

# Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter March/April 2023



University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service  
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Mt. Olivet, KY 41064  
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Just when you think this weather has decided to make up it's mind, it changes again on us! I hope that everyone is getting everything prepared for the year ahead. Don't forget to get your soil samples in!

Just a reminder that we have several programs coming up that cover an array of topics that might be of interest to you or someone in your home. I encourage everyone to look at the next few pages to see what is happening.

USDA has announced their sign ups for the Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program, the information on that is included as well.

We are going to be taking a van to tour the Eden Shale Farm at the end of April. If you are interested in going please see the flyer inside for the details and let me know so we can get you signed up.

*Samantha Saunders*

Samantha Saunders  
Robertson County Agriculture & Natural Resources/  
4-H Youth Development Agent

## Inside this edition:

- Bourbon Street Chicken
- Important Dates
- Equipment Rental
- Soil Samples
- USDA Announces Signup for Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program
- Cow-Calf Profitability Estimates for 2022 and 2023 (Spring Calving Herd 2023 Outlook)
- Backyard Poultry Basics
- Cattle Grading
- Pond Management
- Land, Water, Trees, Wildlife: Simple Steps to Stewardship
- Prepare to plant spring annuals
- Eden Shale Farm Tour
- Ag Tag (\$10 donation from Farm Tags)

## Bourbon Street Chicken

### Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 pounds boneless chicken, cut into bite-size pieces
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon ginger
- ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- ¼ cup applesauce
- ¼ cup light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- ½ cup water
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 (10-ounce) bag frozen stir-fry vegetables and rice

### Directions:

1. Heat oil in large skillet over medium heat.
2. Add chicken pieces and cook until lightly browned.
3. Except for vegetables and rice, add the rest of ingredients to the skillet. Stir until well mixed.
4. Bring to a hard boil, reduce heat, and let simmer for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, cook vegetables and rice according to package instructions.
5. Serve chicken over vegetables and rice.



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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# Important Dates

Date	Program	Location
MARCH 23	FARMER'S MARKET EDUCATION— TAXES & RECORD KEEPING 6:00 PM	ZOOM OR ROBERTSON CO. EXT OFFICE (Must Register Beforehand)
MARCH 27	PRIVATE PESTICIDE LICENSE TRAINING 9:00 AM	ROBERTSON CO. EXT OFFICE
MARCH 27	ROBERTSON COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S BOARD MEETING 6:30 PM	ROBERTSON CO. EXT OFFICE
MARCH 28	BACKYARD POULTRY BASICS 6:00 PM	FLEMING CO. LIBRARY
MARCH 30	BQCA 1:00 PM	ROBERTSON CO. EXT OFFICE
APRIL 4	CATTLE GRADING 6:00 PM	MAYSVILLE BLUEGRASS STOCKYARDS
APRIL 6	FARMER'S MARKET EDUCATION— WHAT'S BUGGING MY GARDEN? 6:00 PM	ZOOM OR ROBERTSON CO. EXT OFFICE (Must Register Beforehand)
APRIL 11	POND MANAGEMENT PART 1 6:00 PM	ROBERTSON CO. EXT. OFFICE OR ZOOM
APRIL 18	POND MANAGEMENT PART 2 6:00 PM	ROBERTSON CO. EXT. OFFICE OR ZOOM
APRIL 21	EDEN SHALE FARM TOUR	CONTACT SAMANTHA IF INTERESTED
APRIL 28	CATTLEMENS MEMBER MEETING *MUST HAVE YOUR CURRENT DUES PAID*	WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR A POST CARD

### Equipment Rental

#### Robertson Conservation

⇒ No-till Drill  
\$50/day, 1-10 acres  
\$50 + \$5.50/acre, 11 acres and up

⇒ No-till Drill (Hay Buster)  
\$65/day, 1-10 acres  
\$65 + \$6.50/acre, 11 acres and up

⇒ \*New Lime Spreader  
\$60/day

⇒ Old Lime Spreader  
\$50/day

**Contact**  
**Grant Paynter**  
to  
schedule:  
**(606)-842-0320**

### Soil Samples

First 10 Soil Samples are free!  
(Per person)  
\$10 deposit on soil probe  
Refund upon return

#### Hay Samples

\$10 (Check) /sample  
For more information call the  
Extension Office at  
(606)-724-5796

\*\*We do free samples for the East KY Hay Contest in the fall. If you could like to be added to the list for sampling, please call the office.

