

# Agriculture Natural Resources Newsletter FEBRUARY, 2023

 University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service  
Mercer County  
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*Linda McClanahan*

Linda McClanahan, Mercer County Agent  
for Agriculture & Natural Resources



## **2023 KY Department of Agriculture Nuisance Weed Spraying Program**

This program consists of weed spraying demonstration plots. The department will provide the sprayer and enough chemical for the treatment of 10 acres of agricultural land or 100 gallons of spot spraying mix to be used on agricultural land. The department's representative will demonstrate proper mixing and application techniques. A number of nuisance weeds can be treated under this program depending on the needs of the participant. This program is limited to broadleaf weeds.

### **Broadcast Spraying demonstration plots consist of:**

- 10 acres of agricultural land will be treated with chemical provided by the department
- Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with boomless nozzles
- If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 10 acres can be treated

### **Spot Spraying demonstration plots consist of:**

- 100 gallons of broadleaf chemical mix which is applied until sprayer is empty
- Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with a handheld spray wand used by the tractor operator
- If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 100 gallons can be sprayed

### **For each demonstration:**

- The participant must provide water source
- The participant must provide tractor and operator
- All chemical products must be labeled and the product label will be strictly followed
- A maximum of 7 participants per county

This program is designed to target weeds that have a negative impact on the participant's agricultural production. There will be an annual online application period to participate in this program.

**You may submit an application online from February 1 to February 28 at:**

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

Cooperative Extension Service  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.



## **2023 KY Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference**

### ***Hay Production, Marketing, and Mechanization***

February 21, 2023, from 8:00 to 3:15CST (9:00 to 4:15EST)

Cave City Convention Center, 502 Mammoth Cave St., Cave City, KY 42127

Registration: Online under Events on Forage Website

8:00 Registration, sponsors, and silent auction

8:45 Welcome and program highlights

*Dr. Ray Smith, University of Kentucky*

9:00 National Producer and Consumer Survey: Increasing Alfalfa Hay Sales to Horse Owners

*Krista Lea, MS, University of Kentucky*

9:30 Hay Production in the Deep South: Bermudagrass and Alfalfa-A Perfect Combination!

*Dr. Jennifer Tucker, University of Georgia*

10:15 Break, visit with sponsors, and silent auction

10:45 Options for Hay Mechanization: Producer Perspective

*Dennis Wright, Logan Co. Alfalfa Producer*

11:15 Hay Mechanization: Industry Overview

*Noah Pendry, CNH Industrial (New Holland)*

12:00 Lunch, Alfalfa Awards, KCA Hay Quality awards, and silent auction winners

1:00 Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council update

*Brandon Sears, KFGC President*

1:10 Tornado Recovery: Rebuilding the UK Princeton Research Station

1:20 Fall Armyworm Research Study

*Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK*

1:30 Attacking the Yield Plateau: Assessing the Nutrient Status of Kentucky Alfalfa Stands

*Will Fleming, UK masters student*

1:40 Why You Should Consider Attending the International Grassland Congress

*Dr. Ray Smith, UK*

1:50 One Big Idea that has Helped Improve My Haying Operation

*Winners of the KDA Hay Contest*

2:45 Update on Options for managing thinning alfalfa stands

*Dr. Jimmy Henning, Univ. of KY*

3:05 Take-Home Lessons from Today's Meeting

*Dr. Ray Smith, Univ. of KY*

### **Things to Think About Before the Grazing Season**

Late winter is the time to get the ball rolling in the right direction for a successful grazing season. Producers need to act now to take the proper steps to set their operation up to maximize grazing. Early season soil testing is the first area to consider when preparing for the upcoming grazing season. Soil tests should be conducted every three to four years.

**Buttercup Control** in pastures and hay fields needs to be considered early in the year before the plant's identifying yellow flowers appear. Buttercups may emerge in the fall, but most of their vegetative growth occurs late winter and early spring. The first step in control is scouting fields and identifying the problem and its intensity. For grass pastures, chemical control with herbicides can be effective. Herbicide application should occur in early spring (late February-March); however, consideration must be given to withdraw times after application. Grass pastures interseeded with legumes could be severely damaged or killed by herbicides. One approach to reduce buttercup populations is proper grazing management. Maintaining proper ground cover by managed grazing, will limit buttercup emergence.

Mid-February to early March is the perfect time to **frost seed** in Kentucky. Frost seeding allows for the natural freeze-thaw cycles to work seeds into the soil. Several legumes, like red and white clover, can be successfully frost seeded. Adding legumes to pastures offer many benefits including increased soil fertility, improved forage quality, reduced fescue toxicosis, and more summer growth. Prior to seeding, the pasture should be grazed or cut closely and residue removed to allow for maximum seed to soil contact. After seeding, continue to reduce competition for successful establishment. This may require mowing or grazing to allow new legume plants to grow and develop to at least 3 to 4 inches in height.

