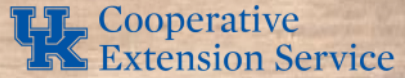


**CARTER COUNTY
AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES
NEWSLETTER**



Carter County

94 Fairground Drive Grayson, KY 41143

Phone: (606) 474-6686 Fax: (606) 474-8542

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facebook.com/CCESAG

Rebecca.k@uky.edu

September 2024

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Highlights:

- ⇒ The Carter County Extension Office is pleased to welcome our new staff assistant **Elizabeth Johnson**. Stop by and say hi!
- ⇒ If you would like to receive free hay nutrient analysis as part of the **East KY Hay Contest** please call to schedule your appointment prior to October 11th.
- ⇒ Details about the Carter County **CAIP Cost Share Applications** are included on page 4.
- ⇒ Plan to join us on September 17th for our **Annual Farm & Family Field Day!** Details on page 3.

Enjoy your newsletter,

Rebecca Konopka

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

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating

Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Upcoming Events

Denotes events where preregistration is required. Call 474-6686 or email Rebecca.k@uky.edu to register. Visit the events section of our Facebook page (@CarterCoKYAg) or website for more details on upcoming events.

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 9/6 @ 1:00 PM | Hike & Learn | Grayson Lake US Army Corp of Engineers |
| 9/7 @ 5:00 PM | *Farm to Fork Dinner* Contact Kee's Farm Service, Kenny Brammell or Will Davis for tickets. | Wells Farm |
| 9/9 @ 6:00 PM | CAIP Informational Meeting | Extension Office |
| 9/14 @ 2:00 PM | CAIP Informational Meeting | Extension Office |
| 9/17 @ 5:00 PM | Farm & Family Field Day | Rayburn's Blessed Acres |
| 9/26 @ 6:00 PM | Sheep & Goat Parasitology & Fecal Egg Count Workshop Call 575-642-2652 to register | Morehead State University Farm Classroom |
| 9/27 @ 3:30 PM | Carter County CAIP Applications Due | Soil Conservation Office |
| 10/1 @ 6:30 PM | Little Sandy Beekeepers | Extension Office |
| 10/4 @ 1:00 PM | Hike & Learn | Greenbo Lake State Resort Park |
| 10/8 @ 10:00 AM | Extension District Board Meeting | Extension Office |
| 10/11 @ 4:30 PM | Deadline to Request Hay Samples | Extension Office |
| 10/29 @ 6:00 PM | Northeast Area Livestock Association Meeting | Extension Office |
| 11/1 @ 10:00 AM | *Beginning & Small Farmer School* | Morehead State University Farm Classroom |



Tuesday, September 17th

FARM & FAMILY FIELD DAY 2024



Bring your favorite
dessert to accompany the
meal and to enter in the
dessert contest.
Categories are: Cakes, Pies,
Cookies, KY Proud,
Youth & Other



Rayburn's Blessed Acres

897 Buckler Lane Olive Hill, KY 41164

If you're coming from Grayson, you will take the 2nd Olive Hill exit. Turn right onto Route 2 heading toward Carter City.

You will travel 4 miles, turning left onto Buckler Lane. It is the first left after Bethel Christian Church.

Once you are on Buckler Lane, you will travel approximately one mile to where we'll be set up.

If you're coming from Carter City, you will turn left at JF Lewis's, toward the old Carter City Elementary.

You will travel approximately 6 miles, and Buckler Lane is on your right. If you get to Bethel Christian church, you've gone too far.

Once you are on Buckler Lane, you will travel approximately one mile to where we'll be set up.

5:00PM

REGISTRATION BEGINS

BOOTHS OPEN

MEAL

Prepared by:

Carter County FFA

6:30PM

FARM TOUR BEGINS

After the Tour:

DOOR PRIZES

Farm Tour Topics:

Maximizing Hay Productivity

Dr. Ray Smith, UK Extension Forage Specialist

Small Ruminant Herd Health

Dr. Phillip Prater, Retired MSU Veterinarian

Available NRCS Practices & Programs

Melodie Bush, Soil Conservationist &

Ben Marcum, District Conservationist

Watering Livestock

Rebecca Konopka, Carter County Extension Agent

for Agriculture & Natural Resources

MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS

KADF

KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Eligible Investment Areas:

*Agricultural Diversification
AgTech & Leadership Development
Large Animal - Small Animal
Farm Infrastructure
Fencing & On-Farm Water
Forage & Grain Improvement
Innovative Ag. Systems
On-Farm Energy
Poultry & Other Fowl
Value Added & Marketing*

Administered by Courtney Bond
Carter Co. Soil Conservation Office
526 East Main Street
Grayson, KY 41143
(606) 474-5184 Option 3
cartercoconservationdistrict@gmail.com

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are available for Carter County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important farm investments.

