

# CASEY COUNTY AG NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 2024

 Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

This is the last month to get your entries in for the South Central KY Hay Contest. Don't miss out on an opportunity to get your hay analyzed for free as well as potentially earning some bragging rights.

Fall and winter programs are right around the corner. Make sure to check out newsletters so you can take advantage of some great educational opportunities.

*Kelsey Marcum*

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Casey County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

## CASEY COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE



1517 S Wallace Wilkinson  
Blvd Liberty, KY 42539



606-787-7384



[casey.ca.uky.edu](http://casey.ca.uky.edu)



[facebook.com/caseyanr](https://facebook.com/caseyanr)

### September Herbicide Weed Control

Aster	Multiflora Rose
Chicory	Red Sorrel
Common Milkweed	Trumpet creeper

**Refer to AGR-207 for herbicide recommendations  
or call us for more information.**



### Cooperative Extension Service

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

### MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# **Jr Cattlemen's Meeting**

Trip to Lexington Bluegrass Stockyards

September 24th at 8:00am

Meet at Casey County Extension Office

Members must turn in permission slips, those can be picked up at the extension office.

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Every Thursday, 4:30 - 7:00pm

May through September

**NEW LOCATION:**

289 S. Wallace Wilkinson Blvd

(The Old Don Franklin parking lot, new home of Casey County Food Pantry).

Contact Information:

Market Manager: Lacey, 606-706-7887

Market Chairman: T.J., 270-403-5389

# ***Lake Cumberland Area Cattle Pregnancy Determination School***

**Participants will learn how to check cattle  
for pregnancy using chuteside blood tests  
and palpation.**

**Class sizes are limited.**

**Participants *MUST* call to reserve their spot.**

**606-787-7384**

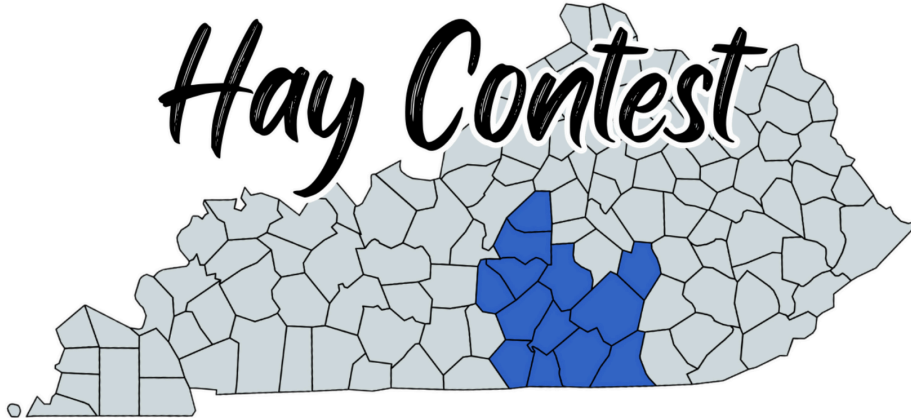
**October 29th at 6:00pm EST  
Clement and Viva Woodrum's Farm  
Gum Lick Rd  
Liberty, KY  
Field day signs will be posted.**





# ***SOUTH-CENTRAL KY***

## *Hay Contest*



The South-Central KY Area Hay Contest is offered to all individuals raising hay in Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Marion, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Washington, and Wayne counties.

This program aims to provide producers with free hay analysis results to aid in educating producers on raising higher quality forages and meeting livestock needs.

Producers may submit multiple samples in each contest area to their county agriculture agent. Samples must be submitted no later than September 30th, 2024. Basic analysis results will be sent to producers by November 1st, 2024. Results will include crude protein, DM, TDN, RFV, ADF, and NDF. Producers may be provided with livestock ration recommendations in addition to their results upon request.

After completion of the program, an area-wide event will be held to provide an educational overview of the program and present awards to contest winners. There will be one winner selected for the entire area for each hay class. Please reach out to your county agriculture agent for further information.

## Beef Timely Tips

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

### Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Fescue pastures don't generally produce much this month. Some of us have had some rain but the heat has punished our pastures and cattle this summer. Keep rotating pastures to permit calves to continue gaining weight. Always keep minerals available.
- Bulls should have been removed from the cow herd by the end of the month. They should be pastured away from the cow herd with a good fence and allowed to regain lost weight and condition. It is a good time to evaluate physical condition, especially feet and legs. Bulls can be given medical attention and still have plenty of time to recover, e.g., corns, abscesses, split hooves, etc. If removing the bull is not practical for you then call your herd veterinarian and schedule a pregnancy diagnosis. Market your "late-bred" cows and keep those that conceived early in the breeding season.
- Repair and improve corrals for fall working and weaning. Consider having an area to wean calves and retain ownership for postweaning feeding rather than selling "green", lightweight calves. Plan to participate in CPH-45 feeder calf sales in your area.

