

Powell County Pow Wow

Cooperative Extension Service

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National Farm Machinery Show

When: Wednesday, February 15, to Saturday, February 18, 2017

Time: 9 am to 6 pm daily (Eastern Standard Time)

Where: Kentucky Exposition Center, 937 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY, 40209

The National Farm Machinery Show is free. Parking is \$8 for cars and \$20 for buses. Held in conjunction with the NFMS, the Championship Tractor Pull ticket prices range from \$40 - \$45 dollars and all seats are reserved.

All Powell County farmers are invited to go with the group on Thursday, February 16. I plan on taking the van to the event but you are welcome to use your own vehicle. We only have volunteer files for a couple of people, so if you want to be covered under our insurance, we will need you to fill out volunteer forms. If you want to ride in the van, please call in your reservation. It will be first come first serve for seats on the van. Please bring your driver's license and insurance card for me to copy as this is required for our risk management plan. We will meet at 7:30 am at the Powell County Extension Office. If you would like to go, please call the office (606-663-6405) by Tuesday, February 14, at noon to let us know so we can get a head count.



36th Annual Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference

When: Tuesday, February 21st, 2017 @ 8:00 am – 3:30 pm (CST)

Where: Cave City Convention Center 502 Mammoth Cave Street, Cave City, KY 42127

Registration: www.KYAlfalfa.eventbrite.com Before February 15th: \$25, After February 15th or at door: \$30. Renew your KFGC membership too! For those without internet access, please mail a check to secure registration: KY Alfalfa Conference, N-222C Ag. Science North, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546



Growing and Marketing Your Timber

There will be a **Timber Management Workshop** on February 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the Powell County Extension Office. Dr. Jeff Stringer, University of Kentucky Hardwood Silviculture and Forest Operations Extension Specialist, will be presenting on growing and marketing your timber. Please make plans to attend.

Mid-South Stocker Conference

The Mid-South Stocker Conference will be held on March 1st 2017 in Manchester, Tennessee (Manchester/Coffee County Conference Center).

Novel Tall Fescue Renovation School – Tuesday, March 9, 2017

Register at www.UKYNovelTallFescue.eventbrite.com

Before March 6 - \$60/person, After March 6 - \$75/person

Morning Session – UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory 1490 Bull Lea Rd. Lexington

Afternoon Session – UK Spindletop Research Farm 3250 Iron Works Pike, Lexington

Rootstock Orders Now Being Taken – Grafting Workshop Offered

The Powell County Extension Service will coordinate with Breathitt County to order apple rootstocks again this year. If you want to propagate that favorite apple tree, grafting is one of the easiest ways to preserve that cultivar. To graft, you will need scion wood (terminal branch segments from last year's growth from your own tree) and rootstock.

If you do not know how to graft, we will have a grafting workshop scheduled for March 10th @ 5:30 p.m. at the Powell County Extension Office. Dr. Strang, University of Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Extension Specialist, will demonstrate grafting techniques. We will order M7A 3/16" and M111 3/16" and Pear rootstock varieties. Each rootstock will cost \$1.00.

Please place orders by February 17th, 2017 and make checks payable to Powell County Ag Council. Payment should be made at the time of placing orders.



Organic Association of Kentucky Annual Conference “Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Reshaping Kentucky with Organics”

