



From the Ground

Bath County Agricultural Newsletter

Bath County
Ag and Natural Re-

January 2025

Robert Amburgey

Bath County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAININGS

Tuesday, January 28th 6:00 p.m. Bath County Extension Office

Wednesday, January 29th 10:00 a.m. Bath County Extension Office

ALFALF AND STORED FORAGES CONFERENCE

February 25th, Fayette County Ext Office

PASTURES PLEASE EQUINE PASTURE MANAGEMENT

February 27th, Fayette County Ext Office

5:30 p.m.

BATH COUNTY FRUIT ORDERS

See article AND ORDER FORM in this newsletter!

State Apiarist Office Hours!

Starting in January, Dr. Amanda Skidmore – the Kentucky Department of Agriculture State Apiarist, will be hosting a monthly zoom meeting open to anyone that would like to participate. *This will be a way for her to communicate important beekeeping related information and an opportunity for you to ask her questions!* The first meeting will be Thursday, January 23, 2025 from 12pm EST/11am CT. If you would like to participate, please fill out the google form linked here and she will add you to her email list where you will be able to sign up for the meetings!

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



Duck and Potatoes



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — SNAP.



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

Duck and Potatoes

- 1 wild duck, cleaned
- 1 unpeeled apple, cut in half
- 3 to 4 cups water
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 4 large potatoes, diced
- 3 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 teaspoons ground sage

Place whole duck and apple in a 5-quart kettle with 3 to 4 cups of water. Cover. Boil for 30 minutes. Place duck in 15x10 baking dish, add 2 cups liquid from boiled duck. Season

with salt and pepper. Cover. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 45 minutes. Add potatoes, carrots, onion, and sage. Bake 45 minutes to 1 hour longer or until duck and potatoes are tender. (The internal temperature of the duck should reach 165 degrees Fahrenheit at the leg joint.) If necessary, add water to keep liquid on duck and potatoes.

Note: To reduce fat content, remove skin and visible fat before cooking. This will also reduce “wild” flavor.

Yield: 6 servings

Nutrition Facts

6 servings per container
Serving size 3 ounces meat,
one potato, 1/2 cup vegetables (484g)

Amount per serving
Calories **600**

% Daily Value*

Total Fat 29g	37%
Saturated Fat 10g	50%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 150mg	50%
Sodium 190mg	8%
Total Carbohydrate 46g	17%
Dietary Fiber 6g	21%
Total Sugars 7g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 38g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 53mg	4%
Iron 10mg	60%
Potassium 1,430mg	30%

* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.



Planning your garden

Winter is an excellent time for planning next year's garden. Take advantage of these tips to help you get started!

- Look back at the previous growing season. What worked and what didn't?
- List the plants you intend to grow and consider where they will be planted.
- Ask yourself if there are other varieties that you would like to try.
- Determine where you want to get seeds from. If you are unsure, contact your local county extension agent.

*Source: Kathryn Pettigrew and Rachel Rudolph
An Equal Opportunity Organization.*

More Information
extension.ca.uky.edu

Pub of the Month: Forage Variety Trials for 2024

Most of the 2024 UK Forage Variety Trials reports are now available on the Forages Extension website and the rest will be available by mid-January. Reports cover red and white clover, tall fescue, orchardgrass, alfalfa, summer annual grasses, other forage species and include data on yield, persistence, maturity, seedling vigor and grazing preference. For an overview of the best varieties from 23 years of UK testing look on the last page of each report or go to the 2024 Long-Term Summary of Kentucky Forage Variety Trials at this webpage. https://forages.ca.uky.edu/variety_trials

Buy Red and White Clover Seed Now

Just as last year, improved varieties of red and white clover are currently in short supply, both in the U.S. and worldwide. This means that if you want to frost seed clover in February you are advised to purchase or line up your seed now. If you wait you may only be able to find unimproved common clover seed that just does not persist well in Kentucky.

