

# Agriculture and Natural Resources

## Hello August

### A Message From Your ANR Agent:

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

Folks,

Summer is fast coming to an end. However, we still have time to do many things in the garden. There is still time to plant a fall garden. Also, many of our perennials have work that needs doing. Any perennial that needs to be dug and divided—now is a great time! Dig/Divide/Plant to start new plants for next year. By dividing this time of year, the plants have time to develop roots before the cold weather sets in. It's a great time to plan for your spring bulbs. Bugs and diseases are usually at their peak this time of year. Make notes on what to watch for next year.

For those of you that have horses or cattle, need to plan for your hay supply. Nationwide they are predicting a hay shortage this year and what is out there is often of very poor quality. Your animals need good clean nutritious feeds.

There's still plenty to do in the garden, look over your records. Take time to make notes on what worked out and what needs improvement. Time to make decisions on what was a success and you want to grow again next year. Do you have any equipment that needs to be cleaned or repaired? Above all else, what needs to be cleaned &/or disinfected? This applies to equipment as well as cleaning up the garden, flower bed, or fruit trees. One of the best way to prevent disease is to completely clean up leaves, branches, and old dried fruit off your trees. Don't leave anything clinging to the tree. These are sources of infection that will carry over the winter and be there to disinfect next spring. Do not put what you clean up in your compost pile. Put in a bag and the garbage. You do not want any disease organisms left on your property.

Those of you that have taken classes/workshops with me, know I preach keeping everything on calendar that you keep near the garden area. It may be hard to take time to do it, but it makes everything so much easier next spring, when you cannot remember what you did and when.

Good luck to all and let us know what you need help with,

**Suzanne Stumbo**

Pike County ANR Agent

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# Planning for Fall Gardening

## Zones 6-7

August is a hot month in these growing zones. Make sure that you're keeping up with the water needs of your plants. Watering deeply a few times a week is a much better option than watering lightly each day. Plants that need water will have dry soil and droopy leaves. A deep watering should perk those plants right back up.

You can direct sow seeds this month for your fall garden. It's the perfect time to sow seeds for leafy greens and cruciferous vegetables. If your summer garden is still going strong, sow the seeds for your fall crops in between your summer crops. This will help to give your fall crops some shade early on and you'll still be able to harvest from your summer crops.

It's also the perfect time to plant any spring blooming bulbs. Plant these bulbs now so that they have time to become established. If you wait around and plant them in the spring, you probably won't get the spring blooms that you were hoping for until the following spring. Buttercups, irises and tulips are some of the earliest blooming flowers that will bring your yard and garden back to life next spring.

## Planning Ahead

Are you ready for the summer heat to disappear? If you're tired of pulling weeds, fighting pests and watering your plants, you're in luck. Summer will come to an end before you know it. The fall growing season is just around the corner, which means you need to start planning for your next season of gardening.

Many flowers and plants bloom in the summer and then quickly die back once the temperatures hint at cooling off. If you're not ready to lose the color in your yard, you'll want to plant some fall blooming plants. Mums are a fall classic, and for good reason. These plants put on blooms that will encase the entire plant in deep, rich color. Did you know that mums are perennials in many places? You've probably only seen them in containers, but if you plant them in your flower beds, they will come back year after year, providing you with spectacular fall color.

Now's the time to start seeds or direct sow some of the seeds for your fall vegetable garden. Have you thought about growing fall veggies? If not, you should consider growing some of the cool season crops. You'll keep your vegetable garden producing longer. Fresh, homegrown vegetables are hard to beat!

## Perennial Maintenance

Do you have perennial flowers or bulbs that you meant to divide up this spring but didn't get around to it? Many perennial plants need to be divided every few years to keep them healthy and full. Now's the perfect time to catch up on any perennial maintenance. Dig those perennials up and split them. Dividing them now gives them time to adjust before the cold weather sets in.

You can also plant new perennials this month. Fill empty spots in your flower bed with lilies, perennial daisies, irises and dahlias. They won't bloom this fall, but next year you'll have a full flowerbed that is filled with colorful blooms.

## August is one of the warmest months, so your summer garden is likely in full swing

While you probably feel busy keeping up with all of the summer gardening activities, and back to school chaos if you have school age kids, you shouldn't hesitate to start thinking ahead. Although it's nice and warm right now, the fall growing season is just around the corner.





