



Jessamine County
Agriculture



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

AGRICULTURE NEWS

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Cooperative
Extension Service
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Steve Musen
Jessamine County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources



March 2024

Agriculture Services Info. Meeting

The Jessamine County Conservation District, Jessamine County Extension Office, and the Jessamine County FFA/Alumni have once again teamed up to provide an evening of food and details of importance to Ag Producers.

The meeting is being held on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at the Jessamine Career and Technology Center (JCTC Central) beginning at 6:00 pm. The Jessamine County FFA/Alumni will be preparing our meal, consisting of your choice of three soups, sandwiches, cookies, and drinks. In order to prepare accordingly, please RSVP to Gary Burdine at (859) 381-7912 or by email gary.burdine@jessamine.kyschools.us

The “deets” of the meeting will be Cost-share Programs available to Producers/ Farmers. Our guest speakers for the evening will be Kim Bartley from the KY Division of Conservation (DOC), and Heath Mineer from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Winchester, KY office.

Some of the programs to be discussed are the State Cost-share program, Agricultural District Program, Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Our purpose is to make you more aware of the programs that are available to you and ensure more producers will apply.

Bonus! This meeting will count as an educational component for CAIP.

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events
in Agriculture 2

Cook Wild!
Recipe—Oven
Baked Frog Legs 2

Upcoming
Opportunities 3

Optimizing
Baleage Quality 4

Late Winter
Fruit Tree Pruning 5

Winter Tractor
Maintenance 6

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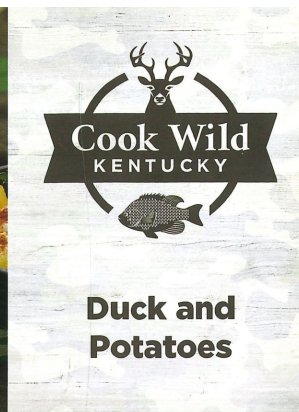


Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Upcoming Events in Agriculture

March 5	Pastures Please! Equine Forage Conf. 5:30p @ Fayette County Extension	March 16	Profit thru Performance Bull Sale 1:00p @ White Beef Cattle Farm
March 7	Agriculture Programs Info Meeting 6:00p @ JCTC Central	March 18	Jessamine County Cattlemen 6:30p @ Jessamine Extension
March 7	C KY Tobacco Growers Meeting 6:30 @ Woodford County Extension	March 18	Jessamine County Beekeepers 6:00p @ Jessamine Extension
March 14	Cow-Calf Profitability Conference 9:00a-4:00p @ Madison Co Extension	March 21	Injury Prevention in the Garden Webinar—See flyer
March 14	Jessamine County Goat Producers 6:00p @ Jessamine Extension	April 23	Gardening in Small Spaces @ Jessamine County Library

For more information on any of these programs, please contact the Jessamine County Extension Office



Healthy Recipe From Cook Wild Kentucky



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — SNAP.



University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service

Duck and Potatoes

- 1 wild duck, cleaned
- 1 unpeeled apple, cut in half
- 3 to 4 cups water
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 4 large potatoes, diced
- 3 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 teaspoons ground sage

Place whole duck and apple in a 5-quart kettle with 3 to 4 cups of water. Cover. Boil for 30 minutes. Place duck in 15x10 baking dish, add 2 cups liquid from boiled duck. Season

with salt and pepper. Cover. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 45 minutes. Add potatoes, carrots, onion, and sage. Bake 45 minutes to 1 hour longer or until duck and potatoes are tender. (The internal temperature of the duck should reach 165 degrees Fahrenheit at the leg joint.) If necessary, add water to keep liquid on duck and potatoes.

Note: To reduce fat content, remove skin and visible fat before cooking. This will also reduce “wild” flavor.

