

Ag and Natural Resources Newsletter

Planning for your future garden...

Winter is an excellent time for planning next year's garden. Take advantage of the shorter days and cooler weather to create a vision for the upcoming growing season.

The first step is to look back on the previous growing season. Revisit any photos taken to refresh your memory of the plants that brought enjoyment, utility or challenges. What grew well and what did not perform as expected? If you took any notes or recorded activities in your calendar, review those items. If something was done a little late or too early, think about how you could change your approach.

Evaluate the produce your household consumed last year. Consider if you need to grow additional quantities or increase the amount grown. Also ask yourself if there are other varieties that you would like to try.

For your garden, list the plants you intend to grow and consider where they will be planted. Even a rough-draft map can help you better understand what is possible. These records can serve as a shopping list and a reference for later. Digital tools such as spreadsheets are excellent for this purpose as they can be easily located in subsequent seasons and revised. However, the pen-and-paper method can serve the same purpose and be great for mapping out the location of plantings. There are also apps available to digitally plan your garden bed.

Once you have a general idea of the plants you want for your home garden, you can more confidently turn your attention to sourcing seeds. Seed companies can be located online, but if you prefer a physical catalog, call and request one. Reputable seed sources will identify the variety sold as well as a description, germination rate and lot number.

If you're unsure whether a seed company is reputable, don't hesitate to contact your county extension agent. Seeds for popular varieties can sell out quickly, so purchasing things ahead of springtime is a good idea. Extra or unused seeds can be stored in sealed bags or a plastic bin in a cool place and saved for later.

Upcoming Events:

- February 26th @ NOON BQCA Certification Training
- April 11th @ 5PM BQCA Certification Training
- February 14th-17th National Farm Machinery Show
- February 16th Deadline to pay/sign up for Master Cattlemen Program
- February 26th Grain Crops Outlook & consideration @Bourbon Co. Ext. Office at 5:30PM



Shelby Cleaver
ANR/4-H Agent
University of Kentucky
368 East Main Street
Carlisle, KY 40311
859-289-2312
shelby.cleaver@uky.edu



BQCA Certification

At the Nicholas County Extension Office 368 East Main Street

- January 22 @ 10AM
- February 26 @ NOON
- April 11 @ 5PM

Please call our office
(859)289-2312 if you
have any questions or
would like to attend

Cost \$5 for
in person classes
Make check
payable to KBN

Friendly reminder; if you're planning on using CAIP funds for large animal and you do NOT have an updated BQCA you will have to have one before receiving funds and they do NOT count towards your educational component!

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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.
University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

BECOME A MASTER CATTLEMEN



The Master Cattlemen Program was created to give beef producers an in-depth educational course on beef cattle management. Producers completing the program will acquire knowledge that will help them make informed economic management decisions in their beef operations.

All sessions will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Participants must complete all 6 of the 3 hour sessions to be certified

March 5th
Reproduction and
record keeping
Harrison County
Office

March 7th
Marketing and
Profitability
Harrison County
Office

March 14th
Herd Health
Nicholas County
Office

March 19th
Facilities and
Logistics of
Winter Feeding
Bourbon County
Office

March 21st
Genetics for the
Beef Herd
Nicholas County
Office

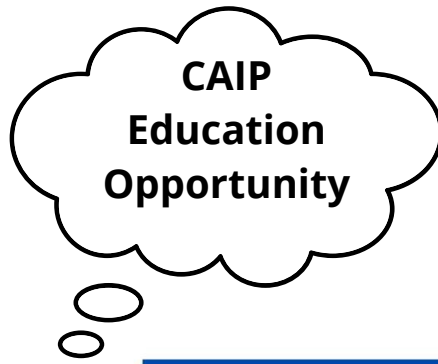
March 28th
Nutrition for
Optimum
Production
Bourbon County
Office

**Registration fee:
\$125
includes all meals,
class materials and a
farm sign**

TO REGISTER:

Call the Nicholas County Extension Office at
859-289-2312 or email Shelby Cleaver at
shelby.cleaver@uky.edu

Couples are welcome; however, they may need to pay an additional registration fee to cover meal costs. Couples will receive only one set of materials and one farm gate sign. To receive a farm gate sign and complete the Master Cattleman Program, one person must complete all sessions.



UK BEEF MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES

If you are interested and would like to be registered send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with Beef Webinar Series in the Subject and your name and county in the message to receive a Zoom link and password. You will receive an invitation and password the morning of the presentation.

