

Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

Boyd County Cooperative Extension Service



Greetings,

As we wrap up the year, I just want to say thank you for all you do for our local ag community. December is a great time to catch our breath, look back at what we've accomplished, and start planning for the year ahead.

I appreciate everyone who took part in programs, workshops, and farm visits this year. It's your involvement that keeps our work meaningful. Wishing you a warm, safe holiday season and a great start to 2026!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Meredith Hall".

Meredith Hall
Boyd County Agent for
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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- Upcoming Events
- Estate Planning
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Upcoming Events:

*Events that require Preregistration

- * **Predator Control- Jan. 22**
6:00 pm @ Franks Building
Call to register 606-739-5184
- **BQCA- Jan. 27**
6:00 p.m. @ Franks Building



Congratulations David Horn for coming in first place in his class of Small Grains Baleage in the East Kentucky Hay Contest!



LIVESTOCK PREDATOR CONTROL PROGRAM

DR. MATTHEW SPRINGER, LIVESTOCK PREDATOR CONTROL

BLACK VULTURE PERMIT PROCESS, FRAN MCCALL, KY FARM BUREAU

BLACK VULTURE EFFIGY- HANDS ON ACTIVITY



Thursday January 22, 2026 -6pm
Boyd County
Franks Building

Boyd	(606) 739-5184	Meredith Hall
Carter	(606) 474-6686	Rebecca Konopka
Elliott	(606) 738-6400	Jacob Ison
Greenup	(606) 836-0201	Linda Hieneman
Lawrence	(606) 673-9495	Lane Hall



Cattle Owners!

Please share your pest concerns & help shape education and research for your needs!



Investigators

Hannah Tiffin, PhD Assistant Professor Entomology Dept. MG-CAFE University of Kentucky	Kenneth Burdine, PhD Professor Agricultural Economics Dept. MG-CAFE University of Kentucky
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Cooperative Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

How to have family conversations about estate planning

Published on December 14, 2023

Source: Steve Isaacs, UK agricultural economist

Family decisions about inheritance, money and business leadership are never easy and can sometimes be awkward. However, these are extremely important conversations to have with your children or heirs to ensure your wishes for your farm and business are followed.

Don't wait on your heirs to bring up this discussion. This is one of the times you need to take the reins and initiate an in-person conversation. To help the dialog get flowing, you may want to start at the end and discuss your wishes for your funeral and then move into asset division. You may also ask your financial planner or lender to attend; they can also help you start the conversation.

Before this exchange, think of each of your children, their personalities and interests. Ask yourself questions like:

Are they all interested in the family farm?

Are they currently part of the farm's operations?

Is one better with business matters than others?

Will they follow your wishes for family farm preservation?

You never want to create an unnecessary burden or obligation on children with no interest in the property. Your heir(s) should see the estate as an opportunity to continue the family business, not an obligation. At this point, you may need to start sharing information about your farm and its profitability with your heir(s), if you have not already done so. Moving forward, they will need to know where the farm financially stands.

These conversations can put you in a tough position. Some of your heirs may feel like they are getting shortchanged, even if they have no interest in farming or running a business. Be realistic and clear about your wishes and empathetic to your children/heirs. Remember they need to be treated fairly and not necessarily equally. Those not wanting to farm may be given non-farm assets, life insurance proceeds or off-farm investments. Realize that you may not be able to achieve equality in some situations.

Always put your wishes in writing, and have an attorney prepare a will or an estate plan. Dying without these documents could put your successful farm transition in jeopardy. While a will may seem like a final step, it should not be. Revisit it every few years. People change, circumstances change, and sometimes a child with no interest in farming five or 10 years ago may suddenly express an interest.

