

# Of Cows & Plows



## October 2010

**Cooperative  
Extension Service**  
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## Cattlemen's Annual Membership Meeting

## Southern States/ FCCA Live Demonstration Event

Mark the evening of October 18<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for your Annual Membership Meeting. Please contact the office at 695-9035 to let us know if you plan to attend so we can have a steak for you and be eligible for door prizes.

On Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup> your local Southern States and the Cattlemen's Association have teamed up for a Cattle Demonstration Event at Steve Hughes farm on Shadrick Ferry Road. Steve has a really nice backgrounding operation and has graciously offered his facility for this meeting and live animal demonstration.

Pfizer will sponsor the evening's meal. Mark Wainscott from Pfizer, will make a presentation on their products and Dr. Faulkner will discuss animal health. Come enjoy supper, learn about the newest vaccines and protocol for animal health and enjoy fellowship with other cattlemen. We'll see highlights from the trip to Colorado and Wyoming and elect new directors (call the office to nominate).

On hand with information and displays will be Brent Tolle, Meriel Animal Health; Phil Rowland, Novartis Animal Health; Todd Wilson, Tarter Gate and Livestock Equipment; Bill Mills, True Test Scales and Y-Tex Ear tags; Larry Forsback, Mol-Mix Liquid Feeds; Rick Rudd, Southern States Farm Supply Rep and Gallagher Electric Fencing; Jeffrey Dryden, Southern States Feed Sales and Tech Representative.

The Annual Meeting is a time to renew your membership (\$25) and friendship with fellow cattlemen. The FCCA will also be voting on new board members. There is one vacancy this year. Terms are for 3 years. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone you know for a position please contact the Extension Office or President Joe Roe by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Current Board Members are Lona Brewer, Ricky Cornish, R.W Eldridge (Treasurer)\*, Stephen Hockensmith, Jim Morse, John Mucci, Roger Perkins, Kerry Redding, Thomas Roe (President), Patrick Stone\* (Vice President), Susan Wise.

There will be door prizes and sale pricing on many products that day as well as displays of lots of items and lines. The event starts at 11:30 and lunch will be provided by the sponsors. Please call the Extension Office to let us know if you plan to attend. For details contact David Hill, Southern States Associate at 502 633-3017.

\* indicates expiring term.

*Americans have given an ever smaller cut of the food dollar to its farmers. The psychic divide between rural and urban people is surely a part of the problem. "Eaters must understand", Wendell Berry writes, "that eating takes place inescapable in the world, that it is inescapably an agricultural act, and that how we eat determines, to a considerable extent, how the world is used".*

Barbara Kingsolver, "Animal, Vegetable, Mineral"

# Free Soil Tests!

For the month of October, take advantage of free basic soil testing. Limit 5 test per customer.

Advantages:

- Quicker turnaround time
- No springtime delays
- Apply amendments this winter
- Allows time for lime to react

Bring in one pint of soil to be tested for each field. For details on how to sample, ask for AGR-16 Taking Soil Test Samples.

# Effects of a Freeze on Forages

When plants freeze, changes occur in their metabolism and composition that can poison livestock. But you can prevent problems.

Sorghum-related plants, like cane, sudangrass, shattercane, and milo can be highly toxic for a few days after frost. Freezing breaks plant cell membranes. This breakage allows the chemicals that form prussic acid to mix together and release this poisonous compound rapidly. Livestock eating recently frozen sorghums can get a sudden, high dose of prussic acid and potentially die. Fortunately, prussic acid soon turns into a gas and disappears into the air. So wait 3 to 5 days after a freeze before grazing sorghums; the chance of poisoning then becomes much lower.

Freezing also slows down metabolism in all plants. This stress sometimes permits nitrates to accumulate in plants that are still growing, especially grasses like oats, millet, and sudangrass. This build-up usually isn't hazardous to grazing animals, but green chop or hay cut right after a freeze can be more dangerous.

