



Tall Fescue Active After Recent Rains

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.

[Mark your calendars now!](#)

► **BCES Closed**

December 25 -January 1, 2025

► **Master Cattleman**

December 2nd & 9th, 2024

Boone County Enrichment Center

► **Holiday Houseplants**

December 5, 2024

Boone County Extension Office

► **Growing & Propagating**

January 16, 2024

Boone County Extension Office

► **Festive Journey - A Holiday Adventure**

December 18, 2024

Details on pg. 8

► **Northern KY Cattle Association Annual Dinner**

January 25, 2025

Details on pg. 3

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.



Excerpt from Forage News, Dr. Ray Smith and Echo Gotisck

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Beef Cattle Management Webinar Series Resumes

The Beef Cattle Management Webinar Series, formerly known as Reaching Out While Locked In (ROWLI), will resume November 12th and continue the second Tuesday of each month until April 8th. We have an exciting agenda that includes many of the UK Specialists, as well as some nationally recognized experts. The schedule for the series is:

November 12, 2024 – Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef Related Questions! – Updates and Roundtable discussion with UK Specialists

December 10, 2024 – Winter Feeding Strategies to Extend Short Hay Supplies – Lawton Stewart, Professor, University of Georgia

January 14, 2025 – Important Traits for Bull Selection in Kentucky – Matt Spangler, Professor, University of Nebraska

February 11, 2025 – Marketing Opportunities for the Spring – Kenny Burdine, Professor, and Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

March 11, 2025 – Preparing for a Successful Spring Breeding Season – Les Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

April 8, 2025 – Health Update and Internal Parasite Field Study Results – Michelle Arnold, Extension Veterinarian, and Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

If you have registered in the past, you do not need to re-register! If you have never received a Zoom invitation for the series, then please register: send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with the subject of Beef Webinar Series and your name and county in the message. The Zoom invitation will come via email the morning of each presentation. You will continue to get invitations until you send me a request to be removed from the list.

Dr. Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky, Extension Professor

Preventing and Managing Fall Pests In Your Home

As temperatures drop this fall, you may notice more insects around your home. Insects often retreat indoors to escape the cooler temperatures as a part of their overwintering strategy.

As pests mistake your home for a heated pile of rocks, you may see hundreds, even thousands, of insects around your home this fall and winter. The most common autumn home invaders you may see are multicolored Asian ladybeetles and the brown marmorated stink bug. Brown marmorated stink bugs tend to be the first invader with the multicolored Asian lady beetle following about a month later. The lady beetle is sometimes called the Halloween beetle for its coloration and the fact that people usually start to notice them in October.

While cooler temperatures have begun, you still have ways to pest-proof your home before pests mass exodus to warmer hideaways.

Inspect the exterior of the property and look for gaps in windows and doors, holes in screens, openings in caulk or other sealants and fix them. Without these easy entry points, insects have a tougher time coming inside.

Pesticide applications outside the home may also provide some relief but timing is crucial. When using pesticides, focus on doors, windows, utility openings and banding around the foundation. Check the pesticide's label to make sure you can apply it to the necessary areas.

Since the primetime for pesticide application has passed, if you see clusters of pests on the exterior of your home, you may also spray them with soapy water to kill them before they start squeezing their way inside.

(Continued on next page)

Once the pests have come into your home, it is best to manage them simply by vacuuming or sweeping them up for disposal. Interior pesticide applications are usually unnecessary, especially “bug bomb” type applications which usually don’t reach the hiding spots of overwintering pests.

For more information about pest prevention and management, contact your Boone Cooperative Extension Service.

Source: Jonathan Larson, UK Entomology Assistant Professor of Extension

Excerpt from Off the Hoof.... Changes to CAIP Beef Bull Cost-share Program

Significant changes to the CAIP Beef Bull Cost-share program have been approved for 2025. Both Kentucky and Tennessee have similar programs but have traditionally had different Expected Progeny Differences (EPD) requirements. The guidelines committees of the two states met and came to consensus on a set of guidelines that are now uniform across the state line. Some of the major changes are highlighted in this article, however, pay close attention to the full requirements before purchasing a bull for cost-share funding.

- The number of bull categories has been reduced to 3; Balanced Trait/Maternal, Terminal Sire and Carcass Merit. There is no longer a Heifer Acceptable category, however, recommended minimal Calving Ease Direct or Birth Weight EPDs are provided for those that plan to breed the bull to heifers.
- There are only EPD requirements for CED/BW and Growth traits OR CED/BW and an appropriate Economic Selection Index value depending on the breed. There is no longer a milk requirement for Balanced Trait/Maternal, however a range is recommended for producers to consider staying within. There are also recommendations for maximum Mature Weight EPDs and minimum Docility EPDs.
- The formatting has changed. Instead of all breeds' requirements being listed in a table for each bull category, they are now listed by breed with the requirements and recommendations for each category.
- All bulls will still be required to be genomically tested and have Genomically Enhanced EPDs! Contact your breed association for more information on how to accomplish this.

