

STILLAGE: Feeding it correctly

With high feed prices, cattle producers are looking for alternate feed sources and some are considering a distillery byproduct referred to as whole stillage.

After distillation, whole stillage, a distillery byproduct considered industrial waste, remains and is not returned to the local water supply. Some distilleries centrifuge the whole stillage, separating the corn solids and liquid, and the resulting liquid becomes condensed solubles or syrup through evaporation. The corn solids are considered wet cake or grain. Further processing can turn the wet cake and syrup into dried distillers grain, a common livestock feed.

To be sold as animal feed, each individual distillery must register with the University of Kentucky Regulatory Services. For most small craft distilleries, which produce 10,000 barrels or less, it's easier to give the whole stillage away to farmers.

With the bourbon industry booming – a 30 percent increase in three years – most distilleries need to dispose of the whole stillage, and with farmers looking for an alternate feed source, this opportunity can be a win/win.

Dr. David Williams, president of Burkmann Nutrition, and Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, University of Kentucky Extension beef specialist, agree that whole stillage is an excellent supplemental beef feed.

But both cautioned those who are feeding or considering whole stillage to figure the cost judiciously, even if it is “free,” and importantly, consider it as a supplement and not an entire feed source.

The whole stillage is 92 percent water and 8 percent dry matter and feeds as a liquid. Farmers must have water tanks and time to drive to the distillery to pick up the whole stillage. Lehmkuhler said considering the price of diesel fuel, vehicle insurance, etc., and whether the farmer considers their time in the cost, a rough estimate would be a 40-mile round trip for a break-even cost.

According to a 2021 Kentucky Distillers Association study, there are 95 distilleries in 40 counties. Craft distilleries are throughout the state, and large

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Producer finds effective use of stillage

The growth in Kentucky's bourbon industry has led to an increase of whole stillage, a byproduct that distilleries must dispose of. Some cattle producers are using the spent grain as a cheap feed source, and cattle experts say it can work well as a supplement. They caution, however, on relying on the product as a primary feed source and even have difficulties naming producers they say are using it correctly.

One cattle producer questioned about his use of stillage said his stocker calves consume as much as 30 gallons of – as he put it – slop per day. He said he is skeptical about using recommendations from nutritionists who want to sell a product or a specialist who isn't trying to make a living in cattle production. He said he feeds the spent grain for around 100 days and is happy with the outcome no plans to change his method.

John Sharp, a Bourbon County producer, feeds distillers syrup according to university recommendations. Syrup evaporated from whole stillage is 80-85 percent water, while the whole stillage is 92 percent water.

Sharp, a third-generation farmer, has been in the stocker cattle business for 24 years. Currently, he runs 8000 steers. He purchases 400-pound feeder calves, one at a time, in the fall and builds his herd to 8,000 by March, or as soon as grass comes in.

Of the 8,000 head, 5,000 are fed syrup year-round, depending on the growth stage, and he is adamant that syrup is only a supplement. He began feeding syrup three years ago out of necessity



John Sharp takes advantage of byproducts created by the production of bourbon but follows a strict plan to benefit his livestock.

when it became impossible to make money buying \$300 a ton dry feed. He purchases syrup and doesn't actually go to a distillery and pick it up himself. He is fully aware of the problems of feeding whole stillage or syrup-free-choice.

“It has to be fed as a supplement; too many farmers what to just go out and dump a semi load,” Sharp said.

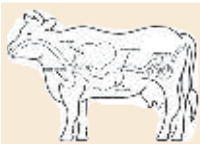
Sharp believes this practice can destroy the rumen microbes and damage the rumen, leading to bloat. He says cattle fed syrup or whole stillage free-choice have too

much fat in the diet, and buyers consider them “syrup” cattle.

With the calves purchased in the fall, he only wants to build frame and health and harden them up for pasture. For the first 60 days, he feeds a 1 percent of body weight dry feed with free choice hay. Next, they get 1.5 gallons of syrup and free choice hay daily until they go out on pasture.

Once on pasture, they start at 2 gallons of syrup three times per week and are increased to 3 gal-

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PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION – How cows use feedstuffs we cannot 11.

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STILLAGE: Feeding it correctly is the key

FROM PAGE 1

“heritage” distilleries remain concentrated in the “amber triangle” region of central Kentucky between Lexington, Bardstown, and Louisville, but also as far away as Owensboro.

Both Lehmkuhler and Williams agreed that whole stillage is a supplement, and a ration must be calculated on a dry matter basis. Lehmkuhler said a rule of thumb he uses is one gallon of whole stillage fed per 100 pounds of body weight, no matter the animal's growth stage.

The critical issue with whole stillage is the total lack of calcium. Beef cattle must have a 1.5:1 calcium/phosphorus ratio, and farmers feeding whole stillage will need mineral supplementation

to correct that imbalance.

Williams said feeding whole stillage free choice can lead to rumen issues because of the mineral imbalance. Whole stillage pH is in the mid to upper three range, pretty acidic, considering corn silage is upper 4. The normal rumen pH is 6.2. The continual unlimited feeding of whole stillage can change the rumen pH and lead to production problems with rumen damage, limiting the absorption of nutrients as needed by the animal and lead to production issues.

“We think when stocker cattle are fed over 100 days with unlimited intake, it may not be the current owner that sees the effect, but the next owner might be very disappointed in the cattle's performance because of the rumen damage,”

Williams said.

Currently, there is no scientific research on the effects of long-term feeding anecdotally; he has heard of foundering and tooth enamel damage, Lehmkuhler said.

