HOMETOWN NEWS FOR KENTUCKY'S FARM COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 3. 2022

270-384-9454



A group listens as John Beiler discusses an organic cover crop that provides pasture for his organic dairy and biomass for the next crop rotation.

Organic field day based on farmer needs

TRENTON Ky. - "I don't sleep well if I have bare ground," John Beiler told the group standing in his pasture field growing multi-species grasses. The group was attending one of the Organic Association of Kentucky farmer field

OAK, with a staff of three full-time and four part-time employees, provided an educational event each month beginning in April, but the planning began last fall.

Brooke Gentile, the executive director of OAK, said that OAK is a non-profit founded by farmers and provides educational

events based on feedback from

"Throughout the year, farmers tell us what they want to learn, where they want to visit, their successes, and their challenges. We plan all of our educational events, field days, outreach, and especially our annual conference on the input from farmers," Gentile said.

The field days varied in location from Greenup County to Todd County and in content from a backyard business to a 1000-customer direct market business, meeting the goal of spotlighting Kentucky's diverse crops, practices and geography.

The April session was held at Modern Heritage Farm in Glendale, where attendees learned how to have a thriving farm market with minimal infrastructure and leased land. This event highlighted the "Do It Yourself" tools developed by Jessica and John Thomas Hodges, including a weeder made from a metal coat hanger and a mop handle.

Crestwood in Oldham County was the spot for the field day with the highest attendance. In June, over 60 people visited Root Bound Farm to learn how this mid-sized farm raises

SEE OAK, PAGE 2

New avian flu strain hits turkey population at peak season

American Farm Bureau Federation cites a new strain of avian flu combined with global inflation as the cause of a 112 percent increase in the commodity price of fresh turkey breast, now at \$6.70 per pound. In 2021, that price was

Drought has also had an impact, and media outlets are warning consumers to purchase that Thanksgiving turkey early while supplies are available.

Anthony Pescatore, an Extension poultry specialist with the University of Kentucky, said the U.S. has lost about 7.4 million turkeys because of the avian flu. If even one bird is sick, the entire flock must be depopulated to contain the highly contagious foreign animal disease.

"It's a new strain ... every once in awhile, certain weather patterns have birds coming over from Asia," Pescatore said, and the wild bird population has a reservoir of the virus.

Outbreaks have been impacting domestic poultry and wild birds in Europe and Asia since August of 2020, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The virus was detected in North America in late 2021, with at least two new additional viruses occurring since then, causing "extensive morbidity and mortality events in a range of wild bird species, similar to that seen in Europe and Asia."

According to USDA, there have been two commercial and two backyard flocks affected in Kentucky, for a total of 285,040 birds in the state affected by this outbreak.

"How it gets from the wild birds to the poultry farms, we're not sure about. That's the missing link — the transfer from the water fowl population into the chicken houses," Pescatore said.

But he also points out that avian flu is not a human disease. "It's not transferable to humans, and any of the birds that are tested positive don't go into the human food chain. There is no impact on human health or the meat that's being produced."

Pescatore says that unfortunately, "we do have impact on foreign trade, where we have bans on certain countries for

SEE NEW AVIAN, PAGE 20

INSIDE



PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION -Turkey from

Farm to Table

Volume 34. Number 09 270-384-9454 www.thefarmerspride.com

OAK Field Days based on farmer needs

FROM PAGE 1

arugula to zucchini and pasture-raised livestock. Bree Pearsall and Ben Abell serve more than 1000 direct market customers weekly through farmers' markets and a 700-member CSA. The farm has 18 employees.

During the July session, the field days moved around the state, going to Berea and Salamander Springs Farm to learn about intensive cover crop methods for the no-till production of staple crops.

In May, the University of Kentucky Organic Farming Unit demonstrated how to improve produce quality and extend shelf life.

Traveling to eastern Kentucky and Greenup County in August brought those who wanted to learn about growing a backyard business with flowers, herbs, and vegetables to Mountain Girl Provision Company.

Rough Draft Farmstead in Lawrence-

burg hosted a discussion in September on no-till market gardening, highlighting the farmstead's many different techniques and styles of no and low-tillage production.

During the October session, John Beiler discussed his cover crop practices, which enabled him to produce 28 tons of silage per acre for his organic dairy when neighbors were harvesting 20 tons. Beiler has not added macro or micronutrients to the fields since 2010 but does use soil amendments.

Beiler emphasized that biomass from cover crops increases soil fertility through the soil microbes. Beiler also pointed out the field retained moisture, an essential consideration during a very dry summer.

The silage field, now a bright green cover crop, was planted six weeks prior with a mix of annuals and perennials.

SEE FIELD, NEXT PAGE

FARMERS REGIONAL LIVESTOCK MARKET OF GLASGOW, LLC

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MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF Oct., 2022

Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC

Supply included: 19% Feeder Cattle (8% Steers, 18% Dairy Steers, 4% Heifers, 2% Bulls, 67% Dairy Heifers); 58% Slaughter Cattle (0% Steers, 87% Cows, 12% Bulls); 23% Replacement Dairy Cattle (4% Fresh/Milking Cows, 12% Bred Cows, 13% Springer Cows, 18% Springer Heifers, 18% Open Heifers, 2% Bulls, 14% Baby Bull Calves, 20% Baby Heifer Calves). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 59%.

FEEDER CATTLE:

<u>Steers:</u> Medium and Large 1-2: 1 Head 270# 154.00; 1 Head 425# 94.00; 2 Head 520-540# 89.00-92.00. <u>Dairy Steers:</u> 6 Head 351-390# 80.00-120.00; 1 Head 485# 101.00; 1 Head 640# 88.00; 1 Head 845# 76.00. <u>Heifers:</u> Medium and Large 1-2: 2 Head 323# 131.00 <u>Bulls:</u> 1 Head 540# 104.00.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE:

Steers: 1 Head 1280# 96.00 Cows: Breaker 75-80%: 22 Head 1350-1850# 66.00-74.00; 13 Head 1350-1725# 75.00-80.00; 6 Head 1425-1625# 60.00-65.00; 6 Head 1425-1625# 60.00-65.00. Boner 80-85%: 100 Head 915-1570 64.00-86.00; 10 Head 905-1395# 88.00-109.00; 18 Head 855-1490# 50.00-62.00. Lean 85-90%: 6 Head 830-1190# 57.00-64.00; 6 Head 1040-1155# 68.00-73.00; 5 Head 880-1165# 45.00-56.00. Bulls 1-2: 10 Head 1420-2210# 95.00-105.00; 6 Head 1475-1965# 107.00-119.00; 4 Head 1185-1715# 81.00-90.00. Bulls 3: 3 Head 1365-1655 86.00-94.00; 2 Head 1230-2100# 111.00-113.00; 1 Head 940# 68.00. REPLACEMENT DAIRY CATTLE:

<u>Fresh/Milking Cows:</u> Supreme Stage O 1 Head 1375.00; Approved Stage O 2 Head 1100.00-1150.00; Medium Stage O 1 Head 825.00.