Preparing Your Cows for A Successful Breeding Season

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

A successful breeding season begins with management decisions made prior to calving. As we move into the winter-feeding period for spring-calving cows, 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 four-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 25 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 producers don't notice the loss unless they have a massive failure. Most cattlemen are not aware of their losses due to abortion until the cow(s) simply fails to calve. Work with your local veterinarian to develop an annual vaccination plan to enhance reproductive success.

Lastly, 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 anestrus 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 anestrus cows and exposure of anestrus 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 begins at calving. Cows need to calve with a minimum BCS of 5 and with little assistance. Implement an effective vaccination program and create a plan to minimize the length of the anestrus period in cows that are likely to be problem breeders. Planning now will help increase the probability of a successful breeding season.



NEW BUDGETING TOOL AVAILABLE FOR GRAIN FARMERS

farm budgeting and risk management application Integrated Farm Budget Tool has been updated for 2025 and released for use by grain farmers across the U.S. The application can be accessed at www.ifbt.farm. This is an easy-to-use yet very powerful visualization tool to assist your constituents in the grain farming community with their 2025 crop year planning, budgeting and risk management.

The online web application allows users to quickly and easily:

- Produce annual 2025 crop year revenue, cost and cash flow budgets specific to their farm enterprise

- Understand breakevens by crop for determining acreage allocations

- Compare the farm's costs to benchmark budgets to help identify outliers

- Understand the financial implications of various crop insurance choices under an array of price and yield outcomes

- Evaluate the impact on profitability and farm financial risks of employing various grain marketing strategies

- Visualize the impact of 2025 ARC/PLC decisions and the farm-specific downside protection provided by these subsidy programs

This integrated online application is free for use for the 2025 crop year. The application can be accessed at the link [IFBT](http://www.ifbt.farm) Video tutorials can be accessed at [Tutorial Videos - YouTube](#)



Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference– Feb. 25th

The 2025 Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference will be held Feb. 25 from 8:00 to 3:30 at the Fayette County Extension office, 1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY.

The conference will provide important updates on alfalfa production and feature how to produce grass hay for premium markets. Speakers will include long-time alfalfa breeder Dr. Don Miller from Idaho. Don Dr. Miller has developed or co-developed 100 alfalfa varieties, 6 red clover and one teff grass variety during his plant breeding career. Specific presentations will include: Everything I Ever Needed to Know about Armyworms, Armyworm Control Methods: What to spray and when, What's New in Alfalfa Varieties, What do Horse Owners Want and Why, What We Can Learn from the Results of the KY Hay Contests, Emerging Markets for Unique Forage Species, and a Producer Panel.

The panel will feature four top KY hay producers discussing Orchardgrass, Timothy, Teff, and Fescue/mixed hay production. We have asked them to be very practical and explain their successful methods for establishment, fertilizing, harvesting and marketing. And then we will open the floor to questions.

The cost is \$45 and students are only \$15. Go to the UK Forage Website under events (<https://forages.ca.uky.edu/events>) for more details and to register or mail a check with your name to Krista Lea, N222 Agriculture North, Univ.



Join us for the 18th annual

PASTURES PLEASE!!

Thursday, February 27



Schedule:

5:30—Meal

6:00—Aerial Applications: Does a Drone Fit

– Brett Reese

6:30—Weeds to Watch Out For

– Dr. Bill Witt

7:00—Cost Share Opportunities for Horse Owners

– Krista Lea

RSVP to 859-257-5582

**Fayette County
Extension Office**

1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504

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Timely Tips

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

Spring Calving Cow Herd

Study the performance of last year's calf crop and plan for improvement. Plan your breeding program and consider a better herd sire(s). Select herd sires which will allow you to meet your goals and be willing to pay for superior animals.

Consider vaccinating the cows to help prevent calf scours.

Keep replacement heifers gaining to increase the probability of puberty occurring before the start of the spring breeding season.