Alfalfa reacts two ways to a hard freeze, down close to twenty degrees, cold enough to cause

plants to wilt. Nitrate levels can Research & Education Center Princeton, KY 42445

For more forage information, visit our UK Forage Extension Website at:

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage> increase, but rarely to hazardous levels. Freezing also makes alfalfa more likely to cause bloat for a few days after the frost. Then, several days later, after plants begin to wilt or grow again, alfalfa becomes less likely to cause bloat. So waiting to graze alfalfa until well after a hard freeze is a good, safe management practice.

Frost causes important changes in forages so manage them carefully for safe feed. (SOURCE: Bruce Anderson, University of Nebraska)

# Franklin County Conservation District Scrap Metal Drive

You have several weeks to start getting those piles of scrap metal gathered up and loaded. The Franklin County Conservation District's Scrap Metal and Appliance Recycling Drive will once again be held this fall. For details and the dates contact Eric at 695-5203 X 3.



You are encouraged to drop off all metal items and appliances for reprocessing. Old fencing, sheet metal, farm equipment, etc can be disposed of by hauling it to the site during daylight hours. Items not accepted are batteries, wet paint, shingles, tires (BUT items with Freon can be accepted). Many of these items are recyclable and should be handled accordingly. To find out how to dispose of what is not accepted; contact Mark Barrett, County Waste Coordinator, at 875-8751.



<http://capitalclassicheifersale.com/>  
October 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:00 pm  
Owenton Producers Stockyard

# Fall Schedule for Parasite Management in Goats

Terry K. Hutchens, Extension Specialist U.K.

Fall is the time of year when we often see unexpected deaths in goats due to internal parasites. Remember that the primary parasite of concern is a warm season or tropical parasite whose population increases exponentially from spring to fall. This particular parasite is deadly because of blood feeding.

It is important to get all the goats up in the fall and check each goat for anemia. The FAMACHA method of check the lower eyelids of each animal is an excellent method of determining anemia in livestock and the anemic condition can be related to the extent of internal parasite infection. We caution producers to avoid total herd deworming. Total herd deworming as well as frequent deworming hastens the development of anthelmintic resistance.

An alternative method is to deworm only those goats showing a FAMACHA reading of 3, 4 or 5. Goats with FAMACHA scores of 1 or 2 should not be dewormed, while goats showing moderate anemia, FAMACHA 3 should be dewormed with a less effective product having a moderate killing power where as your best deworm should be held in reserve and used on FAMACHA scores of 4 and 5. This will preserve the effectiveness of your best dewormer since FAMACHA scores of 4 and 5 occurs relatively infrequently.

The effectiveness of all the dewormers can be improved by moving the goats to a dry lot area, withhold feed for 12 to 24 hours prior to deworm. This will slow the metabolism of the animals down and extends the dewormer contact time.

Remember to assist the animals in maintain a high degree of natural immunity to these parasites by providing an adequate plane of nutrition. Goats in poor body condition, in late pregnancy or lactating are subject to higher incidences of parasite infection and should be fed to meet their nutritional needs in order to enhance the development of natural resistance to infection.

Weigh each animal and to avoid underdosing. Administering less than the needed amounts increases the rate of resistance development. Most of the deworming products used in goat production are off label. *They are not labeled for use in goats.* Therefore, producers must work closely with their veterinarian and use these products as directed by their veterinarian.

Finally, move the animals on to a pasture that has significant regrowth or following a haying operation. This will aid in reducing the rate of reinfection prior to the winter months. With good management, the next deworming event will be 4 weeks prior to kidding or at kidding.

## NAILE

Known as the largest all-breed, purebred livestock show in the world, the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) draws nearly 22,000 entries and approximately 200,000 visitors to Louisville each year.

NAILE is much more than an ordinary showcase of livestock. Throughout the show, visitors will enjoy the Giant Country Store with its nearly 150 commercial vendors selling everything from fine jewelry and food to western clothing and farm supplies. Global industry standards are annually established during the show as breeders merchandise bloodlines and genetics to local and international interests. Altogether, more than 140 shows, sales, breed meetings, entertainment events, and judging contests are held during the 14-day event.