### Fall-Calving Cow Herd

- Dry cows should be moved to better pastures as calving time approaches. Cows should start calving next month. Yearling heifers may begin "headstart" calving later this month. Plan to move cows to stockpiled fescue for the breeding season, so it will soon be time to apply nitrogen fertilizer.
- Prepare for the fall-calving season (usually September). Get ready, be sure you have the following: record book, ear tags for identification, calf puller, castration equipment.

### General

- Provide shade and water! Cattle will need shade during the hot part of the day. Check water supply frequently – as much as 20 gallons may be required by high producing cows in very hot weather.
- Select pastures for stockpiling. Remove cattle and apply nitrogen when moisture conditions are favorable. Stockpiled fescue can be especially beneficial for fall-calving cows after calving. Reproductive rates are highest in fall-calving cows grazing stockpiled fescue.
- Avoid working cattle when temperatures are extremely high – especially those grazing high endophyte fescue. If cattle must be handled, do so in the early morning.
- Do not give up on fly control in late summer, especially if fly numbers are greater than about 50 flies per animal. You can use a different "type" of spray or pour-on to kill any resistant flies at the end of fly season.
- Keep a good mineral mix available at all times. The UK Beef IRM Basic Cow-Calf mineral is a good choice.
- Cattle may also be more prone to eat poisonous plants during periods of extreme temperature stress. They will stay in "wooded" areas and browse on plants that they would not normally consume. Consider putting a roll of hay in these areas and/or spraying plants like purple (perilla) mint that can be toxic.

## Forage Timely Tips

- If not already done, soil sample and apply fertilizer as needed.
- Plant perennial grasses and legumes. Consider using a novel endophyte tall fescue.
- Harvest hay as needed. Do not harvest alfalfa after mid-September.
- Scout pastures, identify perennial weeds and woody brush. Consult an agricultural professional to determine the control strategy.
- Closely monitor livestock and do not overgraze. Pasture plants accumulate energy reserves in the fall that help them overwinter and regrow in the spring.
- Feed hay to allow pastures to stockpile for winter grazing.
- Rest native warm-season grass fields until after frost for better winter survival.

## Late Summer Is The Time to Prepare Fields for Stockpiling

The following is an excerpt of a longer article written by NC State Beef Specialist Dr. Matt Poore and first published in the Carolina Cattle Connection, August 2024.

Late summer (mid-August to early September) is the key time to be planning for stockpiling forage for winter grazing. Stockpiling is simply accumulating forage growth and deferring grazing from when the forage is “ready to graze” (about 6-8 weeks of regrowth) until much later when it is needed. In the autumn this works especially well for tall fescue as it is the most resilient of our forages to weather and maintains its quality well into winter.

On-farm research on 22 farms in North Carolina showed that after applying 54 lbs of N per acre to pastures about September 1, yield by early December averaged 2542 lbs of available forage per acre, and this provided 105 cow grazing days per acre during the winter grazing season. Pastures were clipped or grazed and then rested during the month of August, and grazing was deferred until December or later. Of course, your yield will be dependent on timely rainfall, but doing everything right including getting fertilizer out on time and giving the grass a rest ahead of time will help make use of the rain when it does come.

The best fields to stockpile will be mostly tall fescue (other grasses and especially clover decay more rapidly than fescue), and fertility status (including pH) should be adequate to support good forage growth. Nitrogen has traditionally been recommended at between 50 and 100 lbs per acre, but producers need to consider both the cost of nitrogen, and the ability of their land to produce without supplemental nitrogen when making a decision on application rate.

Once forage is accumulated, you should wait until at least mid-December (or after two hard freezes), after the toxin levels in KY31 tall fescue decline. At Dr. Poore’s home farm in the southern Piedmont of Virginia, he generally saves most of his stockpile for after the holidays when he knows ergot alkaloid toxin levels have declined, and when he would rather be grazing than feeding hay. He rotationally grazes pastures not targeted to stockpiling during the fall and starts unrolling some hay when those pastures are mostly utilized. He often feeds hay for the first 30 days of calving (from mid-October to mid-November) which helps with his calving management. This allows stockpile to accumulate and also makes for a short 30 to 45-day winter hay feeding period during March in a normal year.

One new development is Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue which doesn’t accumulate the ergot toxins, so it can be grazed before the holidays without problems. If you have established some novel fescue then you can graze those stockpiled fields first, and then move to KY31 later. Research at NCSU has shown that Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue is as productive and as resilient in a stockpiling system as KY31 tall fescue.

Frontal grazing is a critical management tool for getting the most out of stockpiled forage. Giving cattle strips with no more than 3 days of forage available will stretch grass by preventing the damage and decay of forage the cattle don’t yet need. The slow rate of regrowth means you don’t need to use a back fence, simplifying the process. Also, the systematic management of the cows with frequent movement calms them down, makes them easy to check and count, and just in general makes them easier to deal with.