

Kentucky Master Grazer Educational Program

2025 Kentucky Grazing Calendar

BETTER PASTURE & GRAZING MANAGEMENT

SPONSORED BY  GALLAGHER



Kentucky Master Grazer
Educational Program

Dedication

Robert Hall, Jr.

The 2025 Kentucky Grazing Calendar is dedicated to Robert (Bobby) Hall, Jr.,

Bobby Hall has been raising livestock in Central Kentucky for more than seven decades. A native of Scott County, Kentucky, he grew up on his family's farm producing tobacco, rye, wheat, corn, feeder cattle, hogs, sheep, and hay. He ran a purebred Suffolk sheep operation for many years, and now custom grazes cattle on high quality pasture on his Scott County farm. Bobby is the founder of Hallway Feeds, a major supplier of premium feeds especially targeting the equine market.

After graduating from the University of Kentucky in 1953, he managed purebred Angus herds in Bloomfield, Kentucky, and Duchess County, New York. He served in the army as a veterinary food inspector from 1955-1957. Returning to Lexington, Kentucky, Hall accepted the position of Beef Cattle Herdsman at the University of Kentucky, under Dr. W. P. Garrigus, from 1958-1964.

When Bobby took the job of beef herdsman, Dr. Garrigus wanted him "to show the Midwest that we could do just as good as they could." UKY wanted a successful show presence because they felt it was the best way to recruit the top livestock students nationwide. Under Bobby's leadership, they came home with their share of the trophies. "We always came home with the silver," Bobby remembers.

In 1964 he purchased a livestock feed mill in Lexington which ultimately became Hallway Feeds. The mill became the only family owned, equine focused feed manufacturer in the country, supplying successful thoroughbred breeders and trainers, as well preeminent horses in competitive English and Western disciplines in the United States and abroad.

Bobby was intimately involved in bringing the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) from Chicago to Louisville, starting with the sheep show. Hall served on the NAILE executive committee, representing sheep from 1975-2012.

Bobby has received numerous honors, including being the first inductee into the University of Kentucky Animal Sciences Hall of Fame (1987), the Harold Workman Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award (2014), and the UK College of Agriculture Distinguished Alumni Award (2016). In 2024, Bobby received the Grassroots Award from the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, their highest recognition for forage producers in Kentucky.

The editors of the 2025 Kentucky Grazing Calendar are indebted to Bobby Hall for his untiring and enthusiastic support for forages, rotational grazing, and the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council. His leadership in the forage/livestock industry reaches across Kentucky and literally around the world.



The Cattle Producer's Resource

Body Condition Scoring (BCS) Guidelines

Trait	Condition Score								
	Too thin			Just Right			Too Fat		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Visible Ribs	All	All	Most	3-5	1-2	0	0	0	0
Visible Spine	++++	+++	+	+	No	No	No	No	No
Brisket Fat	No	No	No	No	No	+	++	+++	++++
Tail Head Fat (Pones)	No	No	No	No	No	No	+	++	+++
Muscle Loss	+++	++	+	No	No	No	No	No	No

- If cows are too thin (condition score of 4 or less), they are likely to have trouble re-breeding and probably need improved grazing or supplement.
- Cows with 5 BCS may need some supplement or high quality pasture.
- Cows scoring 6 or 7 need minimal fall adjustment in management
- Fat cows (8-9) often are not pregnant or skipped calving last year. If she has a good calf and is pregnant - keep her!

(++++ indicates an increase or decrease in the trait relative to a 5 BCS)

Depending on available forage and current herd requirements, diet supplementation may be required.

- Calculations are usually based on 2-4 ozs of mineral consumption.
- Mineral requirements change with available forage: forbs/shrubs offer more minerals than grasses.
- Producers need to switch to a high magnesium mineral at least 60 days before the calving season.
- Sulfur is generally in excess in TN and can be antagonistic to copper, zinc, iron and manganese.

Recommended Minimum Levels for Beef Cattle

Element	Level
Calcium	10 to 24%
Phosphorus	5 to 12%
Magnesium	2%
Magnesium	10 to 16%
Sulfur	1%
Manganese	2000 ppm
Copper	1750 ppm
Zinc	3500 ppm
Cobalt	20 ppm
Iodine	50 ppm
Selenium	44 ppm

Gestation Table Based on 283 Days

(Noble Foundation)

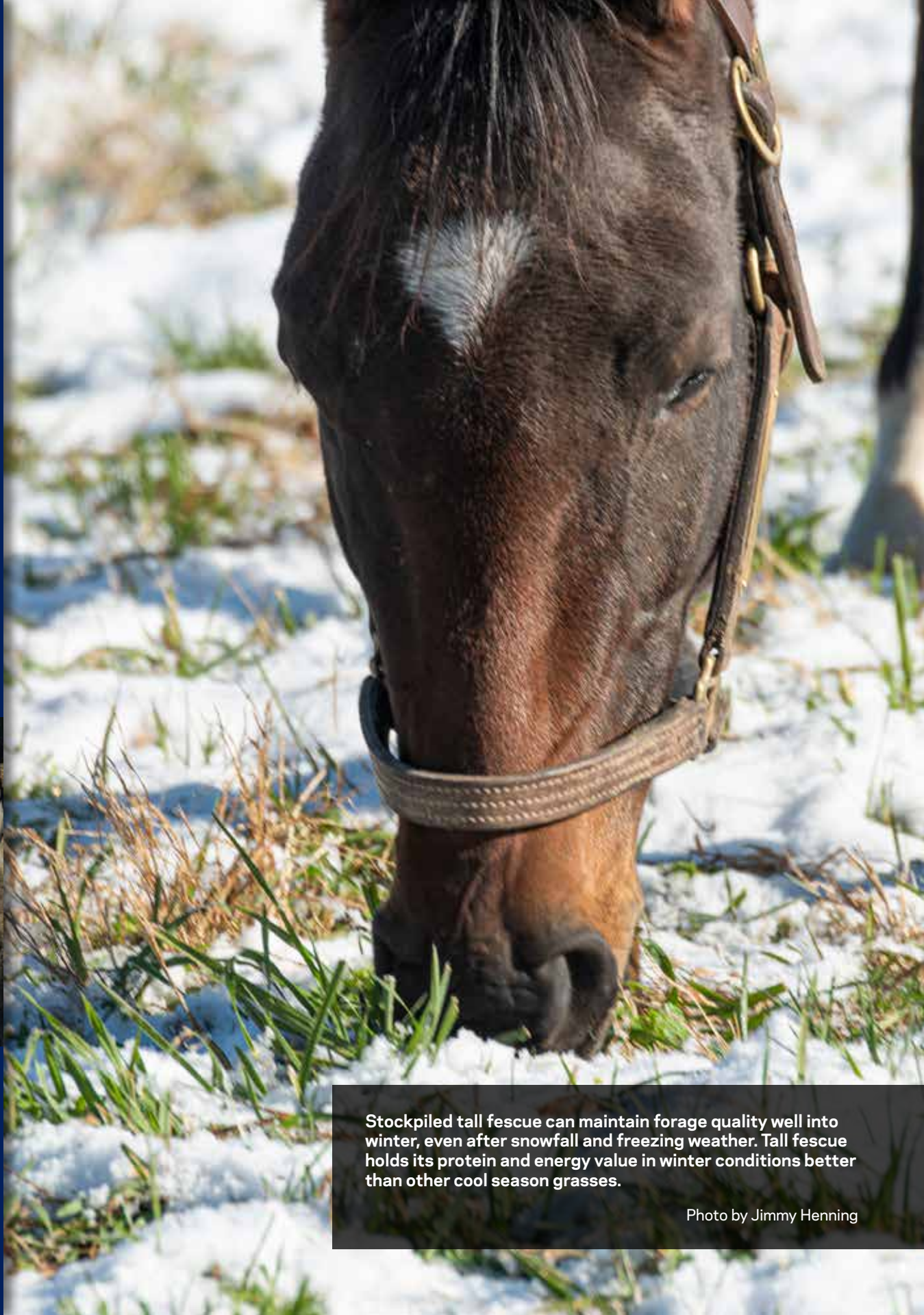
Breeding Date	Calving Date	Breeding Date	Calving Date	Breeding Date	Calving Date
1-Jan	13-Oct	7-May	16-Feb	10-Sep	22-Jun
8-Jan	20-Oct	14-May	23-Feb	17-Sep	29-Jun
15-Jan	27-Oct	21-May	2-Mar	24-Sep	6-Jul
22-Jan	3-Nov	28-May	9-Mar	1-Oct	13-Jul
29-Jan	10-Nov	4-Jun	16-Mar	8-Oct	20-Jul
5-Feb	17-Nov	11-Jun	23-Mar	15-Oct	27-Jul
12-Feb	24-Nov	18-Jun	30-Mar	22-Oct	3-Aug
19-Feb	1-Dec	25-Jun	6-Apr	29-Oct	10-Aug
26-Feb	8-Dec	2-Jul	13-Apr	5-Nov	17-Aug
5-Mar	15-Dec	9-Jul	20-Apr	12-Nov	24-Aug
12-Mar	22-Dec	16-Jul	27-Apr	19-Nov	31-Aug
19-Mar	29-Dec	23-Jul	4-May	26-Nov	7-Sep
26-Mar	5-Jan	30-Jul	11-May	3-Dec	14-Sep
2-Apr	12-Jan	6-Aug	18-May	10-Dec	21-Sep
9-Apr	19-Jan	13-Aug	25-May	17-Dec	28-Sep
16-Apr	26-Jan	20-Aug	1-Jun	24-Dec	5-Oct
23-Apr	2-Feb	27-Aug	8-Jun	31-Dec	12-Oct
30-Apr	9-Feb	3-Sep	15-Jun		

