CARTER COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Cooperative Extension Service

Carter County

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Highlights:

- ⇒ We appreciate the Carter County Soil Conservation District sponsoring soil tests again in 2024. Thanks to a grant they have received, residents can receive 15 free soil tests and 1 free manure sample this year.
- ⇒ If you want to sell at the **Farmer's Market** this year, plan to attend the training on April 8th. More details on page 3.



Enjoy your newsletter,

Rebecca Konopla

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

Cooperative Extension Service MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status

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Upcoming Events

Denotes events where preregistration is required. Call 474-6686 or email Rebecca.k@uky.edu to register.

3/4 @ 6:00 PM	Winter Weed Control	Boyd Co Franks Bldg	
3/5 @ 6:30 PM	Little Sandy Beekeepers	Extension Office	
3/6 @ 1:30 PM	*Beef Quality Care & Assurance Training*	Extension Office	
3/7 @ 6:00 PM	*Master Cattleman*	Boyd Co Expo Bldg	
3/12 @ 10:00 AM	District Board Meeting	Extension Office	
3/14 @ 5:30 PM	*Private Pesticide Applicator Training*	Extension Office	
3/14 @ 6:00 PM	*Master Cattleman*	Boyd Co Expo Bldg	
3/14 @ 7:00 PM	*Hike & Learn New River *	Zoom	
3/21-23	*Hike & Learn*	New River Gorge	
3/26 @ 6:00 PM	Northeast Area Livestock Association	Extension Office	
3/27 @ 1:30 PM	*Small Ruminant Quality Assurance Training*	Extension Office	
3/28 @ 6:00 PM	*Master Cattleman*	Boyd Co Expo Bldg	
4/2 @ 6:30 PM	Little Sandy Beekeepers	Extension Office	
4/4 @ 6:00 PM	*Master Cattleman*	Boyd Co Expo Bldg	
4/5 @ 1:00 PM	Hike & Learn	Laurel Gorge Cultural Heritage Center	
4/8 @ 6:00 PM	Farmer's Market Training	Extension Office	

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Little Sandy Beekeepers Association

First Tuesday of the Month @ 6:30 PM

March 5th - Business Meeting

April 2nd—Speaker: Nathan Alexander,

Big Sandy River Basin Coordinator



Northeast Area Livestock Association

Fourth Tuesday of the Month @ 6:00 PM

March 26th – Topic: Handling Facilities Speaker: Chris McBurney Meal sponsored by: McBurney Livestock Equipment & Callicrate Bander

April 23rd—Speaker: TBD



Carter.County Farmer's Market

Senior & WIC **Voucher Training**

This annual training is required for anyone who plans to accept Senior, WIC, and/or Double Dollar vouchers at the Carter County Farmer's Market in 2024.

Annual Business Meeting

Agenda Items:

- · Election of Officers, Board of Directors, & Market
- Managers · 2024 Market Season
- 2024 Market Events
- · & More

Schedule

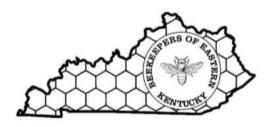
If you plan to sell at the Farmer's Market this summer you need to attend this meeting.

All 2024 paperwork will be due at the meeting. Please come prepared to

fill it out all forms.

Monday. April 8th 6:00 PM

Carter County Extension Office



SPRING MEETING

DATE: MAY 4, 2024

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8 AM, SPEAKERS START AT 9 AM

LOCATION: MOREHEAD STATE AG FARM IN MOREHEAD, KY

ADDRESS: 25 MSU FARM DRIVE, MOREHEAD, KY 40351

SPEAKERS THIS SPRING WILL BE DIVIDED INTO 2 GROUPS:

- WANNA BE BEEKS & BEGINNER BEEKS: DISCUSSIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS WILL BE CENTERED AROUND WELCOME TO BEEKEEPING, WHAT TO EXPECT YOUR FIRST YEAR, NECESSARY EQUIPMENT & HOW TO LIGHT A BEE SMOKER
- INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED BEEKS: DISCUSSIONS WILL BE CENTERED AROUND SINGLE DEEPS AND HONEY PRODUCTION, MAKING SPLITS, QUEEN REARING, AND MORE
- AT THE END OF THE DAY, EVERYONE WILL COME TOGETHER FOR GREAT DOOR PRIZES & TALKING ABOUT BEEKEEPING AT THE LOCAL AND STATE LEVEL.

