

# Todd County Extension Agriculture Newsletter

## Cooperative Extension Service

Todd County  
P.O. Box 97  
Elkton, KY 42220  
(270) 265-5659  
Fax: (270) 265-3534  
extension.ca.uky.edu

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**The Extension Office Has Moved**—On May 1, the Todd County Extension Office moved from its location in the Todd County Courthouse to a new building located at 240 Pond River Road (see photo below). Our staff and our phone number (270-265-5659) have not changed. Stop by sometime and see the new office.



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

Tuesday, July 25 is the date for this Field Day at the UK Princeton Substation Research Farm. The talks will begin at 8 a.m. See the enclosed flyer for a list of topics. CCA and commercial pesticide credits are available. You can pre-register by using the QR code on the flyer or at this web address:

[https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0iAAlr7QyL2vgtU](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0iAAlr7QyL2vgtU)

**Chemical Jug Recycling Program (Rinse & Return Program)**—A collection day for plastic agricultural chemical jugs will be held **Monday, August 7, at the Todd County Road Garage** on Streets Avenue in Elkton. Jugs will be received between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Plastic farm chemical jugs of 2.5 gallons or less in size will be accepted. The containers must be rinsed until clean and should be punctured with the caps removed. Labels must be removed when possible. If the labels don't come off easily, they can be left on the jugs.

In addition to the standard white or clear jugs, colored plastic containers will also be accepted. Both farmers and dealers are encouraged to bring in their well-rinsed chemical containers. KDA is also making jug pickups year around by request. For additional information, contact the Todd County Extension Office at 270-265-5659.

**Plan Now to Control Next Year's Poison Hemlock**—Farmers should plan now on how to fight next year's poison hemlock crop. Making notes or maps now can help you remember where the hemlock grew this year so you can easily find the areas that you need to treat with herbicides this fall and/or next spring.

In the last few years, poison hemlock has been rapidly moving away from roadsides, waterways, power line poles, creek banks, etc., and moved into pasture and hay fields, and even into some crop fields. Individual hemlock plants can easily reach 6 to 8-foot tall and produce 35,000 to 40,000 seeds. All parts of hemlock plants are poisonous to livestock and humans.



***This is what hemlock looks like in mid-July, after it has completed its life cycle.***



***The photo below shows hemlock flowering in early June.***



***Closeup photo of a poison hemlock leaf (below).***



According to UK weed specialist Dr. J.D Green, the late fall (November) or early spring (March) is the best time of year for herbicide treatment. If you remember where you had poison hemlock this summer, look for the young hemlock plants in November. In grass pastures and hayfields herbicide products containing 2,4-D can be effective when applied to young, actively growing plants that are in the rosette stage of growth. Spot treatments with products containing 2,4-D, triclopyr, or glyphosate can also be used depending on the location.

### **State Tire Amnesty Program Coming to Todd Co. Next Spring**

I am always getting questions from farmers about when we will have a “large-scale” tire amnesty here in Todd County. According to the KY Energy and Environment Cabinet website, Todd Co. is scheduled for an amnesty next spring (Spring 2024). Most passenger car tires, semi-truck tires, and tractor tires are typically eligible for disposal through this program. I don’t have any additional details at this time, but you should be on the lookout for news of this program in late-winter or spring.

### **Plan Ahead If Your Pesticide Card Expires in 2023**

I will be retiring at the end of November this year, and we don’t know how long it will take for UK to hire a new agriculture agent for Todd County. Ag. agents from neighboring counties will likely be invited in to offer pesticide training here during the winter, but I have no idea how many opportunities there will be for you to get trained. Because of that, I plan to offer at least a couple of opportunities in November for farmers to get their pesticide training. We will send a postcard notice out to everyone in the pesticide database that is listed with a 2023 expiration date.

## **Stockpile Forages to Extend the Grazing**

**Season**--Good pasture management can help extend the grazing season further into the fall and early winter. Take advantage of good growing conditions to obtain high-quality pasture for late fall and early winter grazing. Stockpiling helps broaden the pasture season for the cow herd, reduces feed and labor costs by lowering the amount of hay needed and provides an ideal location for the beef cow herd to winter and calve.

According to Dr. Ray Smith, UK Forage Specialist, it's easy to begin to stockpile. Simply take cattle off pastures in late summer, apply nitrogen fertilizer and allow grass to accumulate growth through late fall. Then, put cattle on the pasture one section at a time until they've finished grazing the whole field.

You should take soil samples for analyses to determine fertilizer needs for phosphorus, potassium, and lime. You'll need this information to renovate with clover in the spring.

Tall fescue is the best grass to stockpile in western Kentucky. It retains green color and forage quality late into winter, is somewhat resistant to low temperatures and forms a good sod.

Nitrogen and moisture are critical to successfully stockpiling grasses. Apply nitrogen in mid-August. Topdress at the rate of 40 to 100 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre on tall fescue. Numerous studies show wise fertilizer use and timing results in high yields during fall and early winter. Tall fescue crude protein and digestibility are better during fall and early winter than at any other time of the year.

Yields can be very good when you get adequate rain during the stockpiling period. Tall fescue can produce two tons of dry matter up to late November. With adequate water, producers can achieve 25 pounds of dry matter for each pound of nitrogen used.

Dr. Smith advises that after frost, cattle should be allowed to graze grass-legume fields quickly before plants deteriorate. Then, put animals on the stockpiled grass fields. For the most efficient use of stockpiled fields, establish a strip grazing system by using a temporary electric fence to section off areas

of the field. The first grazing area should have water and mineral sources. When animals have grazed this area, move the fence to open a new strip. Repeat this process until the entire field has been grazed.

Stockpiled grass is an excellent choice for fall-calving cows because it can be used to meet high nutritional needs after calving and during the breeding season. Grazing stockpiled grasses may offer the most benefit to spring-calving cows in thin body condition during the fall. Growing, weaned cattle can also graze on stockpiled fescue. Using stockpiled grasses helps lower feed costs when backgrounding cattle.

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Curt Judy

Todd Co. Extension Agent for ANR Education

# 2023

# UK Corn, Soybean & Tobacco Field Day

July 25, 2023

**UKREC**

1205 Hopkinsville St.

**Talks begin: 8 am (CT)**

**Pre-register:**

[2023 C,S&T Field Day](#)



**EDUCATIONAL CREDITS:**

GC IPM Stop

CCA: 1 PM

Pesticide: 1hr Cat 4

GC Management stop

CCA: 1 CM

Pesticide: 1hr Cat 10

Tobacco Stop

CCA: 0.5 CM, 0.5 PM

Pesticide: 1hr Cat 1A

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Corn Disease Concerns for 2023
- Red Crown Rot of Soybean: A New Disease to Kentucky
- The New “Non-certified Pesticide Applicator’s” Category
- UKREC Tobacco Barn Construction Update
- Evaluating Biological N Fixation for Corn
- Tobacco Types Grown in Kentucky: Old vs. New Varieties
- Do We Need to Spray for Caterpillars in Soybeans?
- Comparing Wheat, Barley, and Rye Cover Crops Before Corn
- Flea Beetle Management in Tobacco
- The Continuing Battle Against Problematic Weeds!
- Corn & Soybean Outlook
- Potassium Chloride Use in Tobacco
- Effect of Fungicides on Cigar Wrapper Leaf Production



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