

# Todd County Extension Agriculture Newsletter

## Rinse & Return is August 5th

The annual Rinse & Return for Pesticide Containers is **August 5th from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Todd County Road Department, 411 Streets Avenue, Elkton.** Pick-up is available for large quantities — call the Extension Office for more information. This program is sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Agri-Business Association of Kentucky. Todd County farmers brought in 800 pounds of pesticide containers for recycling in 2023.

**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.



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

## Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
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## MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Lexington, KY 40506

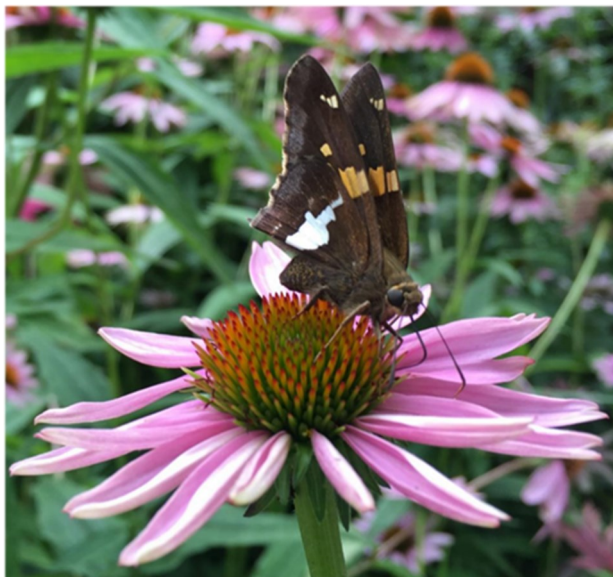


Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## Planting for Pollinators: Purple Coneflowers

The purple coneflower is one of my favorite native plants. It begins blooming in early summer and usually lasts into early fall. Coneflowers brighten up landscapes and provide food for bees and other beneficial insects. Finches will also feed on standing seedheads in fall and winter.

Coneflowers are perennial plants that tolerate less fertile soils and dry weather. They prefer soils that are well-drained. Once plants are established, they will spread nearby from seed drop. Seeds typically require going through a cold period to break dormancy and germinate.



## Events

**July 23**

### **Corn, Soybean & Tobacco Field Day**

Sign-in Begins 7:15 am; Wagons roll at 8:00 am

UKREC, Princeton, KY

Registration/Details at <https://bit.ly/3zeNvuZ>

**August 1**

### **4-H/FFA Sheep & Goat Show**

6:00, Deputy Ag Commissioner Warren Beeler

6:30 pm, Goat Show

7:30 pm, Sheep Show

**August 5**

### **Rinse & Return for Pesticide Containers**

9:00 – 11:00 AM

Todd County Road Department

411 Streets Avenue, Elkton, KY

Pick-up available for large quantities — call the Extension Office for more information.

**August 6**

### **CPH 45 Feeder Calf Sale**

Kentucky-Tennessee Livestock Market

9169 Russellville Rd, Guthrie, KY

**August 8**

### **Dark Tobacco Twilight Tour**

Murray State University West Farm

Murray, 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

 Cooperative  
Extension Service

# Gummy Stem Blight of Cucurbit Crops

Gummy Stem Blight was recently confirmed by UK's Plant Diagnostic Laboratory from a watermelon field in Todd County. The symptoms in this field looked much like Phytophthora Blight. But submitting samples to the lab allowed for an accurate diagnosis.

Getting an accurate diagnosis makes a difference. In this case, fungicide product recommendations for managing Phytophthora Blight and Gummy Stem Blight are completely different.

**UK's Nicole Gauthier and Kim Leonberger recently published this information about Gummy Stem Blight & Black Rot of Cucurbit Crops:** Cucurbit crops (cucumber, squash, watermelon, cantaloupe) may be affected by gummy stem blight or black rot. Cantaloupe, watermelon, and cucumber are often the most at-risk for disease. Leaves, stems, vines, and fruit may be affected by this fungal disease. Damage to plants and fruit may result in yield loss. Preventative practices and fungicides can help to reduce losses.