THERE WILL ALSO BE HIVE DEMONSTRATIONS--BE CERTAIN TO BRING YOUR BEE SUIT/VEIL AND GLOVES

COST: FREE

THIS IS FOR BEGINNER TO ADVANCED BEEKEEPERS--AND THOSE EVEN THINKING ABOUT GETTING REES!

THERE WILL BE A FOOD TRUCK ON HAND IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO VENTURE OUT FOR LUNCH: WILLY BOYS FOOD TRUCK

AFTER THE EVENT, THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO THE HONEY AND BEE CONNECTION FOR ALL OF YOUR BEEKEEPING NEEDS

Like podcasts? If so, give these a listen...

KY Ag Matters

I See Dead Plants

War Against Weeds

Artho-Pod

Focus Group Volunteers Needed



YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IF YOU:

- Are 18 years or older
- Own woodlands OR work in forest management in Kentucky
- Belong to a social or economic group that is not well represented in professional forestry

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING:

- Learn about new climatefocused forest management research and practices
- Help inform researchers of local woodland needs
- Catered food
- A \$50 gift card

Researchers at the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources are inviting you to participate in a research study!

We are gathering opinions on new forest management approaches to understand the needs of local woodland owners. This information will help determine the best ways to deliver new forestry information and support our Kentucky woodlands.

Your participation would involve a single, two-hour focus group session. In this session, you will listen to two short presentations and answer a series of questions with the fellow participants and researchers.

Interested? Scan the QR code below to fill out a qualifying survey!



For more information, please contact:

Logan Baker at BAKERL15@uky.edu All inquiries are confidential.





An Equal Opportunity University

Focus Groups will be held at the following locations:

- March
 19th at noon
 at the Johnson County
 Extension
 Office
- March 21st at noon at the Whitley County Extension Office
- March 23rd at 10am and 2pm at the UK Wood Center at Quicksand

ROBINSON CENTER | G

RESEARCH FARM TOUR AND WOOD CENTER ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024 10:00 AM-2:00 PM EST 130 Robinson Rd. Jackson, KY



TOPICS ON THE TOUR

#UKYagweek

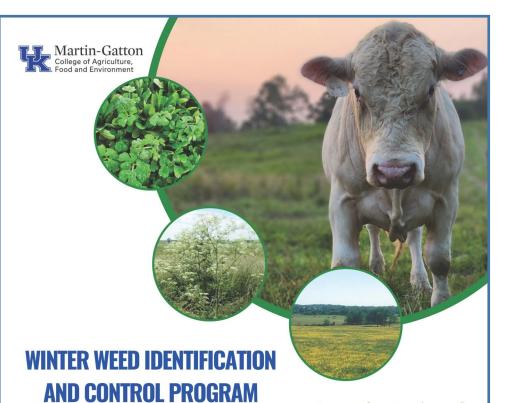
2024 Research Trial Planning for Hemp, Soybeans, Greenhouse, Beef Research Projects, etc.

WOOD CENTER ACTIVITIES

Learn how to make a woodworking product while on site, learn about the history of the Wood Center and the impact that the Wood Industry has on Kentucky.







MARCH 4, 2024 6 P.M.

 Counts Toward CAIP Education Hours in Boyd, Carter, Greenup and Lawrence For more information, please call your local Extension Office.

Boyd (606) 739-5184 Carter (606) 474-6686 Greenup (606) 836-0201 Lawrence (606) 673-9495



Boyd County Extension Education Center Franks Building 1758 Addington Road, Ashland, KY





AGRICULTURE RISK & PRICE LOSS COVERAGE

ENROLLMENT PERIOD: DEC. 18, 2023 - MARCH 15, 2024





KDA Annual Poster & Essay Contest-\$2,600 Available in Student Awards

Kentucky students are invited to enter the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's (KDA) annual Poster and Essay Contest. The theme of the 2024 contest is "Agriculture for a Better Kentucky," encouraging contestants to illustrate in words, original artwork, or photographs how agriculture enhances life throughout the Commonwealth.

Students in grades K-12 may submit a poster, an essay of 500 words or less, or a digital entry, which may be photos or original digital artwork. Entries may be sent in by teachers, parents, or adult program leaders. Each entry must include the written theme and be postmarked by Friday, March 8, 2024.

Winners will be notified in April. Winners in the poster and essay competitions will be selected in each grade. One statewide winner will be selected for digital artwork. Each winner will receive a \$100 award from Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom and will be recognized at the 2024 Poster and Essay Contest Awards Ceremony, date and location TBD.

