

Ohio County Farm & Home News

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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KY WOODLAND OWNERS REGIONAL MEETING – AUG. 6TH



The KY Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) is hosting regionally focused meetings to provide woodland owners information which can help them manage their woodlands better. The KWOA is partnering with the Ohio County Extension Service, Ky Division of Forestry and U.K. Forestry & Natural Resources Extension to host this event.

The west regional meeting will be held this evening, Tuesday, August 6th at the Ohio Co. Extension Center, from 6:30 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to anyone wanting to learn how to be a better steward of their woodlands.

Topics to be discussed include:

- What is the KWOA & What it does? (Ky Woodland Owners Association)
- Ky Division of Forestry will discuss forestry stewardship plans and controlled burns
- NRCS will discuss cost-share programs for woodland owners
- Information about the Woodland Owners Field Day in Hart Co. on August 10th

There will be plenty of time for answering any woodland questions you may have.

If you plan to attend, please contact the Ohio Co. Extension Office, at 270-298-7441 to register.

I hope you can join us for this program. It should be beneficial for established woodland owners or new woodland owners.

WINTER GRAZING REQUIRES PLANNING



The following article is an excerpt of an article by Dr. Chris Teutsch, Extension Forage Specialist at U.K., for the July issue of the Cow Country News, on how to plan for grazing during the winter months to reduce feeding costs.

Hay is an important part of ruminant livestock systems in transition zone states like Kentucky. However, it tends to be an expensive feed source compared to allowing animals graze during the winter months. The cost of producing a ton of grass hay can vary, but if you count fertilizer, machinery, and a little labor will likely be more than \$100. Take a few minutes and calculate your hay costs.

The other challenge is producing hay that is high enough in forage quality to meet the nutritional needs of lactating brood cows and even dry cows in some cases.

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On top of this, feeding that hay during the cold, wet, and muddy winter months is not fun, especially if you work off the farm since it is dark when you leave and dark when you get home.

In contrast to hay, allowing animals to graze during the winter months can significantly reduce winter feed costs. Extending grazing requires careful planning and timely implementation of practices designed to provide forage during the winter months. Practices include stockpiling cool-season grasses and planting winter annuals.

The following are tips for “Stockpiling Perennial Grasses”, such as tall fescue or perennial ryegrass:

Stockpiling is simply allowing forage growth to accumulate during one part of the year and using that growth for deferred grazing at a later date. In transition zone states like Kentucky, cool-season pasture growth is commonly stockpiled in late summer to extend grazing during the winter months. Tall fescue is by far the best adapted grass for stockpiling. Tall fescue stockpiled for winter grazing is almost always higher in nutritional value than most of the hay that we make in Kentucky and will in most cases meet the requirements of a fall calving cow during peak lactation. In addition, grazing stockpiled grass costs about half as much as feeding hay that is supplemented. Stockpiled tall fescue maintains its quality further into winter compared to other cool-season grasses.

The following steps will help to optimize your stockpiling program.

- *Choose a strong tall fescue sod in a field that is well drained.* To get the maximum yield response to nitrogen applications you will need a healthy stand of tall fescue. Choosing a field that is well-drained will help to ensure that the stockpile can be grazed with minimal pugging damage during the wet winter months.
- *Clip pastures that will be stockpiled to 3-4 inches prior to applying nitrogen.* Clipping pastures removes old growth and increases the forage quality of the stockpiled grass.
- *Apply 60-80 lb of nitrogen per acre in mid-August to early-September.* Applying nitrogen too early can stimulate warm-season grass growth in pastures, while applying nitrogen too late decreases dry matter yield. When applying nitrogen in early to mid-September, decrease application rates to 40-60 lb/A.

- *Allow growth to accumulate until mid-December before grazing.* If limited grazing is available, feed hay during late summer and fall to allow pastures to stockpile.
- *Graze stockpiled pastures that contain legumes first.* Legumes deteriorate at faster rate than grass and should be grazed first to minimize losses.
- *Strip graze tall fescue to maximize grazing days.* Ideally, allocating only enough stockpiled grass for 2-3 days will increase grazing days per acre by 30 to 40%. However, if you work off the farm, it may make more sense to allocate 7 days of grass. This would allow you move fences on days off.
- *Frost seed legumes on grazed areas.* Closely grazed stockpile provides an excellent opportunity to establish legumes in grass dominated pastures. Broadcasting the seed as the pasture is being grazed can enhance soil-seed contact and increase overseeding success.

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.

UPCOMING Events

- August 6 – Ky Woodland Owners Association - Regional Meeting; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 6:30 p.m.; Free and open to anyone interested!!
- August 9 – Ohio Co. Extension District Board Meeting; O.C. Extension Center; 8:00 a.m.
- August 13 – KFGC Field Day at Makers Mark; Star Hill Farm, Loretto, 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