From the Ground Up

Bath County Agricultural Newsletter

January 2018

Bath County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

Robert Amburgey

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

January 14-17— American Forage and Grassland Meeting— Louisville
January 8-9 - Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference—Lexington
January 11-12 - Kentucky Cattlemen Annual Meeting
January 18 - Ag Commodity Day—Sharpsburg Community Center—6:00 p.m.
January 22 - Equine Pastures Please meeting—5:00 p.m.—Scott County Extension
January 31 - Private Pesticide Applicator Training - 9:00 a.m. Extension Office
February 1 - Private Pesticide Applicator Training - 6:00 p.m. Extension Office
February 20 - Area Tobacco Production Meeting and GAP training 6:00 Sharpsburg Community Center
February 22—March 15 - Area Master Haymaker Program (each Thursday night)

See the attached flyers for more information about many of these meetings.
Timely Tips
Dr. Roy Burris, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

**Spring Calving Herd**

- Be sure that weaned heifer calves are on a feeding program which will enable them to be at about 65% of their mature weight before the start of the breeding season. Rations should be balanced to achieve gains sufficient to get heifers from their current weight to that “target” weight.

- Body condition is important, plan an adequate winter program for cows to be at least body condition score 5 (carrying enough flesh to cover the ribs) before the calving and breeding season. This will help them to breed early in the spring. Thin cows should be fed to regain body condition prior to winter. Don’t let cows lose weight/condition.

Divide the herd into groups for winter feeding --
- weaned heifer calves
- first-calf heifers, second-calvers and thin mature cows
- the remainder of the dry cows which are in good body condition
- herd sires

- Begin feeding the lowest quality forage to dry cows which are in good condition during early winter and save the best hay for calving time or for weaned calves.

Order and number eartags for next year’s calf crop this winter. It is also a good time to catch up on freeze branding and replacing lost eartags.

**Fall Calving Herd**

- Get breeding supplies together, if using estrous synchronization and/or A.I.

- Have Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) performed on bulls (even if you used them this spring).

- The fall breeding season starts. Breeding can best be accomplished on stockpiled fescue pasture; otherwise, cows with calves should be fed 25-30 pounds of good quality hay or its equivalent. Supplement with grain, if needed, and minimize hay waste. DON’T ALLOW THESE COWS TO LOSE BODY CONDITION PRIOR TO OR DURING THE BREEDING SEASON. It is easy to wait too long to start winter feeding. Don’t do it unless you have stockpiled fescue.

- Nutrition level of cows during the first 30 days after conception is critical. Pay attention.

Observe performance of bulls during breeding season. Watch cows for return to estrus, if you see several in heat, try to determine the cause and consider changing bulls.

**General**

- Complete soil testing pasture to check for fertility and pH.

- Consider putting down geotextile fabric and covering with gravel in feeding areas before you begin hay feeding to minimize waste of expensive hay. Or, perhaps, construct concrete feeding pads for winter feeding areas.

Monitor body condition and increase feed, if needed, for all classes of cattle.
Preparing Your Cows for A Successful Breeding Season

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

A successful breeding season actually begins with management decisions made prior to calving. As we move into the winter feeding period, cattlemen need to review their management plan to ensure optimal rebreeding and success. Rebreeding efficiency can be optimized by focusing on body condition score (BCS), early assistance during calving difficulty, scheduling a breeding soundness exam for the herd sires, planning their herd reproductive health program, and developing a plan to regulate estrus in their first-calf heifers and late-calving cows.

Reproductive management begins with evaluation and management of BCS. Body condition score is a numerical estimation of the amount of fat on the cow’s body. Body condition score ranges from 1-9; 1 is emaciated while 9 is extremely obese. A change in a single BCS (i.e. 4-5) is usually associated with about a 75 pound change in body weight. Evaluation of BCS prior to calving and from calving to breeding is important to ensure reproductive success.

Rebreeding performance of cows is greatly influenced by BCS at calving. Cows that are thin (BCS < 5) at calving take longer to resume estrous cycles and therefore are delayed in their ability to rebreed. Research has clearly demonstrated that as precalving BCS decreases, the number of days from one calving to the next (calving interval) increases in beef cows. Females with a precalving BCS of less than 5 tend to have production cycles greater than 1 year. For example, cows with a precalving BCS of 3 would be expected to have a calving interval of approximately 400 days, while a cow with a precalving BCS of 6 would have a calving interval of approximately 360 days. South Dakota research illustrates the influence of precalving BCS on the percentage of cows that initiated estrous cycles after calving. This experiment demonstrated that the percentage of thin cows that were cycling in the first month of the breeding season (June) was considerably lower than for cows that were in more moderate body condition. During the second month of the breeding season, 55% of the cows with a BCS of 4 had still not initiated estrous cycles, while more than 90% of the cows in more moderate condition had begun to cycle. Thin cows need a longer breeding season, which results in more open cows in the fall. They may also result in lighter calves to sell the next year because the calves from these thin cows will be born later in the calving season.