Lehmkuhler said UK is ready to develop research studies to evaluate the feeding effects, but funding sources are unavailable. He and other extension beef specialists are looking at alternative ways to feed whole stillage, especially in winter when the liquid can freeze.

Williams said feeding whole stillage is an emerging topic that deserves attention and education back to Kentucky farm families so they can use this beneficial byproduct from the distilleries in a profitable and not haz-

ardous manner. “Helping farm families understand the benefits, the costs, and hazards of feeding distillery byproducts is the next challenge for the beef and dairy industry in Kentucky,” he added.

Lehmkuhler said that is what the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture is doing. He produced a fact sheet about feeding as early as four years ago.

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ASC/ASC244/ASC244.pdf>

Feeding distillery byproducts is a component of the Backgrounding Course for Feeder Cattle, slated for Dec. 15 and 16.

By Toni Riley
Field Reporter



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MARKET REPORT: WEEK OF Dec. 14, 2022

Farmers Regional Livestock Market of Glasgow, LLC

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FEEDER CATTLE:

DAIRY STEERS: Large 3: 1 Head, 355#, 101.00; 2 Head, 400-435#, 71.00-105.00; 1 Head, 565#, 58.00; 3 Head, 645#, 86.00; 1 Head, 665#, 113.00; 1 Head 870#, 58.00; 1 Head, 960#, 80.00. **BULLS:** Medium and Large 1-2: 1 Head, 260#, 160.00; 1 Head, 905#, 100.00; **DAIRY HEIFERS:** Large 3: 1 Head, 885#, 90.00; 1 Head, 995#, 108.00 Replacement; 1 Head 1040#, 101.00 Replacement; 2 Head, 1145#, 116.00, Replacement; 1 Head, 1150, 105.00, Replacement; 3 Head, 1255-1298#, 65.55 Replacement; 1 Head, 1355#, 112.00, Replacement.

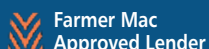
SLAUGHTER CATTLE:

COWS: Breaker 75-80%: 20 Head, 1400-1665#, 62.00-69.00, average; 8 Head, 1390-1650#, 70.00-75.00, High; 2 Head, 1545-1650#, 59.00, Low. Boner 80-85%: 67 Head, 925-1620#, 73.00-84.00, High; 27 Head, 965-1435#, 50.00-59.00 Low; 1 Head, 1225#, 46.00, Very Low; Lean 85-90% 23 Head, 875-1205#, 54.00-65.00, Average; 4 Head, 970-1215#, 70.00-78.00, High; 9 Head, 760-1190#, 45.00-51.00, Low. **BULLS 1-2:** 11 Head, 1095-1905#, 81.00-99.00, Average; 14 Head, 1420-1970, 101.00-120.00, High; 3 Head, 1245-2695, 73.00-77.00, Low. **BULLS 3:** 5 Head, 1365-2345#, 85.00-99.00, Average; 1 Head, 1950#, 101.00 High; 3 Head, 1190-2525# 52.00-75.00, Low.

REPLACEMENT DAIRY CATTLE:

FRESH/MILKING COWS: Supreme, Stage O, 1 Head, 1625.00; Approved, Stage O, 2 Head, 1075.00-1100.00. **SPRINGER COWS:** Supreme, Stage T2-3, 2 Head, 1400.00-1675.00; Approved T2-3, 1 Head, 750.00; Approved T3, 1 Head, 1075.00, Beef Cross; Medium, T2-3, 3 Head, 685.00, Crossbred; Medium, T3, 1 Head, 500.00; Medium T3, 1 Head, 600.00, Beef Cross.

For a full listing visit: <https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2198>



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Looking ahead to 2023



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Ryan
Quarles

As 2023 begins, I'm reminded how blessed I've been to serve as your Agriculture Commissioner for the past seven years. With just one year left in my administration, I wanted to thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you as we honored Kentucky's agricultural past and plan for its future.

Together, we've accomplished so much and I'm hoping 2023 is another successful one for Kentucky farmers.

That success sometimes comes in dollars. Cash receipts for Kentucky agricultural products reached an all-time high of \$6.9 billion in 2021, with predictions that 2022's cash receipts could soar to \$8 billion. This is just a fraction of the total economic impact agriculture has on Kentucky's economy – estimated at \$49.6 billion a year. With more than half of Kentucky's acreage is engaged in some sort of agricultural pursuit, we are a state still very rich in agriculture. We are stronger together.

Success can also come in accomplishments. I've got big plans for finishing out my tenure, but first let's take a look back at what we have accomplished together thus far.

When I was sworn in January 2016, I pledged to run an efficient and transparent department that advocates for Kentucky's agriculture industry. As the youngest statewide elected official in the nation at the time, I had a lot of eyes on me and my administration. I knew with your support I could accomplish what I set out to do.

One of my first acts was to look at hunger. In Kentucky, one in eight people, including one in six children, lack consistent access to enough food for a healthy, active lifestyle. I, along with a task force, began the Kentucky Hunger Initiative, a first-of-its-kind effort in Kentucky to bring together farmers, charitable organizations, faith groups, community leaders, and government entities to begin a dialogue to reduce hunger in Kentucky.

Through the Hunger Initiative, we've focused on resources for food insecure individuals. Donations of freezers, refrigerators, beef, sausage, venison, eggs ... and yes, even candy, were made to agencies serving those in need. Since its inception, the Hunger Initiative has raised more than \$36 million through collaborative partnerships between the public and private sectors.

SEE **LOOKING**, PAGE 5

At year's end or beginning, it's never too late for kindness

The future is easily predictable, especially if you have access to a photocopier and a fax machine.