Managing Mud: Strategies for Reclaiming Disturbed Areas

Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Research and Education Center at Princeton

Hoof damage from livestock during the winter months can result in al-

most complete disturbance of desired vegetation and soil structure in and around heavy use areas. Even well-designed hay feeding pads will have significant damage at the edges where animals enter and leave. Highly disturbed areas create perfect growing conditions for summer annual weeds like spiny pigweed and cocklebur. Weed growth is stimulated by lack of competition from a healthy and vigorous sod and the high



Figure 1. Excessive rainfall and high livestock concentration in and around hay feeding areas can result in almost complete disturbance.

fertility from the concentrated area of dung, urine, and rotting hay. The objective of this article is to describe two approaches to revegetating these areas.

Regardless of the reclamation strategy that is employed, it is important to create an environment that will allow seeds to germinate quickly and uniformly, resulting in rapid canopy closure. This will help to inhibit weed seeds from germinating. Creating this environment starts with making sure that soil fertility is in the medium to high range, soil pH is 6.0 to 6.4, and preparing a fine, but firm, seedbed.

Plant cool-season grasses and legumes. The first strategy is to seed coolseason grasses or a mixture of grasses and legumes in the spring. While this is commonly done, results are usually less than spectacular in most years. Seedings are normally delayed until late spring or early summer. Consequently, seedlings do not have time before the hot summer months set in. The second reason is that summer annual weed pressure is usually very high. Summer annuals weeds like foxtail, goosegrass, spiny pigweed, cocklebur, and others actively compete with cool-season seedlings for light and water, often causing stand failures.

If a spring planting of cool-season grasses and legumes is attempted, there are several things that can be done to enhance, but by no means guarantee, success. These are listed below.

- Plant adapted forage species. Plant forages that are well adapted to Kentucky and the soils and drainage found on your farm. Tall fescue, red clover, and ladino clover are, by far, the best adapted and most versatile forage species for pastures in the Commonwealth. If this area is disturbed again, then investment in novel endophyte tall fescue varieties is not recommended. Information on the best adapted varieties for Kentucky can be found on the University of Kentucky Forages webpage.
- Consider leaving legumes out of the mix. While legumes are an important part of grassland ecosystems, herbicide options for controlling weeds in grass-legume mixtures are limited. Leaving legumes out will allow you to apply selective herbicides to control broadleaf summer annual weeds. For specific herbicide recommendation, you can visit with your local Extension Agent.
- Use the high end of the recommended seeding rate. Seeding rates are normally given as a range (Table 1). For spring seedings, make sure and use the high end of this range. Rapid canopy closure is critical to suppressing summer annual weeds.

Table 1. Seeding rates for perennial cool-season forage species
planted ALONE or in a MIXTURE.

Species	Seeding Rate (lb/A)	
	Alone	In a Mixture
Tall fescue	20-25	10-15
Orchardgrass	15-20	6-8
Perennial Ryegrass	20-25	10
Kentucky Bluegrass	NR [†]	4-6
Red clover ^{††}	NR	6-8
White clover**	NR	1-2

[†]NR, not recommended

- Plant as early as possible. Spring seeded cool-season forages should be planted starting in early to midMarch. Early plantings will have more time to emerge and form a canopy that can shade summer annuals weeds. Early planted grass seedlings will also have additional time to develop a root system that can sustain the new planting during the summer months.
- Plant in two directions. If drilling, cut seeding rates in half and plant in two directions. This will aid in obtaining quicker canopy closure, helping to reduce the germination of weed seeds.
- Use a shallow seeding depth. Small seeded cool-season forages should not be planted deeper than ½ inch. Make sure to check and recheck your

^{††}Do NOT include red and white clover if herbicides will be used to control broadleaf weeds.

seeding depth. Seeding deeper than ½ inch will delay emergence, result in uneven stands, and in many cases cause complete stand failure.

- Control broadleaf weeds in cool-season grasses. Once seedlings have four collared leaves, some herbicides can be applied. Always consult and follow label directions. For the most up to date information on using herbicides on new seedings, contact your local Extension Agent.
- Clip or flash graze new stands. Summer annual weeds compete very aggressively for light, water, and nutrients with cool-season grass seedlings. If not controlled, plantings will likely fail. The most effective control of competition is to flash graze paddocks before weeds get well established. Flash grazing is accomplished by placing a large number of animals in small areas for a short period of time. This reduces selective grazing and increases grazing uniformity.