Bred Cows: Approved T1 2 Head 675.00 Beef Cross; Approved T1-2 675.00 Beef Cross; Approved T2 485.00-675.00 Beef Cross; Medium T1 3 Head 485.00-600.00 Beef Cross; Medium T1-2 700.00 Beef Cross; Medium T2 575.00 Beef Cross. Springer Cows: Supreme T2-3 3 Head 1450.00-1700.00; Supreme T3 2 Head 1350-1425.00; Approved T2-3 1 Head 1000.00; Approved T2-3 3 Head 1050.00 Beef Cross; Approved T3 4 Head 1050.00-1225.00; Medium T3 825.00. Springer Heifers: Supreme T3 11 Head 1300.00-1700.00; Approved T2-3 1000.00-1125.00; Approved T3 5 Head 1200.00-1250.00; Medium T3 2 Head 800.00-900.00

EQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENT PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOV. 26 AT 10 A.M. CST. HORSE CAVE, KY.

Location: 3561 LaGrande Hwy., Horse Cave, Ky., 42729. From I-65 take Hwy. 218 East approximately 9.6 miles and the sale location is on the right, look for posted signs.

NO BUYERS PREMIUM

Please make plans to attend and consign to this auction. We are now taking consignment for the Nov. 26th sale. Agriculture equipment, construction machinery and lawncare equipment will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Nov. 25th at 5 p.m.

TERMS OF SALE:

- BUYERS' NUMBERS ARE A MUST
 - Equipment must be paid for before removal
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 - 5% \$1001 and up No less than \$100 per item
 - Maximum charge \$350 per item

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Field days features farms of all sizes

FROM PAGE 2

The mixture contained annuals such as radishes, peas, and sunflowers, as well as oats, rye, and sugar beets. The field will provide pasture for the dairy cattle with no decrease in milk production and then be turned under in the spring as part of the farm's crop rotation.

The group at the Beiler attendance wasn't large, and only a few of those attending were OAK members.

"All of our field days are open to non-members, and we want to share what certified organic farmers are doing with anyone," Gentile said. She noted that during the last year, OAK had 450 members, which included individuals, farms, and businesses, but served over 3000 individuals.

A particular component of the field days for members and non-members is a summary and photos of the event available on the Oak website.

To review any field days, visit oak-ky.org/join-us-for-a-farmer-field-day.

This year's conference will be held at Kentucky State University on Jan. 26-28, 2023. In its 12th year, the conference has the theme "Rooted in Resilience: Growing Healthy Soils and Opportunities for Ken-

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tucky Organics."

For more information about the Organic Association of Kentucky and its educational and transition

assistance programs, visit oak-ky.org.

By Toni Riley

Field Reporter



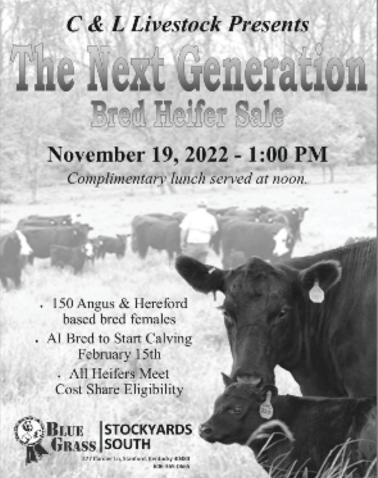
Value Added Sales

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BG Lexington Profit Thru Performance Tuesday, December 5

BG Richmond CPH Tuesday, December 6

BG Lexington CPH Wednesday, December 7



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& Holiday Bazaar
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NAILE brings the best together

GUEST EDITORIAL

> David **Beck**

Kentucky Venues President & CEO

NAILE accepts entries for many major divisions of livestock: beef cattle, boer goats, dairy cattle, dairy goats, draft horses, llamas and alpacas, hogs, and sheep.

Agriculture is a major economic driver in the common-yealth often the common throughout our state work it graded feet the dry, in the d States and even the world. The 49th North American International Livestock the best farmers from the best-of-the-best in class, all under one roof.

For the uninitiated, livestock shows are an opportunity to see a wide range of animals, support our farmers and see behind the scenes of the agriculture industry. For those in the business, showing livestock establishes the quality of their animals, increases the prestige of their business, offers networking opportunities and helps plan future genetics for their operation. These shows, including NAILE, are essential for farmers to stay on the cutting edge of the ever-changsome shippers now consider it more efficient to ship empty containing the time of the exercise of their operations. These shows including the exercise of their operations their operations and helps plan future genetics for their operation. These shows, including NAILE, are essential for farmers to stay on the cutting edge of the ever-changsome shippers now consider it more efficient to ship empty containes their operations. The selected projects under the first Partnerships for Clitarian and the exercise of the ever-changsome shippers now consider it more efficient to ship empty containes to the exercise of their operation. These shows, including NAILE, are essential for farmers to stay on the cutting edge of the ever-changsome shippers now "consider it more efficient to ship empty containes to their operation. These shows, including NAILE, are essential for farmers to stay on the cutting edge of the ever-changsome shippers now "consider it more efficient to ship empty containes to prove that it can be done to the exercise of the exerci the consumer's expectations.

