

Todd County Extension Agriculture Newsletter

Time To Sow Cool Season Grasses

September is a good time for sowing cool season grasses in pastures and hay fields. In fact, this time of year is considered the primary time for seeding cool season grasses in Kentucky. This is mainly due to less weed emergence/competition and adequate rainfall in most years.

If thickening up an existing stand, **weed control before seeding may be necessary for heavily weed-infested areas.** Heed the precautions on herbicide labels about wait time until sowing seed. Herbicides containing a combination of triclopyr and 2,4-D, for example, typically have a minimum 3-week wait time before seeding the area.

When sowing grass into an existing field to thicken the forage stand, graze or mow low before seeding. This will help the new seedlings establish with less competition from existing grass. There are three basic seeding methods:

- Conventionally tilled with cultipacker or roller used before and after seeding.
- No-till seeding (preferred on sloped ground to prevent erosion). Take time to calibrate and set the drill at the right depth.
- Harrowing pastures before and after broadcasting grass seeds

One of the keys to successful establishment is good seed to soil contact. Without it, seeds may germinate but will not be able to properly root to survive.

Recommended seeding times, rates, and depths for forages are listed in **UK's Grain and Forage Crop Guide**, available in our office or at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/ForagePublications.htm>

Also available: **Weed Management in Grass Pastures & Hay Fields**

<https://weedsience.ca.uky.edu/sites/weedsience.ca.uky.edu/files/agr172.pdf>

Todd County Extension · 240 Pond River Rd · Elkton, KY 42220 · 270-265-5659

Cooperative Extension Service

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

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Pasture Strategies When Reseeding is Not Possible

September is the ideal time to sow cool season grasses like fescue and orchardgrass. But is there anything that can be done to improve pasture production when reseeding is not possible? In a past pasture program, UK Forage Specialist Jimmy Henning reminded us that when reseeding cannot be accomplished, there are ways to stimulate production from existing thinned grass pastures:

- If you haven't had soil tested in the last three years, pull samples to determine soil pH and nutrient levels. **Follow soil test recommendations for any recommended fertilizer and/or lime.** Even if you can only afford to apply one-half of the recommended fertilizer, it will help increase pasture production.
- Fall nitrogen application stimulates tillering in cool season grasses. **Tillering is new growth from the base of the plant that helps thicken stands and suppresses some weeds.**
- Where weeds are present, mow to eliminate their competition with desired forages. Cool season forages have a second growth spurt in fall as temperatures cool and when adequate moisture is present. If forages are heavily shaded by tall weeds, the weeds are going to compete with desired forage for water and nutrients. **Mowing the weeds releases the desired cool season forages to make their natural fall growth spurt.**

Cooperative Extension Service

RAISING THE STEAKS

6:00 – 8:00 pm *Supper Provided Each Session*

Join us for a 4-part series to learn more about raising, processing & marketing beef (and a little pork). There will be lessons on finishing facilities, proper nutrition, beef marketing as well as marketing opportunities, direct-to-customer sales training, and beef grading & processing. There is also a great opportunity to hear from other producers with finishing experience about their successes and challenges.

Registration Fee: \$50 per person

Register with Your Local Extension Office

Logan County Extension Office - Leann Martin
270-726-6323 255 John Paul Ave Russellville, 42276

Todd County Extension Office - Traci Johnson
270-265-5659 240 Pond River Rd. Elkton, KY 42220

Christian County Extension Office - Matt Futrell
270-886-6328 2850 Pembroke Rd. Hopkinsville, KY 42240

September 5 Christian Co. Extension Office
Facilities & Finishing Nutrition
Dr. Morgan Hayes, University of KY
Dr. Katie VanValin & Mr. Kevin Laurant, UK

September 12 Todd Co. Extension Office
Cattle Marketing
Dr. Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

September 19 Logan Co. Extension Office
Producer Panel & Direct Sales Marketing
Area Finish Cattle Producers
Joanna Coles, Warren County ANR Agent

September 26 Hampton Premium Meats
Grading & Processing
1890 Pembroke Rd.
Hopkinsville, KY 42240
Dr. Gregg Rentrow, University of KY
Chris Milam, Hampton Premium Meats

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Raising the Steaks: Finishing Beef for Home Use or Sale

If you're finishing beef or considering it, I encourage you to attend our Raising the Steaks program. You'll learn about finishing facilities and feeds, marketing your product, grading, and processing.

Not only will you get to hear from other farmers about their experiences, you will also have the opportunity to tour Hampton Premium Meats facility during the final session.

The registration fee of \$50 covers meals and materials for all four sessions of Raising the Steaks.

Please call 270-265-5659 to register for this program.

Protecting Yourself From Pesticide Exposure: What is REI?

Nearly all farm, garden, and landscape pesticide labels will have information about the **Restricted Entry Interval or REI** of the product. **REI is the time that needs to pass after spraying before going back into a sprayed area.**

It's sometimes easy to forget about this restricted time. But it's there to help protect you and your family from unnecessary pesticide exposures.

