

Fayette County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter

November 2024

KY Small Ruminant Master Grazing School

The Kentucky Small Ruminant Master Grazing School is a self-paced, online certification course designed to help you identify quality forages for your pastures, tell you how to plant them, how to manage them, and how to feed them to your animals. This course is chocked full of information created by the University of Kentucky Plant & Soil Science Department, and is great for small ruminant producers who are interested in enhancing the forage base of their pastures and who want to improve their rotational grazing system. In fact, it is so great that 100% of past participants are more confident about forage management, rotational grazing, and have made plans to enhance their grazing systems.

When you sign up you will have 365 days to complete the course material and to download additional resources and obtain technical support. If you would like to receive more information then join either the Kentucky Sheep & Wool Producers or the Kentucky Goat Producers Associations so we can give you even more support and education opportunities. You can learn more and register at <https://www.kysheepandgoat.org/ky-master-small-ruminant-grazing-school>

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



The Fayette County Extension Office will be closed on **November 28 & 29, 2024,** for the **Thanksgiving Holiday.**

Upcoming Events

	November 26, 2024 ~ Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series: Management of important wheat diseases in Kentucky; 10:00am ET;	
	Last webinar in the series; Pre-registration is required; For more information or to register, go	
	online to <https://wkrec.ca.uky.edu/events/fall-crop-protection-webinar-series>.	

	December 16, 2024 ~ Central Kentucky Hay Program; Fayette County Extension Office,	
	Lexington, KY; 6:00-8:00pm; Please see the	
	flyer in this newsletter for more information. The	
	deadline to RSVP is December 9th.	

	January 6-7, 2025 ~ 2025 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference; Marriott Lexington	
	Griffin Gate Golf Resort & Spa, Lexington, KY;	
	For more information and to register, please go	
	online to <https://kyhortcouncil.org/kentucky-fruit-and-vegetable-conference/>	

	Master Haymaker; A 5-session series to help	
	participants improve forage production begins	
	January 9, 2025. Registration is required, see	
	the flyer in this newsletter on how to register.	

	January 12-15, 2025 ~ American Forage & Grassland Conference 2025; Kissimmee, FL;	
	For more information, please go online to	
	<https://www.afgc.org/annual-conference/>	

	January 27, 2025 ~ 2025 Central Kentucky Grain Producer Seminar; Scott County	
	Extension Office, Georgetown, KY; 9:00am-	
	12:00pm; RSVP to (502) 863-0984; Please see	
	the flyer in this newsletter for more information.	





Kentucky Red Velvet Muffins

1 1/4 cups whole-wheat flour	Zest of one orange	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/3 cup cocoa powder	Juice of one orange	1 cup finely chopped
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder	(about 4 tablespoons)	cooked beets (see back
1/2 teaspoon salt	2 large eggs, at room	of card for cooking
1/2 cup sugar	temperature	instructions)
4 tablespoons unsalted butter,	1/2 cup unsweetened	1/2 cup semisweet
softened	applesauce	chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. **Line** 12 muffin cups with paper liners. **Mix** flour, cocoa, baking powder, and salt together in a medium bowl. In a separate large bowl, **beat** sugar, butter, and orange zest until smooth. **Add** orange juice, eggs, applesauce, and vanilla to the sugar mixture; **beat** until smooth. **Stir** about one-third of the flour mixture into the sugar mixture to fully incorporate it into a batter; **repeat** with remaining flour mixture in two even additions. **Fold in** beets and chocolate chips. **Divide** batter

equally into the lined muffin cups using a 1/4-cup measuring scoop. **Bake** about 25 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. **Cool** in pan for 10 minutes before **removing** muffins to cool completely on a wire rack.

Yield: 12 muffins
Serving size: 1 muffin

Nutrition analysis: 170 calories, 7g total fat, 4g saturated fat, 40mg cholesterol, 190mg sodium, 26g total carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 15g total sugars, 12g added sugars, 4g protein, 0% DV vitamin D, 2% DV calcium, 6% DV iron, 4% DV potassium.

For Plate It Up! recipes, visit:

<http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/plate-it-kentucky-proud>



For Cook Wild Kentucky recipes, visit:

<https://www.planeatmove.com/recipes>



Tall fescue active after recent rains

Source: UK Forage News, <https://kyforagenews.com>

Tall fescue has responded to the hurricane rains in late September with tremendous vigor, and in some cases, high ergovaline levels that cause fescue toxicity have also been observed in Central KY over the past 3 weeks. This fall peak is similar to what was observed in 2022 and 2023 across the southeastern US, which also experienced dry falls followed by significant rainfall.

Cow calf producers (especially those fall calving) should keep a close eye on your cows since high ergovaline can lead to low milk production and make rebreeding more difficult. Managers of pregnant mares should consider testing pastures (at the UK Vet Diagnostic Lab) that have significant amounts of tall fescue throughout the fall and moving mares to lower risk pastures. Fortunately, ergovaline levels will typically drop after a couple of hard freezes, but these may not come till late December or early January **if** late fall weather is mild like 2022 and 2023. Feeding high quality hay or supplements can be a way to reduce or dilute tall fescue intake.

