



## Lyon County Ag Newsletter

September, 2023

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### AG Jokes

#### Why do cows like being told farmer jokes?

Because they like being aMOOsed.

#### Why can't you tell secrets on a farm?

Because the corn has ears, and the potatoes have eyes.

#### What farm animal keeps the best time?

A watch dog!

#### What do you call a sleeping bull?

A bulldozer!

#### What kind of horses only get out at night?

Nightmares

Dear Lyon County Farmer,

There are several programs planned for the fall for beef cattle, grazing and the grain crops production webinars. Flyers are enclosed!

The Beef Bash at the UK Oran C. Little Farm in Lexington was a great success last week. Some notes include the following:

There is a new Food Bioscience Degree that was developed in collaboration with industry. Graduates have been coming out of the program with three good job offers in hand and salaries of \$77,000. There are three tracks that students can follow including business and food management and the distillation/brewing industry.

Meats and Food Science has plans and hopes for a new meat and food laboratory building that will include labs for meat, egg, poultry, vegetable and fruit products and a central food development area where all of these foods can be used to develop new products.

Research is continuing with selenium. In addition to our current knowledge that the ideal combination for cattle is a 50% organic and 50% inorganic mix in the mineral (each type stimulates different parts of the immune response) they have found that it lowers cholesterol levels—it is unknown if it has that affect with people.

The Kentucky Beef Network discussed programs that they sponsor including the Beef Quality Assurance Program (free in September!), the Grazing and Fencing Schools, operating and managing UK's Eden Shale Demonstration Farm including tire waterers, managing mud on the farm, etc. Their open house at Eden Shale is October 21, sign-up is online on their website.

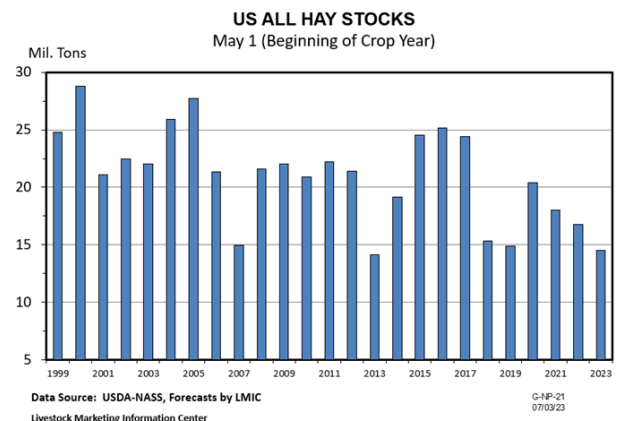
Sincerely,



Extension Agent for ANR



Adobe Stock | #70071737



# Beef Cattle Markets

Dr. Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

Feeder cattle markets were stronger last week with only a couple exceptions and they remain well above year-ago levels. Fed cattle prices were slightly higher, while boxed beef prices were slightly lower. CME(C) live cattle and feeder cattle futures were higher, while corn futures were down slightly.

