

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

AGENT REMARKS

Fall is officially here, and it is off to the races. In the last week of September, the forecast was looking bleak but with the help of hurricanes in the Gulf we received an abundant amount of rain, putting end to a drought that was plaguing us and surrounding counties. For the next few weeks those in production ag will be burning the midnight oil harvesting crops as conditions allow. In my travels and visits over the last few weeks I have seen crop conditions vary across the scale. The hardest hit seems to be double crop soybeans and pastures, although with the recent rain some of those conditions may improve slightly. As always commodity prices are a topic of discussion, I think there is still room for improvement in prices moving forward. There is a lot still to be determined due to the variation of crop conditions and yield potentials across the Midwest. In closing, I hope for all those involved harvest season continues to progress, and everyone remains safe, for any questions or concerns my door is always open.



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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 8th** - LaRue County Cattleman's Meeting 7pm, LC Extension
- Oct. 15th** - Pasture Ecology Workshop, Glenmar Farms, Glendale
- Oct 15th-17th** - Heart of America Grazing Conference, Hardin Co. Extension Office
- Oct 17th** - Cook Wild LaRue 5:30pm, LaRue County Public Library
- Oct. 17th** Conservation District Open House 2-6 p.m., LaRue Conservation District Office
- Oct. 26th** - Homesteading Conference- Boone Co. Enrichment Center, Burlington, KY
- Oct 29th** - County Extension Council Meeting- Extension Office
- Nov 7th-21st** - North American International Livestock Expo, Louisville, KY
- Nov 12th** - LaRue County Cattleman's Meeting 7pm. LC Extension

FORAGE TIMELY TIPS: OCTOBER

- Feed hay to allow cool-season pastures to accumulate forage growth for winter grazing.
- Do NOT harvest or graze alfalfa fields until after killing frost or early November.
- Inventory and test each hay lot for nutritive value and consult a nutritionist to design a supplementation program as needed.
- Remove ruminants from pastures that contain sorghum species (forage sorghums, sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, sudangrass, and johnsongrass) when frost is expected. Even small patches of johnsongrass that have been frost can cause prussic acid (cyanide) poisoning.
- Begin strip grazing early planted small grain and brassicas (turnips and rape) mixes by the end of this month.
- Late October/early November is a good time to control weeds like poison hemlock, plantain (broadleaf or buckhorn), and biennial thistles (bull, musk, plumeless).



GENERAL LIVESTOCK REMINDERS

- Avoid prussic acid poisoning that can happen when frost ruptures the plant cells in sorghums, sorghum-sudan hybrids, sudangrass, and johnsongrass releasing prussic (hydrocyanic) acid. Fields can be grazed after the plants have dried up after a frost. New growth that occurs in stalk fields is potentially dangerous whether frosted or not.
- Take soil samples for soil analysis to determine pasture fertility needs. Apply phosphate, potash, and lime accordingly.
- Test hay quality and make inventory of hay supplies and needs. Adjust now - buy feed before you run out in the winter.
- Do not harvest or graze alfalfa now so the plant can replenish its root reserves.
- Remove fly-control eartags from all animals, dispose of according to instructions on package. Treat for grubs/lice.

WAYS TO PREVENT PRUSSIC ACID POISONING IN LIVESTOCK

Source: Chris Teutsch, UK forage extension specialist

Each fall, prussic acid poisoning is a real concern for Kentucky livestock producers, especially those who grow and graze their animals on sorghum-based forages like forage sorghum, sorghum-sudangrass, sudangrass and johnsongrass. By taking proper precautions, you can prevent prussic acid poisoning in your animals.

Prussic acid poisoning occurs when livestock graze sorghum-based pastures shortly after the field experiences a traumatic event, such as frost. These forages can accumulate high levels of cyanide-producing compounds in their outer cells. Further inside these plants are enzymes that can convert the compounds into the poison. Frosts cause plant cells to rupture, which allows cyanide-producing compounds and enzymes to mix. If consumed by livestock, the compounds will interfere with how their bodies use oxygen, and it can rapidly result in death. Ruminants are especially susceptible to prussic acid poisoning, because they have enzymes inside of their rumen that are also capable of converting the cyanogenic compounds into the poison.