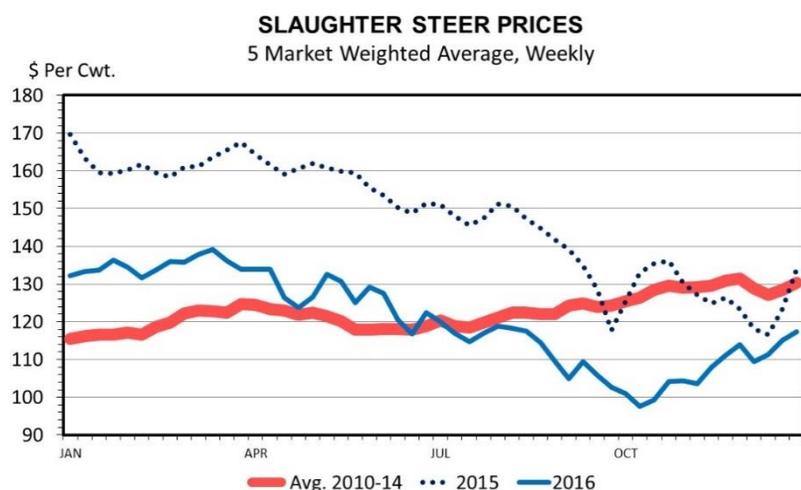
The Organic Association of Kentucky (OAK) will hold its sixth annual conference focusing on organic farming and eating March 3-4, 2017. Author and farmer Wendell Berry will lead a lineup of speakers in 6 tracks that include beef and row crops, dairy, soil, produce, and more. Sessions include weed control, profitability and grassfed beef, managing soil minerals, growing berries, managing soil fertility, marketing through social media, cooking demonstrations and more. As always, the compelling “meet the buyers” and “creative financing” sessions are scheduled. In addition to seminars, attendees can meet more than 40 exhibitors and enjoy organic meals.

The conference will be held at the Paroquet Springs Conference Centre, 395 Paroquet Springs Dr., in Shepherdsville. Registration cost is \$135 for the entire conference for OAK members if they register before Feb. 10. Single day and meal ticket options and special rates for and students are also available. For more information, visit oak-ky.org

Kentucky Beef Cattle Market Update

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

Fed cattle markets have sustained their improvement since fall with fed cattle trading around \$117 for the week ending January 6, 2017. This is nearly a \$20 per cwt improvement from their fall lows (see chart below). CME® Feeder Cattle futures have risen by roughly the same amount over that time. In Kentucky, 550 lb M / L #1-2 steer calves have been moving in the \$120's with value-added groups selling in the \$130's. 750 lb M / L \$1-2 steers in KY have traded in the mid-\$110's, again with higher quality groups about \$10 per cwt higher.



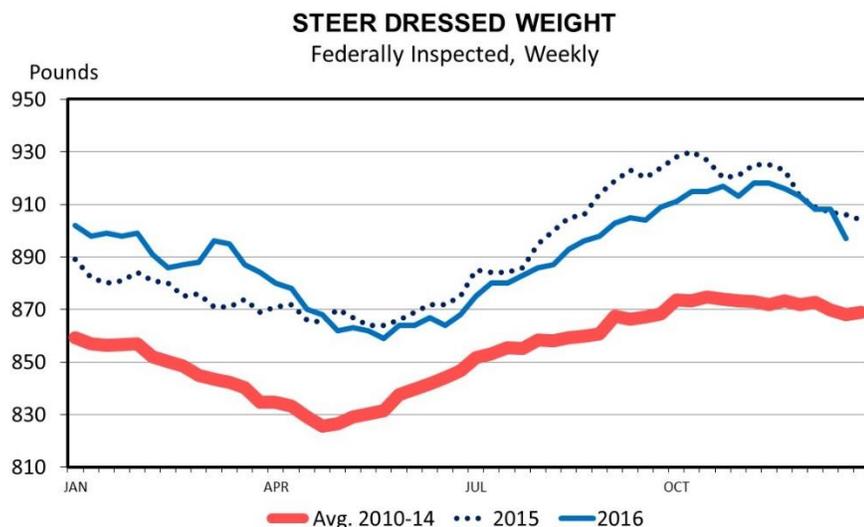
Source: USDA-AMS, Livestock Marketing Information Center

Last month, we discussed price slides and some things that we are seeing with cattle prices by weight. Next month, I will be able to discuss USDA's January 1 cattle inventory report and what it might mean for 2017. This month, I thought it might be interesting to re-visit harvest weights since this has been a major topic since fall of 2015.

