Clinton County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter Summer 25'

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Cooperative Extension Service
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Upcoming Events in Agriculture:

CAIP cost -share application period……..……..Aug 11th – 29th CC EXT. Office

Kentucky State Fair……..……August 14th-24th Louisville, KY

Beef Cattle Educational Mtg……..September 8th 5:30pm CC Ext. Office

BQCA Meeting……..September 15th 5pm CC Ext. Office

Clinton/Cumberland Cattle Mtg……Sept. 25th 6pm Cumberland Ext. Office

As the hot Summer weather continues I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. The CAIP cost-share program application period is open from August 11th through August 29th. There will be several upcoming educational opportunities for approved applicants to get CAIP educational credits. A Beef cow/calf herd health meeting will be held on September 8th at the Clinton Co Extension office, speaker will be Dr. Marc Caldwell, DVM / PhD UT Extension. October 13th and November 10th will also be Beef educational meetings topics TBD. The Clinton/Cumberland Cattle Association will have Dr Steve Higgins presenting on Sept. 25th at the Cumberland Co. Extension Office on utilizing Winter Feeding structures for Beef herds. Producers needing to obtain or update their Beef Quality and Care assurance (BQCA) certification will need to attend a training on Sept. 15th at the Clinton Co. Extension office.

Colby Guffey
Clinton County Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS

KADF
KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Eligible Investment Areas:

Agricultural Diversification
AgTech & Leadership Development
Large Animal - Small Animal
Farm Infrastructure
Fencing & On-Farm Water
Forage & Grain Improvement
Innovative Ag. Systems
On-Farm Energy
Poultry & Other Fowl
Value Added & Marketing

Administered by
Twin Lakes Cattle Association
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COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are available for Clinton County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important farm investments.

Application Period:
Aug. 11th through Aug. 29th, 2025

No applications will be accepted after 4:00pm August 29th

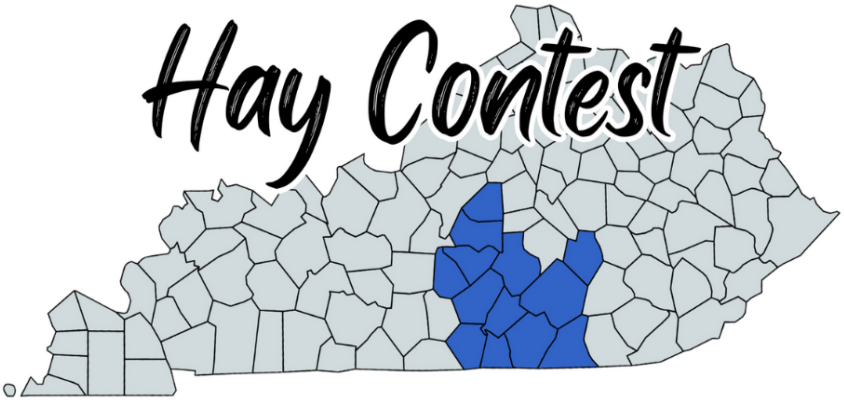
Application Availability:
Clinton County Cooperative Extension
Monday – Friday (7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

For More Information:
Contact Steve Peddicord at (606) 688-4492 or email speddicord@windstream.net

All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

SOUTH-CENTRAL KY Hay Contest



The South-Central KY Area Hay Contest is offered to all individuals raising hay in Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Marion, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Washington, and Wayne counties. This program aims to provide producers with free hay analysis results to aid in educating producers on raising higher quality forages and meeting livestock needs.

Producers may submit multiple samples in each contest area to their county agriculture agent. Samples must be submitted no later than September 30th, 2025. Results will include crude protein, DM, TDN, RFV, ADF, and NDF. After completion of the program, an area-wide event will be held to provide an educational overview of the program and present awards to contest winners. There will be one winner selected for the entire area for each hay class. Please reach out to your county agriculture agent for further information.

Cooperative Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Lexington, KY 40506

Wildfires in Kentucky

By Simone Lewis - National Weather Service Charleston, WV

When most people think of wildfires, images of raging fires in the western United States often come to mind. But did you know that wildfires also occur in Kentucky? In fact, the state of Kentucky averages over 1,400 wildfires a year. Most of these are caused by humans, with arson the leading cause. However, many are also accidental, the result of sparks from outdoor equipment, or embers escaping from burning debris. In this article, we will examine Kentucky's fire seasons and the weather conditions that lead to an enhanced risk of wildfires, and get acquainted with some of the products that the National Weather Service issues to alert the public and land managers of adverse fire weather conditions.

The state of Kentucky has two wildfire seasons: one in the spring (February 15th to April 30th), and another in the fall (October 1st to December 15th). During these two seasons, the combination of dead or dying vegetation (often referred to as "fuels"), combined with often dry (low relative humidity) and windy weather, create a perfect storm for the spread of wildfires. In addition, the lack of a significant leaf canopy allows the sunlight to penetrate the forest floor easier, leading to increased drying of the already dead or dying vegetation (especially fuels that are susceptible to drying quickly such as leaves and grasses). Both seasons often see a lack of significant rainfall (particularly the fall), which can lead to an increase in the susceptibility of vegetation to burn, particularly if drought conditions were already in place.

