

# NEWSLETTER MAY 2024

LaRue County  
P.O. Box 210, 807 Old Elizabethtown Rd.  
Hodgenville, KY 42748-0210  
(270) 358-3401  
larue.ca.uky.edu



## AGENT REMARKS

The time has come to gear up for a great planting and growing season. The running of the Kentucky Derby marks the time for most homeowners to transplant flowers and begin their summer gardens. This is no different for those with crops in fields as well, spring rains have put a damper on crop progress the past couple weeks. After what appeared to be an early spring the wet season has arrived in full force. As a result, we shift our mindset to managing stress and pest infestations, as conditions are right for problems to show up. As summer approaches we all enjoy being outside and planting and growing just about everything. Just a reminder watch out for those weeds, disease, and anything else that is not desirable in your fields or landscape. So if you have problems arise reach out to us here at the extension service and lets create a control plan. As always be safe and enjoy!!



**Adam Thomas**  
LaRue County Extension Agent  
for Agriculture & Natural  
Resources Education

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **May 14<sup>th</sup>** - LC Cattlemen's Meeting- Extension Office 7pm EDT
- **May 14<sup>th</sup>** - UK Wheat Field Day- UKREC Princeton, KY
- **May 21<sup>st</sup>** - Crop Scouting Workshop- UKREC Princeton, KY
- **June 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Senior Farmers Market Voucher Sign-up- Extension Office 9am EDT
- **June 6<sup>th</sup>** - Soil Properties Workshop- UKREC Princeton, KY
- **June 12<sup>th</sup>** - Electric Fencing for Serious Graziers- Butler County Extension

### EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSED

● ● *Memorial Day* ● ●

MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

### 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




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## LC CATTLEMEN'S MEETING

The LaRue County Cattlemen's will meet on **Tuesday, May 14** at 7pm at the LaRue County Extension Service. Dr. Andy Pike with Pike Veterinary Services will discuss **Herd Health**. This meeting is eligible for CAIP education credit.

A meal will be provided and they do ask that you bring a dessert to share.

<p><b>5/14/24</b> <b>@ 7pm</b> LaRue County Extension Service 807 Old Elizabethtown Rd., Hodgenville</p>	<p><b>Herd Health</b> Dr. Andy Pike  <b>CAIP</b> EDUCATIONAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY</p>	<p> Cooperative Extension Service </p>
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## FORAGE TIMELY TIPS: MAY

- Start hay harvests for quality forage. Consider making baleage to facilitate timely cutting.
- Seed warm season grasses for supplemental forage once soil temperature is at 60 F.
- Clip, graze, or make hay to prevent seedhead formation.
- Rotate pastures as based in height rather than time: TF 8 to 10 / 3 to 4; OG 8 to 10 / 4 - 5; Bermuda - 4 - 6 / 1 -2; Sorghum Sudangrass 20 to 24 / 8 to 12
- Consider temporary electric fencing to subdivide larger pastures and exclude areas for mechanical harvesting.
- Scout pastures for summer annual weeds and control when small.

## EQUIPMENT RENTAL

It's the time of year to think about pasture and hay improvements. The LaRue County Conservation District has cost share equipment to rent producers who otherwise don't own the necessary equipment.

That includes no-till drills, boomless pasture sprayer, lime spreader, and hay wrappers. Contact the LaRue Conservation District at (270) 358-3132 for costs and availability.

# SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION VOUCHERS



**UK** Cooperative Extension Service

## SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION VOUCHERS

What?

**\$50**

benefit card to use on select items at the 2024 LaRue County Farmers Market.

Who?

To qualify:

- Be a LaRue County resident
- Must be 60 years of age or older
- Meet the income requirements

*Don't forget*  
Must show proof of age & residency.

<https://www.kyagr.com/consumer/senior-farmer-market.html>

How?

