

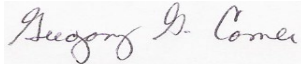
Reply to:

**Cooperative
Extension Service**
Ohio County
P O Box 66
Hartford KY 42347
270-298-7441

February 15, 2023

To: Ohio County Producers

From: Gregory G. Comer



County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

If you need more details about any of these programs, contact me at the Ohio County Extension Office.

BEEF MARKET UPDATE & BCQA TRAINING – MARCH 1ST

As we get started into 2023, we will have a “Beef Market Update & BCQA Training” next Wednesday evening March 1st, starting at 6:00 p.m., at the Ohio Co. Extension Center.

We will have Dr. Kenny Burdine, Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist, discuss the current market conditions and what he expects beef markets to do throughout 2023.



At the conclusion of his discussion, I will provide a “Beef Cattle Quality Assurance (BCQA)” training for any producers needing re-certification or to be certified for the first time. Remember, BCQA practices are essential management skills for all beef producers to use in their operations, so we may assure consumers that our products are the most consistent, safest, most wholesome beef products in the world.

For those planning to participate in the CAIP program this year, if you are cost-sharing in the “Large Animal” category you must have a current BCQA certification. So, this will be an opportunity to get that taken care of. There is a \$5 fee for the BCQA training.

PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION TRAINING DATES

For many years the ‘Pesticide Safety Education Training’ was considered only for people using restricted-use pesticides, but with today’s pesticide products all pesticide users producing crops for consumption, should attend one of the trainings’. Pesticide products are safer than they have ever been, but if not used properly, they can be harmful to not only the user, but the environment, as well.

So, check your cards to be sure you have a valid certification for 2023. Cards expire on December 31 of the year of expiration. The “Pesticide Safety Education” is free and open to anyone wanting to attend.

What: Pesticide Safety Education Training

**When: Friday, March 3 - 9:00 a.m. till Noon
Tuesday, March 14 – 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.
Friday, March 24 – 9:00 a.m. till Noon**

KY DEPT. OF AG – NUISANCE WEED SPRAYING PROGRAM

The deadline to sign up for the nuisance weed spraying program is approaching. There are still openings for producers in Ohio Co., but you only have until February 28th.

Under the program, a producer can spray 10 acres of pasture/haylands for weeds having a negative impact, such as thistles or buttercup. The KDA provides the chemical and boomless sprayer and the producer must provide the tractor, water and labor for spraying. The producer may spray an additional 10 acres, with the sprayer, but you must provide the chemical. The only chemical allowed to be sprayed is 2,4-D .

There is a maximum of seven participants allowed per county. Participants may only apply every 36 months. To apply, go to the KDA's nuisance weed website at :

<https://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx>

You can only apply from February 1 thru February 28th.

MAKING FROST SEEDINGS OF CLOVER WORK

Kentucky weather has a wicked sense of humor. At the November board meeting of the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, our directors were literally talking about how our 'warmer' winters had backed up the optimum timing for frost seeding clover. And then came 'Coldmeggedon' over Christmas and now a warming trend that will see 60's in late December and early January. Let me paraphrase a saying from my childhood: "Want to make God smile, predict Kentucky weather!" You could say the same thing about predicting the best time to 'frostseed' clovers.

With all of those caveats, let's talk about some things that are a little more certain.



To start with, clovers are frankly amazing. Throw six pounds of red and one to two pounds of white clover onto sod with some exposed soil in late winter, control some competition and boom – high quality pasture. The benefits of clover are significant, including 'free' nitrogen, and high forage quality and yield. Even more significant is the new USDA research that clovers (especially red) directly counteract the vasoconstrictive effects of toxic endophyte tall fescue and you have an unbeatable set of attributes.

Frost seeding is an attractive method of establishment because of the minimal equipment requirements – usually a spinner seeder attached to a moderate horsepower tractor or ATV will get the seed spread. Red and/or white clover can be expected to establish successfully after being frost seeded because they germinate quickly, tolerate shading, and have aggressive root and shoot growth as seedlings. Their small, smooth seed is easily moved into the top quarter inch of soil by weather or hoof action.

