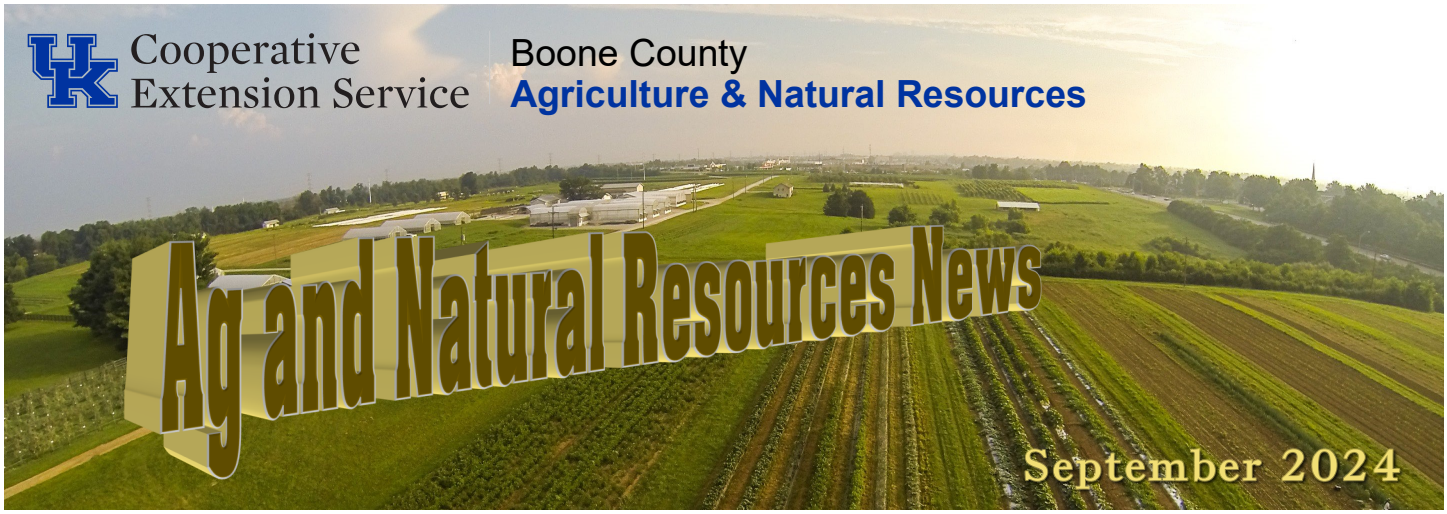
Cooperative Extension Service

Boone County
Agriculture & Natural Resources



Mark your calendars now!

► **Boone County Extension Office Closed for Labor Day**
September 2, 2024

► **2024 KY Intermediate Grazing School**
September 25-26, 2024
Woodford County Extension Office, Versailles, Ky.

► **Pond Management**
September 30, 2024 · 6pm
Virtual via Zoom

► **Homesteading Conference**
October 26, 2024 · 8am
Boone County Extension Enrichment Center

► **Master Cattlemen**
Starts **November 4, 2024**
Details on Page 3.

PO Box 876 · 6028 Camp Ernst Road | Burlington, KY 41005 | P: 859-586-6101 | F: 859-586-6107 | boone.ca.uky.edu

Fall Chickens

During the fall, backyard poultry needs special attention as the season brings cooler weather, shorter days, and molting. Here's what you should consider:

1. Nutrition:

Increased Protein: Fall is often when chickens molt. Feathers are made mostly of protein, so they need extra protein in their diet during this time. Offer high-protein treats like mealworms or supplement with higher-protein feed.

Balanced Diet: Ensure their feed remains nutritionally balanced with all necessary vitamins and minerals.

2. Lighting:

Maintaining Egg Production: As daylight decreases, so does egg production. If you want to maintain egg production, consider adding artificial lighting to extend the "daylight" hours. Aim for 14-16 hours of light daily.

3. Coop Preparation:

Ventilation: Ensure the coop is well-ventilated but free from drafts. Good ventilation helps prevent moisture build-up, which can cause respiratory issues.

Bedding: Increase bedding like straw or wood shavings to provide insulation against cooler nights.

Rodent Proofing: As temperatures drop, rodents might seek warmth in the coop. Inspect and seal any entry points.

4. Molting Care:

Support During Molting: Molting is stressful, and chickens may act lethargic and stop laying. Providing extra protein and avoiding handling them too much can reduce stress.

5. Water Supply:

Preventing Freezing: In colder climates, make sure waterers are heated or change water frequently to prevent freezing. Hydration is crucial even in cooler weather.

6. Parasite Control:

Regular Checks: Fall is a good time to inspect for parasites like mites and lice, as these can become problematic with the cooler weather.