Plant warm-season annual grasses—The second strategy involves planting a summer annual grass in late spring or early summer. This strategy has a much higher probability of success than planting cool season grasses in late spring. Summer annual grasses, especially sorghumsudangrass or sudangrass, have very rapid emergence and canopy closure. This will prevent summer annuals weeds from germinating and provide forage for grazing or harvesting during the summer months (Figure 2). Perennial cool season grasses can then be reseeded under more ideal conditions in late summer or early fall.

The following tips will help to enhance your chances of success when using warm season annual glasses.

• Plant adapted summer annuals species. Always plant forages that are well adapted to Kentucky and the soils and conditions on your farm. Summer annuals that can be used to reclaim hay feeding areas include sudan-

grass, sorghum-sudangrass, pearl millet, and crabgrass. A description of these species can be found in AGR-229, Warm Season Annual Grasses in Kentucky.

• Use the high end of the seeding rate. Seeding rates are normally given as a range. (Table 2).

Table 2. Seeding rates for commonly planted summer annual grasses in Kentucky†.

Surrice divided Brasses in Newtonia				
Species	Seeding Rate (lb/A)			
Sorghum-sudangrass	30-40			
Sudangrass	15-20			
Pearl millet	15-20			
Crabgrass	4-6			

†A small amount of crabgrass, 2-3 lb/A, can be seeded with the taller growing summer annual species to fill in thin spots in the stand that may develop

Make sure and use the high end of this range. Even with summer annuals, rapid canopy closure is critical for reducing unwanted weed competition.

- Plant after soil warms. For summer annual grasses to germinate and rapidly emerge, soil temperatures at planting should be at least 60 degrees F. This should allow plenty of time to let hay feeding areas dry out and to get them smoothed up prior to planting. If there is a delay in planting the summer annuals after final tillage, it may be a good idea to do one more pass of light tillage to disturb any weed seedlings that may have germinated.
- Control broadleaf weeds. Once warm-season annual grasses are established, some herbicides can be applied to control summer annual broadleaf weeds. If cool-season perennials are to follow in the fall, make sure and check the label for reseeding restrictions prior to application. Always consult and follow label directions. For more information on using herbicides on summer annual grasses, contact your local extension agent.
- Grazing summer annual grasses. Allow taller growing summer annuals like sorghum-sudangrass and pearl millet to reach a height of 18-24 inches before grazing and stop grazing at 8-10 inches. Regrowth can be stimulated be applying 40-60 lb N/A after each grazing but the last. Crabgrass can be grazed once it reaches a height of 6 to 8 inches. Cattle should be pulled off once it has been grazed to a height of 3 to 4 inches. Detailed

management recommenda-



Figure 2. Sorghum-sudangrass (left) formed a quick canopy that was able to shade out summer annual weeds compared with forage (right).

tions on for individual summer annual species can be found in AGR-229, Warm Season Annual Grasses in Kentucky.

• Haying summer annual grasses. Allow taller growing summer annuals to reach a height of 30 to 40 inches before mowing. This will optimize yield and forage quality. If regrowth is desired, do not mow closer than 6 inches. Apply 40 to 60 lb N/A after each cutting, but the last. Crabgrass should be cut for hay at the late boot-stage. Care should be taken to not mow crabgrass closer than 3 to 4 inches. With the taller, thicker stemmed species, a crimping mower-conditioner will help the crop dry to safe baling moistures, although this may take some time. Ideally, summer annuals should be conserved as chopped silage or baleage.

• Reseeding cool-season grasses in the fall. Pastures with summer annuals should be sprayed with a non-selective herbicide in late summer to control any remaining summer annual grass and any weeds that have germinated. Use a no-till drill to plant cool-season

grasses into the killed pasture area. More information on forage establishment can be found in <u>AGR- 64:</u> <u>Establishing Forage</u> Crops.

For more information on renovating pastures and no-till seeding techniques visit UK Forage Extension website at http://forages.ca.uky.edu/ or contact your local extension office.

2022 Census of Agriculture Kentucky Overview



- Number of farms in Kentucky dropped by 6,500.
- Number of acres in farming dropped by just over 500,000 acres.
- Kentucky sales increased by roughly \$1 billion from 2017, adjusting for inflation.
- Farm expenses increased by approximately \$400 million, also adjusting for inflation.
- The value of food sold directly to retailers, institutions and food hubs tripled, but farmers market sales are down!
- Tobacco faced a steep decline. There are now fewer than 1,000 tobacco farms in Kentucky.
- Equine value increased but number of equine farms fell.
- Bigger farms increased in size. There are far fewer small farms (under 180 acres).





