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

Woodford County  
Cooperative Extension Service  
184 Beasley Drive  
Versailles, KY 40383-8992  
(859) 873-4601  
[woodford.ext@uky.edu](mailto:woodford.ext@uky.edu)



## Out To Pasture January 2023

### ACROSS THE AGENT'S DESK

As we kickoff 2023, I hope we aren't starting to see a pattern. 2022 saw early summer drought and record cold to finish it off. Now in 2023 we are having significant rainfall and record warmth just a few days later. These extreme weather events have been playing havoc on our crops, livestock, and most significantly, our forages. For many of us, this may now be a good time to improve some of our hay and pasture fields that have suffered. One of the easiest and impactful things we can do is to incorporate clovers into our grass fields for many reasons. One of the best times to incorporate these clovers into your system is here in late January or February. As we progress through the year, I will try to highlight what will be crucial during that time in order to get you a productive forage stand. All in all, let's hope that 2023 will be a profitable and prosperous one for all of you!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan 4-6** – [KY Cattlemens Association Convention](#);  
Lexington Convention Center; Lexington, KY

**Jan 10** – Winter Beef Series; Woodford Co. Extension Service; Versailles, KY; 6:30 pm

**Jan 16** – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; office closed

**Jan 19** – [Private Pesticide Applicator Training](#);  
Woodford Co. Extension Service; 10am (repeated)

5:30pm)

**Jan 24** – [Beef Quality & Care Assurance Training](#); Woodford Co. Extension Service; 10am (repeated 5:30pm)

**Feb 2** – [Soybean Intensive Management Workshop](#); Hardin County Extension Service; Elizabethtown, KY

**Feb 7** – [Private Pesticide Applicator Training](#); Woodford Co. Extension Service; 10am

**Feb 13** – [Beef Quality & Care Assurance Training](#); Woodford Co. Extension Service; 10am (repeated 5:30pm)

**Feb 21** – [KY Alfalfa Conference](#); Cave City Convention Center; Cave City, KY ([Registration](#))

**Feb 24** – Stocker Profitability Conference; Fayette County Extension Service; Lexington, KY

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## FORAGE

### Frost Seeding Clover: A Recipe for Success

Legumes are an essential part of a strong and healthy grassland ecosystems. They form a symbiotic relationship with Rhizobium bacteria in which the bacteria fix nitrogen from the air into a plant available form and share it with the legume. Clover also increases forage quality and



quantity and helps to manage tall fescue toxicosis. In the past, the positive impact of clover on tall fescue toxicosis has always been thought to simply be a dilution effect, but new research from the USDA's Forage Animal Production Unit in Lexington shows that compounds found in red clover can reverse vasoconstriction that is caused by the ergot alkaloids in toxic tall fescue. The primary compound found in red clover is a vasodilator called Biochanin A. Clover stands in pastures thin overtime due to various factors and require reseeding every three to four years. There are several techniques for reintroducing clover into pastures including no-till seeding, minimum tillage, and frost seeding. Of these techniques, frost seeding requires the least amount of equipment and is the simplest to implement. Frost seeding is accomplished by broadcasting clover seed onto existing pastures or hayfields mid to late winter and allowing the freezing and thawing cycles to incorporate the seed into the soil. This method works best with red and white clover and annual lespedeza. It is NOT recommended for seeding grasses or alfalfa. This [publication](#) covers the important factors for successful frost seeding. Find this and related publications

at the [UK Forage Website](#) under the “[establishment](#)” tab.

### [Frost Seeding at a Glance](#) (from the new pub.)

- Legumes are an essential part of sustainable grassland ecosystems.
  - Overseeding may be required to maintain and thicken stands.
  - Frost seeding is the simplest method for reintroducing clover back into pastures.
  - Control broadleaf weeds fall prior to frost seeding.
  - Soil test and apply any needed lime or fertilizer before frost seeding.
  - Suppress the existing sod and reduce residue with hard grazing in the fall and winter.
  - Choose well adapted varieties of red and white clover using the [UK forage variety testing data](#).
  - Calibrate seeder and check spread pattern.
  - Broadcast 6-8 lb/A of red clover and 1-2 lb/A of white clover that has been inoculated in mid-February (no later than early March).
  - Control competition from existing grasses by grazing pastures in short intervals until clover seedlings become tall enough to be grazed off.
  - Put pasture back into your regular rotation once seedlings reach a height of 6-8 inches.
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## **BEEF**

