

MARCH 2024

 **Martin-Gatton**
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter by Bracken County Extension Office



IN THIS ISSUE

- AG ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL
- RENTAL EQUIPMENT
- WHATS HAPPENING IN THE COUNTY
- PROGRAMS
- LEGUME BLOAT
- CHICKEN SAFETY
- UPDATES

Interested in joining **Ag Advancement Council**

The Ag Advancement council serves as the advisory council to the extension ag programs offered here in Bracken County. The council is actively seeking new members willing to help guide educational efforts and direct our shared use equipment program. Producers have greatly benefited from items such as our lime spreader, pasture sprayer and cattle equipment. To continue this work, and help guide future programs, new ideas and new interest are needed to help direct these efforts. This council would only meet regularly a couple times each year, so your time commitment would not be overwhelming.

*If you are interested, please join us on **April 11th at 6:30***

Please call and let me know your interest so I can plan for a meal.

**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.

Rental Equipment

To reserve please call the office at (606)-735-2141
reach out regarding any questions

Equipment	Rental Fee	Notes
Portable Chute, Alley, Tub Unit	\$50 two days	Certification is required
Squeeze Chute	\$25 three days	
Corral Kit	\$25 three days	
Lime Spreader	\$50 per day	
Pasture Sprayer	\$25 per day	No non-selective herbicides (roundup)
Vegetable Equipment	\$25	
Hay Wrapper	\$10 per day	



 Martin-Gatton
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University of Kentucky

PORTABLE CHUTE, ALLEY, TUB UNIT CERTIFICATION

**CAIP
EDUCATION
ELIGIBLE**



**APRIL 10, 2024
6:00PM**

**APRIL 13, 2024
9:00AM**

At Bracken County Extension Office

**Certification is REQUIRED to be able to rent out
equipment system.**

Certificate does not expire and does not need to be renewed

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What's happening in the County?



CANVA STORIES

0917



CANVA STORIES

0917



February Meeting

-4-H served the meal sponsored by Mary Ann Cummins and Kern Food Distributing -
Around 100 members and guest in attendance

-Dr. Alecia Raymer presenting on calf scours and current vaccines

Be on the lookout for some events we will be having during May to celebrate beef month!!



CANVA STORIES

0917



CANVA STORIES

0917



Ag in the Classroom

Mrs. Ross's third grade class at Taylor Elementary participated in a Soil Layers activity. The activity included the components, formation, and layers in the soil. After each student enjoyed making and trying their own crated soil layers.

Programs in the County



FREE

LET'S GROW A CONTAINER GARDEN!

Join us to learn the basic concepts for growing vegetables and importance of home gardening!

Everyone also will make a starter container garden!

MARCH 21, 2024
6:00 PM
BRACKEN CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY
 TO SIGN-UP, PLEASE
 CALL **606-735-3620**

Class is partnered with Bracken County Cooperative Extension Service and Bracken County Conservation District

UK Martin-Gatton
 College of Agriculture,
 Food and Environment
 University of Kentucky

Lunch and Learn

TERRARIUM WORKSHOP

April 2, 2024



FREE

Open to all ages!

Free! All supplies and materials are included, and you'll take it up with you.

12
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 Plea
 us

this class is **Full** sorry!



Cooperative Extension Service

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT



MOMMY & ME

Hanging Basket Workshop

MAY 7, 2024
6:00 PM
BRACKEN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

\$15
 Per hanging basket

BRING A CHILD YOU LOVE TO CREATE A HANGING BASKET THAT WILL BLOOM THROUGHOUT THE SEASON! YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO COME ALONE!

Registration deadline is Monday April 29th! Spots will only be held with payment, no registration online. Each individual person is limited to create only 1 hanging basket.

