Casey County Ag News

MARCH 2024

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Spring is finally around the corner! As a reminder now is a great time to be taking care of your soils. As always, soil probes are available to check out here at the office for free and soil samples are $8 each. Read further in the newsletter for more timely tips for March.

Kelsey Marcum

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Casey County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

CASEY COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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606-787-7384

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March Herbicide Weed Control

Common Burdock	Wild Garlic
Buttercup	Poison Hemlock
Common Chickweed	Henbit
Chicory	Plantain
Dandelion	Red Sorrel
Purple Deadnettle	Thistle
Dock	

Refer to AGR-207 for herbicide recommendations or call us for more information.

Upcoming Events

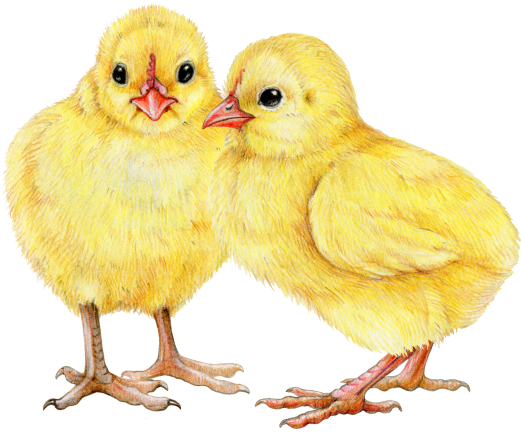
Grafting Class
March 5th at 5:00pm
Casey County Extension Office Educational Building
We will be grafting apple and pear trees. Participants must call to register as supplies are limited.
Cost: $5/tree

Casey Co. Cattlemen's Meeting
Sponsored by Cargill
March 14th at 6:30pm
Casey County Extension Office
Educational Building
There will be a meal provided, call to register 606-787-7384.
CAIP Approved.

Casey Co. Extension Council Meeting
March 18th at 5:00pm
Casey County Extension Office
Educational Building

Casey Co. EDB Meeting
March 20th at 8:30am
Casey County Extension Office

National Ag Week
March 24th-30th



AGstravaganza
March 28th
5:00-7:00pm
Central KY Ag Expo Center

Hunter Education Course and Range Day
March 23rd 8:00-2:00 CDT
Russell Co. Sportsmans Club
Bubby Flanagan Rd
Russell Springs, KY

Raised Bed Gardening Series
March 26th at 6:00pm
Casey County Extension Office

PLANTING DATES

Table 20.14. Vegetable gardener's calendar with planting dates for Western, Central, and Eastern Kentucky[1]

Western Ky	Central Ky	Eastern Ky	Planting Method[2]	Crop
Jan. 15	Jan. 22	Jan. 29	I	Onions
Feb. 1	Feb. 8	Feb. 15	I	Brussels sprouts
Feb. 15	Feb. 22	Mar. 1	I	Cole crops (Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi), lettuce, Chinese cabbage
Mar. 1	Mar. 8	Mar. 15	O	Spinach, mustard, beets, peas, edible podded peas
Mar. 15	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	M	Cabbage, kohlrabi
			O	Asparagus and rhubarb (crowns), beets, carrots, collards, kale, mustard, spinach, peas, edible pod-ded peas, early potato seed pieces, radishes, turnips, green onions, onion sets, endive
			I	Peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, sweet potato slips. Dig and divide any 4 year old rhubarb plants. Fertilize asparagus and rhubarb with 1 lb 5 10 10 per 100 sq ft.
Apr. 1	Apr. 8	Apr. 15	M	Broccoli, cauliflower, collards, lettuce, Chinese cabbage, Swiss chard, onions from seeds
			O	Mustard, spinach, radishes, lettuce, Swiss chard
Apr. 5	Apr. 12	Apr. 19	I	Muskmelons, watermelons, squash
			O	Sweet corn, beets, carrots, mustard, spinach, radishes, lettuce
May 1	May 8	May 15	O	Sweet corn, mustard, radishes, lettuce
May 7	May 15	May 22	O	Green beans, lima beans
			M	Tomatoes, muskmelons, watermelons, squash
June 1	June 8	June 15	O	Sweet corn
			M	Sweet potatoes
June 15	June 22	June 29	O	Sweet corn, late potatoes, summer squash, bush beans, lettuce, parsnips, beets, carrots
July 1	July 8	July 15	O	Sweet corn (early maturing variety), carrots, beets
July 10	July 18	July 25	O	Sow seeds of fall cole crops in a nursery area
July 15	July 22	July 29	O	Sweet corn (early maturing variety), kale, mustard, turnips, summer squash
Aug. 1	Aug. 8	Aug. 15	M	Transplant fall cole crops to permanent location between now and Aug. 15
			O	Peas, edible podded peas, bush beans, radishes, beets, mustard. Divide old rhubarb or plant crowns if not done in spring.
Aug. 15	Aug. 22	Aug. 29	O	Radishes, spinach, turnips, turnip greens, beets, mustard, lettuce, endive
Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	O	Radishes, spinach, mustard
Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29	O	Radishes, mustard, turnips, turnip greens
Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	O	Radishes
Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	O	Sow sets of Egyptian tree or multiplier onions. Harvest carrots before heavy freeze.
Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	O	Dig parsnips and store at 32 40°F, or mulch parsnips heavily in the ground

