



# Ohio County Farm & Home News

**Cooperative  
Extension Service**

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## WEST KY SUMMER FORAGE TOUR – MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>



The “2023 Western Kentucky Summer Forage Tour” will be held in Caldwell County on May 25.

This year’s tour features “Nurtured Lands Farm” located just outside of Princeton, KY. Kate and Justin Adams purchased their Princeton Kentucky farm in 2016. It had been neglected for many years leading to low soil fertility and poor soil health. While neither Kate nor Justin grew up on a farm, they both enjoy hard work and have a passion for regenerative agriculture.

This tour will chronicle their “regenerative journey” and the successes and failures that they have had along the way. This farm tour will be an informal, walking tour of the 50-acre farm (35 in pasture). Justin and Kate will explain how they used strategic forages, animals, and grazing techniques to bring life back into the soil. They have experimented with many ways of diversifying the forages on the farm and have seen the biggest impacts through frost seeding of clovers and lespedeza. Since Nurtured Lands Farm does not use synthetic fertilizers, having the clover in the pasture is their main source of nitrogen. The tour will be a friendly discussion of shared practices.

Topics to be highlighted include, soil health and fertility, rotational grazing, integrating multiple livestock species, using a chemical free approach, watering systems for rotational grazing, the role of mentorship in a new farm, building soil fertility through bale grazing, building and maintaining strong nutrient cycles, direct to

consumer marketing, and obtaining high quality stored forage.

Registration is \$10per person, at the door, starting at 3:00 p.m., with the tour starting at 4:00 p.m. Please pre-register, to aid in planning dinner, on-line at: <https://WestKyForageTourMay23.eventbrite.com> or contact Kate Adams at [Kate@nurturedlands.com](mailto:Kate@nurturedlands.com) or 513-470-8171. Bring your lawn chair!!!

## HORTICULTURE WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

During COVID, I wrote regularly about various webinars of interest being held each week or month. There are still several webinars being broadcast that are very popular for viewers. The following is a webinar which may be of interest to people who love to garden or like anything horticulturally related. They have done numerous, varied programs.

Horticulture Webinar Wednesday - held each Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. CT to 12:30 p.m. You can register to view the weekly webinars on Zoom at: [#registration](https://uky.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrfumhqzssH9KQ-Skr40rhCGa3i12Pa3B-)

The May 10<sup>th</sup> program will be “Starting Native Perennial Seeds” with Amy Aldenderfer, Hardin County Horticulture Agent.

You can see what other webinars are coming this season at: <https://kentuckyhortnews.com/horticulture-webinar-wednesdays/season-four/>

This site also has links to the first three seasons of Horticulture Webinar Wednesday or you can watch them all on their YouTube Channel.

## FORAGE TIMELY TIPS

- Start hay harvests for quality forage. Consider making baleage to facilitate timely cutting.
- Seed warm season grasses for supplemental forage once soil temperature is at 60 F.
- Clip, graze, or make hay to prevent seedhead formation.

- Rotate pastures as based in height rather than time.
- Consider temporary electric fencing to subdivide larger pastures and exclude areas for mechanical harvesting.
- Scout pastures for summer annual weeds and control when small.

## APRIL CATTLE ON FEED – WHAT DOES THIS TELL PRODUCERS

The following article is from Dr. Kenny Burdine, Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist at U.K.,



providing an analysis of the April Cattle on Feed report.

USDA released the April Cattle on Feed report on

Friday April 21<sup>st</sup>. This monthly publication estimates the number of cattle on feed at feedlots with capacity of over 1,000 head and serves as a measure of likely beef production over the next several months. While the cow herd has been decreasing in size for several years, an increase in the number of heifers in the beef system kept on-feed numbers running relatively high for much of 2022. Finally in the fall, the long-expected shift occurred, and on-feed numbers have been running below year-ago levels since then.

In Friday's report, April 1, 2023, on-feed inventory was estimated to be down about 4.5% from April 1, 2022. While this might not immediately raise any eyebrows from casual observers, this on feed number was higher than expected and really came down to March placements being greater than most pre-report estimates. The net effect was that total on-feed inventory was virtually unchanged from March 1 to April 1, which was counter to what many expected.

Heifers continue to make up a historically large proportion of cattle on feed. Fewer heifers were reported on feed than on April 1, 2022. While steers on feed declined by 6 percent, heifers on feed were only down about 1.7 percent from last year. That indicates that there has not been a large movement in holding back heifers yet.

There are some possible explanations for the larger-than-expected March placements number. First,

March is a month when cattle are often moved off wheat pasture and continued dry weather, combined with high wheat prices, likely impacted movement of feeders. Secondly, live cattle imports from Mexico were higher in March. So far this year, feeder cattle imports from Mexico are up about 95,000 head from last year. But it's worth remembering that feeder cattle imports in 2022 were the fewest since 2008. Finally, there is still a lot of carry on the feeder cattle board, meaning that feedlots have been aggressively buying feeders ahead, in anticipation of the rising price levels suggested by deferred live cattle futures. Put simply, I absolutely think that feedlot placements bears watching in the coming months, but I suspect the larger placement number last month has more to do with timing than a major shift in market fundamentals.



- May 9 – U.K. Wheat Field Day; U.K. Research & Education Center Farm; Princeton
- May 9 – Organic Association of Ky Field Day; Faul Family Farm in Henry Co.
- May 18 – KATS-Field Crop Scouting Workshop; 9:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.; U.K. Research & Education Farm in Princeton
- May 25 – West Ky Summer Forage Tour; Nurtured Lands Farm, Princeton, KY; 3:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m.