

Ag Newsletter

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

August 2017

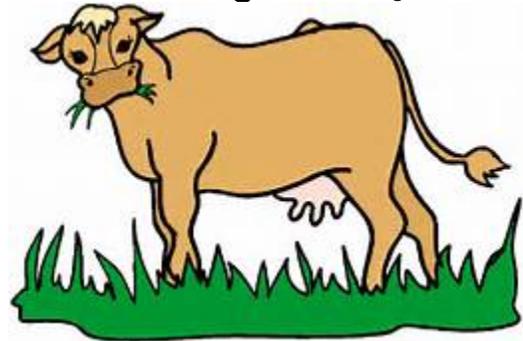
NEW CATTLE EQUIPMENT WORKSHOP - JULY 25TH

The Bracken County Ag Advancement Council has recently purchased a new Cattle Chute / Alley / Sweep Tub unit to add to the shared use equipment. It is an all in one trailer that is designed to be more user friendly for producers to work their cattle. The old equipment was difficult or even impossible for some people to set up. Since this is a larger unit and with new innovations, a workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 25th at 10:00 and again that evening at 6:30. Producers will be required to attend the safety and use workshop to be eligible to use the new equipment. This will also be the first offering of the Phase I educational credit for the 2017 program year. New cost share programs are not available until later this fall, but you can get your educational credit now if you participate in the workshop. For more information on the workshop, please call the office at 606-735-2141.

Cooperative Extension Service

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2017 Kentucky Grazing School



The Kentucky Grazing School will be held on September 27-28, 2017 at the Woodford County Extension office and the Oran C. Little Research Center in Versailles, KY. This two day program includes hands-on exercises, such as building temporary paddocks and watering systems, and assessing pasture production. Classroom discussions will cover topics including forages, animal management, and grazing systems. Enrollment is limited, so apply early. Past participants range from new to experienced grazers and all have gained new information and skills to implement on their operations. Pre-register for the grazing school as enrollment is limited to the first 45. The \$50.00 registration fee includes all materials, grazing manuals, breaks, and lunch both days. Partially funded through the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy. For more information, contact Zach Workman, 859-257-7512, Zewo222@uky.edu or visit the UK Forage Website.



Bracken County
farmers' market
naturally local

Augusta: Fridays 4-6 p.m.
Brooksville: Saturdays 9am-Noon
Germantown: Tuesdays 4-7p.m.

**Farm fresh vegetables & USDA inspected
homegrown pork!!**

Questions: Contact Ella Bowling 606-782-0192

New Farmers always welcome!

David Appelman, CEA for Ag & Natural Resources

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

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

TALL IRONWEED CONTROL IN GRAZED PASTURES

J. D. Green, Extension Weed Scientist

Tall ironweed (*Vernonia altissima* Nutt.) is one of the more commonly found weeds in grazed pasture fields and other non-cropland areas (Figure 1). In Kentucky, tall ironweed is ranked as the most troublesome and third-most common weed found in grazed pastures. The quantity of grass available for grazing can be substantially reduced in pastures by the presence of tall ironweed because of its unpalatability to livestock. This further leads to an increase in tall ironweed populations over time as animals graze and selectively avoid this weed.

Mowing alone can help suppress top growth of tall ironweed plants, but does not reduce plant populations. Mowing or clipping pasture fields, which is often performed once per year, can also lead to more multi-stemmed tall ironweed plants. Whereas, using a timely herbicide application in problem fields is one method to effectively reduce tall ironweed populations. Based on several field research studies tall ironweed populations can be reduced 80 to 95% the year following herbicide treatment when combined with other management strategies.

