



Ohio County Farm & Home News

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR CAIP



Applications for the “2023 County Agricultural Investment Program – CAIP” (cost-share program) are now available at the Ohio Co. Extension Office. Applications may be picked up during normal business hours – 8:00 a.m. till noon & 1:00 p.m. till 4:30 p.m. You may also print a copy of the application off the Ohio Co. Extension website at: <https://ohio.ca.uky.edu/>

Applications will be available from April 10th thru May 5th, but must be turned into the Extension Office by **noon on May 5th, no exceptions.**

Information about the different projects areas eligible for cost-share are available on the KDA website at: <https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/2023-Program-Guidelines-and-Applications.html> Scroll down to the guidelines for the “CAIP” program. When looking thru this website, make sure you are looking at the “2023 Guidelines” and not the 2022 guidelines.

If you do not have internet access, you may visit the Ohio Co. Extension Office and we have a computer/internet you may use to check the guidelines.

There have been a few changes to some of the project areas, so read the guidelines closely. Two key changes which may affect applicants are:

- All bulls purchased through this program must pass a Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) – within 120 days - prior to purchase.
- Small Ruminant Quality Assurance (SRQA) certification is a prerequisite for sheep & goat

applicants in the Small Animal Program. You can access the SRQA program at: <https://www.kysheepandgoat.org/srqa>

AREA SMALL RUMINANT HOOF & PARASITE WORKSHOP – APRIL 27TH

The Butler Co. Extension Office, will host a “Small Ruminant Hoof & Parasite Workshop” on Thursday, April 27th at their office in Morgantown, starting at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Jessie Lay, DVM and



Assistant Professor at Ky State University, will discuss sheep & goat hoof problem and parasite control. The program will provide free fecal sample testing for parasite ID and fecal egg counts.

Anyone with sheep or goats is welcome to attend, but you need to register, by calling the Butler Co. Extension Office at - (270)526-3767. There is no registration fee. They can provide information on how to collect your fecal samples for testing, also.

SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE FOR KY GRAZING SCHOOL IN PRINCETON

There are spots still available for the “2023 KY 2-day Grazing School”, on April 25-26 in Princeton. If you



have never attended this is your opportunity to attend. The school will help you improve profitability with

hands-on and classroom learning. Classes will be held at the UK Research Station and the KY Soybean Board office.

During the morning of the first day you'll learn about soils, rotational grazing, meeting nutritional needs on pasture, portable/seasonal water systems, methods to access pasture production and determine stocking rate, hands-on small paddock set-up, and then travel to a local grazing operation. After lunch at the farm additional topics will include electric fencing to control grazing, offsets, soil and hay sampling, forage plant growth and grazing management and choosing forage species for a comprehensive grazing system.

The second day you'll learn about fence types and costs, electric fencing for serious grazers, how to set up a grazing system, and how to reinvigorate a rundown farm. Additional topics include how to calibrate a grain drill and use a GPS unit designed for frost seeding pastures. A local producer will discuss how they made grazing work on their farm.

To register, visit

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-kentucky-beginning-grazing-school-tickets-539633116177> . Cost is only \$60. Registration ends April 14. If you can't register online then call Christi Forsythe at 270-625-0712. See the full agenda on the UK Forage Website under Events (forages.ca.uky.edu).

CEREAL GRAINS OFFER GREAT SPRING GRAZING

Cereal rye, winter triticale, and winter wheat make a good menu for stocker calves and cows on spring pastures. These three species of small cereal grains bring similar forage quality to the table; however, there is a short window of opportunity to capture their full benefits.

According to Mary Drewnoski, Extension Beef Systems specialist, and Daren Redfearn, Extension Forage and Crop Residue specialist, with the University of Nebraska, cereal rye, winter triticale, and winter wheat have different characteristics to take advantage of. For example, cereal rye grows faster in cooler temperatures, making it more available for early grazing. Conversely, winter triticale retains feed value longer, so it can be grazed later in the season.

The specialists note stocker calves grazing small cereal grain forages can gain 3 to 4 pounds per day, and these crops can support the nutritional requirements of

lactating dairy cattle. With that said, cereals mature quickly in the spring, so farmers must monitor plant growth and adjust stocking density to optimize animal performance.

- **Rotate livestock**

Start grazing cattle when small cereal grains are approximately 5 to 6 inches tall. Then, move animals to different parts of a pasture to maintain a maximum plant height of 8 to 10 inches throughout the stand.

Rotational grazing promotes uniform plant maturity and prevents selective grazing. The specialists suggest a good starting point for stocking density in a rotational grazing system is one-half to one stocker calf per acre. Add animals or reduce the number of acres being grazed when forage growth exceeds defoliation rates.

The most common mistake with spring grazing small cereal grains is letting the grass get too far ahead of the cattle. It is important to increase stocking density as the spring progresses to ensure cattle can keep up with the rapid forage growth.

- **Provide magnesium**

In addition to changes in forage quality, small cereal grains can be high in potassium this time of year. This interferes with animals' ability to take up magnesium and may cause them to develop grass tetany. To prevent this mineral deficiency, provide animals with supplemental magnesium. The specialists recommend purchasing a free choice mineral product that is 5% magnesium for stocker calves or lactating beef cows, to achieve a targeted intake of 4 ounces of magnesium per animal per day.

CHANGES TO SOIL TESTING THRU EXTENSION OFFICE



A major change was implemented on July 1, 2022, in the soil testing program through the Ohio Co. Extension Service. **All soil tests brought to the**

Extension Office are now FREE of charge !!! After discussions with the Extension District Board, we decided to put funding in the budget to cover the cost of soil tests for farmers and homeowners. Whether you need a soil test for a field or garden or lawn, you can bring your soil samples to the Extension Office.

Remember, you should take soil tests to monitor the pH and fertility needs, every 3-4 years. The results from the soil test will provide a recommendation for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and lime (if needed). You can use this recommendation each year for the next 3-4 years, then take a new soil sample to monitor pH and fertility changes.

To make it easy, the Extension Office has soil probes, which take a ¾ inch soil core. You can check out the soil probes free, as well.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Application period for “2023 CAIP” – April 10 – May 5. Applications available at Ohio Co. Extension Office
- April 25-26 – Ky Grazing School; Ky Soybean Board Office, Princeton;
8:00 a.m. till 5:00 each day
- April 27 – Area Small Ruminant Hoof & Parasite Workshop; w/KSU Veterinarian;
Butler Co. Extension Office; 6:00 p.m.
- April 27 – Green River CPH Sale; Kentuckiana Livestock Market; 6:00 p.m.
- May 9 – U.K. Wheat Field Day; U.K. Research & Education Center Farm; Princeton