

# Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter August 2023

Cooperative Extension Service  
Robertson County  
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I hope that this newsletter finds everyone well. We are headed towards the end of summer, which means programs are getting ready to ramp up again! We have several things going on this fall, some of which include: Robertson County Beef Field Day, Area Farm Field Day (NEW THIS YEAR), and Farm School For Women.

The East KY Hay Contest is also happening once again. This program allows for you to have your hay tested for **FREE!** This is a great way to know the nutritional value of what you are feeding your livestock. Just call our office and I will come out and take the samples! The deadline to register is **September 1st!**

The Robertson County Livestock Show and Sale is also happening on September 6th. I would like to invite everyone out to support those youth and their projects!

*Samantha Saunders*

Samantha Saunders  
Robertson County Agriculture & Natural Resources/ 4-H  
Youth Development Agent

The Robertson County Extension Office will be closed on Monday, September 4th in observance to Labor Day.



## Robertson County Livestock Show & Sale



September 6, 2023  
Show will begin @ 3:30 PM  
Auction will begin @ 7:00 PM  
Robertson County Ag Barn



We would like to invite you to come out to support our 4-H and FFA youth at the 2023 Livestock Show and Sale!

There are numerous ways to support!  
If you are interested buying, group donations, or add-ons, please reach out to Samantha Saunders or Frank Gifford.



For the **FIRST TIME**, we are allowing our 4-H'ers who completed the country ham project, auction off one of their hams.

If you are looking for a holiday ham or just one to eat, come on out and join us during the livestock auction!

### Inside this edition:

- Robertson County Livestock Show and Sale
- Pesticide Use-Best Management Practices for Homeowners
- Robertson County Beef Field Day
- Pinkeye Prevention begins Long Before the First Bad Eye of the Season
- Beef Bash 2023
- Cheesy Squash Medley
- Soil Sampling
- Farm School For Women
- Area Field Day
- Get a Jump on Next Year's Alfalfa Establishment with Late-Summer Planting
- Farmer's Market Locations & Times
- Easy KY Hay Contest



# Pesticide Use – Best Management Practices for Homeowners

By Ric Bessin, Entomology Extension Specialist

Pesticides for purchase at local stores or online to anyone are referred to as 'General Use' or unclassified pesticides by the EPA. You do not need a license or certification to purchase and use these on your own property. Although these are considered General Use and are inherently less hazardous than Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs), used incorrectly they can be harmful to people and/or the environment. Before purchasing and before using a pesticide, you need to read and understand the label instructions. By following these instructions, you can be reassured you are using the pesticide properly and safely.

Pesticides are used to manage pests, including weeds, insects, plant diseases, and others. But pesticides are just one type of management tactic usually used after other management tactics are employed. These other tactics are preventative and are often referred to as cultural controls; examples include planting resistant varieties, sanitation, altering planting dates to avoid pests, improving drainage and air movement, physical barriers (landscape fabric, row covers, mulch), pruning and hand removal, and rotation.

## Pesticide Best Management Practices

When these other tactics are not sufficient to keep pest problems at a tolerable level, pesticides are sometimes used. Here are some basic best management practices for homeowners when using pesticides.