Cooperative Extension Service

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT



CAIP EDUCATION

EQUINE EDUCATION SERIES

RATION AND FORAGE NUTRITION

Speaker: Alex Brannon M.S. PAS
 Equine Specialist
 May 8, 2024 at 6:00PM
 Bracken County Extension Office



1120 Brooksville-Germantown Rd., Brooksville, KY 41004
 To register Call 606-735-2141

Additional series date to be announced... June

Cooperative Extension Service

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT





PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAININGS

6:00 PM | APRIL 25
9:00 AM | APRIL 30



**TO REGISTER: CALL (606)-735-2141 OR USE QR CODE
AT BRACKEN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**

**IF DATES DO NOT WORK FOR YOU PLEASE CONTACT HOLLY TO
DISCUSS OTHER OPTIONS: HOLLY.BOWMAN@UKY.EDU**

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources
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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
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Managing Legumes in Spring Pasture for Bloat

By Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Beef Specialist

Pastures were slow to green-up with the cool weather this spring. However, the past few days of warm weather has really made the grass pop. I noticed today, April 18, that some of the timothy and bluegrass was beginning to flower. Now is a good time to be investigating pasture stands for legume content.



Legumes are recommended additions to our tall fescue-based pastures. The inclusion of legumes dilutes the endophyte and its negative impact on performance. In addition, legumes improve forage quality as they tend to be higher in crude protein and often digestibility. Legumes also provide an opportunity for bacteria attached to their root system to capture and utilize atmospheric nitrogen. This nitrogen fixation process lowers the need for fertilizer sources of nitrogen.

The addition of legumes into existing pastures is often accomplished by interseeding red and/or white clover. Some will utilize other legumes like alfalfa, lespedeza, birdsfoot trefoil, and others. However, the ease of frost seeding clovers and their ability to thrive in less than ideal soil conditions makes them the preferred legumes. Many producers will frost seed a few pounds to the acre of red clover in February. It is an economical method of interseeding and improving forage stands.

Establishing legumes into pastures is not without risk, though the risk is minimal. Legumes can induce a rumen disorder referred to as frothy bloat. This typically occurs when cattle selectively graze legumes from the pasture in high proportions or when the stand is dominated by legumes. Pastures that contain in excess of 50% legumes have an increased risk of inducing bloat. The most prominent bloat inducing legumes in Kentucky are white clover, alfalfa and red clover.

In recent years, bloat losses have been largely associated with white clover. The drought conditions led to a weakening of the pasture, lowering competition and providing an opportunity for white clover to establish and thrive. In many cases the white clover began to dominate the stand making up in excess of 50% of the forage allowing cattle to selectively graze and consume mostly clover. The microbial population in the rumen responsible for digesting the forages are thought to produce a bacterial slime when a large percentage of their diet is fresh legumes. This slime captures or traps the gas released from the fermentation of the forage, forming a froth layer in the rumen. This froth prevents the animal from being able to eructate or belch and release the gaseous products. As fermentation continues, more and more gas builds up in the rumen. Eventually, the rumen begins to press against the diaphragm causing labored breathing and eventually suffocation if not corrected.

Legume bloat can be managed. Commercial feed additives can be utilized and have been shown to be effective in reducing the severity and incidence of bloat. These feed additives must be consumed at the target levels daily to be effective.

Poloxalene is the active ingredient in the bloat prevention blocks and feed products. It is also the active ingredient in the commonly used drench product. This detergent-type additive breaks up the foam layer and allows the gas to escape.

Monensin has been shown to aid in controlling forage induced bloat as well. Oklahoma researchers have demonstrated monensin to be quite effective at preventing wheat pasture bloat, which is similar to that caused by legumes. Monensin lowers the formation of the foam layer in laboratory settings by selectively inhibiting the growth of some bacterial species in the rumen. However, the product label does not claim to lower the severity or incidence of bloat.

General management changes can be made to lower the risk of bloat as well. Avoid turning cattle on to pastures with a high proportion of legumes when hungry. Allowing legumes to mature to flowering can lower the risk. When possible, avoid grazing legumes that have moisture on their leaves following a rain or heavy dew. Offering a leafy, highly palatable, grass hay is recommended as well. Routinely check cattle, as bloat symptoms occur rapidly and death may occur as quickly as 3-4 hours after consuming a large amount of legumes. This fall pasture renovation may be required to establish grasses back into the stand. A variety of options exist, and you should contact your county Extension office for additional details on pasture renovation. The last straw may be to eliminate the legume from the stand to lower the competition level and provide the grass an opportunity to reestablish. Once the grass has been reestablished, legumes can be introduced into the stand again. Maintaining 30-40% legumes in the pasture is a good target allowing for the improved performance, nitrogen benefit, and minimal bloat risk.

