

CARTER COUNTY

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

NEWSLETTER



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

March 2023 Upcoming Events

Denotes events where preregistration is required. Call 474-6686 or email Rebecca.k@uky.edu to register.

March 7 @ 6:00 PM	Little Sandy Beekeepers— Extension Office
March 9 @ 6:00 PM	*Farmer's Market Produce Best Practice— Online *
March 14 @ 10:00 AM	District Board Meeting—Extension Office
March 16 @ 10:00 AM	*Beef Palpation Clinic— Office & Suttles Farm* **Registration is FULL.**
March 20 @ 2:00 PM	*Private Pesticide Applicator Training—Extension Office*
March 20 @ 6:30 PM	Farmer's Market Vendor Training—Extension Office
March 21 @ 7:30 PM	*Sheep & Goat Antibiotics— Online*
March 23 @ 6:00 PM	*Farmer's Market Taxes & Record Keeping—Online*
March 28 @ 6:00 PM	Northeast Area Livestock Association Meeting—Extension Office
April 1 @ 9:00 AM	*Sheep & Goat Predator Control Workshop—Extension Office & Knipp Farm*
April 3 @ 6:00 PM	Woodland Threats & Comebacks—Boyd County Franks Building
April 4 @ 6:00 PM	Little Sandy Beekeepers—Extension Office
April 6 @ 1:00 PM	Hike & Learn—Carter Caves State Resort Park

Enjoy your newsletter,

Rebecca Konopka,

Carter County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources Education



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.

Farmer's Market Vendor Training—Senior & WIC Vouchers

March 20th @ 6:30 PM

This annual training is required for anyone who plans to accept Senior, WIC, & Double Dollar vouchers at the Carter County Farmer's Market in 2023.

Immediately following the training we will have a planning discussion for marketing ideas and events for the 2023 season.

Northeast Area Livestock Association Meeting

March 28th @ 6:00 PM

Speaker: Dan Miller, KY Beef Network

Follow-up trip to Eden Shale Farm on April 18th.



6:00PM VIA ZOOM

MARCH 9 : PRODUCE BEST PRACTICES TRAINING

MARCH 23: TAXES & RECORD KEEPING

APRIL 6: WHAT'S BUGGING MY GARDEN?



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CALL TO REGISTER OR
USE QR CODE:
CARTER COUNTY: (606)474-6686



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Little Sandy Beekeepers Association Meetings

March 7th @ 6:00 PM

Speaker: Dorothey Morgan Topic: Finding Swarms

April 4th @ 6:00 PM

Speaker: Caroline Kane

Topic: Viruses & Nutrition Supplements



First Thursday of the Month

April 6th @ 1:00 PM

Carter Caves State Resort Park

Natural Bridge Trail & Aquatic

Insect Steam Stomp

*Meet by the picnic table to the left of the welcome center.

*Bring your own snacks & drinks.

*Wear closed-toe shoes for the hike, but you may want extra shoes to change into after the stream stomp.

*During the stream stomp hikers will discover aquatic insects and how they relate to water quality.

*Distance: 3/4 mile

Next Month's Hike: May 4th @ 1:00 PM

Laurel Gorge Cultural Heritage Center

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



Woodland Threats and Comebacks

Monday, April 3, 2023
6-9 p.m.


Franks Building at the Boyd County Extension Education Center
1758 Addington Road, Ashland KY 41102


Free Admission
Complimentary Dinner of Soup Beans and Cornbread


Presented by
Boyd County Extension and Boyd County Conservation District


Lyndall Harned
Lyndall Harned
County Extension Agent
for Agriculture and Natural Resources

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
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White Oak Initiative

Darren Morris
Forestry Extension
Associate Senior
UK Department of Forestry
and Natural Resources

