**Ballard County**

**Ag Newsletter**

A storm clouds over a field

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**April 2025**



As I write this newsletter, we are entering the range for optimal corn planting in the western parts of Kentucky. April 10-15 is historically the best with yields slowly dropping off until we reach mid-May. Our first window of planting included both corn and soybeans. The jury is still out. I looked at several corn fields today with a few plants coming up. Most still looked healthy when I dug them up with a ½ inch root and similar to smaller shoot which should be salvageable. In lower areas of the field, where water stood longer, maybe not, but we will know in a few days. I have already seen some of the soybean fields being replanted. It is not an easy decision to make. Talk to your seed rep and also your crop insurance agent and find out what your options are.

Nine inches of rain is a lot of water. We have proven that it is better when it comes over several days as opposed to several hours, but it still caused many problems. A question that comes with this much water is what happened to my nitrogen? For wheat fields where all the nitrogen has been applied, rate and timing before the rain are important. For the majority of our wheat that had a split application of nitrogen, losses are probably minimal. The wheat crop had probably taken up most all the N that it could absorb. Additional N applications now do not tend to increase yield but it may increase grain protein levels.

Nitrogen already applied on corn ground comes down to the amount of N, type of N and how long an area stays waterlogged. We can lose N in several ways. On our rolling ground, actual erosion and runoff will lead to some fertilizer N loss and organic matter loss from just washing away. Other types of losses are leaching and denitrification. Leaching is where water moves down through the soil profile and carries N with it. This is not a huge problem in most of our soils, much worse in sandy soils and can be more of a problem in tiled fields. Most of our soils have a fragipan and that tends to limit N losses from leaching. It increases our chances of loss from denitrification. Denitrification occurs in water logged soils where soil microbes convert the N to gases that then bubble up to the surface where they are lost. Ammonium Nitrate and Urea can easily be lost through denitrification. Nitrification inhibitors can help. They prevent the microbes from working for a time period hopefully allowing the soil to dry out. Anhydrous ammonia is the least likely form to be lost to denitrification as the anhydrous gas tends to sterilize the band of soil and it takes the microbes several weeks to get back up and running to cause a loss of N. There is a long article on N losses in the April addition of the field crop newsletter that I mentioned in last months letter.

**Wheat Field Day**

The 2025 edition of the UK Wheat Field Day will ne held on May 13 at the Research Center in Princeton. Registration starts at 8:30 am with the wagons leaving at 9:00. The meeting will conclude with lunch at noon. Lunch is sponsored by the KY Small Grain Growers Association. There will be several timely topics including fertility, disease control, insects, marketing and the variety trials.

There will be CCA Credits and Pesticide Credits available. They are 1 hour IPM and 1.5 hours Crop Management for CCA’s. For Pesticide it is 1 CEU category 1a and 1 CEU for category 10. The address is UKREC Farm, 1205 Hopkinsville St. Princeton KY 42445.

**BOI Update**

There has finally been some clarity on the BOI (Beneficial Ownership Information). Those of you with LLC’s and Family Corporations will recognize what I’m talking about. I am attaching an article here from the Ag Economics Department that finally brings a little relief.

**Oh BOI! Big Changes to Reporting Requirements under the Corporate Transparency Act**

Author: Jonathan Shepherd

Published: March 31, 2025

The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) was passed into law in January 2021 but didn't take effect until January 2024. Under its original provisions, the law required individuals who qualified as beneficial owners to report their Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), with failure to comply potentially resulting in hefty fines or even imprisonment. Despite its bipartisan backing, the public remained largely unaware of the law until late 2023, when reporting deadlines were approaching. This led to numerous lawsuits challenging the CTA, resulting in a series of legal rulings that created uncertainty, with reporting requirements fluctuating between being enforced and suspended.

As of March 21, 2025, we now have clarity on how the CTA impacts businesses and who is required to report. FinCEN has issued an interim final rule specifying that only foreign entities—those formed under a foreign country's laws and registered to do business in the U.S.—are subject to the CTA's reporting requirements. These foreign entities are not required to report any U.S. individuals who may be beneficial owners of the company. Additionally, U.S. persons are exempt from providing their BOI to any foreign company that falls under the updated CTA reporting rules.

According to the new rule, foreign entities have 30 days from the adoption date (March 21, 2025) to comply, while newly registered foreign entities must submit their initial BOI to FinCEN within 30 days of registering in the U.S. It is estimated that this updated rule will exempt 99.8% of U.S. small businesses from having to comply with the CTA. If you own or operate a foreign entity, it’s important to consult with qualified legal counsel to fully understand your obligations under the revised CTA.