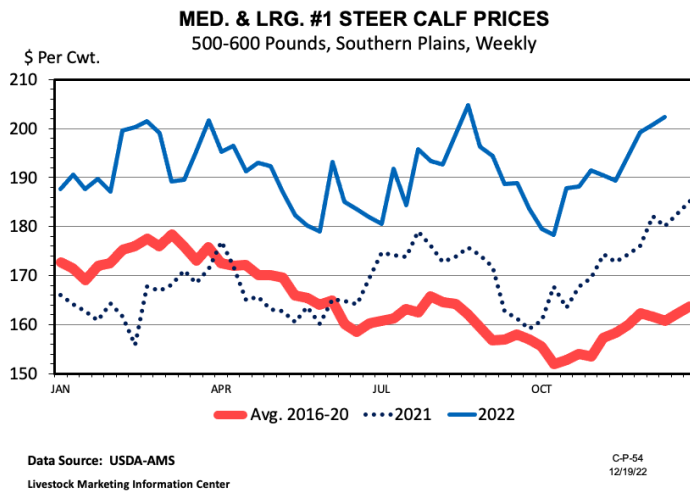
### **2022 in Review**

*Source: Dr. James Mitchell; University of Arkansas Beef Cattle Economist*

This year was challenging for the livestock and poultry industries. High input prices, including agricultural chemicals, farm labor, feed, and fuel, raised the cost of production. Severe drought led to accelerated herd liquidation and poor hay production for cattle producers. Logistical and transportation issues continue to pressure agricultural supply chains. Highly pathogenic avian flu has negatively impacted poultry and egg production. Despite these challenges, U.S. red meat and poultry production is projected to reach a record 107.5 billion pounds in 2022 (Dec WASDE).

The Livestock Marketing Information Center (LMIC) estimates 2022 cash costs for cow-calf producers at \$963/cow or 13% higher year over year. The largest expenditure for cattle producers is harvested forage and feed. LMIC's 2022/2023 season-average hay price is \$160/ton, an increase of 9% compared to the 2021/2022 season-average price. Poor growing conditions this summer and expensive inputs contribute to these record-high hay prices. LMIC's 2022/2023 average corn price is \$7.00/bu, an increase of \$1/bu compared to their 2021/2022 corn price. Feed costs tend to follow the corn market, and we will not

see cheaper corn until at least the 2023/2024 marketing year.



Major cattle production regions have dealt with widespread drought since mid-2020. The Southeast has mostly avoided significant drought impacts. However, conditions this summer deteriorated rapidly. For example, in late June, only 15% of Arkansas pastures were rated as poor or very poor. By late July, USDA estimated that 75%

of Arkansas pasture and range was poor or very poor. The rapid decline and pasture conditions brought large numbers of cows to market in the Southern Plains and Southeast.

Federally inspected beef cow slaughter will finish 12% higher year over year. Through 48 weeks, national beef cow slaughter totals 3.58 million head, and is the highest since 1996. Regionally, beef cow slaughter in Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, & TX) totals 1.02 million head and represents 28% of the national total. These large slaughter totals will significantly affect cattle inventory numbers that USDA will release in January. We will see further tightening of cattle supplies and increasing prices in 2023.

Cattle markets improved in 2022, with prices at their highest since 2014-2015. In the Southern Plains (SP), fed steer prices averaged \$141/cwt, an increase of \$20/cwt compared to last year. SP prices for 500-600 pound steers averaged \$191/cwt or 13% higher year over year. Despite large volumes of cull cows at markets, SP prices for 85-90% lean slaughter cows averaged \$63/cwt, an increase of 17%.

## GENERAL

### Report Fallen Livestock

As we head into the new year, we are coming off a significant cold snap that many of us haven't seen in decades. Fortunately for livestock producers, programs exist in order to help offset the cost of fallen livestock due to weather events. The USDA [Livestock Indemnity Program](#) (LIP) will provide benefits and payments to producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. However, producers only have 30 DAYS to report a loss. If you have lost ANY livestock due to the cold weather event (or for other reasons), I would encourage you to report those losses to the USDA Farm Service Agency located here in the Agriculture Resource Building. A payment will be

triggered once you reach the normal mortality rate within a calendar year. For more information, please contact the Versailles Farm Service Agency office at 859-873-3411.