JOIN OUR MEETING

● ● ● ● ● 8:00PM EST/ 7:00PM CST

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

Dr. Perry joins us and presents on "Management decisions that impact reproductive efficiency in beef heards."



Dr. George Perry
Texas A&M University

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Dr. VanValin will be covering "What's the Cost of Cheap Mineral".



Dr. Katie VanValin
University of Kentucky

If you have any questions or need additional information please email dbullock@uky.edu. If you are already registered you will get a Zoom invitation the morning of each session with the link and password.

Grain Crops Outlook and Considerations

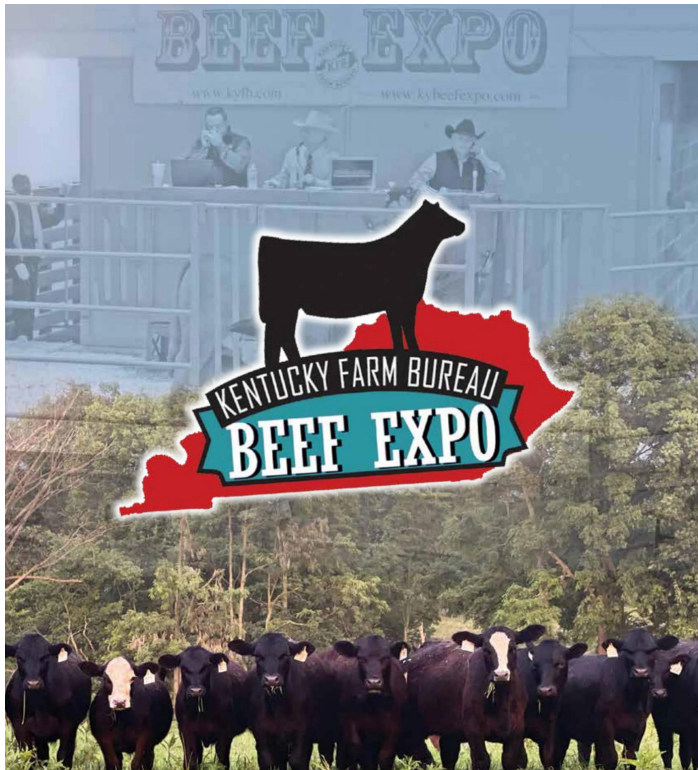
Presented by
Dr. Grant Gardner



**February 26th
5:30 PM**

**Please RSVP for a meal by
calling 859-987-1895**

*Bourbon County Extension Office
603 Millersburg Rd
Paris, KY 40361*



**2024 Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo
Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center
March 1st-3rd**



**National Farm Machinery Show
Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center
February 14th-17th**



Six easy steps to maximize your pasture success with clover frost seeding

Kentucky's weather conditions are predictably unpredictable. During the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council assembly in November, board members discussed a possible shift in optimal timing for frost seeding clover -- broadcasting red clover into winter wheat just before green-up -- due to the increasingly milder winters. With that said, be careful when making statements about Kentucky weather as weather variation complicates predicting the optimum period for frost seeding clovers.

As legumes, clovers are an essential part of a strong and healthy nitrogen cycle in grasslands. Distributing six pounds of red clover and one to two pounds of white clover over a grassy area with some bare soil in the later part of winter, combined with minimal competition control, can develop high-quality pasture.

The advantages of cultivating clover are substantial, encompassing natural nitrogen fixation, and enhanced forage quality and yield. Particularly noteworthy is recent U.S. Department of Agriculture research indicating that red clover can significantly mitigate the vasoconstrictive effects of toxic endophyte tall fescue, making it an exceptionally valuable crop.

Frost seeding is a preferred establishment method due to its minimal equipment requirements. Typically, a small spinner seeder attached to a tractor or four-wheeler is all you would need for seed distribution. Red and/or white clover are well-suited for frost seeding as they exhibit rapid germination, shade tolerance, and vigorous root and shoot development in their seedling stages. Their small, smooth seeds are readily incorporated into the top quarter inch of soil through natural weather patterns or animal movement.

