

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

PHASE I COST-SHARE PROGRAM

The now called County Agriculture Investment Program (C.A.I.P) has taken some changes since the last application. First, there is a universal application for all counties across Kentucky with minor exceptions. One big guideline changed by the state board is cost-share on labor is **no longer** an eligible item; materials only are cost-share eligible. If you are applying for cost-share money in the On-Farm Energy Efficiency & Production Investment Area, documented hired labor is an eligible cost-share item for this program only. Rankings are done on a point system; date and time of application will no longer matter. Also, applications will be distributed and taken at the Scott Co. Conservation Office, 100 E. Penn Ave.

Applications for the C.A.I.P will be taken from **September 14 to September 17, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** September 14 is also the first day they will be made available to Scott County applicants. Projects will be retroactive to August 1, 2009 with a completion date of January 29, 2010. There are eleven investment areas and you may select three for cost-share funding up to a total of \$5,000. The local board has set two levels of 50% cost share funding as follows:

Maximum reimbursement of \$5,000

Agriculture Diversification
Farm Livestock Fencing Improvement
Farm Structure & Commodity Handling
Forage Improvement & Utilization
On-Farm Water Enhancement

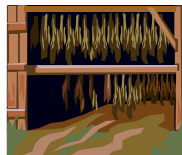
Maximum reimbursement of \$2,500

Cattle Genetics Improvement
Cattle Handling Facilities
Commercial Poultry, Dairy, & Swine
Goat & Sheep Diversification
On-Farm Energy Efficiency & Production
Technology

FARM – CITY FIELD DAY

The Scott County Farm-City Field Day will be held on **September 17** at Elmwood Stock Farm located at 3636 Paris Pike. **Tours will begin at 5:00 p.m.** with rotations every twenty minutes. You will have the option of choosing four of the six stops you want to attend as there will only be four rotations. This will be a walking tour, but transportation will be available if needed between stations. The topics include the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program, composting, plasticulture, poultry production, raspberry and blackberry production, and rotational grazing. **Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.** More information will be mailed out and available in the coming weeks.

TOBACCO



The weather has been very favorable to blue mold this season. Blue mold has been found in all the surrounding counties of Scott County and I suspect it is here also. For those producers who have applied Quadris once should expect that application to give control for about 2 weeks; a second fungicide treatment may be required after that point if tobacco is a week or more away from topping.

TOBACCO....continued

Options for control of blue mold include Forum (new version of Acrobat) tank-mixed with Dithane (can also use Manzate or Penncozeb), or Quadris. If using Quadris, apply 8 fl oz/A as a preventive, or 10-12 fl oz/A if disease is already present. Dithane (1.5-2 lb/A) plus Forum (3-7 fl oz/A) can be used; however, Dithane cannot be used within 30 days of harvest on burley tobacco. Quadris can be applied up to the day of harvest. Always refer to product labels for specific use directions.

ANDERSON COUNTY TO HOST KFGC FIELD DAY

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council Field Day will be held **September 3** on the James R. Smith Farm at 1984 Graefenburg Rd. in Lawrenceburg. County Agent Tommy Yankey and the entire group have done an outstanding job planning and preparing for this event. It will start at **4:00 p.m.** with registration. Tours start at **5:15 p.m.** Tour stops and speakers include:

1. 11 Acres of Eastern Gama grass Interseeded with Red Clover and Pasja Forage Turnips for Summer Grazing – Dr. Glen Aiken, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Animal Scientist
2. Alfalfa/Orchardgrass Hay Production and Management – Dr. Garry Lacefield, Extension Forage Specialist
3. Field Corn Planted for Grazing in Fall/Winter – Tommy Yankey, Anderson County Extension Agent for Agriculture
4. Renovating Fescue Pastures – Dr. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialist
5. Watering Systems for Rotational Grazing – Ralph Quillin, Kentucky Graziers Supply
6. Balancing Nutritional Requirements when Grazing Field Corn – Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Beef Specialist

Supper will be prepared and served by the Anderson County Cattlemen's Association.

Please call 502-863-0984 by Friday, August 28 to give a number of people attending.

KENTUCKY BEEF CONFERENCE

The next Kentucky Beef Conference "Planning Today for Tomorrow's Market," is scheduled for **October 27, 2009**. It will be held at the Fayette County Extension beginning with registration at **9:00 a.m.** and lasting until 3:00 p.m.

This year's conference will feature the most up-to-date information on beef marketing with an emphasis on herd management and marketing options. A representative from Cattle-FAX, Randy Blach, Dr. Larry Hollis, DVM, Kansas State University Extension Specialist and UK Extension Specialists, Dr. Cory Walters, Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler will be the presenters. Topics to be covered are:

- Marketing Overview and Long-Term Marketing Trends Related to Beef
- Feed Grain Outlook
- Nutrition for Healthy Calf to Market
- Management Practices that Influence Marketability of the Stocker and Cow/calf Herd
- Marketing Strategies for 2009-2010.

***To pre-register contact:
Scott County Extension Office***

***Registration is \$10.00 per person.
Registration will be collected the morning
of the program.***

Lunch and refreshments are included.