NAILE is the largest purebred livestock show in the world not setting the world on fire in exports, they tend and istheld in the living on the state of th tion Center. Livestock exhibitors from 48 states and Canada, as well as agribusiness professionals from around the world, travel to the commonwealth to observe over 23,000 of the best livestock compete for titles and approximately half a million dollars in premiums. NAILE accepts entries for many major divisions of livestock: beef cattle, boer goats, dairy cattle, dairy goats, draft horses, llamas and alpacas, htotherfield et harvest.

NAILE is where the best of the livestock industry, the future of agribusiness and the general public come together to the field at harvest. all in the nender has viewlture.

Our show is the perfect introduction to learning about the purebred livestock industry. Participants are passionate experts and will gladly share their experiences with any attendee. It's a homecoming for the livestock industry, a once-a-year opportunity to come together and showcase the year's work. We want to invite Kentuckians to experience the competition and celebrate our farmers at the North American International Livestock Exposition. See you in November!

NAILE - November 3 -17, 2022

Gate Admission Adults - \$8.00 Children – Free (5 & under) Parking Fee - \$10 per vehicle Full Event Pass \$60 - Good through Nov. 18 Event Pass 1 \$35 - Good through Nov. 8 Event Pass 2 \$35 - Good for Nov. 8 - Nov. 18

USDA's 'deeply flawed' \$3-billion 'Climate Smart Commodities' program

ven at first glance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's recently announced \$3-billion "Partnerships for Cli-■ mate-Smart Commodities" sounds like doublespeak, an Orwellian invention that reverses the meaning of words. Or, more plainly, how can today's commodity-centered, industrialized agriculture be remotely "climate-smart" when

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some Shipperitynago o'consisted eighy ferefficiew it to ship at net angenag tapiers where is any aconstituation regarded interpretation and the company of th thinger back to fain the hospital to a significant decline in the checkbook. "Good luck," he offers.

ened a thriff thythe with ohen ample, abyer his einersche wetted and kly How did we get to this who's out of the theory acted quickly How did we get to this who's on this mash-up? Let's review that will quantify, verify, and facilitate the sale of ecosystem ened a tariff fight with China and, after his election, acted quickly ened a tariff fight with China and, after his election, acted quickly mate-smart commodities."

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life Foundation. beans, pork, and beef with tariffs of their own. The fight quickly beans, pork, and beef with tariffs of their own. The fight quickly TalkUS Dutd firtuniflowher-misjor queruperightie the National Corn Growers Association and-curiously-two commodity check-

off groups, the National Pork Board and the United Soybean Talk – and a tariff war – isn't cheap, right? Talk ^{ar} and a tariff war – isn't cheap, right? Even more curious is the presence of an even bigger helping hand, The Walton Family Foundation.

Why does the Wal-Mart clan want a fat finger in the cov-

of when care the by albando estituan found shat each successive that there. of whom are talgebroke hot our feed aversuable formers a fishers,

any hoped-for carbon credits to maintain-or even grow-its of whom are the backbone (of our food system) as farmers, fishers, of whom are the backbone (of our food system) as farmers, fishers, And so goes USDA's grant-winning efforts for 26 more pages

and another almost \$2.6 billion of Commodity Credit Corpora-of whom are the backbone (of our food system) as farmers, fishers,

SEE **USDA'S**, PAGE **6** of whom are the backbone (of our food system) as farmers, fishers, of whom are the backbone (of our food system) as farmers, fishers,

FNND

Alan Guebert

And so goes USDA's grantwinning efforts for 26 more pages and another almost \$2.6 billion of Commodity Credit Corporation cash.

The Farmer's Pride

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From farm



KENTUCKY **SOYBEAN** ASSOCIATION **PRESIDENT**

> **Brent** Gatton

I know that most years, farmers sell their grain at the elevator and probably don't give much thought to where it goes afterward.

farm in N before we had a lot of storm deb December tornado. Tl ty wide swath across t a number of farms bel

We were lucky this s drought hit many plac rain from time to time most of the state were reminds me that I sho being a member of the Association. Our organ al policy organization. Association, are alread farm bill. Do you know the most important iss lation? Crop insurance

If farmers didn't hav like this one would for bankruptcy. Being abl an important tool in tl know that I am not lo bet you aren't either, b we as farmers take year

input costs that we invest ou substantial that having a safe

You know what else your K Association and American S tion lobby for? Infrastructur Dredging the Lower Mississ that most years, farmers sell elevator and probably don't

to where it goes afterward. This year, with the drought being so severe, many elevators are in a bind when it comes to keeping our beans moving. When the rivers are shallow, that means fewer barges, lighter loads, and increased cost per bushel to move grain.

Soy Transportation Coalition Executive Director Mike Steenhoek says that this year,

mers located in areas of the country ernatives are available are clearly oned to withstand these challenges. allenges facing barge transportaarmers are exploring options B, a farmer has it, option B may be age and simply waiting when conne river hopefully improve.

Other options may include driving a longer distance to a soybean processor or a facility with rail loading capacity. However, some farmers – especially many close to the river system - have limited or no on-farm storage. In many areas, the inland waterway system under normal conditions is such an attractive avenue for soybeans and grain that alternatives

represented

rocessing or rail loading facilities) have not veloped since they would be at a competitive sadvantage to the normal efficiencies of barge insportation. The farmers who are in this uation – with limited on-farm storage and ernative delivery options - will be the most posed to the current challenges facing the land waterway system."

That last part describes many farmers here in entucky perfectly. We are so fortunate to have e rivers nearby, and while we experience the casional hiccup with barges being backed or bridges being hit, for the most part, we t our crops on the river and enjoy pretty low insportation costs compared to some areas of e country where farmers have to truck their ans long distances, where they are then loadonto railcars destined for the West Coast. is year, though, being on the river isn't the vantage that we sometimes take for granted. evators have limited storage, and farmers no don't have the luxury of on-farm storage d usually truck straight to the elevator from e field are in a bind.

ve been fortunate in a number of ways, and operation is going to come through this OK. I sure am glad to know that my soybean associations, both KSA and the American Soybean Association, are lobbying to get more dollars allocated to the inland waterways system and are already working on the farm bill to be sure that crop insurance remains part of the safety

I became a lifetime member of KSA in 2020, and I should have done so long before that. I joined up in 2014, and paid dues by the year or 3 years at a time until I decided the smart thing to do was just go ahead and become a lifetime member. I encourage you to do the same. Call our office at 270-365-7214 to check on your membership or to join up, and keep the voice of Kentucky's soybean growers hard at work.

