

OF WHEAT & WINDROWS AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTLER April 2023



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

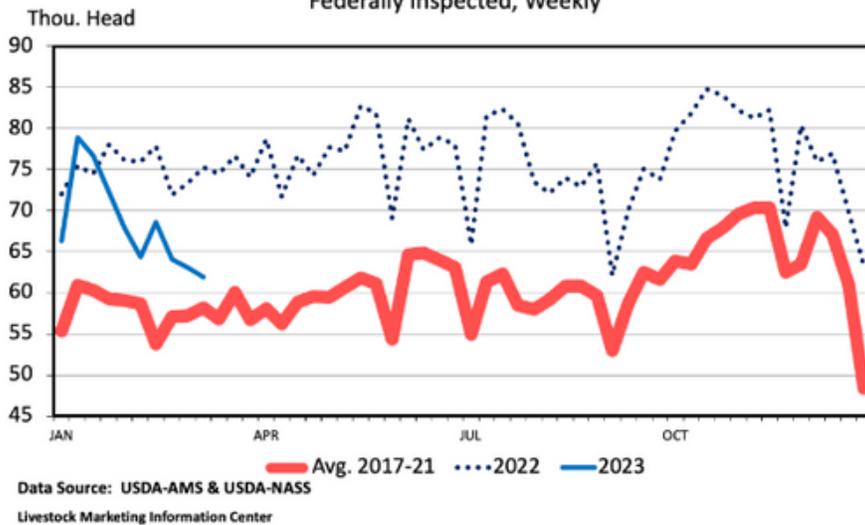
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Beef Cow, Heifer, and Steer Cattle Slaughter

By: Dr. Josh Maples, Mississippi State University

BEEF COW SLAUGHTER
Federally Inspected, Weekly



Weekly cattle slaughter began 2023 trending lower than a year ago. Beef cow slaughter, heifer slaughter, and steer slaughter have each begun 2023 with lower slaughter totals than in 2022.

The recent decline in beef cow slaughter is perhaps the most interesting given the large cow slaughter totals seen in 2022. Drought and higher input costs relative to calf prices lead to really high beef cow slaughter in 2022 (about 11 percent above 2023). However, beef cow slaughter has moderated to begin 2023 as shown in the chart above.

Continued on page 3.

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Buttercup in Grazed Pastures

By: Dr. JD Green, University of Kentucky
Extension Weed Scientist

Buttercups and other winter annual weeds have already emerged or renewed their active growth during the past few weeks. This has been particularly true with the early arrival of warmer temperatures that has occurred this winter. As a cool season weed, buttercup often flourishes in over grazed pasture fields with poor stands of desirable forages. In fact, many fields that have dense buttercup populations are fields heavily grazed by animals during the fall through the early spring months.

Buttercups mostly grow as winter annuals, although some species are classified as short-lived perennials. In Kentucky there are different species of buttercups that are known to impact pasture fields, such as hispid buttercup (*Ranunculus hispidus*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), tall buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), and small flower buttercup (*Ranunculus arbotivus*). These plants typically produce five, shiny yellow petals beginning in the early spring. Although different species may have somewhat similar flower heads, each of these buttercup species differs somewhat in their vegetative leaf characteristics. New seed begin to develop during the time petals are showy. Waiting until after flowers appear can be too late to implement control tactics. This is one reason buttercups survive year to year and new plants emerge each year.

Some buttercup plants may emerge in the fall but most plants emerge from seed during the late winter months when temperatures begin to warm. Therefore, pasture management practices that improve and promote growth of desirable plants during these months is one of the best methods to help compete against the emergence and growth of this plant. Whereas, livestock animals allowed to overgraze fields during the fall and winter months is one of the main factors that contribute to buttercup problems. Mowing fields or clipping plants close to the ground in the early spring before buttercup plants can produce flowers may help reduce the amount of new seed produced, but mowing alone will not totally eliminate seed production.