- If you have had past problems with specific pests or diseases, see if there are cultural controls that can be used to avoid the problem.
- Regularly monitor your plants to identify pest problems early. It is always easier to control problems early than waiting until they become critical. Generally, it is good to check plants at least once a week when conditions favor pest development. Be able to identify what you find or take it to your county Extension office (it's free in Kentucky!).
- Use pesticides only when needed and follow ALL label instructions. Only use them at rates listed on the label. Too high a rate is unsafe, too little may encourage development of resistance by pest populations.
- If a pesticide is needed, carefully match the pesticide with the type of pest to be controlled. For example, any one herbicide only controls some weeds, just as a fungicide will only manage certain disease problems. Select pesticides with low toxicity to humans and other non-target organisms, such as pets and pollinators. Do not use pesticides around the home when the label states 'Not for home use.'
- Make certain that the types of plants being treated are listed on the label. Some pesticides may injure sensitive plants or leave unwanted residues on produce.
- If a pesticide is needed, it must be applied at the right time. With herbicides, this may be before weeds reach a certain stage or height, with diseases this may be before plants become infected, and with insects this may be before they bore into plants.
- Wear rubber gloves, long pants, shoes and socks, and a long sleeve shirt when handling pesticides, making applications, or cleaning and repairing equipment. Other precautions may be listed on some labels. This gear is referred to as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Do not allow children to use pesticides.
- Carefully calibrate your application equipment so you can confidently apply the pesticide at the correct rate. You can practice with plain water. Be sure the equipment is in good condition and doesn't leak or won't break during use.
- Only prepare the amount of material that you need; this will make cleanup that much easier. Excess spray leftover should be applied to the area being treated. Never dispose of excess sprays or rinse water down a drain or where it may enter streams, ponds, or storm water.
- Do not use measuring equipment from the kitchen. Label all equipment 'For Pesticide Use Only.'
- If you use a hose-end sprayer to apply pesticides or fertilizers, be sure to install a backflow preventer.
- Avoid applying a foliar pesticide if a heavy rain is expected immediately after the application.
- Avoid applying sprays when it is windy, as this will favor drift away from the treated area.
- Avoid using the same pesticide product or pesticides within the same chemical group or mode of action over an extended period in order to prevent pests from developing resistance.
- Keep children, pets, and other people out of the treated area until the sprays have thoroughly dried.
- Clean pesticide application equipment after every application. Follow product label directions for cleaning application equipment and disposing of the leftover rinse water. Check equipment for wear and tear after each use.
- When treating fruit or vegetable plants, observe the pre-harvest interval (PHI) to ensure the produce is safe. The PHI is the time between when you finish the application and when it is safe to begin harvest of produce again.
- Store pesticide products in a safe and secure place that is out of reach of children and pets. Keep pesticides in their original containers and placed in a secondary container to prevent any potential leaks from the original containers. Keep pesticides in a cool, dry place and out of the sunlight.



University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service



# ROBERTSON COUNTY BEEF FIELD DAY

September 18, 2023

6:00 PM

1952 Five Lick Rd.  
Mayslick, KY 41055

Counts toward  
CAIP Education  
Credit!

Meal will be cooked and  
served by Robertson  
County FFA

## Topics:

Bull Overview (EPD's, CAIP Qualifications, etc.)  
*Kenley Conner, Select Sires*

Weed Control in Pastures and Hay Fields

Cooperative Extension Service  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# Pinkeye Prevention begins Long Before the First Bad Eye of the Season

*Dr. Michelle Arnold, DVM (Ruminant Extension Veterinarian, UKVDL)*

Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis (IBK) or “Pinkeye” is a costly and exasperating disease for the beef producer and industry. For the producer, the economic costs of pinkeye include lower average weaning weights, pinkeye treatment and labor costs, and discounts received for calves with corneal scars. Despite ongoing research to combat this disease, prevention has proven difficult because of the complicated interaction of pathogens (bacteria), host (cow/calf), and environmental factors that result in pinkeye’s development and its fast spread. Frequent observation of the herd allows early recognition and prompt treatment of affected eyes, resulting in better healing and less transmission to herd mates. However, preventing a pinkeye outbreak does not start with the first bad eye of the season. Once pinkeye cases begin, it is highly contagious and the bacterial pathogens spread rapidly by direct contact and by mechanical vectors, especially face flies. In an outbreak, on average 10% of calves and 3% of cows in a herd are affected in 30 days or less. Although knowledge gaps exist in our understanding of immunity in the bovine eye, prevention starts early by maximizing the herd’s ability to fight disease, and through reduction of sources of eye irritation, injury, and transmission. Pinkeye prevention for individual herds is best accomplished with the help of your local veterinarian because there is no “one size fits all” approach to control.

While fly tags can be an effective method to reduce face flies, it is important to use 2 tags (one in each ear) for optimal control of face flies. Some manufacturers offer “insecticide cattle strips” that can be slipped onto the shaft of an existing ID tag, alleviating the need for two tags in one ear. Read the label and look for tags that “control” face flies, instead of those that “aid in control” and observe the length of time control of face flies is expected. Additional insecticide products will be needed for late season fly control when the tags begin to lose effectiveness. All insecticide ear tags should be removed at the end of the season to decrease development of resistance and, most importantly, rotate fly tags to a different mode of action (MOA) each year. Other non-chemical fly control methods can prove useful such as sticky fly traps placed around high animal traffic areas, or wherever livestock congregate in pastures. There are reports that garlic powder mixed in mineral helps reduce face fly numbers although there is little research to verify its success.

