

GRAVES COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

 **Martin-Gatton**
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

GRAVES COUNTY COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION SERVICE
4200 US HWY 45
MAYFIELD, KY 42066
(270)247-2334
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February 2024

IN THIS EDITION:

- Agent Notes
- Schedule of Events
- Announcements
- Crops
- Tobacco
- Livestock
- Horticulture
- Weather notes
- Miscellaneous



Hello February!

We are charging full steam ahead towards spring and I am here for it! This last week I have seen crop planes in the air and implements on the roads and it brings life and joy to my soul (I am not a lover of winter, if you couldn't tell)!

The winter storms wrecked all our plans here at the office and 2 big programs had to be rescheduled. I'm working on the Frost Seeding program to pick a new date with our specialist, but the Land Rents program has been rescheduled for February 27th. We will enjoy supper and hopefully have a great discussion that night. As soon as I get the Frost Seeding program rescheduled, you all will be the first to know. If you need your private applicator license renewed, you still have 2 chances. One of those dates had to get moved due to a scheduling conflict. The updated flyer is in this newsletter, so be sure to double check those dates if you're planning to come out!

On page 4 of this newsletter you will see the detailed flyer for our annual Winter Ag Conference. This conference is held every year at Lowry Farms in Pilot Oak and is always well attended. We have a great lineup of speakers this year to chat with you all about drones. We are seeing more and more of these being utilized on area farms and there more and more questions are starting to come in about them. Hopefully you will be able to get all of your burning questions answered on this day if this is something you're looking into investing in. We have a full line-up of vendors and sponsors who are supporting this event as well. It's going to be a great day of learning, networking, and of course, lunch will be provided. We would love for you to attend if you're schedule allows!

There are a lot of important events on the horizon that are listed throughout this flyer, with many more in the works. Be on the lookout soon for our Horticulture club! This is going to be very similar to Master Gardeners, but different. I'm excited to unveil it fully once all of the details are straightened out.

If you have any programs that you would really like to see offered, I am always happy to take those ideas down and see what I can do. I want to be sure I'm giving my clients things that they would like to see or do, so please reach out!

Have a fantastic February!



Miranda Rudolph

Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Graves County

miranda.rudolph@uky.edu | 270.247.2334 | 270.978.7052



ANR: What's Happening?

Bolded events are hosted by the Graves County Extension Office.

- **February 7: Private Applicator Training, GCEO, 9am**
- February 8: Kentucky Crop Health Conference, National Corvette Museum, Bowling Green, KY
- February 8: KY Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference, Warren County Extension Office, Bowling Green, KY
- February 9: Winter Ag Conference, Lowry Farms, 7:45am
- February 20-22: Annual Turf and Landscape Management Short Course, Hardin County Extension Office, Elizabethtown, KY
- **February 22: Private Applicator Training, GCEO, 5:30pm**
- **February 26: GAP Training, GCEO, 2pm**
- **February 27: Master Logger “Logger Web TV” Training, GCEO, 9am-3pm** **Host site only, please sign up through Master Logger Program**
- **February 27: Land Rental Considerations, GCEO, 6pm**
- March 5: Mushrooms, Marshall County Extension Office, 3:30pm



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Lexington, KY 40506





2024 Winter Ag Conference

**FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 9th
7:45 AM**

**LOWRY FARMS
5183 KY-94 W
WATER VALLEY, KY**

“Drones: Farming on the Fly”

**Farmer Representative on Drone Uses
Drone Technology in Ag and Natural Resources
Drone Licensing and Sizing
Using Drones for Custom Aerial Applications
Panel Discussion**

**Josh Lancaster
Jeremy Sandifer
Josh Jackson
Jack Tearman
Above Speakers**

*****Sponsored Lunch and Product Vendors on Site***
KY & TN Pesticide and CCA CEU's are pending**



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

**Call Your County
Office to Register:**
Carlisle: 270-628-5458
Calloway: 270-753-1452
Graves: 270-247-2334
Fulton: 270-236-2351
Marshall: 270-527-3285
McCracken: 270-554-9520
Hickman: 270-653-2231

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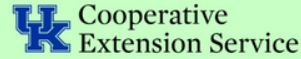
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with prior notification.