These new requirements will be implemented starting January 1, 2025. Please bear with us as we make this transition, we will try to work through any issues that arise. In the long run this will simplify bull purchases across the KY/TN state line and will improve the program overall.

Source: Dr. Darrah Bullock, University of Kentucky, Extension Professor



**Northern Kentucky
Cattle Association**

Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 25th, 2025
11:00 AM

Join us for our annual business meeting,
guest speakers, and lunch!

At the
Boone County Enrichment Center
1824 Patrick Dr. Burlington, KY

RSVP by January 22nd by calling

Boone County Extension 859-586-6101

Member Ticket: Free for 2024-25 KCA Members
Guest Ticket: \$10 (paid at the door)

Top 10 Reasons to Test Hay

Most of you recognize the value of testing hay and make sure your livestock are fed the right hay at the right time. If you don't regularly test hay then the following is a list the top ten reasons you should make the effort to test the hay you produce or the hay you are buying.

- **It saves feed costs.** Overwintering costs are the single biggest cost in a cow-calf operation. UK budgets place the hay cost of overwintering a cow at \$150 (2.5 tons at \$60 per ton). Since much of the profit in a cow- calf operation comes from saving money, it makes good sense to know what is in your hay and to not purchase nutrients you don't need.
- **It keeps livestock healthy.** By preventing underfeeding, you keep cows in better condition and they can better handle the disease stresses of winter.
- **It tells you about your legume content.** The calcium to phosphorous ratio will indicate how much legume is in the hay. If calcium and phosphorous are present in similar amounts (in other words the ratio is 1 to 1), your hay is mostly grass. If it is 2 to 1 or greater, you have a significant amount of legume.
- **You get more calves.** In other words, skinny cows don't rebreed. Testing hay and feeding accordingly lowers the risk of cows losing significant body condition over winter.
- **It is a scorecard for your hay program.** Hay quality is something you can do something about but only if you get it tested. Comparing current values to historic values for your hay quality will "red flag" production issues before you find out about them in the form of fewer calves or thin cows.
- **It can make you money.** A hay test can help leverage higher prices for cash sales. Having a hay test says to potential customers that you are a serious forage producer.
- **It can tell you if your hay got hot.** A hay test can tell you if your hay got hot in storage, if you specify the correct assay when you submit the sample. Commonly used acronyms for heat damaged protein are ADICP, ADF-CP, ADIN, HDP and ICP. All of these represent the same thing – the amount of insoluble nitrogen associated with the acid detergent fiber in forage. All forage will have some insoluble nitrogen in the acid detergent fiber, but if its more than 10% of the total, then you have heat damaged protein and you may need supplement.
- **It helps you use your hay efficiently.** You will be able to feed the best hay to the livestock that need the most nutrition.
- **It helps diagnose storage problems.** Getting around to all your hay barns and storage locations will give you a chance to make note of any barn leaks, water encroachment from poor drainage, and other problems.
- **It will impress (and maybe shock) your county agent, your ag dealer and even your neighbors.**



Excerpt from Dr. Jimmy Henning's Forage Doctor column Oct. 17 Farmers Pride.

Winter Cover Crop Can Improve Garden Soil

No matter how small your garden is, it can play an important role in absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and temporarily locking it in the soil. There are a number of ways you can improve on this natural cycle, but at this time of year, the best way is through a cover crop.

Soil left bare over the winter months is susceptible to weed growth, erosion that can wash away valuable nutrients and a loss of carbon into the atmosphere. Soil nitrogen left over from this year's crop is subject to leaching due to fall and winter precipitation. Planting a fast-growing cover crop can help prevent these problems. The term crop in this context may be misleading. These plants are not meant to be harvested. Instead, they add important nutrients, promote beneficial bacterial growth and stabilize the soil.

Easy and effective cover crops that can be planted at this time of year include annual rye grass, hairy vetch, red clover and winter rye.

Annual rye and winter rye are particularly effective as late-season cover crops. They germinate quickly and are an effective barrier against weeds. Grasses, however, do not capture nitrogen in their root system, so consider pairing rye with a legume, such as red clover or hairy vetch.

Hairy vetch and red clover work well as a cover plant, whether paired with rye or by themselves. Being legumes, they are excellent at fixing nitrogen in the soil. They are also prolific enough to reduce weeds and prevent erosion. In the spring, their blossoms will attract bees to your garden. If you worry about hairy vetch or clover reseeding in your lawn – though they're pretty plants and would add biodiversity and important nutrients – just cut them back before they bloom.

