

Of Cows & Plows



April 2008

Farm/City Banquet

FSA Emergency Conservation Program for Ice Storm Damage

Deadline is April 13th!

The 51st annual Whitaker Bank Farm/City Banquet is coming up Thursday, April 30th at the Capital Plaza Hotel. The event begins at 6:00 for visiting with folks and the various sponsors' booths. Dinner will be served around 6:45. Tickets are \$7.00, \$5.00 of which goes to the local WHHS & FCHS FFA chapters for helping serve. Tickets are available at the Farm Bureau Office on Wilkinson Boulevard or the Frankfort Chamber of Commerce on the corner of Capitol Avenue and Second Street.

Agricultural producers who suffered damage as a result of the January ice storm may request cost-share assistance from USDA under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). Requests for assistance will be accepted at the Versailles FSA Service Center (1-888 229-9795).

Sponsor booths will be located inside the banquet room as well as the outer hallway. The doors will remain open to allow folks to gather in the main room.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share for debris removal and fence restoration where the damage to farmland impairs or endangers the operation of the farm. Under ECP, cost-share assistance is limited to \$200,000 per person per natural disaster.

This ceremony helps promote the ties between the business and farming communities of Frankfort and Franklin County. Not only is this a great opportunity to visit with friends and gather information from the multitude of sponsor booths, but you also have a great sit down meal (the head chef WILL be cooking this time!). If you want to see who is recognized as Master Conservationist, Pioneer Business, Educator, Farmer and Outstanding Young Farmer you should plan on attending.

To be eligible for cost-share under ECP, practices should not be started until a request has been filed at the FSA Service Center and an on-site inspection has been made by an FSA representative. Producers who have taken emergency actions before filing an application may be eligible if it is determined that such action was necessary to prevent further loss. Approval of cost-share for practices started before filing an application or before the program announcement must meet all criteria for federal cost-share assistance including compliance with environmental regulations.

FORAGE NEWS

For more forage information, visit our UK Forage Extension Website at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage>

March 2008

VALUE AND AMOUNT OF NITROGEN FIXED BY VARIOUS LEGUMES

Crop	N fixed, lb/A/year	N value, \$, @		
		45¢/lb	55¢/lb	65¢/lb
Alfalfa	150-250	68-113	83-138	98-163
Red clover	75-200	34-90	41-110	49-130
White clover	75-150	34-68	41-83	49-98
Vetch, lespedeza, and other annual forage legumes	50-150	23-68	28-83	33-98

SOURCE: Adapted from Southern Forages 2007

Poison Hemlock



Is this plant invading your pastures? Poison Hemlock is frequently found along tree & fence lines and disturbed areas. As a general rule, livestock will not willingly consume it. Curious young animals or malnourished stock may try a taste or accidentally ingest it when feeding around it. The plant is toxic and can also cause birth defects such as turned under hooves on calves.

Right now the plant is about a foot tall or so. Regular clipping will eventually wear this biennial out. Chemical control includes glyphosate (Roundup), Crossbow, and Banvel and now is the time to spray before it gets too big!

Also the time to get those thistles is while they are still in the rosette stage.

Electronic Newsletter

Would you rather receive the Cows & Plows on your computer and not in your mailbox? If so, send an email to Gil Thurman at gil.thurman@uky.edu with the subject line "Cows & Plows".



HH Cowgirl, of Willis Farms, won her Summer Yearling heifer class at the National Western Stock Show in Denver this past January. The pure bred Saller is shown by farm manager Matt Craig

Freeze / Frost Dates

Probability of reaching these temperatures in Frankfort:

F	90%	50%	10%
36*	Apr 19	May 2	May 16
32*	Apr 5	Apr 19	May 3
28*	Mar 26	Apr 7	Apr 20

Pest Alert

Termites start swarming the last of March. Expect to see them through May. Unlike ants, termites don't have the pinched middle "waist". Ants have "bent" antennae. Termites have two sets of equally sized wings.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP provides assistance to farmers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Persons involved with livestock or agricultural production are eligible for this program. Eligible land includes cropland, pasture, private non-industrial forestland, and other farm lands.