At least that was the successful business plan of a central Illinois neighbor who, for decades, maintained she had received the "gift" of clairvoyance after surviving a lightning strike. Once word of her talent spread, our one-stoplight, no-railroad town became a hub for people "who needed to know."

Two consequences of this human tide quickly became apparent. First, there was no end to it; wave after wave of answer seekers came day after day and year after year until the neighbor died. Second, people often mistook our house for hers—identical house numbers, one street apart—and, for years, pushed our doorbell 24/7 instead of hers.

The crush was, in fact, so large—and here's where the photocopier and fax come in—that clients who called for appointments were instructed to photocopy their palms and fax them to her office. Later, she telephoned the senders to "read" these prints for, reportedly, \$20, cash or credit.

Were her predictions accurate?

My guess is that accuracy wasn't why people consulted her. Most, I came to surmise as I watched the parade of clients come and go, just wanted answers—any answer really—to their problems and, for \$20, cash or credit, she gave 'em one.

I know what you're thinking: Scam, right?

I thought the same for years, especially after answering another 2 a.m. doorbell ring. But I was wrong. What the neighbor actually sold to all those people over all those years was comfort. She wasn't a trained counselor or licensed social worker but she understood what people were really seeking in seeking her out.

The key to that comfort-giving was something that cost nothing: kindness. Either in person or by telephone, my neighborhood clairvoyant listened to peoples' woes and worries before kindly offering her views and, I guess, visions. Moreover, I never heard any complaints about her abilities, advice, or fees.

In fact, another neighbor, the town's long-time police chief, believed "there's something to her" after she correctly advised him on a missing-persons case he had not asked her about. "Hey," he told me in a solemn tone, "I don't understand it but I do understand why people go to her."

In all our years as neighbors, however, I only had two, very brief

SEE **AT YEAR'S END**, PAGE 6



FOOD
&
FARM
FILE

Alan
Guebert

The key to that comfort-giving was something that cost nothing: kindness.

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Looking ahead to 2023

FROM PAGE 4

My administration also looked at innovative ways to help those in need. I supported a bill that allows instructional time in the classroom to go toward breakfast for our school children. It's hard to learn on an empty stomach.

We partnered with Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance for the Clays for a Cause fundraising event. With Farm Bureau underwriting 100 percent of the expenses, all money raised – more than \$1 million in its four-year run – was designated to support the Hunger Initiative.

We also began the Servings Up Solutions annual fundraising dinner. Since its beginning in 2018, we've raised more than \$100,000 for agencies whose purpose is to protect those who are food insecure. The last dinner for my tenure is set for Feb. 8. Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss this one.

Another focus for my administration was farmer safety. At the beginning of my tenure, KDA signed an agreement with Kentucky Community and Technical College System/Kentucky Fire Commission to promote farm safety. Our farm safety program has traveled the state and the nation training farm-

ers and rescuers in safety precautions to prevent tragedy on the farm. Today, states from across the nation contact us asking about our program seeking help on starting one of their own. It's a world-class operation that we know has saved lives.

In addition to physical safety, we focused on the mental strains of farming on the individual. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture teamed up with state universities and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services to launch Raising Hope. With funds appropriated through the General Assembly and a USDA grant, Raising Hope works with farmers and their families to promote their entire wellbeing – mental and physical.

I've traveled throughout the state highlighting the impact agriculture creates in our everyday lives. My travels promoting Kentucky agriculture have also taken me across the ocean. Last year, I participated in two USDA-sponsored trade missions. Developing markets for Kentucky farm families is an essential responsibility of mine as Kentucky's agriculture commissioner. In 2021, Kentucky's total agricultural and related product exports amounted to more than \$1.1 billion. My goal is to increase that for the betterment of

farmers and the state.

Part of that betterment also means focusing on the future of agriculture. During my tenure, voluntary donations to the Ag Tag program, money generated when farm tag owners renewed their vehicle license, have brought in more than \$4.3 million. The donations are equally divided among Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for youth development and promotional programs. We've also given away thousands for student athletes in the annual Ag Athlete of the Year scholarship program.

We saw the addition of the Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy, the agency responsible for the administration of the boards that provide the grants and loans from Kentucky's tobacco settlement, into the KDA.

We've also been through some rough patches including a world-wide pandemic that threatened to shut down family-owned small businesses. I went to the mat fighting to see those businesses remain open when the governor wanted to shut them down. We've also witnessed horrific natural weather disasters, such as tornadoes and floods that threatened our agricultural community. But, what I saw most was the resiliency of Kentucky's farmers and

the willingness of neighbors helping neighbors.

As I begin my last year as your agriculture commissioner, there are a few things I still want to accomplish. First is finding workable solutions to Kentucky's large animal vet shortage. We've begun the discussions and I'm praying we find the right answer. Our vets are our first eyes and ears out there protecting the health of our herds and flocks.

I am also looking forward to working with others to develop plans to renovate the Kentucky Exposition Center. We need to maintain Kentucky's leader status as host of major agricultural shows. Renovations to the Expo Center will go a long way to making sure that happens.

Lastly, I want to continue the Department's work on the hunger crisis. Latest numbers show there are as many people today using the food banks as when protocols around COVID-19 put people out of work. Helping our fellow neighbors get the food they need to maintain a healthy and happy life should be top of mind for all of us. The crisis won't go away on its on, it's going to take all of our work to help the food insecure.

RYAN QUARLES is the Agriculture Commissioner of Kentucky.

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At year's end or beginning, it's never too late for kindness

FROM PAGE 4

dealings with her. Once, when raking leaves near the street we shared, her long, blue Cadillac DeVille glided to a stop and the front passenger window (she never drove) lowered in a steady electric whir.