USDA Announces March 15 Application Cutoff for CSP

LEXINGTON, **Kentucky**, **February 12**, **2024** – The next deadline for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications to be considered for funding this year is March 15, 2024. Through CSP, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners earn payments for expanding conservation activities while maintaining agricultural production on their land. CSP also encourages adoption of new technologies and management techniques.

"CSP is the largest conservation program in the United States and continues to be a very effective tool for private landowners working to achieve their conservation and management goals on agricultural and forest lands," said Eric Allness, NRCS state conservationist in Kentucky.

While applications are accepted throughout the year, interested producers should submit applications to their local NRCS office by the deadline to ensure their applications are considered for 2024 funding.

About the Program

CSP is offered in Kentucky through continuous signups. The program provides many benefits including increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. CSP is for working lands including cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of a tribe.

For additional information about CSP, contact your local service center. Find your local NRCS, Farm Service Agency, or any other Service Center agency at <u>USDA</u> <u>Service Center Locator</u>.

Q Red Clover Released from University of Florida

Q red clover was recently released from the breeding program of Dr. Ken Quesenberry at the University of Florida (he did his PhD under Dr. Norm Taylor at UK). Although it's being sold in KY this year, we have just been able to include it in our variety tests so we currently have no idea if it will survive KY winters. It was developed to have tolerance to 2,4-D, but without KY testing we recommend that you wait for local data before incorporating into your frost seedling mixtures.

Recommendations for Starting Disease-Free Vegetable Transplants

Revised by Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Vegetable Extension Specialist

Original article by Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate, and Emily Pfeufer, Former University of Kentucky Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

Home gardeners and commercial growers likely have placed their seed orders or have last year's seed saved. Over the next few weeks, many will plant those seeds in order to establish transplants for spring and summer gardens. In some cases, those seeds may germinate, wither, and die (Figure 1). In other cases, plants may establish but become diseased shortly after transplanting. This damping-off can be caused by a number of soilborne fungi or fungus-like water molds, often the result of infected seed or from contaminated soil or containers. More infor-

mation on damping-off diseases can be found in the publication Damping-off of Vegetables & Herbaceous Ornamentals (PPFS-GEN-03). Numerous steps can be taken to prevent the occurrence of seedling diseases.



Purchase Pathogen-Free Seed

When purchasing seeds from suppliers, select seeds that are certified free of disease-causing pathogens. Different sellers may have different seed-testing practices. Information about whether or not seeds are certified disease-free can be found online, in seed catalogs, or on seed packets.

Heat-Treat Seed

Many home gardeners choose to save seeds from year to year, particularly in the case of heirloom varieties. However, pathogens may be present on the exterior and/or interior of seeds, even if not visible. This may also be true of purchased seeds that are not certified disease-free. Hot water seed treatment may be used for certain types of vegetables to kill pathogens. In this process, seeds are pretreated in a water bath at 100°F for five minutes. Seeds are then transferred to a second water bath set at a specified temperature, typically between 118 and 125°F, for a specified period of time. The temperature and treatment time var-

ies depending on the type of seed being treated. Reference Cornell University's Vegetable MD Online article entitled Managing Pathogens Inside Seed with Hot Water and Appendix I in UK Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers (ID-36). There are certain types of vegetable seeds that cannot be heat treated, such as peas, beans, and most cucurbits; seed pretreated with fungicides also should not be hot watertreated.

Surface Sterilize Transplant Trays

Reused transplant trays can harbor disease-causing pathogens. If trays are reused, all soil and plant debris should be removed. Trays can then be sterilized using a solution of one part household bleach to nine parts water (10% bleach) or a disinfectant. Pots and metal stakes should be sterilized in a similar way. For additional information on cleaning and disinfection of trays can be found in the Cleaning & Disinfecting Home Garden Tools & Equipment and Cleaning & Sanitizing Commercial Greenhouse Surfaces publications.

Pasteurize Planting Media

Planting media can also contain pathogen propagules that may infect seeds or seedlings. Always use new planting media for starting seeds, as most purchased media is typically pathogen-free. If media is suspected of being contaminated, pasteurization (heating up soil) can eliminate path-

ogens. To pasteurize, put well-moistened soil in a metal container (such as a disposable cake pan) and heat at 200°F for 46 to 60 minutes, or microwave in a glass pan for 30 seconds, mix, and repeat until soil is evenly heated (approximately 3 minutes total time).

Contact the Extension Office for additional resources.





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

Carter County

94 Fairground Drive Grayson, KY 41143 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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PRESORTED STANDARD US POSTAGE PAID GRAYSON, KY PERMIT #94