

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Ohio County Agricultural Newsletter

Extension Farm & Home Newsletter Fall 2011

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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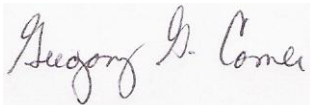
Dear Ohio County Producers:

The 2011 growing season was another challenging year, with heavy rains during planting and dry weather late in the growing season. But, overall the year provided ample enough growing conditions to have good yields and plenty of hay/grass.

The following newsletter discusses important news and upcoming events which are vital to maintaining the viability of your farm operation.

The Ohio County Cooperative Extension Service is here to assist you and your operation throughout the year. Feel free to contact us at any time. Our greatest satisfaction is gained when you are successful in your operation.

Sincerely,



Gregory G. Comer
County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources

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To file a complaint of discrimination, contact Jim Lawson, UK College of Agriculture, 859-257-3879; Terry Allen or Patty Bender, UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 859-257-8927; or the USDA, Director Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Bldg. , 14th & Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 (202-720-5964)

EXTENSION NEWS WEBPAGE

Would you like to keep up with the latest Extension and agriculture news/events? Then visit the Ohio County Extension “Farm & Home News” web page at:

<http://ces.ca.uky.edu/ohio/AgNaturalResources>

EARLY BIRD GRAIN MANAGEMENT MTG.

The annual “Early Bird Grain Management Meeting” will be held in the Green River Area on December 7th at the Feedmill Restaurant in Morganfield. The program begins at 9:00 a.m. and runs till 2:30 p.m.

This program is designed to assist grain producers by providing important information which can help you make decisions when pre-paying for crop inputs. This year’s program includes the following topics:

- “Refuge in a Bag, Western Rootworm & Stink Bug Updates”
- “Weed Resistance – What Now”
- “Narrow Row Corn & Plant Populations Research Updates”
- “Soybean Cyst Nematode & Corn Seed Treatments”
- “Fertilizer Strategies for 2012”
- “Crop Profitability Outlook for 2012”
- “Grain Marketing Strategies”
- “Farm Energy Audits”

Lunch is being provided by the Ky Corn Growers Association, Ky Soybean Board, and Ky Small Grain Growers Association.

The program is free and open to any interested grain producers. Seating is limited, so if you plan to attend, please contact the Extension Office at 298-7441 to reserve your seat.

2011 CAIP COST-SHARE PROGRAM SIGNUP STARTS – DEC. 9th

The Ohio Co. Cattlemen's Association will begin taking applications for the "2011 County Agricultural Investment Programs" (CAIP) on December 9, 2011. Applications will be accepted until noon January 6, 2012.

The CAIP program is the cost-share program administered by the Ohio County Cattleman's Association using the Agricultural Development Council funds.

This year's program encompasses eleven different of areas, which include:

- 1) Ag Diversification
This program includes cost-share for diversifying into a variety of new enterprises such as, commercial vegetable, mushroom, herb, fruit or sweet sorghum production, ornamental horticultural products, greenhouses for horticultural enterprises, small animal production, poultry products, equine production, direct to consumer livestock production, agri-tourism development, sod production, and timber production & marketing.
- 2) Cattle Genetics Improvement
This program allows cost-share on bulls, semen for artificial insemination or heifer purchases.
- 3) Cattle Handling
Program is similar to what has been offered in the past, with cost-share available for handling facilities for beef cattle, secure lots for mature bulls, weaning/receiving pens and handling facilities for dairy cattle.
- 4) Commercial Poultry, Dairy and Swine
This program allows for cost-share on various items necessary for advancing the efficiency of poultry, swine and dairy operations.
- 5) Farm Fencing Improvement
Cost-share is available for fencing installation or improvement, for the proper containment of livestock.
- 6) Farm Structure & Commodity Handling
Allows cost-share for hay & straw storage, commodity handling equipment and commodity storage.
- 7) Farmland Improvement & Utilization
Cost-share is available for hay/pasture development, forage/ grain improvement, filter fabric for heavy use areas, subsurface drainage, and custom seeding or rental of seeding equipment.
- 8) Goat & Sheep
Eligible items in this program are for improving the production and efficiency of goat and sheep enterprises, such as, handling equipment, breeding females, dairy facilities for goats, buck or ram purchase, buck/ram leasing, and wool processing & value added production.
- 9) On-Farm Energy Efficiency & Production
This is a new program designed to assist producers in improving the energy efficiency of agricultural operations and buildings.
- 10) On-farm Water Enhancement
A variety of water improvements for livestock production or irrigation are eligible under this program, such as, water line hook-up to county water lines for farm use, developing farm springs, construction of small stream basins, installation of permanent automatic waterers, drilling for subsurface aquifers, and establishing or enhancing on-farm ponds.
- 11) Technology
The program allows for cost-share in the areas of precision agriculture, animal data management, computer hardware/software, internet service and other equipment

It would be difficult to give detailed information about each of these programs in this limited space. So, applicants who would like more details can visit the CAIP website at <http://www.agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/caip.shtml> . You can also pick up information at the Extension office on these programs if internet is not available to you.

Total cost-share is limited to 50% up to \$4000 per producer (as defined by the Ky Agricultural Development Council). There are also program limits for each individual program. Two are 50% up to \$4000 (Technology/Leadership Development & Farm Structure/Commodity Handling) and the other nine programs are limited to 50% up to \$2000.

