


Agriculture Natural Resources Newsletter April, 2024

 Cooperative
Extension Service

Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

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Linda McClanahan

Linda McClanahan, Mercer County Agent
for Agriculture & Natural Resources



KENTUCKY
BEEF QUALITY & CARE
ASSURANCE

BQCA Trainings

April 1st at 6pm, or April 25th at 10am OR 6pm

Mercer County Extension Office RSVP required

What is Beef Quality and Care Assurance?

The Kentucky Beef Quality & Care Assurance (BQCA) Program is based on recommended national guidelines and scientific research. This program enables beef and dairy producers to enhance their product, maximize marketability and strengthen consumer confidence. Kentucky Beef Quality and Care Assurance takes national BQA practices one step further to provide the best program for Kentucky producers. The BQCA program adds a cattle handling and care component to the training model. Educational modules provide the best management practices for handling cattle and providing their well-being, while also training on the core principles of BQCA.



Lean Green Lettuce Tacos

8 large lettuce leaves	¾ pound extra lean ground beef	1 tablespoon finely chopped cilantro
1½ cup cooked brown rice	1 small zucchini, chopped	1 teaspoon lime juice
¾ cup fresh corn kernels	1 ounce packet low-sodium taco seasoning	1 tomato, chopped
1 cup canned black beans, drained and rinsed	4 ounces low sodium tomato sauce	1 small red onion, chopped
1 tablespoon olive oil		

Wash and dry lettuce leaves. **Prepare** rice according package directions. **Cut** corn off cob. **Drain** and **rinse** black beans. In a skillet, **heat** the oil to medium; **add** ground beef and begin to **cook**. When beef begins to brown, **add** zucchini, corn and black beans to skillet. Continue to **cook** until vegetables are tender and beef is done. Do not overcook. **Add** in taco seasoning and tomato sauce and heat through. **Add** cilantro and lime

juice to the cooked rice. **Place** equal amounts of rice mixture and taco mixture into lettuce leaves. **Top** each taco with chopped tomato and onion.

Yield: 8 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 180 calories, 4.5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 350 mg sodium, 23 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 12 g protein.

APRIL FUN FACTS

For all the car enthusiasts out there, Ford unveiled their first Mustang on April 17, 1964, costing \$2,368.

After a 1,500-year break, the first Olympics of the modern era took place on April 6, 1896, in Athens.

April is Humor Month, so laugh it up!

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



University of Kentucky Extension presents:

HORSE FARM MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

EVENT SCHEDULE

- 5:00 - Registration
- 5:30 - Fencing
- 6:00 - Composting
- 6:30 - Pasture Renovations
- 7:00 - Meal from Mercer County Cattlemen

Registration - FREE!

Advanced registration is appreciated at <https://QH2Mercer.eventbrite.com> or scan the QR code

Venue

Far Cry Farm is a 37 acre horse farm that has been breeding Thoroughbreds and Irish Sport Horses for more than 20 years. In recent years, they have invested in alternative fencing options, pasture renovations and a state-of-the-art on farm composting facility.



This event is organized by UK Forage Extension, UK Equine Extension and Mercer County Cooperative Extension and funded by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund with special thanks to our host, Far Cry Farm.

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Extension, Cooperative Extension, KY 40302



5 PM - 8 PM

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APRIL

FAR CRY FARM

365 PHILLIPS LANE
HARRODSBURG, KY 40330

Backyard Poultry Basics

April 9 at 6:00pm

This program will cover the basics of raising backyard poultry from housing to nutrition and more! If you're interested in starting a small flock for meat or eggs, then this class just might be for you!



RSVP to 859-734-4378

All About Eggs

April 30 at 10:00am

Do you find yourself with an abundance of eggs from your backyard chickens? Are you interested in buying eggs in bulk to save money? This class will teach you all about eggs! From the structure and nutrients of an egg to unique ways to cook eggs and safe ways to preserve eggs.



Not Enough to too Much...Managing Spring Grass

Chris D. Teutsch, University of Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton

In March, we often find ourselves wringing our hands waiting for grass growth to start and a short time later our pastures are out of control! Spring can often be one of the most difficult times of the year for graziers. Grass growth goes from nonexistent to excessive in a matter of weeks and if you are properly stocked grazing livestock can have a hard time keeping up with it.