A herbicide-based control program for tall ironweed in grazed pastures may require a 12- to 18- month time period to reduce tall ironweed populations and allow for reestablishment of clover. Tall ironweed control should start in early to mid-July by mowing emerged tall ironweed stems. Mowing removes top growth of currently emerged plants which often have older, tattered leaves. This also forces the plant to use more stored energy from its roots to develop new shoots. When plants regrow 10 to 20 inches in height (generally in mid to late August) the younger stems and leaves are more conducive for herbicide uptake. In August or by early September apply a pasture herbicide containing either triclopyr (eg. PastureGard, Crossbow, etc.) or aminopyralid (eg. GrazonNext, etc.) as a broadcast treatment. Although mid-summer (June and July) treatments can provide good control, better herbicide movement to the root system occurs with perennial weeds such as tall ironweed with late summer applications. Consult

product label or Extension bulletins for recommended use rates for herbicides.

One of the drawbacks to the application of broadleaf pasture herbicides is that they can impact desirable clover stands. Emerged clover within the treated areas of the field are likely to be killed. Consult the herbicide label of the product used for minimum reseeding intervals for clovers and other desirable forage grasses. Also, observe other precautions prior to application.

This approach for tall ironweed control is best suited for fields with moderate to heavy tall ironweed populations. For lighter infestations levels, a spot treatment of individual plants may be warranted to keep tall ironweed populations from becoming a major problem. Use of rope wick applicators and roller wipers have also been evaluated for tall ironweed control as a method to minimize injury to clover. However, the results have consistently been less successful than broadcast herbicide treatments for control of tall ironweed.

For any pasture or hay field herbicide application, be aware of surrounding crops and weather conditions. Vapors from these herbicides can move by temperature inversions, or wind hundreds or even thousands of feet and can have a major detrimental effect on other crops or sensitive plants.

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Cattle Equipment Safety and Use Workshop
July 25th - 10:00 and 6:30 at the office

Germantown Fair
July 31st - August 5th

Kentucky State Fair
August 17th - August 27th

New Bluegrass Stockyards - Cattlemen's Field Trip
September 1st

KY Grazing School, UK Research Farm
Sept. 27th - 28th

Rinse and Return
September 28th

Plan Ahead Now for Fall Seeding

While summer officially started late June, now is the best time to begin planning for fall seeding. Failure to do so often results in missing seeding windows or inability to secure the needed supplies such as seed, herbicides and equipment. Below are a few quick reminders to improving seeding success.

- Spray herbicides now. Most herbicides require six weeks or more before seeding perennial grasses, so if you are planning to seed in September, herbicides should be applied soon. Be sure to read and follow all label instructions.
- Research and purchase seed now. New and productive varieties may not be available in high quantities, so purchase seed now to prepare for seeding late August - mid-September
- Perform routine maintenance and any repairs needed on seeding equipment. Seed placement is crucial to seeding success.
- Ensure soil fertility. If you haven't soil tested in the last 3 years for pastures or last year for hay fields, do so now and apply any needed lime, P or K as recommended. For all cool-season pastures, fall nitrogen is recommended to boost root reserves and increase winter survival.

For more information on fall establishment, contact your local county extension agent or check out our list of publications at www.uky.edu/ag/forages.

Summer Heat and Fescue

Hot summer months are the most problematic for grazing Endophyte infected KY 31 Fescue. The toxin in the fescue causes blood flow restrictions which does not allow the animal to cool off. Body temperatures on hot days can reach as high as 108 degrees. Temperatures this high can have very detrimental effects on animals including immunity suppression, abortions, and even death.

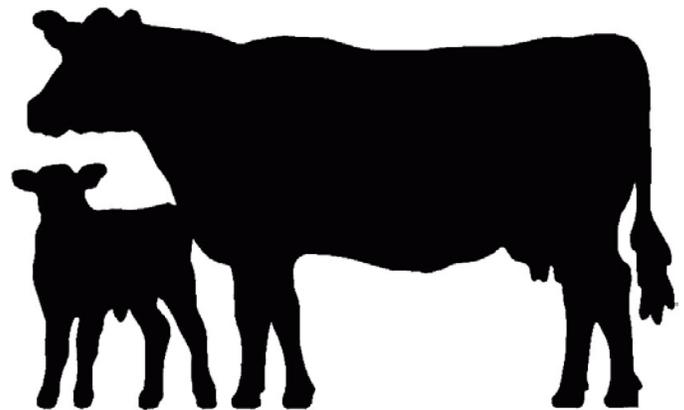
If an alternative forage is available, switch to orchardgrass or other hay fields during hot months. Summer annuals are great sources of forage during this time of the year. You can also select a field that has a lot of clover, both white and red to dilute the amount of fescue they are consuming. Some early

research suggest that clover can reduce the effects of the fescue as it is a vasodilator and improves blood flow.