[1] Planting dates are approximate, consult you local weather conditions and adjust planting dates accordingly.
[2] **I:** Start seeds indoors; **M:** Move transplants to garden; **O:** Start seeds outdoors

KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UK MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
KSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY AND THE SCIENCES

Pulaski County Extension Office
P.O. Box 720
Somerset, KY 42502
Phone: (606) 679-6361

LIVING ON A FEW ACRES

March 16th
9 am - 12 noon

Woodstock Community Center
Call: 606-679-6361 to RSVP

Classes to Include:

- I bought a farm now what? USDA Update
- Soils for success
- Sheep & Goat Production
- Back yard poultry & rabbits 101
- Introduction to bee keeping
- Growing mushrooms logs
- Vegetables & Season Extension

Beef Timely Tips

Spring-Calving Cows

• Observe spring-calving cows closely. Check cows at least twice daily and first-calf heifers more frequently than that. Be ready to assist those not making progress after 1 to 2 hours of hard labor.

• See that each calf gets colostrum within an hour of birth or administer colostrum (or a commercial colostrum replacement) with an esophageal feeder, if needed.

• Identify calves with eartags and/or tattoos while calves are young and easy to handle and record birthdate and Dam ID.

• Separate cows that have calved and increase their feed. Energy supplementation to cows receiving hay is necessary to prepare them for rebreeding. For example, a 1250 lb cow giving 25 lb/day of milk would need about 25 lb of fescue hay and 5 lb of concentrate daily to maintain condition. If you need to go from a condition score of 4 to 5, you will need to add about 2 more lb of concentrate. Cows must be in good condition to conceive early in the upcoming breeding season.

• Watch for calf scours! If scours become a problem, move cows that have not calved to a clean pasture. Be prepared to give fluids to scouring calves that become dehydrated. Consult your veterinarian for advice and send fecal samples to diagnostic lab to determine which drug therapy will be most effective. Try to avoid feeding hay in excessively muddy areas to avoid contamination of the dams' udders.

• Continue grass tetany prevention. Be sure that the mineral mix contains high levels (~15%) of magnesium and that cows consume adequate amounts. You can feed the UK Beef IRM High Magnesium mineral.

• Plan to vaccinate calves for clostridial diseases (Blackleg, Malignant Edema) as soon as possible. You might choose to do this at the prebreeding working in late April or early May.

• Obtain yearling measurements on bulls and heifers this month (weight, height, pelvic area, scrotal circumference, ultrasound data, etc.) if needed for special sales. Heifers should be on target to be cycling by the start of the breeding season.

• Prepare bulls for the breeding season. Increase feed if necessary to have bulls in adequate condition for breeding. Obtain Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) on bulls, even if they were checked last breeding season. Only use bulls that pass the BSE.

• Finalize plans for your spring breeding program. Purchase new bulls at least 30 days before the breeding. Order semen now, if using artificial insemination.

Fall-Calving Cows

• Bull(s) should be away from the cows now!

• Plan to pregnancy check cows soon. You can also blood test for pregnancy as early as 30 days after bull removal.

• Creep feed calves with grain, by-products, or high-quality forage. Calves will not make satisfactory gains on the dam's milk alone after about 4 mos. of age – since there isn't much pasture in March, fall calves need supplemental nutrition. Be sure that feed bunks are low enough that calves can eat with the cows.

• Consider adding weight and selling your fall calves as "heavy" feeder calves. Keep them gaining!

General

• If you have a dry, sunny day, use chain-link harrow to spread manure in areas where cattle have overwintered. This may be done in conjunction with renovation.
• Renovation and fertilization of pastures should be completed. Start thistle control.
• Watch for lice and treat if needed.

Forage Tips

- Continue pasture renovation by no-tilling seeding legumes.
- Place small seed at 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep and check depth several times during planting; slow down for more precise seeding.
- Continue feeding hay until adequate forage exists in the pasture for grazing.
- Spring seeding of grasses should be done in early to mid-March (but fall is preferred)
- Begin smoothing and re-seeding hay feeding and heavy traffic areas.
- Graze pastures overseeded with clover to reduce competition from existing grasses. Pull off before grazing new clover plants.
- Provide free choice high-magnesium mineral to prevent grass tetany on lush spring growth.

