

Ohio County Farm & Home News

Cooperative
Extension Service

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“IMPORTANCE OF MINERALS IN BEEF CATTLE DIETS” & CAIP UPDATE MEETING – MAY 14TH

Minerals and vitamins are an essential part of all mammal diets – human and livestock. Next Tuesday evening, May 14th, Dr Katie VanValin, Extension Beef Nutrition Specialist will be discussing the importance of the proper minerals and vitamins in our beef cattle’s diet. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. and be held in the Ohio County Extension Center’s meeting room.

This program will meet the requirement for an educational session, if you are participating in the CAIP program this year. There will be other opportunities to get your educational session, over the summer/early fall.

After Dr. VanValin’s talk, we will discuss the “2024 CAIP Program” for this year and applications will be available to pick up.

BEWARE OF TICKS

As temperatures warm, more people are spending more time outside. This also means people will be exposed to ticks more often

A few tick species are common in Kentucky, including the Lone Star tick, black-legged deer tick, and American dog tick.

When you get a tick bite, there’s a possibility the ticks could pass a pathogen from themselves into you, which could then make you sick. Kentucky has seen rising incidences of Lyme disease in this state. We also have Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in this state, and then we have the red meat allergy, which a lot of people are concerned with.

The best strategy to reduce the potential of contracting tick-borne diseases is to avoid tick bites. Here are some tips:

- Avoid walking through uncut fields, brush and other areas likely to harbor ticks. Walk in the center of mowed trails to avoid brushing up against vegetation.
- Use a repellent that contains at least 20 to 30 percent DEET on exposed skin. Always follow product instructions.
- Use products that contain permethrin to treat clothing and gear, such as boots, pants (especially the cuffs), socks and tents.
- Tuck long pants into your socks and boots. Wearing light-colored pants makes ticks easier to see.
- In areas where there are ticks, check yourself, children and other family members for ticks every 2 to 3 hours and upon returning home from hikes and outdoor activities. Common places to find ticks are behind the knees, around the waist, under arms, neck and head areas.
- If you let your pets outdoors, check them often for ticks. Ticks can “hitch a ride” on your pets, but fall off in your home before they feed. Tick collars, sprays, shampoos, or monthly “top spot” medications help protect against ticks.

If you do find a tick on you, remove the tick as soon as possible and dispose of the insect. If the tick is attached, use the following steps to remove safely:

- **Step 1:** Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin’s surface as possible. The goal is to remove the entire tick including its head and mouth.
- **Step 2:** Pull straight out with steady, even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick, during removal.

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- **Step 3:** Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine soap, or soap and water. Apply antiseptic to the bite site.

Anyone with concerns about exposure to ticks and possible disease transmission should consult their physician to determine the best course of action. Most tick-borne diseases can be averted by early intervention with an antibiotic.

BULLISH APRIL CATTLE ON FEED REPORT

The following article is from Dr. Kenny Burdine, Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist at U.K., discussing the latest “Cattle on Feed” report.

Cattle on feed reports have not been especially kind to the cattle complex in recent months. Despite fewer cows and a smaller calf crop, on-feed inventories have been running above year-ago levels. Over the last several months, feeder cattle placements have been higher than most analysts would have expected. Weather and high prices likely encouraged some early placements in some regions going back to fall. At the same time, marketing’s have seemed to be relatively slow. I suspect this has been partly due to expensive feeder cattle and cheaper feed. This combination tends to encourage adding more weight to current feedlot inventory and rising harvest weights seem to be supporting this hypothesis.

This brings us to the April Cattle on Feed report, which came at the end of a week when cattle markets had gained back a portion of what had been lost since late March. The number that stood out the most was the estimate of March placements, which came in 246,000 head lower than March of 2023. I don’t want to read too much into a single report, but this 12% decrease is significant and came in below all the pre-report estimates I had seen. Sometimes it is beneficial to take a bit longer view on something like this. If I look at the entire first quarter, placements were down 4% for 2024. This is a number that seems to make sense given feeder cattle supplies. It’s also worth noting that the first quarter of 2024 included February 29th due to 2024 being a leap year.

The April report is also one of the quarterly reports where an estimate is made of the on-feed breakdown between steers and heifers. This can provide some indication of heifer retention for breeding purposes and will be especially important this year as we may not have the July Cattle Inventory report. As of April 1, heifers and

heifer calves accounted for 38.5% of on-feed inventory. For comparison, heifers accounted for 40% of on-feed inventory in October of last year and 39.7% in January of this year. The fact that the share of heifers on feed is decreasing does bear watching in the coming months, but still does not point to significant heifer retention. If one goes back and examines the last expansionary period, the heifer percentage was below 35% for ten straight quarters – from the first quarter of 2015 to the second quarter of 2017.

Put simply, the most recent cattle on feed report is the most bullish, that we have gotten in a good while. Even though total on feed numbers remain above 2023 levels, they were still below trade expectations. Sharply lower placements seemed to confirm that feeder cattle supplies are very tight. And there is still no evidence that large numbers of heifers are being held for replacement purposes. While the volatility in the cattle markets is likely to stay, the supply picture remains encouraging for feeder cattle markets.

CAIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Applications for the “2024 County Agricultural Investment Program – CAIP” (cost-share program) are now available at the Ohio Co. Extension Office. Applications may be picked up during normal business hours – 8:00 a.m. till noon & 1:00 p.m. till 4:30 p.m.

You may also print a copy of the application off the Ohio Co. Extension website at: <https://ohio.ca.uky.edu/> . Once on the home page, scroll down to “Upcoming Events” and click the “CAIP applications. Then scroll down and click on “2024 CAIP APP.pdf”

Applications will be available from April 22nd - May 24th and must be turned into the Extension Office by **noon on May 24th, no exceptions.**

Information about the different projects areas eligible for cost-share are available on the KDA website at: <https://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy/2024-Program-Guidelines-and-Applications.html> Scroll down to the guidelines for the “CAIP” program. When looking thru this website, make sure you are looking at the “2024 Guidelines” and not the 2023 guidelines.

If you do not have internet access, you may visit the Ohio Co. Extension Office and we have a computer/internet you may use to check the guidelines.

As always, there have been changes to some of the project areas, so read the guidelines closely. The biggest change is the % cost-share available for the various eligible items in a project area. Some items are 25%, some are 50% and some are 75% cost-share. So, read the project area guidelines closely.

UPCOMING Events

- May 14 – “Importance of Minerals/Vitamins in Beef Cattle” & CAIP Update Meeting; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 6:30 p.m.
- May 14 – U.K. Wheat Field Day; U.K. Research Farm, Princeton; 8:30 a.m. till noon
- May 21 - KATS Crop Scouting School; U.K. Research Farm, Princeton; 8:00 a.m. till 3:30 p.m.
- June 6 – Soil Properties Workshop; U.K. Research & Education Center, Princeton; 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.