

Here is the matrix for the new Kentucky Living.

The table shows the book broken into sections. The department ideas are briefly described. They are, of course, only suggestions. There are extra lines to add new ideas. The goal of the matrix is to “prove” the concepts of the departments by developing content for each department throughout the year. You should be able to find a writer/columnist or think of 12 stories that would work.

The grazing section can use lots of small ideas from 20 words, or even a picture and a caption, to longer stuff up to 400 words.

When thinking about department ideas, it helps to think about HOW they are presented: A Q&A, several short subjects, a listing, an essay. Mixing up the department editorial approach creates a welcome variety for readers, and makes it easier to figure out if the concepts have legs.

The features section shows generic story concepts and annual “franchise” concepts. The question for the features is: 1) Can they be developed into real features of at least 4, but preferable 6 pages, and 2) will they bear repeating each year? If a story concept has enough legs to spawn three or four real stories, then the concept can be branded.

Ultimately, the balance for every issue should be: 6 pages housekeeping, 3 pages grazing, 7 pages front of the book, 10 pages back of the book, 11 pages features and 27 pages of ads.

Use the matrix to try and program the twelve issues of KL taking into account annual rhythms of events, seasons and “special issues” that should be spread through the cycle.

I’m available tomorrow to go through this on the phone if this seems unclear.

Rob