# Mums make the fall garden pop with color!

*Rick Durham, extension professor, Department of Horticulture*

This is the time of year when garden centers tempt us with big and little pots of fall mums, drawing our eyes to their bright yellow, gold and burgundy flowers. Mums are an easy way to bring new life to the fall garden or spruce up your front porch.

Mums are a common fall decorative plant, because fewer daylight hours and longer nights triggers flowering. Nurseries often do this artificially by pulling dark cloth over the plants in late summer and early fall, which stimulates blooming. If you have mums growing in the landscape, the natural decrease in daylength as fall approaches will do the trick as well.



There are dozens of varieties, but generally mums can be identified in one of two groups, the garden or hardy mums, and the cutting variety. These latter are usually referred to as florist mums. Florist mums are generally tender and will not survive a winter in the garden.

If you want to enjoy blooms for the longest period of time, buy mums that are covered in buds, with only a few that have opened. It's always good to buy a plant that has one or two blooms open, so you're sure of the color you're purchasing. You should be able to enjoy flowers for two to three weeks or more. Water the base of the plant, not the foliage and flowers. Water on flowers may promote floral diseases that will shorten the flower display.

Mums perform well in containers and will flourish inside or out. Many hardy varieties can also be planted after they bloom, so you may be able to enjoy their color the following year.

If you're planning to enjoy your garden mum inside, find a good location near a south-facing window, out of direct sunlight and away from drafts caused by heating or air conditioning vents that tend to dry the flowers. A bright spot, with indirect light is the best. Keep the soil moist, but not soggy.

Mums prefer moderate temperatures at night, about 60 degrees Fahrenheit. If frost is expected, protect outdoor mums by moving them under cover overnight.

Once the plants have finished blooming, they will stop growing. You can either contribute them to your compost pile or plant them in your garden. Be aware, however, even the best gardeners often find that mums planted in the fall fail to establish in our Kentucky climate. Some may, but most do not. Mums as landscape plants tend to do much better when planted in the spring. However, you may need to visit your local garden center or shop from a mail-order source for early mum plants since they are not generally sold in the mass market in spring.

If you choose to plant them in the fall after they finish blooming, choose a spot that will get about six hours of direct sunlight a day during the growing season. Mums that don't receive enough sunlight will grow leggy and have more stems than blooms. Cut back all the stems to about 8 inches. Mix some compost into the soil, and dig a hole no deeper than the depth of the pot the mum is growing in. Keep the top level of the garden soil at the same point on the plant as the container soil was. Mums should be spaced 18 to 24 inches apart, since mature plants can become a good size in the garden. Water them in, then cover the ground around the plant with a thick layer of mulch, keeping the mulch from piling up against the stem.

For more information about fall flowers, contact the Pike County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

## Hammerhead Worms

By Jonathan L. Larson, Entomology Extension Specialist,  
Posted July 18, 2023

Over the last 2 years, the Extension Entomology group has received multiple inquiries about strange, ribbon-like worms with hammer or moon shaped heads. These are creatively named, hammerhead worms, and they are predaceous flatworms that look like something made up for Star Wars. There have also been some social media posts that promote fear about hammerhead worms. These slimy weirdos are in Kentucky, but luckily, they don't present a huge risk to humans, and there are some options if one is discovered on your property.



Photo © Jean-Lou Justine, Leigh Winsor,  
Delphine Gey, Pierre Gros, and Jessica Thévenot

### Identification

Hammerhead worms are land planarians, a group of flatworms. Flatworms differ from the earthworms most Kentuckians are familiar with in that they are flat and unsegmented. Earthworms on the other hand have segmented bodies; those bands that can be seen on them mark the segments. Hammerhead worms are of a similar hue to earthworms, typically light brown or honey in color. Some of the species seen in Kentucky have varying numbers of dark stripes that run down their back. For example, *Bipalium kewense* (also known just as hammerhead flatworm) has five dark lines, while *Bipalium pennsylvanicum* (the three-lined flatworm) has...three lines.

Hammerhead worms can be impressively long; some can be over 10 inches long. Aside from their size, the other thing most people notice is their weird-shaped hammer or half-moon-shaped head that gives the group their name.

### What is the issue?

The two flatworms listed above are potentially invasive and definitely non-native organisms, which can have effects on Kentucky ecosystems. There are flatworms native to Kentucky; they have unfortunately been kind of lumped in with the invaders as “bad.”