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Renewal

USDA's 'deeply flawed' \$3-billion 'Climate Smart Commodities' program

FROM PAGE 4

6

Another program goal is USDA's plan to "build markets and provide funding to farmers via outcome-based contracts for the reduction and removal of carbon dioxide through the adoption of new climate-smart practices."

USDA doesn't say what these "new practices" might be, but it will cost U.S. taxpayers another \$95 million to find out. Maybe.

USDA does acknowledge, however, that this project's "major partners" include PepsiCo, Cargill, Target, and Coca-Cola.

These agbiz super powers aren't the only elephants crowding USDA's carbon trough. Other partners in other projects include Archer Daniels Midland, John Deere, Campbell Soup, Keurig-Dr. Pepper, Nestle', Mosaic, Anheuser-Busch, Smithfield Foods, Bayer, and many more.

All, explains USDA, will dig into ways to make more than 50 commodities-from corn to flax to chickens to forestry to fisheries-"climate smart" in the next two to five years.

How, of course, will be a real trick because today's American food production machine is a fully integrated, farm-to-table factory that hums on fossil fuels and belches out greenhouse gases like methane, nitrous oxide, and CO2.

Ver few in ag research, though, expect any break-



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"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in Thanksgiving!!" **Colossians 2:6-7**

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of light? **James 1:17**



Rice Agri-Marketing

Riceagrimarketing@att.net or call 270-314-4317 • 270-314-3075 • 270-256-3434 throughs: Commodity agriculture can't be made "climate smart" because commodity agriculture, at its core, is already an incredibly productive, climate-changing machine.

"We know," says one Land Grant University agronomist, "that we can't sequester carbon in any appreciable amount in today's commodity production systems. Not through conventional tillage, not through minimum till, not through no-till. That's just an agronomic fact. So what are we doing with these USDA projects?" he wonders.

Another Land Grant University researcher is more blunt in his view of USDA's "climate-smart" effort: "A model relying on those that caused the problem to solve the problem is a deeply flawed model," he

And, he adds, "[T]he 'smart'" to the money-dripping effort "is in those who get this type of money to do nothing. It's beyond smart, it is genius."

But it's not any real, lasting climate solution, notes a third Land Grant University researcher. "This is all greenwashing-vanity and greenwashing-to keep today's ag policies in place."

So up is down and smart is dumb, and somewhere George Orwell is smiling.

ALAN GUEBERT publishes a weekly column Farm and Food File through the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, events and contact information are posted at farmandfoodfile.com. Contact Alan Guebert by email at agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com.

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18 - Angus Bulls

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LIVING WITH GOD

8



"In my Father's house, there are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be



THE FARMER'S PRIDE



Sweet Potato Crisp

3 large fresh sweet potatoes, cooked until tender.

8 ounces reduced fat cream cheese, softened

1 cup brown sugar, divided

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

2 medium apples, chopped

½ cup all-purpose flour 2/3 cup quick cooking oats

3 tablespoons butter 1/4 cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Lightly spray a 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan with non-stick spray.

- 2. Mash sweet potatoes. Add cream cheese, ²/₃ cup brown sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Mix until smooth.
- **3. Spread s**weet potato mixture evenly into pan.
- **4. Top** sweet potatoes

with chopped apples.

- 5. In a small bowl, combine flour, oats, and ⅓ cup brown sugar. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbles. Stir in pecans.
- **6. Sprinkle** mixture over apples.
- **7. Bake** uncovered for 35-40 minutes or until

topping is golden brown and fruit is tender.

Yield: 16, ³/₄ cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 240 calories 6 a fat 3 a sat

240 calories, 6 g fat, 3 g sat fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 200 mg sodium, 44 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 20 g sugar, 4 g protein.



Red Potato Salad

6 medium red potatoes cut into 1½ inch pieces 4 cups fresh green beans cut into 1½ inch pieces 1 small red onion, chopped

1 red bell pepper, chopped

1 yellow bell pepper, chopped

1 cup chopped cherry tomatoes

¼ cup mayonnaise2 tablespoons red wine vinegar2 teaspoons fresh oreganoSalt and pepper

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your

grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

1. Wash vegetables in oregwarm water. **7. A**

2. Boil potatoes until tender and drain.

3. Boil green beans until tender crisp and drain.

4. Place the potatoes and green beans in a bowl.

5. Add chopped red onions, peppers and tomatoes.

6. In a small bowl, **mix** mayonnaise, red wine vinegar and chopped

oregano.

7. Add to potato mixture and mix lightly.

8. Season with salt and pepper. **Mix** well. **Serve** cold.

Yield: 16, ½ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis:

140 calories, 1.5 g fat, 0 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 35 mg sodium, 26 g carbohydrate, 6 g fiber, 3 g sugar, 5 g protein. Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.





Recipes courtesy of Ky Proud

PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION - Today's Farm News for Tomorrow's Farm Community

Reaching ag students in classrooms across Kentucky









Turkey: From Farm to Table

s you are thinking about enjoying your Thanksgiving Day meal, we thought you may be interested in how turkeys are raised by our farmers. The following information was provided by the National Turkey Federation.

Raising turkeys is around-the-clock work. In 2021, more than 216 million turkeys were raised on about 2,500 farms across the United States, many of which are family farms. NTF is working to amplify the hard work done by the men and women across the turkey industry to support America's robust food supply. Read on to learn more about raising turkeys and the turkey production process in the United States.

Raising Birds to Maturity

Broad-breasted White is the most commonly domesticated breed of turkey. This breed is raised to produce more breast meat and meatier thighs and is recognizable by their white feathers. Other variations, such as heritage turkeys, are also bred in niche markets.

Turkey eggs are tan with brown specks and are larger than chicken eggs. The incubation period to hatch a turkey egg is 28 days. Once hatched, a baby turkey is called a poult and is tan and brown. Male turkeys are called toms, while female turkeys are called hens.