January Monthly Tips

- Remove animals from very wet pastures to limit pugging and soil compaction.
- Feed best hay to animals with highest nutritional needs and supplement poor quality hay as indicated by forage testing.
- Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem.
- Feed hay in poor pastures to increase soil fertility and enhance organic matter.
- Consider “bale grazing” — set out hay when the ground is dry or frozen. Use temporary fencing to allocate bales as needed.
- Prepare for pasture renovation by purchasing improved varieties, inoculant, etc. and getting equipment ready.



Selecting an energizer. Energizers are the heart of electric fencing systems and are NOT a component that you should try to “save” money on. A low-cost energizer often costs more in future repairs and replacements. If electrical service is available, plug-in energizers are considerably more powerful and offer the best value in terms of cost to power ratio. For remote areas, solar or battery powered energizers are viable alternatives for smaller acreages. Power comparisons of energizers should be done using “stored energy” which is measured in joules.


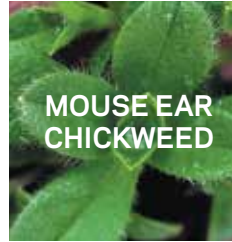
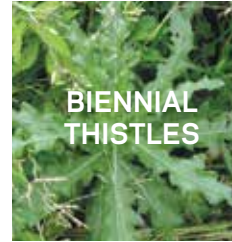


Stockpiled tall fescue can maintain forage quality well into winter, even after snowfall and freezing weather. Tall fescue holds its protein and energy value in winter conditions better than other cool season grasses.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

JANUARY

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>Bonus Tip: Dung and urine are valuable commodities in grazing systems. Well managed grazing systems remove very few nutrients from the overall system. However, poor grazing management can result in overconcentration of nutrients in areas where animals congregate. Implementing rotation stocking improves dung and urine distribution within grazing systems and strengthens nutrient cycling.</p>			 <p>BUTTERCUP</p>	 <p>MOUSE EAR CHICKWEED</p>	 <p>BIENNIAL THISTLES</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>Broadleaf Weed Control Opportunities See AGR-207 for more information.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p>	<p>.....</p>

February Monthly Tips

- Continue grazing stockpiled tall fescue if available.
- Begin frost seeding with 6-8 lb/A red and 1-2 lb/A ladino white clover on closely grazed pastures.
- On pastures with lower fertility, consider adding 10-15 lb/A annual lespedeza to the above recommendation.
- Consider applying 40-50 lb/A nitrogen in mid-to late-February on some pastures to promote early growth.
- Service and calibrate no-till drills. (see calibration procedure in back of calendar)
- Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test if not done in fall.



Grounding system. For an electric fencing to work properly, current from the fence must travel through the animal into the ground and back to the energizer. The grounding system works as an "antenna" to collect this current and complete the circuit. Most of the problems associated with low voltage on an electric fence are caused by a poorly constructed grounding system. Grounding systems should have a minimum of 3 galvanized grounding rods, 10 feet apart, 6 feet in the ground, all connected with a single galvanized wire running from the energizer. For a very large energizers or very dry conditions more grounding rods may be needed.



February is a good time to renovate pastures by frost seeding legumes like red and white clover. The freeze/thaw cycles of the soil help to work the small clover seed into good contact with the soil.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

March Monthly Tips

- Continue pasture renovation by no-till seeding legumes (1/4 to 1/2 inch seeding depth).
- Continue feeding hay until adequate forage exists in the pasture for grazing.
- Spring seeding of grasses should be done in early to mid-March (but fall is preferred)
- Begin smoothing and re-seeding hay feeding and heavy traffic areas.
- Graze pastures overseeded with clover to reduce competition from existing grasses; pull animals off as clover seedlings start to be grazed.
- Provide free choice high-magnesium mineral to prevent grass tetany on lush spring growth.



Connect wires in parallel at the end of runs. A good way to increase the ability of a fence to carry voltage is to connect all the wires at the beginning and end of runs of multi-wire fence. This allows the multiple strands of high tensile wire to function as one large wire that can carry higher levels of voltage.





Unrolling stored feed on pasture allows greater recovery of fertilizer nutrients in the forage and can boost nutrient status in low fertility fields. Unrolling the forage on tight sod prevents the pugging and mud associated with feeding in a central location.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

MARCH

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>Bonus Tip: Fencing tune-up. Pasture growth goes from 0 to 60 in a matter of weeks. Being ready to utilize rapid spring growth is critical. March is a good month to check and repair fences. Clear limbs that may have fallen over the winter, check energizers and make sure that temporary fencing supplies are ready to go.</p>			<p>FEBRUARY 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p>	27	28	1	....................
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	....................
9 Daylight Saving Time Begins	10	11	12	13	14	15	....................
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22	....................
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	....................
30	31	1	 <p>BROADLEAF PLANTAIN</p>	 <p>NARROWLEAF PLANTAIN</p>	<p>Broadleaf Weed Control Opportunities</p> <p>See AGR-207 for more information.</p>	<p>APRIL 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	....................