7. Predator Protection:

Increased Vigilance: Fall is a time when predators like foxes and raccoons become more active as they prepare for winter. Ensure your coop and run are secure.

By meeting these needs, you'll keep your backyard poultry healthy and comfortable through the fall season.

Fall Fertilizer Applications to Hay Fields and Pastures

You may be wondering if it's necessary and economical to apply fertilizer to your pastures and hay grounds this fall.

The answer depends on your specific situation. When considering the options for your operation, the first thing you need to do is examine your soil test. If you have not taken soil samples within the past three years, you need to collect new ones before making a decision. From the soil test results, determine what, if anything, is limiting. In terms of soil pH, the minimum value depends on the type of forage you're producing. If it's alfalfa and the pH is below 6.0, you should apply lime. A grass-legume mixture usually can tolerate soil pH down to about 5.8 and a pure grass system probably can go down to pH 5.5 before yields are affected. Similar statements can be made for phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) nutrition, with alfalfa requiring the most and pure grass, specifically fescue, requiring the least.

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment recommends P applications starting when the soil test P level drops below 60 pounds per acre and K when soil test K drops below 300 pounds per acre for grasses and legumes. If you are growing alfalfa, we recommend applications for K levels below 450 pounds per acre.

If soil test levels are above these numbers, the likelihood of a yield response to additional P and/or K fertilizer is extremely low. But if you want to be sure that P and K are not limiting, apply fertilizers as recommended. If you are conservative and assume some risk that P and K might reduce yield, you might allow soil test levels to decline further. From small plot research, we know that once soil test P drops below 30 pounds per acre and/or soil test K drops below 200 pounds per acre, a yield response to added fertilizer is likely, therefore; these would be the minimum tolerable levels.

Streamside Buffers: A Simple Solution for Cleaner Water and Healthier Livestock

In Kentucky, it's common for livestock to drink directly from streams, which can lead to water contamination and damaged ecosystems. Implementing streamside buffers—vegetated areas next to streams that protect water quality and improve livestock management—should be considered to lessen negative environmental effects. August is the perfect time of the year to begin planning for site preparation.

What is a streamside buffer?

A streamside buffer, also called a riparian buffer, is a strip of land with plants like trees, shrubs and grasses located along streams or rivers. These buffers act as a protective barrier between water bodies and the land used for agriculture or other activities. They help filter out pollutants, stabilize stream banks and provide habitat for wildlife.

Benefits of streamside buffers

1. Water Quality: Buffers trap sediment and filter out pollutants from runoff, keeping streams cleaner.
2. Erosion Control: Plant roots hold soil in place, preventing erosion of stream banks.
3. Flood Control: Buffers slow down and absorb floodwaters, reducing flood damage.
4. Wildlife Habitat: The mix of trees, shrubs and grasses supports a variety of wildlife.

The width of a streamside buffer can vary, but even a narrow buffer of 15 feet on each side of a stream can protect stream banks. Wider buffers (over 100 feet) are more effective in filtering out pollutants like nitrogen.

The USDA recommends three zones for an effective buffer:

- Zone 1: Closest to the stream, consisting of undisturbed forest.
- Zone 2: Managed forest area extending further from the stream.
- Zone 3: A grassy area that helps control runoff and sediment.

https://dof.virginia.gov/water-quality-protection/learn-about-water-quality-protection/benefits-of-streamside-forests/

Benefits to farmers

For farmers, streamside buffers offer numerous advantages. They reduce land loss from erosion, protect water resources and increase land value. Buffers also create habitats for wildlife, which can boost opportunities for hunting and fishing. Additionally, there are government programs that provide financial support for establishing streamside buffers.

Cattle prefer streamside areas due to water availability and lush vegetation. However, their presence can lead to soil compaction, vegetation damage, and stream contamination. Excluding cattle from these areas improves water quality and pasture utilization. Implementing practices like fencing and providing alternative water sources and artificial shade can help manage cattle more effectively.

Implementing streamside buffers

1. Identify the area: Look for flood-prone areas near streams for buffer placement.
2. Prepare the site: Treat areas with invasive grasses before planting.
3. Select and plant vegetation: Use native plants suited to local conditions.

(Continued on next page)

4. Maintain the buffer: Regularly check and manage the buffer to ensure its effectiveness.
5. Install fencing: Protect the buffer by limiting livestock access.

More information about streamside buffers can be found at https://bit.ly/46zdvhe and https://bit.ly/4fnn4nr.