Do not allow your animals to graze fields containing sorghum-based forages for five to seven days after a frost, even if it's patchy. If a killing frost occurs, do not allow the animals to graze the pasture at least seven days following the frost. With time, the forage can dry down and prussic acid is reduced via volatilization.

You can cut sorghum-based forages for hay after a frost, but make sure the hay is properly cured before baling. During the curing process, prussic acid volatilizes and renders the forage safe for livestock feeding.

In most cases, you can ensile sorghum forages for baleage, because the ensiling process reduces cyanide compounds in the forage. Delay feeding the baleage six to eight weeks after ensiling to allow the fermentation process to finish and toxin levels time to decrease. If your forage has particularly high toxin levels at ensiling, you should have the baleage tested before feeding it to livestock.

FALL CROP PROTECTION WEBINAR SERIES

Sign up now for a popular webinar series that addresses timely topics regarding integrated pest management for field crops. University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Extension Specialists have once again organized the Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series, hosted through the Southern Integrated Pest

Management Center. Each webinar will begin at 10 a.m. ET/9 a.m. CT, and will be one hour in length. Continuing education credits for Certified Crop Advisors and Kentucky pesticide applicators will be available.

This year the webinars will be held October 15, October 29, November 12 and November 26.

Pre-registration is required to attend each webinar.



Webinar #1: Oct. 15 — Dr. Raul Villanueva, Extension Entomologist

Title: Dealing with stink bugs and other insect pests in 2023-24

Webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MAppWNzR5yCSoTGMGUj_Q



Webinar #2: Oct. 29 — Dr. Kiersten A. Wise, Extension Plant Pathologist

Title: Maximizing disease control AND return on investment for corn fungicides

Webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_irdgz-OATPy3hCKsOVxyGQ



Webinar #3: Nov. 12 — Dr. Travis Legleiter, Extension Weeds Specialist

Title: Spray Application Parameters – The Offensive Line of Herbicide Applications

Webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rxH9T0W4T4a3HZRFAqGA1w



Webinar #4: Nov. 26 — Dr. Carl Bradley, Extension Plant Pathologist

Title: Management of important wheat diseases in Kentucky

Webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NURPmPdgQICwWGHR-qOCEw



SOIL TESTING



The flyer features a light blue background with a green grass and brown soil illustration at the bottom. The UK Cooperative Extension Service logo is in the top right. The title 'SOIL TESTING' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it is a question in italics. Two columns of bullet points describe soil testing. A large dark blue banner at the bottom contains the text 'FREE FOR LaRue County residents!' and 'An Equal Opportunity Organization.'

UK Cooperative Extension Service

SOIL TESTING

Did you know soil testing is available to every Kentucky citizen through UK Cooperative Extension?

What is Soil Testing?

- Soil testing is a chemical analysis that provides valuable insights into what your soil needs to be more productive.

How does it work?

- Soil samples are collected at all of our 120 cooperative extension offices and sent to a laboratory for testing.

Why Soil Test?

- Identify previous cropping history
- Show losses of surface soil through erosion
- Provide a guideline for lime and fertilizer needs of the soil
- Analyze pH, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and CEC of soil.

FREE FOR LaRue County residents!

An Equal Opportunity Organization.

FORAGE TESTING



The flyer has a background of straw. The UK Cooperative Extension Service logo is in the top right. The title 'FORAGE TESTING' is in large, bold, black letters inside a light blue speech bubble with a blue outline. At the bottom, there is a call to action in bold black text.

UK Cooperative Extension Service

FORAGE TESTING

**CALL THE EXTENSION OFFICE TO GET ADDED TO OUR LIST
(270) 358-3401**

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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.