How Turkeys Are Raised

American farmers are raising turkeys in scientifically-designed, environmentally-controlled barns that provide maximum protection from predators, disease and weather extremes. They are fed a balanced diet of corn and soybean meal mixed with a supplement of vitamins and minerals. On average, it takes 75-80 pounds of feed to raise a 38-pound tom turkey. Feed ingre-dients account for roughly two-thirds of the cost of raising a turkey.

To maintain production continuity, laying hens

are artificially inseminated in a controlled environment. During a 25-week laying cycle, a hen normally lays 80-100 eggs. At the end of this cycle, the hen is "spent" and usually processed. Some breeders choose to molt the hen (allow a resting period) before another production cycle. This process takes 90 days; however, the second laying cycle will produce slightly fewer eggs.

Modern production methods have shortened the time it takes for turkeys to reach maturity. A hen usually takes 14 weeks and weighs 15.5 pounds when processed, but a tom takes roughly 18 weeks to reach a market weight of 38 pounds. Genetic improvements, better feed formulation and modern management practices are responsible for the size of turkeys produced today.

Hens are typically processed and sold as whole birds, while toms are often further processed into products such as cutlets, tenderloins, turkey sausage, turkey franks and turkey deli meats.

Dedication to Animal Health

To prevent disease when raising turkeys, turkey growers rely on vaccination, biosecurity against outside contamination, good hygiene, best management practices and placing newly hatched poults certified free of specific infections. Antibiotics have been safely used in animal agriculture for half a century to treat and control disease in animals and improve the animal's overall health. Advancements in genetics, veterinary management and animal disease research have led to improved animal health and less reliance on antibiotics. In addition, the turkey industry supports alternatives and new mitigation strategies to support challenges producers face.

However, just like humans, animals some-

Fun facts:
Broad-breasted
turkeys are bred
with white feathers,
so they leave no
unsightly pigment
spots under the skin
when plucked.

Kentucky farms
earned \$25 million
from turkey sales in
2021. Source: ERS

times get sick and need further medical attention. NTF and the turkey industry are working together to identify and address some of the biggest health challenges facing turkey production today.

Environmentally Conscious

Turkey growers not only care for the animals they raise, but they are also dedicated stewards of the land and take precautions to ensure their farms' longevity through sustainable agriculture practices. Many turkey farms have been active for generations and are passed down through the family. Sustainability is tantamount to the success of the growing operation and is becoming a standard across the turkey industry.



The articles and information in the Pride in Agriculture Education page are provided by the Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom. KyAEC and its members partner to bring agriculture learning to Kentucky schools and youth organizations through education programs, workshops, and curriculum development. Learn more by visiting

www.teachkyag.org or find more Kentucky farm facts at www.kyfoodandfarm.info.



Stocking Rate - The big rock



10

There is an old story about how to get the most rocks of different sizes in a jar. The answer is to put the big rocks in first. In other words, if you take care of the big things, the little things often take care of themselves.

When evaluating pasture, what is the big rock? There are lots of things to consider, like soil fertility, species composition, endophyte level, and legume content. I am going to suggest something not on this list - stocking rate.

Hugh Aljoe from the Noble Foundation identified several criteria to determine if farms are properly stocked in moderate to high rainfall areas, According to Aljoe, the following are characteristics of pastures when the farm is properly stocked:

- 1. There should always be plant and litter cover (no bare ground).
- 2. Residual heights at the end of the

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grazing season should be three to four inches for cool season perennials like tall fescue and six to eight inches for native warm season grasses.

- 3. Mature cattle should be able to easily maintain a body condition score of 5.5 or better for most of the grazing
- 4. Cow herds should have conception rates greater than 85 percent with most of the calves born in the first half of the calving season.

Does this describe your farm? Probably everyone will fall short on at least one of these. Getting the stocking rate right or at least close is the first thing to evaluate in a grazing system.

It is important to define the terms 'carrying capacity' and 'stocking rate.' Carrying capacity is the maximum number of animals that can be supported on a given farm. Stocking rate is the actual number of livestock present on a farm. Stocking rate may be the same as carrying capacity but it is most often less. We usually think of stocking rate on a year-long basis.

For our Kentucky farms, it is advisable to have at least three acres to sup-

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help planning for

2022?

Your data

stays

YOUR DATA

port a cow/calf pair. But you may need more, depending on your soil type and depth, forage base and livestock size and number. If you have been raising livestock on your farm for years, you have found a stocking rate that works by trial and error.

Getting the stocking rate right is crucial. If stocking rates are too low, there is economic inefficiency because you produce too few calves or lambs or kids to be profitable. If too high, yields are depressed, pastures are always short and slow growing and weed encroachment is common. When overstocked, the usual management practices for increased yield are not effective because of the over-grazed state of the pastures.

There are tools that let you calculate the stocking rate for your farm, such as the USDA-NRCS Web Soil Survey and the NRCS Kentucky Graze Model. These tools are designed to work together, and here's how.

The web soil survey (WSS) identifies the soils and the acreages of your farm after you have defined the boundaries, You can also use it to estimate the carrying capacity (stocking rate) for your cool season pastures. Some find the tool complex, but there's help for that. UK has developed a publication that give

SEE STOCKING, PAGE 11

PASTURE. RANGELAND





Pasture, rangeland, and forages cover approximately 55 percent of all U.S. land. Forage grows differently in different areas, so it's important for farmers and ranchers to know which types and techniques work best for their region. Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage utilizes. an indexing system to determine conditions. The Rainfall Index is based on weather data collected and maintained by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center. The index reflects how much precipitation is received relative to the long term average for a specified area and timeframe. All or a portion of your acreage of the crop can be insured.

The Risk Management Agency's Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Pilot Insurance Program is designed to provide insurance coverage on your pasture, rangeland or forage acres. This innovative pilot program is based on precipitation, Rainfall Index. This program is designed to give you the ability to buy insurance protection for losses of forage produced for grazing or harvested for hay, which result in increased costs for feed, destocking, depopulating or other actions

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Evaluating a grazing system can be complicated. Forage type, endophyte level, legume content and soil fertility are important considerations. However stocking rate can override all of these considerations and will determine the ultimate productivity of the system.