Application Period:

**September 9th, 2024, through
September 27th, 2024**

*No applications will be accepted before
September 9th, 2024, or after September 27th, 2024*

Application Availability:

Carter County Soil Conservation District
Monday – Thursday (7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)

For More Information:

Contact Courtney bond at (606) 474-5184 Option 3 or
email cartercoconservationdistrict@gmail.com

*All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria
set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.*

KADF
KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Carter County
County Agricultural
Investment Program (CAIP)



CAIP Information Meeting for Carter County

Monday, September 9th, 2024 @ 6:00pm
Saturday, September 14th, 2024 @ 2:00pm
Location: Carter County Extension Building


CAIP Cost Share applications will be available at the Carter County Soil Conservation Office starting Monday, September 9th, 2024, the informational meetings have been set to discuss the upcoming application.

This meeting **does not** count as an educational credit, but **it will count for application points.**





HIKE & LEARN

 Cooperative
Extension Service

OCTOBER 4TH @ 1:00 PM
GREENBO LAKE STATE RESORT PARK



Fern Valley Nature Trail

Meet at the trailhead to the left of the lodge.

Trail Length: 1.1 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Please wear closed toe shoes & bring your own drinks & snacks.

Visit carter.ca.uky.edu/anr for more info.

Little Sandy Beekeepers Association

*****First Tuesday of the Month @ 6:30 PM*****

October 1st - Activity: Protein Patties

November 5th - Topic: Baking with Honey

2024 Master Cattleman Graduates

Tina Badgett

Jonathan Tompkins

Shannon Hamilton

Denver & Peggy Lykins

Robert & Judy McCoy
(Not pictured)



Carter County Extension Office Hosts Moroccan Delegation

The Carter County Extension Office was pleased to host special guests from Morocco at the end of August. The guests made stops in Virginia, Maryland, and Kentucky to learn about the Cooperative Extension Service.

During their visit in Carter County the guests met with local farmers and learned about soil sampling and the East KY Hay Contest. We appreciate John Buck & Marcella Clay sharing their Extension experiences with our guests.

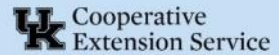


Photo by: Matt Barton, UK Ag Communication Services

Herbicide Resistance Screening Program

UK is initiating a herbicide resistance screening program to assist crop producers in Kentucky. We hope that growers use this program to determine if the lack of efficacy in herbicides is due to resistance developing in a weed species or possibly caused by an environmental event or application issue. Spraying herbicides when resistance is present can be a waste of valuable time and money. Additionally, while specific information on farms will be kept private, obtaining herbicide resistant samples will allow for researchers at UK to determine the causes of herbicide resistance and begin to develop long-term solutions for growers.

If you have Italian Ryegrass, Johnsongrass, Horseweed, Water-hemp, Palmer Amaranth, and/or Giant Ragweed that were not killed/suppressed by an herbicide but should have been please let us know so that we can obtain samples.



Streamside buffers: A simple solution for cleaner water and healthier livestock



What is a streamside buffer?

A streamside buffer is a green belt of plants along a river or stream that helps clean water, protect the banks, and provide homes for animals.

Streamside buffers benefits:

- Water quality
- Erosion control
- Flood control
- Wildlife habitat

Implementing streamside buffers

- Identify the area: Look for flood-prone areas near streams for buffer placement.
- Prepare the site: Treat areas with invasive grasses before planting.
- Select and plant vegetation: Use native plants suited to local conditions.
- Maintain the buffer: Regularly check and manage it to ensure its effectiveness.
- Install fencing: Protect the buffer by limiting livestock access.

*Source: Amanda Gumbert, water quality extension specialist
An Equal Opportunity Organization.*

Managing Cool-Season Pastures for Enhanced Fall Growth

Dr. Chris D. Teutsch, University of Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton

It seems early to be thinking about stockpiling cool-season grasses for winter grazing, but how we manage pastures now can have a profound impact on fall growth. How closely and frequently we graze pastures this summer can either enhance or reduce our ability to stockpile grass this fall. The objective of this article is to provide some tips that will help to keep cool-season pastures healthy this summer.