April Monthly Tips

- Graze winter annuals that were planted last fall.
- As pasture growth begins, rotate through pastures quickly to keep up with rapid spring growth.
- Creep-graze calves and lambs, allowing them access to highest-quality pasture.
- As pasture growth exceeds the needs of the livestock, remove some fields from the rotation and allow growth to accumulate for hay or haylage.
- Determine need for supplemental warm season forages such as pearl millet or sudangrass.
- Flash graze pastures newly seeded with clovers to reduce grass competition.



Always use underground cable designed for electric fencing and place it in protective tubing. It is very important to only use underground cable that is designed for electric fence. Never use any product that is intended for residential use. Whenever a cable carrying current is run under the ground, always place it in some type of pipe or conduit that will protect it from future damage. Wires going under gates should be buried to a depth of approximately 1 foot.



Participants in the Kentucky Grazing School assess the available dry matter in a pasture using the UKY grazing stick. The school is a two day, hands-on workshop that provides graziers with the knowledge to plan and implement a rotational grazing system. For more information on how to attend these schools please visit <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/Events> or search for UKY Grazing Schools in your internet browser.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

May Monthly Tips

- Seed warm season annual grasses once soil temperature reaches 60 F.
- Clip, graze or make hay to prevent seedhead formation in cool season pastures.
- Rotate cool season pastures when residual is 3-4 inches.
- Consider temporary electric fencing to subdivide larger pastures and exclude areas for mechanical harvesting.
- Scout pastures for summer annual weeds and control when small.



Use offsets on existing fencing. A good way to protect new fencing or enhance existing fencing is to use an offset strand of electrified fencing. Installing a single strand of electric fence on the perimeter of pastures allows graziers to quickly and easily subdivide existing pastures with polywire and step in posts. There are several different styles of offsets including wire, plastic, pigtail, and fiberglass. All styles can work, but it is important that any plastic or fiberglass materials are UV stabilized and come with a warranty.






Even the best grazing systems will have the need for supplemental feed. Make first cuttings in May when forage crops are in the early bloom for legumes and boot to early head stage for grasses. This results in higher forage quality and optimizes the chance for aftermath hay crops. Store cuttings separately to facilitate forage testing and feeding.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

MAY

2025

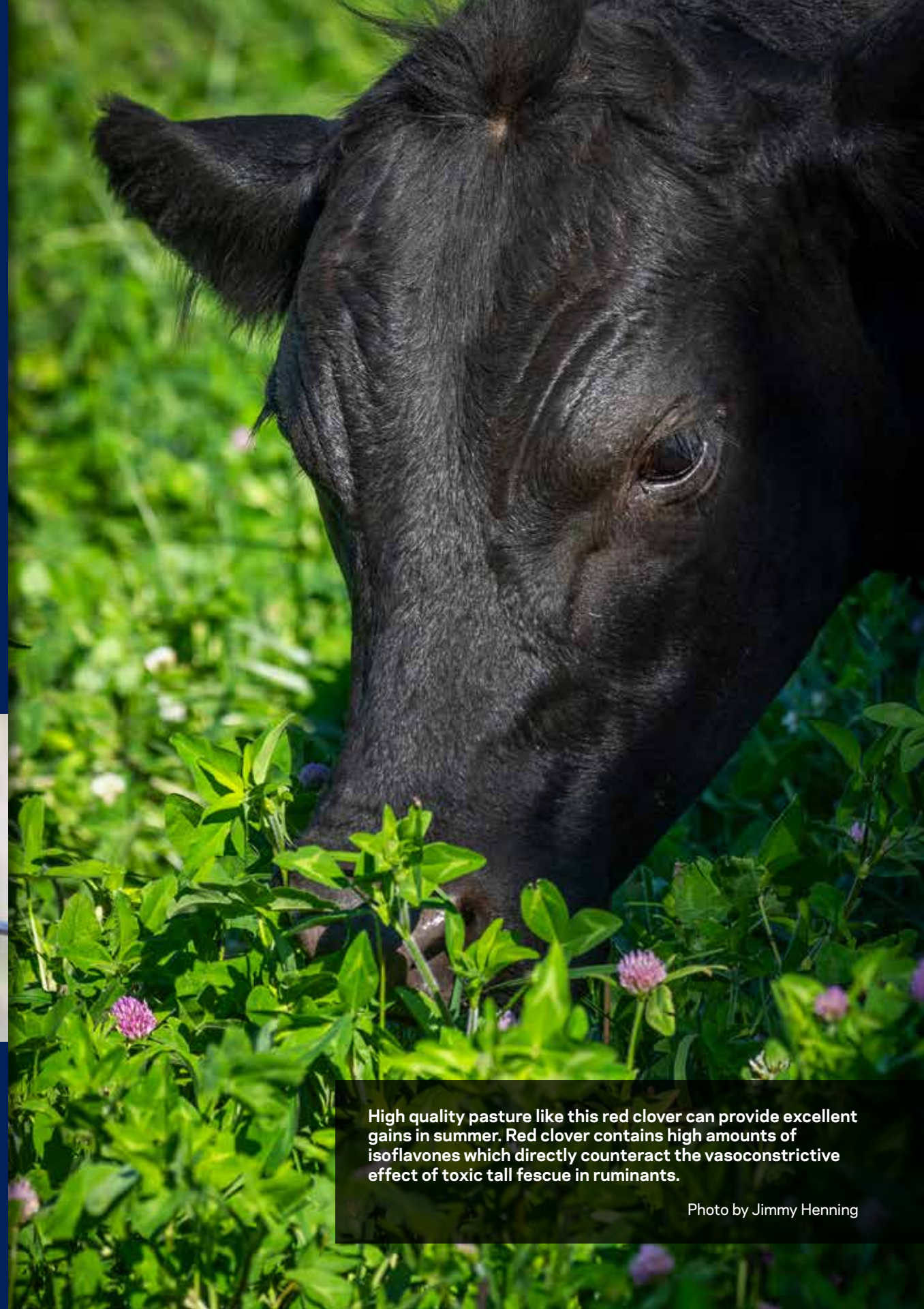
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>Bonus Tip: Improve hay quality by cutting at the correct growth stage. Stage of maturity is the single most important factor impacting the nutritional value of hay. Grasses should be cut at the boot stage. Rainfall in the spring often delays harvest. Making baleage allows producers to cut hay one day and bale it the next.</p>			<p>APRIL 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	1	2	3	.........................
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	.........................
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17	.........................
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	.........................
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31	.........................
1	2				<p>Broadleaf Weed Control Opportunities</p> <p>See AGR-207 for more information.</p>	<p>JUNE 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	.........................

June Monthly Tips

- Make plans to attend the KFGC's Forage Tours.
- Clip pastures for weeds and seedheads as needed.
- Use portable fencing to increase paddock numbers to allow for longer recovery periods.
- When present, crabgrass and johnsongrass can provide high quality summer grazing.
- Begin grazing native and annual warm-season grasses. Start at 18-20" and stop at 8-10".



Always connect electrified wires with clamps. Loose connections result in loss of voltage. Connections should NOT be wrapped, but rather clamped together with a high-quality clamp that is designed for high tensile fencing. Never use clamps that are constructed of dissimilar metals. Although economy clamps constructed of cast metal are sometimes available, they often fail upon tightening. Saving a few cents on clamps often leads to exponential headaches in the future.

