



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/>*

PROSPECTIVE PLANTING INTENTIONS – FROM A CATTLE PERSPECTIVE

The following article is from Dr. Kenny Burdine, Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist at U.K., discussing the planting intentions report and how it may affect feed costs over the next year.

Rising input costs have been constantly on cattle producers' minds over the last couple of years, with feed costs often at the forefront. Corn price has more than doubled since the summer of 2020, consistent with rising costs across most feedstuffs. Feed is a direct input cost for many cattle operations and impacts the value of feeder cattle as it is the most significant cost for cattle finishing operations. Given that feed costs are already at extremely high levels, the size of the 2023 crop will be critical.

We got our first official look at potential production on Friday, March 31st, when USDA released their Prospective Plantings report. This report summarizes producers' planting intentions in the US and is largely a reflection of expected profitability levels for various crops. Most notably, corn acreage was estimated to increase by roughly 4% from last year – to just under 92 million acres. For comparison, soybean acreage was projected to be virtually unchanged from 2022. New crop corn futures were nearly flat the day the report was released, with the December CME© corn futures contract closing at \$5.66 per bushel.

Another important point is that actual planted acreage will adapt in response to further information, including this report. Using stocks-to-use from the most recent WASDE report to measure the supply/demand balance, the soybean market appeared to be tighter than the corn market. One could argue that soybeans are in

more need of additional acreage than corn in 2023. While corn prices were essentially flat, the soybean market did move on Friday with an increase in new crop price of about \$0.15 per bushel and an even more significant increase in old crop price. As I wrote this on Monday April 3rd, soybean futures were up again. While this picture will become clearer over the next couple of weeks, one could view this as an attempt to ration old crop beans and attract a few more acres to bean planting this spring.

Regarding implications for cattle producers, the acreage battle for 2023 is clearly on. Feed prices are currently high, and significant change is not likely before harvest. Additional corn acres would undoubtedly be seen as a positive from the perspective of livestock feed prices. Still, it is essential to remember that planted acres will react to information in the coming weeks. I would not be surprised if the new crop price ratio adjusted such that actual corn planted acreage came in below the Prospective Planting estimate. Most importantly, one must remember that acreage is just the beginning. With new crop corn prices on the board North of \$5.50 per bushel, weather for the 2023 growing season will be critical in determining the direction of feed prices throughout the year.

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.

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.

FORAGE TIPS - APRIL

- Make sure hay equipment is ready for high quality May harvests.
- Graze cover crops using temporary fencing.
- As pasture growth begins, rotate through pastures quickly to keep up with the fast growth of spring.
- Creep-graze calves and lambs, allowing them access to highest-quality pasture.
- Finish re-seeding winter feeding sites where soil disturbance and sod damage occurred.
- As pasture growth exceeds the needs of the livestock, remove some fields from the rotation and allow growth to accumulate for hay or haylage.
- Determine need for supplemental warm season forages such as pearl millet or sudangrass.
- Flash graze pastures newly seeded with clovers to manage competition.

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 3/4 inch soil core. You can check out the soil probes free, as well.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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 Small Ruminant Hoof & Parasite Workshop; w/KSU Veterinarian; Butler Co. Extension Office; 6:00 p.m.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the bases of race, color, ethnic origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to Equal Opportunity Office, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546, the UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.