Fertilize and lime according to soil test. If you have not already done it, take a soil sample and apply any needed phosphorous, potassium, and lime. Avoid summer applications of nitrogen to cool-season pastures. They are generally not economical since cool-season grasses are not actively growing during the summer months. In addition, they can inadvertently weaken cool-season grass stands by promoting the growth of summer weeds.

Do NOT graze cool-season pastures too closely. Grazing pastures closely during the summer months can weaken cool-season grass stands and promote the growth of warm-season grasses such as bermudagrass or crabgrass in these stands. There is nothing wrong with warm-season grasses, but we want to minimize them in pastures that will be stockpiled for winter grazing. Maintaining 4 to 6 inches of residue in cool-season pastures can also moderate soil temperature and conserve soil moisture.

Rest cool-season pastures during the summer month. Resting pastures during the summer months allows them to acclimate to the hot and dry conditions often found in Kentucky. It allows plants to replenish and maintain stored carbohydrates (energy reserves) that can be mobilized in late summer and fall to full rapid growth during the stockpiling period.

Graze warm-season grasses during the summer months. During the summer months, warm-season grasses will produce about twice as much dry matter per unit of water used when compared to cool season grasses. The beauty of warm-season grasses is that they allow you to get off of cool-season pastures when they are most susceptible to overgrazing.

There are several perennial warm-season grasses that can be used, but in western Kentucky the most productive, persistent, and tolerant to close and frequent grazing is bermudagrass. Johnsongrass is another warm-season perennial grass that can provide high quality summer grazing. I am going on record to make clear that I am NOT encouraging anyone to plant johnsongrass, but sometimes it is just there. Because johnsongrass is extremely palatable, it can be grazed out of pastures if not rotationally stocked.

Warm-season annual grasses like pearl millet, sorghum-sudangrass, sudangrass, and crabgrass can provide high quality summer grazing. The primary disadvantage with summer annual grasses is that they need to be reestablished every year, which costs money and provides the chance for stand failure. The exception to this is crabgrass that develops volunteer stands from seed in the soil. Although most people don't realize (or want to admit it) crabgrass has saved many cows during dry summers in western Kentucky.

Feed hay in sacrifice area. During the summer months, it is tempting to just open the gates up and let the cattle free range. However, a better plan is to confine animals to the weakest paddock that you have and feed hay. You will likely damage this paddock, but it will allow you to maintain strong and vigorous sod in the others. This sacrifice area can then be renovated in late fall.

When it comes to stockpiling cool-season grasses for winter grazing, what you do during the summer months really does matter! So, as we roll into the hottest and driest part of the grazing season, make sure and give your cool-season pastures a little tend loving care. It will pay big dividends this fall!

More information on stockpiling can be found at your local extension office or by visiting UK Forages Webpage or KYForages YouTube Channel.



Strange Tales of Yellowjackets in Appalachia

By Jonathan L. Larson, Entomology Extension Specialist

Late summer is a common time to encounter yellowjackets in flight throughout Kentucky. Typically, this is when they start to switch from foraging for protein sources (such as caterpillars and even carrion) and begin looking for more sugar-based foods. In a typical year, that means you can bump into them at fairs, festivals, picnics, and other outdoor events as they end up in garbage cans or they forage from fruits and sugary drinks you are enjoying outdoors. In 2024 though, there have been several reports from Eastern Kentucky Extension agents and residents that indicate yellowjacket population numbers are extremely high in Appalachia and that these wasps are appearing in “clouds” where they appear to be hovering and foraging over turf areas. In addition, these reports have included details about increased encounters when mowing or performing other landscape maintenance, and as a result, more stinging incidents. This will hopefully provide some background information on these striped stingers and tips on how to navigate them.

What are yellowjackets? Yellowjackets are smaller social wasps (compared to other species); they tend to be about a half-inch long and are distinctive for their bright yellow and black coloration. There are multiple species that live in Kentucky, the southern, eastern, and German yellowjackets for example. Identification is based on patterns on the abdomen, rather than their accent as the names may imply.

Depending on the species, they may build their nest in the ground, using abandoned rodent burrows typically, in trees or shrubs, or in attics/wall voids of buildings. In these locations, the queen yellowjacket will initially start the nest on her own; the new workers that she produces help to expand the structure and maintain it. As summer goes on, the papery football-shaped nest will contain thousands of workers and the original queen. Eventually, the queen will stop making new workers and switch to producing new queens. These new queens will overwinter nearby, but the rest of the colony will perish at season’s end.

