

Of Cows & Plows



December 2009/January 2010



Matt Craig showed Willis Farm's "Top Shelf" at the NAILE to win Reserve Spring Bull Calf at the Eastern National Saler Show. His daughter Mattie proudly holds the ribbon beside Danny Willis of Willis Farm here in Franklin County.

NRCS

SIGN-UP CONTINUES FOR THE NEW CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is taking applications for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The program encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by installing and adopting new conservation activities, and by improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities.

NRCS administers CSP, a voluntary conservation program designed to encourage producers to adopt additional conservation practices and improve, maintain and manage existing ones. Producers are encouraged to use a self-screening checklist first to determine whether the new program is suitable for them or their operation. The checklist is available on NRCS Web sites (see below) and at NRCS field offices.

CSP offers two types of payments—annual and supplemental. Annual payments are available for installing additional conservation activities as scheduled and for maintaining existing activities. Supplemental payments are available for participants receiving annual payment who also adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation. A producer must treat at least one resource concern and one priority resource concern during the length of the five-year CSP contract. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, and non-industrial private forestland.

NRCS is currently completing the initial September 2009 funding period for the first round of applicants. The next funding period cutoff is expected to occur in January 2010. Any applications received before the

Holiday Office Schedule



The Extension Office will be closed from December 25th to January 1st.

Franklin County High School FFA Alumni Association

FCFS FFA is starting an alumni association. Their first meeting was December 3rd. If you missed that one and want to attend contact Kylan Douglas at FCFS 695-6750.

cutoff date will be considered in this second round of funding.

For more information about CSP, please call NRCS District Conservationist Peggy Jackson at (502) 695-5203, ext 3) or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp/. For more information about conservation programs in Kentucky, please visit www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov/. NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Mary Ann Hockensmith, Deborah Conway, Mona Redding, Gail Peyton and Lona Brewer visit the Cadillac Ranch on old Route 66 outside Amarillo.

Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association

January 4-5th

Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington, KY.

The Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, is held jointly with members of the Kentucky Vineyard Society and the Kentucky State Horticultural Society every January in Lexington, KY. This conference brings growers and researchers together to highlight topics of interest for vegetable growers in the state. Sessions often include talks on organic farming, vegetable production and farmers' markets. Research on new varieties and production techniques is presented as well as grower experiences. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Lexington KY.

<http://kyvga.org/>

“Only two things are infinite: The universe and human stupidity. And I’m not sure about the former.”

Albert Einstein



KENTUCKY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

January 14-16

Make Reservations today! Call 1-800-233-1234 by December 14 and mention KCA for a \$100 room rate

Highlights for 2010 Convention:

- Allied Industry Game Night
- Pfizer's Cattlemen's College
- Trade Show- over 70+ Booths
- Arena in Trade Show with hands-on sessions
- KJCA Activities
- Evening Extravaganza
- Ladies Program
- Forages Program featuring Dr. Don Ball
- KBC Demonstrations

<http://kycattle.org/Convention.aspx>

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Any person who believes they have been discriminated against in any Cooperative Extension sponsored program or activity may file a complaint with the Secretary of Agriculture by writing to:

USDA, Director
Office of Civil Rights
Room 326-W, Whitten Bldg.
14th & Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410

A complaint must be filed no later than 180 days from the date of the alleged discrimination.



Kent Shankles, Cattle Manager at the Noble Foundation Oswalt Facility in Ardmore OK demonstrates the remote control sweep and cut gates that allow him to singlehandedly push cattle to the guys working chutes. They can process 30 stockers or A.I. 60 head/hour.

Winter Schools

Starting February 4th, 7-9:00 and continuing every Thursday into March.

Watch the paper or your mailbox for topics (BQA Training, Soil Sampling & Testing Basics, Bee Keeping 101, UK Weather Site, Home Energy Efficiency, Berries & Small Fruit, etc, etc) or visit our webpage at <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/franklin/>



Mary Ann Hockensmith at the Express Ranch outside Yukon OK. The old Chisholm Trail runs through the 10,000 acre ranch. They are the second largest supplier of seed stock in the US.

The Delayed Effects of Poor Nutrition? *Dr. Roy Burris, Beef Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky*

This has been a great year for forage production in our part of the country. We've had plenty of grass for the grazing season with lots to spare for hay-making. We still have accumulated fescue pasture which can be grazed this winter.

So what's the problem? It's the delayed effects of poor nutrition. Last winter we were suffering from a feed shortage caused by two consecutive years of drought conditions which caused most of us to maintain our cows in less than optimum conditions. Cows that come out of the winter in less than desired body condition had decreased pregnancy rates. Pregnancy rates for spring calving cows are lower than usual this year.

What should we do? First pregnancy check the cow herd to identify open cows. Then plan ahead for your winter feeding program to avoid a repeat of this year. Plan to give cows some supplemental feed from calving time until grass is adequate to maintain good body condition going into the next breeding season.

Calculate your hay needs and be sure your supply is adequate. It should be. Hay is cheaper this year if you need to purchase some. You still have time to construct a feeding pad with geotextile fabric and gravel to minimize waste. Estimate your supplemental feed needs now and make purchases prior to winter.

What can you do with open cows after weaning? The obvious answer is to sell them. However, you might feed them long enough to put some weight on them before hauling them to market. But open cows still need a good dose of "trailermycin".

Thin, bred, cows, especially young ones, need to regain body condition prior to the winter period. This can be done by sorting them off and putting them on some good accumulated fescue pasture. We must have these cows in good body condition by the 2010 spring breeding season (early May).

You could also keep a few more heifers to replace some of the cows that were liquidated in

Return Service Requested



Visit <http://www.kychristmastreefarms.com/> to find a fresh local tree!