

Ohio County Farm & Home News

Cooperative
Extension Service

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BEEF MANAGEMENT TIPS

→→ Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Fescue pastures don't generally produce much this month. Some of us have had some rain but the heat has punished our pastures and cattle this summer. Most of you may have some forage going into the usually dry months. Keep rotating pastures to permit calves to continue gaining weight. Always keep minerals available.
- Bulls should have been removed from the cow herd by the end of the month. They should be pastured 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. If removing the bull is not practical for you then call your herd veterinarian and schedule a pregnancy diagnosis. Market your "late-bred" cows and keep those that conceived early in the breeding season.
- Repair and improve corrals for fall working and weaning. Consider having an area to wean calves and retain ownership for postweaning feeding rather than selling "green", lightweight calves. Plan to participate in CPH-45 feeder calf sales in your area.



→→ Fall-Calving Cow Herd

- 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, so it will soon be time to apply nitrogen fertilizer.
- Prepare for the fall-calving season (usually September). Get ready, be sure you have the following:
 - record book
 - ear tags for identification
 - calf puller
 - castration equipment

→→ General

- Perhaps the most tedious aspect of agriculture is keeping records, generating reports, and using data to make management decisions. Consider using one of the many electronic data collection and management systems available on the market. We recommend Stocket.us for a simple, inexpensive web/app platform.
 - 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.
- Select pastures for stockpiling. Remove cattle and apply nitrogen when moisture conditions are favorable. Stockpiled fescue can be especially beneficial for fall-calving cows after calving. Reproductive rates are highest in fall-calving cows grazing stockpiled fescue.
- 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.

- 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.
- Keep a good mineral mix available at all times. The UK Beef IRM Basic Cow-Calf mineral is a good choice.
- Cattle may also be more prone to eat poisonous plants during periods of extreme temperature stress. They will stay in “wooded” areas and browse 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 that can be toxic.
- Take soil samples to determine pasture fertility needs. Fertilize as needed, this fall.

KFGC FIELD DAY AT MAKER’S MARK FARM – AUGUST 13TH

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council and



Marion County Extension Field Day will be held Tuesday, August 13 at Star Hill Farm from 4:30-7:45 p.m. ET in Loretto Kentucky.

Participants will see and learn about grazing warm season cover crops, rotational grazing, native warm season grasses and pollinator production as well as sorghum production for syrup and silage. UK Extension Specialists, Maker’s Mark staff, and others will highlight forage production innovations at the farm at multiple tour stops.

Star Hill Farm is the home of Maker’s Mark Distillery. Star Hill consists of approximately 1200 acres near Loretto in Marion County Kentucky. Approximately 300 acres of the farm is utilized to grow wheat and barley for use in Maker’s Mark innovation products. Additionally, the farm is home to production of vegetables, fruit, lamb, Wagyu beef, sorghum, honey, mushrooms and truffles for use at the Distillery’s restaurant.

Makers Mark has a strong commitment to the environment and sustainability. An important part of this is practicing regenerative agriculture to improve and restore soil, as well as, capture carbon. The principles’ of

regenerative agriculture includes utilization of no-till planting, planting cover crops on fields after harvest, and grazing the cover crops to cycle nutrients back into the soil. Star Hill Farm has been certified by “Regenified,” an international organization that conducts on-site audits to determine that an entity is meeting all of the standards for Regenerative Agriculture.

Come learn more about grazing strategies and regenerative agriculture! A meal will be provided for participants at the end of the field day at the restaurant. Field day cost is \$20 per person. Register for the Field Day on the link below:

<https://KFGCMakersMark.eventbrite.com>

Star Hill Farm at Maker’s Mark is located at: 3350 Burks Spring Road, Loretto, KY, 40037

For more information phone the Marion County extension office at 270-692-2421.

KSU THIRD THURSDAY THING – AGROFORESTRY – AUG 15TH

Kentucky State University’s Third Thursday Thing will meet at the Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm on August 15th, from 10:00 - 2:00.

This year’s Agroforestry focus will present talks on several different agroforestry practices, such as alley cropping, forest farming and silvopasture. NRCS will speak about agroforestry opportunities under EQIP. The agroforestry team from KSU will talk about its current projects.

No registration is required and lunch is provided. The meeting center is located on the farm at 1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort.

UPCOMING
Events

- August 13 – KFGC Field Day at Makers Mark; Star Hill Farm, Lorretta, KY; 4:30 p.m. till 7:30 p.m. ET
- August 15 – KSU Third Thursday Thing – Agroforestry; Harold R. Benson Research & Demonstration Farm, outside Frankfort; 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. ET
- August 29 - KATS Field Crop Pest Management & Spray Clinic; U.K. Research & Education Center
- October 16 – Heart of America Grazing Conference; Hardin Co. Extension Office, Elizabethtown