

Carter County

Agriculture & Natural Resources

November/ December 2019



Cooperative Extension Service
Carter County
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Hello,

I'm so excited to let you know that I will be the new Carter County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent effective December 1st. I have already met and know many of you as I have served as the 4-H Agent in Carter County for the past 14 years.

For those of you I have not met, let me take a moment to introduce myself. I grew up on a small farm in Greenup County. We raised beef cattle, goats, hay, and corn. Although it has been several years since I have rode, we have always had a horse running around too. I was very involved in 4-H and FFA as a child and that led to a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education from Morehead State University. My Master's degree is in Biology from MSU.

Currently, I live in Carter County with my husband Philip. (Many of you may know him too. He's the ANR agent in Lewis County.) We still help on our family farms. If you're around me for very long, you'll learn that I love dogs (and all animals for that matter) and have two basset hounds that complete our home. We are blessed with four beautiful nieces that we get to help spoil. In my spare time I enjoy scrapbooking, photography, hiking, and kayaking.

Although my passion has always been for agriculture and natural resources, it is sad to say goodbye to my 4-H family. Their support of me and the 4-H program over the past 14 years has been tremendous. I have loved watching our 4-H members grow and develop over the years. My 4-H members (past and present) will always hold such a special place in my heart.

When I started my role as a 4-H agent the county was very patient with me as I learned my new job and I hope you all will grant me patience once again as I begin this new position. Although I'm no stranger to Extension, it will take me a while to navigate all the resources and responsibilities that are available to Ag agents. I will also be continuing to help with some of the 4-H responsibilities until a new 4-H agent is hired. Know though that I will always give you 100%.



I am excited to meet even more people in our community and I look forward to answering questions and providing new and exciting Ag programs. Please stop by the office to say "Hi" (and introduce yourself if you don't already know me). Also, please let me know if you have ideas for future programming. I'm excited to continue moving the Ag program forward!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Konopka

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Coming Up...

Nov. 8th	KSBA Board Meeting—Hillview
Nov. 9th	KSBA Fall Meeting—Shepherdsville
Nov 12th	CAIP Applications can be submitted
Nov 16th	East KY Hay Contest— Morgan County Extension Office
Nov. 28th & 29th	Carter County Extension Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Nov. 30th	Last day for the “Early Bird” Registration price for the KY Cattlemen’s Assoc. Convention
Dec. 1st	Rebecca Konopka begins her new role as the Agent for ANR
Dec. 3rd	Little Sandy Bee Keepers Annual Christmas Meeting
Dec. 12th	Deadline to submit CAIP applications
Dec. 23rd-Jan. 1st	Carter County Extension Office will be closed for the Christmas Holidays

MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS AVAILABLE...



Carter County Extension Service
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Fax 606-474-8542
padrebigtime54@gmail.com

Visit Carter County Agriculture Extension Service on Facebook.com for more details or directions.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications will be available for Carter County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important on-farm investments.

Application Period:

November 12, 2019 – December 12, 2019
No applications will be accepted after December 12, 2019.

Application Availability:

Carter County Extension Service
Monday – Friday (8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

For More Information:

Contact Carter County Extension Service at 606-474-6686 or email Jackie Womack at padrebigtime54@gmail.com.

All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

2020 Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Convention

January 16th & 17th 2020

Registration:

Full Registration Includes: Trade Show, Beef Efficiency Conference, Forages, Welcome Lunch, Regional & Business Meetings

Trade Show Only Includes: Beef Efficiency Conference, Forages & Welcome Lunch

Early Bird Registration has begun and runs through November 30th

Early Bird Registration:

Now through November 30th: \$50

After Nov. 30th: \$75

Trade Show Only: \$25

Kentucky Junior Cattlemen's Association (21 years or younger): \$10

***Register during the Early Bird Registration to be entered
to win a \$100 Cabela's Gift Card!
The 2 winners will be announced Friday, January 10th***

East Kentucky Hay Contest Saturday, Nov. 16th 10:00AM Morgan County Extension Office

Dr. Jimmy Henning, UK Extension Forage Specialist, will be speaking on the importance of forage testing and how to interpret the results. Following the presentation hay contest winners will be announced and a light lunch will be provided.

KSU assembling appearances for mobile sterilization unit

Kentucky State University (KSU) offers a large mobile autoclave to sterilize used bee equipment, announces operator John Haney. The autoclave is currently scheduling visits to bee schools across the

Commonwealth, including the upcoming Kentucky State Beekeepers Association (KSBA) fall meeting (*see opposite*).

Sterilizing eliminates pathogens associated with bee diseases such as Nosema and American foulbrood, as well as pests common to bee colonies and equipment, including small hive beetles, wax moth larvae, and Varroa mites. The process also captures beeswax for re-use.

Frames, supers, deeps, covers, and bottom boards are sterilized at high temperature and pressure. Water heated to 250° F. creates steam, while pressure is maintained at 40 pounds per square inch for about 20 minutes, Haney said. Each cycle requires up to an hour to complete, including loading, preparations, and unloading. Five cycles can be completed in a typical day.