Cards will be distributed beginning on

**June 3<sup>RD</sup> at 9 am<sup>EDT</sup>**

(while supplies last)

LaRue County Extension Service  
807 Old Elizabethtown Rd., Hodgenville - 270-358-3401



An Equal Opportunity Organization



LaRue County Farmers Market  
**opening day**  
**June 13**  
**9am**

**OPEN THURSDAYS**  
**9AM-1PM**

LaRue County High School Back Parking Lot  
925 S. Lincoln Blvd., Hodgenville

2024 Saturday Market Days > July 6th, July 20th & August 3rd

# UK Wheat Field Day

May 14, 2024

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ◆ **Evolution of Carbon Markets: Are There Opportunities for Kentucky Wheat Producers?** - Dr. Jordan Shockley
- ◆ **Wheat Disease Update** - Dr. Carl Bradley
- ◆ **Wheat Breeding: Process and Methods** - Dr. Dave Van Sanford
- ◆ **Wheat Fertilization** - Dr. Edwin Ritchey
- ◆ **Residual Herbicide Timing for Ryegrass Control in Wheat** - Dr. Travis Legleiter
- ◆ **International, Domestic, and Local Trends That Inform Wheat Marketing Decisions** - Dr. Grant Gardner
- ◆ **Wheat Variety Trial (Walk Through)** - Bill Bruening

## UKREC Farm

1205 Hopkinsville St,

Princeton, Ky 42445

9 am - NOON (Central time)

Registration: 8 am



## EDUCATIONAL CREDITS:

CCA: PM 1hr, CM 0.5hr,  
Prof Dev 0.5

Pesticide: 1 CEU cat 1A,  
1CEU cat 10



## Crop Scouting Workshop

*Ideal for agriculture interns, new and experienced producers, as well as a great refresher for others*

- Corn and soybean diseases and growth staging
- Scouting for insect pests of corn and soybeans
- Weed ID
- Soil nutrients and their influence on crop growth

**May 21, 2024**

8:30 am to 3:30 pm

University of Kentucky  
Research and Education Center  
Princeton, KY 42445



Credits:

CCA: pending

PAT: pending



Pre-registration is required and will close on May 17  
<https://2024KATSCropScouting.eventbrite.com>

\$105 registration fee

*Lunch will be provided*

For more information contact Lori Rogers  
270-365-7541 ext. 21317 ([lori.rogers@uky.edu](mailto:lori.rogers@uky.edu))



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Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to

Equal Opportunity Office, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546, the UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

# SOIL PROPERTIES WORKSHOP



**June 6, 2024**

9am-3pm CST



## Soil Properties Workshop

Soil Properties and Their Impact on Delivering Water and Nutrients to Your Plants

We will examine two soil pits with distinctly different profile properties (Loess/Sandstone/Limestone) to discuss how they will influence water and nutrient retention and delivery.



Key topics include:

- Plant available water
- Soil Texture
- Nutrient Profile
- Web soil survey

Pre-registration required @

<https://KATsoilpropertiesworkshop2024.eventbrite.com>  
\$105



University of KY Research and Education Center  
1205 Hopkinsville Rd.  
Princeton, KY

Credits: pending

For more information or questions contact Lori Rogers  
[lori.rogers@uky.edu](mailto:lori.rogers@uky.edu) 270-365-7541 Ext 21317



# ELECTRIC FENCING FOR SERIOUS GRAZERS

*Kentucky Fencing Schools*

## Electric Fencing for Serious Grazers: Installation and Troubleshooting

Organized and Sponsored by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, UK Cooperative Extension Service, and the Master Grazer Program

**What:** Hands on electric fencing school covering installation and troubleshooting

**When:** June 12, 2024, 9 AM to 4 PM

**Where:** Butler County Extension Office  
102 Parkway Lane  
Morgantown, KY 42261

Registration  
limited to first  
30 participants!