Yellowjackets are predatory wasps for



Figure 1: Yellowjackets are relatively small social wasps; they pack a big punch when they sting though. Their bright yellow and black coloration also separates them from other stinging species. (Photo: Jim Kalisch, UNL Entomology).

most of the summer. They can be seen capturing and killing pest caterpillars, amongst other insects. Yellowjackets also commonly visit roadkill to slice off strips of meat and may even visit your sandwich if you set it down. When summer is winding down and their food supplies are dwindling, they switch to sugary foods. This also coincides with when new queens are being made. As a result, yellowjackets are around humans more often at this time of year, and they are a little bit surlier than they were back in May.

What's happening in Eastern Kentucky? It's unclear as of this publication what is driving the numbers of yellowjackets so high in our easternmost counties. Similar reports are being made in West Virginia, seemingly indicating that this isn't restricted to just Kentucky but possibly is happening in many Appalachian counties.

Some possible explanations might include more queens being able to survive after the mild winter between 2023 and 2024. With more queens, more nests could have been established resulting in the densities being seen. There is also the possibility that there is another insect having a banner year, which is providing food for yellowjackets. Some reporters have included statements that yellowjackets are seen in lawn or turf areas, hovering, and they seem to be catching insects or collecting something. If a caterpillar or sawfly species is in high numbers, they could be preying on them or alternatively, honeydew-making insects are leaving vast amounts of sugary fecal material for wasps to forage on.



Figure 2: This screengrab from a video found on Facebook (the person's name is omitted for privacy) shows a scene with hundreds to thousands of yellowjackets buzzing in an area.

Issues & possible solutions—Most negative interactions with yellowjackets occur because a human has somehow messed with their nest. Usually this is when mowing or weed eating, cutting down a tree, or going into an outbuilding that is infested. If a colony's entrance is easily discernible, it is possible to treat the colony with an aerosol or dust insecticide. This is usually easier when the nest is in-ground or in a building. Aerosol products, like Raid Wasp & Hornet, include special triggers that allow you to

apply them from a distance and typically work in a few seconds. They should be applied at dusk or night to maximize kill and minimize chances of being stung. Applicators should still wear longer sleeves and pants and be prepared to leave the area quickly with an escape route in mind. Dust insecticides, like Sevin dust, can be applied into nest entrances using a puff applicator or a turkey baster (never to be used on turkeys again). This should also be done at night; dusts work much slower as well, so be prepared to get away.

When nests are numerous, it might be tempting to try and treat a whole yard. Spraying liquid products on top of the ground will not work. The insecticides that work best against yellowjackets will bind to soil and organic matter in their liquid form, rendering the insecticide ineffective. Aerosols and dusts don't do this.

When yellowjackets are away from the nest, they usually aren't as aggressive. If they are hit or swatted, that can change though. If you walk into an area with large clouds of wasps, slowly back out the same direction that you came. Do not attempt to go through them and do not try to disperse them by swatting or waving at them.

Images from Eastern Kentucky have shown clouds of wasps in what have been called "biblical proportions." This is frightening and potentially dangerous. You can't simply start treating these large groups with insecticides, unfortunately. There isn't an easy or effective way to do so without putting yourself at risk of exposure. You can, however, trap these large groups out using various trap designs.

There are many yellowjacket trap designs for sale at hardware stores and online retailers. There are just as many at-home DIY trap designs seen on Pinterest, Facebook, and other social media platforms.

Figure 3: This screenshot from a video on YouTube shows the basic two-liter bottle trap that can be deployed to try and capture as many yellowjackets as possible (Source: https://youtu.be/GVLqEb6ANig?si=svvu_Dm8eNpXyH9T).



I will outline one simple trap that most people will be able to create out of objects in their home. All you will need is an empty two-liter bottle, a box cutter or knife, liquid soap, and an attractant. Using your sharp object, cut the top 1/4 or 1/3 of the bottle off of the two-liter. Flip the cut off section over so that the spout points down, creating a funnel. Insert this funnel into the other bottle section. You have now created something the wasps can enter but rarely leave. Fill the bottom portion of the bottle with about an inch of an attractive substance. At this time of year, fruit juice, soda pop, cheap red wine, or another sugary beverage would be best. Then, add 2 to 3 drops of liquid dish soap. Now wasps will fall into the liquid and drown. Set the trap in an area with many wasps and over 1 to 3 evenings it will fill with dead yellowjackets. You can construct and deploy multiple traps to try and destroy even more of them. You might even experiment with different attractants to see which works the best.



