



Ohio County Farm & Home News

Cooperative
Extension Service

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BEEF MANAGEMENT TIPS

** Spring Calving Herd

- Be sure that weaned heifer calves are on a feeding program that will enable them reach about 65% of their mature weight before the start of the breeding season. Rations should be balanced to achieve gains sufficient to get heifers from their current weight to that "target" weight.

- Body condition is important, plan an adequate winter program for cows to be at least body condition score 5

(carrying enough flesh to cover the ribs) before the calving and breeding season. This will help them to breed early in the spring. Thin cows should be fed to regain body condition prior to winter. Don't let cows lose weight/condition.

Supplementation will most likely be needed. Find low-cost supplemental feeds to meet the nutrient needs of cattle.

- Divide the herd into groups for winter feeding
 - weaned heifer calves
 - first-calf heifers, second-calvers and

thin mature cows

- the remainder of the dry cows which are in good body condition
- herd sires

- Begin feeding the lowest quality forage to dry cows which are in good condition during early winter and save the best hay for calving time or for weaned calves.

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- Order and number ear tags for next year's calf crop this winter. It is also a good time to catch up on freeze branding and replacing lost ear tags.

** Fall Calving Herd

- Get breeding supplies together, if using estrous synchronization and/or A.I.
- Have Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) performed on bulls (even if you used them this spring).

- The fall breeding season starts. Breeding can best be accomplished on stockpiled fescue

pasture; otherwise, cows with calves should be fed 25-30 pounds of good quality hay or its equivalent. Supplement with grain, if needed, and minimize hay waste. DON'T ALLOW THESE COWS TO LOSE BODY CONDITION PRIOR TO OR DURING THE BREEDING SEASON. It is easy to wait too long to start winter feeding. Don't

do it unless you have stockpiled fescue.

- Nutrition level of cows during the first 30 days after conception is critical. Pay attention.
- Observe performance of bulls during breeding season. Watch cows for return to estrus, if you see several in heat, try to determine the cause and consider changing bulls.

** General

- Complete soil testing pasture to check for fertility and pH.
- Consider putting down geotextile fabric and covering with gravel in feeding areas before you begin hay feeding to minimize waste of expensive hay. Or, perhaps, construct concrete feeding pads for winter feeding areas.

- Monitor body condition and increase feed, if needed, for all classes of cattle.

2022 CORN & SOYBEAN VARIETY PERFORMANCE TEST AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2022 Kentucky Corn Hybrid Performance

Tests are available online at:

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/PR/PR815/PR815.pdf>

The 2022 Kentucky Soybean Variety Performance

Tests are available online at:

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/PR/PR828/PR828.pdf>

Both the corn and soybean performance test reports are also linked to the Grain Crops Website at:

<https://graincrops.ca.uky.edu/>

Remember, the summary or all locations averages for each maturity group, is by far the best yield numbers to use for this season, due to rainfall and weather variability. Do not look at a single location and try to compare maturity groups. Differences in yield among maturity groups is most likely to be from timing of rainfall and water than from anything else.

U.K. 2022 CROP PEST MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES

The last session of the “U.K. Crop Pest Management Series” will be December 13. The programs will be offered on Tuesday mornings starting at

9:00 a.m. CT.

You must register for each webinar to receive the webinar address – these are included in the



information below.

- Dec. 13 – Entomological Studies in Corn & Soybeans Under Difficult Circumstances in 2022; Registration URL:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3KVwBMYKQYKnxzW1K-A0-g

These webinars will be an excellent way for grain producers to prepare for the 2023 crop season, which hopefully “Mother Nature” will provide more favorable weather.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 13 – U.K. Beef Management Webinar Series: **Packer and Consumer Trends with Some Holiday Beef Ideas** – Gregg Rentfrow, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky and Alison Smith, Kentucky Beef Council Retail and Foodservice
- Dec. 13 – U.K. Crop Pest Management Webinar Series : **Entomological Studies in Corn & Soybeans Under Difficult Circumstances in 2022**; Dr. Raul Villueva, Extension Entomology Specialist