



Growers will have the opportunity to complete 2023 Annual GAP Training online through GAP Connection on their Grower Dashboard. Online training will offer growers the opportunity to complete training at their leisure on their time schedule from their home or farm office. A variety of crop and environmental and labor management video modules will be available for growers to choose. Growers must watch a certain number of the videos and complete a short quiz for each video to receive credit for training. Online Annual GAP Training launched on January 18, 2023. Growers need to log in on their grower dashboard and complete the required number of modules.

Black Vulture Control

The use of an Effigy or the image of a dead black vulture hung from a tree will help to keep Black Vultures away from your farm. As you know, these birds often attack newborn calves and kill them. The big problem is that they are on the Migratory Bird List and it is illegal to shoot them. Even with a permit to take up to 3 birds, you cannot be with the herd 24 / 7, so utilizing other methods to keep them away from your farm is highly recommended. I have plans on how to build your own Effigy here at the office and I will have one for you to view to see how it is constructed. For less than \$30 you can purchase the materials you need and you can build one yourself. The key to good control is to get the Effigy up in a visible tree on your farm before calving season. Call the office to get a copy of the plans.

David Appelman, CEA for Ag & Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Fruit Tree & Grape Spraying

Cooperative Extension Service
Bracken County
1120 Brooksville Germantown Rd
Brooksville, KY 41004
(606) 735-2141
Fax: (606) 735-3871
<http://extension.ca.uky.edu>

The most important disease prevention sprays you will make on both fruit trees and grapes is before buds open or right at the end of dormancy. Any delays in spray applications result in less than optimal control. Now is the time to determine what chemicals you need and have them on hand, ready to apply at the right time. The UK publication, Disease and Insect Control Programs for Homegrown Fruit in KY is available at the office. It has spray schedules and chemical recommendations for each phase of the plant development with a description and pictures of the fruit buds as they develop.

This is also the time to prune these plants which also helps in disease control. Prune out any diseased plant growth and reduce any excess growth for more air flow which helps dry the leaves. Remove all diseased or dried, left over fruit or leaves, on or around the tree as these will serve as a source of inoculums for new infections.

Beef IRM Calendars

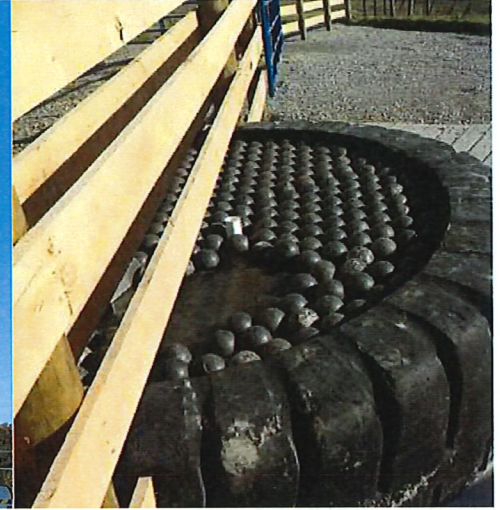
I know it is very late to be offering calendars for 2023, but the UK Beef IRM calendars will soon be available here at the office. Due to a late printing, they are just becoming available. These calendars will have monthly management tips along with the gestational calendars for determining calving seasons. Call to make sure they have arrived and stop by and pick one up.



University of Kentucky
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BUFFALO TRACE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE COUNTIES

Eden Shale Farm Tour



APRIL 21, 2023

10:30AM

**IF RIDING IN THE COUNTY VAN- DEPARTURE
TIMES WILL VARY BY LOCATION**

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

NEWS ALERT

VAN SPACES ARE LIMITED
TO THE FIRST 11 PEOPLE
THAT REGISTER & REQUEST
A SEAT IN THE VAN.