Invasive Insects

Ric Bessin
Extension Professor
UK Department of
Entomology

American Chestnut

Floyd Willis
Consultant Forester

Invasive Plants

Bill Knott
Chief Forester
Kentucky Division of
Forestry

This program will meet the CAIP Education Requirements for Boyd County

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546


Disabilities accommodated with prior notification

Join us online for Event available to KSWPA & KGPA Members Only

GFI 263 - ANTIBIOTICS REQUIRE VETERINARY PRESCRIPTION

March 21st, 2023 • 7:30 pm EST

Event Sponsored by   


WITH
DR. BETH JOHNSON,
DVM

The Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office is hosting a webinar on March 21st 7:30pm EST on the GFI 263: Antibiotic Prescriptions for Small Ruminants. Typically these webinars are only for KSWPA an KGPA members, however they want all producers to be aware and understand the changes coming in June 2023 on antibiotic usage in small ruminants. Register by March 20th at www.kysheepandgoat.org/event-registration.

SPRING FOREST FIRE HAZARD SEASON:


FEB. 15 - APR.30

It is illegal to burn between the hours of 6 AM and 6 PM.

From the Woods Today

Wednesdays @ 11:00 AM

March 8: Kentucky Maple Day
March 15: World Wood Day, Tree of the Week
March 22: The Importance of White Oak
March 29: Top 10 Landowner Issues, Wildlife Sounds



www.FromTheWoodsToday.com

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Predator Control & Guard Animal Management Workshop & Dinner



Who: Carter, Elliott, & Lewis County Extension Service and the Southeast Kentucky Sheep Producers Association (SEKSPA).

When: Saturday, April 1, 2023. Registration is from 8:30-9:00. At 9:00 am we will leave in convoy to an on-farm demonstration.

Where: Registration is at the Carter Co Extension Office at 94 Fairground Drive, Grayson, KY and the on-farm demonstration and then return to the Extension Office for lunch and classroom instruction.

Co-sponsored by: Tarter & Paris Stockyards.

Featured Speakers: UK Wildlife Specialist Dr. Matt Springer, KDA Veterinarian Dr. Beth Johnson and experts in guard animal management, predator hunting/snaring and coyote/bobcat trapping.

Registration Required. Please register by calling the Carter County Extension Office at 606-474-6686 by March 20th.

\$15.00 per family (+\$5.00 for each child over 12). Your registration fee will include a delicious lamb lunch with sides and a One-Year Membership to SEKSPA

This workshop qualifies for CAIP education credits

Weeds of the Month

Weeds to Target in March: Common Burdock, Buttercup, Chickweed, Chicory, Purple Deadnettle, Dock, Wild Garlic, Poison Hemlock, Henbit, Red Sorrel, Bull Thistle, Musk Thistle, Plumeless Thistle

See AGR-207 in last month's newsletter online at tinyurl.com/5uusk6np for recommended chemical and mowing options for these weeds.

Price is Only Part of the Cow-calf Revenue Story

By: Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

This calf market is starting to run, and I can feel the excitement as I travel across Kentucky this winter and talk with cattle producers at Extension programs. Calf prices have increased by \$10-\$20 per cwt in a lot of Southern markets since the end of 2022 and are likely to continue to improve as we move into spring. I think we are going to see some price levels that we have not seen in 8 years, which is certainly good news. But there is also a tendency for people to get so focused on price per lb that they lose sight of the larger revenue picture. So, I wanted to talk through a couple situations where the highest price per lb is not always best.

I recall back during the spring of 2015, someone sharing with the group at one of my Extension programs that they watched a group of steer calves sell for over \$3 per pound at a local market. Of course, this caught the attention of everyone in attendance that evening. I then asked about the weight of the cattle and was told they averaged 375 lbs. This led to a discussion of price slides and the importance of sale weight. The average price for a 550 lb steer in Kentucky at that time was \$2.50 per lb – a considerably lower price per pound than the much lighter steers. However, those 375 lb steer calves at \$3 per lb sold for \$1,125 per head, while those 550 lb steer calves at \$2.50 per lb sold for \$1,375 per lb. This would have been a difference of \$250 per head! The producer that sold those 375 lb steers definitely saw a much higher price per lb, but the producer that sold the 550 lb steers was much happier when they picked up their check.

