



From the Ground Up

Bath County Agricultural Newsletter

Bath County
Ag and Natural Resources

**November
2024**

Robert Amburgey

**Bath County Extension Agent for
Agriculture**



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 21

3:00—BQCA certification training

6:00—BQCA certification training

Both will be held at the Bath County Agricultural Center

November 22

Commercial pesticide CEU training

Zoom—see flyer in this newsletter for details

November 28 - 29th

Thanksgiving Holiday

Extension office will be closed



Why So Much Red Clover This Year (when I didn't plant it)

A number of you have asked me the following question in recent months, "Why do I have so much red clover this summer when I haven't planted it for years." Here's the answer that I've been giving all summer. There obviously had to be hard/dormant seed in the ground and the conditions just happened to be right late last fall or early this spring for it to germinate. But my explanation always seemed a little speculative to me so I sent an email to long time UK professor and internationally recognized seed biologist Dr. Carol Baskin.

Here's what Dr. Baskin said, "The red clover 'appearance' is very interesting. I suspect that the seeds have been in the soil for a long time. For many seeds with a water-impermeable seed coat (meaning hard seed), two events must happen before the water gap on the seed can open. (1) Some event, e.g. very hot, very dry, very cold, cause the seed to become sensitive to dormancy-break – but the seed is still water-impermeable. (2) After seeds become sensitive, another event (e.g. big rain, big daily fluctuation in temperature) causes the water gap to open. After a period of time if the second event does not occur, then the seed become insensitive to dormancy-break again."

I followed up with Carol with my thoughts. Based on the size of volunteer plants this spring I would suspect they mainly germinated in the fall. It was very dry last Sept and Oct which would correspond to a 1st event. Then in Nov. there was a sudden cold snap which could correspond to the 2nd event. And then the weather was very mild through Nov and Dec potentially allowing the seedlings to survive the colder temps in January. Are they may have germinated in the late winter.

Though we all know about the dry fall last year, I was basing the November cold snap on memory. Therefore, I contacted UK Ag. Meteorologist Matt Dixon to see if we could verify two extreme weather events last fall and winter. Here's the follow-up information that Matt sent back. Last fall makes sense for the 1st event. September 2023 was the 19th driest September on record. The state average was 1.79 inches. October 2023 was the 51st driest October with a state average of 2.33 inches. November 2023 was the 12 driest November with an average of 1.55 inches. Overall, it was the 9th driest fall ever recorded with a state average of 5.67 inches. Putting into perspective, records go back 130 years nowadays. Then at the end of a mild November, temperatures dropped to 19 and 16 the nights of November 28 and 29. Maybe this was the second extreme event.

So we don't know for sure why there was so much red clover this year, but the weather events that happened last fall and maybe into the winter are likely the explanation. We just don't know the exact weather events and how to predict them for the future, but it definitely has me thinking about future research. One thing that I know for sure. The only way to guarantee that you will have red clover on a consistent basis is to drill or frost seed some every 2-3 years. Commercial clover seed has to have low levels of hard seed (<20%) so the majority will germinate soon after planting. It is nice though when we are surprised with a good volunteer crop of red clover every so often.



A Windy Start to Fall

Jane Marie Wix and Philomon Geertson - NWS Jackson, KY



Usually for this time of year we talk about increased winds during the fall season, and wind safety. However, most of the time we aren't referring to high winds due to a hurricane! Hurricane Helene wreaked havoc as it moved inland - all the way north into Kentucky. It's not the first time we've experienced the remnants of a hurricane in this state, and it won't be the last. But, having such high impacts is quite rare. We thought this would be a good time to recap what happened.

