS
- 12:00 PM- FREE LUNCH & VENDORS
- 1:00 PM - AFTERNOON SESSION SPEAKERS
- 2:00 PM- CONCLUSION OF EVENT

REGISTER BY QR CODE OR CALL YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE BY 9/22/23:

- 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



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FARM SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

THURSDAYS IN OCTOBER

6:00PM

FLEMING CO. EXTENSION OFFICE

1384 ELIZAVILLE RD, FLEMINGSBURG

CALL YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE TO REGISTER BY 9/29/2023

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



OR REGISTER USING THE QR CODE



OCTOBER 5
 HAULING- LAWS & SECURING LOADS

OCTOBER 12
 WILDLIFE CONTROL

OCTOBER 19
 POULTRY HEALTH & NUTRITION

OCTOBER 26
 PARTNERING GROUPS- LEARNING ABOUT RESOURCES

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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
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HEALTH

NUTRITION

FACILITIES

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

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



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Considerations for Preconditioning Calves this Fall

James Mitchell, University of Arkansas

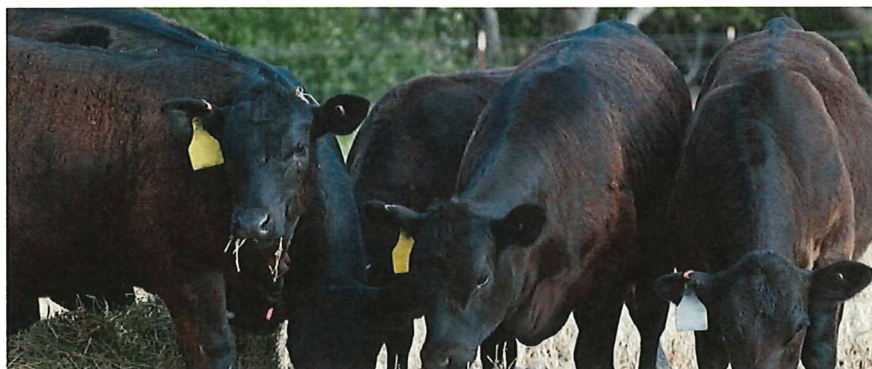
As fall approaches, producers should already be thinking about preconditioning programs as part of their broader marketing plan. A few months ago, Kenny discussed always doing the "little things", even when times are good, and prices are high. Preconditioning is a "big thing" that producers should continue to do to add value to their calves. That preconditioning process includes castrating bull calves, removing horns, vaccinating calves for respiratory disease and blackleg, treating calves for internal parasites, and keeping calves at least 45 days after weaning. I'd argue 45 days isn't long enough and should be considered the minimum number of days to keep calves after weaning.

This year in Arkansas, preconditioned steer calves are bringing a \$14/cwt premium. Preconditioned heifer calves are averaging a \$17/cwt premium at auction. For a 500-pound calf, that's an additional \$72/head and \$83/head for steers and heifers. That price premium does vary by weight category, with lighter-weight calves receiving the highest premium for preconditioning. That premium is also consistent across years. There is a premium in years when cattle prices are high and in years when prices are low.

Producers get paid by the pound, so there is some disagreement about whether it pays to castrate bull calves. Kenny has discussed this topic at length in a previous article. The general finding is that selling bull calves instead of steers is never a price advantage, even after considering that bull calves will weigh more. Kenny calculated—depending on the specific price adjustment for weight—a bull calf would need to weigh 70-100 pounds more than a steer to have comparable value. Separate from preconditioning programs, steers are selling for \$20/cwt more in Arkansas than bulls.

Another consideration is the additional weight from keeping calves after weaning. Assuming calves are in a program that gains 1.5/lbs/day for 45 days, producers sell an additional 68 pounds at marketing. Based on current Arkansas price forecasts for early November and a \$10/cwt price slide, the value of gain for an additional 68 pounds is \$1.70/lb or \$116/head.

The final estimate for preconditioning calves considers value of gain, premiums for castrating bull calves, and the premium for weaning and vaccinating. That estimate can be compared against the cost of gain and preconditioning. These costs include feed (supplement, hay, and mineral) ear tags, dewormers, vaccines and boosters, chute charge, and labor. Other considerations should be given to timing (seasonality), location (venue and distance), lot size (there are no premiums for selling singles), and risk management (previously bought LRP contracts), among other factors.



IMPORTANT DATES:

- Sept. 21 Beef Bash, UK Research Farm, Versailles
- Sept. 30 Final Day for 2023 Cost Share Project paperwork
(Soil Conservation will be open 8 A.M. – 12 P.M. for final project paperwork drop-off)
- Oct. 12 Bracken County Cattlemen's Fall Membership Meeting – KCA
(President will be our guest speaker)
- Oct. 17 Seedstock Symposium, Lexington
- Nov. 1 Grazing Conference, Lexington