

The RURAL RAMBLER

An Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter for Bracken County



“Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man.”
George Washington

IN THIS ISSUE

REMINDERS

TIMELY TIPS

COATED SEED

CYANIDE POISONING

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Note From Your Agent:

Hello Fall! This year has certainly tested our resilience in agriculture. With unpredictable rainfall and limited moisture throughout the season, crop performance has been all over the board. While some corn struggled to fill the ears, another challenge has been the hay shortage caused by the persistent drought. Many fields didn't produce the usual amount of hay, leaving some worried about the winter months ahead. Despite the challenges of this year, I know many are already looking forward to the next growing season with hope and determination.

Be sure to check out the exciting fall programs and events listed in this newsletter. If you're interested in entering the East Kentucky Hay Contest, there's still time! Contact our office at 606-735-2141 before October 10 to schedule a free hay sample collection. Wishing you all a productive harvest and a brighter season to come!

Best regards,

Holly Bowman
 Bracken County Extension Agent for
 Agriculture and Natural Resources



REMEMBER!

- CAIP PROJECTS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 30TH AT 4:00PM TO SOIL CONSERVATION
**NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE
 - A BQCA is required if you're in the Large Animal investment area. If you need your BQCA completed for CAIP the online option is available or please call the office, the next one is September 24th at 10:00am.
- AG Advancement Council meeting is scheduled for October 10th at 6:30pm a meal will be provided.
- There is still time to register for the East KY Hay Contest. All samples are free but you must register before October 10th.



BRACKEN COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Oct. 24 @ 6:30
Bracken Co.
Extension Office

Fall Membership Meeting

Join us for a steak dinner and to hear from Dr. Les Anderson (University of Kentucky Extension) and Randy Warner (Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Vice President).

Spring Calving Cow Herd

- Bulls should have been removed from the cow herd by now! They should be pastured away from the cow herd with a good fence and allowed to regain lost weight and condition. It is a good time to evaluate physical condition, especially feet and legs. Bulls can be given medical attention and still have plenty of time to recover, e.g., corns, abscesses, split hooves, etc. Don't keep trying to get open spring cows bred – move them to fall calving or sell them when they wean this year's calf. If you don't have a bull pen and want to tighten up the calving season, remove the bull and sell him. Plan on purchasing a new bull next spring. If that is not feasible, then schedule your veterinarian to pregnancy diagnose the herd and cull cows that will calve late.
- Repair and improve corrals for fall working and weaning. Consider having an area to wean calves and retain ownership for postweaning feeding rather than selling "green", lightweight calves. Plan to participate in CPH-45 feeder calf sales in your area.
- Limited creep feeding can prepare calves for the weaning process since they can become accustomed to eating dry feed. This will especially benefit those calves which you are going to keep for a short postweaning period – like the CPH-45 program. It's time to start planning the marketing of this year's calf crop.
- Begin evaluating heifer calves for herd replacements – or culling. Each time you put them through the chute you can evaluate them for several traits, especially disposition.

Consider keeping the older, heavier heifers. They will reach puberty before the onset of the breeding season and have higher conception rates.

- This has generally been a reasonably good year for pastures, but many parts of the state have experienced some drought. Evaluate moisture condition and consider stockpiling some fescue pastures. It's not too late to apply nitrogen for stockpiling fescue if moisture conditions are suitable.
- Stresses associated with weaning can be minimized by spreading-out other activities commonly associated with weaning – like vaccinations, deworming and, perhaps, castration and dehorning (which should have already been done!). Therefore, this month is a good time to do a "preweaning" working of cows and calves.
- When planning the preweaning working, consult with your veterinarian for advice on animal health products and procedures. One procedure that can be done now is pregnancy checking cows. Early pregnancy diagnosis will allow time to make culling decisions prior to weaning time. Feeding non-productive cows through the winter is a costly venture so pregnancy diagnosis is a business decision for most producers.