Some pesticides are more toxic than others. Exposure to some of these may cause immediate sickness. And for some products, repeated exposure over many years may cause health problems.

The best way to protect yourself is to follow restricted entry interval times and to wear recommended protective gear when applying pesticides.

Keep in mind that **many organic or natural pesticides also have restricted entry interval and protective gear instructions on the product label.**

Information about these items is often found in the Agricultural Use Requirements box near the top of most pesticide product labels.



EVENTS

August 26

Grain Marketing Update Meeting

Presented by Grant Gardner, UK Ag Economics
at Todd County Extension Office
6:00 pm, includes supper
Please register. 270-265-5659

August 29

Field Crop Pest Management and Spray Clinic

8:00 am—12 noon
UKREC
Princeton, KY

September 5

Raising the Steaks Begins

6:00—8:00 pm, Thursdays in September
Locations: Christian, Todd, Logan CES, and
Hampton Premium Meats—Hopkinsville
\$50 registration fee covers meals and supplies

KATS Kentucky Agriculture Training School

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

Field Crop Pest Management and Spray Clinic

AUG 29, 2024
8 AM - NOON

University of KY Research and Education Center
Princeton, KY

Cost is \$65

- Herbicide Symptomology
- Herbicide Spray Application
- Stink Bug and Caterpillar ID in Soybeans
- New and Emerging Corn Diseases

Credits are being applied for

Pre-registration is required

[KATSpestmanagementandsprayclinic.eventbrite.com](https://katspestmanagementandsprayclinic.eventbrite.com)

For more information or questions contact Lori Rogers
lori.rogers@uky.edu 270-365-7541 Ext 21317

KENTUCKY Small Grain GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Rinse & Return Follow-up

Pick-up is available for large quantities of pesticide containers — call the Extension Office for more information. We will put you in touch with a local Kentucky Department of Agriculture representative for details and pick-up arrangements.

Pesticide jugs should be rinsed out using one of the following methods:

Pressure Rinsing

- Remove cover from container. Empty the pesticide into the spray tank and let the container drain for 30 seconds.
- Continue holding the container upside down over the sprayer tank opening so rinsate will run into the sprayer tank.
- Insert the pressure-rinse nozzle by puncturing through the bottom of the pesticide container.
- Rinse for length of time recommended by the manufacturer (generally 30 seconds or more).

Triple Rinsing

- Remove cover from container. Empty the pesticide into the spray tank and let the container drain for 30 seconds.
- Fill the container 10% to 20% full of water or rinse solution.
- Secure the cover on the container.
- Swirl the container to rinse all inside surfaces.
- Remove cover from the container. Add the rinsate from the container to sprayer tank and let drain for 30 seconds or more.
- Repeat steps 2 through 5 two more times.
- Puncture container.



EPA Issues Emergency Order to Stop Use of Herbicide Dacthal/DCPA to Address Serious Health Risk

On Aug. 6, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the emergency suspension of all registrations of the pesticide dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate (DCPA or Dacthal) under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). This is the first time in almost 40 years EPA has taken this type of emergency action, following several years of unprecedented efforts by the Biden-Harris Administration to require the submission of long-overdue data and then assess and address the risk this pesticide poses.

EPA has taken this action because unborn babies whose pregnant mothers are exposed to DCPA, sometimes without even knowing the exposure has occurred, could experience changes to fetal thyroid hormone levels, and these changes are generally linked to low birth weight, impaired brain development, decreased IQ, and impaired motor skills later in life, some of which may be irreversible.

Full News Release is available at

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-issues-emergency-order-stop-use-pesticide-dacthal-address-serious-health-risk-4>

In the Field: Disease Highlights from July

Anthracnose on Watermelon: Symptoms include dark spots on leaves and fruit rot. Some of the yellowing in this photo was due to two-spotted spider mite feeding.



Southern Rust on Corn: Southern rust is first observed as raised, dusty orange pustules on the upper surface of the leaf. Pustules will typically be present only on the upper surface of the leaf.



Angular Leaf Spot on Dark Tobacco: Angular leaf spot is a bacterial disease. Heavy rains can drive the pathogen into leaves and cause significant problems in some fields. Spots appear angular when limited by leaf veins.



Grain in Storage Decision & Marketing Survey

By Grant Gardner, UK Extension Ag Economics

July 26, 2024

Grain in storage/markets: Nearly a month ago, national on-farm corn stocks were 38% above last year and soybeans 44% above last year. We have recently seen some short-term price increases, but I fear the basis will fall quickly due to off-farm stocks. Producers sitting on grains must determine whether they are willing to hold grain through harvest when prices should rise or cut their losses and sell now. This is the producer's decision, but marketing is easier with a clear cut between old and new crops. Combining both crops could cause storage constraints in quality and storage space. There is also no telling when a post-harvest rally will begin or how high prices could go without seeing where prices go during harvest. If someone is taking the storage route, I would urge against storage on a currently high-rate operating loan and possibly point towards CCC loans.

