

Washington County Cooperative Extension Service

# Agriculture And Natural Resources

Newsletter



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

Cooperative Extension Service

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## Tobacco Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

March 26th at 6:00 PM

Nelson County Extension Office

317 South Third Street

Bardstown, KY 4004

Note: This will be the only Tobacco Gab Training in the  
Washington, Nelson, and Marion County Areas

## Growing Alfalfa and Stored Forage Efficiency, One Conference At a Time By Madison Dymnt



Lexington, Ky., (Jan. 22, 2018) – The 37th annual Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference will be hosted on Feb. 22 by the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council. This daylong conference will extend from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. CST at the Cave City Convention Center in Cave City.

The conference focuses on teaching ways to maximize both production and utilization of alfalfa. With presentations from University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment specialists and other industry representatives, participants will hear topics such as alfalfa establishment and export markets for alfalfa hay.

Intermittent breaks and opportunities for discussion are provided. The event also offers lunch and a silent auction for attendees. Attendees are welcome to browse exhibits during breaks.

Registration is \$30 per person before Feb.15 and \$40 afterwards. Sponsor fees are \$250, including an exhibit booth and one general registration. For all registrations, go to <http://www.KYAlfalfa2018.eventbrite.com>.

More information on the conference and directions to the convention center are available on the UK forage extension website at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>.

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# Cattle Lice

Dr. Lee Townsend U.K. Entomologist

Lice may be the reason for cattle scratching to the point of rubbing off large patches of hair or creating raw sores. The biting and sucking lice that infest cattle are most numerous and active during winter and can spread easily from animal by direct contact. Confirm that lice are the reason for the scratching by examining some animals in the herd. Part the animal's hair in spots where lice are likely to occur and look for lice eggs (nits) attached to hairs (Figure 1)



Figure 1. Individual nits or eggs of lice are glued to hairs. Look for them when investigating causes of excessive scratching (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK).

## Biting Lice

The single species of the biting louse that occurs on cattle is about 1/12 inch long with a yellow-white body and wide red head (Figure 2). These lice can be found all over the bodies of young and mature cattle. They feed on skin, skin secretions, and hair, causing irritation.

## Sucking Lice



Figure 2. Biting lice have wide triangular heads and feet that let them grasp onto hairs (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

There are three species of sucking lice; they are blood feeders. These lice are most commonly found on the head, neck, brisket, withers, around the base of the tail, and along the inner surfaces of the legs. Shortnose and little blue cattle lice are more often found on older animals; the little blue louse tends to occur on the head. The longnose cattle louse is most often found on young cattle.

## Management

If lice are present, two insecticide applications may be needed to clean-up the infestation. The first treatment kills active adult and immature lice but does not kill nits or eggs on the hide. The second application, about 14 days later, targets newly hatched lice.

There are plenty of lice to go around. Different species also attack horses, goats, and swine. The signs and impact on these animals are very similar to what is seen on cattle; the control approach is similar, also.

## Nuisance Weed Spraying

Kentucky Department of AG and the Washington County Extension Office will be spraying for nuisance weeds/broadleaf weeds.

They will spray 10 acres at no cost. They will do additional 10 acres and producer must supply the chemical.

Producer must provide tractor and operator and they must have a water source. Sign ups will be done during the month of February.

To sign up or for more information, contact Cheryl Mattingly at the Washington County Extension Office. 859-336-7741.

## UK to Host Tall Fescue Pasture Renovation Workshop

Lexington, Ky., (Jan. 24, 2018) – Tall fescue is a double-edged sword for many forage and livestock producers. University of Kentucky forage extension specialists are teaming up with the Alliance for Grassland Renewal to host a workshop to teach producers how to renovate their tall fescue pastures with a novel endophyte variety.

The Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop will take place March 8 at the Bluegrass Stockyards and UK's Spindletop Research Farm in Lexington.

Producers have widely used tall fescue in pastures for decades, because it survives well under many conditions including drought, cold, overgrazing, insects and diseases. However, the most common variety, KY-31, also contains toxins that can severely affect cattle and horse performance. By replacing it with a novel endophyte variety, producers can keep the beneficial aspects of the grass while reducing the negative impacts.