For information on developing streamside buffers, contact the Boone County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.
Source: Amanda Gumbert, water quality extension specialist

2024 Kentucky Intermediate Grazing School

Helping livestock producers improve profitability with classroom and hands-on learning

Emphasis on ruminants - beef, dairy, sheep, & goats

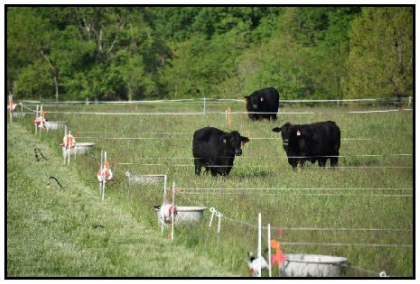
Wednesday, September 25, 2024

7:30 Registration and refreshments
8:00 Introduction of staff and participants
8:15 Grazing math and small group planning for field exercise-Dr. Katie VanValin, UK
9:00 Break & travel to field demonstration area
9:30 Getting comfortable with electric fencing-Jeremy McGill
10:00 Portable water system setup-Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, UK
10:30 Methods to assess forage availability-Dr. Ray Smith, UK
11:00 Hands-on: setting up small paddocks for grazing demonstrations-All Instructors
12:00 Return to Woodford County Extension Office
12:30 Lunch (Woodford County Cattlemen)
1:00 Hands on plant ID-Dr. Ray Smith, UK
1:30 Options for getting water to livestock-Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler and Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK
2:30 Managing tall fescue in grazing systems-Dr. Jimmy Henning
3:15 Exploring plant root systems-Dr. Ray Smith and Dr. Chris Teutsch
4:00 Discussion
4:30 Adjourn

Thursday September 26, 2024

*****MEET AT WOODFORD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE EACH MORNING*****

7:30 Refreshments
8:45 Understanding and managing nutrient cycles in grasslands-Dr. John Grove, UK
9:30 Managing shade in grazing systems-Dr. Katie VanValin, UK
9:30 Break
10:00 Drought proofing your grazing system-Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK
10:30 Utilizing the Graze Model for planning-Dr. Jimmy Henning, UK and Adam Jones, NRCS
11:15 How I made grazing work on the farm-Todd Clark, Clark Family Farm
12:00 Lunch (Woodford County Cattlemen)
12:45 Optimizing the use of existing forage resources-Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK
1:15 Travel to field demonstration area
1:45 Field exercise: observe grazed paddocks and hear reports from each group
3:00 Frost seeding clover-Brittany Hendrix and Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK
3:45 Annuals for extending grazing-Dr. Ray Smith, UK
4:45 Final comments, diplomas, and adjourn



Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

2024 Kentucky Intermediate Grazing School

Helping livestock producers improve profitability with classroom and hands-on learning

When: September 25-26, 2024

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

Cost: $60/Participant – includes all materials, grazing manual, grazing stick, morning refreshments, and lunch both days

Program Registration: DEADLINE is September 20, 2024

Online Registration with CREDIT CARD AT:
https://2024FallGrazingSchool.eventbrite.com

Registration by U.S. Mail with CHECK:

Caroline Roper
UK Research and Education Center
PO Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of participants _____ x $60 per participant = _____ Total Amount

Please make checks payable to KFGC

The KENTUCKY Forage and Grassland COUNCIL

KBN Kentucky Beef Network, LLC

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment University of Kentucky.

Kentucky Master Grazer Educational Program

KADF Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund

Bourbon Street Chicken

1 tablespoon olive oil
2 pounds boneless chicken, cut into bite-size pieces
2 teaspoons garlic powder
¼ teaspoon ginger
½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
¼ cup applesauce
¼ cup light brown sugar
2 tablespoons ketchup
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
½ cup water
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1 (10-ounce) bag frozen stir-fry vegetables and rice

1. Heat oil in large skillet over medium heat.
2. Add chicken pieces and cook until lightly browned.
3. Except for vegetables and rice, add the rest of ingredients to the skillet. Stir until well mixed.
4. Bring to a hard boil, reduce heat, and let simmer for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, cook vegetables and rice according to package instructions.
5. Serve chicken over vegetables and rice.

Servings: Makes 6 servings Serving Size: 1 cup Recipe Cost: $6.18 Cost per Serving: $1.03
Per serving: 420 calories; 12g total fat; 2.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 130mg cholesterol; 400mg sodium; 27g carbohydrate; 0g fiber; 13g sugar; 10g added sugar; 49g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 4% Daily Value of calcium; 10% Daily Value of iron; 10% Daily Value of potassium.
Source: District Four Nutrition Education Program

Let Us Know...

How can we best serve you? If you would like to opt out of future mailings or receive this newsletter electronically, email us at boone.ext@uky.edu or give us a call at 859-586-6101.

College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Gary Stockton,
Boone County Extension Agent
for Agriculture
gary.stockton@uky.edu

Lacey Kessell,
Boone County Extension Agent
for Natural Resource &
Environmental Education
lacey.laudick@uky.edu