John Haney.

For more information or to schedule an appearance: |

John Haney, john.haney@kysu.edu;

Joni Nelson, joni.nelson@kysu.edu;

Thomas Webster, thomas.webster@kysu.edu.

KSBA fall meeting agenda

Friday, Nov. 8: KSBA Board meeting

6 p.m. EST. Holiday Inn Express,

365 Brenton Way, Hillview, (502) 955-4984

Associations, please send representatives

2020 budget and 2020 calendar will be discussed.

Saturday, Nov. 9: KSBA fall meeting

Bullitt Central High School, 1330 Hwy. 44-E, Shepherdsville

Free to members - join at the door

Agenda (Times EST)

7:30-8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30-9:00 Welcome

9:00-9:45 **Leslie Cobb:** Kentucky Department of Health, Food Safety Division
"The Buzz on Labeling Honey in Kentucky"

10:00-10:45 Breakout sessions

▣ **Tammy Horn Potter:** Apimondia 2019

▣ **Leonard Davis:** Oxalic Acid! Fall/Winter Treatment

▣ **Curtis Simpson:** Make Beekeeping a Career

11:00-11:45 Breakout sessions

▣ **Chris Renfrow:** Keep Bees and Make a Profit

▣ **Kent Williams:** Feeding Winter Bees

▣ **Dorothy Morgan:** Mite Resistant Queens

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Lunch (provided)

1:00-1:45 **Sarah Preston:** Update on

Certified Kentucky Honey

2:00-2:45 Breakout sessions

▣ **Kent Williams:** Making Spring Splits

▣ **Leonard Davis:** Dealing with-EFB and AFB

▣ **Curtis Simpson:** Using Bees for Pollination

3:00-4:00 KSBA meeting and closing

A block of rooms is reserved for Nov. 8 and 9 at \$129.99 per night at the Holiday Inn Express, 365 Benton Way,

Cow-Calf Profitability Conference

January 22, 2020
Morehead, KY



Managing Cow-calf Operations for Profit (times may vary across locations)

- 9:00 Introduction: Cow-calf Budgeting and Key Profit Drivers?
-Jonathan Shepherd
- 9:30 Managing Overhead Costs on the Cow-calf Operation: Focus on hay production.
-Greg Halich
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Hay Production Costs on Their Impact on Cow-calf Profitability
-Jonathan Shepherd
- 11:15 Understand Breeding Stock Depreciation: How much is too much for a bred heifer?
-Kenny Burdine
- 11:45 Lunch
- 12:30 Improved Winter Feeding Practices
-Greg Halich
- 1:30 Keys to Cowherd Management: Weaning rate, culling strategies, lot size, and cow size
-Kenny Burdine
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 General Farm Management: tax strategies, common errors, etc.
-Jonathan Shepherd
- 3:15 Profitable Stocking Rates: The Stocking Rate / Hay Feeding Tradeoff
-Greg Halich
- 4:00 Evaluation and Adjournment

Timely Tips

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Spring-calving herds

- Schedule a pregnancy examination of cows if not done previously. Winter feeding costs can be minimized by eliminating open cows prior to winterfeeding. Pregnancy status (pregnant versus open) can be determined using palpation, transrectal ultrasonography, or blood sampling. Stage of pregnancy can only be determined by palpation or ultrasonography (performed by your veterinarian).
- Evaluate the body condition of your cows and improve their condition prior to winter. It takes about 75 pounds to increase body condition a full score.
- If you have already done a preweaning working, revaccinate (booster) calves as needed. Treat calves for internal and external parasites. If you vaccinate calves yourself, be sure to store, handle and administer vaccines properly.
- Wean calves before cows lose body condition.

Obtain weaning weights of your calves and remember weaning is the time to do your first round of culling and selecting breeding stock. You can eliminate obviously inferior calves, especially those with wild or nervous dispositions. Consider the number of heifers that you will need to save for your cow herd. Bulls that are old, unsound, roguish, etc. can be culled now. It is not too early to begin thinking about replacements now.

Fall-calving herds

- The calving season should be in full swing for fall-calving cows. Check cows frequently. Identify calves and commercial males should be castrated and implanted.
- Put fall-calving cows on accumulated pasture before the breeding season. Until recently, this had generally been a good year for moisture. Be sure to save some grass in the breeding pastures.
- It is time to get everything ready for the fall-breeding season, too. Line-up semen, supplies, etc. now and get your bulls ready to go (don't forget their breeding soundness evaluation).

Obtain yearling measurements (weight, hip height, scrotal circumference, etc.) on replacement animals—especially for registered ones, check pelvic areas, too.

Stockers

- If you are purchasing weaned/stressed calves, have your receiving/feeding program in place. Feed a stress ration which contains at least 13% protein and is fairly energy dense.
- Manage to keep newly weaned and/or purchased calves healthy. Calves should be penned in a small lot with adequate feed, water and shade to reduce stress. Careful handling and comfortable, uncrowded conditions can decrease stress.
- When newly-weaned calves are purchased in the fall, sickness and death loss can be a big problem. Work with your veterinarian on a health and receiving program. Consider purchasing CPH-45 feeder calves that are preweaned, vaccinated, bunk-adjusted and treated for parasites.