The remnants of Hurricane Helene brought widespread wind damage to much of Kentucky on Friday, September 27th. Helene initially made landfall along Florida's Big Bend region during the late evening of Thursday, September 26th as a fast-moving Category 4 hurricane. The hurricane's rapid forward movement did not give the system much time to weaken by the time the system's tropical rain bands spread across eastern Kentucky by early Friday morning. As the dissipating core of the hurricane approached, northeast to easterly winds rapidly intensified across eastern Kentucky between 6 AM and 10 AM EDT. Wind gusts peaked at around 12 PM, ranging from 35 to 60+ mph at most locations. The strongest wind gust in eastern Kentucky, 64 mph, was reported atop Koomer Ridge just west of Campton. The combination of full foliage on the trees, saturated soils, and an atypical wind direction led to many uprooted trees, resulting in blocked roads and extensive power line damage. Isolated instances of structural damage were also observed.

Power outages across the Commonwealth numbered over 200,000 customers, the vast number of which were in eastern Kentucky, by the time the winds had diminished Friday afternoon. Kentucky Power alone reported at least 137 broken power poles and 734 spans of downed wire. Clark Energy reported over a 100 broken poles in their service area. Jackson Energy reported 71 broken power poles and close to 400 spans of downed wire. Power restoration efforts continued for days after the storm, as some customers in the hardest hit locations did not see their power restored until October 3rd. There were also several reports received of trees falling on homes. Fortunately, only 1 injury was reported in the state, due to a tree falling on a home. The winds also put a damper on the festivities at the World Chicken Festival in Laurel County and the Sorghum Festival in Morgan County for most of the day.

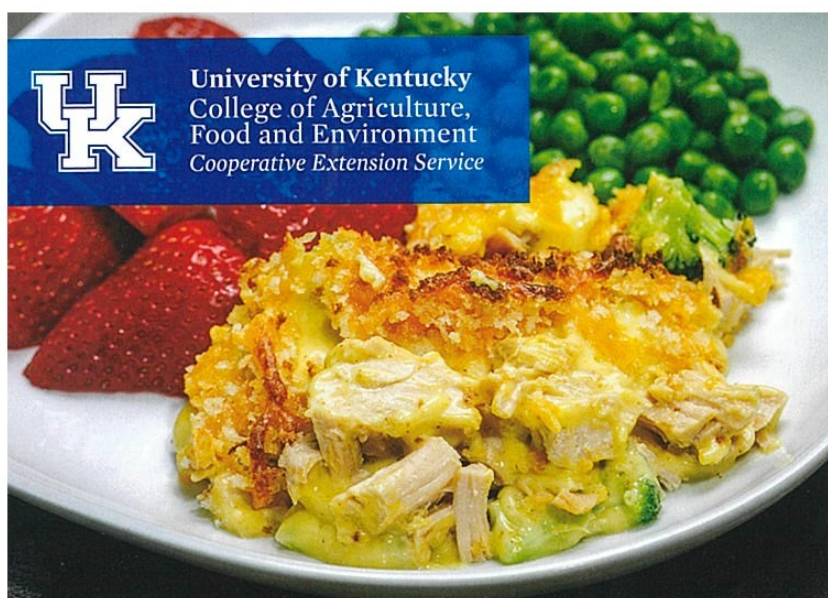
On a non-wind note - before the hurricane, weeks of unusually dry weather had led to the development of abnormally dry to severe drought conditions across most of the state. Thus, when a sluggish frontal boundary and upper level low became somewhat stationary over the state earlier in the week (around September 23rd and 24th), the repeated rounds of rainfall were highly beneficial for alleviating the drought. Additional rainfall from Helene, therefore, only led to minor instances of stream and street flooding.

Outside of Helene, one of the last impactful hurricanes that I remember in Kentucky was Hurricane Ike in 2008. The remnants of this hurricane brought sustained strong winds and high wind gusts to western and central Kentucky. Wind gusts ranged from 50–75 mph, with the fastest gust recorded at 75 mph at the Louisville Airport. Louisville also experienced its worst power outage ever, with over 400,000 homes losing power. Sadly, nine souls also lost their lives in this event. Many people in the state called this storm "Dry Ike", because while it brought high winds, it didn't bring any precipitation with it!