An example of storage costs and whether producers should store grain: In this situation, Farmer Fred uses \$1,000,000 of an operating loan to store 250,000 bushels of \$4.00 corn. (I assumed an average yield of 180 bu/acre)

Using a 9% operating loan, if the producer harvests in October and stores to February (4 months), his interest expense comes out to \$30,000. Dividing this among the bushels in storage, Fred would have to see prices increase by at least \$0.12 by February to pay off his interest expense.

If the producer instead takes out the maximum FSA/CCC loan of \$400,000 at 3.5%, his interest expense on those 100,000 bushels is only \$4,666.67, and he would need to see prices increase by a much more obtainable \$0.05 by February to pay off his operating loan.

If we make this about holding grain through harvest, and still hold till February the price increase would have to be \$0.21/bu on the operating loan or \$0.08/bushel on the CCC loan.

Harvest: October—February Storage (4 months storage):

Problem					
Loan	Corn Price	Bushels	Acres		
\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 4.00	250,000	1388.89		
Operating Loan Through February					
Interest	Months of Storage	Interest Expense	Increase Needed per bushel		
\$ 1,000,000.00	9.00%	4 \$ 30,000.00	\$ 0.12		
Refinance \$400,00 on CCC Loan					
Interest	Months of Storage	Interest Expense	Increase Needed per bushel		
\$ 400,000.00	3.50%	4 \$ 4,666.67	\$ 0.05		

Holding Current Grain: August—February Storage (7 months storage):

Problem					
Loan	Corn Price	Bushels	Acres		
\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 4.00	250,000	1388.89		
Operating Loan Through February					
Interest	Months of Storage	Interest Expense	Increase Needed per bushel		
\$ 1,000,000.00	9.00%	7 \$ 52,500.00	\$ 0.21		
Refinance \$400,00 on CCC Loan					
Interest	Months of Storage	Interest Expense	Increase Needed per bushel		
\$ 400,000.00	3.50%	7 \$ 8,166.67	\$ 0.08		

Grain in Storage Decision & Marketing Survey (continued)

Survey:

In partnership with the University of Delaware and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we are conducting surveys on marketing tools and strategies for corn, soybean, and wheat. These surveys are designed to benefit producers or farm managers with annual sales of at least \$1,000. The insights gathered will be instrumental in securing funds for marketing training across the Commonwealth.



The published results will be completely anonymous, and data will be aggregated, ensuring individual responses cannot be tracked. Participation is not only risk-free but also a valuable contribution to the future of this project and, more importantly, to the welfare of producers in Kentucky.

Every response will be beneficial in securing funding opportunities and will also inform my content at meetings. The survey has the University of Delaware branding simply because they secured the initial funding for what I hope to turn into larger programming.

The survey can be found here: https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0JpiRk4gHsN2yHQ

Grain Marketing Update Meeting: August 26 at 6:00 pm

UK Extension Ag Economist Grant Gardner will give an update on Grain Marketing here on August 26th at 6:00 pm. The markets have been tough, and a couple of farmers specifically asked for an update. Come as you are — we'll have supper at the meeting.



Let's Grow Safely Together

PIPELINE AG SAFETY ALLIANCE

August 11 is National 811 Day!

Contact 811 before you dig to avoid calling 911 later.

811 Click Before You Dig

Learn more at PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com

Gone Fishing

My grandpap loved to fish, and he passed that love on to us grandkids. We fished the farm ponds and local fishing holes from Guffy Lake and Diamond Lake to Barnett Creek and Cypress Creek. We turned over rocks, hay bales, and dried cow pies in our quest for worms, grubs, crickets, and an occasional mud-puppy.

We learned a craggy old tree near the pond held treasure, too. My grandpap called it a patalhy tree. He would look up in the leaf canopy to check for worms eating leaves. It wasn't until much later that I learned these trees are actually called 'catalpas'.



Catalpa tree leaves are the only food source for catalpa worms. These juicy worms are the immature stage of the catalpa sphinx moth. The female moths lay eggs in clusters, sometimes numbering in the hundreds. That's a lot of fish bait.

Catalpa worms have a single horn on the rear of their bodies, like tomato or tobacco hornworms. While the horn looks threatening, it cannot produce a sting. It's just part of the caterpillar's defense system of looking mean and nasty.

When touched, the worms arch their rears toward the offender, along with throwing up green juice. We pulled leaves with worms on them instead of pulling the worms off the leaves. Our system delayed the mess until we baited our hooks.

It's been a long time since I've been in a catalpa tree looking for fish bait. Nowadays I'd rather drag a bass lure. But I'm grateful for my folks who taught me fishing and other self-reliance skills.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Traci Johnson".

Traci Johnson
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

