

Ohio County Farm & Home News

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

Ohio County
P O Box 66
Hartford KY 42347
270-298-7441
<http://ohio.ca.uky.edu/>

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK – MARCH 17-23

National Agriculture Week is celebrated every year



in March on dates announced by the Agriculture Council of America. This year the holiday commences on March 17th and ends on the 23rd.

The week celebrates and acknowledges the

agricultural industry and the role it plays in stabilizing the economy. The holiday gives thanks to the agricultural industry for being a source of abundant food, fiber, and renewable products. It also provides millions with stable jobs and careers – 1 out of every 5 jobs, in the U.S., is agriculturally related. It also emphasizes the efforts made by those involved in agriculture in providing the necessities that most of us take for granted.

KATS PLANTER CLINIC



A planter is the most important pieces of equipment on a grain crops farm, and this clinic will provide

attendees with the knowledge to set up and operate their planters with confidence.

The “KATS - Planter Clinic” will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the U.K. Research & Education Farm in Princeton.

Topics to be covered are:

- Identification of improper settings and the resulting consequences on plant performance
- Common planter mistakes
- General planter maintenance
- Components and maintenance of advanced planters
- Considerations for planting in heavy residue

The program will run from 8:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. and costs \$105, lunch will be included. Registration is required at <https://KATSPlanterclinic2024.eventbrite.com>

Any questions about this KATS workshop can be directed to Lori Rogers (Lori.Rogers@uky.edu)270365-7541 ext. 21317

NOT ENOUGH TO TOO MUCH....MANAGING SPRING GRASS

The following article is from Dr. Chris D. Teutsch, Extension Forage Specialist with U.K. at Princeton, discussing how to manage spring grass growth to maximize quality.

In March we often find ourselves wringing our hands waiting for grass growth to start and a short time later our pastures are out of control! Spring can often be one of the most difficult times of the year for producers grazing animals, while managing forage growth. Grass growth goes from nonexistent to excessive in a matter of weeks and if you are properly stocked grazing livestock can have a hard time keeping up with it. The following suggestions can help you to stay in control of spring growth.

- **Implement rotational grazing.** To fully utilize the spring flush of pasture growth **YOU** must be in control of grazing. In a continuous grazing system, the cows are in charge. By utilizing rotational stocking, you start to make the decisions. Implementing a rotational stocking system may be as simple as closing some gates or stringing up some polywire.
- **Start grazing before you think the pastures are ready.** One of the most common mistakes that graziers make is waiting too long to start grazing. If you wait until the first paddock is ready to graze, by the time you reach the last paddock it will be out of control. Starting early allows you to establish a “grazing wedge”. The “grazing wedge” simply refers to having pasture subdivisions or paddocks at varying stages of regrowth from just grazed to ready to graze.
- **Rotate animals rapidly.** It is important to realize that grazing pastures closely and repeatedly as they initiate growth in early spring can reduce production for the entire season. Therefore, it is important to keep animals moving rapidly through the system. The general rule is that if grass is growing rapidly then your rotation should be rapid. This will allow you to stay ahead of the grass by topping it off and keeping it in a vegetative state.
- **Do not apply spring nitrogen.** Applying nitrogen in the spring will make the problem of too much grass at once even worse. In many cases you are better off to apply nitrogen in late summer or early fall to stimulate growth for winter stockpiling.
- **Remove most productive paddocks from rotation and harvest for hay.** Graze all paddocks until the pasture growth is just about to get away from you and then remove those productive paddocks from your rotation and allow them to accumulate growth for hay harvest.
- **Increase stocking rate in the spring.** If it is possible, a good option for utilizing spring growth is to increase your stocking rate. This will allow you to harvest more of the available forage and convert it into a saleable product. This can be done by adding



some stockers or thin cull cows to your rotation and then selling them when pasture growth slows. If you are in a fall calving system, you are better positioned to take advantage of spring forage growth since the calves will be larger.

- **Even out seasonal distribution of forage by adding a warm-season grass.** Adding a well-adapted warm-season grass that produces the majority of its growth in July and August would allow you to concentrate grazing on your cool-season paddocks during periods of rapid growth (spring flush) or fall. After cool-season grass growth is slowed by higher temperatures in late spring and early summer, animals can be shifted in the warm-season paddocks for summer grazing.

- **Bush-hog out of control pastures.** The benefits of clipping include maintaining pastures in a vegetative state, encouraging regrowth, and controlling weeds. Clipping pastures costs money, so make sure that the primary reason for bush-hogging is pasture management, not

aesthetics.

- **Stockpile out of control pastures for summer grazing.** Although forage quality decreases as the plant matures, the quality of spring stockpiled pasture is sufficient for dry cows and in some cases can result in reasonable gains on growing animals during the summer months. This is especially true if using novel endophyte tall fescue and the pastures were clipped at the early boot stage to promote vegetative regrowth. This could be a cost-effective and simple way to provide additional grazing during the summer months.

When it comes to grazing operations, there is not one size that fits all. What works for you may not work for your neighbor. The key is figuring out what works on your farm and implementing it in a timely manner. Hopefully one or more of the above tips will help you deal with the “quandary of spring grass”!

2024 CORN & SOYBEAN FUNGICIDE EFFICACY GUIDES AVAILABLE

The 2024 fungicide efficacy tables for foliar diseases of corn and soybean, and for soybean seedling diseases have been updated, and are now available through the Crop Protection Network website:
<https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/>

These tables are updated annually based on data provided by United States Extension plant pathologists, with efficacy determined through replicated research trials across a broad geographic area. Kentucky research trial data are included in the development of these national fungicide efficacy ratings.

The ratings in these guides reflect the effectiveness of a fungicide against a given disease, and are not rating yield response to a fungicide. Applicators should always read and follow label directions of any pesticide.

Updated tables include:

- Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Corn Diseases
- Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Seedling Diseases
- Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Foliar Diseases

UPCOMING Events

- March 28 – Italian Ryegrass Control Field Day; Caldwell Co. Extension Office, Princeton; 8:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m.
- April 4 – Planter School presented by KATS; U.K. Research Farm, Princeton; 8:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.
- April 25 – Spring Fencing School; Graves Co.
- April 30 – May 1 - Beginning Grazing School; Princeton