<b>Cattle Market Report</b>		For Weeks Ending On			% Chg	% Chg	
Prices \$/cwt. Sources: USDA, LMIC, and CME		9/15/23	9/8/23	9/16/22	Prev. Week	Prev. Year	Chg Prev. Week
<b>500-600 lb. Feeder Steers</b>	Mississippi M/L #1-2	\$235.82	\$227.79	\$163.27	4%	44%	\$8.03
	Arkansas M/L #1	\$272.92	\$268.14	\$175.16	2%	56%	\$4.78
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	\$249.78	\$251.53	\$177.32	-1%	41%	(\$1.75)
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	\$266.18	N/A	\$173.76	N/A	53%	N/A
	Alabama M/L #1	\$240.38	\$243.72	\$172.65	-1%	39%	(\$3.35)
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	\$249.54	\$247.14	\$181.45	1%	38%	\$2.40
	Missouri M/L #1-2	\$273.34	\$274.23	\$186.51	0%	47%	(\$0.89)
<b>700-800 lb. Feeder Steers</b>	Mississippi M/L #1-2	\$216.62	\$209.19	\$145.95	4%	48%	\$7.43
	Arkansas M/L #1	\$246.00	\$235.77	\$158.79	4%	55%	\$10.24
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	\$239.94	\$235.43	\$163.68	2%	47%	\$4.51
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	\$246.88	N/A	\$168.78	N/A	46%	N/A
	Alabama M/L #1	\$221.38	\$219.38	\$149.21	1%	48%	\$2.00
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	\$233.98	\$226.28	\$161.69	3%	45%	\$7.70
	Missouri M/L #1-2	\$242.79	\$245.84	\$173.58	-1%	40%	(\$3.05)
<b>Negotiated Fed Steers</b>	Live Price	\$184.04	\$182.28	\$143.19	1%	29%	\$1.76
	Dressed Price	\$291.84	\$289.48	\$226.84	1%	29%	\$2.36
<b>Boxed Beef</b>	Choice Value, 600-900 lb.	\$307.55	\$313.40	\$254.76	-2%	21%	(\$5.85)
<b>Cutout</b>	Select Value, 600-900 lb.	\$285.28	\$287.34	\$231.21	-1%	23%	(\$2.06)

<b>Futures Prices</b>		<b>9/15/23</b>	<b>9/8/23</b>
<b>Live Cattle</b>	October	\$186.93	\$183.23
	December	\$191.82	\$187.43
	February	\$196.32	\$191.70
<b>Feeder Cattle</b>	September	\$257.38	\$255.35
	October	\$264.48	\$259.15
	November	\$268.13	\$260.63
<b>Corn</b>	December	\$4.76	\$4.84
	March	\$4.91	\$4.98
<b>Source: CME Group</b>			

## Don't Miss Opportunities in this High Market

*Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, University of Kentucky*

As we approach the end of summer and nighttime temperatures begin to consistently dip into the 60's our thoughts turn to fall activities, one of which is marketing our spring born calves. It's quite easy to feel good about the cattle business these days with current market prices, however we need to make sure we continue to manage our calf crop and do not miss the opportunities this current market is offering. Good management pays dividends in both lean years and good years. In fact, one could make the case that good management pays even greater dividends in times like these. The following are four management considerations that will help maximize calf value at sale time.

**Avoid selling bulls.** Table 1 compares steer and bull prices in Kentucky markets for the week of 8/6/2023 to 8/12/2023. As is usually the case, discounts for bulls increase as calves move up in weight class. What is unusual is the severity of the current discounts. Bull calves weighing in the 500-600 lb weight range have historically taken a \$10-12 per cwt. discount as compared to similar weight steers. However, the present discounts for that weight bull calf have been running in the \$20+/cwt. range. As table 1 shows, during the week of 8/6/2023-8/12/2023 that amounted to \$95-152 per head. Although it is best to castrate male calves prior to three months of age, the next best option is to castrate prior to weaning. Research also shows that if calves are castrated early and implanted, weaning weights will be similar to intact males at weaning. A good reason does not exist to leaving a male calf intact. Castration is something that must be done and should be done on the farm where the calf was born to avoid the most stress and add the most value.

Weight	Steer Price	Bull Price	Discount	Discount
Lbs	\$/Cwt	\$/Cwt	\$/Cwt	\$/Head
375	260.00	260.77	0.77	2.89
425	260.58	251.87	-8.71	-37.02
475	259.59	247.18	-12.41	-58.95
525	252.83	234.74	-18.09	-94.97
575	258.39	232.02	-26.37	-151.63
625	252.18	219.98	-32.20	-201.25
675	249.34	213.89	-35.45	-239.29