Early detection of animals with the first clinical signs of pinkeye (excessive tearing, squinting, and blinking) and then prompt, effective treatment is essential to reducing spread to herd mates and limiting scar formation in the eye. Long-acting prescription antibiotics such as long-acting oxytetracycline (LA-300®) or tulathromycin (Draxxin®) are specifically labeled for pinkeye treatment. If those two antibiotics lose effectiveness, a veterinarian may prescribe florfenicol (Nuflor®), ceftiofur (Excede®), or other antibiotics to be used in an extra-label manner for treatment. Injectable antibiotics are considered the best option because of their long duration of activity and effectiveness in eliminating bacteria, enabling the cornea to heal. Other remedies may reduce pain and allow healing, but the bacteria can be shed for weeks if not eliminated. When severe ulceration exists, the cornea may need extra protection with either a patch, a third eyelid flap, or the eyelids may need to be sutured (stitched) together. Remember, preventing spread by recognizing and treating affected animals as soon as they show the first symptoms is crucial in controlling a disease outbreak. Active cases of pinkeye with excessive tearing attract flies that widely spread the aggressive bacteria. Additionally, topical application of a fly repellent to the face of an affected animal and quarantine away from the herd will also help reduce spread.

Pinkeye vaccines, whether commercial or autogenous (custom-made), will usually help reduce the number of affected animals or lessen the severity of clinical signs but cannot be completely relied upon to prevent pinkeye. Immune responses to pinkeye vaccines have been shown to be protective in some studies where animals are vaccinated with pili of a certain type and then challenged with a similar strain. A high degree of diversity among genes coding for pili is likely responsible for why some herds see a benefit from vaccination while other herds do not; if the vaccine strain stimulates immunity to a pilus type that is also present in the herd, there should be good protection. In clinical trials, approximately half reported significant protection from commercial pinkeye vaccines. When commercial vaccines are ineffective, an “autogenous” or custom-formulated vaccine can be manufactured from bacteria cultured from affected eyes within a certain area. To make a vaccine, all samples for bacterial culture must be taken early in the course of disease; preferably when the eye is just beginning to tear excessively and before any medications are used. These autogenous vaccine formulations, especially those that include *M. bovoculi* antigens, often show beneficial results in the field. Autogenous vaccines do lose effectiveness within one to two years as mutations and unpredictable recombinations create new bacterial strains and a new batch of vaccine must be made from new cultures. Timing is very important with pinkeye vaccine administration. Peak immunity occurs 1-2 weeks after the booster (2nd) dose and most vaccines require 2 doses, 1-2 weeks apart. Therefore, the optimal pinkeye vaccine program must begin 4-6 weeks before ‘pinkeye season’ starts.

In summary, pinkeye is one of the most common diseases of cattle and is of major economic importance to Kentucky cattle producers. Although research is ongoing to understand this complex disease, the keys to prevention and control of pinkeye still rely on the basics of maximizing the herd’s immune status, face fly control and maintaining as irritant-free environment as possible. Vaccines, either commercial or autogenous, will help but cannot be completely relied upon to prevent pinkeye. Once cases begin, antibiotic treatment decisions are best made with your veterinarian who will consider effectiveness and cost of the antibiotic, withholding times, and provide a prescription for the product. For more information on insect control, ask your local county extension agent for the UK Extension Publication “ENT-11: Insect Control for Beef Cattle”.

# Beef Bash 2023

*Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Professor and Tyler Purvis, Beef Extension Associate, University of Kentucky*

Dr. Roy Burris started Beef Bash at the UKREC almost two decades ago. His vision was to create an event to encourage fellowship among producers, the industry, and the entities that serve the beef industry. A goal was to unite and empower the beef industry for the future.