## Gummy Stem Blight & Black Rot Facts

- Gummy stem blight affects leaves, stems, and vines. Symptoms first appear as water-soaked, orange-brown lesions on leaves. Over time, lesions become dry, cracked, and tan in color (Figure 1). Initial symptoms may appear on emerging seedlings or mature plants. Infected stems and vines develop tan lesions that girdle the plant, ultimately resulting in death. Leaf and stem lesions may exude a gummy, amber to red-brown ooze (Figure 2).
- Black rot occurs when fruit become infected by the same fungal pathogen that causes gummy stem blight. Black, water-soaked, spots appear on affected fruit (Figure 3). Over time, spots become sunken and irregularly-shaped. Fruit may become infected in the field or during post-harvest storage.
- Disease may be introduced via infected crop debris, seed, transplants, or weeds.
- Gummy stem blight and black rot are spread by water, such as irrigation or rain.
- Warm, wet conditions and periods of high humidity favor disease development.
- Gummy stem blight and black rot are both caused by the fungal pathogen *Didymella bryoniae*.



**Figure 1:** Symptoms of gummy stem blight include circular tan-to-brown lesions. (Photo: Kenny Seebold, UK)



**Figure 2:** Infected tissues may ooze an amber to red-brown gummy substance (Photo: Kenny Seebold, UK)

## Gummy Stem Blight (continued)

### Management

- Purchase certified disease-free seeds or transplants.
- Manage weeds in or near plantings.
- Rotate crops away from cucurbits for a minimum of 2 years.
- Increase plant spacing.
- Avoid wounding plants.
- Avoid overhead watering.
- Do not store symptomatic or infected fruit.
- Remove and destroy infected plants or plant parts during the growing season.
- Clean and sanitize tools, pots, and equipment.
- Deep till soil.
- Remove and destroy plant debris at the end of the season.



**Figure 3:** Black rot symptoms include black, water-soaked spots. (Photo: Kenny Seebold, UK)

Spray guides for commercial growers and home gardeners are available at the Extension Office.

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## Frogeye Leaf Spot of Tobacco



Frogeye Leaf Spot was found in a Todd County field in early July. **This disease starts first on lower leaves and will move up the plant if left untreated.**

Spots look chlorotic at first then develop the characteristic white center surrounded by a red-brown ring and encircled by a yellow halo. The red-brown ring and yellow halo are more prominent looking on burley than on dark.

Contact the extension office if you need a copy of the tobacco production and spray guide.

## Cover Crop Cost-Share Opportunity

Source: Zach Luttrell, The Nature Conservancy - KY & TN Chapters

Getting cover crops planted on time during busy harvest seasons can be hard. So The Nature Conservancy is partnering with NRCS and some Kentucky based equipment dealers to offer cost-share assistance on select equipment that makes getting cover crops planted easier.

While this cost share does not cover drills, it does cover seeders that can be mounted onto combines or implements so that cover crops can be planted as a multitask. Cost share is also available for seeders that allow for earlier cover crop planting, such as interseeding with a kit mounted on a high clearance sprayer. Cost share is 70% with a \$15K cost share cap per buyer.

**This program is available to producers operating on 500 or more row crop acres in the following KY counties: Union, Henderson, Daviess, Webster, McLean, Hopkins, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Todd, Christian and Logan.**

The cost share process is simple, realized as a price reduction at the point of sale. Other than an agreement by the buyer with primary stipulations to not sell the equipment through September of 2028 and to annually report on equipment use/satisfaction through September 2028, there are no strings attached. After this date, these conditions expire and ownership is free and clear.

**Inquiries may be made to Zach Luttrell with the Nature Conservancy at 901-833-8454 or email to [zachary.luttrell@tnc.org](mailto:zachary.luttrell@tnc.org). Or inquiries may be made directly to the following dealer contacts:**

Big H Ag Supply in Philpot, KY (near Owensboro)  
Jesse Horn (owner)  
270-302-7653  
[jesse@bighagsupply.com](mailto:jesse@bighagsupply.com)

Zach Hatcher  
270-231-0959  
[zhatcher@bighagsupply.com](mailto:zhatcher@bighagsupply.com)

Belle's Implement in Benton, KY  
Ben Jernigan  
270-493-0408  
[bellesimplementsllc@gmail.com](mailto:bellesimplementsllc@gmail.com)



# Reduce Stored Feed Costs with High Quality Stockpiled Fescue

Stockpiling tall fescue for winter grazing is a fairly easy way to reduce stored feed costs. To stockpile, allow cattle to graze grass down to a 3-4 inch height in late summer, then take cattle off to allow grass regrowth for winter grazing. Farmers can choose to apply fertilizer in August-September to boost yields.