## POULTRY

### Ordering Chicks from a Hatchery

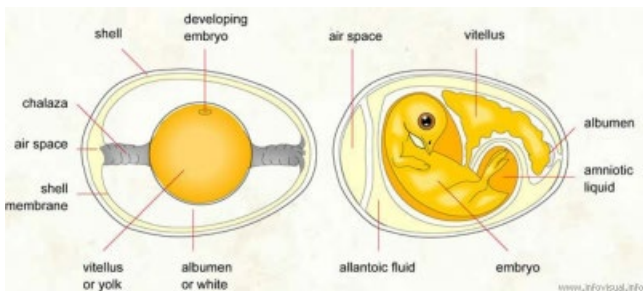
With spring here before you know it, chicks will soon be filling our farm supply stores. For those of you that may want to order directly from a hatchery, here are some points to consider when considering ordering chicks directly from a hatchery.

#### Selecting a Hatchery

It is important that the hatchery you select to get your chickens, turkeys or waterfowl be NPIP-approved. The National Poultry Improvement Plan is a voluntary program developed in 1935 to eradicate Bacillary white Diarrhea (BWD) caused by *Salmonella pullorum*. *S. pullorum* can be transmitted through the egg from hen to chick. By screening breeding stock the occurrence of *Salmonella pullorum* is now very low.

#### Ordering Chicks from a Hatchery

When an egg is laid it contains all the nutrients need for the embryo to grow into a chick (refer to the Factsheet [Chicken anatomy and physiology: Female reproductive system](#) for more information regarding egg production).



Right before the chicks hatches the yolk sac, with the last of the yolk remaining, is taken into the body cavity. This remaining yolk serves as the main food and water source for hatchlings for the first 48 hours. It is this feature of the avian reproductive system that makes shipping chicks

through the mail possible. It is important, however, that the chicks arrive quickly and that they receive feed and water immediately after arrival.

Most hatcheries offer you the following choices:

- Males only (cockerels), females only (pullets) or an unsexed group of chicks with both males and females (referred to as 'straight run'). Chicks can be sexed either through their anatomy (known as vent sexing) or through a sex-linked feature (such as feather color or speed of feather development). In either case expertise is required but no one is 100% accurate. You should expect to get up to 10% of the opposite gender when ordering sexed-chicks.
- Chicks can be vaccinated against Marek's Disease in the hatchery. Marek's is a highly contagious viral disease that causes nerve damage. Marek's is carried by a number of wild bird species so if you are going to be raising your chickens outdoors it is something to consider, especially if there is a history of the disease in your area. Waterfowl such as ducks and geese do not require the vaccine.
- Some hatcheries may also be able to offer a vaccine for coccidiosis or supplementation with a probiotic. These are typically done with the chicks in the

shipping boxes.

Young chicks (as well as hatchlings of other poultry species) are unable to regulate their own body temperature until they are a few weeks old. It is important that the chicks be kept warm, especially while being shipped. While in the shipping containers the chicks are kept warm by the body heat generated by the chicks themselves. For this reason most hatcheries have a minimum shipping order of 25 chicks. The minimum order for other species depends on their size. Minimum orders for ducklings can range from 10-15 depending on the hatchery.

Chicks are shipped in cardboard boxes designed to keep them warm while allowing the fresh air to enter. The boxes come in various sizes but two are most common - small boxes designed for 25 chicks and larger boxes designed for 100 chicks (the box is divided into four areas of 25 chicks each).

Hatchlings are shipped via express or priority mail to ensure quick delivery. Most hatcheries won't ship right before or after a weekend so that chicks are less likely to get delayed enroute.

When the chicks arrive at your local post office they will call you to come pick them up rather than delivering them to your door. In some cases the chicks may arrive early in the morning (prior to post office officially open to the public) but you can usually pick up the chicks from a rear access door.

Although most shipment of chicks arrive safely and with little distress, most hatcheries will include extra chicks to account for any mortalities that may occur.

Some hatcheries insure chick shipments with the post office. Whether the shipment was insured or not it is a good practice to open the box when at the post office to check for any losses. In order to be reimbursed for chicks that have died in transit a postal worker needs to sign your claim form as a witness to the loss. If you take the box home you can not bring it back later to make a claim since they have no idea what happened to the chicks from the time they left the post office.