Clovers have so many positive establishment traits that it is easy to forget that the requirements of forage establishment must be met even with a low input frost seeding. These basics include:

1. Get a current soil test, and apply the needed nutrients. Clovers need soil that is pH 6.5 to 7 and medium or better in phosphorus and potassium. Do not apply additional N except when diammonium phosphate (DAP) is needed to supply the needed phosphorus.
2. Select a good variety. Choose an improved variety with known performance and genetics. Choosing a better red clover variety can mean as much as three tons of additional hay and longer stand life compared to common seed (variety unknown). UK has extensive data available on yield and persistence of white and red clover for hay or pasture at http://forages.ca.uky.edu/variety_trials.
3. Spread enough seed. A typical seeding rate is 6 to 8 pounds of red or 1 to 2 pounds of white/ladino clover per acre. Applying six pounds of red and one of white will result in over 55 seeds per square foot on the field (37 red plus 18 white).
4. Make sure seed lands on bare soil. Excess grass or thatch must be grazed and/or disturbed until there is **bare ground** showing prior to overseeding. **The biggest reason for failure of frost seedings is too**

much ground cover. Judicious cattle traffic or dragging with a chain harrow can expose the needed bare ground.

5. Get good seed-soil contact. Frost seedings depend on rain and snow or the freeze-thaw action of the soil surface to work the clover seed into the top ¼ inch of soil. A corrugated roller used soon after seeding will also ensure good soil contact.
6. Control competition next spring. Do not apply additional N on overseeded fields next spring, and be prepared to do some timely mowing if grass or spring weeds get up above the clover. Clover is an aggressive seeding but will establish faster and thicker if grass and weed competition is controlled.

KY FENCING SCHOOL – APRIL 11

Each spring U.K. Extension Service and Ky Forage & Grassland Council sponsor the “Ky Fencing School”, to teach producers the newest fencing methods and sound fencing construction through a combination of classroom and hands-on learning.

This years’ school will be held at the Allen Co. Extension Office in Scottsville on April 11th, running from 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. The classroom sessions will fencing cost basics, electric fencing basics, innovations in fencing technologies, Ky fencing laws, and in the afternoon will be hands-on fence building.

There is a \$35 registration fee and you must pre-register, at least 2 weeks prior to the workshop, to attend. To register:

https://2023_Scottsville_KY_Fencing_School.eventbrite.com or drop by the Ohio Co. Extension Office for a form you can mail.



KY BEGINNING GRAZING SCHOOL – APRIL 25-26

Another great program offered each year by the Ky Extension Service specialists’, is the “Ky Beginning Grazing School”. The spring program will be held on April 25 & 26 at the Ky Soybean Board Office in Princeton. The program runs each day from 7:30 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.

The school focuses on making all livestock farms (cattle dairy, sheep or goats) more profitable by improving a producers grazing management skills. This school also utilizes a combination of classroom and hands-on sessions to maximize your learning experience.



Just a few of the topics covered include: benefits of rotational grazing, meeting nutritional needs on pasture, grazing concepts, portable/seasonal watering systems, using temporary fencing to control grazing, fencing types and costs, rejuvenating rundown pastures and many more.

There is a \$60 registration fee and you must pre-register to attend. To register online: https://2023_Spring_KY_Grazing_School.eventbrite or drop by the Extension office for a mail in registration form.

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 !!!** 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.



Remember, you should take soil tests to monitor the pH and fertility needs, every 3-4 years. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Feb. 15-18 – National Farm Machinery Show; Louisville
- Feb. 16 – G.R. CPH Sale; Kentuckiana Livestock Market; 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 20-21 – Heart of America Grazing Conference; Ferdinand Community Center, Ferdinand, IN
- Feb. 21 – Ky Alfalfa & Stored Forage Conference; Cave City Convention Center
- Feb. 21&22 – Mid-South Stocker Conference; WKU Ag Expo Center, Bowling Green
- Feb. 25 – Union Co. Bull Sale; Union Co. Fairgrounds, Sturgis; Sale starts at 1:00 p.m.
- Feb. 28 – Deadline for applying for the KDA nuisance weed control program (see above)
- March 1 – Beef Market Update & BCQA Training; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 6:00 p.m.
- March 3 – Pesticide Safety Certification; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 9:00 a.m. till noon
- March 4 – KY-TN Cowman's Kind Bull Sale; Ky-Tenn Livestock Market; Sale starts at noon
- March 14 – Pesticide Safety Education Training; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 6:00 p.m. till 9:00
- March 24 – Pesticide Safety Education Training; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 9:00 a.m. till noon
- April 11 – Ky Fencing School; Allen Co. Extension Office;, Scottsville; 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m.
- April 25-26 – Ky Grazing School; Ky Soybean Board Office, Princeton; 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 each day
- April 27 – Area Sheep & Goat Meeting w/KSU Veterinarian; Butler Co. Extension Office; 6:00 p.m.