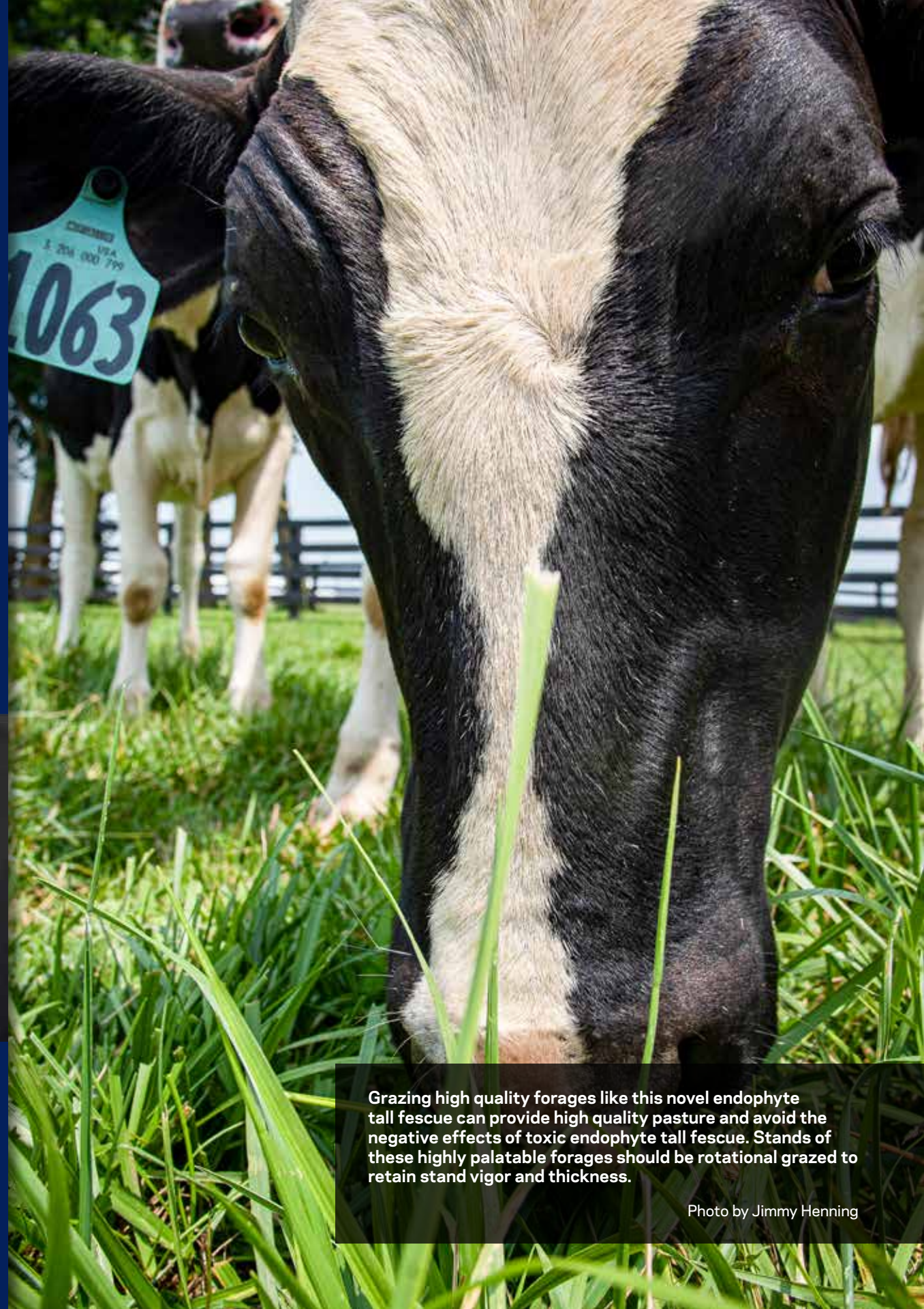


High quality pasture like this red clover can provide excellent gains in summer. Red clover contains high amounts of isoflavones which directly counteract the vasoconstrictive effect of toxic tall fescue in ruminants.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

July Monthly Tips

- Continue grazing available summer annuals and apply 40-60 lb N/A to stimulate regrowth.
- Identify fescue pastures for stockpiling. Choose pastures that are well drained, have a strong sod and have not been overgrazed.
- Soil test pastures to determine fertility needs.
- Using UK variety trial results, select varieties to plant in the fall and order seed.
- If drought conditions limit pasture growth, close off pastures and feed hay in a sacrifice area.



Utilize new technologies to manage electric fencing systems. There are now several options that allow you to remotely manage electric fencing systems. These include remote controls that allow fences to be turned on and off when making fence repairs and phone apps that allow the fence to be monitored remotely.

Grazing high quality forages like this novel endophyte tall fescue can provide high quality pasture and avoid the negative effects of toxic endophyte tall fescue. Stands of these highly palatable forages should be rotational grazed to retain stand vigor and thickness.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

August Monthly Tips

- Do NOT graze cool-season pastures closer than 3 to 4 inches. This will help to conserve soil moisture and prevent overheating of the crowns.
- Graze warm season annuals or perennials to allow cool season grasses to recover and to avoid endophyte-infected fescue.
- After the first good rain in August, seed winter annuals (such as small grains, ryegrass, crimson clover, and brassicas) for late fall and early spring grazing.
- Plant alfalfa after first good rain in August to allow sufficient size going into winter. In mid-August to early September, exclude livestock from pastures to be stockpiled and apply 60 lb N/A and any needed P and K.



Join polywire correctly. If you use polywire you will eventually have to repair breaks or join rolls. It is important to have good conductivity. Simply tying a knot is NOT sufficient. To ensure good conductivity, separate 2 inches of the metal strands from the poly material by melting plastic away with a lighter or match. Then tie the polywire together so that the exposed ends match up and twist them together. This will optimize conductivity and ensure maximum animal control.


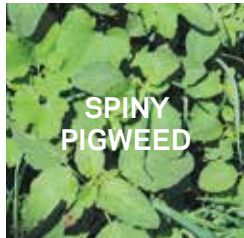


Maintaining at least a three-inch residual height in grazed pastures during hot weather will protect the crowns of cool season grasses from damaging high temperatures. Leaving a good residual will encourage the maintenance of deeper roots in these sods.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

AUGUST

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>Bonus Tip: Weeds or wonders? Some summer grasses that are commonly considered weeds can actually provide high quality summer grazing when managed. These species include crabgrass, Johnsongrass and Bermudagrass.</p>			<p>JULY 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	31	1	2	.........................
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	.........................
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	.........................
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	.........................
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	.........................
31	1	 <p>HORSENETTLE</p>	 <p>SPINY PIGWEED</p>	 <p>COMMON COCKLEBUR</p>	<p>Broadleaf Weed Control Opportunities</p> <p>See AGR-207 for more information.</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	.........................

September Monthly Tips

- If not already done, soil sample and apply lime and fertilizer as needed.
- Plant perennial grasses and legumes. Consider using a novel endophyte tall fescue.
- Harvest hay as needed. Do NOT harvest alfalfa after mid-September.
- Closely monitor livestock and do NOT overgraze. Pasture plants accumulate energy reserves in the fall that help them overwinter and regrow in the spring.
- Feed hay to allow pastures to stockpile for winter grazing. Rest native warm-season grass fields until after frost for better winter survival.



