



The Old Farmhand: Part Two

October 2017

Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts

The Harrison County Beef Cattle Association held a meeting on Labor Day to discuss the need to help farmers and ranchers in Texas affected by Hurricane Harvey. To get the ball rolling, I contacted Bill Hyman, the Director of the Independent Cattleman's Association, in Texas to get an idea of what supplies were needed and to find out where supplies could be sent too. There are 5 Extension Offices outside of Houston that are set up in rural communities as supply points for donations and this is where the supplies that we collect will be going. We wanted to help a community that is of similar size to Harrison County and we will be able to do just that. So far we have collected around \$2500 to purchase supplies with as well as many t-posts, rolls of barbed wire, gloves, pet food, diapers, wipes, and cleaning supplies. Our goal is to send a 53 foot box van donated by Phil McGlone full of supplies that will give these ranchers and their families hope. If you are interested in donating we will be taking donations until October 20th and all the details are included in the enclosed flyer. Thank you to everyone who has already donated! The Texas cattleman have already shown their appreciation for our efforts and are very grateful!

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Harrison County Farm Field Day

The Harrison County Farm Field Day will be held at Furnwood Farms owned and operated by Lewis & Ben Furnish along with their families. The field day will be held on **Tuesday, October 10th beginning at 6:00 p.m.** This field day is going to be focused on grain production as well as an opportunity to watch a hemp harvest if the weather cooperates. The Harrison County Beef Cattle Association will also be providing supper that evening so we ask that you please call 234-5510 if you plan to attend. We hope that you and your families are able to attend this field day!

Farm Address:
600 Ruddles Fort Road
Cynthiana, KY 41031

Jessica Barnes,
County Extension Agent
For Ag. & Natural
Resources Education

Estate Planning: Answering the What-If's...

Have you ever asked yourself the what-if questions? What if something should happen to me today? What if something should happen to my spouse or business partner? What if I have an accident that leaves me incapacitated? No one likes to think about these questions, however, the answers are very important to your surviving family members. Taking the time to answer these questions can provide peace of mind and ensure that your wishes will be followed.

Jennifer Hunter, UK Associate Extension Professor, will be at the **Harrison County Extension Office on Monday, November 13th at 6 p.m.** to answer any questions you may have and help you get on the right path for your estate planning. It is never too early to start this process and have a plan in place for your surviving family to go by. We hope to see you at the Harrison County Extension Office on November 13th and ask that you please call in so that we are sure to have enough handouts printed off for everyone.

As of now the Estate Planning course that was scheduled for November 13th is cancelled due to Jennifer Hunter being appointed to an interim position and having to fill other commitments that she was unaware of when this meeting was originally scheduled. I am working on finding another speaker but for now it has been cancelled.

December CPH Sale

There will be a CPH-45 sale held on Tuesday December 5, 2017 at the Paris Stockyards. All paperwork and tags can be picked up at the Harrison County Extension Office at 668 New Lair Road Cynthia, KY 41031. The calves need to be weaned by October 21, 2017 and the last shots need to be given by November 14, 2017. If you have any other questions feel free to call the office at 234-5510 or call your veterinarian.



Picture of Visual CPH-45 Tag

CAIP Cost Share Program

If you were approved for the CAIP cost share program, please be sure to have projects completed by December 1, 2017 and have all required paperwork turned into the Harrison County Extension Office by December 1, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. If you have questions about a project or paperwork please feel free to give me a call at 234-5510. If you have not attended a CAIP eligible educational course please see the list below for upcoming eligible meetings. If you do not attend an educational meeting before December 1 the reimbursement will not be distributed.

Eligible CAIP Educational Meetings:

Overview of Industrial Hemp (Harrison County Extension)—October 3rd from 6 to 8 p.m.

Harrison County Farm Field Day (Furnwood Farms)—October 10th 6 p.m.

Grazing Conference (Fayette County Extension)—October 17th

KY Beef Conference (Fayette County Extension)—October 26th



Tips for Stockpiling Tall Fescue for Winter Grazing

Dr. Chris Teutsch, Forage Extension Specialist, UK Research and Education Center, Princeton, KY

Feed and specifically winter feeding is the single highest expense in cow-calf production systems. In many cases it can make up more than 50% of the total cow-calf budget. Traditionally, hay is the main feed that is used during the winter months. Producing hay that is high enough in forage quality to meet the nutritional needs of lactating brood cows can be difficult. Feeding that hay during the cold, wet, and muddy winter months can also be a challenge, especially if you work off the farm since it is dark when you leave and dark when you get home.

In contrast to hay, tall fescue stockpiled for winter grazing is almost always higher in nutritional value and will in most cases meet the requirements of a fall calving cow. In addition, grazing stockpiled grass costs about half as much as feeding hay that is supplemented. To me one of the biggest advantages of grazing stockpiled grass is that you don't have to climb onto an old tractor and try to get it started in the freezing cold and then trudge through the mud to get the hay out to the pasture. The following steps will help to optimize your stockpiling program.

