

CARTER COUNTY
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
NEWSLETTER



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Carter County

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extension.ca.uky.edu

August 2023 Upcoming Events

- August 7 from 11:00-1:00 **Carter County Fair Exhibit Hall Entries Due**
- August 8-12 **Carter County Fair**
- August 8 **Carter County Fair 4-H/FFA Youth Livestock Shows**
- August 22 @ 10:00 AM **County Extension Council & District Board Meetings**
- August 28 @ 6:00 PM **Ag Advancement Council**
- September 5 @ 6:30 PM **Little Sandy Beekeepers Association**
- September 7 @ 1:00 PM **Hike & Learn—Laurel Gorge Cultural Heritage Center**
- September 26 @ 5:00 PM **Farm & Family Field Day—Wells Farm**

Enjoy your newsletter,

Rebecca Konopka

Rebecca Konopka,
Carter County Extension Agent for Agriculture &
Natural Resources Education



For fair information and exhibit hall catalogs visit

www.cartercountyfair.org.

Carter County Farmers Market

Grayson
Located in the shed behind the Extension Office
Saturdays 9:00am-Sell Out

Olive Hill
Located in Save-a-Lot Parking Lot
Mondays 3:00pm-Sell Out

Wednesdays & Saturdays 8:00am-Sell Out

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
LEXINGTON, KY 40546

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



Farm & Family Field Day

Wells Farms

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

5:00pm	Registration Begins
6:00pm	Walking Tour Begins
7:15pm	Supper

From Grayson, head south on route 1, toward Hitchins, for 2.6 miles. Wells Farms is on the left at mile marker 8. There is a red, barn-shaped sign at the entrance.



East Kentucky Hay Contest

Free hay testing for Carter County producers! Testing provides nutritional value of hay & haylage/baleage, rations, and can result in:

- ⇒ Reduced feed cost
- ⇒ Increased animal performance
- ⇒ Info to help improve stands

Call 474-6686 or email Rebecca.k@uky.edu to schedule your hay testing! All samples must be taken by September 27.



Pesticide Use – Best Management Practices for Homeowners

Article & Photo By: Ric Bessin, Entomology Extension Specialist

Pesticides for purchase at local stores or online to anyone are referred to as ‘General Use’ or unclassified pesticides by the EPA. You do not need a license or certification to purchase and use these on your own property. Although these are considered General Use and are inherently less hazardous than Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs), used incorrectly they can be harmful to people and/or the environment. Before purchasing and before using a pesticide, you need to read and understand the label instructions. By following these instructions, you can be reassured you are using the pesticide properly and safely.

Pesticides are used to manage pests, including weeds, insects, plant diseases, and others. But pesticides are just one type of management tactic usually used after other management tactics are employed. These other tactics are preventative and are often referred to as cultural controls; examples include planting resistant varieties, sanitation, altering planting dates to avoid pests, improving drainage and air movement, physical barriers (landscape fabric, row covers, mulch), pruning and hand removal, and rotation.

Pesticide Best Management Practices

- ⇒ When these other tactics are not sufficient to keep pest problems at a tolerable level, pesticides are sometimes used. Here are some basic best management practices for homeowners when using pesticides.
- ⇒ If you have had past problems with specific pests or diseases, see if there are cultural controls that can be used to avoid the problem.
- ⇒ Regularly monitor your plants to identify pest problems early. It is always easier to control problems early than waiting until they become critical. Generally, it is good to check plants at least once a week when conditions favor pest development. Be able to identify what you find or take it to your county Extension office (it’s free in Kentucky!).
- ⇒ Use pesticides only when needed and follow ALL label instructions. Only use them at rates listed on the label. Too high a rate is unsafe, too little may encourage development of resistance by pest populations.
- ⇒ If a pesticide is needed, carefully match the pesticide with the type of pest to be controlled. For example, any one herbicide only controls some weeds, just as a fungicide will only manage certain disease problems. Select pesticides with low toxicity to humans and other non-target organisms, such as pets and pollinators. Do not use pesticides around the home when the label states ‘Not for home use.’
- ⇒ Make certain that the types of plants being treated are listed on the label. Some pesticides may injure sensitive plants or leave unwanted residues on produce.
- ⇒ If a pesticide is needed, it must be applied at the right time. With herbicides, this may be before weeds reach a certain stage or height, with diseases this may be before plants become infected, and with insects this may be before they bore into plants.
- ⇒ Wear rubber gloves, long pants, shoes and socks, and a long sleeve shirt when handling pesticides, making applications, or cleaning and repairing equipment. Other precautions may be listed on some labels. This gear is referred to as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- ⇒ Do not allow children to use pesticides.
- ⇒ Carefully calibrate your application equipment so you can confidently apply the pesticide at the correct rate. You can practice with plain water. Be sure the equipment is in good condition and doesn’t leak or won’t break during use.