Watch calves closely for a few weeks after their arrival. Have a treatment program ready for any health problems. Early recognition of sick cattle improves their chance of recovery. Watch for drooped ears, hollow appearance, reluctance to rise, stiff gait, coughing and dull or sunken eyes. A good "receiving" program is essential to profitability.

General Reminders

- Avoid prussic acid poisoning which can happen when frosts rupture the plant cells in sorghums, sorghum-sudan hybrids, sudangrass and johnsongrass releasing prussic (hydrocyanic) acid. Fields can be grazed after the plants have dried up after a frost. New growth that occurs in stalk fields is potentially dangerous whether frosted or not.
- Take soil samples for soil analysis to determine pasture fertility needs. Apply phosphate, potash and lime accordingly.
- Test hay quality and make inventory of hay supplies and needs. Make adjustments now - buy feed before you run out in the winter.
- Do not harvest or graze alfalfa now in order for it to replenish root reserves.

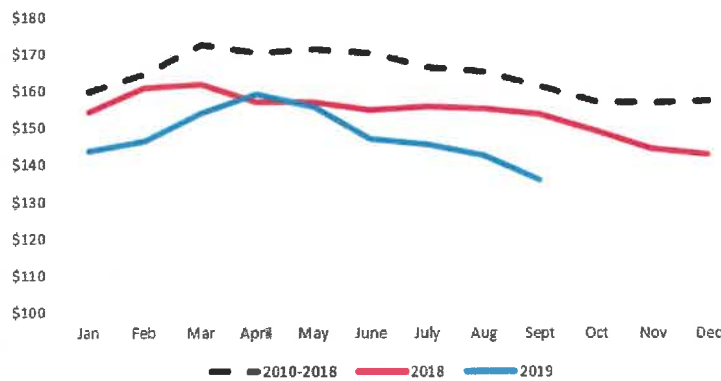
Remove fly-control eartags from all animals, dispose of according to instructions on package. Treat for grubs/lice.

Kentucky Beef Cattle Market Update

Dr. Kenny Burdine, Livestock Marketing Specialist, University of Kentucky

The 2019 calf market does not appear to have found its bottom yet. As can be seen in figure 1 below, a 550 lb steer average averaged \$136.08 for the month of September, which was off over \$6 per cwt from August and over \$23 per cwt from the April high. However, the month of October has brought some improvement to the fall 2019 and spring 2020 CME © feeder cattle futures market, which should work to support calf prices if it holds. Similar to what I said last week, heavy feeder cattle prices remain relatively strong and are comparable on a price per cwt basis to calves in many markets. This is not atypical for fall, as heavy feeders placed on feed now can be priced on a stronger spring fed cattle market, prior to the seasonal drop that typically comes with summer.

**Figure 1. 550# Medium & Large Frame #1-2 Steers
KY Auction Prices (\$ per cwt)**



Source: USDA-AMS, Livestock Marketing Information Center, Author Calculations

The majority of Kentucky finally got some much needed rain in October, which has worked to green pastures up. It may also partially explain a slight improvement in calf prices during the second week of the month. However, the bulk of the damage is done as very limited pasture growth was seen in August and September. And even after the initial round of rain, most of Kentucky was still classified as “abnormally dry” or in “moderate drought”.

A lot of producers have already began feeding hay and many pastures were also likely overgrazed, which will impact how much new growth occurs. Unfortunately, there are a limited number of forage growing days left, so things are setting up for a long winter hay feeding season. Hay already seemed to be in short supply, so I suspect this will only get worse as we move through fall. I would encourage producers to access their hay supply and estimate their winter feeding needs.

Winter feed is largest cost for a cow-calf operation and the cost of hay this year has certainly increased. Table 1 below is a quick way to estimate daily winter feeding costs per cow given assumptions about the cost of hay and estimated hay storage and feeding losses. Be aware that these estimates only include the cost of the hay and the waste rate. They do not include time or machinery expenses of actually feeding the hay.

First, note the difference in winter feeding costs per day associated with higher hay prices. A \$20 increase in hay price led to an increase in winter feed costs of \$0.40-\$0.52 per day, depending on waste rate. Secondly, note the increased importance of managing storage and feeding losses at higher hay prices. The higher hay prices are, the more important it is to limit waste rates to the extent possible.

Table 1. Estimated Winter Feed Costs per Day

Storage and Feeding Loss	Hay cost per ton		
	\$60	\$80	\$100
15%	\$1.19	\$1.59	\$1.99
25%	\$1.35	\$1.80	\$2.25
35%	\$1.56	\$2.08	\$2.60

Assumptions: 1,350 lb cow consumes 2.5% of her body weight per day



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
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The Carter County
Extension Office would
like to wish you &
yours a wonderful
holiday season as we
draw near the end of
twenty-nineteen.

