

Todd County Extension Agriculture Newsletter



Thanks to Local Farmers and Hampton Meats

There are a couple of things I've learned over the years. Farmers like to hear from other farmers — what worked, what didn't, how others navigate challenges, etc. And farmers like to see farms and facilities. I believe that's why programs like our recent *Raising the Steaks* are well-attended. It featured both a farmer panel discussion and a tour of Hampton Meats.

Thanks to the local farmers who served on the farmer panel, pictured left to right: Dan Askew, Matthew Jenkins, Chris Milam, Robbie Weathers, Griffin Futrell, and Madison Futrell, who shared how they finish and market beef, pork, and lamb. **And a big thanks to Hampton Meats for hosting us at their processing facility.** Here's a photo from our tour in September. Our featured speaker was UK Extension Meats Specialist Gregg Rentfrow, who shared about carcass quality and grading.

When farmers, businesses, and extension work together to share information, it helps us all succeed. Thanks to all who participated.



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accommodated
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First Herbicide Registered That's Safe for White Clover

Source: *Kentucky Forage News*, Nov. 1, 2024

Corteva just announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the registration of NovaGraz™ herbicide, the only pasture herbicide in the U.S. that offers broad-spectrum weed control while preserving white clover and annual lespedeza for grazing. NovaGraz™ herbicide was previously referred to in technical communications as ProClova.

NovaGraz will be available for the 2025 application season, pending state registrations. In the meantime, visit NovoGraz.us and NovoGraz.us/bythenumbers to learn more about this exciting new solution that cattle producers have been needing and asking for. Look for additional information from Corteva Range & Pasture on NovaGraz in the coming weeks.

UK Grain & Forage Crops Variety Trials

Variety trial reports are available in our office or online at <https://varietytesting.ca.uky.edu/>. Soybean trial results were added earlier in October. 2024 Forage trial information will also be included on this site at a later date.



EVENTS

**West Kentucky
Commercial Horticulture Conference
December 4**

Fairview Produce Auction
Pembroke, KY

**CPH Advantage Cattle Sale
December 10**

Kentucky-Tennessee Livestock Market
Guthrie, KY

**Private Pesticide Applicator Certification
January 23 at 9:00 am**

Todd County Extension

**Private Pesticide Applicator Certification
February 6 at 6:00 pm**

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**KY-TN Grain Day
February 7**

Logan County Extension

**CPH Advantage Cattle Sale
February 11**

Kentucky-Tennessee Livestock Market
Guthrie, KY

**Grain Marketing Update & Outlook
February 25 at 6:00 pm**

Todd County Extension

**Pasture Seeding & Reclaiming
Winter Feeding Areas**

NEW DATE! February 27 at 6:00 pm

Todd County Extension

**Farm Family Ag Expo
Partnership w/ Todd Co. FFA & Raising Hope**

March 13 at 7:30 - 11:00 am

Todd County Extension

Greenhouse & High Tunnel Sanitation Can Prevent Future Vegetable Diseases

Source: Kim Leonberger, UK Plant Pathology Extension Associate and Nicole Gauthier, UK Plant Pathology Extension Specialist - October 22, 2024

Greenhouses and high tunnels allow growers to extend the vegetable growing season. However, many vegetable pathogens can overwinter in these structures. These organisms can survive for months or years on dead plant material or in soil, causing infections in subsequent years. Elimination of disease-causing organisms reduces the need for fungicides and can improve the effectiveness of disease management practices. **Following these sanitation practices both in autumn and throughout the growing season can reduce disease pressure in both commercial and residential plantings.**

Sanitation Practices

- Remove all plants and debris, including fallen fruit, once harvest is complete (Figure 1).
 - All diseased plant material should be burned, buried, or taken off-site. Do not compost diseased plant material.
 - Remove weeds, including roots, which may serve as alternative hosts for pathogens.
 - Remove landscape fabric or mulch to remove disease-causing organisms.
 - Clean and sanitize trellises, tools, benches, and equipment. Additional information on methods for cleaning and sanitizing are included in the following publications.
- ⇒ Cleaning & Disinfecting Hand Tools & Planting Supplies ([PPFS-GEN-17](#))
- ⇒ Cleaning & Sanitizing Commercial Greenhouse Surfaces ([PPFS-GH-07](#))
- Deep-till soil (high tunnels) to bury residual pathogens.
 - When possible, rotate to crops in other plant families to reduce pathogen build-up.
 - Solarize soil in high tunnels during spring or summer to kill soil-borne pathogens (Figure 2).