Use high quality temporary fencing. Temporary fencing comes in a number of styles including polywire, electric tape, electric braid, and polyrope. Electric tape should be used where high visibility is needed. Polywire is most commonly used by graziers since longer runs can be held on reels. When selecting polywire products, choose products that contain more strands of wire and for loner runs, choose products that contain wire made of mixed metals. Polywire containing mixed metals are about 40 times more conductive.



September is best time to fertilize hay and pasture fields. Always apply fertilizer guided by a current soil test. Fall is a particularly good time to apply needed potassium because it allows the plant to take up and assimilate the nutrient, adding to plant winter hardiness and disease resistance.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

October Monthly Tips

- Feed hay to allow cool-season pastures to accumulate forage growth for winter grazing.
- Do NOT harvest or graze alfalfa fields.
- Inventory and test each hay lot for nutritive value and consult a nutritionist to design a supplementation program as needed.
- Remove livestock from pastures that contain sorghum species (sorghum-sudangrass, sudangrass, and johnsongrass) when frost is expected to prevent cyanide poisoning.
- Begin strip grazing early planted small grain and brassicas (turnips and rape) mixes by the end of this month.



Use a high-quality geared reel. High quality reels are an essential part of temporary fencing systems. They should be constructed of UV stabilized plastic, have insulated handles, and a positive locking mechanism. Geared reels are ideal since they make wire retrieval much faster. It is tempting to save a few dollars on "economy" reels, however, these reels rarely last more than a season or two.



Watch for the announcements of Kentucky Fencing Schools. These are one day, hands on workshop that may focus on building permanent as well as temporary electrified fence. For more information on how to attend these schools please visit <https://forages/ca.uky.edu/Events> or search for UKY Fencing Schools in your internet browser.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

November Monthly Tips

- Apply 30-40 lb N/A to strengthen cool-season grass sods.
- Using a plate meter or grazing stick, estimate stockpile available for winter grazing.
- Adjust animal numbers or purchase additional hay to balance forage-feed supply to livestock needs.
- Graze crop residues and cover crops that will not overwinter.
- Graze winter annuals once they are 6-8 inches tall and are well anchored. Do NOT graze closer to 4 inches.
- Alkaloid content of tall fescue can be high in some years, but will decline after a hard freeze.



Use fault finder to monitor voltage and find shorts. For electric fencing to work properly, a voltage of approximately 5000 volts should be maintained at all times. Shorts in electric fences can cause reduced voltage and can often be difficult to find. A fault finder shows the direction and severity of the of the short. Purchasing a high-quality fault finder is money well spent!

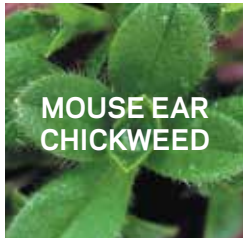




Fall seeded brassicas like this turnip can provide late winter and early spring grazing. Because brassicas are high in moisture and low in fiber, it is suggested that this diet be supplemented with hay, stockpiled grasses, or another high fiber feed.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

NOVEMBER

2025

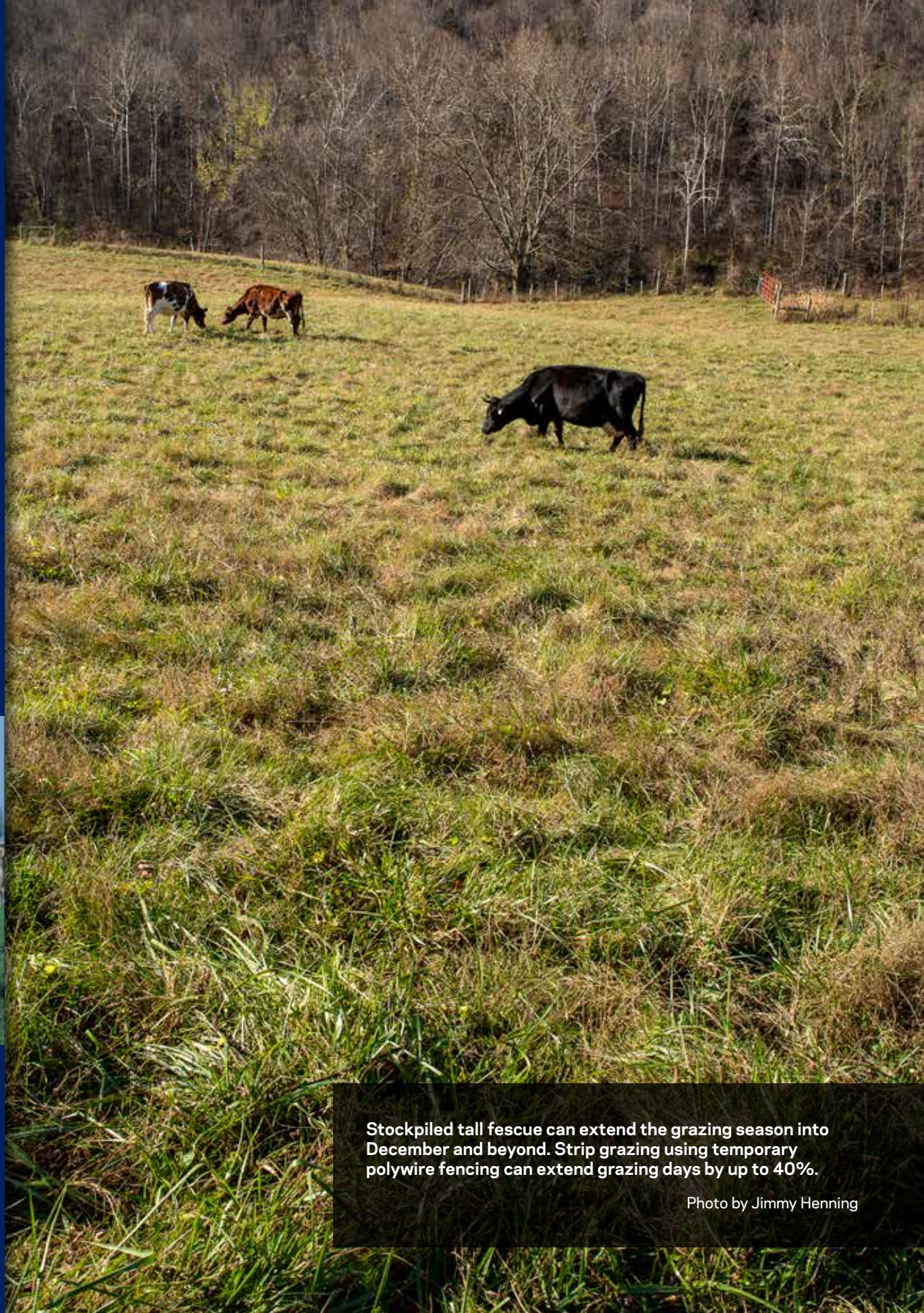
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Notes
<p>Bonus Tip: Strip graze stockpiled grass. Growing grass is one thing, but efficiently harvesting it is another. Strip grazing tall fescue can increase grazing days by more than 40%. This is almost like free money...for every 2 days of grazing, the third is free!</p>			<p>OCTOBER 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	30	31	1	....................
2 Daylight Saving Time Ends	3	4	5	6	7	8	....................
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	....................
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	....................
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29	....................
30	1	 <p>MOUSE EAR CHICKWEED</p>	 <p>PURPLE DEADNETTLE</p>	 <p>HENBIT</p>	<p>Broadleaf Weed Control Opportunities</p> <p>See AGR-207 for more information.</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	....................

