

Ohio County Farm & Home News

“CAN I PARTICIPATE IN CARBON MARKETS ON MY FARM” – JAN. 30TH



Are you interested in making income off your grain, pasture, or woodland acres? Curious about what “Carbon Markets” are? Then, come join Dr. Jordan Shockley, U.K. Extension Ag Economist on Thursday, January 30th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Ohio Co. Extension Center, as he provides a free unbiased discussion on “Carbon Markets”.

Dr. Shockley will discuss what a carbon market is, the current status of carbon markets in the U.S and KY, opportunities for grain, pasture and woodland owners to participate in carbon markets, practices required in participating, the value of carbon credits, legal challenges for participants and more. We will also allow time for your questions to be answered.

The development of carbon markets has been building over the last 4-5 years, so if you want to learn more about carbon market opportunities, join us on the evening of January 30th.

UNION CO. BULL SALE

The season for spring bull sales has begun!! This is the time of year many cow/calf producers are scouring the countryside for the next best bull to improve the genetics of their herd, Over the next few weeks, I will try to highlight some the area sales which offer excellent quality bulls.

The Union County Bull Sale will be held February 8th for the 23rd time, at the Union Co. Expo Center in Sturgis. Bulls will be on display for viewing starting at 10:00 a.m. and the sale will begin at 1:00 p.m. CT.

This year’s sale will include 38 bulls, which includes 30 Angus, 5 Sim/Angus, 2 Red Angus and 1 Hereford. All bulls have passed a breeding soundness exam within the last 45 days of the sale. All bulls have also been DNA tested, with genomic enhanced EPD’s, which means all bulls should be eligible for CAIP cost-share.

If you would like a listing of the bulls and EPD’s,

contact the Ohio Co. Extension Office and we can send you details.



23rd Annual Union County Bull Sale
February 8, 2025



WINTER WHEAT MEETING – FEB. 4



The 2025 Winter Wheat Meeting will be held February 4th at the Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville. The program runs from 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.

This year's agenda includes:

- What We Learned from YEN in Ky
- Herbicide Residual Application Timing for Ryegrass Control
- On-farm Grain Fumigation Options
- Management of Fusarium Head Bight and DON in Wheat
- How Nitrogen and Sulfur Fertility Influence Grain Yield and Protein Content
- Current Wheat Crop Update
- Wheat Varieties Tolerance to Metribuzin and Opportunities to Improve Ryegrass Management

Educational credits will be available for pesticide credits and CCA's.

KEEP YOUR BULL FIT!

The following article is from Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Beef Reproductive Specialist at U.K., discussing the value of keeping your bulls in fit condition coming into spring breeding season.

While reading some industry information, I was reminded about an article Dr. Burris wrote for Cow Country News a few years ago. The



focus of his article was to treat your herd bulls like an athlete; keep them fit and in great working shape. As always, it was a super article and is still relevant. Recently, more research has been done on bull fitness and fertility that is quite interesting.

It has been known for years that over-conditioning bulls is detrimental to their fertility. When bulls are over fed and their body condition score get excessive (> 7), fat begins to build up in the scrotum and in the spermatic cord. Fat is an excellent insulator and this buildup of fat in the neck of the scrotum leads to an increase in scrotal temperature. For optimum sperm production, the testis needs to be about two degrees cooler than body temperature and this buildup of fat especially in the neck of the testis (around the spermatic cord) can lead to abnormal sperm development. When these fatter bulls are subjected to a breeding soundness exam, they are more likely to fail due to an increase in abnormalities with sperm morphology and motility. More work from Dr. Pedro Fontes at the University of Georgia also indicated that bulls with more backfat were more likely have defects in the development of sperm and to fail a breeding soundness exam.

Dr. Fontes has completed some fascinating work extending our knowledge on the impact of bull condition on fertility. He recently used IVF to exam the ability of sperm from moderately- and over-conditioned bulls to fertilize an oocyte resulting in the proper development of an embryo. His research demonstrated that if an oocyte was fertilized by an over-conditioned bull the resulting embryo was less likely to continue

to develop. His work suggests that bull diet and condition can negatively impact the ability of an embryo to grow and may lead to increases in early embryonic mortality. His studies examined both mature and young, developing bulls and the

results did not vary. Interestingly, in this work sperm morphology and motility were similar between over-conditioned bulls and moderately-conditioned bulls suggesting the reduced embryonic survival may run deeper than simple changes in sperm development.

Over-conditioning not only impacts sperm production, but it also reduces the bull's interest in breeding cows. Research from Australia indicated that over-conditioned bulls also have lower libido, and their serving capacity was significantly lower than moderately-conditioned bulls.

Research from Canada further clinched the nail on the head. The goal of this research was to identify factors associated with the male that impacts pregnancy in pasture situations. Considerable data on the bulls was collected including scrotal circumference, a wide variety of sperm traits, and back fat thickness. These 277 bulls of British and Continental breeds were turned out with over 9,000 cows and pregnancy was assessed after the end of a 70-day breeding season. Of all the measurements taken, backfat thickness of the bull had the highest significant correlation with failure to breed. Basically, fatter bulls got fewer cows pregnant.

So, as Dr. Burris advised years ago, keep your bulls fit and think of them like athletes. Also, we are entering bull buying season so find bulls that not only meet your herds genetic needs, but also are in proper body condition. If a bull's BCS exceeds 6, check to see if his scrotum looks blocky and full of fat and avoid purchasing him. Once you get your bull home, manage his diet and exercise to keep him in a BCS of 5-6. The pregnancy rate of your herd WILL depend on it!

A graphic with a blue background and a white notepad-like shape in the center. The words "UPCOMING EVENTS" are written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font on the notepad. To the left of the notepad, there are several horizontal blue lines, suggesting a spiral binding or a list of items.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 28 – Intensive Soybean Management Workshop; Ky Soybean Office in Princeton; 8:30 a.m. till noon CT
- January 29 – Intensive Soybean Management Workshop; Hardin Co. Extension Office, Elizabethtown; 7:30 a.m. till noon CT (this a repeat of the Jan. 28 workshop)
- January 30 – “Can I Participate in the Carbon Markets on My Farm”; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 6:00 p.m.
- February 1 – Winter Wheat Meeting; Bruce Convention Center, Hopkinsville; 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.
- February 8 – Union Co. Bull Sale; Union Co. Expo Center, Sturgis; Sale begins at 1:00 p.m.
- February 25 – KY Alfalfa & Stored Forage Conference; Fayette Co. Extension Office; 8:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. ET
- March 20 – Drone Sprayer School; U.K. Research & Education Center, Princeton
- March 27 – Italian Ryegrass Control Field Tour; Caldwell Co. Extension office, Princeton; 8:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m.