The following chart shows steer dressed weights for the last couple of years. Note that dressed weights reached a high of 930 lbs in October of 2015. Using a 62% dressing percentage, this would equate to a 1,500 lb live steer. That same week in 2016, average steer dressed weight was 915 lbs, or a 1476 lb live steer. One can easily see from the charts that while weights have decreased some from 2015, they remain extremely high by historical standards.

From my perspective, there are likely three major reasons why harvest weights remain high. First, lower feed prices encourage more feeding holding everything else constant. That's an easy one to understand and was clearly a factor for much of the last couple years. Secondly, lower feed prices likely worked in tandem with the general downward price trajectory for much of 2016. Put simply, this provided little incentive for feedlots to remain current and resulted in more days on feed.

Finally, there were more feeder cattle placed on feed at heavier weights during 2016. The number of cattle placed on feed weighing more than 700 lbs was higher year-over-year in 2016 for each month January through August. Cattle that are placed on feed at heavier weights will tend to finish at heavier weights. This is a factor that will continue to at play through spring 2017.



Source: USDA-AMS and USDA-NASS, Livestock Marketing Information Center

Winter and Early Spring Pruning Tips

Rick Durham, Extension Horticulture Specialist

As spring approaches, many homeowners begin to think about their yard’s landscape. The winter months can be damaging to trees and shrubs. To ensure healthy spring plants, homeowners may want to prune the trees and shrubs around their home. But do not just prune for the sake of pruning, make sure you have a valid reason for pruning before you begin.

Pruning during the late winter months allows for the removal of damage caused by winter winds and precipitation. The wounds caused by pruning heal most quickly this time of year just as new growth is emerging on the plant.

Pruning also allows removal of diseased, crowded or hazardous branches. When pruning trees, the size of the tree does not need to be reduced too much in one season. Limit the pruning amount to one-fourth of the tree’s volume. Start by thinning out branches by cutting them off close to the tree’s trunk or a large limb.

Leave the base of the branch, known as the collar, intact. Cutting the collar will prevent the plant from growing over the wound caused from pruning. Pruning in this manner allows for a healthy tree that is more open to sunlight and air movement. If the branch is cut back only part way, there will likely be a crowded regrowth of new branches where the cut was made. Do not seal or paint the wounds resulting from pruning because this will only delay the tree’s healing process.

With spring-flowering shrubs, rejuvenation pruning may be needed, and the time to prune is fast approaching. The best time to prune these plants is right after they have flowered. If the shrub is pruned before it blooms, the buds have been removed before their flowers were enjoyed. When pruning is done after blooming, the flowers will have been enjoyed, and the plant can recover, grow and produce more buds for flowers next spring.

Rejuvenation pruning removes one-third of the shrub's oldest growth. This pruning entails selecting the thickest, darkest and unhealthiest stems or branches and cutting them back. Stems should be cut back to soil level and branches to the point of intersection with the shrub's main trunk. This ensures that only the youngest, most productive wood (that which produces the most/best flowers) remains a part of the shrub. Shrubs that will bloom during the summer months can also be pruned during the early spring.

Pruning is not limited to a certain time of year. Homeowners can prune at any time if they notice branches and limbs that are damaged either from weather, disease or insects. Pruning is invigorating for the plants in a home landscape so one should not necessarily think of pruning as a means of size control. If you have a plant that has grown out-of-bounds, pruning may not be the answer – you may need to consider replacing the plant with one that will reach a smaller size at maturity.

The Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service's online data base, <http://www.GardenData.org>, can answer many of your pruning and other gardening and landscape questions.

Get an Early Start on Spring Gardening

Rick Durham, Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist

You don't need to wait for warm weather to start your vegetable garden. Several types of vegetables can be started as early as March. Radishes, spinach, cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, onions and many more vegetables are all quite frost tolerant, and you can seed or transplant them in the garden from mid-March to early April.