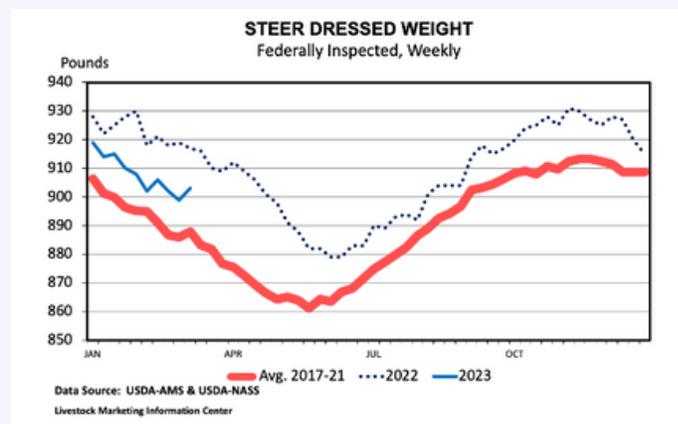
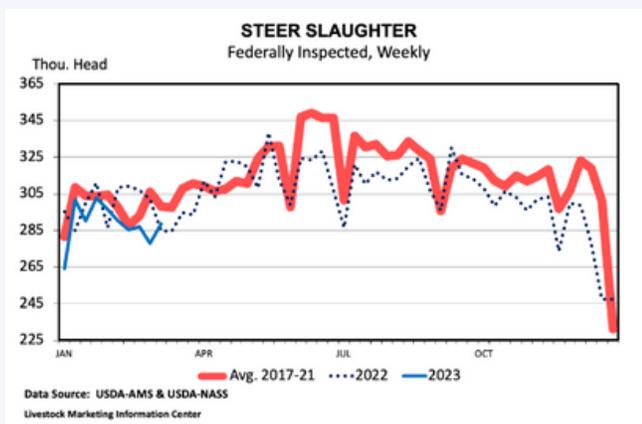
For chemical control, herbicides registered for use on grazed grass pastures that contain 2,4-D alone will effectively control buttercup. Depending on other weeds present herbicides that contain dicamba+2,4-D (eg. Weedmaster, Brash, Rifle-D, etc.), aminopyralid (eg. GrazonNext, Duracor), triclopyr (eg. Crossbow), or metsulfuron (eg. Cimarron) can also be used. However, legumes such as clovers interseeded with grass pastures will be severely injured or killed by these other herbicide products.

To read more click [HERE](#).

Over the first 10 weeks of 2023, beef cow slaughter totaled 683,700 head which is nearly 9 percent below the first 10 weeks of 2022. Improved drought conditions in many parts of the U.S. and optimism about calf prices are key contributors to fewer cows going to market than a year ago. It is worth noting that beef cow slaughter typically declines seasonally during the first few months of the year.

Heifer slaughter has also flipped to a slight decline after large totals in 2022. Heifer slaughter totaled 1.96 million head through the first 10 weeks of 2023 which is about 0.5 percent lower than the same period of 2022. However, this is an important shift from the larger totals seen in 2022. Heifer slaughter in 2022 was about 5 percent higher than in 2022. The reasons for higher heifer slaughter in 2022 were similar to beef cows: drought and input costs relative to expected returns from retaining heifers for breeding purposes.

Steer slaughter was 3.5 percent lower over the first 10 weeks of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. Through the week of March 11th, 2.88 million head of steers were processed which is down from 2.99 million head to start 2022. Shown in the first chart below, steer slaughter was not elevated above average levels in 2022 like beef cow and heifer slaughter totals were. Steer slaughter in 2022 was about 2 percent lower than in 2021. Smaller calf crops over the past few years mean there are fewer steers moving through feedlots and that trend is expected to continue in 2023. Also interesting is the lower steer dressed weights (shown in the second chart below) as feedlots become increasingly current. Fewer steers slaughtered and lower dressed weights are key drivers to the expectation of lower beef production in 2023.



Inclusion Statement

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the bases of race, color, ethnic origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to Equal Opportunity Office, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546, the UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

Daily Management of a Home Poultry Incubator Webinar

April 4, 2023

3:00 PM EST

For those wanting to hatch out small batches of fertile eggs, a home incubator is a great opportunity to do so. Ron Kean from the University of Wisconsin will be discussing the day-to-day management of a home incubator to maximize hatchability.

Register in advance for this webinar:

<https://uky.zoom.us/webinar/register/PT0jZHQAuHN-mEmtzmbg>

Dates to Know

April

4th - Daily Management of a Home Incubator Webinar:

<https://uky.zoom.us/webinar/re...PT0jZHQAuHN-mEmtzmbg>

9th - Easter Day!

