

Ohio County Farm & Home News

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

Ohio County
P O Box 66
Hartford KY 42347
270-298-7441
Fax: 270-298-4660
<http://ohio.ca.uky.edu/>

BEEF MANAGEMENT TIPS

Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Bulls should have a breeding soundness evaluation (BSE) well before the breeding season. They should also receive their annual booster vaccinations and be dewormed.
 - Continue supplying a high magnesium mineral until daytime temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees F.
 - Improve or maintain body condition (BCS 5) of cows before breeding season starts, if necessary.
 - Schedule spring of “turn-out” working in late April or early May-at the end of calving season and before the start of breeding season. Consult with your veterinarian about vaccines and health products for your herd. “Turn-out” working for the cow herd *may* include:
 - Prebreeding vaccinations
 - Deworming
 - Replacing lost identification tags
 - Sort cows into breeding groups, if using more than one bull
 - Insecticide eartags (best to wait until fly population builds up)
- Turn-out working of calves may include:
- Vaccinate for IBR-PI3, Clostridial diseases and Pinkeye
 - Dehorn, if needed (can be done with electric dehorner and fly



- repellent during fly season)
 - Castrate and implant male feeder calves (if not done at birth)
 - Deworm
 - Insecticide eartags
- Consider breeding yearling replacement heifers one heat cycle (about 21 days) earlier than cows for “Head-start” calving. Mate to known calving-ease bulls.
 - Record identification of all cows and bulls in each breeding group.
 - Begin breeding cows no later than mid-May, especially if they are on high endophyte fescue. Cows should be in good condition so that conception occurs prior to periods of extreme heat.
 - Choose best pastures for grazing during the breeding season. Select those with the best stand of clover and the lowest level of the fescue endophyte, if known. Keep these pastures vegetative by grazing or clipping. *High quality pastures are important for a successful breeding season.*
 - If using **artificial insemination**:
 - Use an experienced inseminator.
 - Make positive identification of cows and semen used. This will permit accurate records on date bred, return to heat, calving date and sire.
 - Good handling facilities and gentle working of the cows are essential.
 - Observe breeding pastures often to see if bulls are working. Records cows’ heat dates and then check 18-21 days later, for return to heat.

Fall-Calving Herd

- Pregnancy check the cow herd. Remove open cows at weaning time.

- Plan marketing program for calves. Consider various options, such as maintaining ownership and backgrounding in a grazing program, or precondition and sell in a CPH-45 feeder calf sale.
- Initiate fly control for the cows when fly population builds up.
- Calves may be weaned anytime now.

General

- Harvest hay. *Work around the weather and cut early before plants become too mature. Harvesting forage early is the key to nutritional quality.* Replenish your hay supply!
- Rotate pastures as needed to keep them vegetative.
- Clip pastures to prevent seedhead formation on fescue and to control weeds.
- Seed warm season grasses this month.

GRASS-FED BEEF CONFERENCE

The University of Tennessee/ Institute of Agriculture will host a “Grass-Fed Beef Conference” in late June of 2017. The conferences will held on:

- June 28th – Spring Hill, TN & June 29th – Athens, TN

Both conferences are the same program and will run from 8:30 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. each day. Also, there will be a Pre-Conference Tour the day before the Spring Hill Conference (July 27) at the Middle Tennessee AgResearch & Education Center. This tour will introduce participants to current forage and livestock research such as, native warm season grass trials, integrated crop-livestock systems, and intercropping annual cash crops with forages.

The conference will focus on helping producers address the challenges of managing forages, finishing cattle and marketing beef using pasture-based production systems. Topics to be covered during the conference include:

- Considerations for grass-fed finishing

- Developing a forage system for grass-fed beef
- Grass-fed beef nutrition
- Branding and labeling considerations for grass-fed beef
- Grass-fed beef producers experience

Registration for the conference or pre-conference tour is online at:

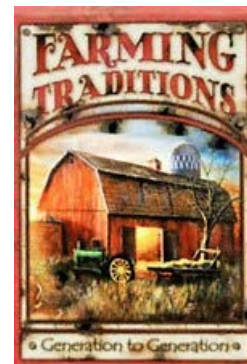
<https://tiny.utk.edu/grassfedbeef17>

Pre-registration for the conference or tour and prepayment of the \$40/person fee is required.

This program should be an excellent primer for anyone considering producing grass-fed beef.

TRANSFERRING YOUR FARM TO THE NEXT GENERATION

The average age of farm operators in Kentucky is increasing, and over the next several years, many farm families will consider transitioning their farm to the next generation. The decision of when and how to begin the farm transition process can be difficult; often, farm families avoid the issue because it can be a difficult topic to discuss.



It is important to realize that at some point every farm business will experience a transfer of ownership, either with or without owner participation. The farm business can transfer in one of two ways: either as a viable farm business or as a set of assets. Typically, the goal of many families is to successfully transfer a viable farm business. But only about 30 percent of family farm businesses successfully transfer to the second generation, with less than 10 percent successfully transferring to the third generation. The majority of failures occur following the owners death due to limited foresight, planning and capital. However, with proper planning and family communication your farm business is less likely to become a failed statistic.

Creating a will or an estate plan is a step in providing a way to distribute assets. However, a comprehensive farm transition plan takes a more in-depth look at the farm business. For many with a

family farm, the primary goal of a comprehensive plan is to facilitate the transfer of ownership and management of the farming operation. However, transition planning is also a tool to reduce estate taxes, help secure the financial future of both the new and retiring generations, develop management skills, and to establish goals for your farm, such as keeping your land in agriculture. Ultimately, a sound farm transition plan can provide peace of mind about the future plans for your operation.

Good family communication is one of the key factors to a successful transfer. Farm family transitions are typically smoother if heirs can provide input and when family members have a shared vision. You may find it difficult to treat all heirs equally during the transition; however, it is possible to treat all heirs fairly. Good communication can help both on-farm and off-farm heirs understand the reasoning behind decisions. Each family is unique, and it's important to be conscious of the relationships between heirs and spouses, as well as the family business needs.

To ensure your goals for the family farm reflect the vision of other family members, the first step is to schedule a family meeting and start an open dialogue about the process. A good family meeting typically takes place at a neutral location, not at the kitchen table or in the barn. Everyone needs to feel comfortable enough to share their opinions. Additionally, do not try to tack a family meeting onto another family event such as a holiday dinner. Schedule it just as you would other important business meetings.

During the first family meeting, begin a conversation about transitioning the family farm. Talking points to start the conversation include discussing how each heir perceives their role on the farm. Talk with them about what role they would like to play during the transfer process and ask them about their goals for the future of the operation. Find out if your goals are similar to their future goals.

Once you begin the dialogue, you can address more detailed issues and key questions. You may find it helpful to work with a transition team to develop and implement the plan. Team members may include a facilitator, accountant, attorney and

an extension educator. Each member of the team can provide expertise in establishing a transition plan that will work for your family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 27 – Beaver Dam Farmer's Market opens ; 8:00 a.m. till noon
- June 28 & 29 – Grass-Fed Beef Conference; University of Tenn.
- July 19 – "Rinse & Return" Pesticide Container Recycling; AgriGro Farm Center; 10:00 a.m. till noon
- August 31 – Midwest Beef Summit; Owensboro Convention Center
- Sept. 13 – "Rinse & Return" Pesticide Container Recycling; AgriGro Farm Center; 10:00 a.m. till noon

Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service 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, or physical or mental disability.