KY Weekly Livestock Summary Monday Aug. 14, 2023

**Wean, feed, and take advantage of the current value of gain.** Weaned lots of calves have been consistently selling at a premium to unweaned calves. Weighted average premiums in two recent CPH sales were \$10.45/cwt over state average prices with premiums as high as \$20/cwt for lighter weight heifers. But what is most promising is the current value of gain being offered in the marketplace. Table 2 shows the current value in dollars per head of each additional 100 lbs. of weight. By simply dividing that dollar amount by 100 you can calculate the maximum cost of gain that a feeding program must stay under to be profitable. You can see that there is an excellent opportunity to profitably add weight to calves, especially at the lighter weight classes. Lighter weight calves are also cheaper to feed and have a lower cost of gain than bigger calves due simply to less feed needed for body maintenance. Backgrounding/preconditioning budgets using \$300/ton feed, \$90 hay, 8% interest, and \$15/head health costs along with 2-2.5 average daily gains are currently showing cost of gain figures of approximately \$1.10/lb. for 375-575 lb. calves to upwards of a \$1.50/lb. for 775-875 wt. cattle. Realize, these price figures are from the non-valued added portion of the market report and do not represent any premium for weaning. The best way for small producers to capture weaned calf premiums is to sell in special preconditioned sales such as CPH or other stockyard sponsored sales. Combining a weaned calf premium with a feeding program that captures current value of gain leaves room for a potential significant profit.

Weight	Steer Price	Steer Price	Additional Value	Max. Cost of gain
Lbs	\$/Cwt	\$/Head	\$/Head	\$/lb
375	260.00	975.00	----	----
475	259.59	1233.05	258.05	2.58
575	258.39	1485.74	252.69	2.53
675	249.34	1683.05	197.30	1.97
775	230.28	1784.67	101.63	1.02
875	233.06	2039.28	254.61	2.55

KY Weekly Livestock Summary Monday Aug. 14, 2023

**Consider a pre-weaning working.** Working calves prior to weaning has always been a standard recommendation, especially for calves that were going to be retained on the farm through a pre-conditioning program.

With current market prices, this may be a profitable strategy even for calves that will be sold off the cow. Virginia Tech research showed a 10-40 lb response in added weaning weight by deworming and implanting calves in mid-summer. If it is early September and we know we will not sell for another 45-60 days (about 2 months) it may pay dividends to deworm, implant and boost fly control now. If these practices add an additional 20 lbs of sale weight given the current market prices, a \$10 investment may net a \$40 return.

**Avoid excessive sale day shrink.** Sale day shrink is simply a cost of doing business. Anytime we move or haul cattle we can expect at least a 2-3 % reduction in weight primarily due to fill. However, with every pound worth \$2+ dollars, reducing excess shrink needs to be a consideration. Oklahoma State research showed that unweaned bawling calves hauled to the sale barn the night before sale day shrank approximately 2% more than similar calves delivered on sale day. Sometimes delivering calves the night before a sale cannot be avoided but be mindful that a fresh weaned bawling calf in a hay and water pen at the yard the night before the sale is not going to eat or drink very much, if at all. Some other considerations to reduce shrink are to improve facilities so cattle can be sorted and loaded quietly and efficiently just prior to hauling. Also consider hauling calves early to the yard to avoid long waits in line to unload. Although excessive shrink should be

## Beef Seedstock Symposiums Set for October

*Dr. Darrh Bullock, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky*

University of Kentucky Beef Extension in partnership with the University of Tennessee Cooperative Extension will be conducting a Beef Seedstock Symposium on October 18 (Barren County Kentucky Extension Office, Glasgow). This program is specifically designed to assist beef cattle seedstock producers that market bulls to commercial and/or other seedstock producers. There will be a major focus on genetics (EPD, genomics, indexes), but we will also cover topics on nutrition, health, bull fertility and marketing strategies. Speakers from the University of Kentucky, the University of Tennessee, and our featured speaker Dr. Matt Spangler from the University of Nebraska will cover these topics. The cost is \$25 to attend, and pre-registration is required (space is limited). Lunch and educational resources will be provided. To receive a flyer, a detailed agenda, and a mail in registration form you can email Maggie Ginn at [Maggie.Ginn@uky.edu](mailto:Maggie.Ginn@uky.edu) or you can go directly to the registration site (links below) to see the agenda and register with a credit card if interested. The Kentucky portion of this program is in coordination with the Kentucky Beef Network and funding was generously provided by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