December Monthly Tips

- Begin utilizing stockpiled pastures. Graze pastures with orchardgrass and clovers first. Save tall fescue pastures for late winter grazing.
- Using polywire, strip graze stockpiled pastures to improve utilization. Start at the water source and allocate enough forage for 2-3 days. Backfencing is not necessary.
- Make plans to frost seed red and white clover onto closely grazed tall fescue pastures in February.
- Begin hay feeding as stockpiled forage is used up.
- Minimizing waste by utilizing ring feeders.



Train livestock to electric fencing. Since electric fencing is a psychological barrier rather than a physical barrier, livestock must be trained to respect it. Choose a well fenced holding paddock and install an offset wire about 30 inches above the ground. Make sure the energizer and grounding system are optimized to deliver a knee buckling and eye watering shock. Once animals are trained to the offset, set up a strand of polywire near the end of the paddock. Livestock should be fully trained within 48 hours. Animals that cannot be trained to respect electric fencing should be culled.



Stockpiled tall fescue can extend the grazing season into December and beyond. Strip grazing using temporary polywire fencing can extend grazing days by up to 40%.

Photo by Jimmy Henning

Don't Make a Mistake — Calibrate!!



- 1) Read your drill's operators manual to learn where the adjustments for leveling, seed depth, and seeding rate are located.
- 2) Ensure that seed tubes are not blocked by spraying them out with an air hose and running a wire through them. **DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP!!!**
- 3) Use the "Seeding Rate Chart" on the drill to determine the initial drill setting and set the drill accordingly.
- 4) Select the proper gear box setting or drive gear for the desired target seeding rate based on the manual.
- 5) Place a small amount of seed above each opening in the drill box.
- 6) Lower the drill to engage the seeding mechanism.
- 7) If calibrating the drill in place, jack up the drive wheel just far enough off the ground so that it can be rotated.
- 8) Turn the seeding mechanism until seed comes out. Make sure that seed is coming out of each disk opener.
- 9) Disconnect three to five seed tubes from the disk openers.
- 10) Place and secure a collection container on each seed tube. A sandwich bag secured with a rubber band works well.
- 11) Pull the drill 150 feet OR turn the drive wheel the number of revolutions it would take to travel 150 feet.
 - a. Revolutions can be determined by using the following formula: $\text{Number of Revolutions} = 150 / (3.14 \times \text{Diameter of the Drive Wheel in feet})$.
- 12) Carefully remove collection containers.
- 13) Tare the scale for an empty collection container and then weigh and record in grams each collection container with the seed in it.
- 14) Add the seed weight for each collection container together and divide by the number of seed drop tubes collected to get the AVERAGE weight per disk opener.
- 15) Compare the AVERAGE weight per disk opener to the grams of seed/disk opener found in Table 1 for the desired seeding rate and row spacing.
 - a. If the collected weight is within 10% of the target weight found in Table 1, then you are finished.
 - b. If the collected weight is more than 10% different than the target weight found in Table 1, repeat steps 7 to 12 after adjusting seeding rate setting on drill.

- Items Needed to Calibrate Drill:**
1. Tape measure (150 feet)
 2. Flags to mark stopping and starting points
 3. Gram scale with 0.1-gram accuracy
 4. Plastic sandwich bags
 5. Rubber bands
 6. Screwdriver and pliers

Table 1. Grams of seed to catch per disk opener in 150 feet for given combinations of disk opener width (inches) and seeding rate (pounds/acre).

Distance between Disk Openers	Seeding Rate in pounds/acre																						
	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	25	30	35	40	50	60	80	90	100	120	140	160	180
inches	grams of seed/disk opener to catch in 150 feet																						
6	1.6	3.1	4.7	6.3	7.8	9.4	10.9	12.5	14.1	15.6	19.5	23.5	27.4	31.3	39.1	46.9	62.5	70.4	78.2	93.8	109.4	125.1	140.7
7	1.8	3.6	5.5	7.3	9.1	10.9	12.8	14.6	16.4	18.2	22.8	27.3	31.9	36.5	45.6	54.7	72.9	82.0	91.1	109.4	127.6	145.8	164.1
7.5	2.0	3.9	5.9	7.8	9.8	11.7	13.7	15.6	17.6	19.5	24.4	29.3	34.2	39.1	48.9	58.6	78.2	87.9	97.7	117.3	136.8	156.3	175.9
8	2.1	4.2	6.3	8.3	10.4	12.5	14.6	16.7	18.8	20.9	26.1	31.3	36.5	41.7	52.1	62.6	83.4	93.8	104.3	125.1	146.0	166.8	187.7

A YouTube video on grain drill calibration can be viewed on the KYForages YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/KYForages>

Forage Crop Guide for Kentucky

Uses	Seed Size: lbs./bu. or (seeds/lbs.)	Desired Plant Density	Seeding Rate/A	Seeding Depth (inches)	Seeding Date	First Harvest ¹	Annual Yield ²	Comments
Alfalfa — <i>Medicago sativa</i>								
hay, silage, pasture	60 (227,000)	25-40 plants/sq. ft. seeding year	18-20 lbs.	1/4-1/2	<i>Primary:</i> Mar 15-May 1 <i>Secondary:</i> Aug 1-Sep 15	May 1- Sep 15	3-6 T	Correct soil acidity at least 4 months before seeding. Inoculate seed. Monitor alfalfa weevil and leafhopper, and spray as recommended. <i>Spring seeding:</i> seed after risk of killing frost. <i>Fall seeding:</i> seed early to reduce risk of Sclerotinia.
Bermudagrass, Seeded — <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>								
hay, pasture	40 (2,071,000)		5-10 lbs. (hulled seed)	1/4 (hulled seed)	Apr 15-Jun 1	May 15-Sep 15	2-6 T	Warm-season perennial. Harvest 5 times per season for hay. Seed after risk of frost. Ensure seeded variety is winter-hardy in Kentucky.
Bluestem, Big — <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>								
wildlife, hay, pasture	(165,000)		9-11 lbs. PLS ³	1/4-1/2	Apr 15-Jun 1	Jun 15- Jul 15	21/2-31/2 T	Light, fluffy seed. Sensitive to overgrazing. Slow to establish. Seed after risk of frost.
Bluestem, Little — <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>								
wildlife, pasture	(260,000)		7-9 lbs. PLS ³	1/4	Apr 15-Jun 1	Jun 15- Sep 15	11/2-2 T	Primarily used in native grass mixtures at rates of 1 to 2 lbs./A. Sensitive to overgrazing. Upright, bunchgrass similar in appearance to broom sedge. Slow to establish.
Clover, Crimson — <i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>								
hay, pasture	60 (150,000)		20-30 lbs.	1/4-1/2	Aug 1-Oct 15	May 1- May 15	1-21/2 T	Inoculate. Annual clover. Fall planted for spring forage production or as a plow-down crop. If possible, use "Kentucky Pride" due to it increased cold tolerance.
Clover, Red — <i>Trifolium pratense</i>								
hay, pasture	60 (272,000)		8-12 lbs.	1/4-1/2	<i>Primary:</i> Feb 1- Apr 15 <i>Secondary:</i> Aug 1- Sep 15	May 1- Sep 15	2-5 T	Inoculate. Do not graze or clip after Sept. 15 until after freeze. Use improved varieties for 2- to 3-year stands.
Clover, White (Ladino and Dutch or Common types) — <i>Trifolium repens</i>								
pasture	60 (768,000)		1-3 lbs.	1/4	Feb 1- Apr 15	Aug 1- Sep 10	1-3 T	Good for all permanent pasture mixtures. Inoculate. Use ladino type for higher forage yield.
Eastern Gamagrass — <i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>								
grazing, hay			7-10 lbs.	1/2-1	Apr 15- Jun 15	Jun 1	4-6 T	Highest quality native warm-season perennial. Slow to establish.
Fescue, Tall — <i>Festuca arundinacea</i>								
hay, pasture	22 (227,000)		15-25 lbs.	1/4-1/2	<i>Primary:</i> Aug 20-Oct 1	May 1-20	2-4 T	KY31 variety contains fungal endophyte that causes toxicity in livestock. Use low-endophyte or novel-endophyte varieties.

