

Beef/Forage Breakout Session
State Ag Advisory Council
January 18, 2006

Dr. Bob Harmon, Chair of the Animal and Food Science Department gave an overview of the University of Kentucky Extension beef programs and activities. See the attachment for more details.

Dan Grigson, Lincoln County Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension Agent led the group in a discussion of the issues and concerns that had been identified in 2005 and asked Department Chairs and specialists to make comments on what UK has done to address each of the following concerns.

- **Long Term Funding for Master Cattleman-** This program is still relying on Ag Development (Phase I) funding for financial support.
- **CPH-45 Sales** – Kenny Burdine gave an update on the process of collecting economic data on the profitability of CPH-45 sales for producers. Kenny also updated the group on publications that he had developed looking at the economics of production/management practices of several forages topics.
- **Animal ID-** Jim Akers and others continue to work with this program.
- **Communication-** Beef Newsletter was started in 2005 with only a limited number of issues (2) being made available to agents and producers.
- Specialists continue to work with publications like Cow Country News and Farmers Pride to get information out to producers.
- **Steep Slopes Terrain-** A publication has been developed to address concerns with farming on steep slopes. This publication should be available during the summer of 2006.
- An update was given on **new forage specialists**. This included Dr. Ray Smith, UK Extension Forage Specialist, Tom Keene, Hay Marketing and Rebecca McCulley.
- **Master Grazer** – This forage program has been asked for by the Ag Advisory council for the past 2 years. Dr. Ray Smith gave an overview of the Master Grazer Program . This included: Program developed using Grazing School materials, 6 sessions (5 classroom, 1 hands-on), 6 multi-county locations across the state with 2 additional sites in Northern KY conducting the program with agents doing the teaching, maximum of 50 participants at each site, 5 demonstration farms would be developed to showcase grazing practices. Keenan Turner had been hired to coordinate the Master Grazer program.
- **Advance Master Cattleman-** Kenny Burdine gave an update on this new program that will be made available in Fall of 2006. Approximately 5 groups would be developed, participants would need to be graduates of Maser Cattleman or Cow College, groups would meet and would identify from a menu (nutrition, health, reproduction etc) the specific areas and subject matter that needed more in depth programs.
- **UK is addressing the needs for more information in the areas of equine and goats.**



Concerns, Issues and Suggestions for 2006 included:

- Beef and Forage Specialists are not always available to do county programs. Much of this is due to programs such as Master Cattleman and Master Grazer.
- Beef Specialists need to continue improving communication through beef newsletter and farm magazines.
- More research is needed in the areas of replacing endophyte fescue, economics of using Novel/Max Q endophyte verses renovating endophyte infected fescue with legumes.
- Need for a publication on establishing and managing the different species of warm season grasses.
- Need to look at the opportunities of utilizing forages as an alternative energy source.
- Not all counties have access to large animal vets.
- More information is needed to address the different feeding programs/cost of gain for CPH-45 cattle. CPH sales are not always locally available for all producers. KDA graders are not always used at CPH sales, more economic data looking at the profitability of CPH sales needs to be gathered and published. More programs are needed on the county level to address CPH sales.
- Need to look at a state wide dead animal removal system.