Yield: 6 servings

Nutrition Facts	
6 servings per container	
Serving size 3 ounces meat, one potato, 1/2 cup vegetables (484g)	
Amount per serving	% Daily Value*
Calories	600
Total Fat 29g	37%
Saturated Fat 10g	50%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 150mg	50%
Sodium 190mg	8%
Total Carbohydrate 46g	17%
Dietary Fiber 6g	21%
Total Sugars 7g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 38g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 53mg	4%
Iron 10mg	60%
Potassium 1,430mg	30%

* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.



Upcoming Opportunities:

Pastures Please! Equine Forage Conference

Tuesday, March 5th, 5:30p-7:00p @ Fayette County Extension Office
 See flyer for registration information
 Meets [CAIP Education Requirements](#)

Central Kentucky Tobacco Growers Meeting

Thursday, March 7th, 6:30p @ Woodford County Extension Office
 See flyer for registration information
 Meets [CAIP Education Requirements](#)

Ag. Services Info. Meeting

Thursday, March 7th, 6:00p @ JCTC Central Office
 See Page 1 for registration information
 Meets [CAIP Education Requirements](#)

Cow-Calf Profitability Conference

Thursday, March 14th, 9:00a-4:00p @ Madison County Extension Office
 See flyer for registration information
 Meets [CAIP Education Requirements](#)

Injury Prevention in the Garden—Webinar

Thursday, March 21st, 11:00a-12:30p
 See flyer for registration information
 Meets [CAIP Education Requirements](#)

Jessamine County Beekeepers

Thursday, March 28th, 6:00p @ Jessamine County Extension
 See flyer for registration information
 Meets [CAIP Education Requirements](#)

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Optimizing Baleage Quality: A Guide for Kentucky Forage Producers

“Round-baled silage has emerged as a preferred method for preserving high-quality forage in Kentucky, offering numerous advantages for livestock feeding”

Round-baled silage has emerged as a preferred method for preserving high-quality forage in Kentucky, offering numerous advantages for livestock feeding. However, this technique presents unique challenges. Notably, achieving the ideal moisture content (MC) of 40-60% and ensuring the forage is adequately oxygen-free when wrapped in plastic.

A fermentation report helps producers evaluate the quality of their baleage and assess potential feeding risks. Poorly fermented baleage can lead to clostridial bacterial growth, and even botulism.

Here are some ways to optimize your baleage quality:

- **pH and its Importance:** Ensiling lowers bale pH through the production of lactic acid. A pH of 5.0 or lower inhibits clostridial bacteria growth. The target pH varies with forage type and moisture content. For example, legume baleage is stable at a higher pH than grasses.
- **Moisture Content and Dry Matter:** Achieving a MC within the 40-60% range is essential for effective fermentation. The sweet spot for fermentation is between 50-60% MC, fostering robust lactic acid production and maintaining a pH

below 5.0, thereby inhibiting harmful clostridial bacteria. Baleage with MC lower than 50% may have restricted lactic acid production and elevated pH levels, potentially affecting fermentation. However, bales kept anaerobic by at least six layers of UV-resistant plastic can remain valuable feed, even if not fully fermented.

- **Crude Protein:** The forage's crude protein content, determined by its nitrogen content multiplied by 6.25, is a key indicator of fermentation potential. Early-cut forages, which usually have higher crude protein levels, also possess more fermentable carbohydrates, crucial for a successful fermentation process.

- **Lactic and Acetic Acids:** Lactic acid, the primary product of anaerobic fermentation, is pivotal in reducing pH and stabilizing baleage. Desired lactic acid levels are above 3% on a dry matter basis. However, levels often fall below this target, especially when MC is under 50%. These lower levels are not overly concerning if the bales are wrapped in plastic which remains intact until feeding. Acetic acid, vital for preventing yeast and mold growth once bales are exposed to oxygen, should ideally be between 1-4%

(DM basis). Excessive acetic acid may signal issues like high moisture content or clostridial fermentations.