Applications received before April 15th will be considered for funding this year. Applications will be ranked based on a number of factors, including the environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of the proposal. Cost-sharing is based on a flat rate. The most commonly requested practices under this program include:

Pipeline & Watering Facility - Fence with/without Setback (around woods & water) - Waste Storage Facility - Grade Stabilization Structure - Native grass plantings - Spring Development - Stream Crossing - Critical Area Planting - Grass Waterway - Sinkhole Protection Diversion - Replacing fescue pastures/hayland with non-fescue/legume - etc

Many other practices are also eligible. Please inquire about any you do not see listed here. Contact Peggy Jackson at 695-5203 X 3

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

WHIP encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitat that support wildlife populations of State and local significance. The land user must devote at least 10 acres to be eligible for wildlife practices.

Applications received before April 15 will be considered for 2009 funding.

For eligible land, NRCS places emphasis on enrolling: Habitat areas for wildlife species experiencing declining or significantly reduced populations; practices beneficial to fish and wildlife that may not otherwise be funded; and wildlife and fishery habitats identified by local and State partners. Contact Terri Estes at 695-5203 X 3.

KY Soil Erosion & Water Quality Cost-Share (otherwise known as "State Cost Share")

Applications for this State program are being accepted through April 15th by the Franklin Co Conservation District. Eligibility is determined on a number of factors by the Division of Conservation and certain requirements for each practice must be followed.

Practices that can be installed under State Cost Sharer are similar to those funded under EQIP. Additionally, pasture renovation will be an eligible practice this year. The program will cost share on legume seed, lime, fertilizer, and seeding into existing pasture and hayland. Due to the timing of the funding allocations, no approvals are expected in time for spring planting so any approved applications will have to wait until fall to renovate.

Another practice eligible under the program but not under EQIP is Heavy Use Area Protection (HUA). HUAs are constructed of rock over geotextile and are used for feeding pads and eroding areas around existing livestock water tanks. Contact Terri Shaw at 695-5209 Ext 3.

Phase I Cost Share Re-invented

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) has adopted policy and program revisions intended to broaden access to diversification funds and enhance accountability.

The most notable changes are related to what are currently called the county model cost-share programs, which are designed to provide farmers with cost-share funding to allow them to improve and diversify their current production practices. The county model cost-share programs will now be offered as investment areas under the umbrella of the **County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP)**. This will offer a more streamlined approach to applying for funds for both the program administrators and the local farmers. Since all programs will be offered in counties that adopt this program, there will be broader access for all farmers, regardless of their focus enterprise.

In addition to the current investment areas, CAIP will include a new investment area called "On-farm Energy Efficiency & Production". This investment area will be a tool to help farmers increase energy efficiency in their current production practices, while ultimately increasing net farm income through realized cost savings.

"After months of soliciting feedback and suggestions for these monumental policy revisions, the board has approved a set of policies that I believe are truly positive changes to the programs that continue to mean so much to rural Kentucky and our farmers." stated Roger Thomas, executive director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP).

A Regional Workshop on April 22 at the Shelby Co Extension Office, 9:00-noon, will explain all the policy and program changes. For questions about these policy changes, please contact GOAP at (502) 564-4627.

Farm Tags and the Law

Winter Schools last year focused on the rules of the road for farmers. Officer Truesdell with KY Vehicle Enforcement spoke to the group. His talk was an eye opener for many and should be re-visited. Below are some of the points as I interpreted his presentation:

- If you are farming, then you are engaging in commerce and must have a DOT # and company name on your truck IF the GVWR or GCWR is 10,001# or more. This means that you must also stop at weigh stations.
- If you hook to a trailer then you should have a medical card. A CDL is not required unless you drive further than 150 miles from home. After 150 miles you are also subject to drug tests.
- ALL loads must be secured. If they can spill or blow out then they must also be covered.
- If your GVWR or CVWR is 10,000# or greater then all your trailer axles must have brakes plus a break-away box. (except for very small trailers)



What does the farm plate allow? No exceptions to the law except that you may overload your vehicle up to 38,000#.