Choose a strong tall fescue sod in a field that is well drained. To get the maximum yield response to nitrogen applications you will need a healthy stand of tall fescue. Choosing a field that is well-drained will help to ensure that the stockpile can be grazed with minimal pugging damage during the wet winter months.

Clip pastures that will be stockpiled to 3-4 inches prior to applying nitrogen. Clipping pastures removes old growth and increases the forage quality of the stockpiled grass.

Apply 60-80 lb of nitrogen per acre in late August to mid-September. Applying nitrogen too early can stimulate warm-season grass growth in pastures, while applying nitrogen too late decreases dry matter yield. When applying nitrogen in mid-September, decrease application rates to 60 lb/A.

Allow growth to accumulate until mid-December before grazing. If limited grazing is available, feed hay during late summer and fall.

Graze stockpiled pastures that contain legumes first. Legumes deteriorate at a faster rate than grass and should be grazed first to minimize losses.

Strip graze tall fescue to maximize grazing days. Ideally, allocating only enough stockpiled grass for 2-3 days will increase grazing days per acre by 30 to 40%. However, if you work off the farm, it may make more sense to allocate 7 days of grass. This would allow you to move fences on days off.

Frost seed legumes on grazed areas. Closely grazed stockpile provides an excellent opportunity to establish legumes in grass-dominated pastures. Broadcasting the seed as the pasture is being grazed can enhance soil-seed contact and increase overseeding success.



Kentucky Beef Cattle Market Update

Dr. Kenny Burdine, Livestock Marketing Specialist, University of Kentucky

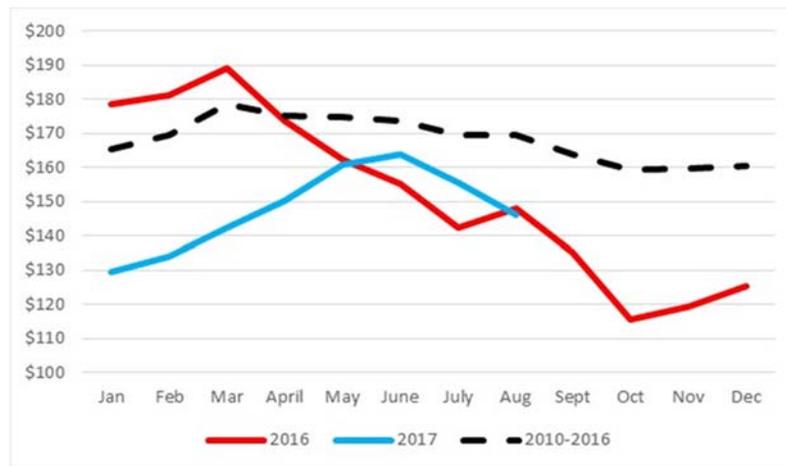
Following up from last month, the feeder cattle market has not pushed much higher, but has managed to hold its ground. At the time of this writing (September 8, 2017), most all CME® Feeder Cattle futures contracts were trading in the mid-\$140's. Fed cattle prices, which didn't reach their annual lows last year until mid-October, still haven't found a bottom for 2017. Slightly lower grain prices have helped somewhat, as has better news on the export front. The horrible flooding in Texas continues to be something to watch, but overall markets have not shown much reaction. Clearly, a large number of cattle and producers were adversely affected.

Glancing at the local cash market price charts that follow, the general downward trend has continued. Calf markets should continue to decline seasonally for the next month or two. Heavy feeder cattle usually peak in late summer or early fall, so 2017 may be a year with a July top. It is worth noting that August average prices were pulled down somewhat by a sharp drop in the last week of the month. Prices in the first week of September were more in line with what was seen in the first three weeks of August.

While rainfall has been a serious problem for many producers, it has set many Kentucky cattle operators up very well for fall grazing. We had nearly three inches of rain at my house from September 1st through September 5th, and more is expected for the week of September 11th. The combination of moisture and cooler temperatures should really support pasture growth. The best defense against market declines is usually weight gain and fall pasture growth should provide an opportunity to add some inexpensive pounds to calves or feeders. Stockpiled forage is also an excellent way to reduce winter feed needs for a cow-calf operation. Regardless of the situation, cattle producers should take advantage of this growth to the best extent possible.

**Figure 1. 550# Medium & Large frame #1-2 Steers
KY Auction Prices (\$ per cwt)**

Source: USDA-AMS, Livestock Marketing Information Center, Author Calculations



**Figure 2. 850# Medium & Large Frame #1-2 Steers
KY Auction Prices (\$ per cwt)**

Source: USDA-AMS, Livestock Marketing Information Center, Author Calculations