COOK WILD: *from* HARVEST *to* TABLE

 Cooperative Extension Service



Cook Wild

FROM HARVEST TO TABLE



OCTOBER
17TH *at* 5:30 PM

LARUE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
215 LINCOLN DRIVE, HODGENVILLE

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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HOMESTEADING CONFERENCE



Saturday, October 26

at Boone County
Enrichment Center
8:00am - 4:00pm

Rooted in Knowledge:

Our Speakers Growing Your Homestead Skills

Featuring
Keynote Speaker:
The Lean Farmer,
Ben Hartman



**"Bee"ginning
Beekeeping**
Gina Anderson
Purdue Extension



Grazing
Robert Zupancic
Indiana NRCS



**Composting &
Soil Health**
Brandon George
UKY Extension



Mushroomin' 101
Brooks Warner
OSU Extension



Butcherin' Basics
Dr. Gregg Rentfrow
UKY Extension



**Tapping into
Sweetness: Maple
Syrup**
Lacey Kessell
UKY Extension



**Bringing
Pollinators to the
Homestead**
Gina Anderson
Purdue Extension



Butcherin' Basics
Dr. Gregg Rentfrow
UKY Extension



**Beefin' up the
Homestead**
Michelle Simon
UKY Extension



**Maximizing
Sustainable Garden
Productivity &
Sustainability**
Ian Zeglin
Greenacres Foundation



**From Homestead to
Farmstead: Marketing
and Selling Beyond the
Farm Gate**
Lindie Huffman
UKY Extension



**Fruits & Backyard
Orchards**
Russel Beiersdorfer
Purdue Extension



**Poisonous Plants
of the Garden**
JT Benitez
OSU Extension



**Goat Getters:
Small Ruminants
on the Homestead**
Regina Utz
UKY Extension



**Fruits & Backyard
Orchards**
Russel Beiersdorfer
Purdue Extension



**Hatching a Plan:
Poultry Farming for
Eggs and Meat Success**
JT Benitez
OSU Extension



**Hogsteading: The
Pasture Pig Playbook**
Paige Collett, Three
Daughters Farm KY &
Joe Chestnut C3J Farm



**Insects in an
Instant**
Veronica Bullock
Purdue Extension



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CONFERENCE COST: \$40
REGISTER ONLINE BY OCT 16:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/TRISTATEHOMESTEAD](https://tinyurl.com/tristatehomestead)



HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE

HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE

Pasture Ecology Workshop
October 15, 2024
Cecelia, Kentucky

HoA Grazing Conference
October 16, 2024
Elizabethtown, Kentucky

Pasture Walk at Big Springs
October 17, 2024
Adolphus, Kentucky



Ray Archuleta



Matt Poore



Greg Brann



Chris Teutsch



Alan Franzluebbers

Tickets can be found at
<https://2024HeartofAmerica.eventbrite.com>

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Heart of America Grazing Conference
7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET
Hardin County Extension Office
111 Opportunity Way, Elizabethtown, KY

PASTURE ECOLOGY WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, October 15, join us for a pasture ecology workshop at a local regenerative agricultural operation, Glenmar Farms, in Cecelia, Kentucky.

We will be doing a deep dive into all things related to ecological systems and welcoming Dr. Matt Poore from North Carolina State University.

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Pasture Ecology Workshop with Matt Poore, North Carolina State University
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET
Glenmar Farms, 16943 St. John Road, Cecelia, KY 42724

Topics include:

- Silvopasture establishment and management
- Managing for dung beetles
- Annuals as part of regenerative grazing systems
- The POWER of one-wire temporary electric fencing
- Eastern gamma grass and clover mixtures
- Temporary watering systems
- Understanding the potential and limitations of your soil

Registration capped at 60!