Come spring, you have two options. You can turn over your cover crop into the soil, allowing your vegetables or flowers to benefit from the nutrients it will slowly release. Or you can cut it back and let it die naturally, planting directly into the crop and using it as a mulch to continue to suppress weed growth and supply nutrients to your garden. Depending on which cover you plant, this may be easier said than done, because some, particularly grasses, are difficult to directly sow or plant into.

Grasses have a densely packed root system, which make them difficult to till or turn over. If your garden is particularly small or you're gardening in raised beds, rye might not be your best option. However, vetch and clover both have root clumps which are easily dug up and turned over or planted between. Be sure to terminate the cover crop before allowing the plants to go to seed.

For more information about building healthy soil, contact the Boone office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

Source: Rick Durham, Extension Professor, Department of Horticulture



Ways to Keep Your Woodlands Healthy

The Common Threat to Woodland Health

One widely agreed upon tenet of woodland health is that native species should have adequate growing space to maintain themselves and the woods should have the ability to regenerate native species successfully. This one tenet is universally at risk because of the occurrence of exotic (non-native) species that can do the following:

- Reduce or stop the regeneration of native species
- Occupy growing space to the detriment of growth of established native species
- Reduce biodiversity
- Reduce the value of the habitat for wildlife species

Planning for invasive exotics

The following will help woodland owners plan for maintaining the health of their woodlands where exotic species exist:

- Find out what invasive species are present in your woods and county. Any forester or natural resource technical professional (state forester or wildlife biologist, consulting or industry forester, or NRCS district conservationist) should know what species a woodland owner should be aware of. Make a list of these species.
- Get readily available information on these species from the Internet or resources from agencies, universities, and organizations involved in exotic species control.
- Scout your property and adjacent areas, particularly roadways, power and gas rights-of-ways, railways, fencerows, and disturbed areas such as surface mines and construction sites where invasive species seed can originate. Note these potential trouble spots on a map of your property and the surrounding area.
- Remove exotic species from your property, especially those that seed prolifically and can spread as a result of natural causes (wind/ice storms) or human disturbance (logging or site preparation).
- When conducting a timber harvest or other intensive practice that exposes soil, plan to scout roads, skid trails, and landings the second year after harvest to kill unwanted species.
- Plan regeneration openings where they are less likely to be invaded, know what species may invade, and be ready to scout the openings after establishment to kill exotics.



Age and Woodland Health

The aging of woodlands is not inherently bad. However, the aging of individual trees and species within woodlands can create problems for woodland owners and lead to problems with woodland health. Problems with aging trees occur in particular in woodlands where all of the trees, or at least the overstory trees, are approximately the same age, these species reach their biologic maturity, and main canopies start to decline precipitously. It also is a problem when older overstory trees are stressed from being too dense or when droughts or late spring frosts occur and insects and disease can aggressively attack the weakened older trees. Instead of having a few individual scattered trees dying, which is a hallmark of uneven-aged, old-growth forests, the above-mentioned conditions can cause a significant number of canopy trees to die, resulting in significant problems. Significant canopy mortality causes problems with use and enjoyment of the woods and can lead to invasion from exotics, harming the long-term health of the woods.

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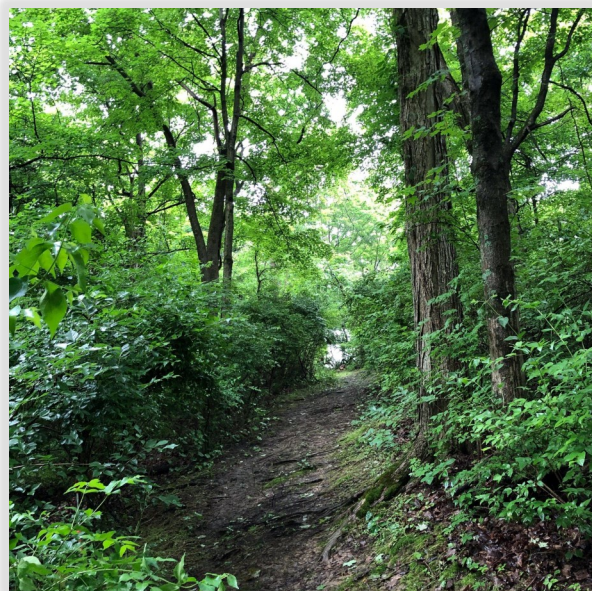
To deal with this issue, have a forester assess your woods for its age. Foresters can determine whether you have a predominance of overstory trees reaching biologic maturity. While some species such as white oak can potentially live a long time—400 years or more—many species, including white oak, can come to a premature end due to the crowding of the woods, past practices that have harmed the soil, and unusual or changing weather patterns. In older woods, you need to plan and potentially undertake silvicultural practices that will ensure that overstory trees are kept at the proper density and the woods are capable of vigorously regenerating. Practices such as a midstory removal as part of the oak shelterwood method and possibly underplanting if seed or seedlings of the appropriate species are not present may be necessary. If the canopy is already in decline, you may choose to start regeneration where needed. Typically, regeneration can be started using group openings of 0.5 to 1.5 acres in size. Keeping stands in different age classes is a common practice of large forest owners. It ensures diversity and that some stands are always young and growing vigorously. Owners with small woodlands can achieve the same thing by establishing several age classes of trees by harvesting and regenerating group openings. It is one way of maintaining an uneven-aged forest.