FROM PAGE 10

a step-by-step (with pictures!) instructions to estimate your stocking rate. Put 'AGR-222 uky' in your browser search window to access the publication Estimating carrying capacity of cool season pastures in Kentucky using Web Soil Survey. The beauty of this tool is that it takes your soil type into account. However, you have few forage options available and it tends to overestimate carrying capacity because it does not account for grazing efficiency.

The second tool is the NRCS Kentucky Graze Model. The Kentucky Graze model uses historical data on forage production as well as calculated animal intake to evaluate the carrying capacity of your farm and has recently been updated and refreshed by the forages group at UK Extension.

The Graze model accounts for cur-

rent or planned forages and shows the effect of increasing grazing efficiency by improving your pasture management. The graze model is a spreadsheet driven model that requires Microsoft Excel to run. It can be operated from desktop and laptops and even tablets like iPads. Finally the Kentucky Graze model can estimate stocking rates for a variety of livestock types, like sheep, goats and horses. If you want a copy of the Kentucky Graze model and brief instructions, please email me at jimmy. henning@uky.edu.

If your pastures don't meet the Aljoe criteria, or if you are wanting to examine alternative stocking and forage alternatives, you should use the NRCS Graze model to evaluate your farm. Let's start with the big rock – stocking rate.

Happy foraging.

PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION Classroom Questions

- 1. Why is there a shortage of turkeys?
- 2. Why is the White-breasted turkey a popular breed?
- 3. What is the NAILE?
- 4. Name the divisions of livestock featured at NAILE.
- 5. Why does the Mississippi River south of St. Louis not have locks and dams?
- 6. How many different breeds of cattle can you find named in this issue of the Pride?
- 7. What is the purpose of the USDA-NRCS Web Soil Survey?
- 8. Name some farm practices featured recently by OAK.



11



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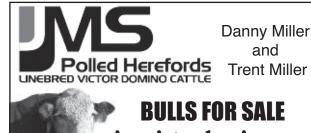
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Blue Grass South Stanford, KY

Oct.6, 2022

14

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 212 hd. 628# 187.00 blk

141 hd. 700# 187.00 blk 128 hd. 716# 180.00 blk 65 hd. 802# 173.00 blk-charx

69 hd. 804# 165.25 charx-red 64 hd. 861# 171.75 blk 58 hd. 879# 169.70 blk

56 hd. 913# 167.40 blk-charx-red 58 hd. 967# 165.90 blk-charx 99 hd.1056#158.20 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

119 hd. 606# 172.50 blk

80 hd. 684# 170.95 blk

Farmers Livestock Glasgow, KY

Oct.3, 2022

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2 25 hd. 522# 158.00 blk 48 hd. 561# 157.00 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 28 hd. 452# 146.50 blk 52 hd. 524# 142.00 blk

44 hd. 529# 150.00 blk 37 hd. 592# 142.00 blk

Blue Grass East Mt. Sterling, KY

Oct. 5, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

21 hd. 599# 160.00 charx Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

50 hd. 539# 170.75 blk-charx 87 hd. 551# 173.85 blk 59 hd. 669# 164.50 blk-charx

KY-TN Livestock Auction Guthrie, KY Oct. 6, 2022

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 22 hd. 544# 170.50 bbwf 22 hd. 625# 163.00 bbwf

Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2

33 hd. 495# 162.50 bbwf 31 hd. 556# 152.00 bbwf 29 hd. 624# 140.00 bbwf

20 hd. 701# 131.00 bbwf Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

20 hd. 367# 145.00 bbwf 45 hd. 438# 150.00 bbwf 64 hd. 495# 149.50 bbwf

39 hd. 559# 141.50 bbwf 34 hd. 627# 126.50 bbwf

Kentuckiana Livestock Market

Owensboro, KY Oct.3, 2022

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 34 hd. 699# 150.00 blk

Blue Grass Maysville Maysville, KY

Oct. 4, 2022

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 30 hd. 742# 171.75 blk-charx 37 hd. 918# 159.00 blk-charx

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 34 hd. 536# 148.50 blk-red

United Producers Owenton

Owenton, KY Oct. 5, 2022

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 131 hd. 768# 174.50 blk-charx-red

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 617# 151.00 blk 73 hd. 676# 159.75 blk-red

Blue Grass Stockyards

Lexington, KY Oct. 3 & 4, 2022

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 30 hd. 396# 174.50 charx-blk 41 hd. 420# 213.00 mixed 20 hd. 525# 178.00 blk 101 hd. 527# 194.35 charx-blk

93 hd. 579# 185.25 mixed 81 hd. 613# 189.75 charx-blk 54 hd. 700# 174.40 bwf-charx

68 hd. 713# 173.25 blk-mixed 26 hd. 775# 171.50 blk 29 hd. 777# 175.25 blk

66 hd. 824# 174.00 blk 52 hd. 849# 168.00 blk 115 hd. 899# 155.70 xbred 55 hd. 905# 167.25 bbwf 31 hd. 965# 163.00 blk

29 hd.1204#138.00 blk-mixed Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2

111 hd. 487# 186.50 charx-blk-red

34 hd. 619# 168.50 mixed 83 hd. 643# 173.00 blk 33 hd. 863# 110.00 blk

Washington Co. Livestock Springfield, KY

Oct. 3, 2022

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 125 hd. 770# 177.25 blk

61 hd. 868# 167.25 blk 65 hd. 869# 168.10 blk

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 78 hd. 684# 164.50 blk-charx

Blue Grass of Campbellsville Campbellsville, KY

Oct. 8, 2022

Holstein Steers: Large 3 27 hd. 313# 168.50

Paris Stockyards

Paris, KY Oct. 6, 2022

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

37 hd. 624# 175.00 blk 78 hd. 685# 178.00 blk-mixed 23 hd. 743# 165.00 blk

69 hd. 844# 175.00 blk 130 hd. 923# 165.75 blk-charx

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 33 hd. 628# 157.25 blk

64 hd. 742# 162.00 blk 22 hd. 919# 140.00 blk

Blue Grass of Richmond Richmond, KY

Oct. 7, 2022

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2

27 hd. 706# 176.75 blk 64 hd. 787# 168.00 blk-charx-red

57 hd. 975# 162.10 mixed

60 hd. 975# 165.90 blk-bwf 107 hd.1016#163.00 blk-bwf

Lake Cumberland Livestock

Somerset, KY. Oct. 8, 2022

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 80 hd. 527# 179.75 mixed

46 hd. 583# 182.00 blk

Mid-KY Livestock Market Upton, KY

Oct. 4, 2022

Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 22 hd. 539# 155.00 mixed

Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 560# 141.00 blk

23 hd. 641# 150.50 mixed

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New Holland Sheep and Goat Auction New Holland, Pa. October 3, 2022