One of the potential problems with hammerhead worms is due to their diet. They are predaceous, feeding on snails, slugs, and earthworms. Earthworms are broadly considered beneficial organisms and so there is worry that, if hammerhead worms were to fully “invade,” they may harm populations of nightcrawlers and other earthworms that provide ecosystem services by decomposing various materials in nature.

Finally, hammerhead worms do pose a slight medical and veterinary concern. Some species produce tetrodotoxins, which are potent and most famously associated with pufferfish. That being said, encountering or even accidentally making skin to worm contact won't automatically kill you. Being aware of what these flatworms are and exercising caution around them is recommended, though. People should avoid handling or holding hammerhead worms. If these worms are touched, wash your hands afterwards. Hammerhead worms are also potential hosts for rat lungworms, as are snails and slugs. Humans can acquire this parasite by consuming undercooked or raw snails, slugs, freshwater shrimp, crabs, and frogs. Because of the toxin and possible parasites, if you were considering it, **definitely do not eat** hammerhead worms!



## Are Hammerhead Worms in Kentucky?

The short answer is yes; these worms have been found in the state. Between 2020 and 2022, samples were confirmed from Letcher, Calloway, Pulaski, and Fayette counties. In 2023, more samples and photos were submitted from Marshall, Boyd, Casey, and Whitley counties, with some extras coming from Fayette County.

This suggests a possibly wide distribution in the state. While hammerhead worms aren't "actionable pests," meaning they don't have government actions associated with them, Kentuckians can help state entomologists keep track of these worms if they would like to e-mail photos and a location. Hammerhead worms are most likely to be found in warm, damp environments. They might be spotted under rocks and logs or in leaf litter. Sightings of hammerhead worms may increase on rainy days, particularly if the rainy day occurs after a dry period.

## Management

There isn't a true management tactic for these. No sprays or baits can be applied to prevent or control them. There are some things that can be done to kill an individual worm that is discovered.

First, don't try to physically destroy or cut up the worms. Segmenting them can result in reproduction. Part of their body does naturally "fall off" and turn into a new individual, so don't help them with that process. Salting them, like you would a snail or slug, will destroy them. Do be cautious about not getting salt in the soil around your plants. Spritzing the hammerhead worm with vinegar or citrus oil can also kill it. If you need to isolate the treatment, you can pick up the hammerhead worm with tweezers or gloved hands and put in a sealable bag, then apply salt or vinegar.



*Figure 2: UK Entomologists have received multiple reports of hammerhead worms in Kentucky. People should exercise caution around them and avoid handling with bare hands if at all possible. They may be found in damp areas and appear more frequently after a rain. (Photo: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org)*

## Bacterial Spot & Bacterial Speck on Tomato

*By Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate, and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist, Published July 11, 2023*

Bacterial spot and speck are common diseases of backyard and commercial tomatoes in Kentucky. Both diseases look similar, and differentiating between these diseases can be challenging. Leaves, stems, and fruit may become infected, resulting in reduced fruit quality or yield losses. Preventative practices are critical for disease management to avoid damage and losses.

## Bacterial Spot & Speck Facts

•**Bacterial spot** begins as small, circular, brown spots on leaves (Figure 1), often with a wet or greasy appearance. Over time, spots may merge resulting in large blighted areas. In severe cases, defoliation may occur. Small lesions may form on green fruit and appear as raised blisters or scabs (Figure 2).

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- **Bacterial speck** may affect leaves, stems, and fruit. Leaf lesions are small, circular, and brown and often surrounded by a yellow border (Figure 3). Lesions spread and come together, resulting in large dead areas.
- Defoliation may occur in severe cases. Small, sunken specks may develop on green fruit.
- Conditions for infection are different for each disease. **Bacterial spot** disease favors warm, humid, or rainy conditions, while **bacterial speck** is more likely to occur during periods of cool, wet weather.
- **Both bacterial spot and speck** can be introduced via infected seeds or transplants. Pathogens can overwinter in infected crop debris from the previous season.
- **Both bacterial spot and speck** pathogens are spread by water such as irrigation or rain.
- **Bacterial spot** is caused by the bacterial pathogen *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*, and **bacterial speck** is caused by the bacterial pathogen *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato*.