- **Implement rotational grazing.** To fully utilize the spring flush of pasture growth **YOU** must be in control of grazing. In a continuous grazing system, the cows are in charge. By utilizing rotational stocking, you start to make decisions. Implementing a rotational stocking system may be as simple as closing gates or stringing up polywire.
 - **Start grazing before you think the pastures are ready.** One of the most common mistakes that graziers make is waiting too long to start grazing. If you wait until the first paddock is ready to graze, by the time you reach the last paddock it will be out of control. Starting early allows you to establish a “grazing wedge”.
 - **Rotate animals rapidly.** It is important to realize that grazing pastures closely and repeatedly as they initiate growth in early spring can reduce production for entire season. Therefore, it is important to keep animals moving rapidly through the system. The general rule is that if grass is growing rapidly then rotation should be rapid to keep grass in a vegetative state.
 - **Do not apply spring nitrogen.** Applying nitrogen in the spring will make the problem of too much grass at once even worse. In many cases you are better off to apply nitrogen in late summer or early fall to stimulate growth for winter stockpiling.
 - **Remove most productive paddocks from rotation and harvest for hay.** Graze all paddocks until the pasture growth is just about to get away from you and then remove productive paddocks from rotation and allow to accumulate growth for hay harvest.
 - **Increase stocking rate in spring.** If it is possible, a good option for utilizing spring growth is to increase your stocking rate. This will allow you to harvest more of the available forage and convert it into a saleable product. This can be done by adding some stockers or thin cull cows to your rotation and then selling them when pasture growth slows. If you are in a fall calving system, you are better positioned to take advantage of spring growth since calves will be larger.
 - **Even out seasonal distribution of forage by adding a warm-season grass.** Adding a well-adapted warm-season grass that produces the majority of its growth in July and August would allow you to concentrate grazing on your cool-season paddocks during periods of rapid growth (spring flush). After cool-season grass growth is slowed by higher temperatures in late spring and early summer, animals can be shifted in the warm-season paddocks for summer grazing.
 - **Bush-hog out of control pastures.** The benefits of clipping include maintaining pastures in a vegetative state, encouraging regrowth, and controlling weeds. Clipping pastures costs money, so make sure that the primary reason for bush-hogging is pasture management, not aesthetics.
 - **Stockpile out of control pastures for summer grazing.** Although forage quality decreases as the plant matures, the quality of spring stockpiled pasture is sufficient for dry cows and in some cases result in reasonable gains on growing animals during summer months. This is especially true if using novel endophyte tall fescue and pastures were clipped at the early boot stage to promote vegetive regrowth. This could be a cost-effective and simple way to provide additional grazing during summer months.
- When it comes to grazing operations, there is not one size that fits all. What works for you may not work for your neighbor. The key is figuring out what works on your farm and implementing it in a timely manner. Hopefully one or more of the above tips will help you deal with the “quandary of spring grass”!

LORETTO MOTHERHOUSE FARM Good Ideas Field Day

Get a closer look at how the Loretto Motherhouse Farm manages livestock with innovative approaches to fencing, water & manure management, and soil and water stewardship.

Loretto Motherhouse Farm | 515 Nerinx Rd, Nerinx, KY

Saturday, April 6, 2024

9 am - 12 pm

Registration is FREE but required!

Scan QR code or contact Angela Rakes by email at arakes@lorettomotherhouse.org or text/call 270-692-8906.

Topics will include:

- innovative approaches to fencing
- water & manure management
- soil & water stewardship



Locally sourced lunch provided
*Attendees are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle.



UK Cooperative Extension Service

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. EPA under cooperative agreement MX - 00D87719 and \$319(h) of the Clean Water Act.



Applications for a New Home

Thursday, April 11th 6pm at
Mercer County Extension Office - Meeting Room
1007 Lexington Road, Harrodsburg

Saturday, April 13th at 10am
Mercer County Public Library - Meeting Room
109 W. Lexington ST, Harrodsburg

Are you living in inadequate housing?
Are you paying over 30% of your income for housing?
Are you willing & able to partner with Habitat to build your new home?

Come to either of these meetings to decide whether you want to apply to become a Habitat homeowner.
If you can't attend a meeting, email to request an electronic version of the application.

HUD based guidelines for applicant income range:

Family size	minimum	maximum	Family size	minimum	maximum
1	\$16,250	\$43,300	2	\$19,720	\$49,500
3	\$24,860	\$55,700	4	\$30,000	\$61,850
5	\$35,140	\$66,800	6	\$40,280	\$71,750
7	\$45,420	\$76,700	8	\$50,560	\$81,650

Habitat for Humanity Mercer County, Inc.
PO Box 66 Harrodsburg, KY 40330
E-mail: HabitatMercer@gmail.com 859-734-5086



Save the Date-Upcoming Forage Events

2024 Spring Fencing Schools

Hands on school focusing on the installation of fixed knot woven wire fence and electrified smooth high tensile fence.

April 23 in Morehead, KY

April 25 in Mayfield, KY



2024 Beginning Grazing School

Not sure where to start? This school is designed to provide you with the tools needed to establish a profitable and sustainable grazing system.

April 30-May 1 in Princeton, KY



Electric Fence Troubleshooting School

This school is designed to provide students with tips on installation of new and troubleshooting of existing electric fencing.

June 12 in Morgantown, KY



Heart of America Grazing Conference

The focus of this conference will be regenerative grazing. The conference will include a preconference workshop on pasture ecology and post conference pasture walk. Speakers include Ray Archuleta, Alan Franzluebbbers, Matt Poore, and more!

October 15-Preconference workshop on pasture ecology (optional)

October 15 & 16-HOA Grazing Conference

October 17-Regenerative Pasture Walk at Big Springs Farm in Adolphus, KY (optional)

Intermediate Grazing School

This school is a continuation of the beginning grazing school. It is designed for people already grazing and will explore topics more in depth.

September 25-26 in Versailles, KY



Save your
spot...
Register
Today!!!

Scan QR Code, visit <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/events>, or contact Caroline Roper at 270-704-2254 or Caroline.Roper@uky.edu for more information on upcoming events.

Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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| April 1 | Beef Quality & Care Assurance Training, 6:00 PM |
| April 4 | Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7:00 PM, Mercer Co. Public Library |
| April 4 | Mercer County Ag Development Council Meeting, 6:00pm |
| April 8 | Growing Strawberries, 6:30pm |
| April 9 | Backyard Poultry Basics, 6:00 PM |
| April 11 | Horse Farm Management Practices Field Day, Far Cry Farm |
| April 16 | Freezer Jam, 10:00am |
| April 22 | Earth Day |
| April 25 | Beef Quality & Care Assurance Training, 10 AM or 6 PM |
| April 30 | All About Eggs, 10:00am |
| | |
| May 2 | Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7 PM |
| May 6 | Conservation Field Day, Don Sayre Farm |
| May 14 | UK Wheat Field Day, Princeton |
| May 27 | Memorial Day, Extension Office Closed |

Upcoming
EVENTS