Compared to last week, wooled and shorn slaughter lambs sold weak, overall. Hair breed lambs sold unevenly steady. Ewes sold weak. Hair ewes sold unevenly steady on a light comparison. No comparison on bucks or hair bucks due to light comparison. Buyer demand was moderate on a moderate supply for the slaughter sheep sale. Slaughter kids sold steady. Nannies/does sold steady. Bucks/billies sold steady with a weak undertone noted. Wethers sold unevenly steady on a light comparison. Buyer demand was moderate on a moderate supply for the slaughter goat sale.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-3 56 lbs 290.00; 75 lbs 310.00. Choice 1-3 42-49 lbs 240.00-242.00; 57 lbs 200.00; 60-61 lbs 230.00-265.00; 74-79 lbs 170.00-235.00; 80-89 lbs 170.00-220.00; 90-99 lbs 170.00-200.00; 100-141 lbs 120.00-195.00; 155-192 lbs 100.00-155.00. Good and Choice 1-2 40-41 lbs 170.00-225.00; 63-65 lbs 185.00-205.00; 75-78 lbs 130.00-170.00; 80-84 lbs 130.00-167.00; 90-99 lbs 140.00-165.00; 106-121 lbs 120.00-135.00. HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-3 55 lbs 355.00; 73 lbs 230.00; 85 lbs 205.00-230.00. Choice 1-3 50-58 lbs 235.00-285.00; 61-68 lbs 220.00-250.00; 70-79 lbs 190.00-212.00; 82-85 lbs 152.00-162.00; 90-98 lbs 140.00-155.00; 100-140 lbs 115.00-175.00. Good and Choice 1-2 45-46 lbs 155.00-177.00; 65 lbs 195.00; 70-79 lbs 135.00-150.00; 81-83 lbs 130.00-145.00. SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS; Selection 1 30-39 lbs 50.00-60.00; 40-49 lbs 55.00-130.00; 50-59 lbs 60.00-180.00; 60-69 lbs 175.00-225.00; 70-79 lbs 220.00-260.00; 80-89 lbs 200.00-230.00; 90-99 lbs 245.00-255.00. Selection 2 50-59 lbs 50.00-75.00; 60-69 lbs 100.00-165.00; 70-79 lbs 145.00-190.00; 80 lbs 190.00. Selection 3 50-59 lbs 20.00-45.00; 60-69 lbs 75.00-85.00; 70 lbs 60.00.

Click here to see the full report

Blue Grass Stockyards of Richmond Graded Sheep/Goat Sale - Richmond, Ky. Oct. 10, 2022

Total Receipts 241 Good prime and choice mid weight lambs sold up 5.00 to 10.00. Light weight prime and choice sold steady to unchanged compared to last sale with good demand. Plain lambs steady with average demand, Kid prices were down 1.00 to 3.00.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLED: Choice and Prime 1-2 70 220.00; 118-139 lbs 120.00; 173 lbs 112.50. Choice 2 58 lbs 230.00. Good and Choice 2-3 61-69 lbs 142.50-175.50.

HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-2 50 lbs 215.00; 69 lbs 240.00; 81-85 lbs 182.50-190.00; 140 lbs 110.00. Choice 2 53 lbs 230.00; 70 lbs 167.50; 80-83 lbs 137.50-187.50. Good and Choice 2-3 55 lbs 217.50; 68 lbs 162.50.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1-2 43-48 lbs 275.00-327.50; 68 lbs 305.00; 93 lbs 250.00; 105 lbs 260.00. Selection 2 47 lbs 210.00; 51-54 lbs 230.00-240.00; 67 lbs 227.50; 80 lbs 200.00; 90 lbs 247.50. Selection 2-3 50-58 lbs 150.00-195.00; 65 lbs 195.00-217.25.





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USDA ESTIMATED DAILY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

16

CATTLE	CALVES	HOGS	SHEEP
118,000	1,000	480,000	4,000
115,000	1,000	453,000	4,000
114,000	2,000	473,000	6,000
628,000	6,000	2,408,000	33,000
622,000	6,000	2,380,000	33,000
598,000	8,000	2,378,000	38,000
	118,000 115,000 114,000 628,000 622,000	118,000 1,000 115,000 1,000 114,000 2,000 628,000 6,000 622,000 6,000	118,000 1,000 480,000 115,000 1,000 453,000 114,000 2,000 473,000 628,000 6,000 2,408,000 622,000 6,000 2,380,000

National Daily Direct Slaughter Cattle

Negotiated Purchases 10/10/2022 Live Bids FOB- weighed average weights & prices

Steers:

80%-up Choice: 1505.0 lbs 147.87

Heifers

80%-up Choice: 1323.3 lbs 148.08

10/10/2022 USDA Carlot Meat Summary, Compared to Previous Day Prices in dollars per hundred weight: Boxed beef cutout prices trended down on Choice and Select carcasses.

NATIONAL BOXED BEEF CUTOUT Estimated composite cutout value of Choice 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses down 1.44 at 244.63; Select 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses down 2.31 at 213.82; based on 65 loads of choice cuts, 46 loads of select cuts, 23 loads of trimmings, and 16 loads of ground beef. Choice/Select Spread 30.81.

CARCASS PRICE EQUIVALENT INDEX VALUE NW_LS410https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls410.txt. Estimated carcass price equivalent value of Choice 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses down 0.66 at 223.78; Select 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses down 1.88 at 195.22.

Current index reflects the equivalent of 138,406 head of cattle.