Fall-Calving Cows

- Fall-calving should start this month. Get your eartags ready. Cows should be moved to a clean, accessible pasture and be watched closely. Tag calves soon after they are born and record dam ID and calf birthdate, etc. Castration is less stressful when performed on young animals and calves which are intended for feeders can be implanted now, too.

- If you haven't started calving quite yet, then it's time to get ready. Be sure you have the following: record book, eartags for identification, iodine solution for newborn calf's navel, calf puller, castration equipment
- Watch for those calves which may come early and be prepared to care for them.
- Be on guard for predators – especially black vultures.
- Move cows to best quality fall pasture after calving. Stockpiled fescue should be available to these cows in November-December to meet their nutritional needs for milking and rebreeding.
- Start planning now for the breeding season. If using AI, order supplies, plan matings and order semen now.

Stockers

- Calves to be backgrounded through the winter can be purchased soon. A good source is Kentucky preconditioned (CPH-45) calves which are immunized and have been preweaned and "boosted".
- Plan your receiving program. Weanling calves undergo a great deal of stress associated with weaning, hauling, marketing, and wide fluctuations in environmental temperature at this time of year. Plan a program which avoids stale cattle, get calves consuming water and high-quality feed rapidly. Guard against respiratory diseases and other health problems.

General

- Keep a good mineral mix available at all times. The UK Beef IRM Basic Cow-Calf mineral is a good choice.
- Do not give up on fly control in late summer, especially if fly numbers are greater than about 50 flies per animal. You can use a different "type" of spray or pour-on to kill any resistant flies at the end of fly season.
- Avoid working cattle when temperatures are extremely high - especially those grazing high-endophyte fescue. If cattle must be handled, do so in the early morning.

- Provide shade and water! Cattle will need shade during the hot part of the day. Check water supply frequently - as much as 20 gallons may be required by high producing cows in very hot weather.
- Plan the winter-feeding program. Take forage samples of hay you will feed this winter. Request protein and TDN analysis so that supplemental feed needs may be estimated. Don't wait until you run out of feed in February to purchase extra feed. Plan to minimize hay storage and feeding losses because feed is too expensive to waste.

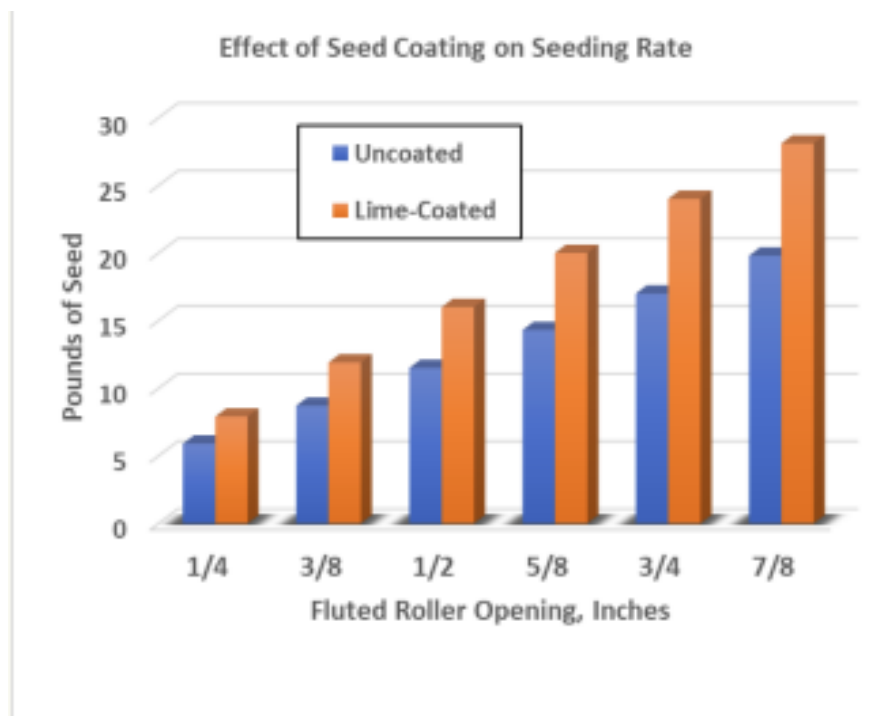
- If you have adequate moisture, stockpiling fescue might be a viable option. Nitrogen application to fescue pastures can be made now and allow them to grow and accumulate until November, or when other sources of grazing have been used up. To make best use of this pasture, put fall-calvers, thin spring-calvers, or stockers on this pasture and strip graze.
- Don't graze sorghum or sudan pastures between the first frost and a definite killing frost because of the danger of prussic acid poisoning. Johnsongrass in stalk fields can also be a problem after a light frost. Grazing can resume after the sorghum-type grasses have undergone a killing frost and dried up.