The NWS issues a variety of products to assist with wildfire management, including routine fire weather forecasts that highlight the development of adverse fire weather conditions, fire weather watches and warnings, site specific "spot" forecasts that can be used for prescribed burns and active suppression efforts, and even on-site meteorologist support in the case of larger incidents. Many NWS offices also have dedicated fire weather pages that anyone can access. Information often found on these pages includes, but is not limited to, a daily fire weather forecast and discussion, fire weather outlook maps, and links displaying the current and forecast fire danger for your area.

Understanding the products the NWS issues to highlight adverse fire weather is imperative in order to stop the ignition and spread of wildfires. When favorable fire weather conditions are forecast, the NWS will often issue fire weather watches or red flag warnings to alert land managers, and the public of the risk of wildfires. A fire weather watch is issued generally 24-72 hours in advance to alert of the potential for dangerous fire weather conditions to develop. Whereas a red flag warning means that dangerous fire weather conditions are ongoing or expected to develop shortly (generally within 24 hours of issuance). Whether you are under a fire weather watch or red flag warning, caution should be used when dealing with anything that could start a wildfire, and open burning of any type should be avoided. In addition to these products, the NWS will also often issue air quality alerts, in coordination with environmental agencies, when unhealthy levels of air pollution are expected from wildfire smoke.

Lastly, in addition to staying informed of the latest fire weather forecast and conditions in your area, there are other things that you can do to help mitigate the threat of wildfires. These include clearing dead vegetation from your property, adhering to local burn bans and laws, and avoiding burning on days when the wildfire threat is high. If you do choose to burn, do not leave a fire unattended, and have a water source nearby should your fire escape. Lastly, call 911 if you see a wildfire or a fire you are attending to gets out of control. By staying informed of the weather conditions, and practicing common sense safety measures, you can help keep Kentucky safe and beautiful, for yourself and your fellow Kentuckians.

Hay Testing Even More Important in 2025

Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Research and Education Center at Princeton

In many parts of Kentucky first cutting hay was delayed. Although yields were good, forage quality is another story. As the grass plant reaches maturity (gets mature seed) yield goes up, but quality decreases (Figure 1). This year we were on the right side of this figure, good yield but lower quality. We have already got our hay testing results back from the lab for our first cutting and that is exactly what they show (Table 1).

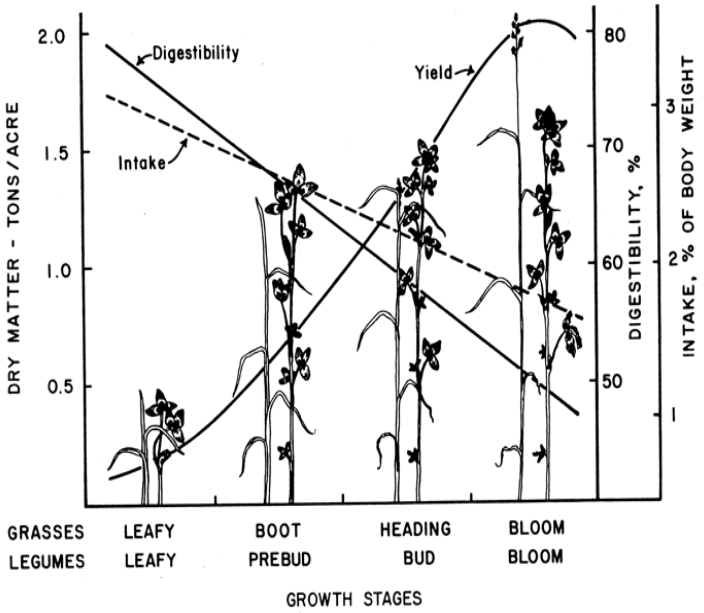


Figure 1. As plant maturity increases, yield increases and forage quality (digestibility and crude protein) decreases. The single most important factor impacting forage quality is stage of maturity at harvest.

I wish we could have been more timely in our hay harvest this spring but weather conditions were just not conducive to dry hay harvest. In fact, weather records indicate that we are seeing a trend toward fewer baling days in May (baling day = 3 curing days + 1 harvest day). It is just getting tougher to be timely with our first cutting harvested as dry hay. So, the question becomes what do we do? The list of practical solutions is short; in fact, there is really one viable alternative and that is baleage. High quality baleage can be made with a curing window as short as 2 days (one day to mow and wilt and a second day to bale and wrap). This provides more opportunities to harvest at the correct stage of maturity (late boot to early head).