Applications may be picked up at the Extension office starting December 1, 2011. Applications must be returned between December 9, 2011 and noon January 6, 2012.

All applicants should read the rules and eligible items closely, as some programs have prerequisites or must be applied for before purchases are made. If you have questions, contact one of the members of the Ohio Co. Cattleman's Association Cost-Share Committee or the Extension Office.

2011 CAIP UPDATE MEETING

There will be a meeting to discuss the “2011 County Agricultural Investment Program” (CAIP) on December 8, 2011 at the Ohio County Extension Center. The Ohio County Cattlemen’s Association will be providing dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. with discussions on the CAIP cost-share program starting at 7:00 p.m.

We will discuss how the program will operate this year, as well as provide an update on the 2011 CAIP cost-share. The meeting is free and open to all persons interested in learning about the cost-share program for 2011.

PLAN TO LOWER WINTER FEED COSTS

Winter feeding is probably the single largest expense of maintaining the cow herd. This year will not be an exception due to high input costs (especially grain and concentrates). However, there are several management practices that we can use to lower our feed costs and make our herds more profitable.

The amount of hay and purchased feed needed can be decreased by extending grazing for as long as possible. Last year at Princeton, we had to begin feeding hay in August. This year, grazing might continue until Thanksgiving due to improved moisture conditions. Pastures that have received nitrogen and been allowed to accumulate growth can be grazed even farther into the winter, thus markedly delaying the start of winter feeding. Accumulated/stockpiled fescue pastures should be strip-grazed to avoid waste and increase grazing days.

Pregnancy check the spring calving cow herd now and eliminate the wintering of open cows – or move them to the fall-calving group. Thin cows that are pregnant can be put on stockpiled pasture as soon as their calves are weaned to regain body condition prior to the winter feeding period. Favorable prices make this a good time to cull unproductive cows.

Calculate the amount of hay that you need to feed the cows through the winter. A rough estimate would be about two percent of their bodyweight for 120 days or so. That would be about 25 lbs daily for 120 days to equal approximately 3,000 lb of hay per cow. Now multiply 3,000 lb by the number of cows that you plan to winter to estimate the amount of hay needed. You might be able to feed less than 120 days but don’t count on it, and your round bales of hay probably weigh closer to 1100-1200 lbs rather than the expected 1500 lbs. Obtain forage analyses on your hay supply so that you can estimate your supplemental feed needs. Supplemental feed purchases can be made ahead of time for best prices.

Plan to minimize feed losses. Consider a feeding pad (geotextile fabric and gravel) with hay feeders to minimize mud and waste. Cost share programs may be available for permanent feeding structures. Feed pads or structures will also minimize damage to your pastures during the wet winter months.

Consider lower cost alternative feeds when purchasing supplements. Be aware of the nutrient value of purchased ingredients – things like rice hulls, peanut hulls, cottonseed hulls, etc. may have very little feed value. You should know (based on your forage analyses) if you need protein, energy or both and purchase your feed accordingly.

Cattle should be grouped according to their nutritional needs for winter feeding. There are several distinct management groups in most beef herds:

- Cows nursing calves
- Weanling replacement heifers
- Bred yearling heifers
- Dry, pregnant cows
- Herd bulls

Most herds will have at least three of these groups which will benefit from being managed separately.

Increase feed to cows after calving to get calves off to a good start and to maintain the cow’s body condition. Don’t let cows lose much condition (flesh) this winter or next year’s pregnancy rates will suffer. Calf prices will likely remain high so attempting to save money by underfeeding the cow herd this winter is bad business for the future.

AGRICULTURAL TRUCKING REGULATIONS MEETING – JAN. 12TH

The Ohio County Cooperative Extension Service is again partnering with the KY State Police /Vehicle Enforcement Division to provide farmers a forum to discuss current agricultural trucking regulations.

The meeting will be held January 12, 2012 at the Ohio County Extension Center on Clay Street in Hartford, starting at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a variety of topics concerning transporting agricultural products, including an update on safety regulations, licensing requirements, and driver qualifications.

This is an important opportunity for all agricultural producers to receive the most up-to-date information, whether you transport grain with a semi-truck or just transport livestock with a pickup and trailer. Trucking regulations impact you any time you transport agricultural products or pull a trailer!!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Dec. 6 – Lenders/Agribusinesses Conference; Daviess Co. Extension office; noon till 3:00 p.m.
- Dec. 7 – Early Bird Crop Management Meeting; Feedmill Restaurant, Morganfield; 9:00 a.m. till 2:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9th – Start taking applications for CAIP cost-share
- Jan. 5&6 – 2012 Ky Fruit & Vegetable Conference & Trade Show; Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington
- Jan. 6 – Deadline for application for CAIP cost-share
- Jan. 12-14 – Ky Cattleman's Association Convention; Lexington Convention Center
- Jan. 19 – Green River CPH Sale (Basic); Kentuckiana Stockyards; 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 20 – Ky Commodity Conference; Bowling Green
- Jan. 25-26 – Heart of America Grazing Conference, Holiday Inn; Mt. Vernon, Ill.
- Feb. 15-18 – National Farm Machinery Show; Louisville
- Feb. 23 – Ky Alfalfa Conference; Cave City Convention Center; Cave City
- March 1-3 – Commodity Classic; Nashville