It's been an active hurricane season thus far, especially for those in Florida. While technically hurricane season spans from June 1st until November 30th, most hurricanes form during the months of August, September, and October. As we head into November, hopefully this means hurricane activity is winding down, and we won't experience any more Hurricane Helene-like storms - but we'll have to wait and see.



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



Wild Turkey & Broccoli Casserole



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



USDA
Supplemental
Nutrition
Assistance
Program

This work is supported by the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



Wild Turkey & Broccoli Casserole

- 2 packages (10 ounces each) frozen broccoli, or 2 bunches fresh broccoli, washed and cut into pieces
- 4 cups cubed, cooked wild turkey meat
- 1 cup light mayonnaise
- 2 cans (10.5 ounces each) low-sodium cream of chicken soup
- 1 teaspoon curry powder or 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1 tablespoon melted butter

To cook turkey breast, preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Add vegetable oil to a roasting pan. Place turkey breast in roasting pan. Season meat lightly with garlic powder and black pepper. Cover with lid or aluminum

foil. Cook at 325 degrees F until internal temperature is 165 degrees, about 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 hours for 4 to 8 pounds of meat. Let meat cool in pan for 15 minutes before cutting into cubes. Steam broccoli until tender. Drain. Grease a 2-quart casserole dish or 9-by-13-inch pan. Place turkey on the bottom, and arrange the broccoli over the turkey. Combine mayonnaise, cream of chicken soup, curry powder or mustard, and lemon juice. Pour over broccoli. Combine cheese, breadcrumbs, and butter. Sprinkle over casserole. Bake at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes.

Yield: 8 servings

Adapted from: "Fish & Game Cookbook," Bonnie Scott. 2013.

Nutrition Facts

8 servings per recipe	
Serving size	(243g)
Amount per serving	
Calories	270
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 12g	15%
Saturated Fat 3g	15%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 65mg	22%
Sodium 660mg	29%
Total Carbohydrate 17g	6%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Total Sugars 2g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 23g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 66mg	6%
Iron 1mg	6%
Potassium 355mg	8%

* 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.

Timely Tips

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

Spring-calving cow herd

If you need to replace cows, consider buying bred heifers in some of the Kentucky Certified Replacement Heifer sales that are being held across the state this month.

Extend grazing for as long as possible to decrease the amount of stored feed needed. The drought is making this difficult for most of the state in 2024.

Evaluate body condition of cows. Sort thin (less than body condition score 5) cows away from the cow herd and feed to improve their condition. Two and three-year olds may need extra attention now. These cattle can use the extra feed/nutrients.

Dry cows in good condition can utilize crop residues and lower quality hay now (but don't let them lose any more body condition). Save higher quality feed until calving time. Keep a good mineral supplement with vitamin A available.

Contact your herd veterinarian to determine pregnancy in your cows if you have not already done so. Pregnancy can also be determined using blood sampling. Several diagnostic labs will analyze blood samples for pregnancy and a chute-side test is on the market. Culling decisions should be made prior to winter feeding for best use of feed resources. Consider open, poor-producing, and aged cows as candidates for culling.

A postweaning feeding period will allow you to put rapid, economical gains on weaned calves, keep them through the fall "runs" and allow you to participate in Kentucky CPH-45 sales. Consider this health and marketing program which is designed for producers which are doing a good job of producing high quality feeder calves.

Replacement heifers require attention during the winter, too. Weaned heifer calves should gain at an adequate rate to attain their "target" breeding weight (2/3 of their mature weight) by May 1.

Fall-calving herd

Continue to watch fall-calving cows. Catch up on processing of calves including identification, castration, and vaccinations.

Cows that have calved need to go to the best pastures now! Help them maintain body condition prior to breeding in December.