- **Propionic and Butyric Acids:** These acids should be minimized, with propionic acid below 1% and butyric acid under 0.5% (DM basis). Elevated levels indicate possible fer-



Image: Hay and Forage Grower

Optimizing Baleage Quality (cont.)

mentation problems, such as insufficient sugars for fermentation or secondary fermentation by clostridial bacteria, potentially affecting livestock health.

- **Ammonia and Ash Content:** Ammonia, measured as a percentage of total nitrogen or as a crude protein equivalent, indicates the extent of clostridial fermentation. Ammonia-N levels exceeding 15% suggest significant clostridial activity. Ash content can reveal soil contamination; levels above 11% often mean dirt intru-

sion, a primary pathway for clostridial bacteria into baleage.

Physical Observation: Evaluating baleage's physical attributes, such as odor, bale shape and effluent presence, is also crucial. A pleasant smell, the absence of seepage and intact plastic wrapping are good indicators of successful fermentation.

Source: Dr. Jimmy Henning, U.K. Plant and Soil Science Professor

Late-Winter Fruit Tree Pruning

All fruit trees must be pruned and trained to enhance fruit production, as the way the tree is shaped will impact fruit yield, fruit size and ripening. In Kentucky, the ideal time to prune fruit trees is in late winter or early spring.

Both newly planted and mature fruit trees must be pruned to maintain size and shape. Here are some easy tips:

- For young trees, pruning to a strong central leader with four to five lateral branches is most common.
- Heading cuts can be done on mature trees to control the tree's height; thinning cuts can open up the canopy and maximize sunlight and airflow. For older, overgrown trees that need heavier pruning, removing up to 1/3 of the larger branches over several years will help rejuvenate the tree.
- Pruning cuts should be made at the base of the branches, leaving a ¼" to ½" branch collar intact for proper healing. Dead and diseased shoots and limbs should be removed, as well as any shriv-

eled or 'mummy' fruit remaining on the tree.

Sharp pruners or loppers should be used to ensure clean cuts. Sanitize the tool blades between each cut with rubbing alcohol or a 10% bleach solution so as not to spread any disease that may be present.

For more information on pruning apple trees, visit the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/user/UKAgriculture) at <https://www.youtube.com/user/UKAgriculture>.

[Pruning Central Leader Apple Trees \(https://bit.ly/48VR31Q\)](https://bit.ly/48VR31Q) discusses trees that are pruned to the classic pyramid or oval shape.

[Pruning Tall Spindle Apple Trees \(https://bit.ly/4bh85JA\)](https://bit.ly/4bh85JA) focuses on the high-density supported training system with trees planted on dwarf rootstocks, producing a crop as little as a year after planting.

Source: Delia Scott, U.K. Department of Horticulture Extension Associate

“In Kentucky, the ideal time to prune fruit trees is in late winter or early spring.”

Winter Tractor Maintenance

“Tractor maintenance tends to fall by the wayside when you get busy. Don’t put these tasks off until spring and summer.”

Tractor maintenance tends to fall by the wayside when you get busy. Don’t put these tasks off until spring and summer. Performing a simple front-to-back routine every week can help you remember key maintenance points. The manufacturer will have suggested intervals for most of the maintenance tasks, so you won’t have to do everything every week. But the routine will prompt you to ask if it is time to do specific tasks. Be ready for the growing season before it starts with these 10 routine maintenance tasks.