FOLKS CAN ALSO DRIVE &
MEET US AT EDEN SHALE
THAT DAY.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY: APRIL 7TH

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Renovating High Traffic Areas

Many areas in pastures are susceptible to severe damage between late fall and early spring. High traffic areas, such as feeding areas, sacrifice lots, alleyways, gateways and waterers, are often bare and muddy this time of year. To slow and reduce soil erosion, compaction, forage damage, and weed problems, these areas need to be renovated promptly. It is also beneficial for animal health to reduce muddy areas. Both annual (Italian) and perennial ryegrass are good options when renovating these areas, but annual ryegrass usually dies out during KY summers.

These cool-season forages work well to renovate high traffic areas because they establish easier and more quickly than other common forage species. They are frequently used as a cover crop and can be useful when establishing new pastures or when reseeding old stands with more permanent forages. The dense, shallow root system not only reduces erosion but also improves soil aggregate stability, reduces current compaction by breaking up dense soils, and helps to prevent future compaction. Vigorous growth helps these forages to outcompete unwanted late summer and winter annuals. Annual ryegrass is more vigorous than perennial ryegrass, but provides only short term grass cover. It will die out during the summer whether it is planted in the spring or the fall of the previous year. The advantage of late summer or fall planting, is high quality late fall and early spring grazing. Perennial ryegrass is more susceptible to summer slump than other cool-season grasses, but with proper management (fertilization and rotational grazing) usually survives for 2-3 years in KY pastures. Some producers mix these two grasses to obtain quick cover from the annual ryegrass and longer term survival from the perennial ryegrass. Seeding ryegrass for quick coverage not only reduces erosion potential but also provides a valuable forage. These grasses are often used for pasture, hay, or silage. If harvested at a vegetative state, ryegrass is high in digestibility. Compared to other cool-season grasses, this species is also high in protein and can be a useful feed for livestock with high nutritional needs such as lactating and growing animals. Renovating bare

areas with ryegrass provides a high quality forage as well as protecting the soil.

Management of ryegrass is similar to that of other cool-season grasses. Drilling seed into a firm seedbed is recommended for best seedling establishment. Ryegrass can be seeded in the late summer/fall or early spring. It is possible to frost seed ryegrass by scattering seed on the soil surface in February but it is suggested that seed be drilled into the soil for maximum success. Fertilizer and lime should be applied according to soil test results. Doing split applications of nitrogen (40-60 lbs/ac) can be beneficial. It is important to use high quality seed of a variety suited for the intended use. Using a winter hardy variety is suggested as this species is not highly tolerant of extremely cold temperatures. See the 2013 ryegrass variety trial report at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/PR/PR665/PR665.pdf>. It is important to reduce competition from weeds and other unwanted species. If possible, keep livestock or heavy traffic off newly seeded areas to allow for seedling establishment. Rotationally graze for maximum efficiency. Do not overgraze and allow for an adequate rest and regrowth period.

Poison Hemlock Control Program

One of the very first plants to start growing after winter is Poison Hemlock. This invasive weed is becoming more prevalent throughout the county and is a great concern with our livestock industry. For many years, plants were only found along fencerows, feeding areas and barn lots. Now it is not uncommon to find plants in pasture and hay fields. Due to the plant's extreme toxicity, and the potential to kill livestock, control measures need to be implemented to prevent the contamination of hay with this weed. A fatal dose can be as little as one half of one percent of an animal's body weight of the plant material and all parts of the plant are equally toxic. Herbicide applications need to be made right away while plants are small and easily controlled. Products that are recommended include 2,4-D products, products containing triclopyr, and products containing glyphosate.

For general broadleaf weeds in pasture, 2,4-D type herbicides will control many of the early season weeds. For more woody type weeds such as briars, a stronger herbicide will be needed. Herbicide selection guidelines are available at the office to determine which product best matches your weed problems.



POND MANAGEMENT

APRIL 11

Liming, Aeration
(turnover), Stocking
& General
Pond Management



APRIL 18

Pond Plant and
Algae Control



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**6:00PM VIA ZOOM OR
WATCH PARTY**

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



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

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
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with prior notification.

