



SEPTEMBER 2025

MCCREARY COUNTY EXTENSION

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

FORAGE TESTING

Testing hay is beneficial whether you plan to feed it to your own livestock or sell it. Knowing the quality of hay can increase selling price and/or be used to create a more accurate winter feeding ration. When sampling hay, it is important that individual cuttings, fields, and hay types (a lot) are sampled and tested separately. For most accurate results, test hay as soon as possible before feeding or marketing. A high quality coring device should be used to collect a minimum of 20 cores from each lot. Probe to a depth of 12-24" and take cores from butt ends of random bales or core toward the center of round bales from the edges, not the flat end. It is important that samples are representative of the entire lot of hay. Do not choose bales based on whether they seem to be of low or high quality. Up to half of the material from each lot should be tested as soon as possible after the sample is collected. Keep the sample cool and dry after sampling. Once you collect your sample, submit it to the McCreary County Extension Office for testing. We use Ward Laboratories for forage testing, which is a certified lab through the National Forage Testing Association (NFTA). The majority of reports will include moisture, dry matter (DM), crude protein (CP), acid



PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE A FREE HAY ANALYSIS!

The South-Central Kentucky Hay Contest provides free hay analysis to help livestock and equine producers enhance forage quality and maximize animal performance.

Submissions due by Sept 30th.
Hay probes available for checkout, or county ag agent can assist with sample collection.

CONTACT MCCREARY COUNTY EXTENSION FOR MORE INFORMATION

606-376-2524



detergent fiber (ADF), and neutral detergent fiber (NDF) values. Crude protein is the percent of true protein and non-protein nitrogen. This number is used to decipher the forage's ability to meet the protein needs of your livestock. ADF is the amount of indigestible plant material present. A low ADF value means a higher digestibility, energy value, and forage quality. NDF relates to intake. A low NDF value will allow livestock to consume more. TDN is the percent of digestible material present and also represents the amount of available energy. Reports include results on an "as-fed basis" and "dry matter basis." The dry matter basis reports the concentration of a given nutrient when all the water is removed from the forage, while the as-fed column reports nutrient concentrations of the forage as it was received to the lab. Water dilutes the concentrations of nutrients and as-fed values will be lower than those in the dry matter column.

Contact your county extension agent for assistance with sampling, interpreting results, and/or designing winter feed rations.

Tracie Goodman



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UPCOMING EVENTS MCCREARY CO. EXTENSION

McCreary County Farmers Market
Last month of the season!
Saturdays, 9am-1pm

Grow Your Own Mushrooms
Sept 4th, 5:30pm
Scott Christian Care Center

McCreary Fun-Makers
Sept 4th, 5pm

A Stitch in Time Sewers Group
Sept 10th, 10am

Big South Fork Beekeepers Assoc.
Sept 15th, 7pm

McCreary Extension
Volunteer Appreciation Event
Sept 18th, 6pm

Get Healthy McCreary Hiking
Sept 24th, 10am

Scott/McCreary Grow Appalachia
Sept 25th, 5:30pm
Scott Christian Care Center
Oneida, TN

McCreary Cattlemen's Association
Annual Meeting Picnic
Saturday, Sept 27th 12pm

Call 606-376-2524 or email
mccreary.ext@uky.edu for
more information.

Follow us!
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September Garden Tips

Quick growing crops are what you should plan for with your September plantings. Crops like radishes, spinach and lettuce mature very quickly and also hold up against light frost so they can be planted with a good chance of maturing. Turnips may be planted in early September in areas where other crops have matured and will provide roots and greens for much of the fall and early winter. Mustard greens may be inserted among the turnips.

Consider planting a cover crop such as ryegrass, winter rye, or winter wheat. These plants grow during the fall and winter and capture nutrients from the soil. They are tilled under in spring several weeks before planting the garden, and slowly release nutrients to the soil during the growing season.



Check out planeatmove.com for garden info & seasonal recipes!



CATTLEMEN'S CORNER

SEPTEMBER TIMELY TIPS

Prepare for fall calving season. Get ear tags ready, have your record book on hand, and keep calf pullers and castration equipment accessible.

Start weaning and vaccinating Spring calves. Consider having an area to wean calves and retain ownership for postweaning feeding rather than selling "green", lightweight calves.

Plan for marketing and selling this year's calf crop while prices are still high.

Save the Date!



TIME: 6:00 PM

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 18th

THE MCCREARY CO. EXTENSION OFFICE

Refreshments Will Be Served

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Family and Consumer Sciences

4-H Youth Development

Community and Economic Development

LEXINGTON, KY 42546

Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED