

Carter County

Agriculture & Natural Resources



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

Carter County

94 Fairground Drive Grayson, KY 41143
Phone: (606) 474-6686 Fax: (606) 474-8542
extension.ca.uky.edu
facebook.com/CCESAG

September 2022 Upcoming Events

September 6 @ 6:00 PM	Little Sandy Beekeepers Association —Extension Office
September 8 @ 6:00 PM	Farm & Family Field Day —Matt & Tracy Prichard's Farm
September 13 @ 11:0 AM	Extension District Board Meeting —Extension Office
September 16 @ 1:00 PM	Hike & Learn —Grayson Lake Spillway
September 16 @ 3:30 PM	Deadline to submit CAIP Cost Share Applications
September 26	Deadline to request Hay Samples for East KY Contest
October 4 @ 6:00 PM	Little Sandy Beekeepers Association —Extension Office
October 13 @ 6:00 PM	Northeast Area Livestock Association Meeting —Extension Office
October 21 @ 1:00 PM	Hike & Learn —Laurel Gorge

Enjoy your newsletter,
Rebecca Konopka

Rebecca Konopka,
Carter County Extension Agent
for Agriculture & Natural
Resources Education

Olive Hill: Save-a-Lot's Parking Lot *Grayson: Shed Behind the Extension Office*

MONDAY
OLIVE HILL
3PM-SELL OUT

WEDNESDAY
OLIVE HILL
8AM-SELL OUT

SATURDAY
OLIVE HILL
8AM-SELL OUT

SATURDAY
GRAYSON
9AM-NOON

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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS



- 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
Carter County Soil Conservation District
526 East Main Street
Grayson, KY 41143
(606) 474-5184 opt 3

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

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

Application Period:
August 29th 2022 through September 16th, 2022

No applications will be accepted before August 29th or after September 16th.

Application Availability:
Carter County Soil Conservation District
Monday – Friday (7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

For More Information:
Contact Shelby Oakley at (606) 474-5184 or email shelby.oakley@usda.gov

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

East KY Hay Contest

If you have not scheduled your hay testing please do so ASAP. The following days are available for hay sampling:

September 6, 12, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, & 27.

HIKE & LEARN THIRD FRIDAYS

GRAYSON LAKE US ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS
PRIMITIVE TRAIL

SEPTEMBER 16 @ 1:00 PM

Upcoming Dates & Locations:

October 21st @ 1:00
Laurel Gorge Cultural Heritage Center

The Details for this Month:

Grayson Lake US Army Corp of Engineers (Spillway)
September 16 @ 1:00 PM

WALKING DISTANCE: 2.2 miles

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

Meet in the gravel parking lot on the right before you get to the picnic shelters.

Closed-toe shoes are required. Bring your own snacks & drinks.

All ages welcome! Youth participating in this month's Hike & Learn will earn Kid's Bucks to spend at the Farmer's Market.

Hikes may be cancelled due to bad weather or trail conditions.

Cancelled hikes will not be rescheduled.

Sign up to receive Hike & Learn reminders, updates, and cancellation notifications by scanning this code.

All activities are FREE!



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Thursday, September 8, 2022



Farm & Family Field Day

Matt & Tracy Prichard's
6584 S St. HWY 1
Grayson, KY 41143

Heading south on route 1 out of Grayson toward Willard, you will go past Heritage Elementary. Shortly after you pass Mullins Pallet Mill, you will cross a concrete bridge and Matt & Tracy's driveway will be on your right.

Registration begins at 4:30pm

Walking tour starts at 6:00pm

Supper at 7:00pm

∞ Provided by FFA ∞

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, UK Extension Beef Specialist;
Topic: Fence-Line Weaning

Dr. Steve Higgins, UK Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering
Director of Animal and Environmental Compliance;
Topic: Farm Efficiency

Equipment Displays



Pop-Up Farmer's Market (Cash, Senior & WIC Vouchers accepted)



Display Booths from local businesses & organizations



Pesticide Jug Rinse & Return Program through KDA



Youth Activities



Door Prizes



*Counts for CAIP Educational Credit & 4-H Youth Livestock Hours



Please bring your favorite dessert to accompany the meal & as an entry for the Dessert Contest. Categories are: Cake, Pies, Cookies, KY Proud & Youth

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Be Prepared for More Open Cows

Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Shew, it's been a rough summer. On top of high fuel costs, current inflation, and high input costs, beef producers have had to deal with drought and extreme heat. Heat stress is normal for cattle in Kentucky because most of our cattle graze endophyte-infected fescue but the early onset this summer may cause some serious issues with pregnancy rates and calving rates.

