



Ohio County Farm & Home News

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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HAY FEEDING SYSTEMS & CAIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING – APRIL 4TH

Beef producers always are looking to “work smarter not harder”. The University of Kentucky and the KY Beef Network have developed some unique hay feeding systems at the Eden Shell Farm, a demonstration farm in

Owen Co.

On Tuesday, April 4th, we will have Mr. Steve Higgins, with the U.K. Ag Engineering Department, discuss some of the efficient




hay feeding systems they have developed for the Eden Shell Farm, that minimize the environmental impact associated with feeding livestock. The program will be held at the Ohio Co. Extension Center, starting at 6:00 p.m.

After the discussion on hay feeding systems, we will provide an update on the “2023 CAIP” (cost-share) program, highlighting some of the changes for this year and providing a timeline for this year’s application/reimbursement periods.

PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION – MARCH 24TH

One last opportunity to get your Private Applicator Training for this year, this Friday, March 24th starting at 9:00 a.m. The training will be held at the Ohio Co. Extension Center on Clay St. in Hartford.



Pesticide Safety Education Training

Friday March 3, 2023 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Tuesday March 14, 2023 6:00 pm-9:00 pm
Friday March 24, 2023 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

These classes are FREE and open to anyone wanting to attend. For more information call the Ohio County Extension Office at 270-298-7441.

Be sure to check your cards to be sure you have a valid certification for 2023, especially if you need to purchase restricted-use pesticides. Cards expire on December 31 of the year of expiration. The Private Applicator training is free and open to anyone wanting to attend.

MAKE THE MOVE TO PASTURES CAUTIOUSLY

After months of feeding hay on a regular basis, the thought of moving cattle to lush, green pastures seems enticing; however, realize that this a drastic change in an animal’s diet.

The spring pasture period can be both a blessing and a curse. On the one hand, there are usually ample acres of fast-growing forage; on the other, that extremely high-quality forage contains a lot of water, which sometimes makes it hard for cattle to consume enough dry matter to meet nutritional needs.

An immediate transition from dry hay to the early spring growth can easily affect livestock performance, but not in a good way. This highly digestible new growth has a lower fiber content than more mature growth and dry hay.

According to U.K. Beef Nutrition Specialist, consuming highly digestible green forage can cause diarrhea, especially when livestock are quickly switched from a dry hay diet. It’s better to transition cows onto pastures by supplementing a high-fiber feed, such as, dry hay as a portion of the diet. This can benefit the animal by slowing rumen passage rates.

When pastures are green but short, cattle have a more difficult time getting a full mouth of feed. Cattle expend additional energy moving around the pasture to consume adequate amounts of forage, reducing gains and body condition scores. This can also impact future reproductive efficiency.

Mixing dry hay into the diet during the pasture transition period will benefit overall herd health and performance. As pasture grasses continue to mature and cattle become accustomed to the fresh forage, hay can be gradually removed from the diet.

Early spring is also a time when pastures must be set up for the upcoming grazing season. Many experts suggest that the forage height be at least 6 inches before opening the pasture gate, and then animals need to be moved when plants are grazed down to approximately 3 to 4 inches.

With high amounts of precipitation in the spring, protect forages and soils from possible damage during wet conditions. Rotating livestock faster will minimize severe pugging and will keep more acres in a vegetative state for a longer period of time. Paddock moves and rotations need to occur much more quickly in the spring than during the summer.

Mineral supplementation is needed for optimal animal health, growth, reproduction, and overall performance. This can be accomplished by feeding free-choice or adding minerals to a supplemented feed. Mineral nutrition should complement the forages and other feeds that the livestock are consuming.

The location of free choice feeders can affect intake. Placing the feeder closer to a water source will enhance mineral intake. High salt concentration in a mineral mix will reduce intake.

In the early spring, a high magnesium mineral is needed to reduce the risk of grass tetany. A "high-mag" mineral mix is usually fed until temperatures are consistently above 60°F. Feed a free-choice mineral mix that contains 12% to 15% magnesium (from magnesium oxide). Cattle will need to consume about 4 ounces of the mineral mix per head to receive their daily requirement of magnesium.

WHEAT DAMAGE DUE TO FREEZING TEMPERATURES

It is still too early to totally assess the damage for the sub-freezing temperatures over the last week. Ideally, wheat needs 5 to 7 days of good growing



weather before we can determine the extent of the damage. With the forecast, that 5 to 7 days of "good

weather" could take two weeks.

With this said, Dr. Chad Lee, Extension Grain Specialist, says "best guess right now is that the main shoot, possibly second tiller could be lost. Even if that happens, wheat in most fields has enough tillers to recover well".

I will provide an update, in the near future, after we have time to get out and assess the damage.

2023 CORN & SOYBEAN FUNGICIDE EFFICACY GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE

The 2023 fungicide efficacy tables for foliar diseases of corn and soybean, and for soybean seed-ling diseases have been updated, and are now available through the Crop Protection Network web-site at:

<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, across the Midwest grain production area. Kentucky research trial data are included in the development of these national fungicide efficacy ratings.

The ratings in these guides reflect the efficacy of a fungicide against a given disease, and are not rating yield response to a fungicide. It is an applicators legal responsibility to read and follow label directions. 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 19-25 – National Agriculture Week "IF YOU EAT THIS WEEK – THANK A FARMER"
- March 24 – Pesticide Safety Education Training; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 9:00 a.m. till noon
- March 28 – Ohio Co. Extension District Board Meeting; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 8:00 a.m.
- April 4 – Hay Feeding Systems & CAIP informational Mtg.; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 6:00 p.m.