The situation described in the previous paragraph is most common on extremely light calves and especially tends to occur in the spring. Price differentials by weight, often called price slide, tend to be wider on lighter cattle. And they will widen as overall market prices increase, which we likely to see this year. There is also a tendency for producers to sell earlier in strong markets in order to capitalize on higher price levels. In some cases, this can lead to much lower revenues per head.

A related situation where prices can be misleading occurs when cattle of similar weight are sold carrying different levels of flesh. There is a tendency for producers to want to be at the “top of the price range” for cattle of similar weight. If this occurs because the cattle are of superior quality, then topping the price range is ideal. However, I will sometimes see market reporters pull out a group of calves and note them as being “thin”. When this happens, more often than not, those cattle have sold at a higher price than cattle of similar weight without a “thin” designation. In those cases, the “thin” cattle likely sold for a higher price because the buyers recognize that they should have been carrying more weight and will see a lot of compensatory gain when placed on a feeding or grazing program. Again, the producer who sold those cattle received a higher price per lb, but likely left some pounds on the table that the next owner of the cattle will benefit from.

Holding everything else constant, a higher price per pound on cattle is preferable. But “holding everything else constant” is a big statement. It is important to understand why price differences exist across groups of cattle being sold. And by all means, don't forget the number that is multiplied by price – the weight of the animal being sold.



Changes in Kentucky Sales Tax That Apply to Farming

Pierce, J. Economic and Policy Update (23):2, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky, February 28th, 2023.

Legislation went into effect on the first of 2023 that made many services subject to Kentucky's 6% sales tax. One change was to the qualifications for residential use exemption from sales tax on utilities. As a result, Kentucky sales tax will be charged for utility services furnished to any location that is not your place of domicile, even if it was formally classified as residential.

The Agriculture Exemption License Number makes qualified farms exempt from sales tax on natural gas, LP, and water used exclusively and directly in qualified farming operations, but not electricity.

There are other changes that apply to farming:

"Marketing Services." Sales tax now applies to "developing marketing objectives and policies, sales forecasting, new product developing and pricing, licensing, and franchise planning." If you pay for things like marketing advice, strategies, advertising, and sales services expect to see KY sales tax added on to your bill.

Extended warranty services purchased separately are now subject to sales tax. An extended warranty, service agreement, or maintenance agreement provides prolonged coverage in addition to the standard warranty. Sales tax now applies to an extended warranty on farm machinery and equipment, even though the purchase price of the property itself is exempt. This also includes extended warranty contracts for land, buildings, and improvements.

Services performed by veterinarians and veterinary practices are now taxable. However, services for horses and food animals, like cattle, are exempt.

There is now a sales tax exemption for drugs and over-the-counter medications "that are purchased by a person regularly engaged in the business of farming and used in the treatment of cattle, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, ratite birds, llamas, alpacas, buffalo, aquatic organisms, or cervids."

Security system monitoring services for home and business are subject to sales tax.

Electric Vehicle (EV) power distributed in Kentucky by electric charging stations will be taxed at \$0.03 per kilowatt hour, including stations located on state property. Registration of a new EV and annual renewal registration fees now apply, as well.

For more information and a list of other services covered see [Kentucky Sales Tax Facts](#) from the Kentucky Department of Revenue.



Preparations for Spring Kidding and Lambing

- * Vaccinate pregnant does and ewes approximately 30 days prior to kidding or lambing with CD/T (Enterotoxemia Types C, D and Tetanus).
- * Shear pregnant wool ewes.
- * Trim feet and run through foot bath with 10% zinc sulfate solution.
- * De-worm pregnant ewes/does with a FAMACHA score of 3, 4, or 5.
- * Check facilities, equipment and supplies to ensure everything is ready for kidding/lambing.

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Tips for Beef Sire Selection

Source: Darrh Bullock, beef specialist

The overall goal of a beef cattle operation is to increase net income by balancing what is spent on the operation with how much income it generates. A beef producer can accomplish this goal by increasing income while minimizing additional costs, or reducing costs while trying to maintain income.

One way to do this is to improve herd genetics through individual bull selection.