11th - Kentucky Fencing School in Scottsville, KY from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Cost \$35/participant. Get registration form [here](#).

13th - Kentucky Fencing School in Richmond, KY from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Cost \$35/participant. Get registration form [here](#).

18th - Boyle County Cattlemen's Meeting at the Boyle County Cooperative Extension Office at 6:30 pm with a board meeting at 5:30 pm.

20th - Kentucky State University Third Thursday Thing: Farmers Markets and Water Quality starting at 10:00 am at 1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort KY 40601.

22nd - Earth Day Celebration at the Boyle County Cooperative Extension Office from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

29th - Kentucky Goat Producers Association & Fort Harrod Goat Association 2023 Goat Field Day at Boyle County Cooperative Extension Office with check in at 9:30 am.

May

4th- Hatching Waterfowl Eggs in a Home Incubator Webinar

<https://connect.extension.org/event/hatching-waterfowl-eggs-in-a-home-incubator>

9th - University of Kentucky Wheat Field Day

14th- Mother's Day!

14th-19th - 2023 International Grassland Congress at Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington KY.

18th - Kentucky Agricultural Training School: Crop Scouting Clinic

Agent Remarks



Hello,

I hope everyone is having a good start to the new year. We've had several successful programs already this year. Thanks for the continued support. This warmer weather brings me hope that barbeques and days spent outdoors.

Tyler Ray

Contact me at:
(859)236-4484
tyler.ray@uky.edu

2023 GOAT FIELD DAY

KENTUCKY
GOAT PRODUCERS
ASSOCIATION



& FORT HARROD
GOAT ASSOCIATION

**Featuring a Conformation Clinic,
Hoof Trimming Clinic, &
Performance Record Workshop**

Date: April 29, 2023

Location: Boyle Co. Extension Office,
99 Corporate Drive, Danville, KY 40422

Time: Check-in 9:30am, starts at 10am EST

Fee: \$10/person covers all materials and lunch

Register online at: www.kysheepandgoat.org/product-page/kgpa-fort-harrod-field-day



IGC

International Grassland Congress

Soil, Animal, & Human Health

Northern KY - May 14-19, 2023

internationalgrasslands.org

Sub-Themes

Sub-Theme 1: Grassland Ecology

Sub-Theme 2: Grassland Production & Utilization

Sub-Theme 3: Livestock Production Systems

Sub-Theme 4: Grassland Sustainability, Innovations & Initiatives

Sub-Theme 5: Grassland Policies, Social Issues & Ecosystem Services



Get More Animals to Call Your Woodlands Home

By: Christopher Reeves, Forestry

Woodlands may already be home to birds, bats, snakes, salamanders, turkeys, white-tailed deer, and many other types of wildlife. But how can woodlands be improved to make them more attractive to wildlife? Like most things in life, a plan is paramount. Do woodland owners want to attract more game species such as deer and turkey or more songbirds for bird watching? Narrowing down objectives can help determine the management activities that need to be implemented to meet goals.

In general, all wildlife need three basic things: food, cover, and water. It's just that each species needs different types of food, cover, and water. That's where contacting a natural resources professional such as a Private Lands Biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources or a Service Forester with the Kentucky Division of Forestry can help. These individuals can provide guidance on how to attract the kinds of wildlife desired in a woodland.

Food

Woodlands provide various types of food for animals. Berries and fruits (referred to as 'soft' mast) and nuts and acorns ('hard' mast) are produced by numerous shrub and tree species. Thus, having a wide variety of these food producing plants in the canopy and understory of woodlands can attract a wide range of wildlife. Proper timber management and wildlife management usually go hand in hand. Consider thinning young stands with an emphasis on enhancing the dominance of a variety of mast-producing species in the main canopy. Thinning also opens the canopy allowing light to reach the forest floor. This light will allow for the development of more abundant cover and food in the understory. Although larger trees typically produce more mast than smaller ones, size alone is not a good indicator of acorn or nut production. Individual trees success at producing large mast crops for several years is the best indicator of future success. Reduce competition around the crowns of these high mast-producing trees to ensure their survival and enhance their mast-production capabilities (see Making Your Favorite Trees Bigger and Better factsheet [FORFS17-06]).

