



# Ohio County Farm & Home News

**Cooperative  
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## HOW TO HELP A DROUGHT STRESSED LAWN



Kentucky's been fairly dry the past few weeks. Even if we get a heavy rainfall, one rainfall will not completely alleviate drought symptoms.

When a lawn becomes excessively dry, the soil surface develops some water repellency that prevents water from soaking in during a quick, hard rain event.

Here are some things you can do to help your thirsty grass and hopefully avoid having to completely reseed your lawn.

1. Water every every third day until good, soaking rains begin.
2. Apply about two-thirds of an inch of water each time. You can check this by probing the soil with a knife or screwdriver to determine if the soil is wet 2 to 3 inches deep.
3. Water in the early morning to help reduce diseases, remove dew and reduce evaporative water loss.
4. Water areas that have the earliest browning first. These are often on southern or western-facing slopes or areas with heavy clay soils, very compacted soil or rocks near the surface.
5. If possible, don't mow a drought-stricken yard until you can water it or you know a soaking rain is on the way. Always mow high, at least 2-3 inches, to allow the grass to shade the soil surface. Weeds are still growing and flowering during summer droughts. Wait for the rain, then mow off the weeds.
6. Don't apply herbicides during a summer drought. They won't work when weeds are suffering and can damage drought-stressed grass more than weeds.

Wait for a soaking rain before applying nitrogen to the lawn in the fall. Nitrogen can greatly improve a lawn's drought recovery and thicken the root system for the next season.

## BEEF MANAGEMENT TIPS

### Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Cows should be on good pasture with clover and preferably low endophyte levels in fescue for the spring breeding season. Keep pastures vegetative by clipping or making hay. They should have abundant shade and water. Our goal is to have cows become pregnant before July when temperatures and heat stress can ruin the "spring" breeding season.
- Observe the cows and bulls as the breeding season continues. Watch bulls for injury or lameness and change bulls if a high percentage of cows are returning to heat. Record cow breeding dates to determine next year's calving dates and keep records of cows and bulls in each breeding group.
- Keep a good pasture mineral mix, which contains adequate levels of phosphorus, vitamin A, selenium, and copper, available at all times.
- Consider a special area for creep grazing calves, or practice "forward grazing" this summer, allowing calves to graze fresh pasture ahead of the cows. This can be accomplished by raising an electric wire or building a creep gate.

### Fall-Calving Herd

- Pregnancy test cows if not done previously.
- Cull these cows at weaning time (or now)
  - Smooth-mouthed cows
  - Cows weaning light weight and/or poor-quality calves
  - Open cows
  - "Problem cows" with bad feet, teats, udders, etc.
- Select replacement heifers based on:
  - temperament
  - conformation
  - weaning weight
  - dam and sire records
  - Select more than needed to allow for culling after a short breeding season

## General

- Finish harvesting excess pasture as hay soon! It should be cut before it becomes too mature. Be sure and replenish your reserves. Try to put up more than you think you will need in case of a late summer drought.
- Pasture should supply adequate energy, protein and vitamins at this time. However, be prepared for drought situations. Don't overgraze pastures so that recovery time will be faster. Overgrazed pastures will recover very slowly during July/August.
- Keep pastures small for rotational grazing so that nutritive quality can be maintained. They should be small enough that cattle do not graze longer than a week. As the season progresses, you need several paddocks to give each properly stocked pasture about 4 weeks' rest.
- Maintain a clean water supply and check it routinely. Water is extremely important in hot weather.
- Control flies. Consider changing insecticides and/or methods of control this year, because insecticide resistant flies may have developed if you have used the same chemical year after year. Consider pour-on and sprays that allow you to put cattle in the corral or through the chute with little stress on them. It will make subsequent trips through the "chute" less stressful.
- Prevent/Control pinkeye
  - consider vaccinating,
  - control flies,
  - clip tall, mature grass, - treat problems quickly.
- Clip grazed-over pastures for weed control and so that seed heads do not irritate eyes. Pastures should be kept in a vegetative state for best quality.

## 2023 PEST MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY – JUNE 29



The University of Kentucky Extension specialist will host the "2023 Pest Management Field Day" on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the U.K. Research & Education Farm in Princeton. Even though they do not have their education building rebuilt from the tornado, the research on the farm is back in full swing.

The field day will focus on the results of ongoing research in pest management at the farm. Topics for the day include:

- Palmer Amaranth & Waterhemp Control
- Weed Control in Early Planted Soybeans
- Weed Control in Corn
- Italian Ryegrass Research Update
- Herbicide Resistant Johnsongrass
- Weed Management Utilizing Cover Crops
- Corn Disease Research Update
- Entomology Research Update

The field day will run from 8:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m., with sign-in starting at 8:00 a.m. Pre-registration is recommended by June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Registration online is at:

[https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4PjveAug6mK9XU](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4PjveAug6mK9XU)  
or by calling UKREC at (270)365-7541 ext.22569.

Continuing education credits for Certified Crop Advisors and pesticide applicators will be available.



- June 29 – Pest Management Field Day; U.K. Research & Education Farm, Princeton
- July 13 – Ky Agriculture Training School (KATS) – Spray Clinic; U.K. Research & Education Farm, Princeton
- July 25 – U.K. Corn, Soybean, & Tobacco Field Day; U.K. Research Farm, Princeton
- Aug. 1 – Regional Woodland Owners Meeting; Ohio Co. Extension Office; 6:00 p.m.

More information about these programs is available by contacting the Ohio Co. Extension Office at (270)298-7441.