"This house speaks to me," she announced and, after barely pausing, the window whirled to a close and off she was driven.

I would like to have known what my house had to say but, alas, she either didn't have time or I hadn't forked over a Jackson quickly enough so off she glided.

The second time—and while I didn't know it, perhaps she did—the last time we spoke, I was again raking leaves when I looked up to see her walking towards me. In the nearly 20 years we had been neighbors, I had never seen her walk so I was momentarily struck silent.

Even more odd was that her trademark, beehived hair was wrapped in what appeared to be an acre of

gauze. Everything about her said "swami."

"I wanted to thank your lovely wife for the jam she dropped by," said the swami in a steady voice. "It was absolutely delicious."

I'll tell her, I stammered while staring at the gauze. Are you well? I asked.

"Oh," she said, "no worries. I had a bit of brain surgery this week." She then pivoted and slowly returned the way she had come.

Did she say brain surgery?

Later, when I tracked down my lovely spouse to report the rare, strange conversation, Catherine's only response was "That's odd, I took her the jelly last Christmas," 10 months earlier.

The tardiness of the "thank you" is odd?

But, in fact, it's never too late for kindness—even at this very late date.

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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Reflections for Year's End



Another year gone by, another year with strife and struggle, but hopefully also with blessings and good fortune. There is no doubt that the last several years have been incredibly difficult for many. Millions of lives lost to Coronavirus, drug overdoses and natural disasters, to say nothing of the lost resources from these ills. And of course, in addition to these extraordinary catastrophes we still have all the more ordinary tragedies: deaths from cancer, heart disease, and accidents. And yet, if you're reading this, you have survived, and this is always something to be thankful for. Not only did we survive, but hopefully we have thrived in some areas of our lives. How many students graduated this year, despite missing a year of classes during the pandemic. And how many people are still gainfully employed, and probably earning more than they did the year before. It's okay to sometimes agree with the pessimists and doomsayers who may just be trying to warn us off the cliff's edge, but we shouldn't forget the optimists and idealists who remind us that every cloud has a silver lining. We of short memory and limited vision should remember that people usually recover from their illnesses, and what doesn't kill us usually makes us stronger. "The spirits increase, vigor grows through a wound." -Aulus Gellius - Christopher Simon



Honey Raisin Muffins

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ½ cup + 2 tablespoons all purpose flour | ¼ teaspoon baking soda | 1 cup skim milk |
| ½ cup + 2 tablespoons whole wheat flour | 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon | ½ cup honey |
| ¾ teaspoon baking powder | ¼ teaspoon salt | 2 egg whites |
| | 2 cups bran flake cereal with raisins | 3 tablespoons unsweetened applesauce |
| | | 2 tablespoons canola oil |

- 1. Combine** flours, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt in a bowl and set aside.
- 2.** In a large mixing bowl, **combine** cereal, milk and honey; let stand for 2 minutes to soften. **Stir** in egg whites, applesauce and oil; **mix** well.
- 3. Add** dry ingredients and stir until moistened.
- 4. Fill** a greased or paper-lined muffin pan $\frac{2}{3}$ full.
- 5. Bake** at 400°F for 15-18 minutes.
- 6. Cool** 10 minutes before removing from pan.

Yield: 12 muffins.

Nutrition Analysis:
150 calories, 3 g fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 170 mg sodium, 30 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 15 g sugar, 4 g protein.

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



Kale and Potato Soup

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| 4 teaspoons olive oil | 6 red potatoes, diced | ¼ teaspoon black pepper |
| 1 chopped yellow onion | ½ cup chopped carrot | |
| 3 cloves garlic, minced | 4 cups shredded kale | |
| 1 box (48 ounce) low-sodium chicken broth | ½ pound cooked chicken breast, shredded | |

- 1.** In a large saucepan, **heat** the olive oil over medium heat for 1 minute. **Add** chopped onion and garlic and **cook** uncovered for 5 minutes.
- 2. Add** chicken broth, potatoes and carrot; cover and bring to a boil.
- 3. Reduce heat** and simmer for 20 minutes.
- 4. Mix** in the kale, chicken and black pepper. **Cover and simmer** for 15

minutes or until kale is tender.

Yield: 6, 1½ cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis:
270 calories, 5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 25 mg cholesterol, 210 mg sodium, 43 g carbohydrate, 5 g fiber, 15 g protein.

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



Producer finds effective use of stillage

FROM PAGE 1

lons as they approach 800 pounds. His cattle are on pasture for approximately 280 days, or six months.

Lack of calcium in both whole stillage and syrup is another feeding issue. Sharp feeds a zero phosphorus mineral and adds calcium chloride in the syrup when they feed it.

"Used correctly, it makes beautiful cattle, but the key is correct - three times a week, no more," he said.

Fed incorrectly, there is a myriad of problems. Brent Williams, a nutritionist for Burkman Nutrition, described cattle fed whole stillage free-choice as soggy and looking sloppy. He said they have deep bellies from all the water consumption. They have dull, rough, and long hair coats and rarely shed, indicative of poor nutrition, much like parasite-invested cattle.

"It's almost like they waddle, especially in mature cattle," he said. "They can be lame from founder and also have tooth decay; the low pH stillage destroys the tooth enamel," he said.

Williams described a beef producer who he believes is "almost" feeding correctly. This producer contracts for barn muck from race tracks. The muck is high-quality straw, leftover hay, and a bit of horse manure. The producer works with Williams for a nutritionally balanced ration, which includes corn screening and a vitamin/mineral fortified premix at four ounces per head per day. The mix is ground into a TMR or totally mixed ration.

