

Hay Production Strategies to Improve Quality and Reduce Supplementation

“Hay harvest management will influence supplementation needs for cattle next hay feeding season,” says Patrick Davis MU Extension Regional Livestock Field Specialist. Davis urges cattle and hay producers to harvest and bale hay properly to get the best quality possible because this will lead to less cattle supplementation need next hay feeding season. As the hay season begins, Davis provides thoughts on proper hay harvesting strategies to produce the best quality hay possible.

“Timing of hay harvest is important to produce quality hay,” says Davis. Davis urges cattle producers to harvest hay in the late boot stage or earlier. “If hay harvest is delayed there will be a reduction in nutritive value which may result in more supplementation needed next hay feeding season to meet cattle nutrient needs,” says Davis.

“When harvesting hay, some plants can be cut close to the ground while cutting height needs to be higher on others,” says

Davis. Legumes store carbohydrates below the ground so they can be cut closer to the ground with minimal damage to the stand. However, grasses store energy reserves above ground so cutting them to close to the ground will reduce plant energy reserves leading to stand loss. Davis recommends 2 inches for minimum harvest height on legumes and 3 to 4 inches minimum harvest height on grass and mixed grass hays.

“Cutting to close to the ground will also increase dirt, dust, and ash content in the hay,” says Davis. For more information on forage cutting height contact your local MU Extension Agronomy Field Specialist.

“High quality hay production improves profit potential for the cattle operation because it reduces supplementation need and cost during the hay feeding season,” says Davis. For more information on hay production strategies to improve quality at harvest time, contact your local MU Extension Agronomy or Livestock Field Specialist.

Call before you cut

Woodland Steward class helps woodlands owners.

COLUMBIA – Call before you harvest trees from your woodland. That is the theme of the upcoming University of Missouri Extension Woodland Steward online class.

Sarah Havens, MU Extension natural resources field specialist, says the Zoom class offers woodlands owners information to improve profits and protect natural resources.

The class covers how to market and sell timber. Additionally, attendees will learn best management practices for sustainable timber harvest. The final session covers

timber tax and casualty loss in the event of a natural disaster.

“If done properly, knowing all the steps along the way, selling timber can benefit not only the landowner’s bottom line, but the long-term ecological health of their woodland,” says MU Extension state forestry specialist Hank Stelzer. Lack of knowledge puts the seller at a disadvantage.

For more information, contact Havens at HavensS@missouri.edu or 573-247-3082.

#Show Me Resilience

COLUMBIA, MO. – 4-H clubs across Missouri have raised nearly 300,000 meals to feed hungry families — far exceeding their 250,000-meal 4-H Feeding Missouri Food Drive goal for 2020.

“Even in the midst of all the challenges around COVID-19, you stepped up,” said Marshall Stewart, University of Missouri vice chancellor for extension and engagement. “You pulled together to inspire people in your community to continue to donate. And what an important cause this is — particularly this year, with every Missouri family and community impacted in some way by this pandemic.”

The second annual 4-H Feeding Missouri food drive, in partnership with Missouri Farmers Care Drive to Feed Kids, ran Jan. 1 through April 30. Even with in-person local drives, fundraising, volunteer service, and education and outreach activities unexpectedly suspended due to COVID-19 for most of that time, 4-H clubs successfully inspired donors to contribute.

The \$5 “Give a Hand” campaign in the drive’s final weeks helped 4-H’ers raise the equivalent of 297,132 meals. The donations go directly to Feeding Missouri, a coalition of the state’s six major food banks that provides hunger relief through a network of more than 1,600 community-based food programs in every county and the city of St. Louis.

“COVID-19 has impacted all of us in ways we never could have imagined. Thousands of Missouri families have been put out of work and now find themselves unable to make ends meet,” said Scott Baker, Feeding Missouri state director, noting that some food banks have seen demand increase by as much as 100% during the COVID-19 response. “Because of you, many Missouri families who face the prospect of hunger for the first time now have food, but maybe even more importantly, they have hope.”

At a virtual event celebrating the drive’s successful end, Missouri 4-H Director



Lupita Fabregas singled out Webster County for raising 61,391 meals, the most of any county. In recognition of their special effort, Webster County 4-H’ers will have an opportunity to participate in a leadership program later this year.

“The most important part of this drive was the work you do to raise awareness across the state about this important issue,” Fabregas said, urging 4-H’ers to keep working with their local food pantries and to support the Drive to Feed Kids campaign later this year.

Dan Cassidy, Drive to Feed Kids chair and chief administrative officer of the Missouri Farm Bureau, echoed that call: “One in five Missourians face hunger, and the needs of those who are food insecure are on the rise. But together we are making a difference.”

To continue the fight against hunger in Missouri during these difficult times, you are invited to support the Show Me Resilience T-shirt Campaign, a collaboration of MU Extension, Missouri 4-H, Feeding Missouri and Missouri Farmers Care.

You can order a T-shirt with this special message for this challenging time through June 3. All profits directly benefit Feeding Missouri.

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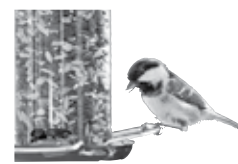
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