Forage Timely Tips: November

Source: UK Forage News, <https://kyforagenews.com>

- Apply 30-40 lbs/N/acre to strengthen cool-season grass sods.
- Inventory hay and assess hay quality.
- Using a plate meter or grazing stick, estimate stockpile available for winter grazing.
- Adjust animal numbers or purchase additional hay to balance forage-feed supply to livestock needs.
- Graze crops residues and cover crops that will not overwinter. Be careful to avoid fields that contain johnsongrass until after these plants have dried up.
- Graze winter annuals that will not overwinter such as brassicas and oats.
- Graze other winter annuals once they are 6-8 inches tall and are well anchored. Do NOT graze closer to 4 inches.
- Sugar content will rise in tall fescue with the cool temperatures and short days of fall.



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

*Join us for an
evening of all things
hay!*

CENTRAL KENTUCKY HAY PROGRAM

PROGRAM FEATURES:

- ✓ Central KY Hay Contest Awards
- ✓ Understanding your forage test results
-Dr. Jimmy Henning, UK Extension Forage Specialist
- ✓ Determining quality horse hay
-Dr. Bob Coleman UK Extension Equine Specialist
- ✓ How I make quality hay: Tips for Success
-Producer panel



When: Monday, December 16th, 2024

Where: Fayette County Extension Office,
1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY 40504

Time: 6:00 – 8:00pm

Dinner will be served so please RSVP to the Fayette County Extension Office at 859-257-5582 or fayette.ext@uky.edu before December 9th!

Cooperative Extension Service

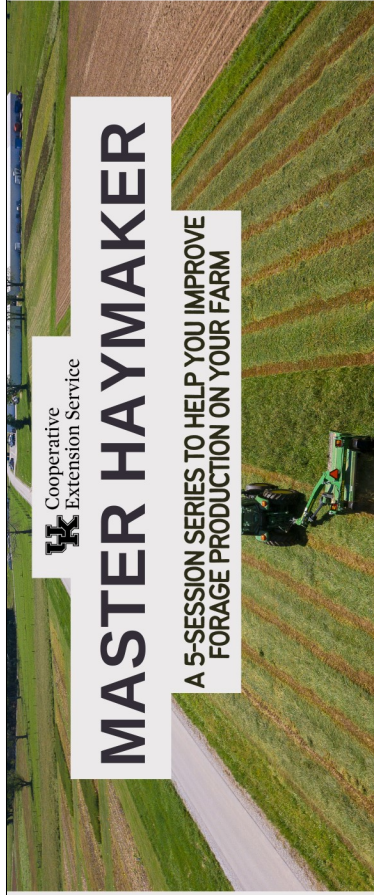
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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



Cooperative Extension Service

MASTER HAYMAKER

A 5-SESSION SERIES TO HELP YOU IMPROVE FORAGE PRODUCTION ON YOUR FARM

Sessions will begin at 5:30 pm and last approximately 2 hours
 Participants must complete all 5 of the sessions to be certified

- JANUARY 9TH- HARRISON CO.
- JANUARY 16TH- BOURBON CO.
- JANUARY 23RD- SCOTT CO.
- JANUARY 30TH- HARRISON CO.
- FEBRUARY 6TH- SCOTT CO.
- FEBRUARY 13TH- LOUISVILLE

- SOILS- HELP THEM HELP YOU
- COOL SEASON FORAGES
- WARM SEASON FORAGES
- WEED CONTROL
- FORAGE HARVESTING & STORAGE

Field trip to the National Farm Machinery Show

Registration fee:
\$50

Includes all meals, materials, farm sign, transportation and 1 meal at the National Farm Machinery Show

REGISTER BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNTY ANR AGENT:

Bourbon
 Lindsay Arthur
 lindsay.arthur@uky.edu 859-987-1895

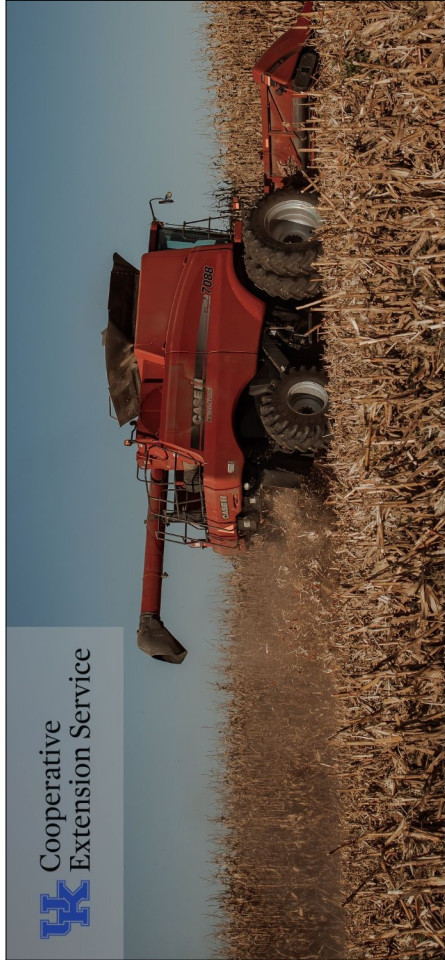
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Cooperative Extension Service