A semi-load of whole stillage dumps into tanks 60 feet long and 3-4 feet deep, and the TMR mix goes on top. Workers push the TMR into the still-

age for the ration. Williams said he has worked with the producer to get the dry matter content up for finished cattle to decrease the cases of bloat or twisted stomachs. Williams is still concerned about the amount of liquid the cattle are consuming. The producer contracts with a distillery to take two semi-loads a day, and he has to feed it to the cattle he has.

The amount of whole stillage produced in Kentucky is mind-boggling. Wilderness Trail Distillery in Danville, the 14th largest distillery in the United States, produces 90,000 gallons of whole stillage daily. Emily Toadvine with Wilderness Trail said they work with 65 area producers to take the whole stillage.

Williams said there are a couple of reasons for the upswing in whole stillage use. The first is the price of corn. The second is the growing number of distilleries in beef-producing areas that have distilleries and access to whole stillage. Williams said initially, when whole stillage became available about eight years ago, producers fed it, decided it wasn't good, and quit. Now a whole new generation of farmers has access to this "free" feed.

Sharp was emphatic that education is key to feeding syrup and whole stillage.

That education comes from research. But this feeding issue is localized to Kentucky and a bit in Tennessee. Limited research funds continue to hinder a lot of detailed research, and producers are learning for themselves what works and what doesn't. That's a method that can be cost-saving, but it can also be very costly.

By Toni Riley
Field Reporter

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Making frost seedings of clover work

The Forage Doctor

By Jimmy Henning



Kentucky weather has a wicked sense of humor. At the November board meeting of the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, our directors were literally talking about how our 'warmer' winters had backed up the optimum timing for frost seeding clover. And then came 'Coldmeggedon' over Christmas and now a warming trend that will see 60's in late December and early January. Let me paraphrase a saying from my childhood: "Want to make God smile, predict Kentucky weather!" You could say the same thing about predicting the best time to 'frostseed' clovers. Will all of those caveats, let's talk about some things that are a little more certain.

To start with, clovers are frankly amazing. Throw six pounds of red and one to two pounds of white clover on to sod with some exposed soil in late winter, control some competition and

boom – high quality pasture. The benefits of clover are significant, including 'free' nitrogen, and high forage quality and yield. Even more significant is the new USDA research that clovers (especially red) directly counteract the vasoconstrictive effects of toxic endophyte tall fescue and you have an unbeatable set of attributes.

Frost seeding is an attractive method of establishment because of the minimal equipment requirements – usually a spinner seeder attached to a moderate horsepower tractor or ATV will get the seed spread. Red and/or white clover can be expected to establish successfully after being frost seeded because they germinate quickly, tolerate shading, and have aggressive root and shoot growth as seedlings. Their small, smooth seed is easily moved into the top quarter inch of soil by weather or hoof action.

Clovers have so many positive establishment traits that it is easy to forget that the requirements of forage establishment must be met even with a low input frost seeding. These basics include:

1. Get a current soil test, and

See **MAKING**, page 15



Left: Figure one, clovers can be frost seeded successfully into grass pastures because of their quick germination, tolerance to shade and aggressive root and shoot growth as seedlings. Proper attention to establishment basics helps ensure success.

Below: Figure two, the heavy ground cover seen here will prevent clover establishment.



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HOW DO COWS UTILIZE FEEDSTUFFS WE CANNOT?

Compiled by TeachKyAg (teachkyag.org)

Chew It Twice

Did you know that a cow spends six hours eating and eight hours chewing its cud each day? Follow the path food takes on its way through the cow.

- 1 As cattle eat, the food passes from the **mouth** into the **rumen** (roo mihn), where the food is partly digested by tiny bacteria.
- 2 The food is then passed to the **reticulum** (ruh tik yu lum), which is a membrane with "honeycombed" ridges. These ridges break the food down into smaller pieces called **cud**.
- 3 The cud comes back into the cow's **mouth**. The cow chews its cud with its powerful back teeth to break the food down even more. As the cow swallows, the saliva washes the cud back into the cow's system.

Rumen

Reticulum

Abomasum

Intestine

Omasum

- 4 The food now flows into the **omasum** (o mey sum). This is where water, minerals and essential vitamins are absorbed.

- 5 The food then travels to the **abomasum** (ab o mey sum). This part of the cow's digestive system is most like our own stomach and is where the digestion of protein begins with the release of acid.

- 6 When food moves into the **intestines**, more nutrients are absorbed, and unused food portions are stored until there is enough to be expelled as cow manure.



www.teachkyag.org

When properly managed, cattle can also improve the quality and health of the rangelands where they live and graze. Typically, rangelands are located in areas that are too rocky, steep, or otherwise inefficient for growing human food crops. Keeping this land in grass prevents soil erosion. Cattle also provide natural fertilizer for the land in the form of manure.

Source: *The Remarkable Ruminant*, Arizona Beef Council. Drawing by Eden Elwell, for TeachKyAg.

PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION Classroom Questions

1. What is stillage? Discuss how it is a benefit to cattle producers.
2. What are the concerns about feeding stillage to cattle?
3. Who is Tony Brannon and why is he featured in this edition of the Pride?
4. Summarize some of the projects the Kentucky Department of Agriculture has been involved in during 2022.
5. When and where is the Kentucky Pork Producers' annual meeting? Summarize why you think producers have organizations based on the commodities they produce and why that is important. Ask a local farmer why it is important to him/her.

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Making frost seedings of clover work

FROM PAGE 10

apply the needed nutrients. Clovers need soil that is pH 6.5 to 7 and medium or better in phosphorus and potassium. Do not apply additional N except when diammonium phosphate (DAP) is needed to supply the needed phosphorus.

