



# Of Cows & Plows

## March 2009 Phase I Cost Share

Franklin County Cattlemen's Association is the sponsor for the Phase I state model Menu Approach for the following model programs: **Agricultural Diversification, Cattle Genetics Improvement, Cattle Handling Facilities, Farm Livestock Fencing Improvement, Hay, Straw and Commodity Storage and Technology.** Applications will be available here starting **March 9<sup>th</sup>**. Deadline to return is noon April 9th.

For more details and descriptions visit [http://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/model\\_programs.shtml](http://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/model_programs.shtml)

For an on-line application, visit our website at: <http://ces2.ca.uky.edu/franklin/AgNaturalResources>

### FSA Emergency Conservation Program for Ice Storm Damage

Agricultural producers who suffered damage as a result of the January ice storm may request cost-share assistance from USDA to rehabilitate damaged farmlands. The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides cost-share assistance when disaster damage is so severe that recovery without

federal assistance is unlikely. Requests for assistance will be accepted at the Versailles FSA Service Center from Feb. 10 to April 13, 2009.

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. Fences must be used for agricultural purposes. Ornamental fences are not eligible for assistance. Under ECP, cost-share assistance is limited to \$200,000 per person per natural disaster. Conservation problems existing prior to the disaster are ineligible for ECP assistance.

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. Producers who have taken action before this announcement may be eligible for assistance if an application is filed within 15 calendar days from Feb. 10, 2009. 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.

# Winter School Continues...

Join us at 7:00 as we gather together for information, fellowship and refreshments. The topics this month include:



March 5

Terry Jones, UK Extension Specialist will discuss garden implements and a vegetable update.

March 12

John Strang, UK Fruit Specialists will discuss orchards and small fruit production.

March 19

Deborah Hill, UK Non-traditional Forestry Specialist will speak on square foot and small space gardens.

March 26

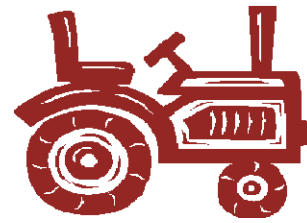
Tim Coolong, UK Vegetable Specialist will wrap things up with vegetable production and new varieties.

Farmer's Bank of Frankfort and Farm Credit Services of Shelbyville graciously sponsor the refreshments for these functions. Be sure and thank them for their support! Hope to see you there!

## Farm/City Banquet



The 51st annual Whitaker Bank Farm / City Banquet is coming up Thursday April 30th. As always, there will be good food and fellowship! Details to follow.



## Business Highlight:

### Spring Farm Filter Sale + Free Gift!

Jim Payne, your friendly NAPA manager, wants to remind everyone of their annual Spring Filter Sale. All Gold Filters will be over 50% off during the sale starting March 2nd and running until the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mention this newsletter and receive a free gift!

## TEFF VARIETIES

*From UK "Forage News":*

This past year, Teff variety trials were conducted at Lexington and Princeton. Nine varieties were included in both trials. Yields ranged from 2.83 to 3.44 ton/acre at Princeton and 1.33-1.83 ton/acre at Lexington. Yield was reduced at both locations because of drought, but more severe at Lexington. Detailed reports are available on our website at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/ForageVarietyTrials2.htm>

## 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](mailto:gil.thurman@uky.edu) with the subject line "Cows & Plows".

# UREASE INHIBITORS

When urea fertilizers are applied to the soil, an enzyme called urease begins their conversion to ammonia gas. If this conversion takes place below the soil surface, the ammonia is almost instantaneously converted to NH<sub>4</sub>-N which is bound to soil particles. If the conversion takes place on the soil surface or on surface residues, there is a potential for the ammonia gas to escape back into the atmosphere in a process called *ammonia volatilization*.

Volatilization losses depend on the environmental conditions at the time of application. Soil temperature, soil moisture, amount of surface residue, soil pH, and length of time between application and the first rain event or irrigation are all factors that determine the total amount of N that could be lost via volatilization. Nitrogen losses from fertilizer applied prior to May 1 are generally very low. After May 1, N loss is greatest, especially when urea is surface-applied to soils with high residue or vegetation (i.e., no-till corn or pastures), during warm, wet weather followed by a warm, breezy drying period.

