

GREEN COUNTY AG NEWS



Cooperative
Extension Service

GREEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION OFFICE

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BETTER PASTURE=BETTER HERDS

Rotational stocking, often referred to as rotational grazing, is a powerful technique that can bring a range of benefits to all types of livestock as well as the land. By dividing large pastures into smaller paddocks and moving animals through them on a planned schedule, farmers can give each grazed area a rest period, allowing for regrowth of leaf area lost to grazing and replenishment of stored carbohydrates that were utilized to fuel regrowth. When producers shift from continuous grazing to a rotational system, they often see dramatic improvements in pasture productivity, soil health and even animal behavior.

One of the primary advantages of rotational grazing is enhanced pasture productivity. When animals graze one paddock at a time and then move on, the plants in the grazed paddock have a chance to rebound. During this rest period, forage plants can restore their carbohydrate reserves and recover more completely from being grazed. This not only boosts the quantity of forage available over time but also maintains better and more consistent nutritional quality. In contrast, continuous grazing—where livestock stay in the same pasture all season—often leads to overgrazing, weaker plants that are more susceptible to stresses and progressively lower yields.

Improved nutrient distribution is another significant plus. Rotating animals means they spread manure evenly around the paddocks rather than depositing it heavily in just a few favorite areas (like watering or resting spots). Because manure is a natural fertilizer, more uniform distribution helps replenish the soil and encourages consistent plant growth. A continuous grazing system, on the other hand, may result in “hot spots” of manure accumulation. This concentrated nutrient load can negatively impact both plant growth and the environment around those areas.



ATTENTION CAIP PARTICIPANTS:

Participation in CAIP requires a minimum of one (1) educational component be attained within the last 6 months related to farm management, production, best management practices or marketing.

There will be an opportunity to attain your education by attending the Summer Grazing Field Day. You will find information regarding this field day in this newsletter.



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Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
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Disabilities
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BETTER PASTURE=BETTER HERDS

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A well-managed rotational grazing system also offers increased drought tolerance. With planned rest periods, plants develop deeper, stronger root systems. These robust roots allow the plants to access water further below the surface, which can be crucial during dry spells. In a continuously grazed pasture, plants rarely get the downtime they need to fully recover, leaving them more vulnerable to stress when rainfall is scarce. As a result, fields under rotational management often grow longer into drought periods and recover faster when conditions improve. Another practical benefit of rotational stocking is easier animal handling. When paddocks are set up with well-designed lanes and strategically placed water sources, moving livestock becomes more straightforward. In addition, more frequent contact with animals allows livestock to associate human interaction with something positive...fresh grass. This greatly reduces the stress and chaos commonly associated with animal handling in open pastures. Properly placed lanes can also help control erosion, ensuring that foot traffic and machinery movement do not damage sensitive areas of the pasture. Rotational stocking can be a game-changer for anyone looking to optimize pasture health and livestock performance. By giving plants time to recover, distributing nutrients more evenly, building drought resilience and streamlining animal handling, rotational grazing can deliver long-lasting improvements to farm operations. Whether you're raising cattle, sheep, goats or other grazing animals, this strategy can help you optimize productivity and at the same time protect land and water resources for future generations.

Source: Christopher Teutsch, UK extension associate professor and forage specialist

MANAGING PINKEYE

Pinkeye, or Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis (IBK), is one of the most frustrating and costly diseases beef producers face. It negatively affects weaning weights, increases treatment costs and leads to discounts at sale due to corneal scarring. While it spreads quickly once it starts, the key to managing pinkeye lies in reducing risk—long before the first bad eye of the season.

Understanding the Disease

Pinkeye is caused by a complex mix of bacteria, most notably *Moraxella bovis*, *Moraxella bovoculi*, and *Mycoplasma bovoculi*. These organisms can live harmlessly in the eye until certain conditions—like eye injury or irritation—trigger them to become aggressive. *M. bovis*, for example, uses hairlike pili to attach to damaged corneas and releases toxins that destroy corneal tissue — leading to painful ulcers.

New research shows that pinkeye involves more than just one bacterium, making vaccine development difficult. Some strains are considered harmless, while others are highly virulent and resistant to antibiotics.

Reducing Risk Starts Early

Reducing the risk of pinkeye begins with strengthening your herd's natural defenses. Good nutrition, especially adequate levels of trace minerals like selenium and copper, is essential. Clean, cool water helps maintain hydration and tear production, which protects the eye. Avoid stagnant water sources and regularly clean automatic waterers.

Environmental irritants are major contributors. Dust, ultraviolet (UV) rays, tall weeds and seed heads can all damage the eye, making it possible for bacteria to take hold. White-faced breeds like Herefords are more susceptible due to increased UV reflection to the eye's surface. Providing shade and mowing pastures can help reduce these risks.

Face Fly Control

Face flies are the primary transmitters of pinkeye bacteria. They feed on eye secretions and can spread infection from animal to animal. Unlike horn flies, face flies aren't affected by systemic insecticides. Instead, use a combination of feed-through insect growth regulators (IGRs), insecticide ear tags, dust bags and back rubbers strategically placed in high-traffic areas.

Start IGRs in mid-spring, about 30 days before fly season, and continue until 30 days after it ends. Rotate insecticide products annually, based on mode of action (MOA), to prevent resistance. Aim to keep face fly numbers below 10 per head.

Recognizing Symptoms and Acting Fast

Early signs of pinkeye may include excessive tearing, squinting and blinking. Prompt treatment is critical to prevent spread and minimize damage. Long-acting injectable antibiotics like oxytetracycline (LA-300®) or tulathromycin (Draxxin®) are effective and labeled for pinkeye treatment. In severe cases, eye patches or surgical procedures may be needed to protect the cornea.

Topical fly repellents and isolating affected animals can also help reduce transmission. Always consult your veterinarian for treatment decisions and prescriptions.

The Role of Vaccines

Vaccines can reduce the number and severity of cases but aren't foolproof. Commercial vaccines work best when the strain in the vaccine matches the strain in your herd. When they don't, custom-made (autogenous) vaccines may be more effective.

Timing is key—start vaccinations 4–6 weeks before pinkeye season and follow up with a booster for full protection.

Pinkeye is a complex disease, but control is possible with a proactive approach. Focus on nutrition, clean water, fly control and minimizing eye irritants. Work closely with your veterinarian to develop a treatment and vaccination plan tailored to your herd. With early action and consistent management, you can reduce the impact of pinkeye and keep your cattle healthy and productive.

Source: Michelle Arnold, DVM (University of Kentucky Ruminant Extension Veterinarian, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory)



THURSDAYS
3:00-5:30 PM CT

**GREEN CO CATTLEMEN'S
EXPO CENTER**

2385 Campbellville Rd
Greensburg



Farmer's Market Skillet Bake

½ small onion, finely chopped	2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided	4 medium sized tomatoes, sliced
2 cloves garlic, minced	1 medium summer squash, sliced	1 teaspoon salt
4-5 small red potatoes, sliced	1 medium zucchini, sliced	1 teaspoon pepper
1 tablespoon olive oil		5 fresh basil leaves, finely chopped, divided

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

Prepare onion, garlic and sliced potatoes (about ¾ inch thick). **Heat** olive oil over medium heat in a 10 or 12-inch oven safe skillet. **Add** onion, garlic, and potatoes to pan and **stir** to coat with oil. **Cook** over medium heat, **stirring** occasionally until golden brown and tender. **Add** 1 cup mozzarella cheese. In a bowl, **toss** together the squash, zucchini and tomatoes with salt, pepper, and half of the finely chopped basil. **Layer** squash

and tomato slices over the potato and cheese layer. **Top** with remaining mozzarella cheese. **Bake** 35 minutes or until vegetables are tender and cheese is melted. **Remove** skillet from oven and **top** with remaining basil.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 200 calories, 8 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 490 mg sodium, 24 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 10 g protein.

GREEN COUNTY AG SUMMER GRAZING FIELD DAY

JULY 31, 2025

WHEN: 6:00 CT PM

WHERE: JONATHAN HAWES'
FARM

Meet at Taste Like Home,
3386 Campbellsville Road~Greensburg

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:
GRAZING, CORN & SOYBEANS

RSVP BY CALLING 270-932-5311



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