Start cows on the high magnesium mineral supplement soon. Consider protein supplementation if hay is less than 10% crude protein. If cows are thin, begin energy (grain) supplementation now. Cows must reach a body condition score of 5 before calving to maximize their opportunity for reproductive success. Supplementation now allows adequate time for cows to calving in adequate body condition score.

Get ready for the calving season! See that all equipment and materials are ready, including obstetrical equipment, record forms or booklets, eartags, scales for obtaining birthweights, etc. Prepare a calving area where assistance can be provided easily if needed. Purchase ear tags for calves and number them ahead of time if possible. Plan for enough labor to watch/assist during the calving period.

Move early calving heifers and cows to pastures that are relatively small and easily accessible to facilities in case calving assistance is needed. Keep them in good condition but don't overfeed them at this time. Increase their nutrient intake after they calve.

Fall Calving Cow Herd

Provide clean windbreaks and shelter for young calves.

Breeding season continues. Keep fall calving cows on accumulated pasture as long as possible, then start feeding hay/grain/supplement. Don't let these cows lose body condition!

Catch up on castrating, dehorning and implanting.

General

Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem. Consider preparing a feeding area with gravel over geotextile fabric or maybe a concrete feeding pad. Bale grazing is an option for producers to help control mud while spreading nutrients across pastures.

Increase feed as the temperature drops, especially when the weather is extremely cold and damp. When temperature drops to 15°F, cattle need access to windbreaks.

Provide water at all times. Cattle need 5 to 15 gallons per head daily even in the coldest weather. Be aware of frozen pond hazards. Keep ice "broken" so that cattle won't walk out on the pond trying to get water. Automatic waterers, even the "frost-free" or "energy-free" waterers can freeze up in extremely cold weather. Watch closely.

Consider renovating and improving pastures with legumes, especially if they have poor stands of grass or if they contain high levels of the fescue endophyte. Purchase seed and get equipment ready this month.

The Bath County Extension Office is open from 8:00 to 4:30— Monday through Friday. We can also be reached by phone, email or on our website or facebook.

Phone—606-674-6121

FACEBOOK

Bath County Agriculture

Email—bath.ext@uky.edu

FACEBOOK Bath County Cooperative Extension Service

Website—<http://bath.ca.uky.edu/>



Bath County
Ag and Natural Resources

FRUIT ORDERS FOR 2025

The Bath County Extension Office will have available a limited quantity of fruits that will be sold as a 4H fundraiser this year.

The order form is attached to this newsletter. Some plants are sold in bundles and some individually (as stated on the form) we have to collect sales tax on the order, so plan for that.

These plants are sold on a first paid basis and the order deadline is March 1, 2025

We expect plants to be delivered by the week of March 24th.

This is the first time Bath County has offered this program and we expect plants to go fast so get your orders in as soon as you can.

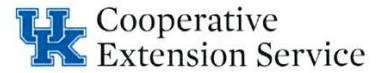
You can pay by CASH OR CHECK

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Invoice Date: __/__/__
 Due Date: 03/01/25



Bath County Extension Office
 2914 East Hwy 60
 Owingsville, KY 40360
 606-674-6121
 robert.amburgey@uky.edu

Fruit Plant Order Form

Invoice Number # _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Qty	Description	\$	Total
BUNDLES	ALLSTAR Strawberries (25)	\$7.00	
BUNDLES	EARLIGLOW Strawberries (25)	\$7.00	
	NATCHEZ Blackberries (each)	\$5.00	
	DUKE Blueberries (each)	\$8.50	
	CHANDLER Blueberries (each)	\$8.50	
	PRELUDE Raspberrie- Bare Root	\$4.00	
	JEWEL Black Raspberries (each)	\$5.00	
	MILLENNIUM Asparagus (each)	1.50	
BUNDLES	CANDY Onion Plants (48 +)	\$6.00	
		6% Tax	

Total Include Tax

Payment is due when order is placed.

6% Sales Tax is added if tax exempt form is not provided

TAX FORM PROVIDED YES _____ NO _____

Plant Order is expected the week of March 24, 2025

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