



## Upcoming Events

- **Caldwell/Lyon Cattlemen's Meeting has been moved to Feb. 7, 5:30 PM**
- **Crop Health Conference**, Feb. 9, Corvette Museum, Bowling Green
- **KY Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference**, Feb. 21, Cave City
- **KATS—Herbicide Mode of Action**, Feb. 23
- **Skywarn Spotter Training**, Extension Office, 6:00 PM
- **Apple and Pear Tree Grafting**, Extension Office, March 16, 6:00 PM
- **KY Fencing School**, UKREC, April 25

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Dear Lyon County Farmer,

Due to the sleet/ice storm the Caldwell Lyon Cattlemen's Meeting has been moved to **Feb. 7, 5:30 p.m. at the Lee S. Jones Park, Lyon Convention Center**. The meal sponsor is James Buck with Cambridge Technologies and he will be discussing autonomous vaccines for pinkeye and some discussion on fly control. Following this there will be a BQCA Training for those that need certification.



Sincerely,

*Jessie M. Fox*

Extension Agent for ANR



## Soybean Variety Selections, What is profitable?

- For double-crop soybeans look at relative maturity and disease and insect resistance. The last thing to look at is yield.
- For early planting a high vigor rating is required and a fungicide is needed to control damping off.
- Variety selection is key for Sudden Death Syndrome. Ratings are available from seed companies. Information on SDS can be found at <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/>

## 2023 Farm Bill Election

*Tom Miller, Ballard County Extension Agent for ANR*

You have until March 15<sup>th</sup> to make your election on whether to take ARC-Co or PLC for the 2023 crop year. This is the last crop year under the current farm bill. With the discord in Washington and one part controlling the House and the other controlling the Senate, I will be shocked if a new Farm Bill gets done on time. Don't be surprised if the current bills gets rolled over for a year or more.

I think the decision this year may be the most clear cut since this whole process started 5 year ago. In order for PLC to be the best option, remember PLC is based solely on the Marketing Year Average Price (MYAP) which will be determined for the 2023 crop year in September of 2024 for corn and soybeans, has to be below \$3.70 on corn, \$8.95 on soybeans and \$5.50 on wheat. Currently the MYAP for 2022 is tracking way above these levels, corn at \$6.67, soybeans at \$13.99 and wheat at 8.88. For 2023 MYAP the estimates are being projected for 18 months from now and they are corn at \$5.82, soybeans at \$13.48 and wheat at \$9.05. If the prices stay at these levels, **they are much higher than the PLC payment rate and ARC-Co would be the better option**. With ARC-Co, we have a chance at some payments if we have a county yield loss or price drop. I know these prices are wrong but nobody knows where the market is going. If we were to have market losses that would bring the PLC payment back into play, we will have many other larger things to worry about instead of the amount of this small payment.

# Tobacco Update, New Tobacco Growers Organizations

Dr. Will Snell, University of Kentucky



The 2022-23 tobacco marketing season is beginning to wind down following challenging growing/curing conditions for the 2022 crop. Buyers indicate that the subpar-quality crop turned out slightly better than expected. Grower prices will end up higher, but profitability will be lower given lower yields and inflated input prices. Consequently, a large number of the depleted grower base are indicating that they will likely exit the industry given more profitable opportunities for other ag enterprises. Our last official count from the 2017 Ag Census indicated around 2,600 farms growing tobacco in Kentucky in 2017. I would anticipate this number to hover around 1,000 farms when the 2022 Census data becomes available, with less than 1,000 farms remaining in the industry in 2023.

Despite a declining grower base, tobacco companies have had access to adequate leaf supplies in recent years to meet their needs in a shrinking market composed of ample lower-priced leaf alternatives and the introduction of many new “nicotine” products that contain limited or no tobacco leaf. However, burley tobacco supplies in the world market entering 2023 are extremely tight relative to anticipated demand. So I would anticipate that burley buyers will be offering the remaining growers an opportunity to increase their burley pounds in 2023 to accommodate tight inventories even as domestic cigarette volume declines accelerate and burley leaf exports plummet to negligible levels.

The fragile grower base who are currently contemplating their crop decisions for this coming year is eagerly awaiting to see what evolves with contract pricing for the 2023 burley crop. Frankly, without significant price increases across the board for the 2023 crop, I would expect a continued rapid exit of burley growers. After gathering cost and production data from several growers and obtaining 2023 input prices from ag input suppliers, University tobacco specialists from the University of Kentucky and the University of Tennessee plan to release 2023 tobacco budgets in February to assist growers in their 2023 production decisions and for buyers in making their 2023 contract pricing decisions.

Following a sustained period of optimism, the dark tobacco outlook has changed abruptly. Smokeless tobacco product sale volumes continue to grow, but traditional snuff product sales have been significantly impacted by the rapid expansion of alternative smokeless products which do not contain dark tobacco leaf. Consequently, dark fire-cured contract volumes for 2023 may be lowered to adjust inventory levels, which may cause growers to consider cigar-style tobaccos as a viable substitute.

