


Agriculture Natural Resources Newsletter JANUARY, 2024

 Cooperative
Extension Service

Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

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Linda McClanahan

Linda McClanahan, Mercer County Agent
for Agriculture & Natural Resources



UK Beef Management Webinar Series 8:00pm ET/7:00pm CT

January 9, 2024 **Management decisions that impact reproductive efficiency in beef herds** – George Perry, Professor, Texas A&M University

February 13, 2024 **What's the Cost of a Cheap Mineral** – Katie VanValin, Assistant Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

UK Beef Management Webinar Series on Tuesday, January 9! We are fortunate to have Dr. George Perry from Texas A&M University join us and present on “Management decisions that impact reproductive efficiency in beef herds”. Dr. Perry is a renowned reproductive physiologist that is doing groundbreaking work on applied management practices that impact a producers’ ability to get cows bred. There is no doubt that you will benefit from this presentation. We will wrap up the winter session next month with Dr. VanValin covering “What's the Cost of a Cheap Mineral” on February 13th. Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Remember, once you are registered you will get a Zoom invitation the morning of each session with the link and password. If you would like to get registered send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with Beef Webinar Series in the Subject and your name and county in the message. All registered producers will get your Zoom invitation the morning of the presentation. This invitation will directly link you to the site and you will be asked for the password which can be found just below the link. Each session will be recorded and posted for later viewing.

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Forecasting Winter Storms - What a Headache!

Tony Edwards – National Weather Service Charleston, WV

When I was a child - probably by around 7 years old - I knew I wanted to be a meteorologist. I was infatuated with the weather. To my mother's dismay, The Weather Channel was a mainstay on our TV and I even kept a log of the weather each day. My uncle worked for the Department of Highways and had to drive a snow plow each winter. I loved winter, he hated it. I remember one conversation with him distinctly. He told me that when I grew up to be a meteorologist, he wanted me to get all of the meteorologists in the area on the same page with forecasting winter storms. He was so tired of watching the different "opinions" of how much snow we were going to get on each evening TV weather broadcast. For him, the differing opinions made it very hard to do his job. I'm sure many others around our region also wonder "why is it so hard to forecast how much snow is going to fall?"

Forecasting snow amounts is one of the hardest things we have to do as meteorologists. First off, we have to get the temperature forecast right. Not just the temperature at the surface, where there's plenty of thermometers, but we also have to forecast the temperature accurately throughout the atmosphere up through the cloud layer. There are very few ways to get accurate temperature measurements above the ground, so we have to rely on imperfect computer models for this part of the forecast. The temperature and how it varies from inside the clouds down to the ground determines the consistency of the snow, or how wet and sticky vs. dry and fluffy it is. We also have to accurately forecast how much liquid will fall during the storm. For instance, 0.5 inches of liquid vs. 0.7 inches could make the difference of several inches of snow in some cases. This is probably the second hardest thing we have to do! Finally, we have to get the storm track correct. A low-pressure system tracking as little as 25 miles off course can mean the difference between a foot of snow or no snow for your location! All of these are important considerations for a forecast *just* featuring snow. It gets exponentially MORE complicated if the forecast includes other types of precipitation such as freezing rain or sleet. All of these variables create uncertainty in the forecast and, unfortunately, humans aren't the best at dealing with uncertainty.

It's been at least 30 years since I had that conversation with my uncle and unfortunately, I've failed him miserably! He still has to wade through differing opinions on how much snow is going to fall when he gets his forecast information. To be honest, the atmosphere is just too complicated and we may never be able to completely accurately forecast winter storms. Despite the complications, we can still plan for the possible impacts. Here's a few tips to help you be as prepared as possible when snow is forecast:

- When the weather forecast REALLY matters, don't rely on a phone app! Get your forecast from a local source, whether it be from the National Weather Service or your local TV meteorologist. The forecast from most apps is computer-model generated with no local human input. That's fine for figuring out if you need to wear a coat, but not for when your life could depend on it!
- If you see vastly different opinions on how much snow is expected for your location, then you can guess that it's just a complicated forecast and plan for the worst-case scenario you hear. If you flip through the channels and see all of the meteorologists having the same opinion on how much snow will fall and the timing, you can have more confidence in the forecast.
- Finally, put together an Emergency Kit for your home and automobile. You'll at least want 72 hours of food, water and prescriptions in your home kit and some basic tools and supplies for your automobile. Check out [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for some great ideas on what to include in those kits.





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

Mon., Jan. 22nd 6:00 PM @ Extension Office

Join us for our 1st 2024 educational meeting!
CATTLE MANAGEMENT MEETING

Hay Storage & Feeding Considerations

Dr. Chris Teustch, UK Extension Forage Specialist

Winter Feeding & Stretching Hay Supplies

Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, UK Extension Beef Specialist

Forage Insurance & LRP Insurance

Ian Thomas, Superior Ag Insurance



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

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

FREE Steak Dinner Provided By:



If you plan to attend, please call the extension office 859-734-4378 by Friday, Jan 20th to RSVP.

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

2024 Horses & Horsemen:

Join us for the 17th annual

PASTURES PLEASE!!

Thursday, January 18

Schedule:

5:30—Meal

6:00—How to Rescue a Pasture for Short Term Use, Dr. Ray Smith

6:30—Selecting Herbicides for Targeted Weed Control, Dr. Bill Witt

7:00—Not Just Triple 19 – Fertilizing Pastures Based on Need, Lindsay Arthur & Keenan Bishop



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Ag Equine Programs
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Scan QR code
to RSVP



or go to
tinyurl.com/pasturesplease

**Scott County
Extension Office**
1130 Cincinnati Rd
Georgetown, KY 40324
502-863-0984

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AREA FORAGE PRODUCTION MEETING

Boyle County
Extension Office
99 Corporate Dr.
Danville, KY 40422

Call your county
office by January 23
for meal
reservations.