### 2010 Schedule by Show

Beef Cattle	Nov. 13 - 19
Boer and Junior Wether Goats	Nov. 17 - 18
Championship Rodeo	Nov. 11 - 13
Dairy Cattle	Nov. 5 - 9
Dairy Goats	Nov. 5 - 7
Draft Horses	Nov. 12 - 13
Giant Country Store	Nov. 6 - 19
Llamas and Alpacas	Nov. 5 - 7
Mules and Donkeys	Nov. 11 - 13
Quarter Horses	Nov. 3 - 11
Sheep	Nov. 12 - 19
Swine	Nov. 7 - 8



## KY Beef Conference

Kentucky landowners still have time to sign up for the **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** at their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office but the deadline for the Fiscal Year 2011 CSP ranking period is quickly approaching. According to NRCS State Conservationist Tom Perrin, now is the time for landowners and producers who have considered applying for CSP to sign up and submit the required documentation. USDA will be announcing the national cutoff date for CSP within the next few weeks. The national cutoff date for this ranking period will be posted on [www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov) immediately after it is announced.

CSP is a voluntary program that encourages producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional practices on their operations. The program is popular for producers who go the extra mile with conservation and sustainable operations—whether they've accomplished goals on their own, with other conservation partners, or through USDA and NRCS programs.

"If you've heard about the new CSP and talked with other local producers or read about others involved with it, now is the time to get your conservation operation on the list of those recognized for a quality conservation commitment," explains Perrin. "It's important that you get your application and paperwork submitted so you can be part of the 2011 CSP ranking period and funding cycle."

Perrin confirms NRCS teams across the state are ready to work with producers and start the process. "If you're already an NRCS cooperator and are in the system, just meet with local field office staff. Let them know you're ready for CSP." Ag producers or landowners who are new to NRCS or USDA will need to schedule an appointment to ensure that the necessary paperwork is completed in order for the application process to proceed smoothly.

While CSP applications are accepted on a continuous basis, at this time only applications received by the national cutoff date will be considered for funding in fiscal year 2011. Please check [www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov) frequently for updates and information.

For more information about CSP, including eligibility requirements, contact District Conservationist Peggy Jackson, or visit the Frankfort USDA Service Center today.

The annual KY Beef Conference "Planning Today for Tomorrow's Market," is October 26th and will be held at the Fayette County Extension office from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. This year's conference will feature information on current marketing trends, management practices of production, and ways to improve the marketability of Kentucky calves.

A representative from Cattle-FAX, Randy Blach (always a favorite); Dr. Michelle Builderback, UK Ruminant Extension Veterinarian; and Darrell Busby, retired Iowa Extension Beef Specialist will be the presenters. Topics to be covered are: Marketing Overview and Long-Term Marketing Trends Related to Beef; Value Added Marketing for Kentucky Cattle; Practices for Today's Market: Health, Management, Nutrition and Marketing Strategies for 2011.

Registration is \$10.00 per person to cover the cost of a buffet lunch and refreshments. Call the Extension Office if you plan to attend.

## Bluegrass Poultry Association Fall Classic



Saturday, October 23  
Lakeview Park

Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle, Sale Birds

APA – ABA Sanctioned  
Ameraucana Breeders Club National Meet  
[www.bluegrasspoultry.com](http://www.bluegrasspoultry.com)  
Eric Engelsman 859 792-4433 for details

## Upcoming Beekeeping Educational Opportunities in Kentucky

From "The Buzz", State Beekeeper's Newsletter

The fall Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA) meeting will be held November 6, at the Morehead Conference Center in Morehead.

The program will feature Jennifer Barry, University of Georgia Research coordinator. Jennifer is actively involved in all aspects of honey bee research and beekeeper education at the University of Georgia. Her primary areas of research have been a queen breeding program and Integrated Pest Management work for varroa mite control. The breeding project is a long-term program in which resistant stock is continually selected for, as well as traits for honey production, brood production and gentleness. Jennifer writes a monthly article for Bee Culture magazine.

