

Muhlenberg County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter



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

Cooperative Extension Service
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November 2022

Note: All meetings will be held at the Muhlenberg County Cooperative Extension Service unless noted otherwise.

The Muhlenberg County Cooperative Extension Service will be closed November 24-25 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday and December 26-January 2, 2023 for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Beef production and Cattlemen's Association meeting will be Monday, November 7. The meeting starts at 6:00 PM with a potluck soup and sandwich meal and the program starts at 6:30 PM. The guest speaker will be Dr. Katie VanValin, UK Beef Specialist. The topic will be mineral feeding through the winter months.

Beekeepers meeting will be Monday, November 21 at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Farmers Market Honey Kitchen.

Hay feeding started six weeks to two months earlier than normal. That along with limited growth on cool season pastures this Fall will put a strain on hay supplies and could affect herd productivity. Based on some hay quality sample results I have looked at, quality is an issue as well. For Fall calving cows, the goal is to keep the cow in good shape for nursing the calf on her side and to get her bred back. The brood cow needs to be a six on the one to nine body condition score scale. If the herd sire is going in for service beginning mid-to-late December and then being removed from the herd mid-to-late February, producers have some time to get the brood cow in shape. Feeding the best quality hay to those cows and possibly supplementing with protein and energy feeds could help keep cow productivity up. Once the herd sire is removed from the herd, Fall calving cows can receive hay of lesser quality and may not need as much or any protein or energy supplements. These cows may lose a full body condition score as long as they started into Winter in at least a body condition score of six and maintained that level. They could gain a body

condition score level during Spring "green up." Weaning the calves in early May and or marketing them in mid June could help the Fall calving cows maintain an acceptable body condition score. Spring calving cows that calved in February and March should already have calves weaned off them. This will allow the Spring calving cows a rest from lactation. Hopefully they are bred back and are close to the second trimester of gestation. Depending on when they pregnancy checked safe with calf, these cows can receive some lesser quality hay but will still need to be in a body condition score of six. This may require some protein and energy feeds 45 days before calving. Beef cattle producers should take some time to evaluate the body condition of each cow in the herd now and segregate the cows according to their growth stage and or age and where they are at in terms of gestation or lactation. Take some time to complete a hay inventory and consider weighing some bales so that an overall tonnage is known. Weigh some cattle or use some cull cow weights to obtain a number that you can use to calculate a three percent of body weight consumption rate. Producers may be inclined to feed and rely heavily on stillage to help extend hay supplies and to maintain cow condition. Be cautious on this approach as this material should be limited fed. I have provided the link for the UK publication on this topic below.

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ASC/ASC244/ASC244.pdf>

I will be away from the office November 2-3.

For more information on topics in this newsletter contact Darrell Simpson, Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources Education at 270-338-3124 or email me at roger.simpson@uky.edu.

Darrell Simpson
County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources Education

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