

# Todd County Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter



Cooperative Extension Service  
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**UK Wheat Service Award** – Recently retired Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent Curt Judy was recognized earlier this month with UK's Wheat Service Award. Congratulations, Curt!



## **Burley & Dark Tobacco Producers**

**Association Meetings** – The Burley & Dark Tobacco Producers Association will have a board meeting **March 6, 10:00 a.m. EST at the Hardin County Extension Office**. This meeting is open to all producers. BDTPA will also host a labor discussion with U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour representatives at 1:00 p.m. EST that day. Tobacco growers who utilize H-2A Labor are invited to attend this labor discussion.

**Home Vegetable Gardening Class** is set for **Saturday, March 16 at 9:00 a.m. at the Todd County Extension Office**. This is a beginner's level class that will cover the basics of growing vegetables for you and your family. *Please call 270-265-5659 to reserve your seat.*

**Tobacco GAP Training** – There are two nearby opportunities coming up for Tobacco GAP training: **Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Logan County Extension** or **Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Calloway County Extension**. Visit [gapconnections.com](http://gapconnections.com) for a complete list of training locations.

**Beef Quality & Care Assurance** – There are two opportunities to complete or renew your Beef Quality & Care Assurance certification: **Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. OR Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.** Both trainings will be held at the Todd County Extension Office.

## 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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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

**Hitching Post Installed** – The Todd County Extension Office now has a hitching post available. Special thanks to Nate at Red River Repairs for building and donating the hitching post and to Tractor Supply Company for donating a portion of the rubber mats. The rail was recently installed by two of our district board members – Barry Rager and Scott Shackelford. Thanks to all the folks who made this possible.



**Be On the Lookout for Poison Hemlock** – We are coming up on the best time of year to control poison hemlock. The ideal time to spray is typically mid-March when daytime temperatures are reaching 55 °F for several days in a row. 2,4-D herbicide provides good control and is a cost-effective option for managing this toxic weed.



**Strategies for Reclaiming Muddy Livestock Feeding Areas** – Even well-designed heavy use/feeding pads can have significant damage and mud around the edges this time of year. This bare ground is sure to produce weeds in the spring and summer if not reclaimed. Following are two strategies for reclaiming muddy areas, taken from AGR-255 *Strategies for Reclaiming Hay Feeding Areas*. No matter which strategy is used, correct soil fertility, pH, and a prepared seed bed are keys to success.

#### **Key Points**

- Re-establishing desirable and productive forage species can suppress weed growth and provide high quality grazing or stored feed.
- Correct soil fertility and pH as needed and prepare a fine but firm seedbed.
- Use the high end of seeding rates and control broadleaf weeds.

#### **Strategy 1: Plant adapted cool-season perennial grasses in early to mid-March.**

- Plant no deeper than a half-inch in two directions using the high end of seeding rates.
- Delay planting legumes until the following winter to allow use of broadleaf herbicides.
- Clip or flash graze to reduce weed competition.

#### **Strategy 2: Plant adapted warm season annual grasses in late spring once soil is 60 °F.**

- Graze crabgrass at 6 – 8 inches and begin grazing sorghum-sudangrass, sudangrass, and pearl millet at 18–24-inch height.
- Apply 60 lbs. of N per acre at seeding and apply 40-60 lbs. of N per acre after

each harvest or grazing except for the last. Applying nitrogen at seeding is important to get grass growing quickly to outcompete summer weeds. Additional nitrogen applications can maximize yield when adequate moisture is present.

- Kill summer annual pasture and any weeds with non-selective herbicide and no-till perennial cool-season forages in late summer – early fall.

**Optimizing Hay Production** – Cool-season grass hay fields like fescue and orchardgrass benefit from fertilization and timely cutting. Management practices in the spring will impact both yield and nutritional value of hay fields.

- *Fertilize and lime according to soil test.* A balanced fertility program is essential for optimizing hay production. Phosphorus, potassium, and lime should be applied according to soil test results.
- *Apply nitrogen early to promote rapid spring growth.* Late winter/early spring applications of 50-100 lbs. nitrogen per acre are generally recommended for grass hay fields. This is the most cost-effective application time for hay production. Additional nitrogen following the first and second cuttings is sometimes recommended depending on the purity of the stand, the typical value of the hay, forecast of timely rain, and desired time window for the next cutting. Additional nitrogen applied

after the first cutting may have the unintended effect of stimulating warm season weed growth.

- *Harvest at the boot stage.* Boot stage occurs before seed heads begin to show and before stem elongation. Rain may interfere with plans but do your best to cut hay at the right stage – hay fields should be mowed as soon as grass reaches the boot stage. By making a timely first cutting, there will be time for a leafy second cutting just prior to the summer heat.
- *Be careful of cutting height.* Do not cut close. If not properly adjusted, disc mowers cut very close to the soil surface, and this causes significant damage to cool-season grass stands. Our perennial cool-season grass stands should not be cut below a 3- to 4-inch height. Repeated cutting below that height will cause the desired forage grass to thin out over time, allowing weeds to quickly colonize the field.

*This article was compiled from UK's Lime and Nutrient Recommendations and Kentucky Forage News: [forages.ca.uky.edu](http://forages.ca.uky.edu)*



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**TODD COUNTY**  
**WASTE TIRE COLLECTION EVENT**

**March 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Thursday and Friday 7:30-2:30 Saturday 7:30-11:00am**

**Location:** 204 Elk Fork Rd, Elkton KY

**Tires Not Accepted:** Foam Filled Tires  
Calcium Fille Tires  
Off Road Construction Tires (OTR)  
Rubber Tracks  
Solid Tires with/without Press on Rim  
No Tires with a Bead over 1 ½ inch

\*Tires will be accepted on or off the rim (Truck, Light Truck, Passenger, Implement, Lawn Tractor, Bicycle, Motorcycle, Golf Cart Etc.)

**\*\*Tire Retailers, Scrap/Salvage Yards and Recycle Businesses are Expressly Prohibited from Participating!!!\*\***

Todd County, in partnership with the KY Division of Waste Management is sponsoring this event. Please take advantage of this opportunity to properly dispose of any unwanted tires. Any Kentucky Resident is eligible to participate in this program, with the exception of tire retailers, scrap/salvage yards or recycle facilities.

**For questions or clarification, please contact Scott Stokes at 270-265-5262**