Management of BCS after calving also impacts rebreeding efficiency. Maintenance requirements for energy and protein increase 25-30% for most beef cows after calving. Producers need to plan their supplementation to match or exceed this increased nutrient requirement. Rebreeding efficiency is enhanced in cows that calved thin if their energy intake is increased (Rutter and Randle, 1984). Although the best management plan is to calve cows in a BCS of 5+, increasing the energy to cows that are thin at calving can boost reproductive performance.

Dystocia (calving problems) can severely delay the onset of estrus after calving. Research shows that for every hour a female is in stage 2 active labor there is a 4 day delay in the resumption of estrous cycles after calving. Early intervention helps; 16% more cows conceived when cows were assisted within 90 minutes of the start of calving. The best method is to reduce the incidence of dystocia via selection but early calving assistance will increase the opportunity of cows to rebreed.

One overlooked management tool that can improve reproductive performance is breeding soundness exams in bulls. Think of breeding soundness exams as breeding season insurance. These exams are a low-cost method of insuring that your bull is capable of breeding. Examine bulls for breeding soundness about 30 days before they are turned out.
I have worked in reproductive management for over 20 years and it amazes me how many cattlemen still do not vaccinate their cow herd against reproductive diseases. Several diseases are associated with reproductive loss (lepto, BVD, vibrio, trich, etc). The main problem is that most reproductive loss due to disease is subtle and ranchers don’t notice the loss unless they have a massive failure. Most cattlemen are not aware of their losses due to abortion. Work with your local veterinarian to develop an annual vaccination plan to enhance reproductive success.

Lastly, ranchers need to develop a plan to enhance the rebreeding potential of their first-calf heifers and late-calving cows. Young cows and late-calving cows have one characteristic in common that will greatly impact their reproductive success; anestrus. After each calving, cows undergo a period of time when they do not come into estrus. This anestrus period can be as short as 17 days but can also last as long as 150 days depending upon a number of factors. Typically, mature cows in good BCS will be anestrus for 45-90 days (avg about 60 days) while first-calf heifers will be in anestrus for 75-120 days. Research has shown that only 64% of mature cows have initiated estrous cycles about 70 day after calving while on 50% of first calf heifers have initiated estrous cycles at nearly 90 day after calving. Let’s consider the impact of anestrus and calving date for a herd that calves from March 1 until May 10. Bull turnout is May 20 and the length of anestrus for mature cows is 60 days and for young cows is 90 days. A mature cow that calves on March 1 will begin to cycle on May 1 and is highly likely to conceive early. However, the mature cow that calves on April 20 won’t cycle until June 20 and her opportunity to conceive early is very limited. A first-calf heifer that calves on April 20 won’t begin to cycle until July 20 and will have limited opportunities to conceive. Cattlemen can reduce the anestrous period by fenceline exposure to a mature bull or by treating the cows with progesterone for 7 days prior to bull exposure. Sources of progesterone include the feed additive melengestrol acetate (MGA) or an EAZI-Breed CIDR® insert (Zoetis Animal Health). Both sources induce estrus in anestrous cows and exposure of anestrous cows to progesterone for 7 days before bull exposure will not reduce fertility. Pregnancy rates increase in these females because inducing estrus will increase the number of opportunities these cows have to conceive in the breeding season.

Managing for reproductive success actually begins at calving. Cows need to calve with a minimum BCS of 5 and with little assistance. Effective planning for reproductive health and management plan for limiting the impact of anestrus will ensure that cattlemen are happy, happy, happy at the end of the breeding season.
REGIONAL TOBACCO MEETING

PRESENTED BY: BATH, FLEMING, NICHOLAS, & MONTGOMERY COUNTY UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICES

FEBRUARY 20, 2018
6:00PM-8:00PM

SHARPSBURG COMMUNITY CENTER
7781 W TUNNEL HILL RD
SHARPSBURG, KY

PLEASE REGISTER BY:
2/16/18

CALL THE BATH COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AT 606-674-6121 TO REGISTER!

PROGRAM

6:00PM GAP TRAINING
DR. BOB PEARCE

7:00PM DINNER

7:00PM DISEASE
DR. KENNETH SEEBOULD

7:30PM MARKET UPDATE
DR. WILLIAM SNELL
REGIONAL AGRICULTURE COMMODITY MEETING

PRESENTED BY: BATH, FLEMING, NICHOLAS, & MONTGOMERY COUNTY UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018

6:00PM-8:00PM

SHARPSBURG COMMUNITY CENTER
7781 W TUNNEL HILL RD
SHARPSBURG, KY

TO REGISTER BY:
1/16/18
CALL THE BATH COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AT:
606-674-6121

PROGRAM

6:00PM MEAL — SPONSORED BY:

6:00PM BEEF CATTLE FETAL PROGRAM
GERALD VICE

6:30PM TIMELY & QUALITY HAY PRODUCTION
THOMAS KEENE, HAY SPECIALIST, UK

7:00PM LIVESTOCK MARKET UPDATE
KENNY BURDINE, LIVESTOCK FORAGE SPECIALIST, UK

7:30PM KY HEMP PRODUCTION
THOMAS KEENE
YOU CAN CALL THE BATH COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE TO REGISTER FOR THIS PROGRAM OR YOU CAN FILL OUT AND RETURN THE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM.