2024 Private Applicator Trainings

Graves County Extension Office

~~January 11 at 9am~~

~~January 25 at 5:30pm~~



February 7 at 9am

February 22 at 5:30pm

RSVP by calling 270-247-2334

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2024 KY Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference *Getting Started in the Hay Business*

This program is designed for alfalfa and hay producers to learn more about improving their hay yield, hay production, marketing and promotion

WHEN

Thursday, February 8, 2024
8:00 to 3:30 CT

WHERE

Warren County Extension Office
5162 Russellville Road
Bowling Green, KY 42101

COST

\$40

(includes refreshments, catered lunch,
printed proceedings)



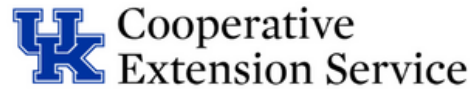
Register online by scanning the QR code with your camera!



SCAN HERE

<https://2024ASFConference.eventbrite.com>





Land Rental Considerations

**New
Date!**

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

6:00pm

Graves County Extension Office

Join us as Jennifer Rogers from Purchase Farm Analysis Group talks through what to consider when working through land rental agreements.

A meal will be provided!

Please RSVP to 270-247-2334 if you will be attending.



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Logger WebTV

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

KY COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICES

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST

Hosted at the following Extension Offices:
Boone, Breathitt, Breckinridge, Casey, Crittenden,
Cumberland, Elliott, Fleming, Graves, Grayson,
Hancock, Harlan, Henderson, Jefferson, Letcher,
Logan, Madison, Martin, Morgan, Nelson, Ohio, Owen,
Perry, Russell, Taylor and Whitley counties

\$50 course fee and, if required, \$25 renewal fee

INFO: Beth Williams, 859-257-6230





UK University of
Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Mushrooms

**Join Dr. Ellen Crocker, UK Forest Health Specialist,
as she discusses the wild mushrooms
found in our region and how to identify them!**

**3:30pm
March 5th, 2024
Marshall County Extension Office
RSVP by calling 270-527-3285**

Program provided by the Marshall, Livingston & Calloway County Extension Offices

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY TURFGRASS SCIENCE PROGRAM &
KENTUCKY HORTICULTURE COUNCIL INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE

47th Annual Turf & Landscape Management Short Course



Feb. 20-22, 2024

Hardin County Extension Center
Elizabethtown, KY



TUESDAY

Pesticide
Certification
Course & Exam

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

Concurrent sessions:

- Commercial Lawn & Landscape
- Golf
- Sports Turf

**\$55 registration fee if
registered before Feb. 16**

Scan to
register



Full program and conference details:

<https://kyhortcouncil.org/2024-ky-turf-landscape-management-conference/>

Questions: info@kyhortcouncil.org



KCHC Kentucky Crop Health Conference

Feb. 8, 2024 - National Corvette Museum - Bowling Green, Ky.

Speakers include University of Kentucky Extension Specialists and invited nationally prominent Extension Specialists from across the United States



Thomas Butts
University of Arkansas
Topic: Drone Herbicide Applications: What Do We Need to Know for Success?



Nicholas Seiter
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Topic: Above- and below- ground traits for insect management in corn – new tools, old pests, and resistance



Gregory Tylka
Iowa State University
Topic: Soybean Cyst Nematode: Past, present, and future

Carl Bradley
University of Kentucky

Topic: Red Crown Rot of Soybean: Disease Management and Potential Impacts of this New Disease on Soybean Production in Kentucky



Travis Legleiter
University of Kentucky
Topic: Dealing with the Stretch - Early Planted Soybean and Weed Control

Raul Villanueva
University of Kentucky

Topic: Abundance of Emergent Pests in the 2022-23 Corn and Soybean seasons in Kentucky



Kiersten Wise
University of Kentucky
Topic: It's always something! New corn disease concerns for Kentucky



Tickets on sale now - breakfast and lunch included
Conference sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m. CST

Scan QR Code or visit <https://kchc2024.eventbrite.com> (non-refundable after Jan. 25, 2024)

CREDITS — CCA: 5 CEUs, IPM — PAT: 6 CEUs Category 1A (Ag Plant); 1 CEU Category 11 (Aerial)