## **USDA Announces Signup for Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program**

The Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) will assist eligible producers of agricultural commodities who experienced revenue decreases in calendar year 2020 compared to 2018 or 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PARP will help address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses.

USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept PARP applications from January 23, 2023, through June 2, 2023.

### **Eligible and Ineligible Commodities**

For PARP, eligible agricultural commodities include crops, aquaculture, livestock, livestock byproducts, or other animals or animal byproducts that are produced as part of a farming operation and are intended to be commercially marketed. This includes only commodities produced in the United States or those produced outside the United States by a producer located in the United States and marketed inside the United States.

The following commodities are not eligible for PARP:

- Wild free-roaming animals.
- Horses and other animals used or intended to be used for racing or wagering.
- Aquatic species that do not meet the definition of aquaculture.
- Cannabis sativa L. and any part of that plant that does not meet the definition of hemp.
- Timber.

### **Program Eligibility**

PARP payments will be made on a whole-farm basis, not commodity-by-commodity. To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and must have experienced a 15 percent decrease in allowable gross revenue in 2020, as compared to either:

- The 2018 or 2019 calendar year, as elected by the producer, if they received allowable gross revenue during the 2018 or 2019 calendar years, or
- The producer's expected 2020 calendar year allowable gross revenue, if the producer had no allowable gross revenue in 2018 or 2019.

PARP payments will be issued after the application period ends on June 2, 2023.

For more information on determining allowable gross revenue visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/parp) or review the PARP fact sheet.

### **More Information**

To apply for PARP, contact your local USDA Service Center, Flemingsburg Service Center 74 Byron Way, Flemingsburg, KY 41041 or call 606-845-4841 ext 2.





## Cow-Calf Profitability Estimates for 2022 and 2023 (Spring Calving Herd)

### 2023 Outlook

*Halich, G., K. Burdine, and J. Shepherd.  
"Cow-Calf Profitability Estimates for 2022  
and 2023 (Spring Calving Herd)." Economic  
and Policy Update (23):2, Department of Ag-  
ricultural Economics, University of Kentucky,  
February 28th, 2023.*



There is good reason to expect higher prices for 2023, and calf prices have already risen quite a bit since last fall. The size of the US cowherd continues to shrink and is 9% smaller than it was in 2019. Additionally, beef exports set a record in 2021 and broke that record again in 2022. While uncertainty exists, 2023 is likely to be the best calf market we have seen since 2015.

Our best guess for fall 2023 prices for that same 550 lb steer/heifer are in the \$1.85-1.95/lb range, or \$1.90/lb average. Spring prices are likely to be much higher than this, but we do expect calf prices to decline seasonally by fall. Reducing the costs slightly for fertilizer for hay/pasture and fuel, but increasing marketing costs and the amount of hay fed in 2023 (due to drought conditions during the 2022 growing season), results in a return to land and labor of \$198/cow/year. Recall that in our example we had estimated \$200 per cow in land rent and labor. Thus we would essentially fully cover our land and labor costs in 2023 in our example farm, which would be a considerable improvement over 2022.

Fertilizer prices have come down in 2023 compared to the unprecedented high levels in 2022. However, they are still roughly 50% higher than pre-2022 levels. In this analysis, we assumed a below-average fertilizer dependency to sustain a beef cow unit. Farms that use higher levels of fertilizer will have lower profits than we show here. Thus managing around these high fertilizer prices is still of paramount importance. For practical strategies to reduce or eliminate fertilizer use on cattle farms see the February 2023 video "Strategies to Reduce Fertilizer Use on Cattle Farms."

The article "Reducing Your Dependency on Commercial Fertilizers - Strategies for Cattle Farms in 2022 and Beyond" is also available to read.

Market fundamentals suggest that calf prices should be at very high levels in 2023 and the same should largely hold in 2024. Still, calf prices are only part of the story, and we hope this article highlights the importance of cost control. Ideally, costs for a given operation would be structured such that attractive profits can be had at these high calf prices. However, there will be farms that will still struggle to cover all their costs, even with the higher calf revenues.