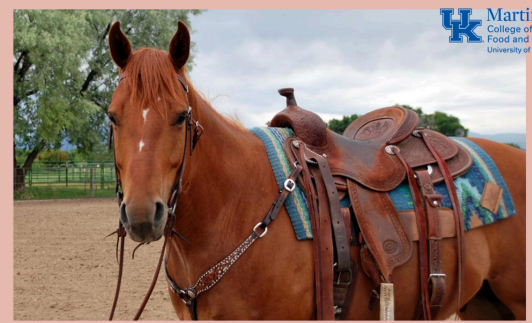
SHOULD I BUY COATED SEED

DR. JIMMY HENNING, BILL TALLEY OF SUMMIT SEED, AND THE TYE COMPANY.

There are advantages to buying coated seed, especially with legumes since the coating also contains rhizobia bacteria to enhance N fixation and usually a fungicide to reduce seedling disease issues. With grasses a coating can improve seed distribution, especially with small seeds and using a spinner spreader. A caution with coated seed is that they will flow faster through most drills. The following figure shows that at every opening size of a Tye seed drill the coated alfalfa seed flowed faster (and therefore had a higher seeding rate) than uncoated seed. This study was joint between Dr. Jimmy Henning, Bill Talley of Summit Seed, and the Tye Company. Also, it's useful to look on the seed tag for the amount of coating which shows up as Inert.

When the coating is over 30% many producers will up the seeding rate in lbs/acre since there are less actual seed in each pound of product. This is especially useful to consider with grasses.





BEEF QUALITY CARE & ASSURANCE (BQCA) TRAININGS

- August 12 | Lewis County Extension Office | 5:00PM
- September 5 | Lewis County Extension Office | 9:00AM
- September 9 | Robertson County Extension Office | 10:00AM
- September 11 | Bracken County Extension Office | 6:00PM
- September 17 | Lewis County Extension Office | 5:30PM
- September 19 | Fleming County Extension Office | 5:30PM
- September 20 | Fleming County Extension Office | 11:30AM
- September 24 | Bracken County Extension Office | 10:00AM
- September 25 | Robertson County Extension Office | 5:00PM

******BQCA CERTIFICATION IS \$5.00, PLEASE BRING A CHECK PAYABLE TO KBN OR EXACT CHANGE (FREE THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER)****

To Register for a BQCA Training, please contact the corresponding office with the date/time you choose from the above listings:

Bracken County Extension Office: (606) 735-2141	Lewis County Extension Office: (606) 796-2732
Fleming County Extension Office: (606) 845- 4641	Robertson County Extension Office: (606) 724-5796

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

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lebanon, KY 40006



EQUINE EDUCATION SERIES

WESTERN SADDLES & TACK

November 14, at 6:00PM

Bracken County Extension Office

To register Call
606-735-2141
or scan QR code



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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40006



FREE!
HAY TESTING

2024 EAST KENTUCKY HAY CONTEST

SIGN UP EVEN IF YOU THINK YOUR HAY ISN'T THAT GOOD!