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Mike England - Mid South Ag LLC 270-524-2008 or 270-528-4131



*Farm Bureau Exclusive Cash Reward is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States, \$300 Exclusive Cash Reward on the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2021/2022/2023 Ford Neverick, Ranger, FISO or Super Duty. This cities the is not available on FISO Lightning, FISO Raptor, F-650 and F-750 Super Duty. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other ford Motor Company private inventives or AVZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase selgibility estrictions apply Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase or lease and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by January 3, 2023. Visit Ford*armBureauAdvantage.com or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Note to dealer. Claim in VINCENT using 93326

KENTUCKY GRAIN PRICES

LOUISVILLE AREA: Louisville & Bagdad: PENNYRILE AREA: Allensville, Auburn, Franklin, Hopkinsville & Pembroke: BLUEGRASS AREA: Bardstown, Lexington & Winchester, GREEN RIVER: Caneyville & Livermore; NORTHERN KENTUCKY AREA: Silver Grove at Cincinnati; PURCHASE AREA: Clinton & Mayfield, Opening bids at elevators and processing plants.

				-		*	Yellow Corn Spot Bid 6.76-6.83
10/07/2022 4:00 pm est Bids for next day Cash Bids	Louisville	Pennyrile	Purchase	Bluegrass	Green River	Northern KY	Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton) 10% moisture 228.75-255.00
Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley	5.91-6.33 11.84 NA	6.63-6.98 7.43 12.57-12.87 NA	6,33-6.53 12.97 NA	NA NA NA	6.13 12.52 NA	5.63 12.25 NA	Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton) 55-60% moisture 115.00- 140.00
New Crop Delivery Contract							Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts as reported at local markets:
Corn #2 Yellow	5.91-7.04	6.81-6.98 7.43	6.98	NA.	7.06	6.92	09/17/22 21,186
Corn #2 White Soybeans #1 Y	11.84	12.57-12.87	13.57	NA NA	13.42	12.10	09/24/22 18,101
Wheat #2 SRW Barley	8.00-8.57	8.37	NA.	NA	8.22	NA	10/01/22 21,500
723830							10/08/22 23,319

Weekly Feed Ingredient Price Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location	Owensboro Grain 10/10/2022	Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville 10/10/2022	St. Louis Weekly Feed Region 10/07/2022	Memphis Weekly Feed Region 10/07/2022	Corn Belt Feedstuffs Region 10/07/2022	Daily Direct Hog Prices LM_HG218 10/10/2022 Barrows & Gits Purchased Swine Receipts: 3,519	FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET
Soybean Meal 48% Sol Soybean Hulls Corn Distillers Grain Dried	433.70 285.00	 245.00	466.90 NA 225.00-240.00	439,90-462,90 305,00-325,00	385.70-476.90 200.00-290.00 220.00-310.00	Base Price: \$79.00- \$95.00 Wt. Avg. \$87.07	CALL
Distillers Grain Modified Distillers Grain Wet Corn Condensed Solubles	Ξ	135.00 45.00 NA	Ξ	Ξ	=	Compared to prior day, wt. avg. base	FARMLOT
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct Cottonseed Meal 41 pct	Ξ	Ξ	300.00 790.00 NA	450.00	200.00-240.00 630.00-680.00 NA	prices were 1.85 lower.	1-800-327- 6568
Whole Cottonseed Wheat Middlings	Ξ	=	=	450.00	=	5 Day Rolling Average: \$91.30	1-502-573- 0653

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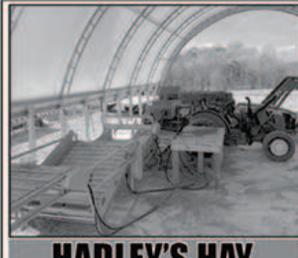
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New avian flu strain causes increased security measures

FROM PAGE 1

food products. So if we have a positive in a state, a lot of countries will put in a trade embargo."

Getting a clean status and having those embargoes lifted can take awhile, so it causes many supply chain problems, Pescatore said. The good thing, he said, is there is a system in place.

"There are programs at the USDA in response to this, so we've been able to respond quickly to a positive flock,"

Farmers who have outside access for birds are being asked to bring them in to reduce contact. There is no vaccination for the strain, so precautionary measures are crucial.

Pescatore said producers should also "be aware of where you've been." Farmers who hunt should make sure they are sanitizing not only their trucks, but their boots, clothing and other equipment, like ATVs used when out and about. These are all ways to bring infections back onto the farm. Facilities have been tightened down, not only turkeys, but chickens and laying hens will be tested before they leave the farm.

"In the last 2 to 3 years, our system has really been tested, between Covid and the avian influenza," he said.

In 2015, the country saw 50.5 million deaths in birds due to the disease. Pescatore said they were slower to respond at first, "but now we know what needs to be done, and they ramp up very quickly."

According to the USDA, more than 47 million birds have died this year from the virus, which include depopulation. Some companies have said turkey production will be reduced through the beginning of 2023.

Beth Breeding, vice president of communications for the National Turkey Federation in Washington, D.C., wasn't in her position back in 2015 for the first peak of avian flu. But she was working on Capitol Hill at the time for a member of Congress who serves on the ag committee.

"So I was aware of it, but not living it like we are now," she said.

They've not been able to track all the movements of the virus. Breeding said, "but definitely, wild birds are the source."

Breeding said it's easy to see the migratory paths of the birds on their second swing through, heading back south for the winter.

"You can see where they're flying over and stopping and pausing, like in the Midwest ... I'm not a specialist in this, but there's a lot of water and places to stop in protected areas for them to congregate."

H5NI, also referred to as the "Eurasian strain," has been detected greatly in part because farmers follow the surveillance programs, she said.

"Our goal is to make sure the flocks are depopulated within 24-48 hours," which is also USDA's goal.

The virus doesn't go away with warm weather, Breeding said. "We had a bit of a lull in June and July, but have since seen a resurgence in cases across the country. It's very clear it's a different situation than what we dealt with in '15."

Breeding said the federation is doing a lot of work with the federal government and research institutions to better understand the science behind it. Although it's now a "day-to-day situation" with managing biosecurity and other controls, she said they must look ahead at the same time.

"We're having a lot of conversations and looking for support from Congress — the farm bill is coming up next year, so we'll be looking for a lot of support from them on animal disease prevention and response," she said. "One of those things is surveillance related — we've love to see the USDA do that in all the major flyways and have a more robust wild bird program. We've been pushing for that."

By Bobbie Curd Field reporter

Central Kentucky Angus Association



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