Heat stress has profound impacts on many biological processes that can lead to poor reproductive rates. Prior to estrus, heat stress reduces follicle growth, hormone production, and oocyte (the egg) competency. Combined, this reduces fertilization rates. Once fertilized, heat stress also reduces the growth of the newly formed embryo. This reduction in the growth of an embryo is likely the result of increased cell death and/or a smaller corpus luteum (CL) that produces less progesterone. This reduced growth rate and increased embryonic cell death leads to more embryos lost during the first week of gestation. Unfortunately, heat stress continues to impact embryonic growth through the first 21 days which also increases the loss of these early pregnancies.

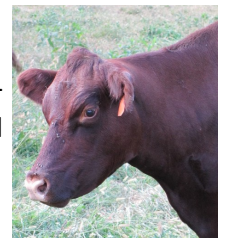
Issues with heat stress continue throughout gestation. Exposure of early pregnancies (day 24-45) to heat stress reduces fetal growth and can result in the loss of up to 20% of these pregnancies. Heat stress reduces placental efficiency meaning the placenta has a reduced ability to deliver nutrients to the developing fetus. Toward the end of pregnancy, extreme heat stress can impact placental hormone production which can lead not only to premature calving but also to drastically reduced development of the mammary glands impacting lactation. So, heat stress impacts beef females from the beginning to the end of pregnancy. Ugh.

What does this mean for beef producers right now? First and foremost, have pregnancy diagnosed in your herd. Contact your herd veterinarian to set up a palpation or ultrasound. Pregnancy can also be diagnosed by taking a blood sample and either mailing the samples to a diagnostic lab or by using the new chute-side blood test kit from IDEXX (test is called Alertys and they are available from most veterinary supply companies). The blood tests are accurate but consultation with your herd veterinarian is always recommended.

Pregnancy rate can dip to as low as 50-60% when prolonged heat stress occurs during the breeding season. What options does a producer have if a breeding disaster occurs? If you have a split calving season or calve year-round, the decision to keep or cull open females is a little easier. Simply roll cows younger than 5 years old over to the next breeding season. The decision is harder if you only have cows calving in the spring. Currently, cull cow prices are high and many market analysts suggest that cull cow prices may remain high this fall. If the cost of replacement breeding stock remains reasonable, then the optimum decision would be to cull and replace for this year.

Most years, the decision to cull open cows isn't easy. Some would argue to cull all females that cannot conceive in her environment because her genetics did not match her environment or level of management. But genetics for reproduction are lowly heritable, so genetics are a very small contributor to reproductive failure. Also, if you only have a drought and excessive heat stress once every 5-10 years, should you penalize a cow whose genetics match the environment most of the time? To make the decision even more challenging, often cows that are culled are replaced with bred two-year olds, who are inherently reproductively inefficient, will require additional feed inputs, and may take two years to reach optimum productivity. In the long run, what really costs more? Interesting problem to think about and certainly not one answer for all producers.

The markets, and where we are in the cattle marketing cycle, should impact the decision. Currently, cow numbers are extremely low in the US which normally results in higher calf prices. I got some incredible advice from an experienced beef producer a few years ago. Pap had run over 1,000 cows for decades and his strategy was when prices are high, own as many cows as



you can and sell as many calves as you can. Extend the calving season if you need to because every calf sold was profitable. Pap didn't care to keep open females at all. However, when prices were low, Pap controlled the calving season tightly and culled cows that didn't conceive. Pap's philosophy was when times were lean be efficient and when times were good, be productive. Good advice. It appears we are in an excellent position in the cow cycle with low number and impending higher feeder calf prices. Might be time to keep as many as you can afford to prepare you to take advantage of the higher cattle prices on the horizon.

Optimism for Burley???

Will Snell; *Economic and Policy Update* (22):8, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky, August 30th, 2022.