Lexington: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/709667262887?aff=oddtcreator>

 University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service		<i>"Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Opportunities"</i>	
<b>Kentucky Beef Conference</b>			
<b>October 26, 2023</b>			
<b>In person</b>		<b>10:00—Welcome &amp; Sponsor Recognition</b> Levi Berg, Clark County Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent	
Clark County Extension Office 1400 Fortune Dr Winchester, Kentucky 40391		<b>University of KY Remarks &amp; Welcome</b> Dr. Scott Radcliffe, UK CAFÉ Animal & Food Sciences Department Chair	
<b>9:00—10:00</b> Registration, visit sponsors \$10 registration fee		<b>Beef Outlook &amp; Marketing Strategies</b> Troy Applehans, Cattle-FAX Analyst	
<b>RSVP by October 20th to Clark County Extension Office 859.744.4682</b>		<b>11:00— Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test</b> Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, UK Beef Nutrition Extension Specialist and Dr. Michelle Arnold, UK Ruminant Extension Veterinarian	
		<b>11:30— Tools for Beef Producers</b> Dr. Les Anderson, UK Beef Extension Specialist	
		<b>12:00 Lunch</b>	
		<b>1:00— LRP &amp; Price Risk Protection</b> Dr. Kenny Burdine, UK Beef Economic Extension Specialist	
		<b>2:00—Adjourn</b>	
<small>Cooperative Extension Service          University of Kentucky          400 North Limestone          Lexington, KY 40506</small>		<small>MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT          1000 North Limestone          Lexington, KY 40506          606-257-3333          www.uky.edu</small>	



The right time is **now.**  
 The right way is **BQCA.**

Thanks to a partnership and University of Kentucky are offering **FREE BQCA CERTIFICATION** online or through your county extension office **September 1st** through **September 30th, 2023.**







## Corn and Soybean News September 'Highlights'

The following are excerpts from the September Newsletter. A full copy of the newsletter with complete articles can be found online or I would be happy to email or mail copies.

**Tar Spot** was found on corn in Caldwell County. It can be managed with fungicide applications at VT-R1 (tasseling/silking).

**Herbicide Resistance Screening Program to be Developed:** A new UK professor, Dr. Samuel Revolinski, will be developing a herbicide resistance screening program for weeds in Kentucky. He is also going to be studying the mechanisms of resistance.

**Soil Erosion:** IUK Water Specialist Brad Lee and Soils Specialist John Grove have had a study on soil erosion from precipitation events on a field in a corn and soybean rotation. During a summer 7" rain event only 0.2 tons of soil per acre were lost. Following the soybean harvest wheat was planted. In mid-March a 2.2 inch rain resulted in a 9 ton/acre soil loss. The soybean residue degrades over the winter and the wheat density was not sufficient to prevent this erosion. It is recommended to not do any fall field activities that size particles or break up the soil aggregates. A winter cereal rye cover crop produces a dense, fibrous root system which can maintain soil aggregation and hold it in place if planted early enough, and if there is enough shoot biomass it can provide aboveground protection from raindrops.

**Fall Residual Herbicides an Option for Italian Ryegrass Management:** Dr. Travis Legleiter says that Italian or annual ryegrass is now becoming a weed issue prior to corn and soybean planting as well as in wheat. Fall applied residual herbicides are a common and critical component. Several products with pyroxasulfone or S-metolachlor have labeling that allow for application in the fall for control of Italian ryegrass or fall germinating weeds. In a fall UKREC study in 2022 Zidua, Anthem Maxx, Dual II Magnum, Boundary and Helmet MTZ applied with glyphosate or paraquat all achieved 89% or greater burndown of emerged ryegrass 30 days after treatment. Boundary Helmet MTZ without glyphosate or paraquat provided greater than 95% control of emerged, small ryegrass plants. Additional details and recommendations on spraying are available in the newsletter.