Clearly stating your wishes to your family members can help prevent family disputes after you leave. For more information on estate planning, contact the Boyd County Extension office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

Managing Lice On Cattle

by: Nick Simmons Feb. 28, 2025 IFAS Extension. University of Florida



A stocker calf's inflamed flank shows signs of a lice infestation. Dr. Meredyth Jones, DVM, Oklahoma State University's Veterinary Medical Hospital – Lice: A Wintertime Threat

Lice infestations cause significant economic losses to the cattle industry. The USDA estimates that U.S. livestock producers lose approximately \$125 million annually due to cattle lice. These tiny parasites can lead to substantial economic losses as a result of reduced weight gain, decreased milk production, carcass value losses from damaged hides, and damage to fences and facilities as cattle rub against them to alleviate irritation. Lice infestations in cattle are of particular concern during the winter months. Understanding the types of lice that affect cattle, their life cycles, and effective management strategies is crucial for maintaining herd health and productivity.

Biology and life cycle of cattle Lice

Cattle lice are small wingless insects that spend their entire life cycle on the host animal. The life cycle begins when the female attaches her eggs, known as nits, to individual hairs on the animal. These eggs hatch into nymphs, which resemble smaller versions of the adults. After several molts, nymphs mature into adults. The entire life cycle, from egg to adult, typically spans 3 to 4 weeks. Lice are host specific and cannot survive more than a few days off the animal. Transmission primarily occurs through direct contact between animals, especially when they are in close proximity during feeding, handling, or sheltering. While lice populations can be present year round, they tend to peak during the winter months, due to factors like thicker hair coats and increased animal crowding.

Types of Cattle Lice

There are two main categories of lice that infest cattle: biting (chewing) lice and sucking lice.

1. **Biting Lice:** The primary species in this category is *Bovicola (Damalinia) bovis*. These lice feed on skin debris, hair, and skin exudates (fluid around lesion). They are typically found on the shoulders, back and neck of the animal. Infestations can lead to skin irritation, hair loss, and the formation of scabs

2. Sucking Lice: Sucking lice feed on blood and tissue fluids, which can cause anemia, weight loss, and in severe cases, death. This group includes several species:

- Short nosed Cattle Louse (*Haematopinus aurysternus*): The largest of the cattle lice, found on the neck, back, dewlap, and base of the tail.
- Long-nosed Cattle Louse (*Linognathus vituli*): Identified by its color and long, slender head, commonly located on the dewlap, shoulders neck and rump.
- Little Blue Cattle Louse (*Solenopotes capillatus*): The smallest sucking louse, bluish in color, typically found on the dewlap, muzzle, around the eyes, and neck.