Another advantage of stockpiling is that **stockpiled fescue is higher quality than most grass hay, making it well-suited for feeding high nutrient requirement classes of cattle.** The exception to this rule is the condition of the fescue pasture you choose to stockpile. Stockpiling an overgrazed fescue field that needs to be reseeded will not yield high quality stockpile.

Several years ago, Oldham County farmers John & Darlena Keenan stockpiled fescue and shared their results with me. They began stockpiling tall fescue in July after taking a hay cutting on a 32-acre pasture (included 7 wooded acres). They turned 22 head of cattle in on it from December 24 through February 9, providing 48 days of grazing for 14 cows, 7 fall calves, and 1 bull.

Let's look at what it would have cost to feed hay during this same period. For just the 14 cows – assume a hay value then of \$35 per 900 lb. hay bale; cow dry matter intake of 2% of body weight, with an average body weight of 1300 lbs.; and a dry matter content of hay at 90% (or 10% moisture). When estimating how much hay to buy per cow, we should also factor in feeding and storage losses, depending on each farm situation. Let's estimate 20% feeding/storage loss on hay:

**.02 (estimated intake) x 1300 (average cow weight) = 26 lbs. hay per day**

**Now factor in 20% feeding/storage loss + 10% moisture in hay = 30%**

**26 lbs. hay per day x 1.30 = 34 lbs. hay needed per head per day**

**34 lbs. hay x 14 head x 48 days x \$ .04 per lb. hay cost = \$914 hay cost**

The Keenans saved an estimated \$914 in hay cost for cows by grazing stockpiled fescue instead of feeding hay. This is a conservative value since it doesn't take into account the labor and fuel cost of feeding hay. Of course, there are some costs with stockpiling as well: purchasing and setting up temporary electric fencing, plus periodically moving it to strip graze.

Strip grazing maximizes use of stockpiled forage. With strip grazing, you want to allow access to enough forage to last a few days, then move the fence forward and allow cattle to



enter the next area. You can make the grazing area larger if you don't want to move the fence as often. However, allowing a larger area and moving the fence less frequently decreases utilization of the stockpiled grass.

First-time strip grazers will need to keep an eye on cattle, how fast they're consuming the stockpile, and adjust as needed. Water location is going to be a driving factor in how you set up grazing areas. Make sure cattle always have access to water.

While stockpiled fescue may not provide all the winter feed you need, it does help reduce stored feed costs. Don't automatically assume that your forage can provide enough nutrition for animals as supplement may still be needed, depending on the weather, animal class, and gestation. Learn how to body condition score animals, and observe them regularly to determine when and how much supplement to feed.

Remember that last trimester gestation and lactating cows have higher nutrient needs. If these nutritional needs aren't met, you risk having problems. Calves with low immunity or illness and cows that won't breed back are common problems.

**Why is stockpiled fescue usually higher in quality than most grass hay?** The photos on page 6 and 7 may provide a clue.

*Stockpiling Fescue, Rotational Grazing, and Body Condition Scoring* guides are available at the Extension Office. Also — try out the Beef Cow Forage Supplement Calculator at <https://forage-supplement-tool.ca.uky.edu/>



Traci Johnson  
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent



In another stockpiling study, Maynard Stetten applied 40 lbs. of nitrogen per acre in early August to part of his pasture. The stockpiled fescue receiving nitrogen produced on average 1464 lbs. more dry matter than the fescue that did not receive nitrogen. This photo was taken in mid-November, about 3 months following nitrogen application.



# August 2-3, 2024

## TN/KY GRAIN BIN SAFETY/RESCUE AWARENESS TRAINING

*Specifically for emergency response personnel, Extension agents, and agricultural producers/businesses in Montgomery, Robertson, Dickson, Cheatham, Stewart, Houston and Humphreys Counties in Tennessee and Logan, Todd, Christian, and Trigg Counties in Kentucky*

Coordinated by TN AgrAbility and UT/TSU Extension with instruction by the TN Assoc. of Rescue Squads about Grain Bin Safety and Emergency Response. This course is a mixture of classroom and hands-on training demonstrating the specialized tactics and equipment required for grain bin response and rescue.



The Goddard Endowment



Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Classroom Session

Friday: 5pm-8pm

Location:

1030 Cumberland Heights Rd.  
Clarksville, TN 37040

Hands-On Training

Saturday: 8am-12pm

Location:

1921 Rossvie Rd.  
Clarksville, TN

Registration is Limited

Pre-Register by:

July 19, 2024

Scan the QR code below to register



Or contact the Montgomery County Extension Office @

931-648-5725