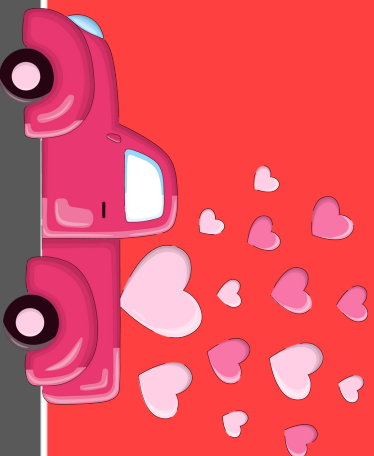
Despite the numerous advantageous clover traits are for establishment, it is crucial to adhere to the fundamental requirements of forage establishment, even in low-input methods like frost seeding. These essentials include:





1. **Conduct soil analysis and apply necessary nutrients.** Clovers thrive in soil with a pH of 6.5 to 7 and medium to high levels of phosphorus and potassium. Nitrogen should only be added when diammonium phosphate is required for phosphorus provision.
2. **Choose a high-quality variety.** Opt for an improved variety with established performance and genetics. Selecting a superior red clover variety can yield up to three tons more hay per acre and extend the stand's lifespan compared to common, unclassified seeds. The University of Kentucky provides extensive yield data and persistence of white and red clover varieties for hay and pasture, available at http://forages.ca.uky.edu/variety_trials . It is advisable to check with seed suppliers to see if your favorite variety is available.
3. **Apply an adequate quantity of seed.** Typical seeding rates range from 8 to 12 pounds of red clover and one to two pounds of white/ladino clover per acre. A reduced rate, such as six pounds of red and one pound of white clover, still results in over 55 seeds per square foot (37 red and 18 white).
4. **Ensure seed contact with bare soil.** Removing excess grass or thatch, revealing bare ground, is imperative before overseeding. A major cause of frost seeding failures is excessive ground cover. Farmers can achieve bare soil exposure through controlled cattle movement or mechanically using a chain harrow.
5. **Achieve optimal seed-soil contact.** Frost seedings rely on precipitation and the freeze-thaw cycle to integrate clover seeds into the top quarter inch of soil. Utilizing a corrugated roller post-seeding can further enhance soil contact.
6. **Manage competition the following spring.** Avoid additional nitrogen application on overseeded fields. Be prepared for timely mowing to control grass or weed overgrowth above the clover. Although clover seeds are inherently vigorous, controlling competition can expedite and improve establishment.

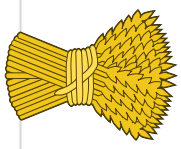
With careful attention to soil fertility, variety selection, seeding rate, seed placement and competition management, clover can be successfully frost seeded into existing grass pastures.

February

2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
		Kentucky VS Vanderbilt at 8:30PM	Kentucky VS. Florida at 7PM		Groundhog Day National Wear Red Day 	Kentucky VS Tennessee at 8:30PM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Kentucky VS Ole Miss at 9PM	National Farm Machinery Show Valentines Day			Kentucky VS Gonzaga at 4PM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Super Bowl Sunday 		UK Beef Management Webinar at 8PM	National Farm Machinery Show	National Farm Machinery Show	National Farm Machinery Show Deadline to sign up/pay for Master Cattlemen program	National Farm Machinery Show Kentucky VS Auburn at 6PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Presidents Day		Kentucky VS LSU at 9PM			Kentucky VS Alabama at 4PM
25	26	27	28	29		
	BOCA Class noon at the office Grain Crops Outlook & Consideration at Bourbon Co. Ext at 5:30PM	Kentucky VS MS State at 7PM				



XOXO





Broccoli Chowder

2 tablespoons canola oil	3 cups broccoli florets	all-purpose flour
½ cup chopped onion	½ teaspoon dried Italian seasoning	3½ cups low sodium chicken broth
3 cloves garlic, finely minced	½ teaspoon salt	½ cup half-and-half
½ cup chopped carrots	¼ teaspoon pepper	½ cup low-fat, shredded cheese
2 cups diced, unpeeled red potatoes	3 tablespoons	

In a large heavy pot, **heat** the oil over medium heat. **Add** the onion and garlic and **sauté** 2-3 minutes. **Add** the carrots, red potatoes and broccoli one at a time; **sauté** each about 2 minutes. **Add** the Italian seasoning, salt, pepper and flour and **toss** until vegetables are coated. **Cook** 1-2 minutes. **Add** the chicken broth and bring to a boil. **Reduce** heat to low, **cover** pot and **simmer** for 15

minutes. **Remove** lid and **stir** in the half-and-half. Bring back to a **simmer** and **remove** from heat. **Ladle** into bowls and top with cheese to serve.

Yield: 8,1cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 180 calories; 8g total fat; 2.5 g saturated fat; 15 mg cholesterol; 340 mg sodium; 18 g total carbohydrate; 3 g dietary fiber; 4 g sugar; 8 g protein.



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.