The theme of Beef Bash 2023 is "Vision of the Future". Our goal is to create an event illustrating the tremendous work done in the beef industry in Kentucky creating a vision of the future of the beef industry. We are redesigning the format to accentuate all the work being done in Kentucky to improve the sustainability of the beef industry. We will have rotations featuring current research from UK and the USDA ARS group, educational opportunities sponsored by UK and Kentucky Beef Network and we will have several demonstrations by the UK Foods group and by the Kentucky Beef Council. In addition to these rotations, we will have an update on new facilities being designed and developed for the new Beef Extension Education Facility in Princeton, the new Livestock Education Center in Versailles, and the new USDA ARS research facility located on campus. We should have something for everyone at this year's Beef Bash.

**Beef Bash 2023 will be held Thursday, September 21st from 1-8 PM at the C. Oran Little Research Center. Registration will begin at 1 PM and the event will begin 2 PM. We will have the educational components from 2-4 PM and again from 6-8 PM. We will use 4-5 PM for participants to visit the tradeshow and interact with our vendors. We will rotate participants through the stations again from 6-8 PM. We extended the rotations into the evening for those who want to attend but cannot get off work.**

Dinner will be provided by the Woodford County Cattleman's Association at 5 PM. Pre-registration for attendees will be \$15 and includes a meal ticket. Come out to see a "Vision for the Future" provided by the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, and the USDA ARS.

For more information, please contact your local ANR Agent. We hope to see you there!



## Recipe

### CHEESY SQUASH MEDLEY

- ½ medium onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 pound yellow squash, sliced into half moons
- 1 pound zucchini, sliced into half moons
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1½ teaspoons salt, divided
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 12-ounce can fat free evaporated milk
- 8 ounces low fat cream cheese
- 2 cups low fat shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- ¼ cup Italian bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons melted butter

**Preheat** oven to 325 degrees F. **Coat** a 9-by-9-inch baking dish with non-stick spray. **Sauté** onions and garlic in oil over medium heat, stirring often. **Toss** sliced zucchini and squash in a bowl with 1 teaspoon salt and

black pepper. In a small saucepan, **whisk together** evaporated milk and cream cheese over low heat, until warm. **Add** zucchini and squash mixture to sautéed onions and garlic and continue to **cook** over medium heat until tender. **Stir** 1 cup shredded cheese and ½ teaspoon salt into the cream cheese mixture. In prepared dish, **layer** half of vegetable mixture, half of the cheese sauce and ½ cup of shredded cheese. **Repeat** layers. **Sprinkle** bread crumbs on top of shredded cheese and **drizzle** with melted butter. **Place** dish in preheated oven and **bake** for 15 minutes. **Broil** (watch closely) for about 4 minutes or until top is golden brown.

**Yield:** 12 servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 190 calories, 12 g fat, 7 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 590 mg sodium, 9 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 10 g protein.



#### Soil Samples

First 10 Soil Samples are free!

\$10 deposit on soil probe

Refund upon return

#### Hay Samples

\$10 (Check) /sample

For more information call the

Extension Office at

(606)-724-5796

#### **East KY**

#### **Hay Contest**

**FREE Hay Testing**

**Call to get on our list by**

**September 1st!**

**(606)-724-5796**



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# FARM SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

**THURSDAYS IN OCTOBER**

**6:00PM**

**FLEMING CO. EXTENSION OFFICE**

1384 ELIZAVILLE RD, FLEMINGSBURG

CALL YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE TO  
REGISTER BY 9/29/2023



- BRACKEN: (606) 735-2141
- FLEMING: (606) 845-4641
- LEWIS: (606) 796-2732
- MASON: (606) 564-6808
- ROBERTSON: (606) 724-5796

OR REGISTER USING  
THE QR CODE



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# AREA FARM FIELD DAY

BRACKEN, FLEMING, LEWIS, MASON & ROBERTSON COUNTIES



\*\*THE FARM FIELD DAY WILL TAKE PLACE AT  
SEVERAL FARMS ON HELENA ROAD \*\*

# FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

WILL BEGIN AT MASTERS ACRES: 3850 HELENA RD, FLEMINGSBURG

## MORNING TOPICS:

- ALL ABOUT BEES
- GENERAL SHEEP & GOAT PRODUCTION
- CATTLE VACCINES
- INSECT ID
- ELECTRIC FENCING DEMO

## AFTERNOON TOPICS:

- IDENTIFYING WEEDS IN PASTURE & HAY FIELDS
- HIGH/LOW TUNNELS
- UTILIZING DRONES IN PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE

## 9:00AM-2:00PM

- 9:00 AM- VENDORS & SIGN-IN
- 9:50 AM- WELCOME
- 10:00 AM- FIRST MORNING SESSION SPEAKERS
- 11:00 AM- 2ND MORNING SESSION SPEAKERS
- 12:00 PM- LUNCH & VENDORS
- 1:00 PM - AFTERNOON SESSION SPEAKERS
- 2:00 PM- CONCLUSION OF EVENT

REGISTER BY QR CODE OR CALL YOUR  
LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE BY 9/22/23:

- BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141
- FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641
- LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732
- MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
- ROBERTSON CO.: (606) 724-5796



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# GET A JUMP ON NEXT YEAR'S ALFALFA ESTABLISHMENT WITH LATE-SUMMER PLANTING

*Robin Newell, Alfalfa Partners – a brand of S&W Seed Company*

Spring 2023 was no 'Goldilocks' spring to be sure. Whether too dry or too wet, too slow to warm up, or simply slammed with the time crunch of annual crop planting, there were geographic areas that didn't get the opportunity to plant newly seeded alfalfa fields to the desired extent.

Take advantage of late-summer alfalfa seeding to get a jump on next year's yield. Slow initial growth during the 6- to 8-week establishment phase of alfalfa cuts off a significant portion of the growing season yield potential when alfalfa is planted in spring. For that reason, establishment-year yields don't measure up to second-year yields in this perennial crop. But there's a work-around for farmers who have open ground in late summer. Alfalfa seedings in late summer can be very successful, and it's a great time of year to plant a new stand if soil moisture is adequate for stand establishment.

Late-summer planting offers some advantages over spring planting by utilizing a portion of the growing season in open ground after small-grain harvest, or following sorghum-sudan, or early corn silage harvest. With adequate fall establishment, the new stand can begin its growth on schedule the following spring, ready to go into full production.



## Tips for Late-Summer Alfalfa Establishment:

- Apply lime, phosphorus, and potassium according to soil test results; there is no point in starting out in the negative column on soil fertility.
- If applying manure prior to planting, manage manure application so that seed placement is not in direct contact with manure. Dissolved salts in manure can impede germination and early growth if dry soil conditions lead to concentrations of dissolved salts close to seed.
- Check the moisture status of your soil profile. Make sure there is enough soil moisture below planting depth to keep seedlings growing after emergence.
- Avoid planting into a bone-dry soil profile unless you can irrigate to get young plants established.
- Even with sufficient soil moisture at rooting depth, you might be planting into dry surface soil. This can lead to uneven emergence unless a timely irrigation or rain follows within a reasonable period.
- Make sure to obtain good seed-to-soil contact for improved soil moisture intake during germination.
- No-till planting has the edge on soil moisture conservation instead of tillage for seedbed preparation.
- If planting via no-till, take advantage of the option for a burn-down herbicide before planting to control existing weeds.
- Try to plant at least 6 weeks before a killing freeze. Shorter timeframes have increased risk of poor winter survival.
- Refrain from taking a fall cutting even if the new stand appears to have adequate growth. Young plants are forming taproots and storing up carbohydrates and will need that energy for winter survival and initiation of robust spring growth.
- Weed pressure is generally less than spring planting and weeds may present fewer problems with late-summer establishment.
- Follow herbicide label recommendations to obtain best control and scout fields soon after emergence for any problem weed escapes.



**Be sure to put the Farmer's Market Days on your Calendar!**

**Blue Licks Market—By the Museum:**

Friday's @ 3-7 pm

Saturday's @ 9 am - 1 pm

**Farmer's Market Building by the Robertson Co. Senior Citizen's Building:**

Friday's @ 9 am - 1 pm

**\*\*Follow their Facebook page for pop-up markets in Mt. Olivet\*\***



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Robertson County Extension  
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Mt. Olivet, KY 41064

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PERMIT 2110

**2023**  
EAST KENTUCKY  
**HAY CONTEST**  
FREE! FOR UP TO 5 SAMPLES

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USE THE QR CODE OR CALL (606) 724-5796 TO SIGN-UP  
**DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP IS 9/1/23**

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August 2023