For specific details look up the regulations at <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/statrev/frontpg.htm> or contact Officer Truesdell at:

Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement
125 Holmes Street, 3rd Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-3276 / 1-800-928-2402
www.kve.ky.gov

Keenan Bishop

Keenan Bishop
County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

UK “Forage News”

RYEGRASS AIN’T RYEGRASS

Perennial ryegrass, annual ryegrass, Italian ryegrass, and even cereal rye, it’s enough to confuse anyone. In a moment I will try to sort out their differences and where they fit into your forage program.

Interest in ryegrass has increased in our area in recent years. But, there is much confusion because there are many different types of ryegrass, so let’s see if I can help reduce this confusion.

Let’s begin with perennial ryegrass. This may be the highest quality perennial grass in the world and is used widely in many mild climates. Perennial ryegrass does not like hot, dry summers or dry winters so it does not survive well in our climate. I suggest using it only in mixtures for short-term use with animals that respond greatly to high quality, like dairy cows or stockers.

Most of the confusion comes from annual ryegrass because there are two types. The more traditional annual ryegrass is the Westerwold type. Westerwold annual ryegrass grows very rapidly after spring planting but goes to seed in early summer. If grazed or clipped it usually regrows, although slowly, and forms seed heads again. It will not survive winter. As a result, Westerwold is used best as an emergency forage.

The other type is called Italian ryegrass. The best ones act like biennials – they don’t form seed during the year of planting. Instead, they go to seed the next spring and often die. After planting, they start growing fast in about June and continue to grow rapidly up until frost. And all the growth is high quality leaves. Winter survival is not very dependable and varies from year-to-year and by variety. Extra confusion occurs because botanically, Westerwold can also be called Italian ryegrass. So be very specific when buying these ryegrasses. If you want one that acts like a biennial, be sure to ask for it that way.

With the right type, ryegrass can provide outstanding feed.

(SOURCE: Bruce Anderson, Extension Forage Specialist, University of Nebraska)



The UK Horticulture Plasticulture Demonstration Program

Timothy Coolong, Extension Vegetable
Specialist, UK Horticulture

The UK Horticulture Department’s plasticulture demonstration program has been helping farmers in Kentucky for several years. This program has been funded through grants from the Kentucky Agriculture Development Board. The basis of the plasticulture demonstration program was to help former tobacco farmers or new farmers become familiar with the ins and outs of vegetable production in Kentucky. Farmers who sign up with the program are given up to one acre of black plastic mulch and drip line as well as access to the UK Horticulture Department’s mulch layer/bed shaper and waterwheel transplanter. Farmers have to provide their own tractor and other items such as transplants or fertilizer. In addition, farmers get weekly visits from an extension associate familiar with vegetable production to help answer any questions and make sure that they are on the right track. The participants are asked to keep track of all their expenses and earnings and assist with having a summer field day at their site. This is so that the UK Department of Horticulture can determine the profitability of vegetable farming and expose others nearby to a plasticulture fruit and vegetable production system. The program allows farmers to test the waters of vegetable production while exposing them to very little risk.

The UK Horticulture plasticulture demonstration program welcomes all types of farmers, as long as they are committed to the program and want to seriously pursue fruit or vegetable production in Kentucky. If you are currently a farmer who has never used the plasticulture system and are interested please contact the extension office. Some of the associates are nearing capacity for their programs for the summer, so be aware that you may have to wait until next year to participate. However, if there is a demonstration plot near your home we would encourage you to attend the field day for that plot so you can have a good idea of what to expect prior to entering the program.

UK AG Weather

<http://www.agwx.ca.uky.edu/>

Franklin County Weather:

http://www.agwx.ca.uky.edu/cgi-bin/getcast_www_ky?Franklin+035#forecast

Return Service Requested

Cost Share Deadlines!

Cattlemen's Association Phase I Menu Approach	April 9 th Noon
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	April 13 th
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	April 15 th
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	April 15 th
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	April 15 th
KY Soil Erosion & Water Quality Cost-Share Program	April 15 th

See inside for details