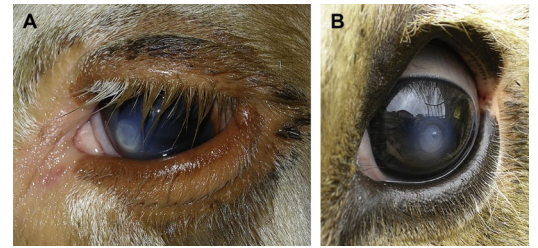
Amidst this changing marketplace, a new tobacco organization has emerged. Joe Cain, former Director of the Commodity Division and former Director of National Affairs and Political Education with Kentucky Farm Bureau has become the Executive Director for the Burley and Dark Tobacco Producer Association. Below, Joe provides some background and goals for this new organization.



*The Burley and Dark Tobacco Producer Association (BDTPA) is a new tobacco grower organization that was organized following the dissolution of the Burley Cooperative and is focused on representing all tobacco growers on government, regulatory and industry issues. The goal of the Association is to work on behalf of tobacco producers to address issues affecting the long term viability of the industry and profitability of producers. Any producer of any type of tobacco grown in the KY-TN-IN area is encouraged to join the Association. This includes producers of leaf, seed or seedlings. Any grower association is strongest when a majority of producers are active members, and the BDTPA hopes all growers in the region see the value in being members of the Association. Joining is easy, and free. Producers can join the Association by emailing Joe Cain, BDTPA Executive Director, at [KYTobaccoGrowers@Outlook.com](mailto:KYTobaccoGrowers@Outlook.com) or by calling him at (502) 303-3663 (please be sure to leave a message if the call is not answered) and providing the following information: Name, mailing address, email address, telephone number and type of production. The Association will be sending quarterly email newsletters to membership on industry news, production practices and government issues, and if necessary will send out special bulletins if the need arises. Most correspondence is planned via email, but if the producer does not have email we can provide text updates, or physically mail information to them. The BDTPA looks forward to “Working together for ALL tobacco producers.” Joe Cain, Executive Di-*

## When Will There be an Answer for Pinkeye?

By Dr. Michelle Arnold, University of Kentucky Extension DVM



Pinkeye or IBK (infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis) is a costly disease for cattle producers. The cost of treatment coupled with the fact that affected calves wean off on average 15-30 pounds lighter and bring less at the market due to corneal scarring make this disease a significant economic consideration. Despite all we know about how pinkeye develops, control programs are often only partially successful. In particular, pinkeye vaccines seem marginal at best in preventing outbreaks during the summer. It is important to understand that many factors are involved in the development of pinkeye including environment, season of the year, concurrent disease, the strain of bacteria involved, and the animal's immune system. Once pinkeye begins, it is highly contagious and can spread rapidly within the herd. Careful attention to control of contributing factors and prompt treatment in the face of an outbreak are necessary to reduce the spread and limit the damaging effects of the disease.

It is widely accepted that the most important risk factor in pinkeye is the bacteria *Moraxella bovis* or *M. bovis*. It attaches to the eyeball (cornea) by hairlike projections called "pili" and produces toxins that cause the eye to ulcerate and melt (liquefy). It is against this *Moraxella* organism that we vaccinate with commercial pinkeye vaccine products such as Piliguard, Vision 20/20, Alpha 7/MB-1, I-Site XP, Pinkeye Shield, Ocuguard and SolidBac. One reason for vaccine failure is a recently discovered second strain of bacteria, *Moraxella bovoculi*, that is now being isolated from pinkeye cases but is not included in any commercial vaccine preparation. *Consequently we are not getting full protection against the bacterial causes with commercial vaccines.* The two most important contributing factors to pinkeye following bacteria are UV light (sunlight) and face flies, both of which can damage the corneal surface and allow the *Moraxella* species to attach to the surface of the eyeball and grow. Face flies also serve as vectors to spread the bacteria throughout the herd. One study found the *Moraxella* bacteria can survive on the legs of face flies for up to three days.

Other risk factors that can initiate infection by eye irritation include dust, trauma or injury, wind, tall grass, thick stemmed hay, high ammonia levels and stress. Many different combinations of these factors can occur within one herd at one time. For example, a combination of *M. bovis*, face flies and sunlight may cause pinkeye in one group of cattle in one pasture while tall grass with seed heads, *M. bovoculi*, and sunlight may combine to cause problems in another group on a different pasture. In this situation, good fly control and vaccination will significantly decrease the cases of pinkeye in the first group of cattle but the second group will not show much improvement. This explains why in some years control measures seem to work well and others they seem to be completely ineffective. Vaccination may reduce the incidence of disease but seldom stops it completely, especially in herds where pinkeye is associated with both *Moraxella bovis* and *Moraxella bovoculi*.

As producers, what can you do to prevent pinkeye? The best plan is to reduce or remove as many risk factors as possible in order to keep the eyes healthy and better equipped to fend off disease.