Get out in the fields now and assess your pastures. If you have a lot of legumes in your stands, develop and implement management strategies to reduce livestock losses. For additional information, consider reading *Managing Legume Induced Bloat in Cattle* as well as visiting your local Extension office.

The risk of bloat can be greatly reduced if managed properly.

10 Backyard Chicken Basics



1. **Make sure you check your local city and county ordinances to ensure you're able to have a backyard flock. Some ordinances require a minimum amount of land and some subdivisions and homeowners' associations have their own rules.**
2. **Chickens require daily care. You must feed them, provide clean water and collect eggs every single day. Managing a small flock is an excellent opportunity to teach children a certain amount of responsibility, but ultimately, you'll oversee the health and well-being of your flock.**
3. **Birds get sick and it may be difficult to find a veterinarian to provide care for them.**
4. **Cleanliness and sanitation are critical elements in caring for a small flock. Everyone must wash their hands before and after handling the birds. Also, no matter how tempting, avoid bringing your chickens into the house and don't use your kitchen sink to wash equipment.**
5. **Poop happens. Chickens eat a lot and hens use about 60% of the feed they consume and excrete the other 40% as manure. You must have a plan for that manure. One option is adding it as an odor-free fertilizer for your home garden.**
6. **Keep it down. Chickens make noise. Only roosters crow, however, hens are not always quiet and can make a lot of noise letting everyone know they just laid an egg.**
7. **The egg season will come to an end. Chickens stop producing eggs at some point in their lives and may live a long time beyond their egg-laying years. Have a plan for what you will do with hens that stop producing. If you keep them as pets, you'll have to keep feeding them and providing other resources for their care.**
8. **Housing is a big part of keeping a flock. Your birds will need a house that provides shelter from the weather, nest boxes for egg laying and perches for roosting at night. Make sure housing is easy to clean and provides protection from predators. You'll have to manage their bedding well to prevent rodents from making your chickens' house their home.**
9. **Scratch that. Chickens scratch when they forage. If you let hens run free, you may need to place a fence around your garden if you don't want the birds to destroy it.**
10. **Know how to get chicks. You will most likely want to raise your hens from chicks. You can buy them online and have them shipped to your home, but some suppliers have minimum quantities for orders. You may have neighbors or friends who also raise chickens willing to join you in an order. Remember you'll need to provide new chicks with a heat source, such as a lamp, for at least six weeks.**

Safely Handling Chicks

The intestinal tracts of all mammals have various types of bacteria as part of their natural intestinal microflora. There are many opportunities for people, especially young children, to be exposed to these bacteria, such as pets, friends, etc.

Some types of bacteria may cause diseases like salmonella in susceptible humans. When dealing with animals in any situation personal hygiene is important. This is especially true when handling chicks in your backyard and small poultry flocks. Here are some reminders of proper hygiene practices.

Hand-washing is necessary to reduce any risk of bacterial infections. Wash your hands after coming in contact with any animals, birds or eggs. Proper hand-washing techniques include using soap and warm running water and rubbing your hands together vigorously for at least 20 seconds. Make sure you wash the back of your hands and wrists, in between fingers and under your fingernails. Rinse well and thoroughly dry your hands with a paper towel. Turn off faucets with your elbow or a paper towel. If there is no access to running water, you should use antibacterial hand sanitizers or wipes with at least a 99 percent bacterial kill rate and then wash your hands as described above as soon as possible.

Supervise children when handling birds or animals. Don't allow them to nuzzle or kiss animals, chicks and ducklings. Don't allow children to touch their mouths or eyes with their hands during or after handling animals and birds prior to hand washing. Make sure children don't eat and drink before thoroughly washing their hands.

You can do a few other things to reduce your risk of exposure of bacteria. Always clean and sanitize an incubator prior to incubating eggs and only set clean eggs from a reliable source. To prevent the potential transmission of bacteria from adults and children to your chicks or eggs, make sure to wash your hands prior to handling the eggs or birds. You should always thoroughly clean any surfaces that have been contaminated with animal feces. Clean and sanitize the incubator immediately after use and properly dispose of the shells and eggs that do not hatch.