To manage the fescue pastures, keep plants vegetative and clip to remove the seedheads. This is the second most toxic part of the fescue plant. The most toxic part of the plant is the lower 3-4 inches. Overgrazing and forcing animals to eat the lower portion of the plant is the worst option for pasture management.

Feeding hay during this time of the year is another option and may result in fewer illnesses, production gains and maintained pregnancies.

Cattlemen's Activities



The Bracken County Cattlemen's group took a tour of the Fenceline Feeding Demonstration at the Eden Shale Farm in Owen County in April. It was a cold and ugly day, but we still had a chance to see the options for feeding facilities that included roofed and concrete structures, stabilized rock bases, and hay rings with just a filter fabric base. You can see a video of the demonstration and get plans to build the feeders or "cubbies" by checking out the Eden Shale Farm Blog, or go to the KY Beef Network site and check out the links.

The Bracken County Cattlemen's summer meeting was held on July 13th at the office and Mr. Warren Beeler was our speaker for the evening. Mr. Beeler is the Director of the Governor's Office of Ag Policy and formerly worked for KDA. He gave a very informative presentation on the investments across the state that Phase I funds have provided. He also

encouraged folks with ideas for future investments to share those. He wants these funds to continue to move KY agriculture forward and provide as many opportunities for us as possible.

On another note, I want to apologize to folks that did not get the notice about the meeting. An old mailing list was used to send out notifications and many names were left off the list. I will double check our mailings in the future.

Upcoming events include:

Cattle Equipment Safety and Use Workshop
July 25th

Tour of the New Bluegrass Stockyards
September 1st (sign ups at the office)

Fall Meeting - October 19th
Speaker: Mr. Chuck Crutcher, KCA President.

Give Your Summer Garden New Life

Source: Rick Durham, Extension Professor



Summer's heat and weather can take a toll on your flower garden. But with a little extra care, it is possible to bring it back to life for a few more weeks of vibrant color and texture.

It's always important to make sure annuals and perennials get plenty of water this time of year, especially in later summer. Annuals, in particular, will start to decline without an adequate supply of water to keep the ground moist.

The general rule of thumb for watering your plants is 1 inch of water per week. Plants growing in pots may need water as often as every day throughout the

summer, depending on the type of plant and the size of the container. Once the top few inches of container soil is dry, add enough water so that a little drains through the hole in the bottom of the pot. If rain doesn't supply enough water, you should apply the necessary water in one application rather than in several small applications.

Remember, the best time to water your plants is in the morning or early evening, preferably before 7 p.m.

During periods of drought, many annuals may appear to die. However, if you cut them back, water them regularly and apply fertilizer, they will often recover.

Another thing you can do to help your summer flower garden rebound is to remove spent, or old, flowers. This process is called deadheading. Deadheading helps encourage new growth that will produce new flowers.

Late summer is also the time to pull out the flowers that have seen their better days and plant new ones that are more suitable for fall.

Annual flowers that give a good show in the fall include pansies, ornamental cabbage and kale and snapdragons. Perennials, such as anemones, asters and showy sedums, also give a good show in the fall but you'll need to transplant them the previous spring to give them a chance to provide their best show.

As you renovate your summer garden, be careful when applying fertilizer around perennial plants. If you apply fertilizer later than August, it may stimulate new growth at a time when the plants would normally begin to prepare for dormancy. And that can mean more winter injury.

Of course, all of this may be moot if you haven't carefully tended your summer garden throughout the growing season. If you've kept your garden well-watered and periodically added fertilizer, your chances are greater for a late summer and fall show of color.

For more information, contact the Bracken County Extension office.