**Figure 1:** Bacterial spot begins as small, circular, brown spots on leaves. (Photo: Kenny Seebold, University of Kentucky)



**Figure 2:** Bacterial spot fruit lesions appear as raised blisters or scabs. (Photo: Mary Ann Hansen, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org)



**Figure 3:** Bacterial speck leaf lesions are small, circular, and brown and often surrounded by a yellow border. (Photo: Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org)

## Management

- Plant pathogen-free seed and transplants.
- Disinfect tools and implements.
- Manage weeds in and near plantings.
- Avoid overhead irrigation and working with plants when leaves are wet.
- Increase plant spacing.
- Promptly remove and destroy diseased plant material.
- Rotate with non-host crops.
- Destroy crop residues after harvest.
- Deep plow to bury residual inoculum.

Commercial growers can find information on bactericides in the [Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers \(ID-36\)](#) and the [Southeast U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook](#). Homeowners should consult [Home Vegetable Gardening \(ID-128\)](#) for bactericide information or contact Suzanne Stumbo, county extension ANR agent for additional information and recommendations.



# Eastern Bloodsucking Conenose in Kentucky

Jonathan L. Larson, Extension Entomologist

Entfact-655

## Fast Facts

- Eastern bloodsucking conenose is a species of kissing bug found in Kentucky. Conenoses may feed on humans, frogs, rats, raccoons, cats, dogs, and other animals.
- In Central and South America kissing bugs are vectors for Chagas disease, which affects more than 8 million people in that region. After feeding on a host, kissing bugs may defecate near their feeding site. This fecal material may be wiped or rubbed into the wound, transferring the pathogen and infecting the individual.
- Eastern bloodsucking conenose can carry the pathogen responsible for Chagas disease. However, they are considered a relatively poor vector as they rarely defecate on their host after feeding.
- Pest proofing the home by sealing possible entry points, reducing outdoor lighting, and in extreme situations, treated cracks and crevices of the home can help manage conenose issues.

## Biology of Eastern Bloodsucking Conenose

The Eastern bloodsucking conenose is a type of kissing bug that can be found across Kentucky. Kissing bugs are blood feeding parasites and are members of the Hemiptera, also known as true bugs. Hemiptera includes other insects like aphids, stink bugs, bed bugs, cicadas, and many more. All true bugs have piercing sucking mouthparts and go through gradual metamorphosis. Conenoses start life as an egg and progress through eight nymphal instars, or stages, to reach adulthood. To go from one stage to the next, they must take a blood meal.



*Figure 1: Eastern bloodsucking conenoses are large insects with a distinctive black and orange coloration and distinctive patterns on the edge of their abdomen. Photo by- Sturgis McKeever, Georgia Southern University, Bugwood.org*

Adult conenoses are about 3/4th inch long, dark in coloration, and have distinctive orange or red-orange squares on the border of their body.

Kissing bugs get their common name for their penchant of biting human hosts near the mouth. In general, this is done when humans are asleep to minimize chance of detection. Eastern bloodsucking conenose will also take bloodmeals from frogs, rats, raccoons, cats, and dogs. They can be found in tree cavities, near doghouses, and by animal enclosures to have access to these hosts.

## Other Insects Confused with Conenoses

The eastern bloodsucking conenose can be confused with multiple, more common insects. In Figure 2, in the upper left corner is an eastern bloodsucking conenose, then going clockwise, a wheel bug, a western conifer seed bug, and then a brown marmorated stink bug. The wheel bugs are differentiated from conenoses by the large cog that

projects from the top of their thorax. Western conifer seed bugs have flattened legs that resemble an oar or paddle. Brown marmorated stink bugs are much lighter in color than the conenose.



Figure 2: Images by Kansas Department of Agriculture, Joseph Berger, David Cappaert, and Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org respectively.

## Issues Associated with Conenoses

In Central and South America, kissing bugs are responsible for vectoring the pathogen that causes Chagas disease. Chagas is also found in North America but is diagnosed less commonly here. Chagas is caused by a pathogen called a trypanosome. In the acute phase of Chagas, which would occur soon after transmission, the CDC describes that the patient may experience fever and/or swelling around the bite site. In chronic cases, those who suffer from Chagas may have heart and digestive tract issues.

Chagas can be vectored in multiple ways, but when kissing bugs serve as the vector, the transfer of the Chagas pathogen comes from a kissing bug biting a person and then defecating on the person’s face, often near the bite site. Upon waking, the person may wipe or itch at the bite, pushing the fecal material into the wood and completing the vectoring process.

