

Marion County Ag Extension Newsletter

February 2024



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A Word From Your County Agent:

Did you know? February is lamb month in Kentucky! Annually, the state's sheep industry adds over \$7 million in revenue to Kentucky's agricultural receipts. If you are interested in learning more about sheep (and goats, too) join the Central Kentucky Goat and Sheep Association! Meetings are held monthly every second Tuesday at our Extension Office. For more information on how to join, contact our office!

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Upcoming Events

February 8th

Alfalfa Conference

Location:

National Corvette Museum

350 Corvette Drive Bowling Green, KY

February 19th

Master Cattlemen Meeting
Marion County Extension Office
6:00pm-9:00pm

February 13th

Sheep and Goat Mating
6:30pm

Guest Speaker: Brian Mattingly, Star
Hill Farms

March 1-3

Kentucky Beef Expo
Kentucky Fair and Expo Center
Louisville, KY


February 14-17th

Farm Machinery Show
Kentucky Fair and Expo Center
Louisville, KY

February 15th

Marion County Cattlemen Meeting
6:30pm

Guest Speaker: Jordan Shockley, UK



2024
47th Annual
Kentucky Turf &
Landscape
Management Short
Course

February 20-22, 2024
Hardin County Extension Center
111 Opportunity Way
Elizabethtown, KY

University of
Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Kentucky
Horticulture
Council

****Junior Cattlemen will also meet****

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Winter and Early Spring River Flooding

Jane Marie Wix – National Weather Service Jackson, KY

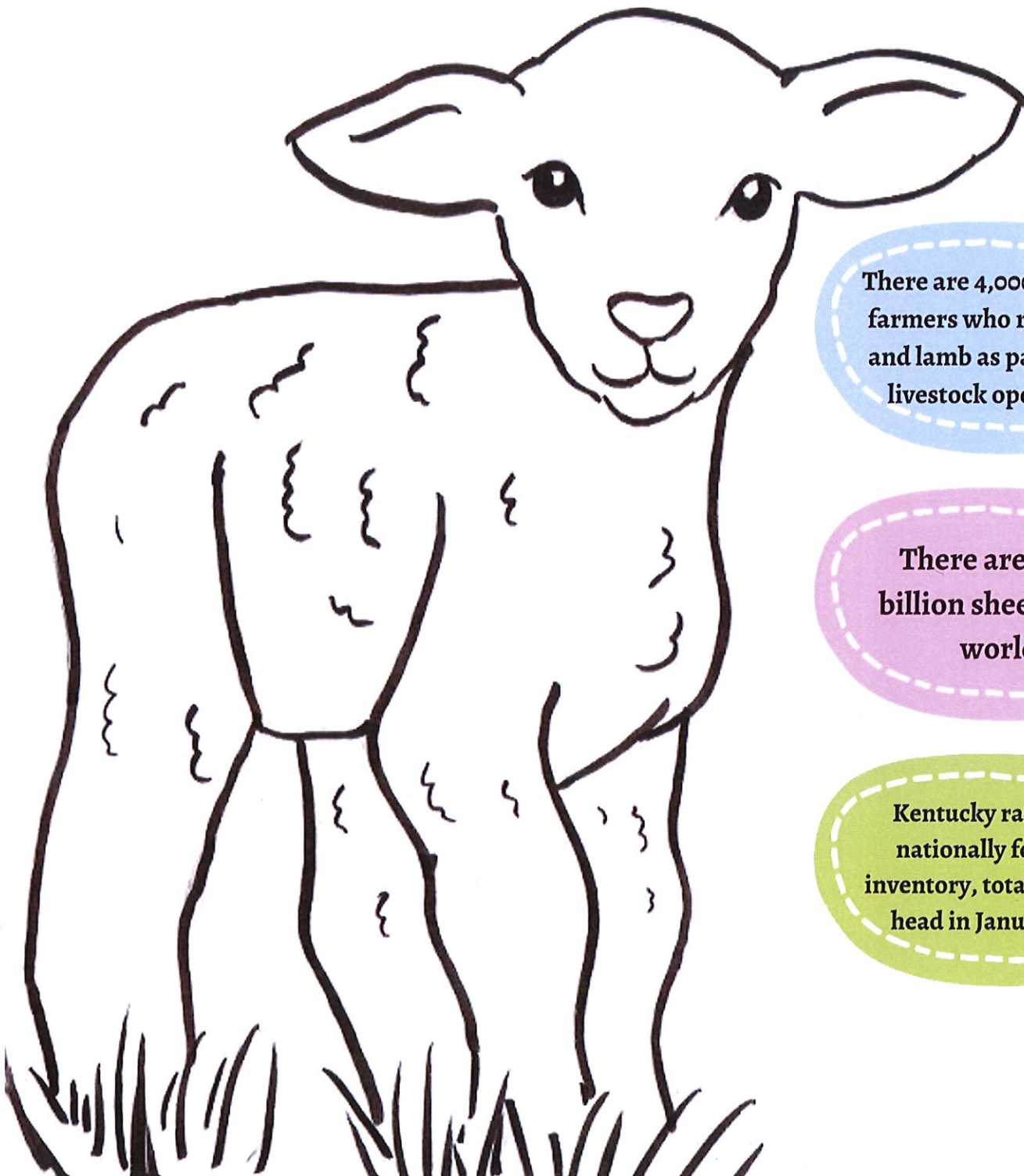


I came across an interesting quote recently from a man named Dean Acheson that said, “You can’t argue with a river - it is going to flow. You can dam it up, put it to useful purposes, you can deflect it, but you can’t argue with it.” As we head into the winter months, rivers seem to become more “argumentative” as they swell and flood. So why do we typically see most of our river flooding in the winter and early spring here in Kentucky?