UPDATE ON SOUTHERN RUST OF CORN

By Carl A. Bradley, Extension Plant Pathologist



Southern rust of corn (caused by the fungus, *Puccinia polysora*) caused yield losses on several acres of corn in Kentucky during 2016, which raised awareness of this disease going into the 2017 growing season. The southern rust pathogen does not overwinter in Kentucky (or really much at all in the continental U.S.), thus, occurrence of southern rust is different every growing season.

Each year, southern rust generally is observed first in southern states (such as Texas and Louisiana), and weather systems move rust spores northward into states like Kentucky.

Fungicide Application Guidelines

When it comes to yield losses caused by this disease, timing is everything. It is not uncommon for southern rust to show up late in the season in Kentucky after a point in time when yield losses are unlikely. Although more research is needed in Kentucky to help determine the exact point in the crop's development southern rust infections will not cause yield losses, Table 1 provides general guidelines. This table was modified from a Texas A&M University publication, and developed by several plant pathologists across the corn-production region in the U.S. According to these general guidelines, if southern rust is observed between tasseling and R3 (milk stage), then protecting leaves with a foliar fungicide may be beneficial. If southern rust is observed at R4 (dough stage), then a benefit from a fungicide is not as likely, and fungicides will not provide a benefit at R5 (dent) or beyond.

Possible benefit from spraying a fungicide
Vegetative Not likely to find southern rust at this stage

VT (tassel) to R3 (milk) Yes

R4 (dough) Maybe, with severe disease pressure

R5 (dent) and beyond No

Status in Kentucky

At the time this article was written, southern rust had not yet been confirmed in Kentucky, but has now been confirmed as of July 17, 2017 to be in Graves County Kentucky.

Correct Identification is Critical

Scouting is important, as well as properly identifying southern rust. Southern rust can easily be confused with common rust, especially at the early stages of development. Since the threat of yield loss of most yellow dent corn hybrids to common rust is low, properly differentiating between common and southern rust is extremely important. Working with a local County Extension Agent to submit samples to the University of Kentucky Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (PDDL) is important for proper identification and to help Extension personnel get the word out about southern rust.

Recently, a picture of common rust affecting a Kentucky corn field was widely circulated with the assumption that it was southern rust, but when the sample was submitted to the PDDL, it turned out to be common rust. If you think your corn has Southern Rust, I can submit a sample to the lab for verification.

TIPS FOR STOCKPILING FESCUE

Select the field that you are going to use for stockpiling fescue. Selecting the field or area to be allocated for stockpiling fescue in early August allows one to adjust grazing rotations or management as needed ahead of time.

Calculate the number of grazing days expected. Grazing days are determined by the number of cattle grazed and length of time you wish to graze using some general assumptions for forage availability. Remember, if you wish to move fences on weekends only, a larger area will be required.

During the fall months (August-October), cattle will need to be kept off the field that is being stockpiled. Many options are available during this time, such as grazing corn, cereal grains, annual ryegrass, alfalfa, and warm-season forages. Some may even consider feeding hay during this time instead of waiting until the winter months. It will not be as muddy and cold

when setting out hay bales. Also, hay will have less exposure to weather when stored outside, which will lower hay losses.

When selecting the field be sure that cattle will have readily available access to water, especially during cold periods when open water sources could freeze. Prepare field(s) for stockpiling in August.

Graze, harvest for hay, clip or mow the pasture in early August to remove previous forage growth to a height of 3 to 4 inches. This field will not be placed into the grazing rotation until November or December after all other fields have been grazed.

Apply nitrogen in mid-August to pastures after they have been grazed, harvested for hay, or mowed, assuming adequate moisture is available. Recommended nitrogen rates range from 40 to 100 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre. Other nutrients (i.e. P & K) and lime should be added based on soil test recommendations.

Plan on beginning to graze in November or December. As alternative forages are being grazed, begin thinking about the date to begin using the stockpiled fescue.