Elections of officers will be held, and the prize for 2010 KSBA Beekeeper of the Year will be awarded.

This meeting will be FREE to all KSBA members (you can join at the door). Watch the KSBA Web page (<http://www.ksbabeekeeping.org>) for directions, starting time, and Jennifer's presentation topics.

Between January 22 and March 12, 2011, six regional beekeeping schools will be held in Kentucky. Planning is underway for the schools, and the following dates have been confirmed – MARK YOUR CALENDARS! These schools all have multi-session classes with topics of interest for all levels of beekeeping experience, including beginner classes for the new beekeepers.

- Eastern Kentucky Beekeeping School, Hazard – January 22, 2011
- Allen County Beekeeping School, Scottsville – February 5, 2011
- Southeast Kentucky Beekeeping School, Corbin – February 12, 2011
- Northeast Kentucky Beekeeping School, Morehead – February 26, 2011
- Audubon Beekeeping School, Henderson – March 5, 2011
- Bluegrass Beekeeping School, Frankfort – March 12, 2011

For more info or to sign up for the newsletter, please e-mail Phil Craft at [phil.craft@ky.gov](mailto:phil.craft@ky.gov).

## POTENTIAL FOR HIGH NITRATES

Nitrate toxicity typically occurs during drought conditions when warm season annual grasses including corn have received N applications designed for maximum yield. Nitrate is the form that most nitrogen is taken up into the plant, but under severe drought conditions nitrate accumulates in the plant (particularly the lower 1/3) and cannot be converted into protein. When ruminant livestock consume high nitrate forages, the nitrate is converted into nitrite and once in the bloodstream, nitrite causes a restriction in the ability of the blood to carry oxygen. Without oxygen to the body the animal dies.

The current recommendations from the UK Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center (LDDC) are shown below. If in doubt, it is always best to consult your local vet.

- Forages with <5,000 ppm (0.5%) nitrate concentration on a dry weight basis are generally safe for cattle. Be cautious with pregnant and young animals when nitrate concentrations approach 5,000 ppm and dilute with other feeds.
- Forages containing < 10,000 ppm (1%) but > 5,000 ppm (0.5%) nitrate on a dry weight basis should be diluted with other feeds and introduced slowly. Limit to a maximum of 50% of total dry matter in pregnant animals.
- Total dietary nitrate concentrations > 10,000 ppm (1%) on a dry weight basis are dangerous and can cause acute nitrate poisoning in cattle.
- All sources of dietary nitrate including feeds, forages and water should be taken into consideration when determining total dietary nitrate concentration.

Fortunately, when high nitrate forage crops are ensiled nitrate levels drop by 30 to 60%. If you suspect the potential for high nitrate with silage or haylage, first complete the ensiling process, then sample the forage and send to a certified lab. Remember though that nitrate levels do not drop during the hay making process.

Make sure to follow the recommended procedures listed by each lab for submitting samples. With nitrates, it is very important to keep the sample cool and make sure it is taken directly to the lab or sent by overnight mail. Improperly submitted samples can give false readings.

*September Issue, UK "Forage News"*

*Keenan Bishop*

Keenan Bishop  
County Extension Agent  
for Agriculture and Natural Resources

COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
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## Upcoming Events

- OCTOBER 11TH** Franklin Co. Farm Bureau Annual Membership Meeting, Extension Office
- OCTOBER 18TH** Franklin Co. Cattlemen's Annual Membership Meeting, Extension Office
- OCTOBER 20TH** Southern States & Cattlemen's Assoc. Cattle Demo at Steve Hughes farm, 11:30
- OCTOBER 21ST** KSU Third Thursday Program "Goat Management", 10:00-4:00 KSU Farm
- OCTOBER 22ND** Capital Classic Heifer Sale, 6:00 Owenton Producers Stockyard
- OCTOBER 23RD** Bluegrass Poultry Association Fall Classic, Lakeview Park
- OCTOBER 26TH** KY Beef Conference, 9:00-3:00 Fayette Co. Extension Office