CALVING PREPARATION

With this busy season coming soon or already upon us, there are a number of things you need to be prepared for to increase the number of live calves to make this a successful year. First and most important, you need to have frozen or commercial colostrum products on hand to administer to newborn calves that cannot nurse right away. Calves need colostrum in the first few hours after delivery to obtain the maximum immunoglobulin absorption. Without this protection, their chances of survival are greatly diminished. Commercial Colostrum products are available from your veterinarian or feed companies. Be sure your Esophageal Feeder (tube feeder) is in good, clean condition so a calf can be fed if it is too weak to nurse by a bottle.

You should also work with your veterinarian to make sure your cow herd is up to date on vaccinations. This will help them pass on greater immunity to the calves and help them avoid illness during this highly stressful time. Ask the vet about Selenium for weak calves. Herds that may not have enough Selenium in the diet or mineral can have calves that do not get up quickly after delivery and this is often due to low levels of Selenium. An injection, recommended by your vet can help with this condition.

Cows need to be consuming a High Magnesium Mineral to avoid Grass Tetany when the early spring grasses contain lower mineral content. This needs to be fed now through the end of May or early June.

Move cows to a cleaner pasture before and after calving to reduce the mud on the udders. Cleaner udders will reduce the incidence of scours in calves and improve growth.

Be sure and watch the herd closely at this time and protect them from Black Vultures. You can obtain a permit from the KY Farm Bureau to take Black Vultures legally that are threatening livestock. Permit application are available at our office. Good Luck during this all important time of the year.

Lime – Check for Quality

With the continued high cost of fertilizer, you need to make sure the soil pH is near the recommended level for the crop you are growing. If the soil pH is lower than what is recommended, you can be wasting anywhere from 20% to over 50% of your fertilizer investment. The only way to correct this is with a soil test and Agricultural Lime application. Keep in mind, that lime reacts with the soil at a very slow rate and applications now will have very limited effect on the crop this growing season. Still, you need to get started and apply lime when the soil will support application equipment. Now, just a quick review of the science behind what works and what does not work. Limestone is made up of Calcium and Carbonate (CaCO_3). The carbonate portion of limestone is what reacts with the acid (H^+) in the soil to neutralize it. You can ask your high school science teacher, or there is a fantastic video on lime by Dr. Edwin Ritchey on the KY Forages YouTube Page.

So here is a list of things that don't work: Gypsum, Liquid Calcium, Calcium Chloride & other magic potions in a jug!

Now for the quality issue on Ag Lime. There are 3 things that determine lime's ability to neutralize soil acidity. First is the Carbonate content of the stone. It can vary greatly from one quarry to another and even from one seam of rock to another. Next is how finely the stone is ground. The percentage that will pass through a #10 sieve is used. What does not pass the #10 sieve is unavailable to help change soil pH. Next is the percentage that passes the #50 sieve. This is considered 100% available, while the percent between the two sieves is considered 50% available. By calculating the Carbonate % with the 2 sieve percentages, this is how we calculate the Relative Neutralizing Value. Ag Lime with a higher RNV will be able to Neutralize soil acidity better than lower RNV lime. I can provide you with the Ag Lime reports that are taken in the spring and in the fall. We are working to get more timely reporting so you have the most up to date information.

Local Ag Lime Sources and Fall Test Results

Bourbon Limestone	49.5
Flemingsburg Quarry	54.0
Montgomery Stone	55.2
Pendleton (Butler)	46.7
Cave Run Stone	64.5

One last thing, Pellet Lime is just Powder Lime that has been pelletized. It is usually a higher RNV value lime that is used to make the pellets, but you still have to apply the amount needed. Usually a 2 ton rate of Ag Lime can be reduced to 1.5 tons of Pellet Lime. Due to cost, this would be extremely expensive and not recommended. Don't let folks tell you all you need is 500 lbs. to equal 2 or 3 tons.