**Timely Tips**

***Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky***

**Spring Calving Cow Herd**

* Watch cows and calves closely. Work hard to save every calf. Calves can be identified with an ear tag while they are young and easy to handle. Commercial male calves should be castrated and implanted. Registered calves should be weighed at birth.
* Cows that have calved need to be on an adequate nutritional level to rebreed. Increase their feed after calving. Do not let them lose body condition. Keep feeding them until pastures are adequate.
* Do not “rush to grass” although it can be really tempting. Be sure that grass has accumulated enough growth to support the cow’s nutritional needs before depending solely upon it. Cows may walk the pastures looking for green grass instead of eating dry feed. This lush, watery grass is not adequate to support them. Keep them consuming dry feed until sufficient grass is available to sustain body condition. We’ve spent too much money keeping them in good condition to lose it now!
* *Prevent grass tetany!* Provide magnesium in the mineral mix until daytime temperatures are consistently above 60oF. Mineral supplement should always be available and contain a minimum of about 14% magnesium. Make sure that your mineral mix also contains adequate selenium, copper, and zinc. You can ask your feed dealer about the UK Beef IRM High Magnesium Mineral.
* Make final selection of heifer replacements. Strongly consider vaccinating with a modified-live BVD vaccine.
* Purchase replacement bulls at least 30 days before the breeding season starts. Have herd bulls evaluated for breeding soundness (10-20% of bulls are questionable or unsatisfactory breeders). Get all bulls in proper condition (BCS 6) for breeding.
* If you are going to use artificial insemination and/or estrous synchronization, make plans now and order needed supplies, semen, and schedule a technician.
* Prebreeding or "turnout" working is usually scheduled for late April or May between the end of calving season and before the start of the breeding season (while cows are open). Consult your veterinarian about vaccines and health products your herd needs. Decide now on the products needed and have handling facilities in good working order. Dehorn commercial calves before going to pasture.

**Fall Calving Cow Herd**

* Determine pregnancy in your herd now and cull open ones at weaning especially if the open cows are older than 6 years of age.
* Re-implant feeders.
* Consult with your veterinarian about preweaning working of the herd.
* You may let calves creep-graze wheat or rye if it is available. Calves will benefit from extra feed until spring grass appears.
* Plan marketing strategy for feeder calves.

**Stockers**

* Do not go to pastures too soon, give plants some growing time. Then stock at two to three times the July rate and rotate rapidly.
* "Condition" purchased calves prior to grazing. They should be processed and fed a conditioning diet prior to being placed on pasture. You can also use this time to introduce them to electric fences used in rotational grazing.
* Provide a good mineral supplement which contains a rumen modifier (Rumensin, Bovatec, etc.) along with adequate levels of copper and selenium.

**General**

* We have made a muddy mess this winter, so be prepared to reseed bare spots. Our forage group has some excellent information on restoring heavy-traffic areas.
* Make plans to improve hay feeding areas to avoid muddy conditions like we have faced this winter. Consider geotextile fabric with gravel or concrete feeding pads.
* Prepare for the grazing season. Check fences and make necessary repairs. Check your corral, too.
* Get everything ready to make high quality hay in May! Have equipment serviced and spare parts on hand. Order baler twine now. Be prepared to harvest an adequate supply of hay when you have the opportunity. Re-supply the extra hay that you fed out of the barn. This past winter caused most producers to exhaust their hay supply, so it is time to re-stock.
* Plan now for fly control ... decide what fly control program that you will use but do not put insecticide eartags on cattle until fly population appears.

**Grazing too early and too closely can have season long impacts on pastures productivity!!!**

***Dr. Chris Teutsch, University of Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton***

After a long winter we are eager to get cattle back on grass. However, starting to graze too early can set pastures back. As grass initiates growth in the

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| Graze winter annuals. |
| Flash graze paddocks that were frosted with clover. |
| Allow calves and lambs to creep graze. |
| As pasture growth begins, rotate through pastures quickly to keep up with initial growth. |
| As pasture exceeds the needs of grazing livestock, remove some pastures from the rotation and allow growth to accumulate for hay or silage harvest. |
| Get equipment ready to harvest hay at the late boot stage to early head stage top optimize yield and forage quality. |
| Determine the need for and prepare to plant warm-season annuals. |

**FORAGE MANAGEMENT TIPS**

spring, it mobilizes energy reserves in the stem base and crown. After this initial energy mobilization, it

is important to allow the grass plant to develop adequate leaf area (solar panel) to carry out photosynthesis at a rate that meets its energy needs for growth and maintenance and allows for the replenishment of stored energy that was mobilized. Starting to graze too early reduces the plant’s ability to accomplish this task.

**Tips for Managing Spring Pasture Growth**

***Implement rotational grazing***. To fully utilize the spring flush of pasture growth **YOU** must be in control of grazing. In a continuous grazing system, the cows are in charge. By utilizing rotational stocking, you start to make the decisions. Implementing a rotational stocking system may be as simple as closing some gates or stringing up some polywire.

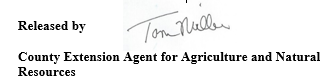
A plate of food with sauce

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***Feed a little hay in late winter and early spring***. It is tempting to just let cattle roam and pick pastures for early grass growth, but this can set pastures back and reduce overall dry matter production. It is important to restrict cattle to one area, feed a little hay, and allow pastures to accumulate 4 to 5” of growth before starting to graze.

***Start grazing at 4 to 5” of growth***. Another common mistake that graziers make is waiting too long to start grazing. If you wait until the first paddock is ready to graze, 8-10” of growth, by the time you reach the last paddock it will be out of control. Starting a little bit early allows you to establish a “grazing wedge” (Figure 1).

***Rotate animals rapidly***. It is important to realize that grazing pastures closely and repeatedly as they initiate growth in early spring can reduce production for the entire season. Therefore, it is important to keep animals moving rapidly through the system. The general rule is that if grass is growing rapidly then your rotation should be rapid. This will allow you to stay ahead of the grass by topping it off and keeping it in a vegetative state.

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**Burger Bowl**

Scan

QR code for the UK recipe website!

A recipe on a white background

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