You should assess four primary characteristics when considering a purchase. These are reproductive soundness, structural soundness, visual evaluation and performance characteristics.

Having a breeding soundness exam done is the best way to determine a bull's reproductive soundness. While passing this exam means he should have the physical soundness to breed and settle cows, it does not measure desire. Observe bulls for their interest in females in heat.

Indications of structural soundness are that the bull moves without pain or discomfort and has appropriate angles at weight-bearing joints.

Visual observation is one way to evaluate important traits. These can include disposition, color, muscling, horned/polled, body capacity, structure, sheath and testicular development.

Expected calf performance is a primary reason to buy a bull. If replacement females will be retained, the first decision will be the breed's productivity level. When the breed is determined, selection among bull performance should be based on the expected progeny difference whenever possible. There is no such animal as the "best bull," because selection should be based on what you need to get from the bull.

Remember that as you select to improve one trait you often lose ground in another trait. For example, selecting for increased growth usually inadvertently increases cows' mature size and maintenance when retaining replacements. Balancing cows' productivity levels and energy requirements is extremely difficult and if done improperly likely will result in decreased reproduction. Before you buy a bull, consider what you want to produce and what resources (primarily nutrition) you have available.

Bull selection has an important long-term economic impact on your herd. Selecting the right bull for your operation involves setting production goals, analyzing your resources and management and locating the bull that best fits your situation. While this process will take time and effort, it can generate significant financial rewards when properly done.



Spring Mowing Most Important of Yearlong Lawn Duties

Source: Gregg Munshaw, turf science extension specialist

It's difficult to envision mowing your lawn this spring when frost or snow greets you nearly every morning. Yet that first spring mowing, usually in late March, begins your most important annual lawn duties.

The first mowing makes the lawn look spring-like and very attractive. Subsequent regular mowing hardens the grass for drought and heat stresses later on.

So when the first clump of grass grows above the mowing height, mow, even if a lot of the yard doesn't need to be mowed yet.



Not all grasses start growing at the same time. Grass on northern slopes, or in heavy clay soil, will start growing several days later than normal. Grass that wasn't fertilized in the fall or early spring also has a delayed growth.

The following recommendations for mowing height and frequency will make your lawn-care duties easier and result in a more attractive yard.

If your mower has a fixed, all-year height, set it at 2.5 inches.

However, if you can easily vary the height, set it at 1.5 to 2 inches for the first several times you mow this spring. The shorter mowing height will help remove a lot of the winter-burned, brown leaves. And by exposing more dark green growth, it will transfigure your lawn into the most uniform, attractive in the neighborhood. Move the height up to 2.5 inches after you mow the grass several times.

To protect your grass from summer heat and drought injury, raise the mower height to 3 or 3.5 inches. However, remember that high grass, especially tall fescue, tends to fall over and mat down during hot summer weather causing increased summer disease problems. In the fall, lower the mowing height to 2.5 inches.

For the winter, you might want to lower it again to 1.5 to 2 inches. This shorter height improves the turf's winter and early spring color.

Never let grass go through the winter at a height of 4 or more inches, because it will mat down and become diseased.

Generally speaking, mow often enough to remove no more than one-third to one-half of the grass height. If your mower is set for 2 inches, mow again when grass height reaches approximately 3 inches. Be sure not to scalp the lawn by mowing off most of the green leaves.

For tall fescue lawns, a rule of thumb is to mow at five-day intervals during the spring, and at seven-day intervals the rest of the year. If you have a Kentucky bluegrass lawn, a seven-day interval usually is sufficient at a 2.5-inch mowing height. You probably can extend that interval during hot, dry weather.

Don't mow by the calendar. Instead, watch the grass grow, and mow frequently enough to remove no more than one-third to one-half of grass height.



FENCING TUNE-UP

Pasture growth goes for 0 to 60 in a matter of weeks. Being ready to utilize rapid spring growth is critical. March is a good month to check and repair fences. Clear limbs that may have fallen over winter, check energizers and make sure that temporary fencing supplies are ready to go.



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MARCH 2023

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FEBRUARY FLASHBACK