Move cows to accumulated pasture or increase feed now. If at all possible, try to get animals vaccinated 60 days or longer before the breeding season.

Start the breeding season in late November or early December for calving to begin in September. If you are using AI and/or estrus synchronization, get your supplies together now and schedule your technician.

Make final selection of replacement heifers now.

Don't forget to contact your herd veterinarian to schedule a breeding soundness exam (BSE) for your bulls. All herd sires need a BSE at least 30 days before the onset of the breeding season. A BSE can be useful insurance that your bull has the physical ability to breed cows. Even though BSE's aren't perfect, they are the best tool we have to identify infertile bulls.

General

Have your hay supply analyzed for nutritive quality and estimate the amount of supplementation needed. Consider purchasing feed now.

Take soil tests and make fertility adjustments (phosphate, potash, and lime) to your pastures.

This is a good time to freeze-brand bred yearling heifers and additions to the breeding herd.

Graze alfalfa this month after a "freeze-down" (24 degrees for a few hours).

Don't waste your feed resources. Avoid excessive mud in the feeding area. Hay feeding areas can be constructed by putting rock on geotextile fabric. Feed those large round bales in hay "rings" to avoid waste. Concrete feeding pads could be in your long-range plans.

Consider bale grazing to decrease damage to your pastures and to more evenly distribute nutrients across your pastures.

Changes to CAIP Beef Bull Cost-share Program

Dr. Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky, Extension Professor

Significant changes to the CAIP Beef Bull Cost-share program have been approved for 2025. Both Kentucky and Tennessee have similar programs but have traditionally had different Expected Progeny Differences (EPD) requirements. The guidelines committees of the two states met and came to consensus on a set of guidelines that are now uniform across the state line. Some of the major changes are highlighted in this article, however, pay close attention to the full requirements before purchasing a bull for cost-share funding.

The number of bull categories has been reduced to 3; Balanced Trait/Maternal, Terminal Sire and Carcass Merit. There is no longer a Heifer Acceptable category, however, recommended minimal Calving Ease Direct or Birth Weight EPDs are provided for those that plan to breed the bull to heifers.

There are only EPD requirements for CED/BW and Growth traits OR CED/BW and an appropriate Economic Selection Index value depending on the breed. There is no longer a milk requirement for Balanced Trait/Maternal, however a range is recommended for producers to consider staying within. There are also recommendations for maximum Mature Weight EPDs and minimum Docility EPDs.

The formatting has changed. Instead of all breeds' requirements being listed in a table for each bull category, they are now listed by breed with the requirements and recommendations for each category.

All bulls will still be required to be genomically tested and have Genomically Enhanced EPDs! Contact your breed association for more information on how to accomplish this.

These new requirements will be implemented starting January 1, 2025. Please bear with us as we make this transition, we will try to work through any issues that arise. In the long run this will simplify bull purchases across the KY/TN state line and will improve the program overall.



Coping with Low Precipitation

Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, University of Kentucky, Extension Professor

As the fall continues to provide us with extremely dry conditions, fall growth of forages will be limited this year. Cow-calf producers should be developing a drought plan as we move through the fall and winter. Below are a few tips to consider when navigating these dry fall conditions.

Things to consider during these dry conditions include:

- Monitor body condition and record – Be sure to record body condition scores of cattle and monitor condition every month. Excessive losses in body stores reflect insufficient nutrient intake and should be corrected. Excessive body tissue loss can reduce milk production, lengthen anestrus and reduce herd productivity.
- Feed hay early – Total dry matter intake is negatively impacted when forage availability is limiting. Providing stored forages such as hay early in the fall when pastures are not growing from lack of precipitation will help reduce body condition loss.
- Cull – As market prices remain strong, now may be a time to consider culling opens, cows with structural issues, cows at the bottom of list production-wise, or those with poor disposition.
- Early-wean – Lactation increases nutrient needs of cows significantly. Weaning calves can be done with confidence as early as 90 days with success but waiting until calves are 120 days will reduce post-weaning management needs. Weaning will lower the nutrient demand for cows and aid in maintaining body condition.
- Substitute forage with grain – Using low-starch, highly digestible fibrous coproduct feedstuffs such as soybean hulls, wheat middlings, beet pulp and others can be used as means to increase energy intake. When providing coproduct or grain supplements, forage intake is not reduced on a 1:1 ratio. The actual forage intake may only be decreased by about 0.5 lb of dry matter for each pound of supplement dry matter offered.
- Consider feeding an ionophore – Research has shown providing beef cows with 200 milligrams of an ionophore such as monensin reduces gaseous energy losses associated with rumen fermentation. Research from Kentucky found that feeding an ionophore to beef cows maintained similar body condition and weights when cows were offered 15% less hay compared to cows that were not provided monensin. Ionophores must be mixed in with at least 1 pound of grain for beef cows but can be offered free choice in mineral mixtures or tubs to feeders and replacement heifers.
- Have municipal water as a back-up – As limited precipitation continues to linger, ponds, streams, creeks, and springs dry up. Cows need 10-20 gallons of water daily. Limiting water intake will result in reduced dry matter intake and production. Having a waterer that is connected to a municipal water supply will ensure that cattle will have access to clean water. Don't forget to ensure the water supply is turned on, tank floats are working, and the tanks have been cleaned.
- Consider creep for fall-born calves – Nursing calves will have a fully functional rumen around 6-10 weeks of age. Reduced forage availability and quality will reduce milk production by the dam, but also limit nutrient intake of the calves. Limited forage nutrient intake and reduced milk consumption will reduce weaning weights and prevent calves from meeting their genetic potential for gain. Creep feeding can provide access to additional feed and increase the nutritional plane of calves. Creep feeding may be in the form of higher quality forages or grain supplementation.
- Control internal parasites – Young cattle are most susceptible to internal parasites. Work with your veterinarian to monitor fecal egg counts and develop a protocol to control internal parasites in cattle.
- Liquidate – In the event that forage and/or water resources are not available, the best option may be to sell the herd. Starving cattle is unacceptable and not an option. As an owner of livestock, it is your responsibility to ensure cattle are provided access to forage and water. Selling cattle during a high market and waiting for to buy back when prices fall can be a viable option.

I am hoping that we receive some much-needed precipitation before frost to improve pasture conditions. However, the shortened day lengths and lingering frost will limit forage production. Develop your plans and be ready to act rather than hoping for rain next week.



COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING

NOVEMBER 22, 2024
9AM-3:30PM EST
30 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK

 Cooperative
Extension Service

CALL (606)845-4641 TO
REGISTER FOR THIS FREE
TRAINING OR REGISTER
USING THE QR CODE:

This training has been approved by the Kentucky Department of
Agriculture for the following CEU credits in each category:

- Category 1A: Agricultural Plant **4 CEUs**
- Category 2: Forestry **1 CEU**
- Category 3: Ornamental & Turf & Lawn Care **1 CEU**
- Category 4: Seed Treatment **1 CEU**
- Category 5: Aquatic **1 CEU**
- Category 10: Demonstration & Research **1 CEU**



LOCATION: VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Health and Consumer Education
410 South Goodland Road
Lexington, KY 40506

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
Mission: promote the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's role in the state's agricultural and food systems and address the needs of the state's rural and urban populations through research, education, and extension services.
Vision: to be a leading provider of research, extension, and education services to the agricultural and food systems of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
1000 Commonwealth Blvd., Lexington, KY 40506




BEEF QUALITY AND CARE CERTIFICATION (BQCA)

If you plan to cost-share this year on any beef related program in the CAIP cost-share program, this is a required certification

There is a \$5.00 registration fee for the BQCA program

Make checks payable to KBN

Classes are scheduled for November 21st.

3:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Bath County Agriculture Center