

Of Cows & Plows



February 2008

Winter School

February marks the beginning of Winter Schools here in Franklin County. Thursday evenings starting February 14th and continuing through March 13th at 7:00 we will gather together for information, fellowship and refreshments. The topics this year include:



Feb 14 Beef Quality Assurance Training (BQA) – Required for CPH sales and other programs. Join us “chute-side” for a hands on experience to learn proper vaccination tips & techniques and other herd health procedures.

Feb 21 Backyard Poultry 101 - A wealth of information for starting & managing a home flock of laying hens or broilers. Our own Jack Kuhn will offer his 30 years of wisdom & experience. See the accompanying article for more details!

Mar 6 Road Safety - A DOT and KY Vehicle Enforcement officer will present on the laws and regulations for hauling or towing and transporting of farm equipment on public roads.

Mar 13 Pasture Emergency – What will our pastures and hayfields look like after the drought? What weeds will we battle and how? JD Green, UK Weeds Specialist will help you plan for the worst and attack your problems.

Farmer's Bank 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!

2008 Tobacco Variety Pub

Is now available and has been posted under Variety Selection. Click on “Tobacco Publications” link at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Tobacco/> or stop by the office for your copy.



Lacy and CL Craycraft are, like most, short on hay. Their solution was to limit feed. Ruminants need roughage to allow the rumen to function. A cow can get by with as little as 3-5 pounds if need be. The Craycrafts feed their hay on an enclosed pad. They let the cattle in for an hour or two to feed (Good rule of thumb: A cow will eat around 10 lbs of hay an hour). To get the cattle back out they feed their commodity feed (in the background in front of hay bales) and then close the gates again. The creep gate in the foreground allowed their CPH calves free choice of the hay while limiting the mothers. This practice has allowed them to feed 1/3 their normal hay while doubling the commodity feed. Hay is scarce but corn gluten and soy hulls aren't.

New Calendars are Here!

We now have copies of the 2008 Beef IRM Production & Management Calendars as well as the Pocket Record Books. Stop by and pick up yours now.



Fifth Annual Bluegrass Beekeeping School

2008 Bluegrass Beekeeping School

March 8th, 2008 (Saturday)

Kentucky State University

Speakers will include:

- *Dr. Rick Fell - Virginia Tech University*
- *Stu Jacobson - University of Illinois in Springfield*
- *Adony Melathopoulos - Lacombe Research Centre, Beaverlodge, Alberta, Canada*
- *Dr. Tom Webster - KY State University*

Dr. Tom Webster will again conduct the beginner's track of classes for the new or novice beekeeper! A vendor tradeshow will be part of the school.

Pre-registration is suggested Contact Phil Craft, 502-564-3956, email: phil.craft@ky.gov or visit: http://www.kyagr.com/state_vet/bees/index.htm.

Looking for a VET?

Try the KY Veterinarian's Medical Association: <http://www.kvma.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=2>

The 42nd Annual National Farm Machinery Show & Championship Tractor Pull

Wednesday, February 13th through Saturday, February 16th, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center, Louisville. Free Admission (parking is \$5.00)



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.

H2A Assistance is Available

Kara Keeton, Keeton Communications

Commodity Growers Cooperative (CGC), through Agriculture Workforce Management (AWM), LLC, is providing assistance to farm operators and businesses to help complete the administrative paperwork necessary to secure guest workers through the H2A and H2B programs for 2008.

The federal H2A and H2B programs permit employers to apply for nonimmigrant alien workers, guest workers, for seasonal or temporary work for a maximum of ten months. The H2A program is for on-farm agricultural workers and the H2B program is for off-farm or non-farm related workers. The purpose of these programs is to assure employers a legal and adequate labor force while also protecting the jobs and wages of U.S. workers.

If you would like additional information about the H2A and H2B guest worker programs and the assistance provided through the Agriculture Workforce Management, please contact the Commodity Growers Cooperative at 859-233-7845.