Volatilization losses can be substantially reduced if a urease inhibitor is used with the fertilizer. The most common urease inhibitor is NBPT sold under the trade name Agrotain®. Urease inhibitors reduce the activity of the urease enzyme for up to 14 days. As long as it rains during this 14-day period, the urea will be moved into the soil where it can be converted to NH<sub>4</sub>-N without the risk of volatilization.

For more forage information, visit our UK Forage Extension Website at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage>  
(SOURCE: Dr. Lloyd Murdock and Dr. Greg Schwab, UK Extension Soils Specialists)

# Metal Recycling

## March 23-28

In conjunction with Commonwealth Cleanup Week, the Franklin County Conservation District is once again holding their Scrap Metal and Appliance Recycling Drive.

Old fencing, sheet metal, farm equipment, etc can be disposed of by hauling it to Lakeview Park during daylight hours. The Conservation District has arranged for a licensed freon removal service, so they can accept old metal appliances at this location. They still will not be able to accept tires, batteries, paint, etc though. For more details, contact them directly at 695-5203 x 3. Conservation District members will be on site daily.

Remember that any profits from metal recycling that the FCCD receives go back into their programs, especially their scholarships!

## Forage Crop Planting Guide (AGR-18)

Crop	lbs/a*	depth	Seeding date
Alfalfa:			
	12-20	¼-1/2"	3/1-4-15
Bluegrass:			
	10	¼-1/2"	2/1-4/1
Alsike Clover:			
	4-6	¼"	2/1-4/1
Red:	8-12	¼"	2/1-4/1
Ladino:			
	1-3	¼"	2/1-4/15
Fescue:			
	10-15	¼-1/2"	2/1-4/15
Orchard grass:			
	10-15	¼-1/2"	2/1-4/15

\*When seeding in mixtures, reduce each by 1/3-2/3

# Beekeeping School

## March 14<sup>th</sup>

On March 14, the Bluegrass Beekeeping School will be held at Kentucky State University in Frankfort. Last year's program at the same location was attended by over 300 beekeepers from sixty Kentucky counties and several surrounding states.

This year, speakers will include Dr. Rick Fell - Virginia Tech University, Dr. Tom Webster - KY State University, Dr. Ray McDonnell – Somerset Community College London Campus, and Kent Williams - former president of the Kentucky Beekeepers Association and the Eastern Apicultural Society.

Dr. Rick Fell will present the opening address titled *"How bees make honey & how we can use the knowledge for colony management."* Dr. Fell will also make presentations in two of the four breakout sessions on the topics of *"Wintering Bees - Understanding Colony Stress and Biology"* and *"Basic Hive Evaluation - Colony Strength to Queen Quality."*

In addition to Dr. Fell's talks there will be a wide selection of talks for beekeepers on a number of hive management topics such as: "Making nucs & splits", "Moving Bees for Pollination", "Basic Queen Rearing", "How to set up a 2 queen hive", and others. We'll also have talks on alternative products from the hive such as candle making, making lotions and handbars, and pollen collection and processing.

Dr. Tom Webster will once again conduct the beginner's track of classes for the new or novice beekeeper! If you are a new beekeeper, or a beekeeper-2-bee, the beginning track of classes is where you want to be. A certificate for a free package of honeybees will be given away to a new beekeeper in the beginners' course.

A vendor tradeshow will also be part of the school, with the Walter B. Kelley Company & the Dadant & sons Company, selling supplies, taking orders (including orders for package bees for spring delivery or pickup), as well as displaying beekeeping equipment.

Registration will begin at 8:00 AM in the lobby of Bradford Hall at Kentucky State University in Frankfort, However, pre-registration is suggested. A pre-registration form may be downloaded from the State Apiarist's webpage which also contains the most up to date information on the program. The website is <http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/bees/index.htm>. There is a pre-registration fee of \$20 per person (there are also discounts for family & school age youth). At the door, the registration fee will be \$25 per person.

And as always, there will be lots of door prizes, including package of bees for spring pickup.

