Ohio County Farm & Home News

Cooperative Extension Service

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK – MARCH 23-29

FORAGE MEETING RESCHDEULED – APRIL 7TH

I have rescheduled our forage meeting for April 7th, 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.

NITROGEN FERTILIZATION FOR PASTURES/HAYFIELDS

Nitrogen fertilization for spring pastures & hayfields may be furthest thing from a one-size-fits-all situation. The nutrient required for plant growth and protein synthesis is a critical factor of forage production, but its mobile status and leaching potential require a thoughtful approach to application.

- **Rate**

While legumes can provide nitrogen to grass in mixed stands, pure grass pastures and hayfields will likely benefit from fertilization. With that said, there can be a fine line between too little and too much.

Too little nitrogen, and the forage lacks a macronutrient, and growth may be limited. Too much nitrogen, and a surplus of nitrogen may lead to economic waste and the potential for lodging.

First-cutting hay in Kentucky is often challenging due to the volume of forage and, at times, unfavorable weather conditions. If you struggle to get first-cut hay harvested on time at the proper maturity, applying additional nitrogen can worsen this problem.

Based upon years of research trials, U.K. recommends hayfields with at least 30% legumes, will need no additional nitrogen. But, since stands of legumes are often not spread evenly over the field, and application of 30-50 lb/ac of actual nitrogen can be beneficial in optimizing hay yields. Stands of cool season forages, such as tall fescue and orchardgrass need 50-75 lb./ac of actual nitrogen to optimize production.

- **Right time**

Aim to apply nitrogen when hayfields break dormancy and begin showing signs of green up. At this point, forage will start to transition from using root reserves for energy to photosynthesizing. In western Kentucky, this can occur anywhere between early to mid-March. Applying nitrogen in later vegetative stages will not have as significant effect on yield, but may boost forage protein content.

- **Application options**

Controlled-release fertilizers, nitrogen inhibitors, or split nitrogen applications can be effective means to manage forage nitrogen,

especially considering that nitrogen is a mobile soil nutrient that is subject to leaching.

Controlled-release fertilizers have a polymer coating that prolongs the release time over 50 to 80 days, depending on the product. These fertilizers can be advantageous if split applications are challenged by weather or adverse field conditions.

Nitrogen inhibitors, such as Agrotain, slow the release of nitrogen, so as to, reduce nitrogen volatilization losses in pastures and hayfields. Thus, more of the nitrogen is available for the plants to use. Nitrogen inhibitor applications to the urea nitrogen, allow for a single application of nitrogen, in the spring, that will provide nitrogen over a longer time period

Split applications of nitrogen, on the other hand, can occur before each hay cutting.

Overall, soil fertility must be in balance to unlock nutrient availability. Testing soil and adjusting fertility levels to ensure phosphorus and potassium are adequate.

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 , 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 .

2025 CORN &SOYBEAN FUNGICIDE EFFICACY GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE

The 2025 fungicide efficacy tables for foliar diseases of corn and soybean, and for soybean seedling diseases have been updated, and are now available through the Crop Protection Network website.

These tables are updated annually based on data provided by over 30 U.S. Extension plant pathologists, with efficacy determined through replicated research trials across a broad geographic area. Results from University of Kentucky research trials are included in the development of these national fungicide efficacy ratings.

The ratings in these guides reflect the efficacy of a fungicide against a given disease and are not rating yield response to a fungicide. Remember, always read and follow label directions. Updated tables include:

- **Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Corn Foliar Diseases**

https://cropprotectionnetwork.s3.amazonaws.com/corn-foliar-efficacy-2025.pdf

- **Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Seedling Diseases**

- **Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Foliar Diseases**

https://cropprotectionnetwork.s3.amazonaws.com/soybean-foliar-efficacy-2025.pdf

- March 27 – Italian Ryegrass Control Field Tour; Caldwell Co. Extension office, Princeton; 8:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m.
- 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