As spring approaches, so does the concern of preventing **grass tetany** in animals grazing lush, fast growing cool season pastures. Grass tetany is a metabolic disorder caused by low levels of magnesium in the animal's blood. Prevention is the best medicine and providing animals with a high magnesium mineral supplement can often lessen the occurrence of grass tetany. A general rule to prevent grass tetany is to provide a high-mag mineral supplement at least 30 days prior to calving. Feeding these can be discontinued once daily temperatures are consistently 60°F or above and grass is more mature.



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Mercer County

**Mon., Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM @ Extension Office**

**Join us for our next 2023 educational meeting!**  
**CATTLE MANAGEMENT MEETING**

**Heifer Development**

Dr. Les Anderson, UK Beef Extension  
Specialist

**Herd Bull Selection**

Joe Myers, Select Sires Beef Genetics  
Program Consultant



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*This class qualifies for KADF CAIP  
Educational credit for the cost  
share program.*

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***FREE Steak Dinner Provided By:***



Pay dues/renew your membership  
to be entered in special drawing!

If you plan to attend in person  
please call the extension office  
859-734-4378 by **Friday, Feb  
24<sup>th</sup> to RSVP.**

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# Kentucky Maple Day

Saturday, February 4, 2023

For more information visit:  
[ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu](http://ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu)

## Eat Local

Support Kentucky's  
Maple Syrup  
Producers!

Is your maple operation not on our list? There's still time to sign-up!



### BEEF POT ROAST WITH CIDER GRAVY AND MAPLE SWEET POTATOES

 3 HRS  
30 MIN  8  
SERVINGS  370  
CAL  30 G  
PROTEIN

This pot roast recipe is sure to warm you and your family on a cold day. To make it even better, this heart healthy pot roast recipe is served with gravy and potatoes. Try this for dinner tonight. This Beef, It's What's For Dinner recipe is certified by the American Heart Association®.

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 beef Shoulder Roast Boneless (3 to 3-1/2 pounds)  
2 teaspoons olive oil 366 CALORIES  
1-1/2 teaspoons salt  
3/4 teaspoon pepper, divided  
1 cup chopped onion  
1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme  
1 cup unsalted beef broth  
3/4 cup apple cider  
3 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled, cut crosswise  
2 teaspoons minced garlic  
2 tablespoons maple syrup  
1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger  
2 tablespoons cornstarch dissolved in 2 tablespoons brandy or water

#### NUTRITION:

\* Based on a 2,000 calorie diet  
\*\* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000-calorie diet



#### COOKING:

1. Heat oil in stockpot over medium heat until hot. Place beef roast in stockpot; brown evenly. Remove roast; pour off drippings and season with 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper.
2. Add onion and thyme to stockpot; cook and stir 3 to 5 minutes or until onion is tender. Add broth and cider; increase heat to medium-high. Cook and stir 1 to 2 minutes or until browned bits attached to stockpot are dissolved. Return roast to stockpot; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover tightly and simmer 2-1/2 hours.

**Cook's Tip:** Fresh apple cider is sold filtered and unfiltered. Filtered cider looks clear and is lighter in color than unfiltered cider, which is deep brown and cloudy due to apple pulp particles. Unlike apple juice, fresh cider is perishable and must be refrigerated before opening. Always purchase pasteurized cider.

3. Add sweet potatoes and garlic to stockpot; continue simmering, covered, 30 minutes or until sweet potatoes and pot roast are fork-tender.
4. Remove roast; keep warm. Remove sweet potatoes and garlic with slotted spoon to large bowl, leaving cooking liquid in stockpot.
5. Add maple syrup, ginger, remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper to sweet potatoes. Beat until sweet potatoes and garlic are mashed and smooth; keep warm.

**Cook's Tip:** Sweet potatoes may also be mashed using a food processor.

6. Skim fat from cooking liquid; stir in cornstarch mixture. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir 1 minute or until thickened.

**Cook's Tip:** To easily skim fat from cooking liquids, use a fat or gravy separator. The spout on this special pitcher is positioned at the bottom so as fat rises to the surface the liquid below can be poured off separately.

7. Carve roast into slices; serve with mashed sweet potatoes and gravy.

#### ALTERNATE COOKING METHOD:

1. This recipe can be made in a 6-quart electric pressure cooker. For optional browning, select Sauté or Browning setting on pressure cooker. When pressure cooker insert is hot, brown beef roast on both sides; remove beef. Add oil and onions; cook 3 to 5 minutes. Add 1/2 cup broth, cider, 2 large thyme sprigs, salt and pepper; top with beef roast. Close and lock pressure cooker lid. Use beef, stew or high-pressure setting on pressure cooker; program 60 minutes on pressure cooker timer. Use quick-release feature to release pressure; carefully remove lid. Add potatoes and garlic. Close and lock pressure cooker lid. Use beef, stew or high-pressure setting on pressure cooker; program 10 minutes on pressure cooker timer. Use quick-release feature to release pressure; carefully remove lid. Continue as directed in Step 4, making sure to remove thyme sprigs from cooking liquid and placing liquid in medium sauce pan. (This recipe variation was tested in an electric pressure cooker at high altitude. Cooking at an altitude of less than 3000 feet may require slightly less cooking time. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.)