**Preregistration Required:**

Register online at: <https://2024ElectricFencing.eventbrite.com>

Or call or email Caroline Roper at 270-704-2254  
or [Caroline.Roper@uky.edu](mailto:Caroline.Roper@uky.edu)



# PEST MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY

SAVE THE DATE

## PEST MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY

# June 27, 2024

at UKREC Princeton

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/2a8ch6ee>



Continuing Education Units for CCA and KY Pesticide applicator training will be available.

*Registration is free—Lunch will be provided*

# DRONE PILOT CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP



## Drone Pilot Certification Workshop

An intensive workshop to prepare candidates for the FAA's part 107 Drone Pilot Certification exam



**June 10-11, 2024**  
(Lunch will be provided both days)

Hopkins County Cooperative  
Extension Office

Madisonville, KY

Class size is limited!

Course: \$400  
Exam: \$175

CCA: 12 CEUs



**For more information and to register contact:** Lori Rogers  
[lori.rogers@uky.edu](mailto:lori.rogers@uky.edu) 270-365-7541 ext 21317

[kats.ca.uky.edu](https://kats.ca.uky.edu)

Course will be taught by Mandy Briggs, Certified Flight Instructor



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# DRIVERS OF COMMODITY PRICES: EXPORTS

- Grant Gardner



Since the onset of COVID, agricultural commodity charts have resembled the track of a roller coaster, with huge peaks and valleys. Global geopolitical events and conflict intensify these peaks and valleys. During the 2023/24 marketing year, commodity prices have transitioned downward. As prices start to level out, we can likely expect more consistent commodity prices on a year-to-year basis. In a less volatile price environment, marketing decisions are made easier by focusing on fundamental drivers of prices. Examples include exports, the acreage battle, and domestic use. This article is the first in a series I will publish in the Department of Agricultural Economics' *Economic and Policy Update* on fundamental drivers of commodity prices. In this article, I focus on exports and why exports are a crucial driver of U.S. commodity prices.

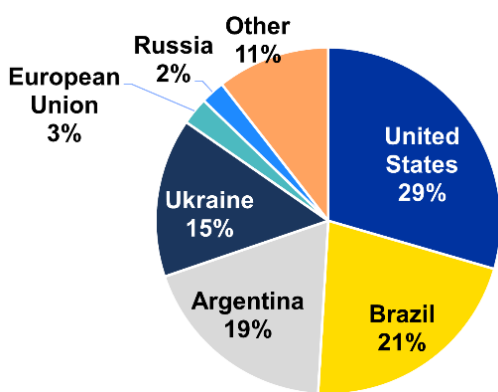
Exports drive U.S. prices because US production outpaces domestic use, creating a reliance on export markets. Figures 1, 2, and 3 show the aggregate percentage of corn, soybean, and wheat exports by country and U.S. marketing year from 2018/19 to 2022/23. Export numbers are obtained from the USDA FAS Production, Supply, and Distribution Database. Figures 1-3 indicate that each crop has a small number of large players; however, wheat export markets are more competitive than corn or soybean markets. Figure 1 suggests that the four major players in corn exports are the U.S., Brazil, Argentina, and Ukraine, which make up 85% of world exports. Figure 2 indicates Brazil has been the leading soybean supplier for the past five years; however, Figure 2 is a little misleading as Argentina makes up 4% of soybean exports but is the largest supplier of soybean meal, at 39%. In combination, the U.S., Brazil, and Argentina supply 90% of soybean exports and 84% of soybean meal exports. Wheat is a global crop with more competitive export markets. Figure 3 indicates that the U.S., Russia, the European Union, Canada, Australia, Ukraine, and Argentina combine to make up 84% of wheat export markets.