Japanese beetle is a common mid-summer pest in Kentucky.



- ⇒ Only prepare the amount of material that you need; this will make cleanup that much easier. Excess spray leftover should be applied to the area being treated. Never dispose of excess sprays or rinse water down a drain or where it may enter streams, ponds, or storm water.
- ⇒ Do not use measuring equipment from the kitchen. Label all equipment 'For Pesticide Use Only.'
- ⇒ If you use a hose-end sprayer to apply pesticides or fertilizers, be sure to install a backflow preventer.
- ⇒ Avoid applying a foliar pesticide if a heavy rain is expected immediately after the application.
- ⇒ Avoid applying sprays when it is windy, as this will favor drift away from the treated area.
- ⇒ Avoid using the same pesticide product or pesticides within the same chemical group or mode of action over an extended period in order to prevent pests from developing resistance.
- ⇒ Keep children, pets, and other people out of the treated area until the sprays have thoroughly dried.
- ⇒ Clean pesticide application equipment after every application. Follow product label directions for cleaning application equipment and disposing of the leftover rinse water. Check equipment for wear and tear after each use.
- ⇒ When treating fruit or vegetable plants, observe the pre-harvest interval (PHI) to ensure the produce is safe. The PHI is the time between when you finish the application and when it is safe to begin harvest of produce again.
- ⇒ Store pesticide products in a safe and secure place that is out of reach of children and pets. Keep pesticides in their original containers and placed in a secondary container to prevent any potential leaks from the original containers. Keep pesticides in a cool, dry place and out of the sunlight.

Mexican Bean Beetle, a Lady Beetle Pest

Article & Photos By: Ric Bessin, Extension Entomologist

Mexican bean beetle (MBB) is a pest that is often only recognized after much of the damage is done. This is a mid-summer pest that feeds on a variety of beans, including green beans and soybeans. Initially, it is overlooked as all damage occurs on the undersides of leaves. It is also a member of the beneficial lady beetle family, which is generally considered beneficial as larvae and adults feed on other insects. However, the Mexican bean beetle species feeds exclusively on bean leaves. It is important to recognize this as a pest and not as a beneficial insect. Producers should scout both garden beans and soybeans for this pest.

Insect Description & Damage—This is a large 16-spotted lady beetle, about 3/8 inch in length. The typical damage you see with MBB is evidence of feeding on leaf undersides. Damage is between the veins and MBB only chews partway through leaves. Damage becomes more apparent as feeding areas dry out and fall out from leaves. Larvae are only found on the undersides of leaves and look very different from larvae of the beneficial lady beetles. They are bright yellow with black-tipped, yellow, branched spines. Larvae cause the same damage as adults.

Management—As with defoliation damage to soybean, growers need to keep defoliation to garden beans to less than 15 to 20% to avoid yield loss.

There are a number of effective insecticides listed in [ID-128](#) (residential growers) and [ID-36](#) (commercial growers), but the key to successful control will be getting the coverage to the undersides of the leaves.



Like other lady beetles, MBB adults have tan thoraxes and wing covers.



The MBB larvae is very similar in appearance to the larva of another pesty lady beetle, the squash beetle

Weeds of the Month

Weeds to Target in August: Asters, Chicory, Hemp Dogbane, Goldenrod, Horsenettle, Tall Ironweed, Common Milkweed, Tickclover, Trumpet creeper

See AGR-207 in January's newsletter online at tinyurl.com/5uusk6np for recommended chemical and mowing options for these weeds.