CONTACT THE BATH COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AT 674-6121
REGISTRATION FORM

2018 MASTER HAYMAKER PROGRAM
A 5 Session Series
TO HELP YOU IMPROVE STORED FORAGE PRODUCTION ON YOUR FARM
BATH, MENIFEE, MONTGOMERY & NICHOLAS COUNTIES

NAME: ________________________________
ADDRESS: _______________________________________
_____________________________________
PHONE NO.: _______ - _______

Please select a method of contacting you by selecting one or more of the options below, and providing the necessary information. Thank You.

_____ Email: ___________________________@__________________________

_____ Home Phone: _______ - _______

_____ Cell Phone: _______ - _______

Return your registration form along with your $50.00 fee by February 12, 2018 to the Bath County Extension Office, 2914 E. Hwy 60, Owingsville, KY 40360.

Checks are to be made payable to: Montgomery County Extension Service.
University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs presents...
Pastures, Please!!
Monday, January 22, 2018
5:30 - 8 p.m.
Scott County Extension Office
1130 Cincinnati Road, Georgetown, KY

Light snacks and door prizes will be provided, sponsored by McCauley’s

Speakers

• Designing a Nutritional Program for Your Pastures
  Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Forage Specialist

• Reseeding for Winning Pastures: Your Morning Line Favorite
  Dr. Ray Smith, UK Forage Specialist

• Buttercup, Thistles, Hemlock: Time to Spray is 8 Weeks or Less
  Dr. Bill Witt, Professor Emeritus

• Pasture Management: Making It All Fit
  Dr. Jimmy Henning, UK Forage Specialist

Meeting organized by county agents from Clark, Bourbon, Fayette, Mercer, Scott and Woodford counties and the UK Equine Pasture and Forage Working Group.

RSVP to your local county agent or Scott County Extension at 502-863-0984 or dl_ces_scott@email.uky.edu

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

McCauley’s
A Red Rock Company
Fall Spiced Pumpkin Bread

1/2 cup all-purpose flour 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice 1/4 cup honey
1 1/4 cups whole-wheat flour 1/2 teaspoon salt 2 cups pumpkin puree
1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder 1/4 cup milk 1/2 cup olive oil
1 teaspoon baking soda 2 eggs 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Mix flours, baking powder, baking soda, pumpkin spice and salt; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together margarine, sugar, honey, pumpkin puree and olive oil. Blend in eggs. Add flour mixture. Stir until dry ingredients are incorporated. Spray a 8-by-4 inch loaf pan with non-stick cooking spray. Place batter into pan,Immediately arrange walnuts on top of batter. Bake for 1 hour. Remove from oven and cover with foil. Return to oven and bake an additional 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes and remove from pan.

Yields 16 slices

Nutritional Analysis: 230 calories, 13 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 30 mg cholesterol, 270 mg sodium, 28 g carbohydrates, 1 g fiber, 14 g sugars, 4 g protein.

Kentucky Winter Squash

SELECTED August through October,
NUTRITIONAL FACTS: Winter squash, which includes acorn squash, butternut squash, pumpkin and other varieties, is low in fat and calories and an excellent source of vitamin A and fiber.

SELECTED: Winter squash should be happy for its place with a bowl, a spoon or in a casserole dish. They are versatile and can be found at most supermarkets or soft spots.

STORAGE: Store in a cool, dry place and use within 1 month.

PREPARATION:
Polish the Skin: Wash, peel and remove seeds. Cut squash into 2-inch cubes or quarters, leaving skin on (it will remain easily after cooking). Bring 1 inch of water to a boil in a saucepan and place squash on a rack or basket in the pan. Do not immerse it in water. Cover the pan tightly and steam the squash 10-15 minutes or until tender.

To Microwave: Wash and cut squash and put in a large glass baking dish. Add 1/4 cup water, cover and microwave on high until tender (8-10 minutes for small squash; 10 minutes for large squash).

Next steps:
- Acorn squash: 1/2 cup, 3-5 minutes, 1 squash, 325-375 degrees F
- Butternut squash: 2 pieces, 3-5 minutes
- Pumpkin: 1 pound squash, 7-8 minutes

To Bake: Wash and cut squash and put in a baking dish. Add 1/4 cup water, cover and bake at 350 degrees F for 1 hour or until tender. Squash can be tossed at 300 degrees F for 20 minutes.