Cover

Cover refers to any type of habitat that an animal considers their temporary or permanent home. Salamanders need streams, golden-winged warblers need open shrubby areas, cerulean warblers need older forests, frogs...

To read more click [HERE](#).



Bermudagrass A Summer Forage in Kentucky

By: S.R. Smith, Jimmy C. Henning, Chris Teutsch,
University of Kentucky, Plant & Soil Sciences

Climatically, Kentucky lies within a transition zone, where extreme temperatures and variations in rainfall occur. Cool season grasses, such as tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), and timothy (*Phleum pratense*) are well adapted to this zone. However, forage productivity and quality of these species typically reach seasonal lows in the midsummer months, when cool season grasses grow more slowly.

Bermudagrass [*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers] can be used successfully as part of a livestock forage program to supplement summer production of cool season grasses. It is high-yielding, sod-forming, warm season perennial grass that is most productive on well-drained, fertile soils. Bermudagrass is widely grown in the southern United States for pasture and hay.

Like other warm season plants, bermudagrass makes its best growth at 80 to 90° F. Growth is very slow when temperatures are below 60° F and also tends to decline above 95° F. In most years, bermudagrass growth starts in late April and continues rapidly until mid-September, when it is limited by cooling temperatures. Thus, bermudagrass is very productive during June, July, and August (Figure 1).

Wise use of cool season perennial grasses and legumes in combination with bermudagrass can help extend the grazing season and reduce the demand on winter feed supplies. However, the potential for winterkill always exists for bermudagrass in Kentucky, so consider only the most winter-hardy varieties. In Kentucky, planting dates should be targeted for early May through mid-June if irrigation is not available.

Establishment by Sprigging

Bermudagrass varieties suitable for Kentucky's environment can be established from sprigs or seed. Stands established by sprigging involve the spreading and incorporation of rhizomes and stolon pieces of bermudagrass plants into a prepared seedbed or the direct planting of these plant parts with specialized sprig-planting equipment. Bermudagrass varieties that require establishment by sprigging do not produce viable seed.

To read more click [HERE](#).



KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY
Land Grant Program

THIRD THURSDAY THING

Topics: Farmers Markets
and Water Quality

April 20, 2023 | 10 AM EDT

Join us in person at the Harold R. Benson Research &
Demonstration Farm or online!



1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601



youtube.com/kysuag/live

Recipe

Duck and Potatoes



Duck and Potatoes

- 1 wild duck, cleaned
- 1 unpeeled apple, cut in half
- 3 to 4 cups water
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 4 large potatoes, diced
- 3 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 teaspoons ground sage

Place whole duck and apple in a 5-quart kettle with 3 to 4 cups of water. Cover. Boil for 30 minutes. Place duck in 15x10 baking dish, add 2 cups liquid from boiled duck. Season

with salt and pepper. Cover. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 45 minutes. Add potatoes, carrots, onion, and sage. Bake 45 minutes to 1 hour longer or until duck and potatoes are tender. (The internal temperature of the duck should reach 165 degrees Fahrenheit at the leg joint.) If necessary, add water to keep liquid on duck and potatoes.

Note: To reduce fat content, remove skin and visible fat before cooking. This will also reduce "wild" flavor.

Yield: 6 servings

Nutrition Facts

6 servings per container
Serving size 3 ounces meat, one potato, 1/2 cup vegetables (484g)

Amount per serving
Calories 600

	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 29g	37%
Saturated Fat 10g	50%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 150mg	50%
Sodium 190mg	8%
Total Carbohydrate 48g	17%
Dietary Fiber 6g	21%
Total Sugars 7g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 38g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 53mg	4%
Iron 10mg	60%
Potassium 1,430mg	30%

*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

Soil Testing

Just a reminder Boyle County Extension Office offers **FREE** soil testing to anyone in the county up to 40 samples per person per year. For soil sample bags or more information call the Boyle County Extension Office at (859)236-4484.

Dead Animal Removal

The Boyle County Conservation District and the Boyle County Fiscal Court sponsors the removal of deceased animals in Boyle County. If you have a deceased animal **call (859) 238-1137**, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. The deceased animal needs to be in an accessible area for pick up.



Be sure to follow the **Boyle Co. Agriculture & Natural Resources** on Facebook to stay up to date on events, classes and surveys.



Tyler Ray

Tyler Ray, County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

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.