2. Select a good variety. Choose an improved variety with known performance and genetics. Choosing a better red clover variety can mean as much as three tons of additional hay and longer stand life compared to common seed (variety unknown). UK has extensive data available on yield and persistence of white and red clover for hay or pasture at http://forages.ca.uky.edu/variety_trials.

3. Spread enough seed. A typical seeding rate is 8 to 12 pounds of red or 1 to 2 pounds of white/ladino clover per acre. Applying a half rate (6 lb. red and 1 lb. white) will result in over 55 seeds per square foot on the field (37 red plus 18 white).

4. Make sure seed lands on bare

soil. Excess grass or thatch must be grazed and/or disturbed until there is bare ground showing prior to overseeding (Figures 2 and 3). The biggest reason for failure of frost seedings is too much ground cover. Judicious cattle traffic or dragging with a chain harrow can expose the needed bare ground.

5. Get good seed-soil contact. Frost seedings depend on rain and snow or the freeze-thaw action of the soil surface to work the clover seed into the top ¼ inch of soil. A corrugated roller used soon after seeding will also ensure good soil contact.

6. Control competition next spring. Do not apply additional N on overseeded fields next spring, and be prepared to do some timely mowing if grass or spring weeds get up above the clover. Clover is an aggressive seeding but will establish faster and thicker if grass and weed competition is controlled.

Clover can be reliably frost seeded into existing grass pastures with a little attention to establishment basics. Soil fertility, variety, seeding rate, seed

placement and competition control are the major contributors to success.

Happy Foraging.



Figure 3: Bare soil should be showing for successful clover overseeding, as in the picture above.

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Murray State University's Dr. Tony Brannon to retire this month

Murray State University Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture Dr. Tony Brannon will leave behind a lasting legacy with more than 34 years of service to the institution while advancing teaching and learning, as well as leading numerous initiatives supporting agriculture at the local, regional, state and national levels.

Brannon, who will retire from the university this month, was recognized on Dec. 6, 2022, when approximately 300 family, friends, current and former students, statewide agriculture leaders, industry partners and Murray State faculty, staff and colleagues came together to recognize him with a special surprise and retirement dinner at the CFSB Center.

Brannon was also recognized with a resolution of appreciation by the Murray State University Board of Regents and University administration on Dec. 2, 2022 as well as other campus and school events.

Using his traditional quote, Brannon said, "I feel like a turtle on a fence post; I'm glad to be where I'm at but realize

I didn't get there by myself. Quoting Helen Keller, 'the bend in the road is not the end of the road unless you fail to make the turn.' I'm not finished yet. I'm just making a bend in the road."

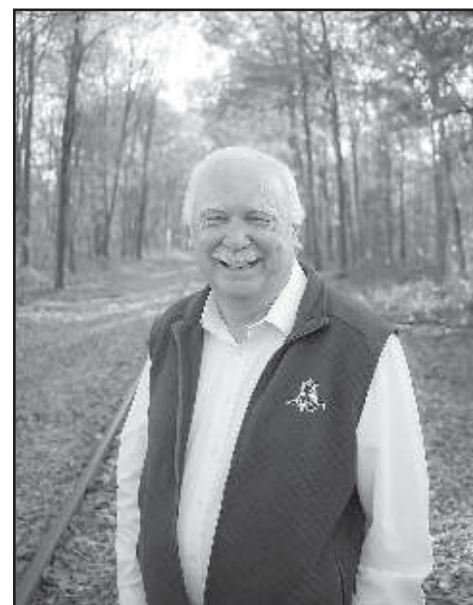
"I have had the honor to work with Dean Tony Brannon for many years," Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson said. "He has dedicated his professional life to Murray State University and advancing agricultural initiatives in this state and nation. We will miss him and his leadership and wish him and wife Lisa all the best in retirement."

"It's been an honor and privilege to not only work with Dean Brannon for many years but to also call him a dear and trusted friend," Murray State Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Tim Todd said. "He has mentored many others, and I include myself in that team. We all wish him the very best in his much deserved retirement and next chapter."

Brannon graduated from Murray State in 1981. He was an active member of Future Farmers of America (FFA), serving as a Tennessee state officer

from 1978-79. After earning his Bachelor of Science in agriculture with a specialization in agricultural education and agricultural mechanization, as well as a Master of Science in agriculture at Murray State, Brannon spent four years teaching at Peabody High School in Trenton, Tennessee, before earning his Ed.D degree at Oklahoma State University. He returned to his alma mater in 1988 as an assistant professor in agricultural education, where he rose through the ranks to become dean in 2004.

Brannon and his wife, 1988 Murray State accounting alumna Lisa, have two sons, Caleb and wife Taylor, along with Jonah and wife Katie, all of whom are Racer alumni. A total of 10 Murray State degrees are represented within the extended Brannon family. Several years ago, Tony along with his brother Tim, another Racer alumnus, in honor of their parents and other Brannon family members established and endowed the Brannon Family Scholarship for current and incoming Murray State students pursuing a degree in agriculture.



Murray State University Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture Dr. Tony Brannon will leave behind a lasting legacy with more than 34 years of service to the institution while advancing teaching and learning, as well as leading numerous initiatives supporting agriculture at the local, regional, state and national levels.

SEE MSU, PAGE 18

Happy New Year

**Greetings at the New Year,
and best wishes always!**

Thanks to our dear friends and neighbors here for being so good to us in 2022. We look forward to sharing another year with all of you.