2024 GAP TRAINING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH AT 2PM

**GRAVES COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
4200 US HWY 45 N
MAYFIELD, KY**

RSVP TO 270-247-2334



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Timely Tips

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Spring Calving Herd

- Study the performance of last year's calf crop and plan for improvement. Plan your breeding program and consider a better herd sire(s). Select herd sires which will allow you to meet your goals and be willing to pay for superior animals.
- Consider vaccinating the cows to help prevent calf scours.
- Keep replacement heifers gaining to increase the probability of puberty occurring before the start of the spring breeding season.
- Start cows on the high magnesium mineral supplement soon. Consider protein supplementation if hay is less than 10% crude protein. If cows are thin, begin energy (grain) supplementation now. Cows must reach a body condition score of 5 before calving to maximize their opportunity for reproductive success. Supplementation now allows adequate time for cows to calving in adequate body condition score.
- Get ready for the calving season! See that all equipment and materials are ready, including obstetrical equipment, record forms or booklets, ear tags, scales for obtaining birthweights, etc. Prepare a calving area where assistance can be provided easily if needed. Purchase ear tags for calves and number them ahead of time if possible. Plan for enough labor to watch/assist during the calving period.
- Move early calving heifers and cows to pastures that are relatively small and easily accessible to facilities in case calving assistance is needed. Keep them in good condition but don't overfeed them at this time. Increase their nutrient intake after they calve.

Fall Calving Cow Herd

- Provide clean windbreaks and shelter for young calves.
- Breeding season continues. Keep fall calving cows on accumulated pasture as long as possible, then start feeding hay/grain/supplement. Don't let these cows lose body condition!
- Catch up on castrating, dehorning and implanting.

General

- Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem. Consider preparing a feeding area with gravel over geotextile fabric or maybe a concrete feeding pad. Bale grazing is an option for producers to help control mud while spreading nutrients across pastures.
- Increase feed as the temperature drops, especially when the weather is extremely cold and damp. When temperature drops to 15°F, cattle need access to windbreaks.
- Provide water at all times. Cattle need 5 to 15 gallons per head daily even in the coldest weather. Be aware of frozen pond hazards. Keep ice "broken" so that cattle won't walk out on the pond trying to get water. Automatic waterers, even the "frost-free" or "energy-free" waterers can freeze up in extremely cold weather. Watch closely.
- Consider renovating and improving pastures with legumes, especially if they have poor stands of grass or if they contain high levels of the fescue endophyte. Purchase seed and get equipment ready this month.



Planning for Your Future Garden

Kathryn Pettigrew, Horticulture Research Analyst and Rachel Rudolph, Horticulture Assistant Professor

Winter is an excellent time for planning next year's garden. Take advantage of the shorter days and cooler weather to create a vision for the upcoming growing season.

The first step is to look back on the previous growing season. Revisit any photos taken to refresh your memory of the plants that brought enjoyment, utility or challenges. What grew well and what did not perform as expected? If you took any notes or recorded activities in your calendar, review those items. If something was done a little late or too early, think about how you could change your approach.

Evaluate the produce your household consumed last year. Consider if you need to grow additional quantities or increase the amount grown. Also ask yourself if there are other varieties that you would like to try.

For your garden, list the plants you intend to grow and consider where they will be planted. Even a rough-draft map can help you better understand what is possible. These records can serve as a shopping list and a reference for later. Digital tools such as spreadsheets are excellent for this purpose as they can be easily located in subsequent seasons and revised. However, the pen-and-paper method can serve the same purpose and be great for mapping out the location of plantings. There are also apps available to digitally plan your garden bed.

Once you have a general idea of the plants you want for your home garden, you can more confidently turn your attention to sourcing seeds. Seed companies can be located online, but if you prefer a physical catalog, call and request one. Reputable seed sources will identify the variety sold as well as a description, germination rate and lot number.

If you're unsure whether a seed company is reputable, don't hesitate to contact your county extension agent. Seeds for popular varieties can sell out quickly, so purchasing things ahead of springtime is a good idea. Extra or unused seeds can be stored in sealed bags or a plastic bin in a cool place and saved for later.

For more information on horticulture success, contact your Graves County Extension office.





Winter and Early Spring River Flooding



Jane Marie Wix- National Weather Service, Jackson, KY

I came across an interesting quote recently from a man named Dean Acheson that said, “You can’t argue with a river - it is going to flow. You can dam it up, put it to useful purposes, you can deflect it, but you can’t argue with it.” As we head into the winter months, rivers seem to become more “argumentative” as they swell and flood. So why do we typically see most of our river flooding in the winter and early spring here in Kentucky?

There are several factors...