Figure 1: Bacterial spot on tomato can overwinter in plant debris. (Photo: Kenny Seebold, UK)



Figure 2: Soil-borne fungal pathogens, such as causal agents of southern blight (left) and timber rot (right), produce overwintering structures (sclerotia) that survive 5 or more years. (Photos: Kenny Seebold, UK)

Soybean Seed Quality Issues Due to Fungal Infections

Source: Carl A. Bradley, UK Plant Pathology Extension Specialist. October 15, 2024

Little rainfall during August and most of September in parts of the state has led to poor soybean pod integrity and earlier-than-expected maturity. With the rains that remnants of Hurricane Helene had dropped, along with the warm temperatures, a scenario developed that has led to soybean seeds being infected and contaminated with fungi. Phomopsis seed decay (usually caused by *Diaporthe longicolla*, formerly known as *Phomopsis longicolla*) and purple seed stain (caused by *Cercospora kikuchii* and *Cercospora flagellaris*) generally are the two main culprits of poor-quality seed.

Seeds affected by Phomopsis seed decay may appear shriveled, misshapen, and/or chalky white in color (Figure 1). As the name suggests, seeds affected by purple seed stain will be discolored with purple blotches, or the entire seed may be purple in color (Figure 2). Purple seed stain may be more prevalent in fields that showed symptoms of Cercospora leaf blight (Figure 3).

Certain varieties in some areas had severe *Cercospora* leaf blight develop late in the season this year. The largest economic losses associated with these seed diseases to farmers occur at the grain elevator, when loads of harvested seed may be docked due to “damaged seed.” Of the two diseases, Phomopsis seed decay generally causes the greatest reduction in seed germination.

The two most common questions that I am receiving about these diseases are: “Why am I having this problem this year?” and “What could I have done to prevent these seed disease issues?”



Figure 1. Symptoms of *Phomopsis* seed decay on soybean seeds (Photo: Carl Bradley, UK).

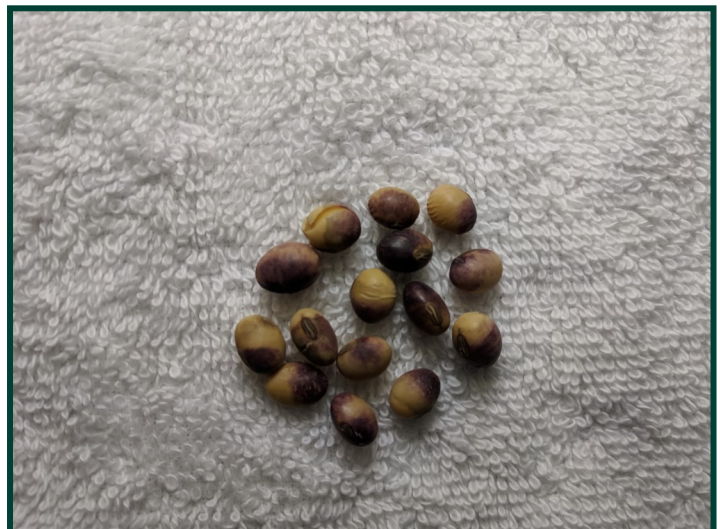


Figure 2. Symptoms of purple seed stain on soybean seeds (Photo: Carl Bradley, UK).

Why Am I Having This Problem This Year?

The primary reason why Phomopsis seed decay and purple seed stain occur in a field has a lot to do with the weather that has occurred since soybeans have been at physiological maturity. Fields in areas of the state that have received frequent rainfall since soybeans have been mature have been hit the hardest with seed disease problems. Along with wet weather, the very warm temperatures that the state was experiencing up until recently also helped promote infection by these fungi. The Phomopsis

seed decay pathogen is best able to infect seeds after physiological maturity, and the longer that soybeans sit in the field in wet and warm conditions after they are mature, the greater the likelihood of Phomopsis seed decay problems.

What Could I Have Done To Prevent These Seed Disease Issues?