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MSU's Dr. Tony Brannon to retire this month

FROM PAGE 16

Under Brannon's leadership, the Hutson School of Agriculture has accelerated and advanced agriculture in many facets, all the while leading to the rise of its prominent national status. During his tenure as a faculty member, enrollment grew from 288 to 1,187 students. Academically, the school now offers programs ranging from the Racer Academy dual-credit program for high school students to various bachelor and master degree programs, including online programs for students throughout the world to earn a degree from Murray State. In working with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Murray State planted the first legal agricultural hemp research plot on May 12, 2014.

Brannon holds Distinguished or Outstanding Service awards from the Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Soybean Association, the National Association of Agricultural Education, the Kentucky FFA Association and in 2013 was named the National Outstanding Career and Technical

Educator. He has served on numerous statewide boards and task forces, serving multiple stints as chairman of several key statewide and national agricultural organizations. In 2016, Brannon was elected as a senior fellow by the American Association for Agricultural Education.

A new Breathitt Veterinary Center, part of Murray State University's Hutson School of Agriculture, opened in Hopkinsville in 2017 to replace the previous center. The University also expanded its agriculture footprint through the generosity and support of many, with the donation, acquisition and development of multiple farm properties on campus and in the region to provide additional experiential research and educational opportunities for students. Through a generous land donation made by Ms. Mabel Pullen, the Arboretum at Murray State University opened, which is a favorite destination for people of all ages in the Murray community to enjoy.

Importantly, Brannon was a tireless worker and advocate for helping advance awareness, support and collabora-



Pictured are members of the Brannon family from a Dec. 6, 2022 event when approximately 300 family, friends, current and former students, statewide agriculture leaders, industry partners and Murray State faculty, staff and colleagues came together to recognize Dr. Tony Brannon with a special surprise and retirement dinner at the CFSB Center.

oration between Murray State and key partners across the Commonwealth, with a continuous eye toward opportunities and experiences for students to receive an education, and more than

just a degree.

Dr. Brian Parr, assistant dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture, will serve as interim dean of the school beginning in January.

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Blue Grass South Stanford, KY Dec. 15, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 74 hd. 637# 179.00 charx-blk 160 hd. 676# 188.80 blk 141 hd. 773# 179.00 blk 125 hd. 779# 175.90 blk-charx 65 hd. 812# 177.75 blk 63 hd. 822# 169.50 charx-blk 61 hd. 859# 173.80 blk 172 hd. 888# 167.75 blk 59 hd. 936# 170.95 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 90 hd. 599# 169.25 blk 80 hd. 645# 164.90 blk 75 hd. 663# 164.25 blk	KY-TN Livestock Auction Guthrie, KY Dec. 15, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 707# 149.00 blk-bwf Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2 35 hd. 492# 171.00 blk-bwf 23 hd. 620# 159.00 blk-bwf Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 32 hd. 437# 159.00 blk-bwf 32 hd. 498# 163.00 blk-bwf 21 hd. 543# 162.00 blk-bwf 33 hd. 620# 141.50 blk-bwf	Blue Grass Stockyards Lexington, KY Dec. 12 & 13, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 21 hd. 510# 184.00 bbwf 44 hd. 514# 194.00 blk 21 hd. 531# 180.00 blk 58 hd. 571# 178.10 blk 75 hd. 622# 186.25 blk 72 hd. 651# 179.00 blk-mixed 43 hd. 669# 173.50 blk 39 hd. 700# 158.50 blk-charx 70 hd. 701# 170.25 mixed 44 hd. 702# 165.00 blk 40 hd. 706# 169.75 blk-red 75 hd. 724# 176.50 blk 62 hd. 779# 180.00 blk 61 hd. 804# 178.00 blk-charx 63 hd. 805# 177.25 blk 47 hd. 816# 168.50 blk-charx 66 hd. 821# 174.50 blk 65 hd. 846# 174.60 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 39 hd. 461# 160.00 blk 39 hd. 605# 162.50 blk 58 hd. 643# 153.00 blk-charx 28 hd. 715# 155.00 blk-mixed 66 hd. 754# 160.80 mixed	Paris Stockyards Paris, KY Dec. 15, 2022 Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2 24 hd. 560# 155.50 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 23 hd. 459# 140.00 blk-charx 21 hd. 542# 153.00 blk-red 78 hd. 557# 174.25 blk 67 hd. 794# 161.75 blk-charx 20 hd. 906# 156.50 blk
Farmers Livestock Glasgow, KY Dec. 12, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 61 hd. 864# 166.00 blk-charx-red Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2 22 hd. 523# 157.00 blk 27 hd. 459# 171.50 blk	Washington Co. Livestock Springfield, KY Dec. 12, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 108 hd. 947# 164.80 blk Feeder Bulls: Medium & Large 1-2 24 hd. 442# 191.00 blk	Blue Grass Maysville Maysville, KY Dec. 13, 2022 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 90 hd. 635# 166.85 blk-charx 140 hd. 652# 165.00 blk-charx 148 hd. 678# 165.75 blk-charx	Blue Grass of Richmond Richmond, KY Dec. 16, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 75 hd. 651# 185.00 blk 57 hd. 728# 171.50 mixed 77 hd. 732# 174.10 mixed 57 hd. 821# 176.90 blk 58 hd. 845# 173.90 mixed 120 hd. 865# 175.90 blk-charx 54 hd. 1000# 169.10 blk-charx
Kentuckiana Livestock Market Owensboro, KY Dec. 12, 2022 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 26 hd. 507# 147.00 blk	United Producers Owenton Owenton, KY Dec. 14, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 67 hd. 779# 173.35 blk-charx 63 hd. 845# 168.25 blk-charx Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 67 hd. 739# 162.50 blk	Blue Grass East Mt. Sterling, KY Dec. 14, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 20 hd. 605# 169.00 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 106 hd. 498# 181.95 blk 74 hd. 671# 167.00 blk-charx-red	Mid-KY Livestock Market Upton, KY Dec. 13, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 32 hd. 768# 164.00 blk 62 hd. 830# 163.00 blk Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 23 hd. 512# 141.00 blk 26 hd. 731# 147.00 mixed 29 hd. 805# 152.00 blk
Blue Grass of Campbellsville Campbellsville, KY Dec. 14, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 30 hd. 861# 155.00 mixed Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 74 hd. 750# 166.75 blk	Russell County Stockyards Russell Springs, KY Dec. 14, 2022 Feeder Heifers: Medium & Large 1-2 76 hd. 721# 161.50 blk-bwf	United Producers Irvington Harned, KY Dec. 12, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 26 hd. 1146# 136.00 blk	Blue Grass of Albany Albany, KY Dec. 14, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 27 hd. 433# 181.50 blk-charx-red 21 hd. 540# 175.00 blk-charx-red 44 hd. 623# 167.00 blk-charx-red 59 hd. 863# 171.95 blk-charx-red
Lake Cumberland Livestock Somerset, KY. Dec. 17, 2022 Feeder Steers: Medium & Large 1-2 75 hd. 682# 180.75 blk			