Kentucky Master Grazer
Educational Program



This event is part of the larger Heart of America Grazing Conference
Tickets can be found at <https://2024HeartofAmerica.eventbrite.com>

If registering by mail, please send checks payable to KFCC to: Caroline Roper, UKREC, PO Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445

Pasture Ecology
Workshop Tickets
\$100 x ___ = ___

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

PASTURE WALK AT BIG SPRINGS FARM

On Thursday, October 17, we will be visiting Greg Brann's Big Springs Farm in Adolphus, Kentucky.

Join us to see a well-established multi-species grazing operations with one of the nation's foremost experts on soil health.

Thursday, October 17, 2024

Pasture Walk at Greg Brann's Big Springs Farm
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CT
683 Blankenship Rd, Adolphus, KY 42120

Topics include:

- Native grasses and annuals
- Walnut silvopasture
- Soil health and pasture management
- Managing the forages you have
- Multi-species grazing with a "flier"
- Grazing dairy animals (cattle, goats, sheep)
- Stockpiling grass to reduce winter feeding
- Battling nimbleweed



Kentucky Master Grazer
Educational Program



This event is part of the larger Heart of America Grazing Conference
Tickets can be found at <https://2024HeartofAmerica.eventbrite.com>

If registering by mail, please send checks payable to KFCC to: Caroline Roper, UKREC, PO Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445

Pasture Walk at Big
Springs Farm
Tickets
\$45 x ___ = ___

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

WHY SO MUCH RED CLOVER THIS YEAR (*when I didn't plant it*)

A number of you have asked me the following question in recent months, "Why do I have so much red clover this summer when I haven't planted it for years." Here's the answer that I've been giving all summer. There obviously had to be hard/dormant seed in the ground and the conditions just happened to be right late last fall or early this spring for it to germinate. But my explanation always seemed a little speculative to me so I sent an email to long-time UK professor and internationally recognized seed biologist Dr. Carol Baskin.

Here's what Dr. Baskin said, "The red clover 'appearance' is very interesting. I suspect that the seeds have been in the soil for a long time. For many seeds with a water-impermeable seed coat (meaning hard seed), two events must happen before the water gap on the seed can open. (1) Some events, e.g. very hot, very dry, very cold, cause the seed to become sensitive to dormancy-break – but the seed is still water-impermeable. (2) After seeds become sensitive, another event (e.g. big rain, big daily fluctuation in temperature) causes the water gap to open. After a period of time if the second event does not occur, then the seed become insensitive to dormancy-break again."

I followed up with Carol with my thoughts. Based on the size of volunteer plants this spring I would suspect they mainly germinated in the fall. It was very dry last Sept and Oct which would correspond to a 1st event. Then in Nov. there was a sudden cold snap which could correspond to the 2nd event. And then the weather was very mild through Nov and Dec potentially allowing the seedlings to survive the colder temps in January. Are they may have germinated in the late winter.

Though we all know about the dry fall last year, I was basing the November cold snap on memory. Therefore, I contacted UK Ag. Meteorologist Matt Dixon to see if we could verify two extreme weather events last fall and winter. Here's the follow-up information that Matt sent back. Last fall makes sense for the 1st event. September 2023 was the 19th driest September on record. The state average was 1.79 inches. October 2023 was the 51st driest October with a state average of 2.33 inches. November 2023 was the 12 driest November with an average of 1.55 inches. Overall, it was the 9th driest fall ever recorded with a state average of 5.67 inches. Putting into perspective, records go back 130 years nowadays. Then at the end of a mild November, temperatures dropped to 19 and 16 the nights of November 28 and 29. Maybe this was the second extreme event.

So we don't know for sure why there was so much red clover this year, but the weather events that happened last fall and maybe into the winter are likely the explanation. We just don't know the exact weather events and how to predict them for the future, but it definitely has me thinking about future research. One thing that I know for sure. The only way to guarantee that you will have red clover on a consistent basis is to drill or frost seed some every 2-3 years. Commercial clover seed has to have low levels of hard seed (<20%) so the majority will germinate soon after planting. It is nice though when we are surprised with a good volunteer crop of red clover every so often.