“There are a growing number of novel or friendly endophyte tall fescue varieties on the market, including UK's own variety, Lacefield MaxQ II,” said Ray Smith, forage extension specialist in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “This workshop will help producers learn how they can begin to incorporate these varieties into their operation.”

During the workshop, participants will hear from Kentucky producers, UK specialists, industry representatives and speakers from the University of Missouri, Noble Research Institute and U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

To register visit <http://www.2018UKYNovelTallFescue.eventbrite.com> or for more information visit the UK forage extension website at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>. Article by Katie Pratt

## Routine Tractor Maintenance By Tim Stombaugh

Don't let the maintenance of your tractor go by the wayside when you get busy. There's a tendency to put maintenance on the back burner as spring and summer field activities get into full swing. Often when we do think about maintenance, it is the implement we think about, and we ignore the tractor.

A simple front-to-back routine every week can help you remember key maintenance points. The manufacturer will have suggested-intervals for most of the maintenance tasks, so you won't have to do everything every week. But the routine will prompt you to ask if it is time to do specific tasks.

Start with the front axles and steering. Is it time to grease those bearings and steering components? Make sure nothing is loose. Next, check the coolant system. Make sure the coolant levels are adequate. Make sure the radiator is not plugged up with debris.

Now, take a look at the belts. Make sure they have the right tension and that they are not cracked. This will prompt you to have a spare on hand. Look at the air cleaner. Make sure it's not plugged up and robbing power from your engine by not allowing air to get through.

Take a look at the engine oil. You should check this daily, but if you haven't, a good time to do it is during your weekly inspection. Also check the fluid itself. Make sure it doesn't have any contaminants or water in it.

If your battery is not a maintenance-free battery, check to make sure the liquid levels are adequate. Check the cables for corrosion and make sure they aren't rubbing against the frame components.

Move on to the clutch and brake linkages. When you use a tractor every day, you may not notice the linkage getting out of adjustment. Make a specific effort to check for free play and other adjustments on that linkage.

Look at your hydraulic reservoir. Make sure the fluid is at the correct level and be sure to change the fluid when needed. Not only does the system provide fluids for remote cylinders, but it is the critical lubricating force in your tractor's transmission.

Look at tires to make sure they have the proper inflation. Make sure the back of the tractor is clean, especially where the hydraulic hoses are connected, so you don't get dirt in the system.

# Timely Tips Dr. Roy Burris Beef Professor UK

## Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Start cows on the high magnesium mineral supplement soon. Consider protein supplementation if hay is less than 10% crude protein. If cows are thin, begin energy (grain) supplementation now.
- Consider vaccinating the cows to help prevent calf scours. • Keep replacement heifer calves gaining enough to reach their “target” breeding weight (65% mature weight) and to be cycling by the start of the spring breeding season.
- Study the performance of last year's calf crop and plan for improvement. Plan your breeding program and consider a better herd sire(s). Select herd sires which will allow you to meet your goals and be willing to pay for superior animals.
- Get ready for calving season! See that all equipment and materials are ready, including obstetrical equipment, record forms or booklets, ear tags, scales for obtaining birth-weights, etc. Prepare a calving area where assistance can be provided easily if needed. Purchase ear tags for calves and number them ahead of time if possible. Plan for enough labor to watch/assist during the calving period.
- Move early-calving heifers and cows to pastures that are relatively small and easily accessible to facilities in case calving assistance is needed. Keep them in good condition but don't overfeed them at this time. Increase their nutrient intake after they calve. Fall Calving Cow Herd
- Breeding season continues. Keep fall calving cows on accumulated pasture as long as possible, then start feeding hay/grain. Don't let these cows lose body condition!
- Provide clean windbreaks and shelter for young calves.
- Catch up on castrating, dehorning and implanting.



## General

- Provide water at all times. Cattle need 5 to 11 gallons per head daily even in the coldest weather. Be aware of frozen pond hazards. Keep ice "broken" so that cattle won't walk out on the pond trying to get water. Automatic waterers, even the “frost-free” or “energy-free” waterers can freeze up in extremely cold weather. Watch closely.
- Increase feed as the temperature drops, especially when the weather is extremely cold and damp. When temperature drops to 15°F, cattle need access to windbreaks
- Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem. Consider preparing a feeding area with gravel over geotextile fabric or maybe a concrete feeding pad.
- Consider renovating and improving pastures with legumes, especially if they have poor stands of grass or if they contain high levels of the fescue endophyte. Purchase seed and get equipment ready this month.

