

# Ohio County Farm & Home News

## FORAGE MEETING RESCHEDULED – APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>



I have rescheduled our forage meeting for April 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00 p.m. with dinner. We will have Dr. Chris Teutsch, U.K. Forage Specialist, who will discuss strategies for managing spring grass flush in pastures. We will also be discussing the 2025 CAIP (cost-share) Program at this meeting.

Remember, to participate in the CAIP program, you must attend one educational session each year. This is one of the programs that meet this requirement.

## BEEF MANAGEMENT TIPS Spring-Calving Cows

- Observe spring-calving cows closely. Check cows at least twice daily and first-calf heifers more frequently than that. Be ready to assist those not making progress after 1 to 2 hours of hard labor. Chilled calves should be dried and warmed as soon as possible.
- See that each calf gets colostrum within an hour of birth or administer colostrum (or a commercial colostrum replacement) with an esophageal feeder, if needed.



- Identify calves with eartags and/or tattoos while calves are young and easy to handle and record birthdate and Dam ID. Commercial male calves should be castrated and implanted as soon as possible. Registered calves should be weighed in the first 24 hours.
- Separate cows that have calved and **increase their feed**. Energy supplementation to cows receiving hay is necessary to prepare them for rebreeding. For example, a 1250 lb cow giving 25 lb/day of milk would need about 25 lb of fescue hay and 5 lb of concentrate daily to maintain condition. If you need to go from a condition score of 4 to 5, you will need to add about 2 more lb of concentrate. Cows must be in good condition to conceive early in the upcoming breeding season.
- Watch for calf scours! If scours become a problem, move cows that have not calved to a clean pasture. Be prepared to give fluids to scouring calves that become dehydrated. Consult your veterinarian for advice and send fecal samples to diagnostic lab to determine which drug therapy will be most effective. Try to avoid feeding hay in excessively muddy areas to avoid contamination of the dams' udders.
- Continue grass tetany prevention. Be sure that the mineral mix contains high levels (~15%) of magnesium and that cows consume adequate amounts. You can feed the UK Beef IRM High Magnesium mineral.
  - Plan to vaccinate calves for clostridial diseases (Blackleg, Malignant Edema) as soon as possible. You might choose to do this at the prebreeding working in late April or early May.

- Obtain yearling measurements on bulls and heifers this month (weight, height, pelvic area, scrotal circumference, ultrasound data, etc.) if needed for special sales. Heifers should be on target to be cycling by the start of the breeding season.
- Prepare bulls for the breeding season. Increase feed if necessary to have bulls in adequate condition for breeding. Obtain Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) on bulls, even if they were checked last breeding season. Only use bulls that pass the BSE.
- Finalize plans for your spring breeding program. Purchase new bulls at least 30 days before the breeding. Order semen now, if using artificial insemination.



- Calves intended for feeders should be implanted.
- Consider adding weight and selling your fall calves as “heavy” feeder calves. Keep them gaining!

### General

- Repair fences, equipment, and handling facilities.
- If you have a dry, sunny day, use a chain-link harrow to spread manure in areas where cattle have overwintered. This may be done in conjunction with renovation.
  - Renovation and fertilization of pastures should be completed.
  - Start thistle control. They can be a severe problem in Kentucky pastures. Chemical control must be done early to be effective.
- Watch for lice and treat if needed.

### Fall-Calving Cows

- Bull(s) should be away from the cows now!
- Plan to pregnancy check cows soon. Contact your herd veterinarian to schedule. You can also blood test for pregnancy as early as 30 days after bull removal.
- Creep feed calves with grain, by-products, or high-quality forage. Calves will not make satisfactory gains on the dam’s milk alone after about 4 mos. of age – since there isn’t much pasture in March, fall calves need supplemental nutrition. Consider creep grazing on wheat pasture, if available. Calves can also be early weaned. Be sure that feed bunks are low enough that calves can eat with the cows.

### **BEEF AI SCHOOLS SCHEDULED**

Are you interested in learning how to AI (artificially inseminate) your cows? AI is an excellent way to interject high quality genetics into your herd quickly. There are two AI Schools scheduled in April:

- AI Certification Course – April 3, 4, & 5. This program is being offered thru the Owensboro Community & Technical College and is being taught by Ben Lloyd, with Kentucky Beef Network. Times: April 3 – 4:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m. – OCTC campus  
 April 4 – 2:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m. – OCTC campus  
 April 5 – 8:00 a.m. till Noon – Kentuckiana Livestock Market  
 The course cost \$400. To register, contact Tara Groves at [tara.groves@kctcs.edu](mailto:tara.groves@kctcs.edu) , include your

first & last name and your phone number.

- U.K. AI Course – April 22 & 23. This course will be held at the Woodford County Research Farm in Versailles. Dr. Les Anderson will lead the instruction on proper AI procedures and how to pregnancy diagnosis your cows. Classes will be held from 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. ET each day. Lunch will be provided. They have 10 spots open for the course, on a first come, first served basis. Cost of the course is \$400. To register, contact Tyler Purvis at 859-257-7512 or by email at [tapu228@uky.edu](mailto:tapu228@uky.edu) .

A graphic with a dashed black border containing a white speech bubble on a purple background. Inside the speech bubble, the words "UPCOMING EVENTS!" are written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font.

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

- April 3,4 &5 – AI Certification Course, Owensboro Community & Technical College, Owensboro
- April 7 – Forage Meeting; Ohio Co. Extension Center; Hartford; 6:00 p.m.
- April 22 &23 – U.K. AI Course; Woodford County Research Farm, Versailles