Although the U.S. has been the leading corn exporter for the past five years, Brazil surpassed the U.S. in corn exports during the 2022/23 marketing year and is expected to have similar corn exports as the U.S. in 2023/24 (USDA WASDE, 2024). Continual agricultural expansions are expected in Brazil, making Brazil the largest U.S. competitor in corn export markets. A similar story can be told for soybean exports. During the 2022/23 marketing year, Brazilian soybean exports nearly doubled U.S. exports. Brazil was also the largest soybean meal exporter in 2022/23. 2023/24 projections indicate Brazil will more than double the US in exports and surpass Argentina in meal exports (USDA WASDE, 2024). Wheat exports will continue in a similar position to the last five years. It is worth noting that even with the conflict in Ukraine, Russian and Ukrainian wheat exports have remained relatively consistent. The same can be said of Ukrainian corn exports.

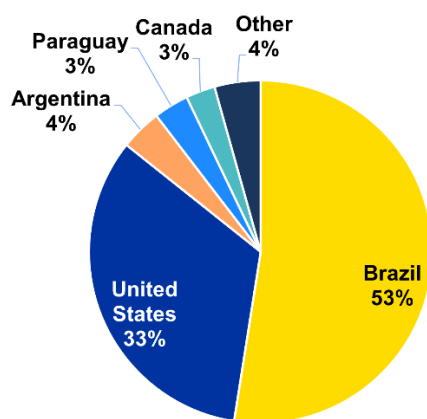
The export information covered above can aid in marketing directly and indirectly. Directly, any U.S. export bookings positively impact U.S. commodity prices. However, we must remember that commodity prices already account for a certain amount of U.S. exports. Thus, exports surpassing the projected amount will have a bullish effect on commodity prices, which could be a good indicator for booking commodity sales. Indirectly, weather events in other countries can also indicate a good time to book commodity sales, especially in corn and soybeans. Specifically, weather events in Brazil and Argentina that slow planting or impact yield. Specific months to watch South American weather include September-May. As wheat is a global crop, it is less reactive to weather changes, but recent events have shown that geopolitical news and weather can indirectly affect U.S. prices. Specific months are harder to pinpoint.

In conclusion, exports are an important driver of U.S. commodity prices. As a few countries make up large portions of world corn, soybean, and wheat exports, we can inform marketing decisions by paying attention to direct and indirect indicators of export change. As we move into a more predictable period of commodity prices, it will be important to pay attention to the direct effects of changing exports and indirect effects, such as changing weather conditions in major exporting countries, to inform commodity marketing decisions.

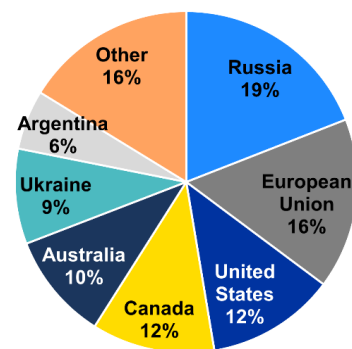
**Figure 1: World Corn Exports by Country, 2018/19-2022/23 Marketing Year (%)**



**Figure 2: World Soybean Exports by Country, 2018/19-2022/23 Marketing Year (%)**



**Figure 3: World Wheat Exports by Country, 2018/19-2022/23 Marketing Year (%)**





# SLUGS AND SNAILS AFFECTING PRE & POST EMERGENT SOYBEANS

By Raul T. Villanueva, Entomology Extension Specialist, and Zenaida Viloria, Entomology Research Analyst  
University of Kentucky's Research and Education Center at Princeton, KY.