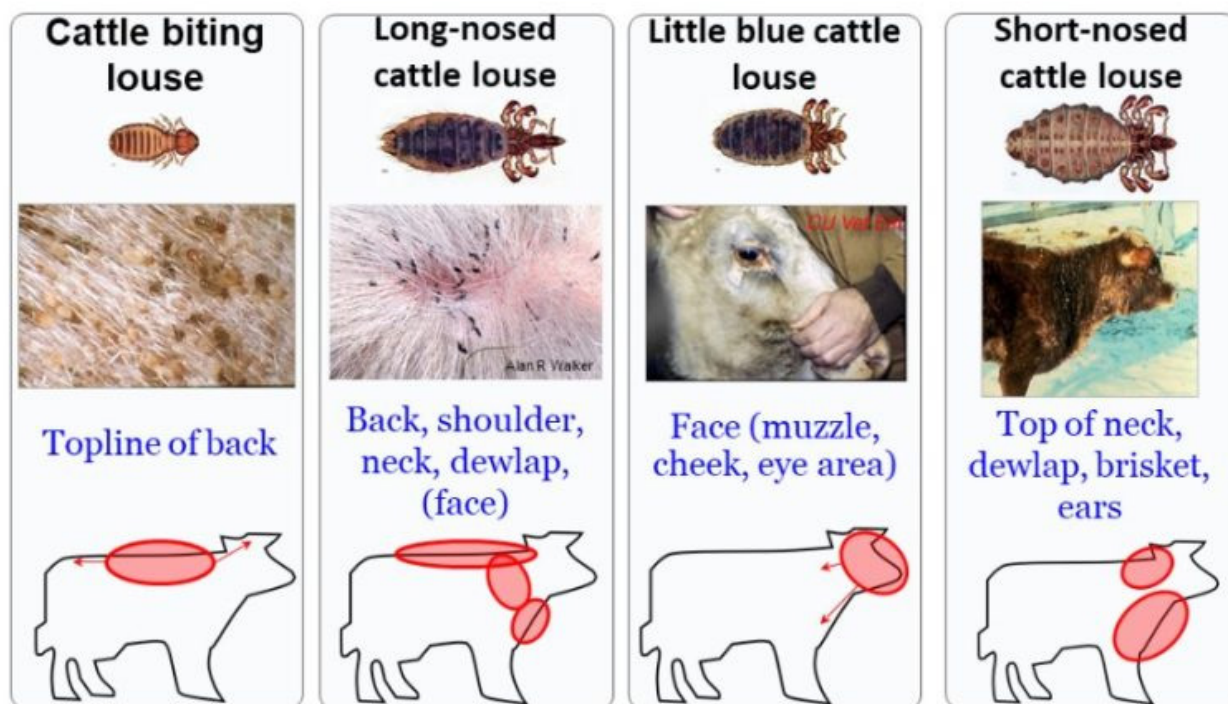


Image courtesy of Kateryn Rochon. Lice illustrations: Ellen Edmonson. Biting louse infestation credit unknown; long-nosed louse infestation photo by Alan R. Waler (CC BY-SA); little blue cattle louse infestation photo by Philip Kaufman; short-nosed infestation photo by John E. Lloyd.

Symptoms of Lice Infestation

Cattle infested with lice often exhibit specific signs, including:

- Excessive Rubbing and Scratching: irritation from lice leads animals to rub against fences, posts, and other structures, often resulting in hair loss and damaged skin.
- Hair Loss: Patches of missing hair, especially around the neck, shoulders, and rump, are common.
- Presence of Lice and Nits: Close examination may reveal adult lice and eggs attached to hair shafts.

It's important to note that other conditions, such as nutritional deficiencies or fungal infections, can mimic lice infestation symptoms. Therefore, proper diagnosis is crucial before initiating treatment.

Management and Control Strategies

Effective management of cattle lice involves a combination of preventive measures and appropriate treatments:

1. Regular Monitoring: Especially during peak seasons (December through February), closely observe cattle for signs of lice infestation. Early detection allows for timely intervention.
2. Proper nutrition: Maintaining adequate nutrition, including pour-on formulations, sprays, and systemic injectables. It's essential to understand the differences among products used to manage lice. The most common forms of insecticides include pyrethroids applied as a pour-on. Always read label instructions for dosage and withdrawal times. Rotating active ingredients is important to

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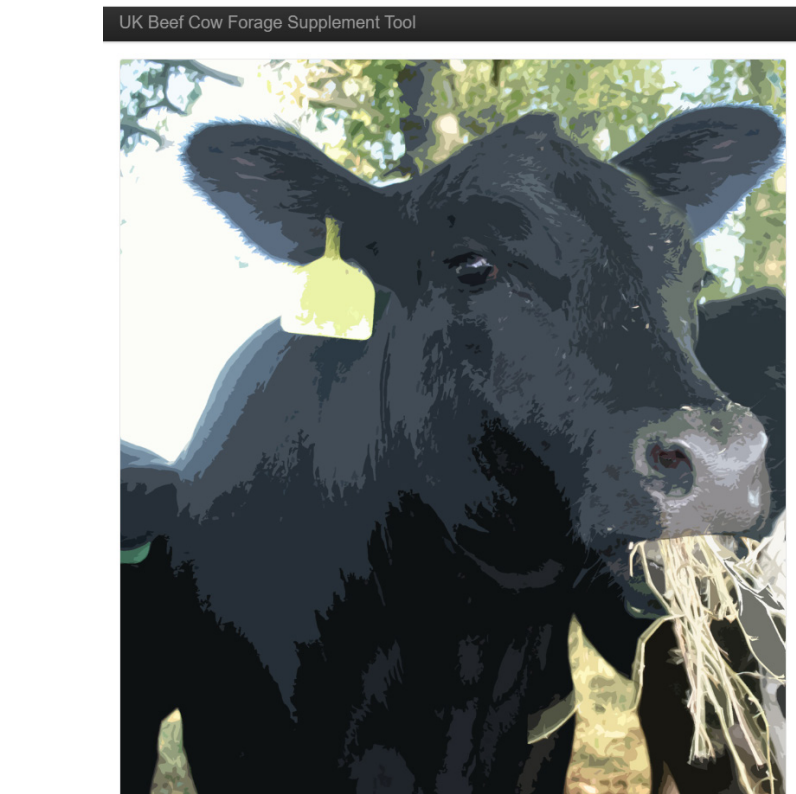
reduce the incidence of insect resistance. Knowing the type of lice you are dealing with will also determine the most effective ingredient and application method. For example, injectable insecticides, such as avetmectins, are more effective on sucking lice. Second applications, 14 days apart may be needed as many non-systemic products do not kill eggs.