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CATTLE GRADING

APRIL 4, 2023

6:00 PM

BLUEGRASS STOCKYARDS MAYSVILLE
7124 AA Highway East

Speaker: Mr. Jim Akers

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

CALL TO REGISTER

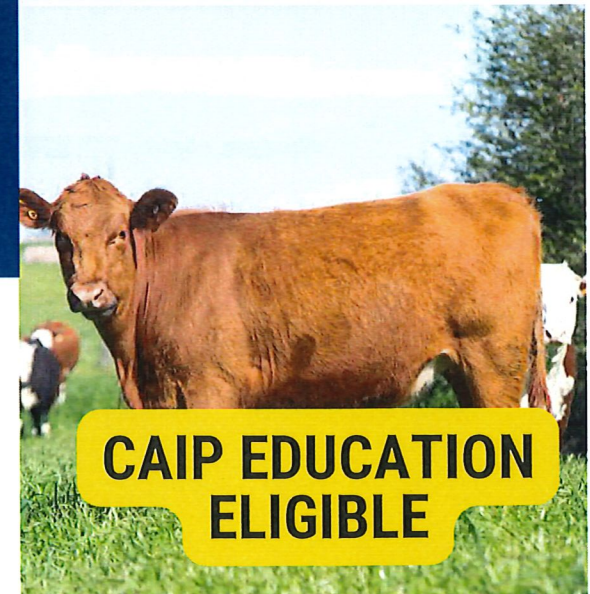
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**CAIP EDUCATION
ELIGIBLE**



176 Pasadena Drive
Lexington KY 40503
kbn@kycattle.org

Lexington, KY
3/8/2023

University of Kentucky Extension and Kentucky Beef Network offer Free BQCA Certifications in April and September

The Kentucky Beef Network and University of Kentucky Extension are pleased to announce that they will be offering free Beef Quality and Care Assurance (BQCA) certifications in April 2023 and September 2023.

The Kentucky BQCA program takes national BQA practices one step further to provide a holistic program for Kentucky producers, by adding cattle handling and animal care components to the training modules. Educational modules provide the best management practices for handling cattle and providing for their well-being, in addition to training on the core principles of BQA.

The cost of BQCA enrollment is \$5 for in person training through their local county extension office and \$10 for online training, however from April 1- 30, 2023 and September 1-30, 2023 the Kentucky Beef Network and University of Kentucky Extension will be sponsoring the enrollment costs, making it free for producers.

Producers interested in taking advantage of this opportunity can visit www.kybeefnetwork.com to access the online training platform or contact their county extension office for training opportunities. "We are very excited for this partnership for our Kentucky cattlemen to continue to tell their story to consumers through sound management practices," says Kevin Laurent University of Kentucky Co-BQCA Coordinator.

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The Kentucky Beef Network and University of Kentucky merged their Cattle Handling and Care Program with the National BQA program to create a new program, aptly named the Beef Quality and Care Assurance (BQCA) program. This program was implemented to raise awareness of practices that ensure the proper handling and welfare of cattle while keeping farmers safe and continuing to supply healthy beef to consumers. In turn, this program enables beef and dairy producers to enhance their product, maximize marketability and strengthen consumer confidence.

Program Dates & Educational Credit Opportunities:

Mar. 23	Farmers Market Training	Zoom	6:00 PM
Mar. 28	Backyard Poultry Basics	Fleming Extension Office	5:30 PM
Apr. 4	Cattle Grading & Body Condition Scoring Workshop (Maysville Stockyards)		6:00 PM
Apr. 6	Farmers Market Training	Zoom	6:00 PM
Apr. 11	Pond Management	Zoom	6:00 PM
Apr. 18	Pond Management	Zoom	6:00 PM
Apr. 21	Eden Shale Farm Tour, register to ride and or attend.		10:30 AM

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bracken County
1120 Brooksville Germantown Road
Brooksville KY 41004