Programs to be announced

- Dairy Month- Homemade Ice Cream Workshop
- Shared-Use Equipment Training/Open House
- Herb Garden
- Bee Keeping

Any programs you would like to see offered please reach out at 606-735-2141



Confetti Chicken Quesadillas

1 small green bell pepper, seeded and diced
1 small red bell pepper, seeded and diced
1 **tablespoon** hot pepper, minced (optional)

1 **pound** skinless, boneless chicken breast, diced
1 (**1 ounce**) packet fajita seasoning mix
1 **tablespoon** olive oil

10 (**10 inch**) whole-wheat tortillas
1 (**8 ounce**) package reduced fat cheddar cheese, shredded

Preheat the broiler and prepare baking sheet with non-stick spray. **Toss** the diced chicken with the fajita seasoning and place on the baking sheet. **Spread** chopped peppers on baking sheet. **Place** under the broiler and broil until the chicken pieces are thoroughly cooked and no longer pink in the center, about 10 minutes. **Brush** skillet with oil and heat to medium. **Place** one tortilla in skillet. **Layer** half of tortilla with approximately one-third cup chicken

and pepper mixture. **Sprinkle** with 3 tablespoons cheddar cheese. **Fold** over and flip tortilla to crisp other side. Repeat until all quesadillas have been prepared. **Cut** each quesadilla into wedges and serve with salsa, if desired.

Yield: 10 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 270 calories, 10 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 40 mg cholesterol, 880 mg sodium, 2 g sugar, 23 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 19 g protein



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

UK Cooperative Extension Service

CATTLE GRADING

APRIL 9, 2024
FARMERS STOCKYARDS
 255 HELENA RD, FLEMINGSBURG

Speaker: Mr. Jim Akers

- Live feeder grading demonstration
- Price determination
- What causes discounts
- Cow condition scoring
- Market outlook



6:00PM



CAIP EDUCATION ELIGIBLE

USE THE QR CODE OR CALL TO REGISTER

- 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



COUNTS FOR 2 HOURS FOR 4-H LIVESTOCK EDUCATIONAL HOURS

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

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 4-H Youth Development
 Community and Economic Development
 Lexington, KY 40546



UK Cooperative Extension Service



2024 FARMERS MARKET EDUCATION PROGRAM

HOSTED BY THE BUFFALO TRACE COUNTY AREA UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICES



6:00PM

AT FLEMING COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
 OR VIA ZOOM OR ****WATCH PARTY****

****Check local office to verify watch party option****

- **FEBRUARY 13** PRODUCE BEST PRACTICES TRAINING
- **MARCH 19** BASICS OF CANVA TO MARKET YOUR FARM
- **MARCH 26** SENIOR/IC FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM TRAINING
- **APRIL 2** CUSTOMER SERVICE & KENTUCKY PROUD INFO
- **APRIL 16** LIMING & FERTILIZING MY GARDEN

REGISTER BY: FEBRUARY 9TH

USE THE QR CODE OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE TO REGISTER:

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



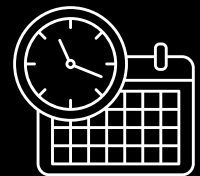
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 Lexington, KY 40546



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

Important Dates



- **March 21** | Container Garden | Bracken County Public Library | 6:00PM
- **March 23** | Stephens Genetic Advantage Bull Sale | Paris Stockyards | 1:00PM
- **April 2** | Terrarium Workshop | Bracken Co. Ext Office | 12:00PM
- **April 9** | Cattle Grading | Farmers Stockyards | 6:00PM
- **April 10** | Portable Chute Training | Bracken Co. Ext Office | 6:00PM
- **April 13** | Mommy & Me Hanging Baskets | Bracken Co. Ext Office | 9:00AM
- **May 7** | Mommy & Me Hanging Baskets | Bracken Co. Ext Office | 6:00PM
- **May 8** | Equine Nutrition | Bracken Co. Ext Office | 6:00PM
- **May 21** | Grow it, Eat it Salsa | Bracken Co. Ext Office | 6:00PM