Forage Crop Guide for Kentucky (continued)

Uses	Seed Size: lbs./bu. or (seeds/lbs.)	Desired Plant Density	Seeding Rate/A	Seeding Depth (inches)	Seeding Date	First Harvest ¹	Annual Yield ²	Comments
					<i>Secondary:</i> Feb 15- Apr 15			
Indiangrass — <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>								
hay, pasture, wildlife	(175,000)		9-11 lbs.	1/4-1/2	Apr 15-Jun 1	Jul 15- Sep 15	2-4 T	Light, fluffy seed. Needs special drills for no-till seeding. Latest maturity of native grasses. Sensitive to overgrazing and slow to establish.
Kentucky Bluegrass — <i>Poa pratensis</i>								
pasture	14 (1,400,000)		10-15 lbs.	1/4	<i>Primary:</i> Aug 15- Sep 15 <i>Secondary:</i> Feb 15-Apr 15	May 1-15	1-3 T	Tolerant to close grazing. Lower forage yield than other cool-season grasses.
Lespedeza, Annual — <i>Kummerowia stipulacea</i> —Korean; <i>K. striata</i> —Kobe or Striate types)								
pasture, hay	30 (240,000)		20-25 lbs.	1/4	Feb 15-Apr 1	Aug 15	1-2 1/2 T	Inoculate. Annual warm-season legume. Tolerant to low pH and low P.
Lespedeza, Sercicea — <i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>								
hay, pasture	60 (372,000) hulled seed		35 (scarified) lbs.	1/4	Mar 15-Apr 15	Hay: May 15-Sep 15	1-3 T	Harvest at an immature stage of growth to maintain quality (12-14" high). Inoculate. Used mainly for soil conservation purposes.
Millet, Foxtail (German) — <i>Setaria italica</i>								
hay, pasture	50 (213,000)		20-30 lbs.	1/2-3/4	May 1-Aug 1	Aug 15- Oct 1	11/2-3 T	Used mainly for wildlife feed. Can be used as an emergency hay crop or pasture. Used as a smother crop when reestablishing pasture.
Millet, Pearl — <i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>								
pasture, silage	50 (82,000)		5-7 lbs. in rows, 15-25 broadcast	1/2-3/4	May 1-Aug 1	Jun 15- Oct 15	2-5 T	Good for summer pasture. Potential for nitrate problems (see ASC-57, <i>Cattle-Related Forage Disorders</i> , for more details).
Oats, Winter and Spring — <i>Avena sativa</i>								
hay, silage	32 (15,000)	25-30 plants/sq. ft.	2.5-3 bu. (forage)	1-2	Mar 1-Apr 1, Sep 15-30	May 20-Jun 10	4-9 T at 65% moisture	Spring oats are seeded as a grain crop or as emergency hay or silage. Winter oats are least winter-hardy of small grains. Preferred companion crop when seeding perennial forages since they are the least competitive small grain.
Orchardgrass — <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>								

Forage Crop Guide for Kentucky (continued)

Uses	Seed Size: lbs./bu. or (seeds/lbs.)	Desired Plant Density	Seeding Rate/A	Seeding Depth (inches)	Seeding Date	First Harvest ¹	Annual Yield ²	Comments
hay, pasture	14 (416,000)		15-20 lbs.	1/4-1/2	<i>Primary:</i> Aug 20-Sep 20 <i>Secondary:</i> Feb 15-Apr 15	<i>Primary:</i> May 1-20 <i>Secondary:</i> Jul 1-15	2-4 T	High-quality, high-yielding cool-season grass. Preferred grass for mixtures with alfalfa. Can become clumpy over time.
Rye — <i>Secale cereale</i>								
pasture, silage	56 (18,000)	25-30 plants/sqft	1.5-2.5 bu. (forage)	1-2	Sep 1- Oct 15 (forage)	Apr 1-20	5-10 T at 65% moisture	Cut for silage in boot stage. Excellent for grazing and no-till mulch. Best small grain for fall grazing.
Ryegrass, Annual — <i>Lolium multiflorum</i>								
pasture, silage, hay	24 (224,000)		20-30 lbs.	1/4-1/2	Aug 15-Oct 1	Mar 15-May 15	11/2-3 T	Used mainly as cover crop or for grazing. Increased use for round bale silage.
Ryegrass, Perennial — <i>Lolium perenne</i>								
hay, pasture	24 (330,000)		15-25 lbs.	1/4-1/2	<i>Primary:</i> Aug 20-Oct 1 <i>Secondary:</i> Feb 1-Apr 15	Apr 20- May 10	2-4 T	Use winter-hardy varieties. Average stand length in Kentucky is 2 years. High fertility soils and/or irrigation can extend stand life.
Sorghum, Forage — <i>Sorghum bicolor</i>								
silage	56 (24,000)		15-20 lbs.	1 1/2	May 1- Jul 1	Aug 15-Sep 20	15-25 T at 65% moisture	Sorghum/sudangrass hybrid more commonly used for forage.
Soybean — <i>Glycine max</i>								
silage, hay	60 (2,500- 3,500)	90,000- 150,000 plants/A	1-1.5 bu. (forage)	1-2	May 1- Jun 10	Aug 1- Sep 30 (hay)	2-4 T	Seed size varies by variety. High end of seed rate range for narrow rows and late planting. Inoculate if field has been out of soybean for 3-5 years. Can be seeded as late as July 1 for double cropping. Maturity groups III to early V best suited for Kentucky.
Sudangrass and Sorghum x Sudan Hybrids (Sorghum bicolor)								
pasture, silage, hay	40 (35,000- 43,000)		20-40 lbs.	1/2-2	May 10-Aug 1	Jun 15- Oct 15	2-5 T	Excellent warm-season annual pasture or silage crop. Smaller stemmed sudangrass preferred for hay production. Potential for prussic acid and nitrate problems.
Switchgrass — <i>Panicum virgatum</i>								
hay, pasture, wildlife	(389,000)		6-8 lbs.	1/4-1/2	Apr 15-May 1	Jun 1- Sep 15	3-5 T	Slick, free-flowing seed. Most tolerant of wet soils of all native grasses. Sensitive to overgrazing. Slow to establish.
Timothy — <i>Phleum pratense</i>								
hay	45		6-8 lbs.	1/4-1/2	Aug 20-Oct 1	May 20-Jun	1-3 T	Timothy is desired by some horse owners but is essentially a one-cut

Forage Crop Guide for Kentucky (continued)