# WASHINGTON COUNTY BEEKEEPING SCHOOL

8:00 am – 4 pm, Saturday, March 24, 2018

Washington County Extension Office, Springfield, KY 40069



\$30.00 (Includes lunch, reference materials and handouts)

For more information, contact the Washington County Extension Office, Springfield, KY 40069 at (859) 336-7741 or by email to [dennis.morgeson@uky.edu](mailto:dennis.morgeson@uky.edu) . Onsite registration will be available.

## (B)– Basic Class

7:30 – 8:00 Registration/Check in  
8:00 - 8:30 Welcome/Introductions  
8:30 - 9:30 (B)Introduction to Beekeeping  
9:45 - 10:45 (B)Essential Beekeeping Equipment  
11:00 – Noon (B)Getting and Installing Bees  
Noon-12:30 Lunch  
12:30 - 1:30 (B)Basic Hive Management  
1:45 - 2:45 (B)Planting Pollinator Friendly  
3:00 - 4:00 (B)Honey Bee Pests and Diseases

## (I)– Intermediate Class

Registration/Check in  
Welcome/ Introductions  
(I)“Certified Kentucky Honey” Initiative  
(I)Raising Queens  
(I)Splits and Nucs  
Lunch  
(I)Catching and installing Swarms  
(I)Extracting/Bottling Honey; Pollen  
(I)Panel Discussion

**\*\*KSU Beehive Autoclave (wooden ware sterilizer for boxes/frames) will be operating from 10:00-4:0**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  Basic  Intermediate

Return completed form and check (payable to Washington County Bee Club) by mail to Washington County Extension Office, Attn Bee School, 211 Progress Ave. Springfield, KY 40069-1435.

Email: [dennis.morgeson@uky.edu](mailto:dennis.morgeson@uky.edu)





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## Reduce Stress With Good Record Keeping



Record keeping may not be every farmer's favorite activity, and probably not the reason someone chooses farming as a career. With time, patience and a commitment to get it done, it can make your financial life a lot less stressful.

Record keeping doesn't have to be difficult. It's a way to keep track of things about your operation that will help you make better long-term decisions. You can use a ledger book or a computer—whatever helps you maintain consistency. Software programs can make your data more meaningful.

Software has become more user-friendly over time, and while it may not make the record keeping process fun, it could help you see the overall picture of your operation. Some programs track purchases and how you use each item on a particular enterprise or field. You'll be able to keep track of repair and maintenance records for specific farm equipment and produce balance sheets, income statements and cash flow budgets.

For many livestock operations, a good time to start keeping records is when the veterinarian comes to check your animals. Vets usually charge per head, so that data can help you develop a list of animals that need attention. You can use the same data to develop health histories of your animals, which will lead to more informed exams and diagnosis in the future.

Make record keeping a team effort for your family. Sit down and work on the records and budget together. Perhaps one person can read the information while another person types it into the software program or writes it in the ledger book. Also, if you do a little bit each day and don't save it all up for the end of the year, you won't become overwhelmed.

If you've done the work throughout the year, year-end procedures can feel more satisfying. You can generate year-end reports with a few simple clicks and not have to sort through stacks of bills lying around the home or office. Source: Steve Isaacs, Extension Agricultural Economist

## A Note From Dennis

Hello, as you are probably aware we are still without an Agent for Agriculture in Washington County, however I am here and willing to help with whatever problems you may have. If I don't know the answers I will get them for you.

Please note that on the front of this newsletter is the information about the Tobacco GAP Program, for those that need this please be sure to attend as it will be one of the last ones statewide! It will also be the only one in our general area.

I hope you are all staying well and the mud and cold haven't gotten you down! Remember Spring is only 6 weeks away and now is a good time to plan ahead and be ready for when the weather breaks. Happy Farming!

*Dennis Morgeson*