HORSE COLLEGE

Scott County along with Harrison, Owen and Grant Counties will be hosting a Horse College in November. The Horse College is a multi-county educational activity designed for the adult horse owner. The programs are a cooperative activity between Dr. Bob Coleman from the University of Kentucky, the state horse extension specialist, and county agents. Speakers include Dr. Coleman, Dr. Fernanda Camargo-Stutzman, UK Extension Horse Specialist, and a speaker from the KY Horseshoeing School. If you are interested in attending this program please contact the Scott County Extension Office as there are a limited number of spots available. **Cost of the program is \$50 per person** which includes a dinner every evening. Programs will run from **6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** each evening.



November 2 – Feeding Considerations
November 9 – Health Care Basics
November 16 – Hoof Care
November 23 – Facilities and Behavior

IMPROVED NITRATE TESTING FOR KY

The state Livestock Disease and Diagnostic Center (LDDC) in Lexington has just developed an improved procedure for testing nitrate levels in forages. Nitrate levels can build up to harmful levels in warm season forages or small grains during severe drought or immediately after frost, especially on fields where manure or high levels of nitrogen have been applied. If any of these conditions are present in your fields then take a representative sample of what the animals will eat if grazing or use a core sampler if hay or bale age. Normally samples are submitted to the lab by a vet, but county agents can submit by using their name as the vet and the owner's name under the owner heading. The fee is \$10 per sample with a 2 to 3 day turn around. Samples can be dry or wet -- if wet, sample should be boxed with ice

packs and mailed overnight or delivered in person so the nitrate does not breakdown. With dry hay samples, no need to put on ice packs. To arrange sample drop off call the LDDC at 859-253-0571.

TIMELY TIPS

Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Bulls should have been removed from the cow herd by now! They should be penned away from the cow herd with a good fence and allowed to regain lost weight and condition. It is a good time to evaluate physical condition, especially feet and legs. Bulls can be given medical attention and still have plenty of time to recover, e.g., corns, abscesses, split hooves, etc.
- Fescue pastures are not likely to produce much this month. *Pasture, other than fescue, can be beneficial.* If it looks like pastures will run out, provide emergency feed such as a neighbor's idle pasture, summer annuals or hay.
- Providing high quality forage, if available, to suckling calves will increase weaning weight. Creep graze or advance graze calves, providing them with the best forages available.
- Repair and improve corrals for fall working and weaning. Consider having an area to wean calves and retain ownership for post-weaning feeding rather than selling "green" calves. Plan to participate in CPH-45 feeder calf sales.



Fall-Calving Cow Herd

- It will soon be time for fall calves. Get ready, be sure you have the following:
 - record book
 - eartags for identification
 - iodine solution for newborn calf's navel
 - calf puller
 - castration equipment
- Dry cows should be moved to better pastures as calving time approaches. Cows should start calving next month. Yearling heifers may begin "headstart" calving later this month. Plan to move cows to stockpiled fescue for the breeding season, as it will soon be time to apply nitrogen fertilizer.



General

- Provide shade and water! Cattle will need shade during the hot part of the day. Check water supply frequently – as much as 20 gallons may be required by high producing cows in very hot weather.
- Avoid working cattle when temperatures are extremely high – especially those grazing high-endophyte fescue. If cattle must be handled, do so in the early morning.
- Keep a good mineral mix available at all times. The UK Beef IRM Basic Cow-Calf mineral is good. Cattle may also be more prone to eat poisonous plants during periods of extreme temperature stress. They will stay in "wooded" areas and graze on plants that they would not normally consume. Consider putting a roll of hay in these areas and/or spraying plants like purple (perilla) mint which can be toxic.

- Take soil samples to determine pasture fertility needs. Fertilize as needed, this fall.
- Select pastures for stockpiling. Remove cattle and apply nitrogen when moisture conditions are favorable. Stockpiled fescues can be especially beneficial for fall-calving cows after calving.
- Do not give up on fly control in late summer, especially if fly numbers are greater than about 50 flies per animal. You can use a different "type" of spray or pour-on to kill any resistant flies at the end of fly season.

KENTUCKY GRAZING SCHOOL

The Kentucky Grazing School is coming up **October 8-9** in **Woodford County**.

The class sessions will be at the Woodford County Extension Office and the field activities are at the UK Animal Research Unit just north of Versailles. This is the first 2-day Grazing School that has been offered in several years and will provide excellent hands-on training in the practical aspects of grazing and setting up grazing systems. The **registration fee is only \$45. Pre-registration is necessary, see enclosed brochure.**

Sincerely,

Josh Renaker
County Extension Agent for
Agriculture and Natural Resources
<http://ces.ca.uky.edu/scott>

JR:kb

CALENDAR

- 09/03** KY Forage and Grassland Council
Field Day, Anderson County, 4 p.m.
- 09/14 – 17** Phase I Cost Share Program
(CAIP) Application Sign-ups
Scott County Conservation Office
- 09/17** **Farm – City Field Day**
Elmwood Stock Farm, Paris Pk., 5 p.m.
- 10/08 – 09** **Kentucky Grazing School**
Woodford County Extension Office
(10/08) 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
(10/09) 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- 10/27** **Kentucky Beef Conference**
Fayette County Extension, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 11/02 – 11/23** **Horse College**
Scott County Extension Office, 6 p.m.
- 11/02** “Feeding Considerations”
11/09 “Health Care Basics”
11/16 “Hoof Care”
11/23 “Facilities and Behavior”