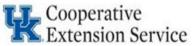
# Agriculture Natural Resources Cooperative Extension Service **Newsletter** JANUARY, 2024



College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

**Mercer County** 

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Linda McClanahan, Mercer County Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

#### UK Beef Management Webinar Series 8:00pm ET/7:00pm CT

January 9, 2024 Management decisions that impact reproductive efficiency in beef herds – George Perry, Professor, Texas A&M University

February 13, 2024 What's the Cost of a Cheap Mineral – Katie VanValin, Assistant Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

UK Beef Management Webinar Series on Tuesday, January 9! We are fortunate to have Dr. George Perry from Texas A&M University join us and present on "Management decisions that impact reproductive efficiency in beef herds". Dr. Perry is a renowned reproductive physiologist that is doing groundbreaking work on applied management practices that impact a producers' ability to get cows bred. There is no doubt that you will benefit from this presentation. We will wrap up the winter session next month with Dr. VanValin covering "What's the Cost of a Cheap Mineral" on February 13th. Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Remember, once you are registered you will get a Zoom invitation the morning of each session with the link and password. If you would like to get registered send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with Beef Webinar Series in the Subject and your name and county in the message. All registered producers will get your Zoom invitation the morning of the presentation. This invitation will directly link you to the site and you will be asked for the password which can be found just below the link. Each session will be recorded and posted for later viewing.

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#### 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

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#### Forecasting Winter Storms - What a Headache!

Tony Edwards - National Weather Service Charleston, WV

When I was a child - probably by around 7 years old - I knew I wanted to be a meteorologist. I was infatuated with the weather. To my mother's dismay, The Weather Channel was a mainstay on our TV and I even kept a log of the weather each day. My uncle worked for the Department of Highways and had to drive a snow

plow each winter. I loved winter, he hated it. I remember one conversation with him distinctly. He told me that when I grew up to be a meteorologist, he wanted me to get all of the meteorologists in the area on the same page with forecasting winter storms. He was so tired of watching the different "opinions" of how much snow we were going to get on each evening TV weather broadcast. For him, the differing opinions made it very hard to do his job. I'm sure many others around our region also wonder "why is it so hard to forecast how much snow is going to fall?"

Forecasting snow amounts is one of the hardest things we have to do as meteorologists. First off, we have to get the temperature forecast right. Not just the temperature at the surface, where there's plenty of thermometers, but we also have to forecast the temperature accurately throughout the atmosphere up through the cloud layer. There are very few ways to get accurate temperature measurements above the ground, so we have to rely on imperfect computer models for this part of the forecast. The temperature and how it varies from inside the clouds down to the ground determines the consistency of the snow, or how wet and sticky vs. dry and fluffy it is. We also have to accurately forecast how much liquid will fall during the storm. For instance, 0.5 inches of liquid vs. 0.7 inches could make the difference of several inches of snow in some cases. This is probably the second hardest thing we have to do! Finally, we have to get the storm track correct. A low-pressure system tracking as little as 25 miles off course can mean the difference between a foot of snow or no snow for your location! All of these are important considerations for a forecast *just* featuring snow. It gets exponentially MORE complicated if the forecast includes other types of precipitation such as freezing rain or sleet. All of these variables create uncertainty in the forecast and, unfortunately, humans aren't the best at dealing with uncertainty.

It's been at least 30 years since I had that conversation with my uncle and unfortunately, I've failed him miserably! He still has to wade through differing opinions on how much snow is going to fall when he gets his forecast information. To be honest, the atmosphere is just too complicated and we may never be able to completely accurately forecast winter storms. Despite the complications, we can still plan for the possible impacts. Here's a few tips to help you be as prepared as possible when snow is forecast:

- When the weather forecast REALLY matters, don't rely on a phone app! Get your forecast from a local source, whether it be from the National Weather Service or your local TV meteorologist. The forecast from most apps is computer-model generated with no local human input. That's fine for figuring out if you need to wear a coat, but not for when your life could depend on it!
- If you see vastly different opinions on how much snow is expected for your location, then you can
  guess that it's just a complicated forecast and plan for the worst-case scenario you hear. If you flip
  through the channels and see all of the meteorologists having the same opinion on how much snow will
  fall and the timing, you can have more confidence in the forecast.
- Finally, put together an Emergency Kit for your home and automobile. You'll at least want 72 hours of
  - food, water and prescriptions in your home kit and some basic tools and supplies for your automobile. Check out Ready.gov for some great ideas on what to include in those kits.







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

## Mon., Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:00 PM @ Extension Office

Join us for our 1st 2024 educational meeting!

## **CATTLE MANAGEMENT MEETING**

#### **Hay Storage & Feeding Considerations**

Dr. Chris Teustch, UK Extension Forage Specialist

## Winter Feeding & Stretching Hay Supplies

Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, UK Extension Beef Specialist

#### Forage Insurance & LRP Insurance

lan Thomas, Superior Ag Insurance

This class qualifies for KADF CAIP Educational credit for the cost share program.

Pay dues/renew your membership to be entered in special drawing!

FREE Steak Dinner Provided By:



If you plan to attend, please call the extension office 859-734-4378 by Friday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> to RSVP.

Cooperative Extension Service

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

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

# 2024 Horses & Horsemen:

Join us for the 17th annual

# PASTURES PLEASEN

Thursday, January 18

#### Schedule:

5:30-Meal

6:00—How to Rescue a Pasture for Short Term Use, Dr. Ray Smith

6:30—Selecting Herbicides for Targeted Weed Control, Dr. Bill Witt

7:00—Not Just Triple 19 - Fertilizing Pastures Based on Need, Lindsay Arthur & Keenan Bishop



College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



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Cooperative Extension Service



or go to tinyurl.com/pasturesplease

**Scott County Extension Office** 1130 Cincinnati Rd Georgetown, KY 40324 502-863-0984

Thank you to our sponsors:

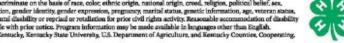
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Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development

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# AREA FORAGE PRODUCTION MEETING

Boyle County Extension Office 99 Corporate Dr. Danville, KY 40422

Call your county
office by January 23
for meal
reservations.