UK Cooperative Extension Service
606-735-2141

TESTING PROVIDES: NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF HAY & HAYLAGE; RATINGS; & CAN RESULT IN: REDUCED FEED COSTS, INCREASED ANIMAL PERFORMANCE, & INFORMATION TO IMPROVE FORAGE STANDS

For more information call the office at 606-735-2141

DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP IS 10/10/24

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40006



Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays

12:30pm ET/11:30 am CT

Visit kentuckyhortnews.com

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

Prussic acid, cyanide, or hydrocyanic acid are all terms relating to the same toxic substance. Hydrogen cyanide was first isolated from a blue dye (Prussian blue) and because of its acidic nature it became known by the common name "prussic acid." Cyanide is one of the most rapidly acting toxins that affect cattle.

Cause

The primary cause of cyanide poisoning in ruminants is the ingestion of plants containing compounds called "cyanogenic glycosides." These cyanogenic glycosides and the enzymes that convert them to free cyanide reside in different locations within the plant cells. When plant cells are crushed, chewed, wilted, frozen, chopped or otherwise ruptured, the cyanogenic glycosides and the enzymes can physically come together and rapidly form free cyanide. As ruminants consume these plant materials, hydrogen cyanide gas is liberated in the rumen and rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream. Ruminants are very susceptible to cyanide poisoning because the rumen microflora contain enzymes that, in the presence of water, are also capable of converting cyanogenic glycosides in plants to free cyanide gas. Cyanide ultimately prevents hemoglobin in red blood cells from releasing its oxygen to the tissues and the animal subsequently dies from lack of oxygen. The cyanogenic potential of plants is affected by the species and variety of the plant, weather, soil fertility and stage of plant growth. Cyanide poisoning of livestock is commonly

associated with johnsongrass, sorghum-sudangrass, and other forage sorghums. Choke-cherry or wild cherry, elderberry, and arrow grass are less frequent causes. Young plants, new shoots, and regrowth of plants after cutting often contain the highest levels of cyanogenic glycosides. The risk of poisoning decreases as forages mature. Leaf blades are higher risk than leaf sheaths or stems, upper leaves are higher risk than older leaves, and seed heads are considered low risk. Application of herbicides such as 2,4-D have been shown to increase the cyanogenic potential of plants. Drying plants decreases the cyanogenic potential over time so hay is rarely hazardous if adequately cured. Ensiling plants will significantly reduce the cyanogenic glycoside content.

Clinical Signs

Cyanide is one of the most potent toxins in nature. If large quantities of cyanide are absorbed rapidly enough, the body's detoxification mechanisms are overwhelmed and the animal soon dies. Affected animals rarely survive more than 1-2 hours after consuming lethal quantities of cyanogenic plants and usually die within 5-15 minutes of developing clinical signs of poisoning. Signs may include rapid labored breathing, irregular pulse, frothing at the mouth, dilated pupils, muscle tremors, and staggering. The mucous membranes are bright red in color due to oxygen saturation of the hemoglobin.

Diagnosis and Treatment

Cyanide is rapidly lost from animal tissues unless collected within a few hours of death and promptly frozen. Liver, muscle (heart [ventricular myocardium] preferred), whole blood, and rumen contents should be collected and frozen in air-tight containers before shipment to a laboratory capable of performing cyanide analysis. Perhaps most important in the diagnosis of cyanide poisoning is to identify plants in the area accessible to the animals and determine if they are likely to contain cyanogenic glycosides. Cyanide concentration determinations in suspect plants can be performed if samples are frozen immediately or sent on ice overnight to a diagnostic laboratory. Treatment can be attempted if affected animals are discovered quickly, but often animals are found dead. Contact a veterinarian immediately if cyanide poisoning is suspected. The intravenous administration of sodium thiosulfate by a veterinarian is an effective treatment for cyanide poisoning. The dose can be repeated after a few minutes if the animal does not respond. Most animals that live after treatment will recover.