The eastern bloodsucking conenose can and will bite humans and they sometimes may test positive for the pathogen responsible for Chagas. However, they are not commonly considered to be competent vectors for Chagas. This is because, unlike their relatives, they tend to not defecate while engaged in feeding or soon after feeding while they would be on the sleeping human. Without the infected feces near the bite, it is relatively less likely Chagas will be acquired. If you find a conenose in your home, it is extremely unlikely you will end up with Chagas disease. Of course, if you feel concerned or ill, please consult with a medical professional.

## Management

Even if you are not at distinct risk of infection, bloodsucking parasites are still not welcome in our homes. Conenoses are best prevented by using pest proofing methods like sealing cracks and gaps around windows, walls, roofs, and doors, by repairing screens and windows, and by closing holes and cracks leading to the attic/crawl spaces. Conenoses are also attracted to lights and will fly at houses with outdoor lighting. Turning off outdoor lights or changing timers/motion detection can reduce light attraction, as can switching to “bug repellent lightbulbs”. Finally, checking pet or animal domiciles for bugs is also practical.

Those who live near wooded areas are more at risk and should be proactive. You may also need to perform pest control for things like rats, raccoons, etc. that are acting as hosts to the conenose. Insecticides are generally not necessary but pyrethroid products applied as dusts to cracks and crevices can be used for serious infestations.

For more information consult the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website on Chagas and kissing bugs: [https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/chagas/gen\\_info/vec\\_tors/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/chagas/gen_info/vec_tors/index.html)





## UK specialist urges horse owners to plan for future hay needs now

By Aimee Nielson  
Published on Jul. 18, 2023

As the first hay cutting is wrapping up around the state, a University of Kentucky extension specialist is urging horse owners to begin planning for future hay needs.

“The recent rains have provided some relief, increasing hopes for a successful second cut,” said Bob Coleman, equine extension specialist for the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “While some horse owners feed hay year-round, others need to prepare for a specific duration, particularly during winter.”

Coleman said owners may determine the amount of hay their horses need using a simple calculation based on 2% of each horse's body weight per day. For instance, a 1,200 lb. horse would need approximately 24 lbs. of hay daily.

“It is important to note that the amount of hay required per day can be adjusted if a forage analysis is available,” Coleman said. “Such analysis provides insights into the hay’s nutritional value and helps determine necessary supplementation. I encourage horse owners to contact their county extension agent for assistance in obtaining a proper sample and getting it analyzed. The cost of sample analyses typically range from \$20 to \$35 per sample, depending on the required level of analysis.”

Horse owners who purchase hay by the bale need to pay attention to bale weights. For instance, a \$5-bale weighing 40 pounds costs approximately 12.5 cents per pound, while a 50-pound bale is 10 cents per pound. Over the feeding period, this difference can significantly add up.

It’s crucial to have adequate storage space for purchased hay. Coleman said to choose a well-drained storage area that protects hay from the elements.

“While a building is the ideal storage option, it’s not always an option,” he said. “At the very least, consider tarping hay stored outdoors to prevent spoilage. Losses due to poor storage can easily surpass the expenses associated with developing a proper system.”

Minimizing feeding loss or waste is another important consideration. Simply tossing hay on the ground can result in significant waste, ranging from 15% to more than 50%. Preventing waste saves feed and reduces the overall cost of feeding. Investing in hay feeders can be a cost-effective solution, as the savings from reduced waste often offset the initial investment.

Coleman emphasized that hay is a mobile commodity. “Although hay may be readily available in some areas, regions experiencing a shortage will require hay to be transported across the state or county,” he said. “Making hay purchasing decisions early can ensure buying at a reasonable price when the supply is abundant. Waiting until later in the feeding season might lead to reduced availability and significantly higher costs.”

For more information contact Suzanne Stumbo, Pike County ANR Agent.

# Plan now to purchase your hay supplies

## Preparation can ease minds this fall and winter

Published September 12, 2022 — Randy Saner, Nebraska Extension Educator; T.L. Meyer, Nebraska Extension Educator  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



LINCOLN, Neb. — Hay production has been reported to be 50% of average or less in many areas of Nebraska. The U.S. hay supply is at a 50-year low. Couple this information with rising costs (Figure 1) and it becomes prudent to plan fall, winter, and next spring's hay needs sooner rather than later. Inventory your feed and hay resources now to know what you need. Checking prices and availability now will go a long way to reducing the anxiety of what we will feed our cows this fall and winter.

### Finding hay prices and/or hay to buy

The Nebraska Direct Hay Report offers the most current Nebraska hay prices reported by region. In addition, hay prices from surrounding states can be found at the USDA Market News Hay Reports. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture Hay and Forage Hotline offers a free listing for both buyers and sellers.