Field	CP†	ADF	NDF	TDN	Meet CP Requirements		Meet TDN Requirements	
	%	%	%	%	Dry	Lactating	Dry	Lactating
1	8.9	40.1	59.1	55.5	yes	no	yes	no
2	9.9	39.4	60.0	56.2	yes	no	yes	no
3	8.2	41.6	67.2	53.8	yes	no	yes	no
4	10.6	41.0	64.5	54.5	yes	yes	yes	no
5	8.3	40.7	65.6	54.8	yes	no	yes	no
Avg	**9.2**	**40.6**	**63.3**	**55.0**	**yes**	**no**	**yes**	**no**

Table 1. Forage quality of 2025 first harvest hay at UK Research and Education Center in Princeton. †CP, crude protein, ADF, acid detergent fiber, NDF, neutral detergent fiber, TDN, total digestible nutrients.

Hay Testing Even More Important in Wet Years

In years like this one, hay testing becomes even more important. Since most of Kentucky's first cutting hay was put up at an advanced stage of maturity, testing is going to be a critical part of making sure that we meet the nutrient requirements of our cows this winter. The single most important factor impacting rebreeding in cow herds is body condition at calving. To design an effective supplementation program. for our lower quality hay we must know what the quality it. If you have never tested your hay, this is the year to start!

FORAGE MANAGEMENT TIPS

✓	Test first cutting hay and use the results to develop a supplementation strategy for this winter.
✓	Graze summer annuals pastures and fertilize with 40-60 lb N/A if regrowth is desired.
✓	Identify pastures to stockpile for winter grazing. Pastures should be well drained and have a strong sod. Limit summer grazing so that they are ready to grow as conditions cool and rain comes in late summer.
✓	Do NOT mow hayfields or graze pastures closer than 4-5 inches.
✓	Soil test pastures to determine nutrient needs.
✓	Use UKY variety testing results to select varieties that will be planted in the fall.
✓	If drought occurs, confine animals to one pasture and feed hay.

Timely Tips

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Consider removing bulls from the cow herd by the end of the month and keep them away from the cows. A short calving season can concentrate labor during the calving season; group calves by age so that it is easier to find a convenient time to vaccinate, castrate, dehorn, etc.; and provide a more uniform group of calves at market time.
- Mid-July is a good time to deworm cattle, use a product that is effective against inhibited ostertagia. Re-implant calves which were implanted at birth if the type of implant and amount of time indicate. Calves which haven't been vaccinated for blackleg should be. Spraying or using a pour-on for flies while cattle are gathered can supplement other fly control methods. Remember to work cattle early in the morning when it is cool and handle them gently to minimize stress.
- Watch for pinkeye and treat if necessary. Minimize problems by clipping pastures, controlling face flies and providing shade. Monitor the bulls' activity and physical condition as the breeding season winds down.
- Fescue pastures tend to go dormant in July and August, so look for alternatives like warm season grasses during this period of time. Try to keep the young calves gaining weight. Go to pastures which have been cut for hay to have higher quality re-growth when it is available.
- Consider cutting warm season grass pastures for hay if reserves have not been restored yet.
- Heat stress can lead to low conception rates, low libido in bulls, and embryonic loss (abortion) between days 6 and 45 of pregnancy. Keep a close eye on your herd. Plan to diagnose your herd for pregnancy early this fall to identify open cows for future planning.

Timely Tips continued….

Fall-Calving Cow Herd

- De-worm calves in mid-July with a product that is effective against inhibited ostertagia.
- Fall-calving cows should be dry and pregnant now. Their nutrient needs are minimal, and they can be maintained on poor pasture to avoid over fattening. Keep a good free-choice mineral mix available at all times. You can use a lower phosphorus mineral supplement now, if you want to save a little money. These cows are regaining body condition after a long winter-feeding period.
- Get ready for fall calving and plan to have good pasture available at calving and through the breeding season.

Stockers

- Sell heavier grazing cattle before rate of gain decreases or they get into a heavyweight category. This will also relieve grazing pressure as pasture growth diminishes. They can be replaced with lightweight calves after pastures recover.
- Lighter cattle which are kept on pasture need to be rotated to grass-legume or warm-season grass pastures to maintain a desirable level of performance. Re-implant these calves and deworm with a product that is effective against inhibited ostertagia.

General

- Check pastures for downed wild cherry trees after storms (wilted wild cherry leaves are toxic to cattle).
- Be sure that clean water is always available, especially in hot weather. Make routine checks of the water supply. Cattle need 13 to 20 gallons of clean water in hot weather. Cattle should have access to shade.
- Maintain a weed control program in permanent pastures and continue to “spot-spray” thistle, honey locust, etc.
- Have forage analyses conducted on spring-cut hay and have large, round bales covered. Begin planning the winter feeding program now. Most of the hay was cut late due to a wet spring.
- Start soil testing pastures to determine fertilization needs for this fall.
- Be aware of the heat when planning your cattle handling. Work cattle early in the morning to avoid excessive heat stress.
- Avoid grazing pastures containing endophyte-infected fescue if possible. The alkaloids (chemicals) produced by the fungus exacerbates heat stress in livestock and can lead to numerous negative outcomes including decreased growth rate and decreased conception rate.