- An overall good level of nutrition, adequate trace mineral intake, a comprehensive vaccination program, and parasite control are all exceptionally important in improving cattle's ability to fight off any disease process (not just pinkeye).
- Prevent eye irritation with good face fly control, mow tall grass, and reduce sources of stress (such as overcrowding/overgrazing) if possible.
- Control face flies with ear tags impregnated with insecticide and topically administered insecticides by way of back and face rubbers or dust bags they must walk under to get to water or mineral.
- Provide shade to protect from UV rays.
- Clean drinking water (instead of stagnant pond water) is critical because the precorneal tear film is essential in eye defense mechanisms. Intake is greater with clean water and this helps provide plenty of fluid in the eye, especially in dry, dusty, and/or windy conditions.
- Vaccination may prove beneficial, depending on the bacteria involved.

*Continued on next page.*

- In the face of a pinkeye outbreak, preventing transmission is the single most important factor in controlling the disease. Immediate detection and isolation of affected animals coupled with prompt treatment are necessary to reduce the spread and limit the damage to the eye. Long acting antibiotics such as LA-200, Draxxin, Nuflor, and Excede are recommended to treat the infection and can often be effective with a single dose. Treatment also reduces the duration of the carrier stage when recurrence and transmission most often occur.
- Your veterinarian can take cultures from affected eyes and send the swabs to one of several laboratories that can create a vaccine tailor-made for your farm (known as an “autogenous vaccine”). All cultures must be taken early in the course of disease; preferably when the eye is just beginning to tear (water) excessively.



## UK Beef Management Webinar Series

Registration is necessary, however, if you received this email directly from Darrh Bullock then you are already registered. If you received this from another source, or have not registered previously, then please send an email to [dbullock@uky.edu](mailto:dbullock@uky.edu) with Beef Webinar in the subject line and your name and county in the message. You will receive the direct link with a password the morning of each meeting. This invitation will directly link you to the site and you will be asked for the password which can be found just below the link. Each session will be recorded and posted for later viewing. **All meeting times are 8:00pm ET/7:00pm CT.**

October 11, 2022

**Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef Related Questions!** – Updates and Roundtable discussion with UK Specialists  
<https://youtu.be/PXmwX6-9sVQ>

November 8, 2022

**From Hay Sample to Feed Bunk: Winter Feeding Considerations for Cattle** – Katie Mason, Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee  
<https://youtu.be/micCgvTgAys>

December 13, 2022

**Packer and Consumer Trends with Some Holiday Beef Ideas** – Gregg Rentfrow, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky and Alison Smith, Kentucky Beef Council Retail and Foodservice  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLv7hsA1DIQ>

February 14, 2023

**Where is the cheap feed?** – Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky will discuss feeding strategies to mitigate current high feed costs. We will also get a market update from Dr. Kenny Burdine, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

March 14, 2023

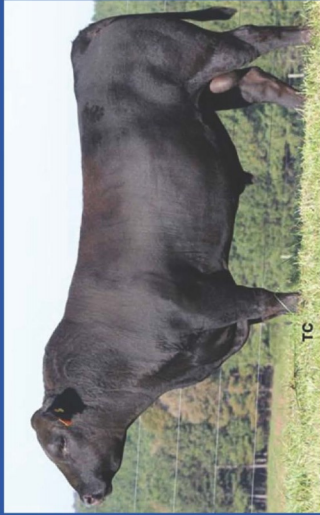
**Beef Management Update** – Management information useful for going into spring breeding and summer stockering will be presented by the Beef Extension Team and other specialists within the college. We will also address any questions from participants.

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# KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE COWMANS KIND BULL SALE

Saturday, March 4, 2023  
Sale starts at 12 pm

KY-TN LIVESTOCK MARKET - 9169 RUSSELLVILLE RD GUTHRIE, KY



College of Agriculture,  
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## THE FOLLOWING BREEDS WILL

BE REPRESENTED:

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GENOMIC TESTED	BALANCERS
COST SHARE QUALIFIED	BLACK HEREFORD
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	MATT FUTRELL
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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
with prior notification.



College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

# In-Depth Pesticide Mode of Action



**Feb 23, 2023**  
9:00 am to 12:30  
(sign in at 8:30)

Caldwell County Cooperative  
Extension Office  
1025 US 62, Princeton, KY  
42445

## Topics:

- How does herbicide resistance occur
- How do herbicide kill weeds
- Understanding how fungicides work to make them work for you
- Importance of insecticides mode of action and biorational approach for their use in IMP

Pre-registration is required at:

<https://KATSmodeofaction23.eventbrite.com>

Registration cost: \$60

Lunch will be provided

CCA: 4 CEUs

PAT: 4 CEUs Categories 1A, 10

For more information contact  
Lori Rogers ([lori.rogers@uky.edu](mailto:lori.rogers@uky.edu))  
270-365-7541 ext.21317



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**FEBRUARY 21, 2023  
5:30PM REGISTRATION  
6:00PM PROGRAM**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2023  
8:30AM REGISTRATION  
9:30AM PROGRAM**

**REGISTER HERE: <http://bitly.ws/xLie>**

**WKU L.D. BROWN AG EXPO CENTER**  
406 Elrod Road Bowling Green, KY 42104



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT KATE AT (513) 470- 8171