Uses	Seed Size: lbs./bu. or (seeds/lbs.)	Desired Plant Density	Seeding Rate/A	Seeding Depth (inches)	Seeding Date	First Harvest ¹	Annual Yield ²	Comments
	(1,152,000)					10		hay crop in Kentucky. Average stand length of 2-3 years.
Triticale — <i>Triticum x Secale</i>								
silage	50 (15,000)	25-30 plants/sq ft	2-2.5 bu. (forage)	1-2	Oct 1-30	May 10- Jun 1 (forage)	4-10 T at 65% moisture	Hybrid between wheat and rye. Cut for silage in boot stage. Use winter varieties. Newer varieties have comparable yields to wheat.
Turnips and related <i>brassic</i> as— <i>Brassica rapa</i> , <i>Brassica</i> spp.								
pasture	55		3-6 lbs.	1/4	Aug 1- Sep 1	Nov 15	2-4 T	Very high-quality pasture (85% digestibility). Often dry hay fed when grazing to add fiber or seeded in mixtures with small grains. New varieties show improved regrowth after grazing.
Wheat — <i>Triticum aestivum</i>								
grain, silage, cover crop	60 (11,000)	25-30 plants/ sq. ft.	2-2.5 bu. (forage)	1-2	Mid-Sep to Late Oct	May 10-Jun 1 (forage)	6-10 T at 65% moisture	Excellent quality silage or feed grain. Cut for silage shortly after heading. Seed size varies by variety. High-yielding grain varieties do not guarantee high-yielding forage or straw. Consult the University of Kentucky variety trials bulletin for specific yield information.
¹ Approximate date.								
² Approximate yield in units (tons, bushels, pounds, or gallons) per acre.								
³ PLS = pure live seed.								

Adapted from Grain and Forage Crop Guide for Kentucky, AGR-18P, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Services, Lexington, KY.

Typical First and Last Occurrences of 32°F in Kentucky

Typical First and Last Occurrences of 32°F in Kentucky											
Location	Coordinates (°)	Date of First Fall Frost ^a					Date of Last Spring Frost ^{a,b}				
		Median	Early	10%	90%	Late	Median	Early	10%	90%	Late
Ashland	38.47N 82.63W	10/16	9/08	9/22	11/03	1/01	5/04	4/11	4/14	5/11	6/12
Berea	37.57N 84.31W	10/24	9/24	10/06	11/13	11/21	4/11	3/25	3/28	5/04	5/10
Bowling Green	36.98N 84.44W	10/22	10/03	10/08	11/08	11/13	4/11	3/21	3/26	4/25	5/05
Carrollton	38.65N 85.17W	10/19	10/03	10/06	11/02	11/08	4/21	4/03	4/08	5/05	5/10
Covington	39.01N 84.51W	10/19	10/02	10/04	11/02	11/08	4/21	3/26	4/10	5/06	5/10
Farmers	38.15N 83.54W	10/15	9/21	10/03	11/02	11/08	5/02	4/04	4/11	5/15	5/27
Hopkinsville	36.85N 87.46W	10/20	9/21	10/05	11/06	11/13	4/11	3/21	3/26	4/25	5/05
Leitchfield	37.46N 86.29W	10/18	10/03	10/05	11/06	11/08	4/19	3/22	4/04	5/08	5/11
Lexington	38.03N 84.44W	10/25	10/02	10/07	11/09	11/13	4/18	3/26	4/04	5/03	5/10
London	37.13N 84.07W	10/12	9/23	10/03	11/02	11/13	4/24	3/22	4/07	5/09	5/27
Mayfield	36.72N 88.64W	10/20	10/02	10/06	11/06	11/12	4/15	3/24	4/05	4/26	5/05
Maysville	38.61N 83.81W	10/21	10/03	10/04	11/03	11/08	4/24	3/27	4/02	5/09	5/27
Middlesboro	36.62N 83.73W	10/17	9/29	10/04	11/04	11/14	5/01	4/08	4/12	5/11	5/27
Monticello	36.85N 84.83W	10/17	10/03	10/04	11/05	11/13	4/25	4/03	4/08	5/08	5/27
Murray	36.62N 88.31W	10/30	10/03	10/14	11/18	11/21	4/04	3/18	3/20	4/15	4/20
Owensboro	37.77N 87.11W	10/20	10/03	10/06	11/07	11/13	4/10	3/21	3/25	4/24	5/05
Paducah	37.08N 88.62W	10/26	10/03	10/09	11/12	11/13	4/08	3/07	3/22	4/18	4/23
Princeton	37.09N 87.89W	10/20	10/03	10/06	11/06	11/13	4/10	3/21	3/26	4/21	3/26
Scottsville	36.74N 86.18W	10/24	10/07	10/10	11/14	11/21	4/10	3/21	3/27	4/27	5/27
Shelbyville	38.21N 85.21W	10/14	9/21	10/01	10/31	11/19	4/23	3/27	4/06	5/11	5/18
Somerset	37.08N 84.61W	10/13	10/03	10/04	10/31	11/05	4/22	3/22	4/07	5/10	5/27
West Liberty	37.91N 83.26W	10/09	9/15	9/24	10/17	11/04	5/05	3/29	4/17	5/21	5/27
Williamsburg ^c	36.74N 84.17W	10/19	9/26	10/04	11/07	11/13	4/22	4/04	4/08	5/10	5/27

^a Temperatures are recorded by the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Service at 5 feet above ground and based on 30 years of data from 1961 to 1990.

^b Median = date directly between the earliest and latest date of observed last occurrence; Early = earliest date recorded for last occurrence; 10% = date for last occurrence in one out of 10 years; 90% = date for last occurrence in nine out of 10 years; Late = latest date recorded for last occurrence.

^c 28 years of data.

Source: University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center, Kentucky Climate Analysis, URL: <http://www.wagwx.ca.uky.edu/analysis2/>.

Additional Resources

UK Master Grazer Program
<https://grazer.ca.uky.edu>

University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension
<https://extension.ca.uky.edu>

UK Forage Extension
<http://forages.ca.uky.edu>

UK Forage News
<https://kyforagenews.com>

KYForages YouTube Channel
<http://www.youtube.com/c/KYForages>

Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council
<https://kfgc.org>

Kentucky Natural Resource Conservation Service
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ky/home/>

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation districts
<http://conservation.ky.gov/pages/conservationdistricts.aspx>

Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
<https://kycattle.org>

Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy
<https://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/pages/default.aspx>

American Forage and Grassland Council
<https://www.afgc.org>

Gallagher Power Fence Manual
https://www.gallagher.eu/media/wysiwyg/Powerfence_manual_basic_fencing_.pdf

Notes

.....
.....



.....
.....



.....
.....



.....
.....



.....
.....



.....
.....

.....
.....

Special Thanks

2025 Kentucky Grazing Calendar

Jimmy C. Henning, Ray Smith and Chris Teutsch, Editors
Extension Forage Specialists, Plant and Soil Science Department

This edition of the Kentucky Grazing Calendar is intended to assist forage livestock producers in developing a year-round holistic system that is profitable, sustainable and environmentally sound.

The editors wish to acknowledge the Tennessee Grazing Coalition and the Virginia Cooperative Extension whose similar efforts helped to both inspire and inform this effort. Finally a special thanks is extended to Gallagher North America for their generous support in the printing of this publication.



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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national 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. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Kentucky Master Grazer Educational Program

2025 Kentucky Grazing Calendar

BETTER PASTURE & GRAZING MANAGEMENT

SPONSORED BY



The Next Generation of Land and Animal Management

am.gallagher.com