**Grain Fill Period and Yield:** Dr. Dennis Egli provides a great description of how grain fill and final yield occurs. Grain fill lasts 30-40 days, at about R5 in soybeans and at R2 in corn. At the initiation of grain fill leaf senescence will also begin and nutrients are moved from the leaves into the grain. A water stress period will accelerate leaf senescence and shorten grain filling. In their experiments, only 3 days of stress on soybeans was needed to begin the accelerated senescence and shorten grain fill. Water stress during seed filling may be a more important yield-limiting factor than commonly thought. Yield is not 'made' until the seeds reach physiological maturity. A high, dry climate with high levels of solar radiation, high daytime temperatures and lower nighttime temperatures allowed for a longer grain-filling period with higher photosynthesis resulting in a higher final yield.

**Low River Levels, Barge Freight and Widening Basis:** Dr. Grant Gardener, UK Extension Ag Economist, and Dr. Hunter Biram, U of A Ag Economist. Last year the historic low river levels caused at Memphis cause a barge freight high of \$90/ton of grain. As of Sept. 5th the river level declines had caused barge rates to rise to \$30/ton and unpredictable basis patterns. If the basis falls in the short term, producers may want to utilize on or off-farm storage to suspend cash sales until the basis improves.



**Organized and Sponsored by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council,  
UK Cooperative Extension Service, and the Master Grazer Program**

*This program is designed for producers and agricultural professionals to learn the newest fencing methods and sound fencing construction through a combination of classroom and hands-on learning*

**WHEN:** November 7-Scott County, KY  
November 9-Caldwell County, KY

**WHERE:** Scott County Extension Office  
1130 Cincinnati Road  
Georgetown, KY 40324

Kentucky Soybean Board Office  
1000 Highway 62 West  
Princeton, KY 42445



**COST:** \$35/participant -- includes notebook, refreshments, safety glasses, hearing protection, and catered lunch

**Registration DEADLINE: 1 week prior to workshop**

**ONLINE Registration with Credit Card:**

\_\_\_ Georgetown, KY [Register for KY Fencing School in GEORGETOWN](#)

\_\_\_ Princeton, KY [Register for KY Fencing School in PRINCETON](#)



\*\*\*\*\*

**Registration by U.S. Mail:** Christi Forsythe  
UK Research and Education Center  
P.O. Box 469  
Princeton, KY 42445

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 per participant = \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Cost**

**Make CHECKS payable to: KFGC**

For more information contact Krista Lea at 270-625-0712 or [Christi.Forsythe@uky.edu](mailto:Christi.Forsythe@uky.edu)



**2023 Kentucky Fencing Schools**

# 2023 Kentucky Fencing School Agenda

- 7:30 Registration and Refreshments**
- 8:15 Welcome and Overview of the Day – *Chris Teutsch, UK***
- 8:30 Fencing Types and Costs - *Morgan Hayes, UK***
- 9:00 Fence Construction Basics – *Eric Miller and Payton Rushing, Stay-Tuff***
- Perimeter fences vs. cross fences
  - Fencing options on rented farms
  - Proper brace construction
  - Line posts and fence construction
- 9:45 Break – visit with sponsors and presenters**
- 10:15 Electric Fencing Basics - *Jeremy McGill, Gallagher***
- Proper energizer selection and grounding
  - Proper high tensile fence construction and wire insulation
  - Electric offset wires for non-electric fences
  - Underground wires and jumper wires
- 11:00 Innovations in Fencing Technologies - *Josh Jackson, UK***
- Wireless fences, fence monitoring, fence mapping
- 11:30 Overview of Kentucky Fence Law - *Clint Quarles, KDA***
- 12:15 Catered Lunch - visit with sponsors and presenters**
- 1:00 Hands-on Fence Building**
- Safety, fence layout, and post driving demo - *Jody Watson and Tucker LaForce, ACI*
  - H-brace construction - *Jeremy McGill, Gallagher & Eric Miller and Payton Rushing, Stay-Tuff*
  - Knot tying, splices, and insulator installation - *Jeremy McGill, Gallagher & Eric Miller & Payton Rushing, Stay-Tuff*
  - Installation of Stay-Tuff Fixed Knot Fence - *Eric Miller and Payton Rushing, Stay-Tuff*
  - Installation of High Electrified Tensile Fencing - *Jeremy McGill, Gallagher*
- 4:30 Questions, Survey and Wrap-up**



# University of Kentucky presents 2023 Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series

Beginning Nov. 2, 2023, the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will present a series of four webinars covering field crop protection. Hosted through the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center, the webinars will feature UK extension pest management specialists discussing weed science, plant pathology and entomology topics. Continuing education credits for Kentucky pesticide applicators and Certified Crop Advisors will be available.