## Mid-South Stocker Conference

February 21-22, 2023

WKU L.D. Brown Ag Expo Center  
406 Elrod Road  
Bowling Green, KY 42104

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/483761211807>

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

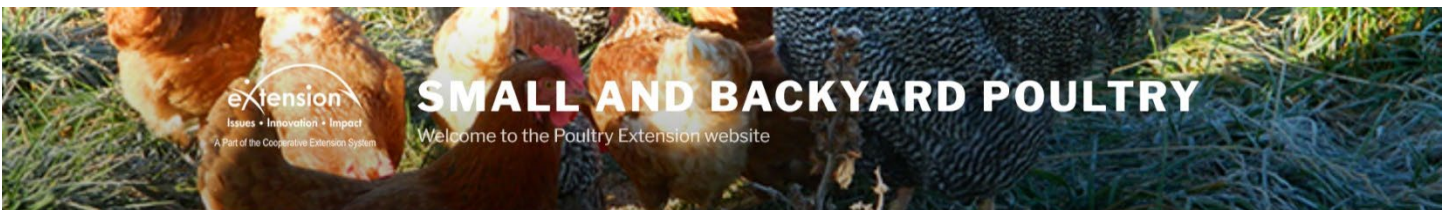
#### Tuesday February 21st, 2023

5:30-6:00	Registration
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:00-8:15	Industry partner education/demonstrations
8:15-8:30	Break
8:30-9:00	Field necropsy/demo - <i>Dr. Michelle Arnold</i>

#### Wednesday February 22nd, 2023

8:30-9:30	Registration/Visit trade show
9:30-9:45	Opening session, Welcome - <i>Dr. Katie VanValin</i>
9:45-10:15	Considerations for forage selection & mgmt with changing weather conditions - <i>Dr. Kim Mullinex</i>
10:15-10:45	Incorporating red clover for management of fescue toxicosis - <i>Dr. Brittany Harlow</i>
10:45-11:15	Break/Visit trade show
11:15-11:45	Southeastern market outlook - <i>Dr. James Mitchell</i>
11:45-1:00	Lunch/Visit trade show
1:00-1:15	Afternoon session, Opening - <i>Dr. Katie Mason</i>
1:15-2:00	Virtual tours
2:00-2:30	Stocker cattle health update - <i>Dr. Michelle Arnold</i>
3:00-3:30	Break
3:30-4:15	Livestock risk protection - <i>Dr. Kenny Burdine</i>
4:15	Wrap up/Door prizes

Registration Code:



### Backyard poultry resources:

Monthly Webinars:

Reproductive issues with small and backyard poultry flocks (February 7, 2023 @ 3 PM Eastern) - <https://connect.extension.org/event/reproductive-issues-with-small-and-backyard-poultry-flocks>

Past webinar recordings are available at <https://poultry.extension.org/webinars/past-webinars/> . We also have a YouTube channel - @poultryextension - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRMPDhvzuDXb2sjDTF3Tj7w> and a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/poultryextension>

# AREA FORAGE PRODUCTION MEETING

## February 23 at 6:00 PM



Meal begins at 6:00pm

### 6:30pm: **Forage Recovery After Drought**

Dr. Ray Smith, UK Extension Forage Specialist

### 7:00pm: **Forage Weed Control**

Dr. JD Green, UK Extension Weed Specialist

### 7:30pm: **Forage Management Calendar**

Dr. Jimmy Henning, UK Extension Forage Specialist

Program will be held at:

**Boyle County Extension Office  
99 Corporate Drive—Danville, KY**

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



This meeting qualifies for CAIP Educational requirement and one hour commercial pesticide applicator CEU.

**Call your county office by February 21 for meal reservations.**

Boyle  
859-236-4484

Lincoln  
606-365-2447

Garrard  
859-792-3026

Mercer  
859-734-4378

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



February 6	Pastures Please Meeting, Fayette County Extension Office, 5:30pm
February 15-18	National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville
February 16	Mercer County Chamber of Commerce Banquet, 5:30pm, The Stable
February 21	KY Alfalfa & Stored Forages Conference, Cave City
February 21	Fort Harrod Goat Association Meeting, 6:30pm
February 21-22	Mid-South Stocker Conference, Bowling Green
February 23	Area Forage Meeting, Boyle County Extension Office, 6pm
February 24	Backgrounder/Stocker Profitability Conference, Fayette County Extension Office
February 27	Cattlemen's Educational Meeting, 6pm
March 2	Area Tobacco Meeting & GAP Certification, 6pm, Garrard County Extension Office
March 2	Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7pm
March 3	Central KY Ag Lenders Conference, Fayette County Extension Office
March 4	Mercer County Fair & Horse Show Gala
March 6	Mercer County Extension Council Leadership Appreciation Luncheon, noon
March 9	Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 10am or 6pm
March 12	Spring Forward! Daylight Savings Time
March 14	Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 10am
March 20	20 <sup>th</sup> Annual Mercer County Farm/City Dinner, 6pm, The Stable
March 21-27	National Agriculture Week