Be sure to check local and regional resources, such as newspaper and trade magazine ads. Additional resources may be found by searching online and social media.

### Tips for pricing hay and assessing bale quality

The greatest expense cattle producers face each year is feed costs. With that in mind, we do need to be aware of a few principles in purchasing hay. These would include: 1) determining whether you are paying on a per ton or per bale basis, 2) knowing the hay quality you are purchasing to spend your feeding dollars more effectively, 3) buy bales that are tightly rolled, dense, and have square shoulders that don't sag, 4) net wrap helps bales shed water, and 5) bales should be free of mold, weed seeds and dangerous levels of nitrates (depending on the forage species).

The class of animals (heifers vs. cows, dry vs. lactating, thin vs. fat condition, etc.) that will consume the hay will determine the quality of hay needed to be purchased. If possible, buy hay that will best match those requirements. However, quality of hay can be supplemented with additional protein and energy sources to meet those requirements if higher quality hay is hard to source.

Use a lab analysis to determine hay quality. Core sample 15-20 bales from each lot and send the samples to a lab for testing. Tests can cost around \$18 for Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) to \$28.50 for wet chemistry. These tests calculate moisture content, crude protein (CP), relative feed Value (RFV), relative forage quality (RFQ), and additional information including mineral content and nitrate levels. More information can be found at the BeefWatch article, "[Test, Don't Guess – sampling and testing hay](#)" or the Nebraska Extension publication, [Sampling Feeds for Analyses](#).





## Storing and feeding hay

Livestock producers should locate hay bale yards in a well-drained area out in the open with easy access in the winter for feeding. Rows should line up north to south, at least 3 ft apart, so sunlight will reach a greater portion of the bale. This will help evaporate moisture from the bales and the ground around them quickly. The Beefwatch article, [“Keep it Tight; Store Hay Right”](#) offers more tips on storing hay.

If possible, weigh bales with a scale to get accurate weights when planning your winter feeding. If you are feeding hay that may contain noxious/invasive weeds or non-native forage species, feed this hay in a limited area, so if a problem does develop, it can be kept isolated and, hopefully, controlled.

Now is the time to get your feed needs ready for winter. Purchase hay now and/or plan feeding alternatives for cows this winter and spring before grass growth.

For more information contact Suzanne Stumbo, Pike county ANR Agent.

## OFF THE HOOFF

KENTUCKY BEEF CATTLE

## Timely Tips

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

### Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Fescue pastures don't generally produce much this month. Many of us have had some rain (some of us a bit too much) but the heat has waited until late summer to become an issue. Most of you may have some forage going into the usually dry months. 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 a record book, ear tags for identification, calf puller, and castration equipment.



## General

- Perhaps the most tedious aspect of agriculture is keeping records, generating reports, and using data to make management decisions. Consider using one of the many electronic data collection and management systems available on the market.
- 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.
- Take soil samples to determine pasture fertility needs. Fertilize as needed, this fall.

For more information contact Suzanne Stumbo, Pike County ANR Agent,





Do you want to grow –  
Better Vegetables? Prettier flowers?  
Greener Lawns? Healthier Trees?

## Take the Pike County Master Gardener Class!

Thursdays 5:30 –7:30 pm. beginning August 31<sup>st</sup>

Pike County Extension Office  
148 Trivetter Drive Pikeville, Ky.  
Main Meeting room

For more information phone  
(606) 791-7977 and a Master Gardener will help

### Requirements:

- **Participate in at least 10 of the 12 classes.**
- **Purchase a text book. (cost \$50.00) (\$50 will be returned to participants who complete the course and they will keep the book)**
- **Work with the group to meet UK certification standards.**

### Or You Can:

- **Attend with the goal of becoming a “Friend of Master Gardeners”. (Simply to gain knowledge)**
- *All activities under the guidance of the Pike County ANR Agent, Suzanne Stumbo. For more info you may call the Pike County Cooperative Extension Office.*



Join us at

# Pikeville Farmers Market

for National Farmers Market Week

Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

*Paint & plant!*

Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
9 a.m. - 1p.m.

*Seed Giveaway!*



For more information visit the Pikeville Farmers Market Facebook page or call the Pike County Extension Office

## Pike County Extension Service

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Pikeville, KY 41501  
(606) 432-2534  
Fax: (606) 432-2536  
[www.uky.edu](http://www.uky.edu)



University of  
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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.