Boyle
859-236-4484
Lincoln
606-365-2447
Garrard
859-792-3026
Mercer
859-734-4378

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



January 25
at 6:00 PM

This meeting qualifies for
CAIP Educational requirement.

Meal begins at 6:00pm

6:30 PM: Summer Forage Options

Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Extension Forage Specialist

7:00 PM: Rotational Grazing Management

Dr. Jimmy Henning, UK Extension Forage Specialist

7:30 PM: Water Management Innovation

Dr. Steve Higgins, UK Biosystems & Agricultural
Engineering, Director of Environmental Compliance

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AREA GRAIN CROPS

January 30 at 6:00 PM

6:00pm—Meal begins

6:30pm—**Nutrient Management**

Dr. John Grove, UK Soil Specialist, Director of UKREC Princeton

7:00pm—**Economic Outlook**

Dr. Grant Gardner, UK Extension Grain Economist

7:30pm—**Weed Management**

Dr. JD Green, UK Extension Weed Specialist

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

Call your county office by January 26 for meal reservations.

Boyle—859-236-4484

Garrard—859-792-3026

Lincoln—606-365-2447

Mercer—859-734-4378

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Program will be held at:

Boyle County Extension Office
99 Corporate Drive—Danville, KY 40422

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Lexington, KY 40506



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KY COMMODITY CONFERENCE

Thursday, January 18, 2024

**Sloan Convention Center
1021 Wilkinson Trace, Bowling Green**

AGENDA (all times are central)

7:00 a.m. EARLY RISER SESSION W/BREAKFAST

Myron Stine

8:30 a.m. Registration and Trade Show Open

9:30 a.m. Marketing Session

Matt Bennett

11:00 am Lunch/Keynote

Eric Snodgrass

Remarks from Kentucky Ag Commissioner Jonathan Shell

1:00 p.m. Kentucky Soybean Association Annual Meeting

2:00 p.m. Kentucky Corn Growers Association Annual Meeting, Council Report

3:00 p.m. Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association Annual Meeting, Council Report

3:45 p.m. Research Highlights

6:00 p.m. Grower Appreciation Reception

6:30 p.m. Awards CELEBRATION

FREE registration - <http://www.kycommodityconference.org/register.html>



Tex Mex Spaghetti Squash Casserole

1 small (about 2 pounds) spaghetti squash	2 teaspoons dried cumin	1 (4 to 5 ounce) can chopped mild green chilies
1 pound lean ground beef	¼ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper	1½ cups low fat cheddar cheese
½ cup chopped onion	½ teaspoon salt	1 tablespoon chopped cilantro
½ cup chopped red bell pepper	1 cup chopped fresh tomatoes	
1 teaspoon minced garlic		

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. **Prepare** the squash by carefully **cutting** it in half lengthwise with a sharp knife and **scooping** out the seeds. **Place** on a lightly greased baking sheet, cut-side down and **bake** for 30-35 minutes, or until a sharp knife can be easily inserted into the rind. **Remove** the squash from the oven and **cool**. Use a fork to **scrape** out the stringy flesh from the shell and **place** in a colander. **Press** out as much liquid as possible. **Place** squash in a medium bowl and keep warm. In a skillet, **cook** the ground beef over medium heat until browned. **Add** the onion, red bell pepper and garlic. Continue to **cook** until the vegetables are tender. **Add** the cumin, cayenne pepper and salt. **Drain** well and set aside. In a small bowl

combine the chopped tomatoes and green chilies. **Spray** a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with non-stick coating. **Layer** half of the spaghetti squash in the bottom of the pan. **Spread** half the meat mixture on top of the squash. **Layer** half of the tomatoes and chilies on top of the meat and **top** with half of the cheese. **Repeat** the layers. **Bake** at 350 degrees F until the casserole is hot all the way through and the cheese is bubbly, 15-20 minutes. **Sprinkle** with the cilantro and serve.

Yield: 9 servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 140 calories, 4 g fat, 1.5 g saturated fat, 30 mg cholesterol, 400 mg sodium, 11 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 17 g protein.

Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January 9 Mercer County Extension District Board Meeting, 5 PM
January 11-12 KY Cattlemen's Association Convention, Lexington
January 15 Martin Luther King Day, Extension Office Closed
January 17 Area Produce Growers Meeting, Lincoln County
January 18 Kentucky Commodity Conference, Bowling Green
January 18 Pastures Please Meeting, Scott County Extension Office, 5:30 PM
January 22 Cattle Management Meeting, 6:30 PM
January 23 Central KY Ag Lenders Conference, Fayette County Extension Office
January 25 Area Forage Meeting, Boyle County Extension Office, 6:00 PM
January 30 Area Grain Crops Meeting, Boyle County Extension Office, 6:00 PM
February 1 UK Winter Wheat Meeting, Hopkinsville
February 8 KY Alfalfa & Stored Forages Conference, Bowling Green
February 14-17 National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville
February 19 Area Backgrounders Meeting, Boyle County Extension Office, 6:00 PM
February 27-28 KY Dairy Partners Meeting, Bowling Green
February 29 Area Tobacco Meeting, Garrard County Extension Office, 6:00 PM