## Abundance of Slugs and Snails in 2024

The warmer winter season in 2024, rains and foggy conditions during several days in March and April, have been conducive for the presence of slugs and snails in commercial and research plots in Western Kentucky. Since the end of March and the first week of April we have been observing slugs in various stages of development as well eggs in soybean and corn fields. The favorable conditions described above might have increased their populations in field leading to a reduction of plant stands in several soybean fields, and in many cases entire fields were consumed. In fields heavily affected by slugs, plant stands per 5-ft row reached from 2 to 10 while these numbers under normal conditions should be between 20 to 30 plants per 5-ft row (average planting in KY: 5 to 6 seeds per ft-row in soybeans planted in 20" row width) (Figure 1). Snails were also observed in abundant number in fields that have irrigation and abundant organic matter (Figure 2). Feeding behavior captured in fields showed that slug were feeding in insecticide and fungicide treated unsprouted seeds, and emerging seedlings (Figure 3). Either insecticides or fungicides do not affect slugs or snails. Also, observations since the first week of April have shown that eggs were laid in moist soils covered by organic matter from previous crop (soybeans, corn, or wheat). Figure 4 shows that slugs and snails were well protected under the dry brace roots of corn and ovipositing eggs under these structures.

Figure 1. Images of 5-ft row in two soybean fields showing the reduction of plant stands caused by slug feeding: 4 plants (left picture) and 10 plants (right picture) (yellow arrows) in the center rows. Under normal conditions there should be 20 to 30 plants per 5-ft row lengths.



Figure 2. Soybean seedlings and dead slugs collected per 5-foot rows. Notice the different sizes of snails collected after the application of the metaldehyde baits.



Figure 3. (Left) Slug feeding on pesticide coated, swollen, and unsprouted soybean seed. (Right) Feeding damage on emerged and unsprouted seed

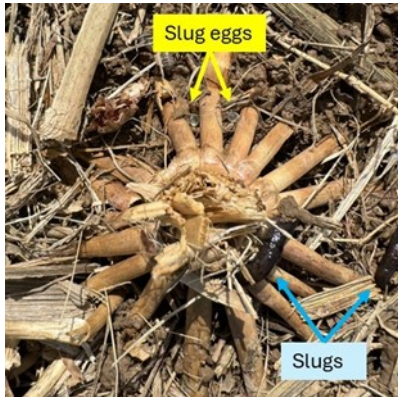


Figure 4. Corn stalk left in the field with the brace roots that sheltered snails and their eggs. Although, 2 eggs are shown in this image more than 15 snail eggs were found under the brace roots (Photo by R. T. Villanueva)

### Mollusk Management

There is no rescue treatment for slug damage or thresholds for application of molluscicides. If stands are low replanting is recommended and an application of molluscicides may be necessary. In February 27, 2024, we wrote an article titled “Slugs are Active in February 2024, but Farmers Have Two Registered Molluscicides under Section 24(c) in Kentucky”. In this article we wrote about the possibility of the abundance of mollusks during the germination period of corn or soybeans based on the environmental conditions and on two metaldehyde molluscicides that are registered under the Section 24(c) for soybeans and corn in Kentucky: Deadline® M-Ps™ and Slug-Fest®. In addition to these two products, Table 1 shows additional molluscicides that can be used in corn and soybeans for management of slugs or snails. Please read the molluscicide labels for the correct use of these products.

Products	Crop	Growth Stage	Max. single Application	Total N° of Application /Season	RAI days	PHI days	Type of application
Deadline® M-Ps™ <i>metaldehyde</i>	Field Corn	Up to V8 V8 to VT	25 lbs/Acre	3	7	0	Broadcast or ground directed
	Soybean	Up to V4 V4 to R1	10 lbs/Acre				
Slug Fest® <i>metaldehyde</i>	Field Corn	Seedling or later stages	59 fl.oz./Acre	3	4	0	Spray, may be tank mixed with other chemicals or fertilizers.
	Soybean	Seedling or later stages	23 fl.oz./Acre	4	3		
SLUGGO <i>Iron phosphate</i> 1%	Field Corn	Seedling or later stages	20 to 44 lbs/Acre	n/a	14	n/a	Broadcast or ground directed
	Soybean						
Bio-Sul <i>Sulfur</i> 1%	Corn Soybeans Small grains	Seedling	20 to 44 lbs/Acre	-	-	0	Broadcast or ground application
FERROXX <i>Sodium ferric</i> 5%	Corn Soybeans Wheat Rye	Seedling	5 to 20 lbs/Acre	-	-	0	Broadcast or aerial application

Table 1. Molluscicides\* that are available in Kentucky for the management of slugs and snail in corn and soybeans.