Prevention

The risk from potentially dangerous forages may be reduced by following these management practices: **Graze sorghum, sorghum crosses, or johnsongrass plants only when they are at least 18-24 inches tall.** Young rapidly

growing plants or regrowth have the highest concentrations of cyanogenic glycosides, especially in the newest leaves and tender tips. Do not graze plants with young tillers.

Do not graze plants during drought periods when growth is severely reduced or the plant is wilted or twisted. Drought increases the chance for cyanide because slowed growth and the inability of the plant to mature favors the formation of cyanogenic compounds in the leaves. Do not graze sorghums after drought until growth has resumed for 4-5 days after rainfall.

Do not graze potentially hazardous forages when frost is likely (including at night).

Frost allows conversion to hydrogen cyanide within the plant. Do not graze for two weeks after a non-killing (>28 degrees) frost. It is best not to allow ruminants to graze after a light frost as this is an extremely dangerous time and it may be several weeks before the cyanide potential subsides. Do not graze after a killing frost until plant material is completely dry and brown (the toxin is usually dissipated within 72 hours).

Do not allow access to wild cherry leaves. After storms or before turnout to a new pasture, always check for and remove fallen cherry tree limbs.

If high cyanide is suspected in forages, do not feed as green chop. If cut for hay, allow to dry completely so the cyanide will volatilize before baling. Allow slow and thorough drying because toxicity can be retained in cool or moist weather. Delay feeding silage 6 to 8 weeks following ensiling.

Forage species and varieties may be selected for low cyanide potential. There are wide differences among plant varieties. Some of the sudangrasses, such as piper, are low in cyanide.

Test any suspect forages before allowing animal access. A rapid field test is available that can provide on-site results. Contact your county Agricultural Extension agent for further information.

MASTER CATTLEMEN 2024

BECOME A MASTER CATTLEMAN... The Master Cattlemen Program was created to give beef producers an in-depth educational course on beef cattle management. Producers completing the program will acquire knowledge that will help them make informed economic management decisions in the beef operations.

All Sessions will be held in the Northern Kentucky Area.
Participant must complete all six (6) three-hour sessions to become certified.

<p>November 4 Dr. Katie Vanvalin Assistant Extension Professor Extension Beef Specialist Nutrition</p>	<p>November 11 Kevin Laurent Senior Agriculture Extension Specialist Marketing & Profitability</p>	<p>November 18 Darrh Bullock Extension Professor Animal & Food Sciences Genetics</p>	<p>BOONE 859-586-6101 CAMPBELL 859-572-2600 CARROLL 502-732-7030 GALLATIN 859-567-5481 GRANT 859-824-3355 KENTON 859-356-3155 PENDLETON 859-654-3395 OWEN 502-484-5703</p>
<p>November 25 Les Anderson Extension Professor Animal & Food Sciences Reproduction & Record Keeping</p>	<p>December 2 Dr. Morgan Hayes Assistant Extension Professor Josh Jackson Ag Engineering Specialists Facilities & Winter Feeding</p>	<p>December 9 Dr. Michelle Arnold UK Ruminant Extension Veterinarian Animal Health</p>	

Call your County Extension Office or Scan the QR Code to register.

Registration fee: \$125 includes all meals, class materials and a farm sign.

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

JOIN US IN SUPPORT OF
BRACKEN COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH



20% of sales on November 11th will be donated to the Cattlemen's Association Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships for high school seniors at Bracken County and Augusta High Schools.

THANKS FOR PARTNERING WITH US!



