

Ag and Natural Resources News

April 2024

Cooperative Extension Service
Boone County
6028 Camp Ernst Rd.
P.O. Box 876
Burlington, KY 41005-0876
(859) 586-6101
Fax: (859) 586-6107
boone.ca.uky.edu



[Mark your calendars now!](#)

► **Honeysuckle Removal
Volunteer Day**

March 23, 2024, 9:00am

Nature Center

► **Fencing School**

March 23, 2024, 9:00am

Boone County Extension Office

► **Bull Breeding Soundness**

Exams:

April 13, 2024

Kenton County Fairgrounds



Benefits of Raising Hereford Cattle

Hereford cattle, with their distinctive red and white coloration and impressive adaptability, have long been prized by farmers around the globe. Renowned for their docile nature, efficient feed conversion, and high-quality beef, Herefords stand out as a top choice for



ranchers and agricultural enthusiasts alike. As we delve deeper into the realm of livestock farming, it becomes evident that raising Hereford cattle offers a plethora of advantages, spanning economic, environmental, and practical realms.

One of the foremost benefits of raising Hereford cattle lies in the quality of beef they produce. Hereford beef is revered for its exceptional taste, tenderness, and marbling. The breed's genetic predisposition to producing well-marbled, flavorful meat ensures that consumers enjoy a premium dining experience with every bite. This high-quality beef not only fetches a premium price in the market but also fosters consumer loyalty, driving repeat business for farmers.

Hereford cattle are renowned for their adaptability to various climates and environments. Originating in the rugged hills of Herefordshire, England, these cattle have developed resilience to withstand harsh weather conditions, ranging from scorching summers to frigid winters. This adaptability translates into reduced healthcare costs for farmers, as Herefords typically exhibit lower susceptibility to diseases and thrive in diverse geographical regions. Efficiency in feed conversion is a crucial factor

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Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

EASY SHEET PAN CHICKEN BAKE



Servings: 4

Serving Size: 1 cup

Recipe Cost: \$6.24

Cost per Serving: \$1.56

Ingredients:

- Nonstick spray
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, sliced into strips
- 3 bell peppers, sliced
- 1 medium red onion, sliced

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Spray a rimmed baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a medium bowl, mix chili powder, paprika, garlic powder, salt and pepper; set aside.
3. Place chicken and vegetables in large bowl. Drizzle with olive oil; toss to evenly coat.
4. Lightly coat chicken slices, bell peppers and onion in spice mix. Spread onto baking sheet.
5. Roast in oven, tossing halfway, until vegetables are tender and chicken has cooked through, about 20-25 minutes.

Source: Katie Shultz, NEP Marketing and Media Specialist, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service

270 calories; 13g total fat; 2g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 85mg cholesterol; 380mg sodium; 11g carbohydrate; 2g fiber; 4g sugar; 0g added sugar; 27g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 2% Daily Value of calcium; 6% Daily Value of iron; 15% Daily Value of potassium.

in livestock farming, directly impacting operational costs and profitability. Hereford cattle excel in this aspect, efficiently converting feed into high-quality beef. Their moderate frame size and well-proportioned body composition contribute to optimal feed utilization, making them an economically sound choice for farmers seeking to maximize returns on their feed investment.

Hereford cattle are renowned for their gentle disposition and calm temperament.

Their docility not only makes them easier to handle and manage but also reduces the risk of injuries to both livestock and handlers during handling and husbandry practices. This affable nature makes Herefords



an ideal choice for novice farmers or those with limited experience in handling cattle, fostering a safer and more enjoyable working environment.

With the growing emphasis on sustainable agricultural practices, Hereford cattle emerge as valuable allies in grazing-based livestock systems. Their efficient foraging abilities and natural grazing behavior contribute to the maintenance of pasture health and biodiversity. By selectively grazing on a diverse range of vegetation, Herefords help control weed populations, promote grassland regeneration, and minimize the need for chemical inputs, thereby fostering ecological balance on pasture-based farms.

The popularity of Hereford beef transcends national borders, with discerning consumers worldwide recognizing and seeking out this premium product. By raising Hereford cattle, farmers gain access to a well-established market with robust demand, offering opportunities for premium pricing and market differentiation. Moreover, the iconic red and white coloration of Herefords serves as a visual cue for consumers, instilling confidence in the quality and authenticity of the beef product.

In essence, the benefits of raising Hereford cattle extend far beyond the confines of the farm gate, encompassing economic prosperity, environmental stewardship, and social well-being. As the agricultural landscape continues to evolve, Herefords stand firm as a beacon of sustainability, resilience, and excellence in livestock farming. Whether you're a seasoned rancher or an aspiring agriculturalist, investing in Hereford cattle promises a rewarding journey marked by prosperity and pride in contributing to the legacy of this esteemed breed.

Is your herd bull ready
for breeding season?
Is he sitting down on the job?

 Cooperative
Extension Service



BULL BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAMINATIONS



Saturday, April 13, 2024
at Kenton County Fairgrounds

Cost per bull for examination
\$25 for NKCA members - \$50 for non-members
Vaccinations are additional

- Exams by licensed Veterinarians
- For all breeding age bulls (over 12 months old)
- Semen test
- Physical examinations
- Vaccinations and deworming available for extra charge



Gary Stockton, Boone County Extension
Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Dan Allen, Kenton County Extension Agent
for Agriculture & Natural Resources

**Please call the Boone County
Extension Service at 859-586-6101
By **April 8** to schedule an appointment.**
*(program will be cancelled if there
are less than 25 bulls)*

Sponsored by:

Northern KY Cattle Association UK Cooperative Extension Service

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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Family and Consumer Sciences
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Prepping Beef Cattle for Seasonal Success

As winter gradually loosens its grip, the rolling hills of Kentucky come alive with the promise of spring. For beef cattle farmers across the Bluegrass State, this season marks a pivotal period in their annual calendar—a time of rejuvenation, growth, and strategic preparation. As the landscape transforms and temperatures rise, savvy farmers understand the importance of proactive management practices to optimize the health and productivity of their herds. In this article, we delve into the intricacies of prepping beef cattle for the Kentucky spring, exploring essential strategies for ensuring success in the season ahead.

With the arrival of spring, lush pastures beckon cattle to graze and thrive amidst the verdant landscape. Effective pasture management is paramount during this time, as farmers aim to maximize forage availability and nutritional quality. Rotational grazing practices, wherein cattle are periodically moved between paddocks, help prevent overgrazing, promote regrowth, and maintain pasture health. Additionally, implementing a comprehensive fertilization and weed control program aids in optimizing grass productivity, ensuring cattle have access to nutrient-rich forage throughout the season.

While spring pastures offer an abundance of fresh forage, the transition from winter to spring can result in fluctuations in forage quality and nutritional content. To bridge potential nutrient gaps and support optimal cattle growth and performance, farmers may incorporate nutritional supplementation into their feeding programs. This may involve offering mineral supplements to address specific deficiencies, providing access to high-quality hay or silage during periods of pasture scarcity, or adjusting feed rations to meet the evolving nutritional needs of cattle as they enter the spring grazing season.

Springtime heralds not only the emergence of new growth but also the resurgence of various health challenges for beef cattle. To safeguard the well-being of their herds, farmers prioritize vaccination and health management protocols tailored to the unique disease risks prevalent during the spring months. Common vaccinations may include those targeting respiratory diseases such as pneumonia, clostridial diseases like blackleg, and reproductive disorders. Regular health assessments conducted by qualified veterinarians enable early detection of potential health issues, allowing for prompt intervention and mitigation of disease spread within the herd.



For beef cattle producers, spring represents a crucial phase in the reproductive calendar, as breeding season commences for many operations. Strategic reproductive planning ensures optimal breeding outcomes, maximizing the genetic potential of the herd and facilitating herd expansion or improvement. Farmers meticulously select breeding stock based on desired traits such as growth rate, carcass quality, and maternal characteristics, aiming to enhance herd productivity and profitability over successive generations. Implementing a synchronized breeding program, utilizing artificial insemination (AI) techniques, and closely monitoring estrus cycles enable farmers to achieve greater reproductive efficiency and herd uniformity.

As temperatures rise and precipitation levels fluctuate, maintaining a comfortable and stress-free environment for beef cattle becomes paramount. Adequate shade provision, access to clean drinking water, and effective parasite control measures are essential components of springtime environmental management. Farmers may employ strategies such as rotational shade structures, regular water quality testing and

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maintenance, and strategic deworming protocols to mitigate heat stress, minimize disease transmission, and optimize cattle comfort and welfare.

As the Kentucky spring unfolds its splendor, beef cattle farmers embark on a journey of renewal, growth, and opportunity. By implementing proactive management practices encompassing pasture management, nutritional supplementation, health protocols, reproductive planning, and environmental management, farmers set the stage for a successful and sustainable season ahead. With diligence, foresight, and a deep-rooted commitment to excellence, Kentucky beef cattle producers uphold the proud tradition of stewardship and innovation that defines agriculture in the Bluegrass State, ensuring the continued prosperity of their operations and the vitality of the beef industry at large.



EMAIL LIST FOR THE NEWSLETTER

You can email gary.stockton@uky.edu and be added to the email list or you can scan the QR code to get added.



Essential Steps to Start a Goat Farm

For aspiring farmers with a penchant for sustainable agriculture and a desire to diversify their agricultural endeavors, establishing a goat farm holds undeniable allure. Whether motivated by the promise of quality meat production, dairy products, fiber, or simply the joy of working with these charismatic animals, venturing into goat farming represents a rewarding and fulfilling pursuit. However, like any agricultural enterprise, starting a goat farm requires careful planning, knowledge acquisition, and a solid foundation to ensure long-term success. In this article, we outline essential steps to guide newcomers on their journey towards establishing a thriving goat farm.

Before delving into the practical aspects of goat farming, it's crucial to clarify your objectives and goals for the venture. Determine the primary focus of your goat farm—whether it's meat production, dairy products, fiber, or a combination of these enterprises. Once you've established your objectives, conduct thorough research on different goat breeds to identify those best suited to your specific goals, climate, and available resources. Common goat breeds include Boer (meat), Nubian (dairy), Angora (fiber), and Saanen (dual-purpose).

A well-crafted business plan serves as a roadmap for your goat farming venture, outlining key aspects such as market analysis, production goals, financial projections, and operational strategies. Define your target market and assess demand for goat products in your area. Consider factors such as pricing, distribution channels, and marketing strategies to effectively position your farm in the marketplace. Additionally, outline your production system, including facilities, equipment, labor requirements, and input costs, to ensure efficient and profitable operations.



Securing appropriate land is fundamental to the success of your goat farm. Look for a location with ample pasture or forage resources, suitable terrain, access to clean water sources, and proximity to markets or potential customers. Assess the carrying capacity of the land to determine the number of goats it can support sustainably. Construct or retrofit existing structures to accommodate your goats' housing, feeding, and healthcare needs, ensuring adequate space, ventilation, and protection from the elements.

Building a healthy and genetically robust goat herd is paramount to the success of your farm. Source high-quality breeding stock from reputable breeders or auctions, prioritizing animals with desirable traits such as vigor, productivity, and disease resistance. Ensure that newly acquired goats undergo quarantine and health screening to prevent the introduction of diseases to your herd. Implement a proactive herd health management program, including vaccination, deworming, and regular health monitoring, to safeguard the well-being of your goats and minimize disease risks.

Optimize your goat farm's productivity and sustainability by implementing sound grazing and feeding practices. Practice rotational grazing to maximize pasture utilization, improve forage quality, and minimize soil erosion. Supplement grazing with high-quality forage, hay, and mineral supplements to meet your goats' nutritional requirements, especially during periods of pasture scarcity or low quality. Balance feed rations according to your goats' life stage, production goals, and dietary needs, consulting with a nutritionist if necessary to ensure optimal nutrition and performance.

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Continuous learning and skill development are essential for success in goat farming. Seek out educational resources, workshops, and training programs offered by agricultural extension services, universities, and experienced goat farmers to enhance your knowledge of goat husbandry, health management, breeding techniques, and business management. Network with fellow farmers, join industry associations, and participate in goat-related events and conferences to stay abreast of industry trends, best practices, and emerging opportunities.



Starting a goat farm represents a journey filled with challenges, opportunities, and the satisfaction of working closely with these versatile and engaging animals. By following these essential steps and embracing the principles of careful planning, sound management, and continuous learning, aspiring goat farmers can lay the groundwork for a successful and sustainable enterprise. With dedication, perseverance, and a genuine passion for goat farming, you can embark on a rewarding agricultural adventure that not only fulfills your personal and professional aspirations but also contributes to the vitality and resilience of the agricultural community.

Attention

A Message from Animal Control

For all Boone County residents with agricultural animals/livestock, I would appreciate any assistance with obtaining contact information. If you have any contacts as well, please send them to me directly at this email.

Could you have people email: animalcontrol@boonecountyky.org with the following information:

Name

Phone Number

Address

Type of animals (ie. Draft horses, mini horses, thoroughbreds, angus cattle, dairy cattle, etc.)

Alternate contact to reach

If they have specific questions, they can reach me at (859)334-8432.

Thank you,

Sergeant Borenstein

Animal Control Sergeant

Boone County Animal Shelter

(859) 586-5285

5643 Idlewild Road

Burlington, KY 41005

www.boonecountyky.org

Woods and Wildflower Hike



**April 30, 2024
2:30-4:00pm**

Join us on this guided hike to learn about your native woodland wildflowers and trees!



**Location: Boone County Enrichment Center
9101 Camp Ernst Rd., Union, KY 41091**

**Register at <http://boone.ca.uky.edu>
or call 859-586-6101**

Questions? Email lacey.laudick@uky.edu

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Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546



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