There are several factors...

1. During the winter months, the lack of vegetation, and the cold and occasionally frozen ground make it unable to absorb as much water. This creates more runoff into area creeks and streams, and eventually into the riverways.
2. The winter also tends to bring more amplified/stronger storm systems, which can result in more widespread significant precipitation. Typically in the spring and summertime, heavy precipitation associated with storms is more localized, while in the winter, it can cover vast expanses, leading to more impacts on the rivers.
3. Jam - it isn’t just for bread! Ice floating down the river can get backed up and dam up the waterway, known as an ice jam. The water behind the jam will rise and flow out of the banks, leading to areal flooding. Subsequently, the jam will eventually release, sending large chunks of ice down the river, and leading to potential damage downstream as well. This is more typical farther north than Kentucky, where rivers are more likely to freeze over.
4. As we head into the early spring months, or even a warm spell after a large winter event, rising temperatures begin to melt away at the snow and ice on the ground. If too much ice or snow melts at once, this creates a large amount of runoff into the waterways, leading to significant river rises. This gets amplified when heavy rains also fall on top of the melting ice and snow.
5. According to FEMA and the National Inventory of Dams (2007), there are more than 80,000 dams in the United States. Dam failure or levee breaches can occur with little warning. Failures and breaches can be slow, lasting from days to weeks, or can be very abrupt with profound impacts to locations downstream. Causes of dam failure vary from natural causes such as prolonged rainfall, landslides, earthquakes, or erosion - to human causes such as improper maintenance and design, and negligent operation.

February is Lamb Month!



There are 4,000 Kentucky farmers who raise sheep and lamb as part of their livestock operations.

There are over 1 billion sheep in the world.

Kentucky ranks 26th nationally for sheep inventory, totaling 59,000 head in January 2022

Crunchy Munch Snack Mix

Servings: 10 Serving Size: 1/2 cup Recipe Cost: \$2.89 Cost per Serving: \$0.29

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Ingredients:

- 2 cups mini shredded wheat squares cereal
- 1 cup dried fruit (such as raisins, cranberries, blueberries, apricots)
- 1 cup nuts or seeds (such as almonds, peanuts, pumpkin seeds)
- 1 cup mini pretzels

Directions:

1. In an airtight container, combine cereal, dried fruit, nuts/seeds and pretzels.
2. Keep sealed to store.

Make it a Meal

Have this mix with carrot sticks and milk for a nutrient dense snack!

Source: Brooke Jenkins-Howard, Nutrition Education Program Curriculum Coordinator University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service

160 Calories; 7g total fat; 0.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 0mg cholesterol; 45mg sodium; 45mg sodium; 24g total carbohydrate; 2g fiber; 9g sugar; 0g added sugar; 4g protein; 0% Daily Value vitamin d; 4% Daily Value calcium; 6% Daily Value iron; 4% Daily Value potassium.

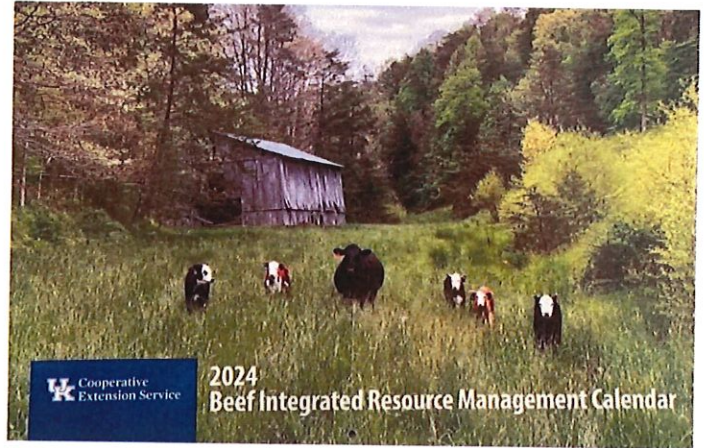
February Monthly Tips

Record Keeping.

Record calf data. Birth date, birth weight, ID and sex.

Record winter feed usage.

Record tag numbers, date applied, and calving group to which they are applied.



Tips are from UK Beef IRM Calendar 2024

We have plenty of calendars available at our office.

Small Ruminant Monthly Tips

February is Kentucky Lamb Month

- Join Central KY Goat and Sheep Association! Meeting's are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at our office!
- Leg, shoulder and loin are the top selling lamb cuts at retail.



Sheep and Goat Meeting Feb. 13th

6:30pm

Guest Speaker: Brian Mattingly, Star Hill Farms