For those of you who have gotten past the title, it is not a typo. Yes, the Kentucky burley sector has lost over 70% of its market over the past couple of decades, while the number of farms growing burley in the Commonwealth has dwindled by more than 90%. Certainly, a large portion of the decline can be explained by domestic cigarette consumption falling by one-half since 2000. However, a significant amount of the loss can be attributed to leaf exports almost being non-existent in recent years after exceeding 200 million pounds pre-buyout. Plus, imports of foreign burley into the U.S. market now account for well over 50% of burley usage by U.S. cigarette manufacturers. These trade trends would clearly reveal that price has become more important to global burley buyers relative to quality in today's market as lower/filler style burley from African markets have increased market share relative to higher quality U.S. and South American burleys.

For years tobacco organizations and growers have claimed that declining yield trends and higher costs of production amidst stagnant leaf prices have caused profit margins to erode, leading to a mass loss of U.S. burley growers – many of them large growers. While their arguments are valid, my response has always been that the price incentives offered by tobacco companies have been, in aggregate, “adequate enough” to get the volume burley leaf buyers desired from the U.S. market.

But market conditions have changed for 2022. Despite declining cigarette sales in the U.S. and abroad, global burley supplies are extremely tight relative to demand levels. Companies anticipating this situation made a few modest upward adjustments in contract prices prior to the 2022 planting season. But global burley supplies have tightened even further since the beginning of the year.

Earlier this month, I participated in the regional 2022 International Tobacco Growers Association meeting in the Dominican Republic. Grower reports from member countries were consistent -- 2022 burley crop volumes outside the U.S. were lower, while foreign burley prices have been much higher. During the ITGA meeting, Argentina reported burley grower prices this past season were up 33%, Malawi, 36% higher and Brazil, 73% higher.

So what does that mean for the 2022 U.S. burley season? Contract prices for the 2022 U.S. burley crop vary from company to company, but based on buyer purchase shares from recent years and assuming a crop is sold as 50% graded as a #1 and 50% as a #2, generates an average price in the neighborhood of \$2.25 to \$2.30/lb for the 2022 crop. This compares to an average price of \$2.10/lb for the 2021 crop. If this average price increase of 7 to 10% materializes for the 2022 crop, it would not offset our projected 15 to 20% increase in production costs meaning that yields would have to be above average to sustain (dwindling) profit levels from last year.



In the latest crop report (August 2022), USDA estimates the 2022 U.S. burley crop at nearly 70 million pounds, which some would argue is on the “high” side given projected acres and yields. Based on current inventory levels and forecast leaf exports and domestic needs, the industry would likely prefer a U.S. burley crop in the 75 to 80 million pound level.

Consequently, the 2022 market could be interesting with the companies battling over limited pounds. For the first time in recent history, U.S. and global burley supply availability among manufacturers is (or at least should be) a concern for the 2022 marketing season and looking forward into 2023. Certainly, U.S. burley faces a multitude of longer-term issues such as regulatory, labor, and infrastructure challenges, along with an escalating reduction in domestic premium cigarette sales at the expense of generics and alternative tobacco products which use little or zero U.S. burley. Collectively these issues could further reduce the need for U.S. burley in the coming years. But for the interim, existing growers with a decent quality 2022 crop should receive a record high price for their leaf. Unfortunately, it will be the most expensive crop they have ever produced. While the current supply/demand balance for U.S. burley is favorable for growers, the question remains if the market will boost prices even higher for the 2022 crop and for the 2023 marketing season to improve future U.S. burley supply security among a declining and discouraged grower base.

Update on a New Tobacco Organization—As most of you are probably aware, the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative dissolved last year following a class-action lawsuit settlement. As part of the settlement, the court approved a distribution of funds to eligible growers, with a portion of the funds being devoted to forming a new grower’s organization to represent both U.S. burley and dark tobacco growers. This new entity plans to work closely with the existing Council for Burley Tobacco which receives the grower check-off contributions for tobacco sold in Kentucky. Joe Cain, former Director of Commodity Programs at Kentucky Farm Bureau, will serve as the new leader of this organization. Stay tuned for further updates as this organization evolves to represent burley and dark tobacco growers with tobacco companies, policymakers, government agencies, and others with ties to tobacco.



New Tick-Transmitted Cattle Disease Now Confirmed in KY

By Ric Bessin and Jonathan Larson, Entomology Extension Specialists

This past month, there were two cases of *Theileria orientalis Ikedia*, a protozoan disease, reported in Kentucky. The reports came from two cattle, one in Fleming County and the other in Hart County. This protozoan attacks red and white blood cells and causes bovine infectious anemia, lethargy, weakness, and possibly death in up to 5% of infected cattle. Cattle that recover can become carriers of the protozoan for the life of the animal. There is currently no vaccine or treatment for *T. orientalis*.

Theileria is vectored by the Asian longhorned tick. This tick species has been confirmed in seven Kentucky counties: Boone, Breathitt, Floyd, Martin, Metcalfe, Madison, and Perry. It is likely that other Kentucky counties may also be home for this species as it can be spread on birds and other wild animals. Currently, the strategy is to monitor herds by regularly inspecting for ticks and to manage ticks as necessary. Once Asian longhorned tick is confirmed in an area, assume it is established, and management of this tick will be a continuing process that is focused on regular monitoring, animal treatments, and wildlife and habitat management.

Fortunately, this bovine disease is not a threat to human health. Humans cannot become sick from contact with infected animals or from consuming meat from affected animals, provided that the meat has been cooked to the appropriate temperature.

Management—Cattle producers can help to minimize Asian longhorned tick exposure risk by using the following management recommendations:

Monitor for Asian Longhorned Tick—Regularly inspect your cattle for ticks. When inspecting cattle, check on the head and neck, flanks and back, armpits, groin, and under the tail. Check cattle carefully as this is a small tick and can be overlooked easily. All three tick stages (larvae, nymphs, and adults) can be on the animals at the same time. When adding cattle to a herd, inspect purchased cattle for ticks and treat as needed before adding to the herd. Symptoms to monitor include lethargy, low weight gain, patchy hair, and signs of anemia. Consider having cattle with these symptoms tested by a vet if ticks are found on them. Submit collected ticks to the local county Extension office, which can help get the specimens to the Department of Entomology for identification.

Chemical Control of Ticks—Once they are found, consider chemical control of Asian longhorned tick from March into November as this is the potential period of high transmission. Combining multiple methods of control, such as ear tags, along with back rubbers and other devices, should be considered over this long period. Ear tags can provide long duration control particularly around the head and neck region, but the types of ear tags used need to be rotated regularly to reduce the development of insecticide resistance. For resistance management to be effective, products from chemical classes with different modes of action must be rotated. Be sure to read and follow all label instructions with ear tags, including the number per animal for tick control. Back and side rubbers charged with insecticide can be used in locations the cattle are forced to walk through daily. These devices need to be recharged regularly according to the respective pesticide labels. Pour-ons of ivermectin are used for heavy infestations of ticks and applied as a narrow strip along the topline of the animal. Increased numbers of pasture flies on treated animals after a heavy rain may indicate the need to retreat the animal. It is best to treat all animals in the herd at the same time and follow all label requirements including time to retreat, withdrawal periods, beef vs. dairy, lactating vs. dry, and use of personal protection equipment.

Habitat Modification—Ticks do not like to be exposed to the sun or low humidity, so tall grass and brush favors tick survival. Mowing pastures short reduces tick survival, so mow before rotating cattle into pastures even if the cattle have been treated for ticks. Keep in mind that these ticks can survive long periods without feeding. Additionally, wildlife in un-grazed pastures can also sustain tick populations. Exclude cattle from wooded areas as these areas are more prone to higher tick populations and wildlife levels.

Treating acreages with insecticides to manage ticks is not feasible or effective in most situations. Insecticides such as carbaryl or lambda-cyhalothrin can be applied to the edges of properties where habitat modification is not able to occur.

Figure 1. Asian longhorned ticks are small, only a few millimeters in length. They are a reddish-brown color but do not have many distinguishing features. The engorged tick is on the right and unfed tick to the left (Photo: Ric Bessin, UK).



Acknowledgement—Management information adapted from: T. Dellinger, Eric Day. Managing the Asian Longhorned Tick: Checklist for Best Management Practices for Cattle Producers. Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Little Sandy Beekeepers Association Meetings

Tuesday, September 6 @ 6:00 PM

Tuesday, October 4 @ 6:00 PM * * * Speaker: Storey Slone, Grow Appalachia





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