BACKYARD POULTRY 101

Winter School February 21st 7:00-9:00 p.m.

This two-hour course will provide a wealth of information for you to begin your own home flock of laying hens or broilers. If you have contemplated starting a small poultry flock but have put it off because you did not know how to begin, or know a little about chickens but want to learn more, then this is the class for you. Learn what types of breeds to select for eggs or meat, learn how to grade and sort eggs for quality and safe consumption, and explore different types of production facilities, water and feed alternatives, and housing options.

The class will look at different breed qualities, judge used hens for future production, and compare farm eggs to store bought eggs. Other topics to be discussed include pasture poultry, free-range chickens, and cage free eggs offered in the supermarket. We will explore some common urban legends such as why some think a brown egg taste better than a white egg, why some think home grown eggs are better than store bought eggs, why the yolk is yellow, what it means to "candle" an egg and, do you really need a rooster. We will also briefly talk about hatching your own chicks at home and butchering broilers.

Learn the ins and outs of successful egg production year round in Kentucky. This informative hands-on seminar will be presented by a local farmer who has raised poultry for show, competition, and hobby for over 30 years.

NRCS Will Only Fund 10% of EQIP

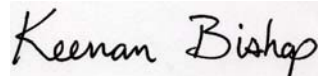
On January 10, 2008-Michael Hubbs, State Conservationist for U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service in Kentucky announced that Kentucky USDA NRCS field offices received and processed 4,531 EQIP applications for the first ranking period of fiscal year 2008. The FY2008 EQIP allocation for Kentucky is \$10,260,000.

Of the 4,531 applications received, 3,241 are eligible with an amount equal to \$47,647,049. The little more than \$10 million actually available will fund approximately 450 applications which is a mere 10 percent of the applications received.

Mike Hubbs, State Conservationist said, "The recent application requests for EQIP contracts totaled over four times the amount we received. This indicates Kentucky is in need of additional EQIP funds. As state conservationist, I will request additional funds and keep you posted if more funding becomes available."

This first ranking period ended November 16, 2007 however, one can apply at anytime for the EQIP program. Applications not funded are held until the next ranking period.

EQIP applications are evaluated and ranked using criteria set forth by local work groups to determine which applications provide the best environmental benefits and address the resource concerns of their local area. These criteria are on the Kentucky NRCS website: <http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>. For applications selected for funding, an EQIP plan of operations will be developed with the landuser to identify appropriate conservation practices. EQIP practices in Kentucky include, but are not limited to, critical area planting; pipeline and watering facility; grassed waterway; diversion; and fencing.



Keenan Bishop
County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources



FCIS FFA members helped out at the Inaugural Parade by providing water for the more than 100 horses that attended. **Front row:** Mr. Kylen Douglas (Vo Ag Teacher), Caitlin Criswell, Whitney Hall, Justin Akers. **Back Row:** Jared Toles, Bradley Akers.



Cooperative Extension Service
University of Kentucky
Franklin County
101 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY 40601-4950

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28th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference

This past year was difficult for many alfalfa growers, but the calendar pages have turned, and it's time to think about the 2008 production year. The 28th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference will highlight topics of interest to growers of this legume. The daylong program is Feb. 21 at the Cave City Convention Center. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and the conference gets under way at 8:45 a.m. Topics include:

- Back to Basics • Haymaking: a trip down memory lane • Weed free hay: status in Kentucky
 - Alfalfa: forage crop of the future • Alfalfa balage: testing for quality
 - Hay supply, price and the future.

No pre-registration is required. Registration fee is \$15, or \$5 for students, and includes lunch and a copy of conference proceedings. Certified crop adviser credits are available. There will also be exhibits, a silent auction and an awards presentation during the event. The conference is sponsored by the UK College of Agriculture, UK Cooperative Extension Service and the Kentucky Forage and Grasslands Council.

For more information contact Lacefield at 270-365-7541, ext. 202 or Christi Forsythe, 270-365-7541, ext. 221. Or visit <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>.