Phil Craft, State Apiarist  
 Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
 100 Fair Oaks, Suite 252  
 Frankfort, KY 40601  
 E-mail: [phil.craft@ky.gov](mailto:phil.craft@ky.gov)  
 Phone: (502)564-3956  
<http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/bees/index.htm>

## Nutrients Removed by Hay Crop

---- Approximate lbs per Acre Removed ----

Crop	Yield/A (T)	N	P2O5	K2O
Alfalfa :	5	255	68	245
Red Clover & Orchardgrass:	4	136	47	204
Tall Fescue, Orchardgrass & Timothy:	3	87	29	144

SOURCE: K.L. Wells and W.O. Thom, 1994.  
 Estimated nutrient and uptake by Kentucky's Crops.  
 Soil Science News and Views Vol. 15, No. 4. (AGR-62)

### Kentucky Agricultural Exports, 2006, Top 5 Categories (in millions of dollars):

Tobacco, unmanufactured: \$295.4  
 Live animals & meat (inc. horses, excluding poultry): \$276.8  
 Soybeans: \$156.9  
 Feed Grains: \$119.9  
 Wheat: \$79.6

# ***KSU Third Thursday: Goats!***

March is the time for the spring goat program as part of the Kentucky State University "Third Thursday Thing" series of workshops. This year the program will include information related to state cost share programs, parasite management, budgets for goats, and a dairy focus talk. We are also working on a show oriented program for the afternoon. The program is open to the public and held at the Kentucky State University Research and Demonstration Farm at 1525 Mills Ln in Frankfort KY. There is no cost and the program will be held on March 19 starting at 10 am. Lunch is provided and we have student excuse slips available for kids that attend. If you have never been to one of our program it is a good opportunity to learn and meet other goat producers. If you would like more information please feel free to contact me at 502-597-5094 or by e-mail at [kenneth.andries@kysu.edu](mailto:kenneth.andries@kysu.edu).



## **Bottle Feeding Kids**

Terry K. Hutchens, Extension Goat Specialist, UK

1. Newborn kids needs to receive 10 -20% of its body weight in colostrum, preferably within 3-12 hours after birth.
2. After the initial amount of colostrum is fed, additional feeding should be withheld from newborns that are to be bottle-raised for as long as 5 hours.
3. Bottle feeding: feed 10-20% of their body weight in the form of good-quality milk replacer divided into 4 equal feedings.
4. By the third week switch to 2X daily feeding.
5. Creep feeding: Kids should have access to an extremely palatable dry feed. A mixture of corn, oats, alfalfa pellets, molasses and

soybean meal that provides 14-16% CP works well. Topdressing the feed with dry milk replacer may stimulate intake. Other palatable ingredients suitable for young ruminants are soybean hulls and various sources of bran, including wheat bran.

*Composition of goat milk replacer on DM bases: Protein 25%, Carbohydrate 31%, Fat 34%, Total solids as fed 13%*

## **CAN YOU ESTABLISH CLOVER AND SUPPRESS WINTER ANNUAL WEEDS?**

There are many herbicide choices available to kill broadleaf weeds and these are described in detail in AGR-172 "Weed Management in Grass Pastures, Hayfields, and Fencerows." The difficulty is that all broadleaf weed herbicides will also kill clover and many of the new herbicides also have a long residual period before reseeding clovers.

There is one option for controlling winter annual weeds and not killing clover as highlighted in AGR-172 under sod suppression. One low rate application of Gramoxone (1 pt/acre) in the early spring will burn back all top growth. Therefore, winter annual weeds are killed or at least suppressed and this type of application rarely kills existing clovers and grasses. Important things to remember:

- 1) Spray Gramoxone when temperature is above 40 degrees.
- 2) Remove animals before spraying.
- 3) Keep animals off pasture until grass has regrown and recovered.
- 4) Clover can be no-till or frost seeded immediately after spraying (frost seed when 4 to 6 weeks of potential frosts remain - mid-Feb).

*Keenan Bishop*

Keenan Bishop  
County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

## Return Service Requested

### **TOBACCO PRODUCTION MEETING**

Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.  
Anderson Co Extension Office



Anderson, Franklin and Mercer Counties have joined together for a  
2009 Tobacco Production Update.

Dr. Bob Pearce, UK Tobacco Specialist and Dr. Kenny Seebold, UK Plant Disease Specialist will both be on hand to discuss the challenges of upcoming growing season. Independent buyer Jerry Rankin will also be available to discuss selling options.

We'll end with a nice lunch. Call (502) 695-9035 to sign for the meal or directions.