Snappy

201 MIAMI ST. • (606) 735-3700
ORDER ONLINE @SNAPPYTOMATO.COM



FARM SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

4 THURSDAYS IN OCTOBER

6:00PM MEAL WILL BEGIN AT 5:30PM

FLEMING CO. EXTENSION OFFICE
1384 ELIZAVILLE RD, FLEMINGSBURG

CALL YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE TO
REGISTER BY 9/27/2024

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



OCTOBER 3
BEEKEEPING

OCTOBER 10
POND MANAGEMENT

OCTOBER 17
PLANT DISEASES

OCTOBER 24
ELECTRICAL BASICS

OR REGISTER USING
THE QR CODE





EQUINE EDUCATION SERIES TRIP



Friday
October 11, 2024
7:30am-7:30pm



- **RSUP: 606-735-2141 or scan QR code**
- **Depart & Return to Bracken Co. Extension Office**
- **Free Entry: Bring money for food**



Floral Design Class

November 26, 2024 at 6:00pm

Bracken County Extension Office

Learn to create your own fresh, round flower arrangement, everyone will make and take home their own unique creation!

- **Limited to 10 people**
- **\$10 registration fee**

Must Be Present to
Participate

**Register at the Bracken
County Extension Office
before November 15**

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

AUTUMN APPLE PORK

College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



SERVINGS: 8

SERVING SIZE: 4 OUNCES

RECIPE COST: \$8.97

COST PER SERVING: \$1.12

SOURCE: BROOKE JENKINS-HOWARD, EXTENSION SPECIALIST, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 POUND PORK LOIN
- 1 TEASPOON GARLIC POWDER
- ¼ TEASPOON SALT
- ¾ TEASPOON DRIED SAGE
- 3 APPLES, CORED AND SLICED
- ½ CUP DRIED CRANBERRIES
- 1 TABLESPOON UNSALTED BUTTER
- 1 TABLESPOON HONEY

SERVICE

220 CALORIES; 5G TOTAL FAT; 2.5G SATURATED FAT; 0G TRANS FAT; 65MG CHOLESTEROL; 410MG SODIUM; 21G CARBOHYDRATE; 2G FIBER; 11G SUGAR; 2G ADDED SUGAR; 23G PROTEIN; 0% DAILY VALUE OF VITAMIN D; 8% DAILY VALUE OF CALCIUM; 6% DAILY VALUE OF IRON; 15% DAILY VALUE OF POTASSIUM.

DIRECTIONS:

1. SEASON PORK ON BOTH SIDES WITH GARLIC POWDER, SALT AND SAGE. WRAP PORK TIGHTLY IN FOIL AND PLACE IN THE SLOW COOKER.
2. PLACE APPLE SLICES, CRANBERRIES AND BUTTER ON A LARGE PIECE OF FOIL. DRIZZLE WITH HONEY. WRAP UP FOIL TO CREATE A PACKET. PLACE IN SLOW COOKER.
3. COOK 4 HOURS ON HIGH.
4. UNWRAP BOTH PACKETS. SLICE PORK AND TOP WITH APPLES.
5. OPTIONAL STEP: BROWN THE TOP OF THE PORK LOIN BY PLACING IT IN THE OVEN AT 425 DEGREES F FOR FIVE TO SEVEN MINUTES.

Important Dates



- **October 3, 2024** | Farm School for Women | Fleming Ext Office | 6:00PM
- **October 8, 2024** | Bull Value Assessment Program part 1 | Mason Ext Office | 6:00PM
- **October 10, 2024** | Ag Advancement Council Meeting | Bracken Ext Office | 6:30PM
- **October 10, 2024** | Farm School for Women | Fleming Ext Office | 6:00PM
- **October 17, 2024** | Farm School for Women | Fleming Ext Office | 6:00PM
- **October 24, 2024** | Farm School for Women | Fleming Ext Office | 6:00PM
- **October 15, 2024** | Bull Value Assessment Program part 2 | Mason Ext Office | 6:00PM
- **November 4, 11, 18, & 25 2024** | Master Cattlemen | Boone County Ext Office
- **November 14, 2024** | Equine Series Class | Bracken County Ext Office | 6:00PM
- **November 26, 2024** | Floral Design Class | Bracken County Ext Office | 6:00PM
- **December 2 & 9, 2024** | Master Cattlemen | Boone County Ext Office

If you need your BQCA completed for CAIP the online option is available or please call the office, the next one is September 24th at 10:00am.

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