MANAGEMENT OF SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE STARTS WITH SOIL SAMPLING THIS FALL

Management of SCN has become much more complex in the last few years, since SCN populations have adapted to the use of SCN-resistant soybean varieties. The primary source of SCN resistance used by commercial soybean breeding programs came from a soybean germplasm line known as “PI 88788.” This source of resistance was highly effective in managing SCN for several years, but prolific use of soybean varieties with the PI 88788 background has selected for SCN populations that are able to overcome this source of resistance. In the 2006-2007 University of Kentucky SCN survey, the PI 88788 source of SCN resistance was not very effective against approximately 60% of the SCN populations in Kentucky, making management of this pathogen much more complex than before. Preliminary results from the current on-going survey have shown that the percentage of SCN populations in Kentucky in which the PI 88788 source of resistance is not very effective against has grown to at least 80%.

...but it can be done

As complex as it is, management of SCN is still doable, and is important for maintaining and increasing soybean yields. Below are the main steps for managing SCN:

Test your fields to know the number of SCN eggs in your field. The best times to sample for SCN in your fields are in the fall or in the spring (before planting). A fact sheet on scouting and soil testing for SCN is available [here](#). Although the University of Kentucky does not have an active SCN Laboratory, samples can be sent to the [University of Illinois Plant Clinic](#) or the [University of Missouri SCN Diagnostics Lab](#). The Kentucky Soybean Board is continuing to sponsor free SCN testing for Kentucky farmers. Samples must be submitted through your local county Extension office. Please check with your local county Extension office for more information about this free testing program.

- **Rotate resistant varieties.** If varieties are available that utilize sources of SCN resistance other than PI 88788 (such as Peking or Hartwig), then rotate the source of resistance every time you plant soybean in a field. Unfortunately, nearly all the soybean varieties adapted for planting in Kentucky utilize only the PI 88788 source of resistance. However, it is still important to rotate to different resistant soybean varieties, even though they are utilizing the same source of resistance. SCN is good at adaptation, so switching soybean varieties will help.

- **Rotate to non-host crops.** Rotating fields to a non-host crop, such as corn or grain sorghum, will help reduce SCN populations in fields. Wheat is another non-host crop that may help lower SCN populations by having it in the rotation. Several years ago, Dr. Don Hershman with the University of Kentucky evaluated the effect of wheat residue on SCN populations. His research found that planting soybeans into fields with standing wheat stubble reduced SCN populations at the end of the growing season.

Consider using a nematode-protectant seed treatment. Several nematode-protectant seed treatment products are now available on the market. Although the effects of these seed treatments have not always been consistent in field research trials, they are additional tools that can be used along with resistant varieties and crop rotation to help manage this important pathogen.

A multi-state initiative funded by the Soybean Checkoff Program known as the SCN Coalition is helping to promote awareness of the damage caused by SCN and the importance in managing this pathogen.

Carl A. Bradley, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

LaRue County
PO Box 210, 807 Old Elizabethtown Road
Hodgenville, KY 42748-0210

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OCT CLASSES

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

**OCT 2-ATTRACTING BIRDS AND
WILDLIFE**

**OCT 9 - A MODERN APPROACH TO
BACKYARD FRUIT**

**OCT 16-NATIVE FRUIT TREES AND
SHRUBS**

**OCT 23- WINTER SOWING
PERENNIALS**

OCT 30- TBD

You must
register before
the class.

[http://tinyurl.
com/24octHWW](http://tinyurl.com/24octHWW)

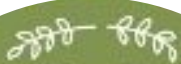
Click on the
classes you
want to attend.

You will get an
email with the
class link.

Register Here:
<https://tinyurl.com/24octHWW>

KENTUCKY 
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
THE MARTIN GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
AND COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY AND THE SCIENCES

HORTICULTURE WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS


**Horticulture
Webinar
Wednesdays**

12:30pm ET/11:30 am CT

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