Harvesting soybeans as soon as possible after physiological maturity and at optimal seed moisture is the primary way to avoid problems with Phomopsis seed decay and purple seed stain; however, when rainy conditions prevail, seeds take longer to dry down, and harvest becomes delayed.

Planting soybean varieties with relative maturity ratings that match your region and your farming operation also may help with a timely harvest. Since these seed pathogens survive in soybean debris, rotating fields with a non-legume crop may help reduce inoculum levels in the field. Since these pathogens also survive on seed, planting bin-run seed may help perpetuate the problem in a field by continually introducing the pathogen back into the field.



Figure 3. Soybean leaves affected by *Cercospora* leaf blight (Carl Bradley, UK).

Although soybean germplasm lines have been identified with resistance to Phomopsis seed decay, no commercial soybean varieties are marketed as having resistance to this disease, and soybean breeding programs may not intentionally screen their lines for resistance to Phomopsis seed decay. When applied at later growth stages, such as R5 (beginning seed stage), foliar fungicides have been shown to inconsistently reduce Phomopsis seed decay in research trials. Unfortunately, even when reductions in Phomopsis seed decay have occurred with late-applied fungicides, often-times the magnitude of the reduction would not have been enough to prevent levels of disease that would still be discounted at the grain elevator.

Overall, the wet and warm harvest season that parts of the state experienced was likely so favorable for infection and disease development, that there was little that could have been done to avoid some losses due to these diseases this year.



Fall 2024 Farm Observations Across Kentucky

Source: Article Excerpt, Kentucky Farm Business Management (KFBM) program Area Extension Specialists, October 31, 2024

Pennyroyal Association

Early harvest was quick work as the cooler days in August and early September, coupled with the lack of rain, allowed producers to get into the field and stay there. Corn is expected to be an above-average crop with some producers having one of their best-yielding years. However, there were producers that experienced damage and lower yields from early flooding. Some of these producers even chose to replant their corn acres in beans or opted to claim preventive planting.

Overall, the tobacco crop is expected to be better than in the last few years. Quality is expected to be good, but there are some concerns of it weighing a little light. There have also been some reports of wind and hail damage in certain areas. The hemp crop is expected to be a decent crop this year, but not as good as it was last year.

Soybean yields are questionable. Producers and agronomists alike seem to be puzzled at varying yields as early crop reports are coming in. It seems some early planted beans may have gotten too much rain, while replants, late full-season, and early double crop appeared to have suffered damage with the August/September drought. There have also been reports of soybean damage docks at the elevators.

Summer wheat harvest varied dramatically over the area. Some producers saw very little drop in yield from 2023, while others saw at least a 10-15 bushel reduction due to a late freeze and too much water. There have been reports of vomitoxin issues on several farms, while other producers have reported no issues. Another concern with the wheat crop has been low test weights.

The use of drones to apply chemicals and fertilizer is becoming a very popular topic among producers, especially tobacco producers. Many producers have started using drones in smaller fields and comparing the costs and benefits of applications by drone to those of airplane, helicopter, and traditional sprayer applications.

Producers are becoming more concerned with the current farm economy and what steps they can take to be proactive in preventing major issues on their operations. Higher interest rates over the last two years, along with lower commodity prices, have many producers taking a closer look at their net farm income and cash flow situations. Many producers have started reducing their capital purchases as one step to better their situation. Most producers continue to be concerned about tax planning.



Avoid Costly Fines: What You Need to Know About New Beneficial Ownership Reporting Rules

Source: Laura Powers, KFBM Area Extension Specialist and Suzy Martin, KFBM Area Extension Specialist, August 29, 2024

In 2021, Congress passed the Corporate Transparency Act, requiring certain entities to report information on their owners and those who have a certain level of control over the entity, referred to as Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI). This law became effective January 1, 2024. For businesses created or registered BEFORE January 1, 2024, the deadline for initial reporting is December 31, 2024. For businesses created or registered AFTER January 1, 2024, the deadline for reporting is 90 days after registration.



One of the basic criteria for determining if the entity is required to report their BOI is if they are required to register with the Secretary of State. Entities registered with the Secretary of State are required to report their BOI. For example, LLCs, both multi-member and single-member, are required to report. Corporations, both S-and

C- are required to report. General Partnerships are not required to report their BOI, as they do not register with the Secretary of State. A beneficial owner is an individual who owns at least 25% of the business or exercises substantial control over the business.