Many farms will be tempted to increase the size of their cow herds in response to these high calf prices. However, two cautionary red flags should be waved at this point: 1) During the last time of extremely high calf prices (2014-2015), bred heifer prices got bid up to the point where they would only pencil out with continued high calf prices. Those calf prices collapsed quickly leaving those that expanded with low revenues to support paying for those high-priced breeding stock. 2) Concentrating on high-priced calves and ways to produce more of them takes away focus from reducing costs that are out of control on many farms. If you are not generating a true profit (above what would give you and your land a fair return) in the current market, you are almost certain to be in the red when calf prices come back down to more normal levels. Most farms would be better served to concentrate on reducing their cost structure to better position themselves for the lean times that are almost sure to follow.



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## BACKYARD POULTRY BASICS

**MARCH 28, 2023**

**6:00PM**

**AT FLEMING COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

202 Bypass Boulevard, Flemingsburg, KY

MEAL & SIGN-IN WILL BEGIN AT 5:30PM

CALL TO REGISTER OR USE QR CODE:

- BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141
- FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641
- LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732
- MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
- ROBERTSON CO.: (606) 724-5796



**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 24**

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4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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Disability accommodations with prior notification.

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# CATTLE GRADING

**APRIL 4, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

**BLUEGRASS STOCKYARDS MAYSVILLE**

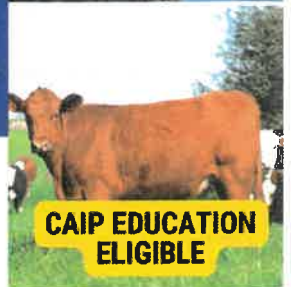
7124 AA Highway East

**Speaker: Mr. Jim Akers**

- Live feeder grading demonstration
- Cow condition scoring
- Price determination
- Market outlook
- What causes discounts

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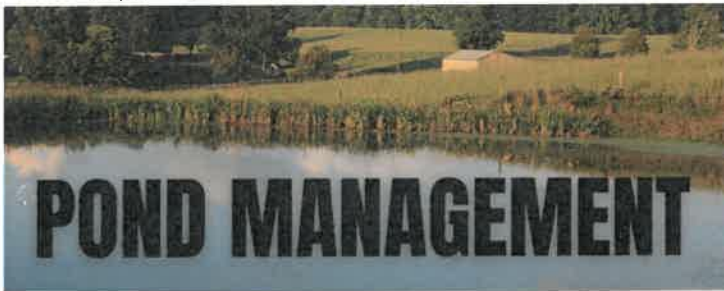
**CAIP EDUCATION ELIGIBLE**

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## POND MANAGEMENT

**APRIL 11**

Liming, Aeration (turnover), Stocking & General Pond Management



**APRIL 18**

Pond Plant and Algae Control

University of Kentucky  
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**6:00PM VIA ZOOM OR**

**\*\*WATCH PARTY\*\***

CALL TO REGISTER OR USE QR CODE:

- BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141
- FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641
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**\*\*Check local office to verify watch party option\*\***

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**Land, Water, Trees, Wildlife:**  
Simple Steps to Stewardship

**Save A Date!**

Plan to attend one of these identical workshops. Meal included. Registration is required.

**April 25 - 6-8:30pm**  
Campbell County Extension Office

**April 27 - 6-8:30pm**  
Warren County Extension Office

**May 23 - 6-8:30pm**  
Bullitt County Extension Office

This class will help you answer these questions, and more:

- How do I get started with land stewardship?
- What resource agencies are available?
- How do I improve soil and water resources?
- How do I manage my woodlands for timber and wildlife?

This program is brought to you by UK Cooperative Extension Service and KY Woodland Owners Association.

This work was funded in part by Cooperative Agreement No. 83575401-2 and a grant from the U.S. EPA under 9319(b) of the Clean Water Act through the Kentucky Division of Water to the University of Kentucky.

CONTACT: Amanda Gumbert  
amandag@uky.edu  
859-257-6084

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Agriculture and Natural Resources  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment





## Prepare to plant spring annuals

*Amber Friedrichsen, for Hay and Forage Grower*

Planting small cereal grains in the spring can jumpstart the grazing season or bolster hay and silage supplies. No matter what the end goal of these cool-season species may be, now is the time to start planning spring annual forage production. In a recent article from the University of Nebraska Extension, Jerry Volesky, a range and forage specialist, and Darren Redfearn, a forage and crop residue specialist, say small grains can yield between 2.5 and 4 tons per acre. The specialists note that oats are the most common spring annual species planted in their Nebraska (and in KY), but spring barley and spring triticale have been shown to have similar forage quality and yield (but these have limited use in KY and adapted varieties can be hard to find).