Protecting your Woodlands from Abuse

Care should be taken so that activities you undertake do not harm the woodlands. Also, you need to be concerned about protecting your woodlands from the carelessness of others. An unmanaged harvest can harm existing trees through uncontrolled skidding and felling and potentially ruin advance regeneration, seedlings and saplings that are required or regeneration of some species such as oaks. If soils are worked when they are wet and skidding is not controlled, significant compaction can occur to the soil outside of skid trails, landings, and roads that are expected to be compacted during a harvest. All these logging issues can be handled in a contract or agreement with the logger. Often a forester can help significantly with these issues. It is also important to protect your woodlands from unauthorized harvesting. It is helpful to have your boundaries clearly marked to aid in making loggers working on adjacent property clearly aware of where the property boundary is. The development of fire lanes and lines can help keep uncontrolled fires out of your woods. Use a forester to help place these lines and make sure that they are clear of leaves and other fuels during fire season. Typically, blowing leaves from fire lines during and after leaf fall and using a chainsaw on large fuel that is lying in or across the fire line can help stop or slow a wildfire. Also, fuel reduction may be needed, especially if your woodlands have been subjected to damage resulting in a significant amount of branch material on the ground. Fuel reduction can be achieved by using a slash treatment to get fuel on the ground so that it will rot quickly and tend to maintain more moisture than when it is up off the ground. This practice can be carried out by using a chainsaw or compacting it with a bulldozer. Maintaining healthy woodlands is no accident. Oftentimes you must actively plan to ensure that your woods remain healthy or that an unhealthy woods is improved. In summary, these goals can be reached by:

- Determining if exotic invasives are present and plan for their eradication
- Protecting your woods from exotic invasives if their sources exist around your woodlands
- Evaluating the age of your woods and making plans for establishing a variety of age classes if necessary
- Protecting your woods from abuse due to logging, wildfires, and trespass

Source: Excerpt from Stringer, J. (2010). How to keep your woodlands healthy. Kentucky Woodlands Magazine, 5(2), 2-5



Roast Venison

Servings: 12 Serving Size: 5 ounces

Using a slow cooker brings out intense flavors and makes cooking a roast super easy.



Ingredients:

- 4 pounds venison roast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons oil
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 onion, sliced
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- 4 cups low-sodium canned tomatoes
- ¼ teaspoon browning sauce, if desired

Directions:

Season roast with salt and roll in flour. Brown on all sides in hot oil in a heavy skillet. Place in a slow cooker and add remaining ingredients. Cook on low for 10 hours or on high for 6 hours.

Source: Adapted from Venison Recipe Collection, Compiled by Becky Nash, Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences

Leftovers ideas: cold sandwiches, heated in barbecue sauce for hot sandwiches, or diced into soup or stew.

Nutrition facts per serving: 250 calories; 6g total fat; 2g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 130mg cholesterol; 330mg sodium; 10g carbohydrate; 2g fiber; 0g sugars; 21g protein; 0% Daily Value of Vitamin D; 0% Daily Value of Calcium; 5% Daily Value of Iron; 10% Daily Value of Potassium

Let Us Know...

How can we best serve you?

If you would like to opt out of future mailings or receive this newsletter electronically, email us at boone.ext@uky.edu or call 859-586-6101.

KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
AND COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY AND THE SCIENCES

Festive Journey—A Holiday Adventure

Dec. 18, 2024
9:45am-4pm



That sounds like a fantastic and festive journey! A 5-destination holiday adventure focusing on diverse traditions, with each stop offering a hands-on craft based on that culture's celebration, is a unique way to explore the season.

For Ages 18+

Here's an idea of each destination:

Destinations	Itinerary
Cinnamon Apple Ornaments	9:45am-10am—Check-in
Decorating Gingerbread People	First Station - 10-11am
Crepe Paper Flowers	Second Station - 11am-12pm
Terrarium Ornaments	Lunch - 12pm-1pm (on your own)
Rustic Lighted Trees	Third Station - 1-2pm
	Fourth Station - 2-3pm
	Fifth Station - 3-4pm
	End of Adventure- 4pm

To register call 859-586-6101 or enroll online at boone.ca.uky.edu
Questions? Contact Lacey.laudick@uky.edu
<https://boone.ca.uky.edu/online-registration>



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