4. Environmental Management: Maintain clean living conditions to reduce stress and minimize opportunities for lice transmission.

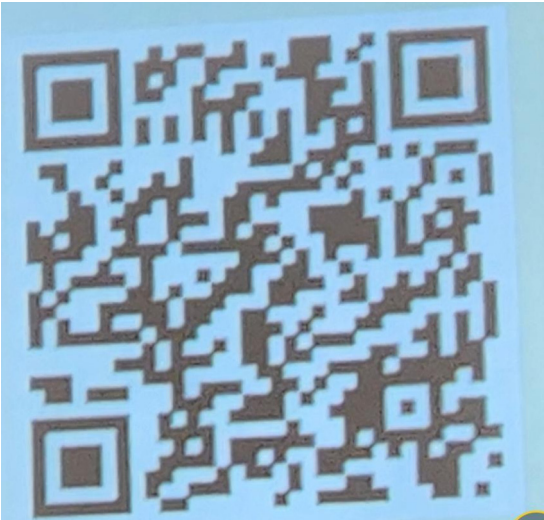
5. Quarantine New Additions: Isolate and treat new animals before introducing them to the existing herd to prevent the introduction of lice.

In cases where infestations persist despite treatment, it's advisable to consult with your veterinarian or local extension agent. They can provide guidance on alternative treatments, potential resistance issues, and integrated pest management strategies tailored to specific herd conditions.

By implementing these practices, cattle producers can effectively manage lice infestations, ensuring the health and productivity of their herds throughout they year.



UK Forage Calculator



2015 FOOD AND NUTRITION CALENDAR DECEMBER RECIPE

SEASONAL FRUIT CRISP



- 3 cups sliced apples
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1½ teaspoons water
- ½ teaspoon lemon juice
- ½ cup quick-cooking oats
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup packed brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ cup cold butter
- ¼ cup dried cranberries (optional)

1. Place apples in a greased 1 quart baking dish. In a small bowl, combine the sugar, cornstarch, water and lemon juice until smooth. Pour over apples. Combine the oats, flour, brown sugar and cinnamon; cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over apples.
2. Bake, uncovered, at 375 degrees F for 20-25 minutes or until filling is bubbly.

3. Garnish with dried cranberries, if desired.

Makes 8 servings
Serving size: ½ of crisp

Source: Caroline Durr, Area Nutrition Agent, Nutrition Education Program, University of Kentucky, Cooperative Extension Service

Nutrition facts per serving:
150 calories; 6g total fat; 3.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 15mg cholesterol; 55mg sodium; 23g carbohydrate; 2g fiber; 1g protein; 4% Daily Value of vitamin A; 0% Daily Value of vitamin C; 2% Daily Value of calcium; 2% Daily Value of iron

Tip: To stay healthy, balance calories eaten with calories used. To find out how many calories you need for a day, visit www.ChooseMyPlate.gov.

GROCERY LIST

- Apples (need 3 cups, sliced)
- Sugar
- Cornstarch
- Lemon juice
- Oats (need ½ cup)
- All-purpose flour (need ¼ cup)
- Brown sugar
- Ground cinnamon
- Butter
- Dried cranberries

MAKE IT A MEAL

- Toasted cheese sandwich
- Tomato soup
- Wedge salad
- **Fruit Crisp**
- Low-fat milk

TIP

Enjoy physical activity like stretching, yoga, pilates or martial arts at least three days per week to keep joints and muscles moving freely.

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