



# Ohio County Farm & Home News

**Cooperative  
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## KY COMMODITY CONFERENCE – JAN. 19<sup>TH</sup>



Each year, in January, the grain commodity associations gather to hold their annual meeting and educational sessions. On January 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Holiday Inn, Sloan Convention Center, the Ky Commodity Conference will be held.

They have an exciting program arranged for grain producers, which include:

- Early riser session w/breakfast at 7:00 a.m. – with John McGillicuddy, acclaimed agronomist from Iowa
- Marketing Session/Panel Discussion – with Chris Swift and Bill Biedermann
- Lunch/ w/keynote speaker Jack Uldrich ; acclaimed global futurist

After lunch the Ky Soybean Association, the Ky Corn Growers and the Ky Small Grain Growers will each hold their annual meetings. A new addition will be the Ky Ag Commissioner Candidate Forum, to be held at 3:45 p.m.

This is an excellent program for grain producers to receive update production information, as well as, fellowship with producers from across Kentucky.

Registration is free and open to all grain producers. To register, go online to:

<http://www.kycommodityconference.org>

## BEEF MANAGEMENT TIPS

### • Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Study the performance of last year's calf crop and plan for improvement. Plan your breeding program and consider a better herd sire(s). Select herd sires which will allow you to meet your goals and be willing to pay for superior animals.
- Consider vaccinating the cows to help prevent calf scours.
- Keep replacement heifers gaining to increase the probability of puberty occurring before the start of the spring breeding season.
- Start cows on the high magnesium mineral supplement soon. Consider protein supplementation if hay is less than 10% crude protein. If cows are thin, begin energy (grain) supplementation now. Cows must reach a body condition score of 5 before calving to maximize their opportunity for reproductive success. Supplementation now allows adequate time for cows to calving in adequate body condition score.
- Get ready for the calving season! See that all equipment and materials are ready, including obstetrical equipment, record forms or booklets,



ear tags, scales for obtaining birthweights, etc. Prepare a calving area where assistance can be provided easily if needed.

Purchase ear tags for calves and number them ahead of time if possible. Plan for enough labor to watch/assist during the calving period.

- Move early-calving heifers and cows to pastures that are relatively small and easily accessible to facilities in case calving assistance is needed. Keep them in

good condition but don't overfeed them at this time. Increase their nutrient intake after they calve.

- **Fall Calving Cow Herd**

- Provide clean windbreaks and shelter for young calves.
- Breeding season continues. Keep fall calving cows on accumulated pasture as long as possible, then start feeding hay/grain/supplement. Don't let these cows lose body condition!
- Catch up on castrating, dehorning and implanting.
  - **General**
- Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem. Consider preparing a feeding area with gravel over geotextile fabric or maybe a concrete feeding pad. Bale grazing is an option for producers to help control mud while spreading nutrients across pastures.
- Increase feed as the temperature drops, especially when the weather is extremely cold and damp. When temperature drops to 15°F, cattle need access to windbreaks.
- Provide water at all times. Cattle need 5 to 11 gallons per head daily even in the coldest weather. Be aware of frozen pond hazards. Keep ice "broken" so that cattle won't walk out on the pond trying to get water. Automatic waterers, even the "frost-free" or "energy-free" waterers can freeze up in extremely cold weather. Watch closely.
- Consider renovating and improving pastures with legumes, especially if they have poor stands of grass or if they contain high levels of the fescue endophyte. Purchase seed and get equipment ready this month.

### FORAGE VARIETY TRIAL INFO

Are you looking for an excellent red clover variety to frost seed in February? Or maybe you need to re-seed and orchardgrass hayfield? Then, you need to review the information in the Forage Variety Trial reports for 2022.

The 2022 UK Forage Variety Trials reports are now available on the Forages Extension website at :

[https://forages.ca.uky.edu/variety\\_trials](https://forages.ca.uky.edu/variety_trials) . Reports cover forage species such as tall fescue, orchardgrass, alfalfa, red and white clover, summer annual grasses and more. The reports include yield, seedling vigor and persistence.

For an overview of the best varieties from 20 years of UK forage testing, refer to the "2022 Long-Term Summary of Kentucky Forage Variety Trials (PR-826)", at the same website.

### 2022 CORN & SOYBEAN VARIETY PERFORMANCE TEST AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2022 Kentucky Corn Hybrid Performance Tests are available online at:

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/PR/PR815/PR815.pdf>

The 2022 Kentucky Soybean Variety Performance Tests are available online at:

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/PR/PR828/PR828.pdf>

Both the corn and soybean performance test reports are also linked to the Grain Crops Website at:

<https://graincrops.ca.uky.edu/>

Remember, the summary or all locations averages for each maturity group, is by far the best yield numbers to use for this season, due to rainfall and weather variability. Do not look at a single location and try to compare maturity groups. Differences in yield among maturity groups is most likely to be from timing of rainfall and water than from anything else.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 19 – Ky Commodity Conference; Holiday Inn/Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green; 7:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 25 – Ag Expo (formerly Grain Day); Owensboro Convention Center, Owensboro
- Feb. 9 – Ky Crop Health Conference; National Corvette Museum, Bowling Green
- Feb. 21 – Ky Alfalfa & Stored Forage Conference; Cave City Convention Center
- Feb. 21&22 – Mid-South Stocker Conference; WKU Ag Expo Center, Bowling Green