The Thursday morning webinars will take place via Zoom at 10 a.m. EST/ 9 a.m. CST, and pre-registration is required for each webinar. The webinars are open to agriculture and natural resource County extension agents, crop consultants, farmers, industry professionals, and others, whether they reside or work in Kentucky or outside the state.



**Dr. Kiersten Wise**

**Webinar #1: *Do multiple corn fungicide applications pay?***

**November 2, 2023**

**Registration: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CfQFt0dQSnq5ifdnaSre7A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CfQFt0dQSnq5ifdnaSre7A)**



**Dr. Carl Bradley**

**Webinar #2: *What have we learned from nearly two decades of research on soybean with foliar fungicides?***

**November 9, 2023**

**Registration: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3SvKPhEDSSWcYhnUnLrvsQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3SvKPhEDSSWcYhnUnLrvsQ)**



**Dr. Travis Legleiter**

**Webinar #3: *Managing the offensive spread of weeds***

**November 16, 2023**

**Registration: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_SIOzGyibQiOk4A6pTRHGmw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SIOzGyibQiOk4A6pTRHGmw)**



**Dr. Raul Villanueva**

**Webinar #4: *Insects in field crops during two years of partial drought and heat wave***

**November 30, 2023**

**Registration: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_AqvCh08TQGCAJXvKxqdwFA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AqvCh08TQGCAJXvKxqdwFA)**



# Grazing Conference

Low Stress Livestock Handling for Serious Graziers

October 31, 2023

Elizabethtown

Hardin County Extension Office

7:30 AM - 3:30 PM CDT

November 1, 2023

Lexington

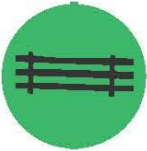
Fayette County Extension Office

7:30 AM - 3:30 PM EDT



## Reducing Livestock Stress in Grazing Systems

Curt Pate, Curt Pate Stockmanship



## Fencing for Multi-Species Grazing

Lewis Sapp, Stay-Tuff Fence



## Designing Flexible Watering Systems

Jeff Lehmkuhler, University of Kentucky



## Designing Livestock Handling Facilities for Existing Structures

Chris McBurney, McBurney Livestock Equipment



## Local Producers and Spokesperson Contest



## Optimizing Resources with Multi-Species Grazing

Greg Brann, Greg Brann Consulting

For more information please visit [KFGC.ORG](http://KFGC.ORG)

# Our speakers...

**Curt Pate** is a nationally renowned expert in low stress livestock handling. His focus on reducing stress in grazing systems makes him unique.

**Lewis Sapp** is a nationally recognized fencing expert with extensive experience in both temporary and permanent fencing systems.

**Jeff Lehmkuhler** is an award winning extension educator with more than 20 years of experience in designing flexible watering systems.

**Chris McBurney** has over 25 years of experience in designing, fabricating, and installing livestock facilities throughout the eastern United States.

**Greg Brann** is well known for his extensive knowledge of grassland ecosystems, grazing management, and mixed species grazing.

**Tickets: \$45 Advance / \$60 Onsite / \$15 Students**

## Register Online:

*Elizabethtown* - <https://2023-KY-Grazing-Conference-Hardin>

*Lexington* - <https://2032-KY-Grazing-Conference-Fayette>

**Register by Email:** info@kfgc.org

**Register by Phone:** 513-470-8171

**Register by Mail:** Christi Forsythe, PO Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445

Make Checks payable to: **KFGC**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45per participant = \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount

Names of additional Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