\*The University of Kentucky does not endorse any of the products listed here, they are shown here for information purposes only.

# BE AWARE OF SWEET VERNAL GRASS IN YOUR TALL FESCUE PASTURES

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Sweet Vernal Grass is widely distributed across the tall fescue belt, but it is poorly understood by most farmers. It helps make up a green sod, but when present at a significant level it suggests that pastures are in low state of productivity and may be in need of renovation. Sweet Vernal Grass, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, came to the US from Europe as a forage crop. It is native to acidic pastures in southern Europe and northern Africa. It is a cool season perennial grass that puts up a seedhead very early, about three weeks or so earlier than tall fescue. Forage nutritive value is high, but it is very low yielding, so it is not desirable as a pasture crop in our environment.

Sweet vernal grass is on the increase because it is more tolerant of low soil fertility and pH than other common cool season grasses, and it does well in a mix with those grasses. Across the region hay fields that have been managed with low fertilizer and lime inputs show high levels of sweet vernal in the first cutting hay. This is the one time sweet vernal is often noticed, and the hay yields in these fields are often disappointing, earning it a local name of “cheat”.

Later in the year the plants “hide” among the tall fescue plants which it resembles, so that many farmers forget about it after that disappointing spring hay cutting. However, these pastures and hay fields also don't produce nearly as much forage as they could if the stand was mostly more productive species.

Sweet vernal grass can often be detected in hay by it's unique sweet smell. This is often described as “vanilla-like”, a smell that comes from a compound called cumerin. When cumarin is present in moldy hay it is converted to dicumarol which inhibits the action of Vitamin K in the blood clotting system, resulting in slow clotting times. This scenario is more commonly associated with “sweet clover poisoning”, a malady that causes uncontrolled hemorrhaging and death when animals consume moldy sweet clover hay.

Dairy Science researchers at the University of Wisconsin working with sweet clover poisoning discovered dicumarol, and created the rat poison “warfarin” from this compound. This work also led to the first human “blood thinner”, Coumadin. These are important products, but of course are not something you want in your hay! Sweet vernal grass is one of the only other plants that has the potential to cause this malady when it is present in moldy hay. Cases of slow clotting time in cattle have been investigated and traced to moldy hay containing sweet vernal grass.

Many of the low management hay fields and pastures that have sweet vernalgrass are also dominated by broom sedge (broom straw) in the fall. These fields that receive a low level of management could be much more productive if renovated to productive species, like a new novel endophyte tall fescue variety. Scout your pastures and make sure you understand the main species you are growing. If you find a lot of sweet vernal grass or other unproductive species, take steps to improve the productivity of your land.

~ excerpt from article by Dr. Matt Poore for the Alliance for Grassland Renewal.  
For the full article go April 2024 edition of Novel Notes at <http://www.grasslandrenewal.org>



LaRue County

PO Box 210, 807 Old Elizabethtown Road

Hodgenville, KY 42748-0210

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Horticulture  
Webinar  
Wednesdays**  
12:30pm ET/11:30 am CT  
Visit [kentuckyhortnews.com](http://kentuckyhortnews.com)  
Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

# MAY CLASSES

**Wednesdays**  
12:30 p.m. ET/ 11:30 a.m. CT

**May 1 - Opuntia: Hardy Cactus**  
**May 8 - Home Cut Flower Gardening**  
**May 15 - How to Grow Squash**  
**May 22 - Flowering Shrubs for  
Multiple Landscape Uses**  
**May - 29 - Old Time Favorites:  
Peonies**

You must register  
before the class.

<http://tinyurl.com/24MAYHWW>

Click on the classes  
you want to attend.

You will get an email  
with the class link.