

Estill County Farm Scoop

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Cooperative Extension Service

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Dear Producer:

December 21, 2011



KY Fruit & Vegetable Conference

January 5-6, Embassy Suites Hotel

1801 Newtown Pike, Lexington, Kentucky

For meeting registration information, contact our office or John Strang at (859) 257-5685

Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Convention

January 12-14, 2012

Lexington Convention Center

Trade Show and Educational Sessions

For information, call 859-278-0899 or

visit <http://kycattle.org>



Madison-Estall Grain Production Meeting



Tuesday, January 31st

Madison Co. Extension Office

Duncannon Lane, Richmond

6:00 p.m., sponsored meal

Pre-register by calling 723-4557.

Agriculture – Reviled or Revered?

By Dr. Roy Burris, Beef Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

The world population just reached another milestone in October – 7 billion people on planet earth. That’s 7,000,000,000 – a lot of mouths to feed. Yet some of the “great minds of our time” continue to insist that “agriculture is the main driver of most ecological problems on the planet”. While agriculture is under pressure from extremist groups and is seemingly maligned at every turn – just who do they expect to feed this population that will likely reach 9 billion by 2050?

Human Numbers Through Time (NOVA on-line)		
Year	World Population	Comments
1800	One billion	By 1800 the world population had climbed to the landmark level of one billion people. The industrial revolution raised living standards and spurred growth.
1927	Two billion	127 years later . . . the world population had grown to two billion and a population “explosion” was about to begin.
1960	Three billion	33 years later . . . advances in medicine, agriculture and sanitation had spread to many places in the developing world.
1974	Four billion	14 years later . . . new reproductive technologies had helped curb the growth rate but with so many people in the world the population explosion was now underway.
1987	Five billion	13 years later . . . the population had grown to five billion.
1999	Six billion	12 years later . . . we had reached six billion people. Five percent of the people live in America and 6 percent live in Asia.
2011	Seven billion	12 years later . . . and the world population added another one billion people. In the next 50 years we will add another two billion people (up to 9 billion). Nearly all of this growth will take place in developing countries, where the demand for food and water outstrips supplies.

Just where in the world is this increase in the human population expected to occur? Where will the food come from? If you are 36 years of age, the world population has increased by 3 billion people during your life time and will have doubled by the time you are 50. In less than 40 years from now our population will probably have reached the 9 billion level. (Source: NOVA on-line)

The troubling fact about this expected increase is simply that it appears that those that can least afford to feed children (i.e. less developed countries) may give birth to the most. That’s a moral dilemma that has huge implications for a global society. For example, animal rights advocates, who insist that all sentient beings are equal, may have to relent and agree that it is alright to kill rodents even if they can sense pain. What would happen if a poor undernourished population was infested with rats and vermin? Would we have epidemics like the black plague?

A lot of those implications are beyond my knowledge and understanding but, perhaps, we can address how this might affect those of us in the cattle business. Cereal grains (rice, wheat, corn, etc.) will likely be under heavy pressure from this growing population, if they can afford them. In my opinion, we should position ourselves for the future by competing less for grain. Can we lessen our dependence on corn for finishing beef cattle? Conventional wisdom says “no” but I believe that we will. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Burris article continued...

The cow of the future will consume more forage from land not suitable for tillage and more by-products and alternative foods that aren't intended for human consumption. What about the type of meat that we produce? This increase in population will not likely grill a T-bone in their back yard but might be glad to get a soy burger. Hence, we could have a "two-tiered" system of beef production . . . high-end and commodity beef.



The old adage about "not criticizing agriculture with your mouth full" will become passé when many people in the world are hungry and undernourished. I am tired of people who want to impose their "values" upon our noble profession. Maybe – just maybe – agriculture, including animal agriculture, will someday be revered instead of much maligned when people realize that we may hold the key to everyone's future.

CAIP cost share signup in January. Watch for details.



Estill County Community Food Bank
To donate, contact 606-723-3116

Richmond CPH45 Sale is January 17th, 6:00 p.m.

>>>Extension Office closed December 24th through January 2nd<<<

*Wishing everyone
a Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!*



see blue.
in the College of Ag



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UKAg
EXTENSION

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2012 KY Equine Survey Coming

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be surveying the equine industry in Kentucky in summer of 2012. This is a statewide survey, incorporating all breeds and types of equine, which include horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules. The survey will determine population and location of equines in the state, as well as the economic impact of the equine industry in Kentucky. A survey of this magnitude has not been done since 1977. For more information, check out the following website:

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/equine/kyequinesurvey>



UK Equine Showcase and KY Breeders' Short Course

University of Kentucky Equine Initiative will host a UK Equine Showcase January 20th and the 3rd Annual Kentucky Breeders' Short Course January 21 at the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Lexington.

The UK Equine Showcase is a program highlighting the latest UK equine research focused on the young horse. The program will run from 1 to 5 p.m. with a reception following. The 3rd Annual Kentucky Breeders' Short Course is an in-depth equine reproductive program from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. January 21st with lunch provided. Both programs are open to veterinarians, owners and managers of all horse breeds or anyone with an interest in learning more about equine reproduction and topics concerning the young horse. Continuing education credit for veterinarians and veterinary technicians is pending approval by the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners. For information, visit <http://www.ca.uky.edu/gluck/NewsShortCourse2012.asp> or call 859-257-4757.