1. During the winter months, the lack of vegetation, and the cold and occasionally frozen ground make it unable to absorb as much water. This creates more runoff into area creeks and streams, and eventually into the riverways.
2. The winter also tends to bring more amplified/stronger storm systems, which can result in more widespread significant precipitation. Typically in the spring and summertime, heavy precipitation associated with storms is more localized, while in the winter, it can cover vast expanses, leading to more impacts on the rivers.
3. Jam - it isn’t just for bread! Ice floating down the river can get backed up and dam up the waterway, known as an ice jam. The water behind the jam will rise and flow out of the banks, leading to areal flooding. Subsequently, the jam will eventually release, sending large chunks of ice down the river, and leading to potential damage downstream as well. This is more typical farther north than Kentucky, where rivers are more likely to freeze over.
4. As we head into the early spring months, or even a warm spell after a large winter event, rising temperatures begin to melt away at the snow and ice on the ground. If too much ice or snow melts at once, this creates a large amount of runoff into the waterways, leading to significant river rises. This gets amplified when heavy rains also fall on top of the melting ice and snow.
5. According to FEMA and the National Inventory of Dams (2007), there are more than 80,000 dams in the United States. Dam failure or levee breaches can occur with little warning. Failures and breaches can be slow, lasting from days to weeks, or can be very abrupt with profound impacts to locations downstream. Causes of dam failure vary from natural causes such as prolonged rainfall, landslides, earthquakes, or erosion - to human causes such as improper maintenance and design, and negligent operation.

Know your risk... Is your home, business, or school near a river or stream? Are you in the flat land adjacent to that river or stream? More than likely if you answered yes, you are located in a floodplain. Floodplains are the natural overflow for rising waters in these streams and rivers, and were formed/flattened by repeated flooding and water flows. Where is water likely to collect on the roadways you most often travel? What is the fastest way to get to higher ground? Knowing the answers to these questions ahead of time can save your life.





Pepper Sauce Zoodles with Chicken

3 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves	2 ½ tablespoons olive oil, divided	½ teaspoon dried basil
1 ¼ teaspoons paprika, divided	1 medium onion, diced	½ teaspoon dried oregano
1 ¼ teaspoons salt, divided	1 red bell pepper, diced	½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper	1 green bell pepper, diced	4 zucchini, cut into noodles with a spiralizer
	4 fresh Roma tomatoes, diced	
	3 garlic cloves, minced	

Dice chicken breasts and **season** with ¼ teaspoon paprika, ¼ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper. In a large pan, **sauté** chicken in 1 tablespoon olive oil until chicken is no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear. **Remove** chicken to a bowl and **set** aside. In a medium saucepan, **add** ½ tablespoon olive oil, onions, and red and green peppers. **Cook** on medium-high heat until the peppers and onions are tender. **Add** tomatoes, garlic, basil, oregano, 1 teaspoon paprika, black pepper,

and 1 teaspoon salt. **Simmer** on low for 5 minutes, **stirring** often. **Add** 1 tablespoon olive oil to large pan. **Heat** to medium-high and **sauté** zucchini noodles 3 to 5 minutes. **Top** zucchini noodles with chicken breasts and pepper sauce.

Yield: 6 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 170 calories, 8 g fat, 1.5 g saturated fat, 45 mg cholesterol, 530 mg sodium, 11 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 6 g sugars, 0 g added sugars, 16 g protein.

Kentucky Summer Squash

SEASON: June through October.
NUTRITION FACTS: Squash is low in calories. One cup of raw squash contains only 20 calories. It contains vitamins A and C, and is naturally free of fat, cholesterol, and sodium.
SELECTION: Popular summer squashes include yellow crookneck, yellow straightneck, zucchini, cocozelle, and pattypan. Pick or purchase summer squash when they are small and tender, and eat both the skin and the seeds. The skin holds many of the nutrients so do not peel. Harvest squash when it is 6 to 8 inches in length. Pattypan squashes are ready when they are 3 to 4 inches in diameter or less.
STORAGE: Store unwashed squash in plastic bags in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator. Wash the squash

just before preparing. The storage life of summer squash is brief. Plan to use it within two to three days.
PREPARATION: Summer squash is a mild-flavored vegetable that combines well with herbs and seasonings. Try it with basil, allspice, rosemary, and marjoram. Cook summer squash as a side dish or use it in stews, casseroles, and main dishes. Summer squash can be grilled, steamed, boiled, sautéed, fried, or used in stir-fry recipes.
PRESERVING: Select small squash with small seeds and a tender rind. Wash and cut into ½-inch slices and heat in boiling water for 3 minutes. Cool promptly in cold water and drain. Pack in containers leaving a half inch of headspace. Seal and freeze.

ZUCCHINI

Kentucky Proud Project
 County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
 University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students
June 2019

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers market, or roadside stand. <http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>



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