1. Inspect the front axles and steering. Is it time to grease the bearings and steering components? Make sure nothing is loose.
2. Check the coolant system. Make sure the coolant levels are adequate. Ensure the radiator is not plugged up with debris.
3. Look at those belts. Check to see they have the right tension and that they are not cracked. This will prompt you to have a spare on hand.
4. The air filter is next. Make sure it is not clogged and robbing power from your engine by not allowing air to get through.
5. Check engine oil. You should check this daily, but if you haven’t, a good time to do it is during your weekly inspection. Also, check the fluid itself to ensure it doesn’t have any contaminants or water in it.
6. Pay attention to the battery. If your battery is not a maintenance-free battery, check the liquid levels. Examine the cables for corrosion and make sure they aren’t rubbing against the frame components.
7. Check clutch and brake linkages. With everyday use, you may not notice linkage getting out of adjustment. Specifically check for free play and other linkage adjustments.
8. Look at the hydraulic reservoir. Make sure the fluid is at the correct level and change the fluid when needed. The system provides fluids for remote cylinders, and it the critical lubricating force in your tractor’s transmission.
9. Test those tires Make sure they are properly inflated.
10. Check the back of the tractor. Is it clean? Make sure the hydraulic hose connections are clean to keep dirt out of the system.

These simple procedures can extend the life of your tractors and protect your critical investment. For more information on equipment maintenance, contact the Jessamine County Cooperative Extension Service.

Dr. Tim Stombaugh, U.K. Extension Agricultural Engineer



2024 Horses & Horsemen:

Join us for the 17th annual

PASTURES PLEASE!!

Tuesday, March 5

Schedule:

5:30—Meal

6:00—How to Rescue a Pasture for Short Term Use, Dr. Jimmy Henning

6:30—Selecting Herbicides for Targeted Weed Control, Dr. Bill Witt

7:00—Not Just Triple 19 – Fertilizing Pastures Based on Need, Keenan Bishop



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Ag Equine Programs
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Scan QR code
to RSVP



or go to
tinyurl.com/pasturesplease24

**Scott County
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1130 Cincinnati Rd
Georgetown, KY 40324
502-863-0984

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JESSAMINE COUNTY
BEEKEEPER'S CLUB
MARCH MEETING

Laura Sparkman talks
about: **Swarm catching -
how to get FREE BEES**

Join Our FB page:
Jessamine County
Beekeepers

95 PARK DR
NICHOLASVILLE, KY
6PM 3/28/24



Cow-Calf Profitability Conference

Cow-Calf Profitability Conferences are one day, intensive seminars focusing on key topics for beef producers. Conferences are funded by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund through the Kentucky Beef Network and delivered by UK Agricultural Economics' Kenny Burdine, Greg Halich and Jonathan Shepherd.

Thursday,
March 14, 2024
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Madison County
Extension Office
230 Duncannon Lane
Richmond, KY 40475

Call
859-623-4072
to RSVP

Doors open at
8:00 AM

Sponsored Lunch
provided by



Topics

- Key Profit Drivers
- Managing Hay Production Costs
- Breeding Stock Depreciation
- Reducing Fertilizer Use
- Keys to Cow Herd Management
- Tax Management Strategies
- Bale Grazing & Stocking Rates

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ZOOM WEBINAR: INJURY PREVENTION IN THE GARDEN

with Special Guest
Gabriela Murza

Utah State Extension Assistant Professor
of Health and Wellness



LEARN ABOUT:

- Preventing common garden injuries
- Minimizing pain from repetitive movements
- Using proper posture
- Maximizing tool use
- Incorporating stretches

MARCH 21st, 2024
11AM-12:30PM EST

REGISTER HERE: <https://ukfcs.net/RegistrationGardening>



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95 Park Drive
Nicholasville, KY 40356

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UK Cooperative
Extension Service

2024 Central Kentucky Tobacco Grower Meeting

Production & Economic Update

When: March 7, 2024 @ 6:30 PM

Where: Woodford County Extension Office
184 Beasley Drive
Versailles, KY 40383

Dinner will begin at 6:30, with the program to follow.

Speakers
Dr. Bob Pearce - UK Tobacco Specialist
Dr. Will Snell - UK Economic Specialist

For more information and to RSVP, please contact your county Ag Agent!

Anderson	(502) 839-7271
Fayette	(859) 257-5582
Franklin	(502) 695-9035
Jessamine	(859) 885-4811
Scott	(502) 863-0984
Woodford	(859) 873-4601

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