An individual has “substantial control” over an entity if they are any of the following: a senior officer, has authority to appoint or remove certain officers or a majority of directors of the entity, is an important decision-maker, or any other form of substantial control.

To complete the reporting, you will need the company information as well as all information, including the driver’s license (of which a photocopy will have to submitted), for all beneficial owners. After the initial registration, if there are changes to the information you provided, such as a name change, new address, or updated driver’s license, you have 30 days to report the changes.

Current penalties for non-compliance include a \$591 per day fine and/or potential jail time.

It is not required to have a third party complete the reporting. However, you may choose to consult with your tax preparer or attorney to help address your entity’s specific reporting requirements.

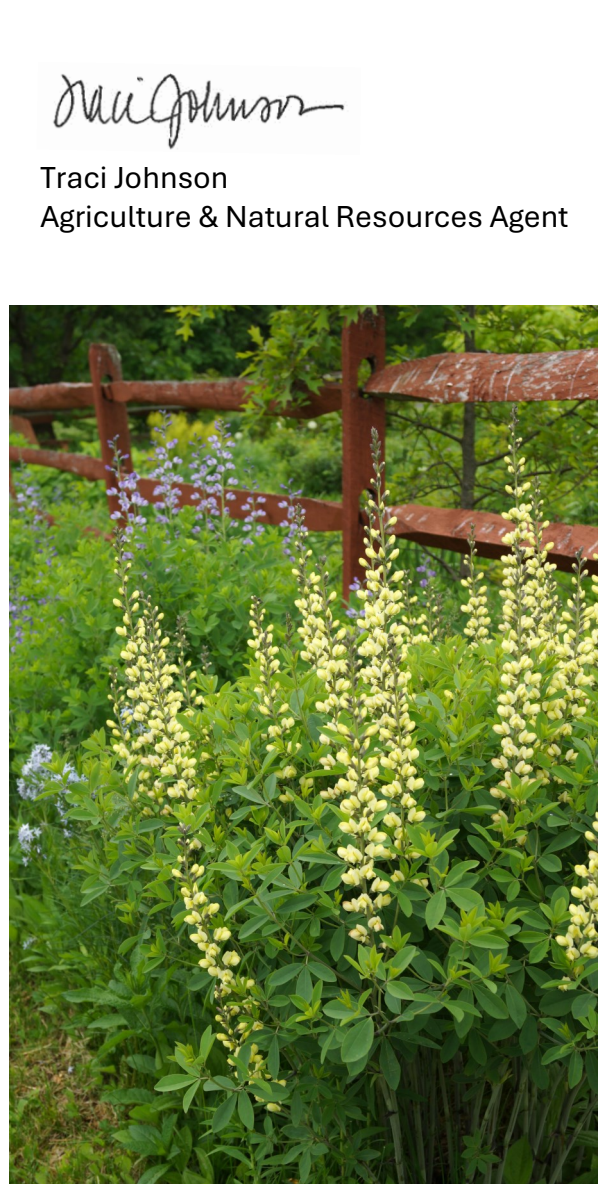
For more information, please visit www.fincen.gov

Revive Your Landscape With Plants That Provide Interest

In a recent issue of *Greenhouse Grower*, Horticulturalist Allan Armitage discussed some plants that have 'the trifecta'. **He defined trifecta plants in this instance as those that are deer resistant, attract pollinators, and are native.** He gave a few examples of trifecta plants: Baptisia, Monarda, Amsonia, Summer Phlox, and Agastache. Armitage also mentions a few 'two out of three isn't bad' plants that are not native: Salvia, Achillea, Fennel, and Buddleia.

I didn't know all these plants, so I checked some reference books to see what's so special about them. Agastache, Baptisia, and Achillea stood out to me because **their flower form and leaf shape would serve to add new texture and interest to flower beds.**

Agastache (top left) features tall spikes of flowers and is available in several colors. Baptisia (bottom right) also features tall spikes of flowers, more loosely arranged. It also comes in several colors. Achillea (bottom left) isn't native, but it is available in many colors and sports delicate leaves. I think it's time to make room for these in my yard. Read Armitage's article and other greenhouse news at <https://www.greenhousegrower.com/crops/the-plant-trifecta-revisited/>



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