KDF Tree Seedling Sales

Kentucky Division of Forestry tree seedling sales begin on **September 1**, with delivery season taking place January-April of 2025. All orders are online. More information will be found here: [State Nurseries and Tree Seedlings - Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet](https://secure.kentucky.gov/InventoryServices/Forestry/Seedlings) (<https://secure.kentucky.gov/InventoryServices/Forestry/Seedlings>)

Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year Field Day

Walt Rybka Tree Farm | Morehead, KY (Rowan County)

September 26 | 1:00 - 6:00 pm (ET)

Sponsored by: Kentucky Tree Farm Committee, UK Forestry and Natural Resources Extension, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Rowan County Cooperative Extension Office, Kentucky Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, Kentucky Forest Industries Association, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Register by September 20! To register call Rowan County Extension Office at 606-784-5457. Walt has a wonderful operation and offers sensible hands-on perspectives on management practices. This event will fill up fast - [so register now!](#)

Wildfires and Weather—A Potentially Deadly Combination

By: Tony Edwards - National Weather Service Charleston, WV

Wildland forest fires are fairly common across the Commonwealth, but especially so in the forests of eastern Kentucky. The Kentucky Division of Forestry reports that, on average, there are over 1,400 wildfires each year across Kentucky. Arson is the number one cause of those fires, with uncontrolled burning ranking second. Ninety-nine percent of all wildfires in Kentucky are caused by humans!



Many of us have seen what look like harmless fires burning in the leaf litter in our forests during the dry fall and spring seasons. Some of us may have even been responsible for a burn pile or two getting “out of control”. These situations shouldn’t be taken lightly, however, as given the right conditions, these fires can become deadly.

On April 6, 1999, rapidly changing weather conditions and steep terrain combined on a wildfire (named the Island Fork Fire) in Rowan County, resulting in the death of two volunteer firefighters, ages 28 and 30. These firefighters were overrun by the wildfire which likely started when a landowner lost control of a fire while clearing a fence line. The wildfire advanced quickly up the steep terrain, with flames as high as 20 feet and winds increasing rapidly to over 35 mph! Char marks on the tree bark were up to 50 feet high! While such fire conditions are rare in Kentucky, they illustrate how dangerous wildfires can be and why you should take measures to prevent them from occurring.

The National Weather Service issues Red Flag Watches and Red Flag Warnings to inform fire management agencies and the public when weather conditions are right for rapid wildfire growth. A Red Flag Watch means to be prepared as dangerous fire weather conditions are possible in the next few days but are not occurring yet. A Red Flag Warning means dangerous fire weather conditions are occurring now or are expected to occur shortly. During a Red Flag Warning, you should use extreme caution when dealing with anything that could pose a wildfire hazard.

When fire danger is elevated, you may see a burn ban go into effect. Usually these are on a local county level, and are enforced with assistance from local law enforcement. Burn bans generally prohibit burning of for-

est, grass, crops, woodlands, marshes and other similar areas. Make sure to check with your local fire department or county officials before burning.

Keep in mind that during fire seasons in Kentucky, it is illegal to burn anything within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. The Spring Forest Fire Season runs from February 15 - April 30 and the Fall Forest Fire Season runs from October 1 - December 15. Violation of the burn ban is a misdemeanor punishable by law!

What Causes Wildfires?

A spark, in the presence of fuel and oxygen, can cause a fire, which can further spread depending on various weather conditions.

A SPARK + FUEL & OXYGEN = FIRE! X WEATHER CONDITIONS

Fires can be sparked by natural causes, but most wildfires in the U.S. are caused by human activity.

Natural causes:



Lightning strikes



Heat from the sun

Human activity:



Vehicles & machinery



Cigarette butts



Fireworks



Campfires & burning brush

Fuel is usually dry vegetation.



Grass



Brush



Trees

Oxygen is almost everywhere.



Certain weather conditions can make fires bigger, faster, and more dangerous.



Strong wind



Drought



High temperatures & low humidity

weather.gov



FIRE WEATHER WATCH

A Fire Weather Watch is issued when **critical fire weather conditions are possible**.

“Critical fire conditions” means warm temperatures, low humidity, and strong, gusty winds.

Be Prepared.

RED FLAG WARNING

A Red Flag Warning is issued when **critical fire weather conditions are happening or are about to happen**.

Avoid burning, be careful around open flames, safely dispose of cigarettes. Fires can spark and grow very quickly.

Take Action!



weather.gov



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
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Cooperative Extension Service

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