### Seeding dates and rates

Plant spring annuals when soil temperatures are between 42°F and 45°F, which is typically in late March or early April (early to mid-March in KY). The specialists recommend seeding oats at 76 to 114 pounds per acre, spring barley at 96 to 120 pounds per acre, and spring triticale at roughly 116 pounds per acre. They also suggest buying seed that has been developed specifically for forage use. “For these varieties, some of the characteristics might include plant height, leaf width, days to maturity, and overall forage yield and quality,” the specialists state.



Oats, spring barley, and spring triticale can also be planted together in a mixed stand. Other forage species that may benefit oats in a mixed stand are field peas and Italian ryegrass. Field peas can fix nitrogen in the soil and boost overall forage quality. For example, a field trial in North Platte, Neb., showed a mix of oats and field peas had approximately 14% crude protein, whereas oats that were grown alone had 8% crude protein.

Planting Italian ryegrass with oats may be especially advantageous for grazing purposes. The specialists say this species has good regrowth that could prolong spring grazing into the summer. They recommend seeding 60 to 80 pounds of spring oats with 15 to 20 pounds of Italian ryegrass. Before planting, consider previous herbicide use in the field. Some products may have a long-lasting residual that can negatively affect spring annual seedling establishment. Moreover, test soil to determine fertilization rates for forage. “With spring-planted small grain cereals, nitrogen is usually the limiting nutrient,” the specialists state. Apply 50 to 70 pounds of nitrogen per acre can be applied at planting or within the first month.

### Harvest timing

Start grazing spring annuals when plants are 6 to 8 inches tall, which typically occurs in the third or fourth week of May. Then aim to keep plants 6 to 12 inches tall with strategic grazing management. “This might require an initial lighter stocking rate — about one cow-calf pair for every two acres. Then adjust animal numbers upward as oat growth changes,” the specialists explain. “In general, a good stand of cereal small grains could support up to two cow-calf pairs per acre for about a six-week period.”

Hay, silage, or baleage harvest timing for hay depends on desired forage quality and yield. Small cereal grains that are cut in the late-boot stage may have 12% to 14% crude protein but yields will be lower. Harvesting these crops in the milk or soft dough stage will promise higher yields but crude protein levels could drop to 7% to 10%.

If forage is chopped for silage, ensure plants are between 40% to 60% moisture before ensiling. Small cereal grains that are harvested from boot stage to soft-dough stage will need at least 24 hours to reach this range. Forages should not be ensiled with more than 65% moisture due to potential seepage losses and growth of detrimental bacteria, which can result in an undesirable fermentation.



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BUFFALO TRACE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE COUNTIES

# Eden Shale Farm Tour



**APRIL 21, 2023**  
**10:30AM**

**\*\*IF RIDING IN THE COUNTY VAN- DEPARTURE  
 TIMES WILL VARY BY LOCATION\*\***

**CALL TO REGISTER :**

- BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141
- FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641
- LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732
- MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
- ROBERTSON CO.: (606) 724-5796

**NEWS ALERT**

**VAN SPACES ARE LIMITED  
 TO THE FIRST 11 PEOPLE  
 THAT REGISTER & REQUEST  
 A SEAT IN THE VAN.**

**FOLKS CAN ALSO DRIVE &  
 MEET US AT EDEN SHALE  
 THAT DAY.**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY: APRIL 7TH**

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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CYNTHIANA, KY  
PERMIT 2110



**YOUR DONATION**  
GIVE \$10 WITH EACH AG TAG

**YOUR COMMUNITY**  
HALF OF THE FUNDS FOR 4-H AND FFA COME BACK TO YOUR LOCAL CLUBS AND CHAPTERS IN YOUR COUNTY.

**OUR LEADERS**  
SUPPORT STATEWIDE PROGRAMS IMPACTING 274,000 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 4-H, FFA AND KY PROUD MEMBERS.



BY MAKING A \$10 DONATION WITH YOUR AG TAG, YOU ARE CHOOSING TO INVEST DIRECTLY INTO THE FUTURE OF KENTUCKY AGRICULTURE. DONATIONS ARE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN FFA, 4-H AND KENTUCKY PROUD WITH HALF GOING DIRECTLY BACK TO YOUR COUNTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



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2023