From the Woods Today Webinar

From the Woods Today is a weekly internet show co-hosted by Renee' Williams and Billy Thomas and the UK Forestry and Natural Resources Extension team. Join us live on Wednesday's at 11:00am.

2024 IPM Training School – March 18

The 2024 Integrated Pest Management Training School meeting will take place on March 18. This year, the event will be held at the Warren County Extension Office, Bowling Green, KY. Several University of Kentucky Extension specialists and associates will discuss diverse topics on field crops, horticulture, and wildlife management in agricultural settings.

This event offers CEUs to pesticide applicators and certified crop advisers. Pesticide applicators will receive 4 and 3 CEUs for Category 1A when attending morning and afternoon sessions, respectively. Certified crop advisers will receive CEUs for soil and water management (1), IPM (2) and crop management (1) for the morning session. The afternoon program offers 2 CEUs for IPM and 1 CEU for crop management.

Registration for either morning or afternoon session is required to attend in person or online. Online registration is available at the UKREC website on the event tab.

Grasslands Partnership Project

The Casey County Cooperative Extension Service has been selected among a dozen counties in Kentucky to participate in a USDA funded, multi-state project referred to as the "Grasslands Partnership". The goal of this project is to implement and demonstrate climate smart practices that improve grasslands management and, in turn, improve farm productivity, profits, and access to future markets that may expect enhanced environmental benefits.

This project is focused on documenting the impact of six grassland management practices on soil carbon storage, input costs, profitability, productivity, and, for some practices, responses of grassland birds and pollinators. Participants are required to install at least three of the designated practices and required to maintain them for a 5-year period. Support will be provided to implement practices.

During the 5-year period, participants will allow researchers access to their farms to collect data on the impacts made as a results of the practices. Participants will also be required to maintain detailed grazing management, fertilizer, herbicide, and seeding records. One or more field days will also be held on each participating farm.

The six grassland management practices included in this program are as follows:

Perennial Native Grasses- Participants will establish a minimum of 5 and up to 25 acres of big bluestem/ Indiangrass/little bluestem seed mix or switchgrass. Proper grazing management practices will be applied.

Perennial Grass/Forb Buffers- Participants will establish 60 feet wide buffers (2-10 acres total) around row crop fields to reduce runoff and encourage habitat for birds and pollinators.

Alternative N Sources- Participants will establish and maintain 5-30 acres of legumes. No nitrogen may be applied during the 5-year period. Acres enrolled will include grazing management practices.

Improved Grazing Management- Participants will implement improved grazing practices on 10 to 30 acres. Managed grazing heights will be implanted and grazing will begin when enrolled field reaches 10 inches and livestock will be removed when residue reaches 4 inches.

Silvopasture- Participants will establish 2-10 acres of silvopasture. Silvopasture, a sustainable agroforestry practice, involves the intentional integration of forage, trees, and livestock. Silvopastures offer potential for numerous environmental, economic, and social benefits, including improved soil health, increased biodiversity, enhanced livestock responses, and diversified income streams for farmers.

Novel Soil Amendments- Participants will apply biochar or gypsum, to slow soil N transformations and losses from the soil and increase rates of carbon sequestration. Measurements will be collected on forage productivity and nutritive value, as well as carbon sequestration and the mitigation of greenhouse gases in grasslands.

Of the above listed six practices, a minimum of three practices must be implemented by the participant. In addition, the participant must have a field that undergoes their normal management. In other words, "business as usual". Data will be collected from this field to further document improvement made from the practices implemented. If you would like to know more about the Grasslands Project, contact the Casey County Cooperative Extension Service at 606-787-7384.

Chicken and Dumpling Soup

Servings: 10 Serving Size: 1 cup
Recipe Cost: $9.63
Cost per Serving: $.96

Ingredients:
2/3 cups cooked chicken, cubed
4 carrots
3 stalks of celery
3 medium potatoes
½ yellow onion
1 clove garlic
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 (32-ounce) boxes of low sodium chicken broth
2 cups frozen peas
1 (12-ounce) package frozen dumplings
Salt and pepper, optional

Directions:
Chop vegetables into bite sized cubes; chop onion and garlic finely.
In a large soup pot, heat olive oil over medium-high heat and sauté the onion and garlic until tender.
Add the carrots, celery and potatoes and stir for a few minutes, being careful not to burn them.
Pour in the broth and bring to a boil. Add dumplings, a few at a time.
Turn down heat and simmer for about 15 minutes, stirring often, until the vegetables have softened.
Add chicken and raise heat to medium-low for 10 minutes.
Add frozen peas during the last five minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Nutrition facts per serving: 220 calories; 5 g total fat; 1 g saturated fat; 0 g trans fat; 35 mg cholesterol; 200 mg sodium; 23 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 19 g protein; 50% Daily Value of vitamin A; 24% Daily Value of vitamin C; 8% Daily Value of calcium; 10% Daily Value of iron