Boyle 859-236-4484 Lincoln 606-365-2447 Garrard 859-792-3026 Mercer 859-734-4378

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION





Lexington, XY 40506

January 25 at 6:00 PM

This meeting qualifies for CAIP Educational requirement.

Meal begins at 6:00pm

6:30 PM: Summer Forage Options

Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Extension Forage Specialist

7:00 PM: Rotational Grazing Management

Dr. Jimmy Henning, UK Extension Forage Specialist

7:30 PM: Water Management Innovation

Dr. Steve Higgins, UK Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering, Director of Environmental Compliance

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# AREA

# GRAIN CROPS

January 30 at 6:00 PM

6:00pm-Meal begins

6:30pm-Nutrient Management

Dr. John Grove, UK Soil Specialist, Director of UKREC Princeton

7:00pm-Economic Outlook

Dr. Grant Gardner, UK Extension Grain Economist

7:30pm-Weed Management

Dr. JD Green, UK Extension Weed Specialist

This meeting qualifies for CAIP Educational requirement and one hour commercial pesticide applicator CEU.

### Call your county office by January 26 for meal reservations.

Boyle-859-236-4484

Garrard-859-792-3026

Lincoln-606-365-2447

Lexington, XY 40506

Mercer-859-734-4378

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION





Program will be held at: Boyle County Extension Office

99 Corporate Drive—Danville, KY 40422

#### Cooperative Extension Service

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

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#### Thursday, January 18, 2024

Sloan Convention Center 1021 Wilkinson Trace, Bowling Green

#### AGENDA (all times are central)

7:00 a.m. EARLY RISER SESSION W/BREAKFAST

Myron Stine

8:30 a.m. Registration and Trade Show Open

9:30 a.m. Marketing Session

Matt Bennett

11:00 am Lunch/Keynote

Eric Snodgrass

Remarks from Kentucky Ag Commissioner Jonathan Shell

1:00 p.m. Kentucky Soybean Association Annual Meeting

2:00 p.m. Kentucky Corn Growers Association Annual Meeting, Council Report

3:00 p.m. Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association Annual Meeting, Council Report

3:45 p.m. Research Highlights

6:00 p.m. Grower Appreciation Reception

6:30 p.m. Awards CELEBRATION

FREE registration - http://www.kycommodityconference.org/register.html



## Tex Mex Spaghetti Squash Casserole

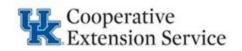
- 1 small (about 2 pounds) spaghetti squash 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1/2 cup chopped onion ½ cup chopped red bell pepper 1 cup chopped fresh 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 teaspoons dried cumin 1 (4 to 5 ounce) can chopped 1/4 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper 1/2 teaspoon salt
  - mild green chilies 11/2 cups low fat cheddar cheese 1 tablespoon chopped
  - tomatoes cilantro

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Prepare the squash by carefully cutting it in half lengthwise with a sharp knife and scooping out the seeds. Place on a lightly greased baking sheet, cut-side down and bake for 30-35 minutes, or until a sharp knife can be easily inserted into the rind. Remove the squash from the oven and cool. Use a fork to scrape out the stringy flesh from the shell and place in a colander. Press out as much liquid as possible. Place squash in a medium bowl and keep warm. In a skillet, cook the ground beef over medium heat until browned. Add the onion, red bell pepper and garlic. Continue to cook until the vegetables are tender. Add the cumin, cayenne pepper and salt. Drain well and set aside. In a small bowl

combine the chopped tomatoes and green chilies. Spray a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with non-stick coating. Layer half of the spaghetti squash in the bottom of the pan. Spread half the meat mixture on top of the squash. Layer half of the tomatoes and chilies on top of the meat and top with half of the cheese. Repeat the layers. Bake at 350 degrees F until the casserole is hot all the way through and the cheese is bubbly, 15-20 minutes. Sprinkle with the cilantro and serve.

Yield: 9 servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 140 calories, 4 g fat, 1.5 g saturated fat, 30 mg cholesterol, 400 mg sodium, 11 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 17 g protein.



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Mercer County Extension Office 1007 Lexington Road Harrodsburg, KY 40330

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January 9	Mercer County Extension District Board Meeting, 5 PM
January 11-12	KY Cattlemen's Association Convention, Lexington
January 15	Martin Luther King Day, Extension Office Closed
January 17	Area Produce Growers Meeting, Lincoln County
January 18	Kentucky Commodity Conference, Bowling Green
January 18	Pastures Please Meeting, Scott County Extension Office, 5:30 PM
January 22	Cattle Management Meeting, 6:30 PM
January 23	Central KY Ag Lenders Conference, Fayette County Extension Office
January 25	Area Forage Meeting, Boyle County Extension Office, 6:00 PM
January 30	Area Grain Crops Meeting, Boyle County Extension Office, 6:00 PM
February 1	UK Winter Wheat Meeting, Hopkinsville
February 8	KY Alfalfa & Stored Forages Conference, Bowling Green
February 14-17 National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville	
February 19	Area Backgrounders Meeting, Boyle County Extension Office, 6:00 PM
February 27-28 KY Dairy Partners Meeting, Bowling Green	
February 29	Area Tobacco Meeting, Garrard County Extension Office, 6:00 PM