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Variety	Unit Size	Price Range	Avg. Price
Tomato #1	20 lbs	32.50-67.50	49.96
Tomato #2	20 lbs	9.00-47.50	26.86
Tomato small/canner	20 lbs	9.00-42.50	29.39
Cabbage	hd.	0.85-1.15	1.04

Prices and Quotes furnished by Wholesale and Retail Markets

Hay Prices updated 12/09/2022

Variety	Small Squares	Medium Squares 3x3 3x4	Large Squares 4x4x8	Round Bales
Grass/ Mixed		90.00		40.00-65.00
Alfalfa	7.50	137.00-140.00		
Straw		50.00		
Grass		112.50		

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KENTUCKY GRAIN PRICES							National Weekly Ethanol Plant Report 12/16/2022 Indiana Ohio Illinois Iowa Yellow Corn Spot Bid 6.54 Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton) 10% moisture 215.00-240.00 Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton) 55-60% moisture 115.00-125.00 Kentucky Weekly Cattle Receipts as reported at local markets: 11/26/22 6,479 12/03/22 27,983 12/10/22 27,914 12/17/22 23,023
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.							
12/16/2022 4:00 pm est Bids for next day Cash Bids Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley	Louisville	Pennyrile	Purchase	Bluegrass	Green River	Northern KY	
	6.42	6.48-6.68 7.13	6.53-6.83	6.18	6.68	6.42	
	14.44 7.54	14.60-14.65 7.14-7.39	14.95 NA	14.00 NA	14.70 NA	14.85 NA	
New Crop Delivery Contract Corn #2 Yellow Corn #2 White Soybeans #1 Y Wheat #2 SRW Barley	6.42-6.60 14.44 7.54	6.63-6.68 NA 14.29-14.65 7.29-7.49	6.83 14.99 NA	6.53 14.14 NA	6.83 14.80 6.91	6.55 14.69 NA	

Weekly Feed Ingredient Price Wholesale prices, \$ per ton Rail or Truck FOB Location	Owensboro Grain	Commonwealth Agri-Energy Hopkinsville	St. Louis Weekly Feed Region	Memphis Weekly Feed Region	Corn Belt Feedstuffs Region	Daily Direct Hog Prices LM_HG218 12/19/2022	FOR DAILY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORTS
	12/19/2022	12/19/2022	12/16/2022	12/16/2022	12/16/2022	Barrows & Gilts Purchased Swine Receipts: 5,778 Base Price: \$74.00-\$85.50 Wt. Avg. \$80.33 Compared to prior day, wt. avg. base prices were 1.54 lower. 5 Day Rolling Average: \$81.12	CALL FARMLLOT
Soybean Meal 48% Sol	470.40	—	438.00-453.00	493.00	443.00-498.00		
Soybean Hulls	300.00	—	195.00-225.00	195.00	240.00-310.00		
Corn Distillers Grain Dried	—	255.00	225.00-255.00	—	218.00-245.00		
Distillers Grain Modified	—	140.00	—	—	—		
Distillers Grain Wet	—	85.00	—	—	—		
Corn Condensed Solubles	—	NA	—	—	—		
Corn Gluten Feed 20-21 pct	—	—	190.00-270.00	—	180.00-270.00		
Corn Gluten Meal 60 pct	—	—	630.00-730.00	395.00	630.00-745.00		
Cottonseed Meal 41 pct	—	—	455.00-465.00	330.00	NA		
Whole Cottonseed	—	—	—	—	—		
Wheat Middlings	—	—	—	—	—		

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Ag Expo set for January 25

The 49th annual Ag Expo will be held on Jan. 25 at the Owensboro Convention Center, located at 501 West 2nd St., Owensboro.

Ag Expo provides attendees with educational sessions conducted throughout the morning during an ongoing marketing trade show. Informational updates pertaining to market and production-related topics are combined with an exhibitor business networking opportunity for the upcoming production season discussion.


The event will include a "top third management" panel discussion, moderated by Wayne Mattingly, an ag lender who has served on the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

Panelists include Dr. Steve Isaacs, Extension farm

management specialist and co-director of the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program; Joseph Sisk, Christian County Grain farmer and president of the Kentucky Corn Growers Association; and Steve Allard, retired executive

vice president and chief credit officer of Farm Credit Mid-America.



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