If you want to get an even earlier start, you could try covering an area with clear plastic film to create a mini greenhouse where plants will thrive. To try this season-extending technique first work up the soil for your plot and stretch some black plastic over the area for a couple of weeks. This will help warm the soil and give seeds and transplants an added boost.

After a few weeks under black plastic, the soil will have warmed a few degrees, and you can prepare the bed for planting and transplanting. Once planted, you should install a wooden or metal frame over the bed and cover it with clear polyethylene film. Anchor the film at the base with boards, bricks or soil, but remember that occasionally you will have to remove the poly to tend to the plants and to harvest the crop.

For this reason, it's best if you don't permanently attach the plastic to the frame. It will also be necessary to open sections of the covering for ventilation on warm sunny days. You can easily accomplish this by designing the ends of the covering so you can easily open or remove them during warm weather.

For more information on early spring gardening techniques or other gardening topics, contact the Powell County Cooperative Extension Service.

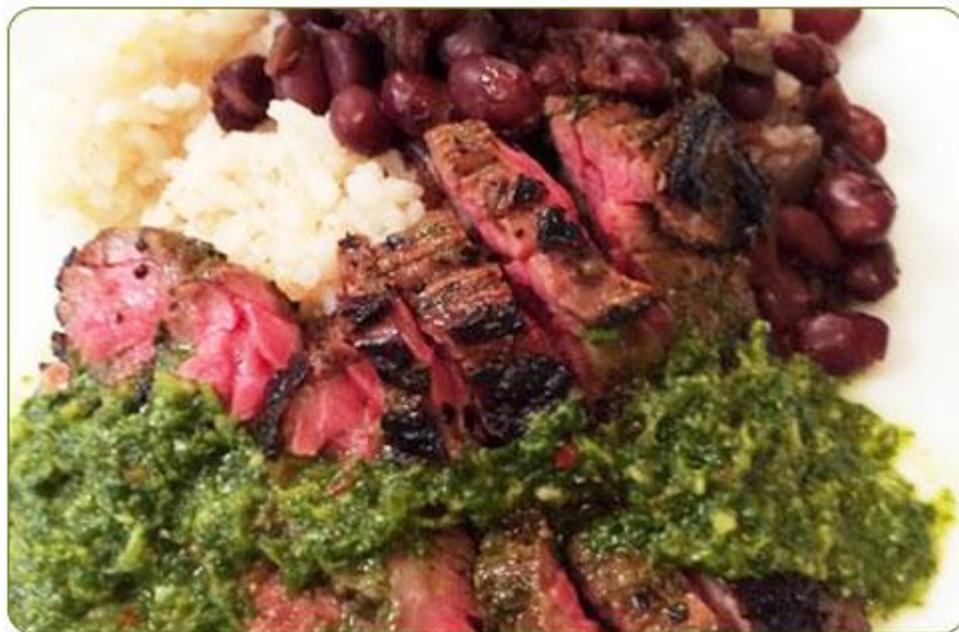
Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Caudle
Powell County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources Education

February 2017

Caribbean Skirt Steak with Garlic Chimichurri



Ingredients:

- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 cup parsley
- 1 cup cilantro
- Juice of 1 lime
- 2 tbsp red pepper jelly (or sub with 1 tbsp brown sugar and ½ tsp crushed red pepper)
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1½ - 2 lbs skirt or flank steak

Directions:

To make the chimichurri, place the garlic in the food processor and mince. Add the herbs and pulse again to finely chop. Add the lime juice and pepper jelly to the bowl. With the machine running, drizzle in the vinegar and oil. Season with salt and pepper.

To marinate the skirt steak, score the steak against the grain and cover with about half of the chimichurri. Marinate at room temperature for 1 hour or in the refrigerator for several hours or overnight. Remove from the marinade, sprinkle with a bit more salt and pepper, and cook on a hot grill or in a hot pan to medium-rare. Remove from heat, allow to rest, and slice thinly, against the grain. Serve with remaining chimichurri sauce drizzled on top.