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## **PUB HUB**

[Ag Economic Situation & Outlook](#)

## Ag Economic Situation & Outlook U.S. AND KENTUCKY

Dr. Will Snell, Dr. Kenny Burdine, Dr. Jordan Shockley, Dr. Jill Stowe, Dr. Greg Halich, Dr. Tim Woods, Mr. Jerry Pierce, and Dr. Jeff Stringer

Published December 2022

Department of Agricultural Economics  
(859) 257-5762 | [agecon.ca.uky.edu](http://agecon.ca.uky.edu)

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## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Cost Share Programs

Be sure to visit the Woodford County Conservation District [website](#) for more information on other cost share programs, such as the cover crop programs, state cost share, or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

### Shared-Use Equipment Rental

Be sure to check out some new equipment and where you can find them!

| Equipment                            | Location                      |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Haybuster 10 ft no-till drill        | Agriculture Resource Building |
| Haybuster 10 ft no-till drill        | Versailles Southern States    |
| Haybuster 7 ft no-till drill         | Agriculture Resource Building |
| Great Plains 7 ft no-till drills (2) | Versailles Southern States    |
| Pull-behind ag lime spreader         | Agriculture Resource Building |
| In-line hay wrappers (2)             | Woodford Feed Company         |
| Pull-behind post driver              | Agriculture Resource Building |

# Woodford County

## Dead Animal Removal Program



### Approved Dead Animal Removal Businesses

#### **Large Animal Composting of KY**

Lexington, KY - (859) 583-7761  
www.luckydeadanimal.com

#### **Conboy Enterprises**

Lexington, KY - (859)-221-6998  
conboyenterprises.com

UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Lexington, KY - Cost Share only  
for UK disposal fee, and only if farmer transports animal to the lab.

#### Program Guidelines

- Farmers can use any of the above approved Woodford County pickup businesses, or transport the carcass themselves to a composting facility, and receive **\$100** in cost share for your pickup.
- Farmers must pay the pickup business **IN FULL** at the time of pickup and then turn in their pickup or compost facility receipt to the Woodford County Conservation District for cost-share payment.
- A farmer will be reimbursed 30 – 60 days after turning in a receipt.
- Cost-share for pickup of farm livestock and horses from Woodford County farms only.
- This year's program will start July 1, 2022 and end June 30, 2023 or until funds are depleted (Wildlife not valid for Cost Share)
- ***Limit of 20 head per year per producer, unless case of natural disaster***

#### Turn Your Receipts Into

Woodford County Conservation District  
woodfordcd@gmail.com  
180 Beasley Road, Versailles, KY 40383  
(859) 873-4941, ext. 3

#### Funding Provided By

Woodford County Fiscal Court  
Woodford County Conservation District  
Woodford Ag Development Board

## RECIPE

### One Pot Italian Tortellini Dinner

*Source: 2022 KYNEP Food and Nutrition Calendar : East Region (4, 6) Nutrition Education Program.*

#### Ingredients

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium carrot, chopped
- 3 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 2 (15-ounce) cans no-salt-added tomato sauce
- 1 (8-ounce) package fresh sliced mushrooms
- 4 cups fresh prewashed spinach (stems removed)
- 1 (19-ounce) package frozen cheese tortellini
- 1 cup low-moisture, part-skim shredded mozzarella cheese





## Directions

1. Wash hands with warm water and soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds.
2. Gently scrub the onion and carrot with a clean vegetable brush under cool running water before preparing them. Rinse the mushrooms under cold running water, being sure to remove any dirt; pat dry.
3. Heat a large nonstick pot or skillet over medium heat and add ground beef, onions, and carrots. Cook until ground beef is browned and has reached an internal temperature of 160 degrees F, using a food thermometer.
4. Drain fat from ground beef mixture. Add garlic, oregano, and Italian seasoning; stir until combined.
5. Add the tomato sauce, mushrooms, and spinach. Stir until mixture comes to a boil.
6. Cover with lid and simmer on low for 10 minutes. Remove lid and gently stir in frozen tortellini. Cover and cook tortellini following package directions (usually 2 to 5 minutes).
7. Top with mozzarella cheese and allow to melt before serving.
8. Store leftovers in the refrigerator within 2 hours.

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