2025 CENTRAL KENTUCKY GRAIN PRODUCER SEMINAR

Monday January 27th, 2025 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Location: **Scott County Extension Office**
 1130 Cincinnati Rd. Georgetown, KY
 Please RSVP: (502) 863-0984

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

Dr. Chad Lee Grain Crops Specialist
 Dr. Grant Gardner Agriculture Economist
 Dr. Carl Bradley Plant Disease Specialist

For more information and to RSVP contact the Scott County Extension Office at 502-863-0984 or email brittany.brewer@uky.edu.

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To Store or Not to Store? Old Crop Exit Strategies

By: Grant Gardener (University of Kentucky), Ryan Loy (University of Arkansas)

The June Grain Stocks report indicated 37% more corn and 44% more soybeans stored on-farm than last year, indicating that many producers still have grain in storage (Maples, 2024). The September Grain Stocks report indicates that 75% of the on-farm grain stocks from June were sold; however, stocks are still up 29% for Corn and 54% for soybeans compared to the September 2024 report. These stocks carry over from last year and are likely still impacting local prices. Producers may still be determining whether to exit old crop positions or hold until prices increase. In this article, I discuss three facets of this decision: cutting losses (e.g. selling now), storage with an operating loan, and storage with cash flow using a hypothetical situation.

Assume that farmer Ethan is deciding what to do with 100,000 bushels of corn, and the cash price is currently \$4.00. He could sell, collect \$400,000 today, and use that cash to cover expenses in other areas of the operation. Or, he could also store those bushels on-farm using an operating loan or cash flow (working capital).

Using an operating loan, Ethan must continue to utilize \$400,000 (100,000 bushels × \$4.00) at a 9% interest (current rates). As prices will typically be lower at harvest due to new crop supplies, he is prepared to sell the grain in February, expecting prices to rise (6 months). Ethan's interest expense on the loan would come out to \$18,000 ($\$400,000 \times 0.09 \times 6/12$). Dividing that by 100,000 bushels, his per bushel expense is \$0.18 (\$0.03/bushel/month), meaning prices would need to increase to at least \$4.18 to pay the interest-only portion of the storage expense. Ethan would also incur forgone interest expense by storing, which is the opportunity cost of a delayed sale. Forgone interest amounts to \$0.09/bu ($\$0.015/\text{bu}/\text{mo}$) in this case, which is calculated using the current CD rate of 4.5% ($\$400,000 \times 0.045 \times 6/12$). If Ethan were to account for their delayed sale (\$0.09/bu) and the interest expense of storage (\$0.18/bu), corn prices would need to increase to at least \$4.27 to pay both the direct interest expense and the opportunity cost of storing.

The final option is for Farmer Ethan to fund some of the storage using cash. As Ethan funds more of the loan using his funds, interest costs decline. If he funds all the storage with cash, his interest expense is \$0.00. However, he would still incur the forgone interest expense of \$0.09/bu. The downfall of this method is that Farmer Ethan now has less cash on hand to fund other areas of his operation.

According to farmer Ethan's hypothetical, cutting losses or storing through harvest could be viable options for producers sitting on old crops; however, we do not know how 2024/25 marketing year prices will unfold. Futures prices and basis To Store or Not to Store? Old Crop Exit Strategies By: Grant Gardener (University of Kentucky), Ryan Loy (University of Arkansas) 1 2 will likely remain low as we move through harvest. We have experienced price spikes lately due to weather pressure in Brazil; however, this is likely to curtail as Brazil moves into their monsoon season. The choice to store or sell is highly dependent on the operation. Sometimes, making sales is the best decision because it moves focus to the next marketing year, especially if an operation does not have enough storage to hold old crop stocks and new crop supplies.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that this analysis only looks at interest expenses and touches on forgone interest (opportunity cost of storage). It does not account for other expenses that occur with storage, such as quality losses, grain handling, and capital recovery. Interest rates may also improve as the Federal Reserve lowered the federal funds rate by half a percentage point in September and is expected to drop the rate another quarter percentage point in November (CME, 2024). Finally, prices may not increase by February, and all storage could result in a loss. All grain storage calculations and further discussion of interest rate impacts on storage costs are explained in Gardner (2023).

Updated from Original Publication: 10/15/2024

Sources Maples, William E. "Having a Way Out." *Southern Ag Today* 4(30.1). July 22, 2024.

Gardner, Grant. "Interest Rates and Grain Storage." *Southern Ag Today* 3(26.1). June 26, 2023.

CME Group. "FedWatch." Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Accessed August 8, 2024 from: <https://www.cmegroup.com/markets/interest-rates/cme-fedwatch-tool.html>

Cooperative Extension Service

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