Renovation Tips for Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue

Excerpt from article by Dr. Matt Poore, NC State Beef Specialist and Alliance for Grassland Renewal chair printed in Kentucky Forage News

Time is counting down with only a month until the ideal Tall Fescue planting time depending on where you are in the fescue belt. Plan on seeding September 1-15 in most of Kentucky. The Spray-Wait-Spray-Plant renovation plan requires the first application of glyphosate 30-40 days before planting followed by another application just before planting.

Walk fields to be renovated and scout for weeds. Are there problem weeds that might need an herbicide treatment in addition to glyphosate? An example would be areas where horsenettle or tall ironweed are present as these weeds may not be killed by glyphosate. Consider using a broadleaf herbicide effective on these weeds (and/or other target weeds). Only use herbicides that have short waiting periods from the time you spray until the time you seed.

Order your seed now if you haven't already. The variety you choose is likely not available on store shelves, so talk to your seed dealer to make sure they have your seed when you need it. Make sure you get the variety you order and check to make sure that the bags carry the Alliance for Grassland Renewal logo. This logo indicates that you are buying safe novel endophyte seed that has passed rigorous testing for seed quality and endophyte viability. Don't get talked into planting an endophyte-free tall fescue if you want stands that last more than a few years. If the store does not have your seed when you need it, wait! Waiting a week or two is better than planting endophyte-free or toxic KY-31 Tall Fescue.

Schedule a drill if you must use a rental unit, or do needed maintenance if you own your own drill. If you plan to broadcast seed then make sure your spreader is in good shape, and that you are using some level of tillage to prepare the seedbed. Immediately after broadcast seeding follow with a cultipacker or similar implement to insure good soil to seed contact.

If you missed a critical step for summer burndown/fall establishment, then go ahead and spray with glyphosate anyway, and after the field dies down drill in a small grain like rye, oats or wheat (or other cool season annual) for winter grazing. Follow with a summer annual grass next year and you will be on schedule to plant novel endophyte tall fescue pastures in the Fall of 2024. Ask your extension agent or other advisor for help, and attend an Alliance workshop during the coming year to learn all you can about Tall Fescue Pasture Renovation.



The Risk of Lightning and How to Stay Safe

By Scherri Evans in association with National Weather Service Paducah, KY

While fascinating to watch, lightning poses a threat to societies whether it be fires or getting struck. There are millions of lightning flashes each year in the United States alone and in the last 30 years, lightning strikes have caused numerous fatalities as well as life-long injuries. Understanding the dangers of lightning is essential to safeguarding yourself against the potential threat.

How do storms develop and produce lightning? All storms go through differing stages of growth and development, but mainly form in the early parts of the day when the Sun heats the surface and pockets of air start rising. When they reach a certain point in the atmosphere, cumulus clouds begin to develop. As condensation takes place, ice crystals begin to form and drop in the layers of the atmosphere as they get heavier. The movement of these ice crystals allows them to develop electrification and as the heavier crystals drop, they become negatively charged in the middle and lower part of the clouds. Beneath the clouds, a positive charge develops on the ground creating a connection to the negative charges. Lightning forms as the electrification of the negative and positive charges becomes greater, causing a large spark of electricity to be released that is as hot as 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

How do I stay safe during a thunderstorm? Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

If you hear thunder, you are likely in an area that will allow you to be struck by lightning. The saying, “When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors” applies to all situations. The delayed reaction of not reaching cover is a catalyst for injuries and even fatalities. If you somehow find yourself in a situation where you cannot reach cover in a vehicle or covered shelter, the following tips apply:

Avoid open fields, the top of a hill or a ridge top.

Stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects. If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees.

If you are in a group, spread out to avoid the current traveling between group members.

If you are camping in an open area, set up camp in a valley, ravine or other low area. Remember, a tent offers NO protection from lightning.

Stay away from water, wet items, such as ropes, and metal objects, such as fences and poles. Water and metal do not attract lightning, but they are excellent conductors of electricity. The current from a lightning flash will easily travel for long distances.

Make sure to follow your daily forecasts so you know what to expect for the weather each day. Whether you are working, playing sports, or having fun with family outside, be sure to take precautions and take action as soon as possible to avoid being struck by lightning.