Don't wait too late to begin grazing stockpiled fescue. Stockpiled fescue will decline in quality over time due to weather conditions, so grazing should begin during November or December. Stockpiled fescue is generally higher quality than the average stored hay, and should be used before that quality declines. Use it or lose it! Once a killing frost occurs, fescue goes dormant until the next spring. Use the forage that is there because it will only be wasted if you don't.

Stockpiled fescue should be strip grazed or rotationally grazed. Strip grazing is achieved by fencing off a small portion of the pasture using temporary fencing supplies and forcing cattle to be less selective. Once this area is grazed, the fence is then moved to include more of the ungrazed pasture. Plan your movements to your schedule while ensuring sufficient forage is available to maintain cattle (i.e. moving fence every day or two for maximum efficiency, or you may only wish to move the fence on weekends only).

Remember that providing mineral while cattle are grazing stockpiled fescue is still important, and the use of a portable mineral feeder may be needed depending on field design.

Always have hay in reserve. Ice and deep snow can limit or prevent grazing of stockpiled forages and hay will be required to supplement the grazing.



Congratulations to Linda McClanahan who was recently named Kentucky Association of County Agricultural Agents President. Linda is a Bracken County native and the daughter of Donald & Joyce McClanahan. Linda currently serves as the Ag & Natural Resources Agent in Mercer County.



Beef Cattle Markets

Stabilizing But Still Below 2016 Levels

BY [AIMEE NIELSON](#)

Most beef cattle-producing states have been able to escape drought conditions so far this year and Kentucky producers enjoyed significant rainfall in early July that put them in a good position this summer. Still, weather aside, Cattle prices have improved from recent declines but remain lower than this time last year.

“The downward trend for CME Feeder Cattle Futures continued for much of the past month, although at a somewhat slower pace,” said Kenny Burdine, livestock marketing specialist for the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “However, recently, they have actually pulled back very close to where they were a month ago with the CME August through November Feeder Cattle Futures contracts in the low-to-mid \$150’s.”

Burdine said slaughter weights continued to seasonally rise, but remain below 2016 levels. Fed-cattle prices continued a downtrend through the first week of July, but did see some improvement during the second week. He said it is not yet clear if recent gains in the fed and feeder cattle markets will be sustainable.

“Local cash markets for feeder cattle held well during June,” he said. “With the July 4 holiday week in the mix, trends are a little more challenging to discern, but prices appear to be mostly steady since the end of June.”

Typically, calf prices seasonally peak in spring, so steady summer markets are a positive thing for producers.

Since the 1800s, the U.S. beef cattle market has run in approximately 10-year cycles that industry professionals term the “cattle cycle.” During each cycle, cattle markets alternatively expand and reduce

over several years in response to perceived changes in producer profitability. However, since 2006, ethanol production altered the usual cycle, as farmers put more acres into corn production. Drought was also a debilitating factor that year. After that, beef saw the longest decrease in cattle numbers in history. Some experts said the cattle cycle was broken.

“In early 2015, cattle prices were at a record high and we entered a new cycle as producers began expanding their herds,” Burdine said. “With lower prices now and lower ones still predicted in fed cattle, we’re still in the rebuilding part of the cycle.”

On the demand side, consumers are demanding more meat from all the major livestock sectors. CattleFax CEO Randy Blach said U.S. farmers produced 5.5 billion pounds more beef, pork and poultry, 25 percent of which was exported. He said record supplies have cost farmers leverage in the retail market. Two years ago, farmers kept about 24 percent of the retail price of beef and now they keep less than 20 percent. CattleFax reported total meat supplies for 2017 will be up 3.2 percent. Beef carcass weights have stabilized at approximately 825 pounds, which is up 50 pounds from 2011.

“The key for producers in this environment, is to focus on the things they can control,” Burdine said. “So, focus on controlling cash costs, managing overhead, perfecting efficiency and making investments that will increase profits over the next several years.”



Bracken County 4-H Livestock would like to thank the Bracken County Ag & Advancement Council, The Bracken County Cattlemen's Association, and many local businesses for the supporting the Annual Showmanship Contest held on July 16th!