

Todd County Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter



Cooperative Extension Service

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Soil & Manure Testing Sales Tax

Ag laboratory services are now considered taxable per recent state tax law changes. Soil samples processed for farms will not be assessed for this tax **provided we have a copy of your ag sales tax exemption certificate on file here**. Farmers, please bring in a copy of your tax exemption certificate next time you visit or bring in samples to be tested.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Private Pesticide Applicator Training will be offered on **Wednesday, April 10th at 10 a.m.** here at the Todd County Extension Office.

Beef Quality & Care Assurance

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



The Power of Rotational Grazing

The photo below was taken at a local farm in early March. Grass in this pasture had already made good growth to about a 6- or 7-inch height throughout. Not all pasture looks like this in early March. That time of year we expect to see more bare spots, mud, and weed seedlings. Not the case here -- this farmer rotates cattle through pastures so that overgrazing doesn't occur, and forages have time to rest and regrow before cattle return. This pasture was last grazed in December.



The other thing that stands out is this pasture had little to no bare spots. This pasture is made up of fescue, orchardgrass, bluegrass, and some clover. Because of its growth habit, bluegrass makes a good companion to fescue and orchardgrass, filling in bare spots between these bunch-type grasses. This is an advantage because it discourages weeds from germinating.

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Buttercup is a cool-season weeds we see growing this time of year. Even though this field had a history of buttercup, we only saw a few while walking the pasture.

UK Weeds Specialist JD Green once said, “The best defense against weeds is a well-managed, dense stand of pasture forage.” And that’s something I’ve never forgotten.

While not everyone has enough pasture to fully implement rotational grazing, the principles used in it are still helpful to maximize what you do have and keep desired forages in the stand as long as you can.

Key Points for Rotational Grazing and Maximizing Pasture Forages:

- Don’t graze below a 3- to 4-inch height. Think of forage leaves like little solar panels. Leave enough leaf blades behind to collect light needed for energy, root reserves, and regrowth.
- Allow pastures to rest. 28 days is a general rule – the season, temperature, and moisture will greatly influence how many days of rest are needed.
- UK Beef Specialist often quotes the author of *Feeds and Feeding* as saying, “The eye of the master fattens the beast.” Playing off of that, I would say, too, that the eye of the master saves his pasture. Don’t overlook reseeding and fertility when needed.

Soybean Cyst Nematode – Fall Sampling

Continuing testing work begun by Curt, I will follow up this fall to sample fields previously tested in 2021. This information will help determine the effect of crop rotation and use of resistant soybean varieties on soybean cyst nematode populations. I will contact you later this season if you were involved in past sampling. Contact me if you are new to soybean cyst

nematode sampling and would like a field checked.

Herbicide Resistant Weed Study

UK Extension is initiating an herbicide resistance screening program to assist crop producers. Submitting samples will help researchers determine if failure to control is due to herbicide resistance, an environmental factor, or possibly an application issue.

From there, UK can study the causes of herbicide resistance and begin developing long-term solutions for growers. Specific farm information will be kept private.

This study requires collecting seed heads or rhizomes from weeds suspected to be resistant. Please call if you have plants you’d like to submit for screening.



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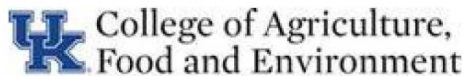
High Tunnel Production and Management Survey

If you are a vegetable grower who is using high tunnels in your operation, we invite you to participate in this study. You must be age 18 or older to participate in this research study. Your unique perspective and opinions are valuable to this study. Your participation entails completing a survey that aims to help researchers at the University of Tennessee Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics and the University of Kentucky Department of Horticulture to assess production and management practices used in high tunnel vegetable production, challenges faced when growing vegetables in high tunnels, and better understand the use and willingness to use soil solarization as an alternative to manage soilborne pests, pathogens, and weeds in high tunnels. The University of Tennessee and the University of Kentucky are receiving funding from Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) to conduct this study. The survey includes questions about your use of high tunnels, management and production practices, your farm, and you, and should take **15 to 25 minutes to complete, depending on the crops you are growing on your farm.**

You have the opportunity to enter into a random drawing for a \$250 gift card.

If you have questions about the study or the procedures, you may contact the researcher, Margarita Velandia, at mvelandi@utk.edu or at (865)974-7409. If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you may contact the University of Tennessee IRB Compliance Officer at utkirb@utk.edu or (865)974-7697. Thank you for assisting the University of Tennessee and the University of Kentucky with this survey.

Scan the QR code below or use the following link tiny.utk.edu/T5CQ7 to complete the survey.



Spring Wildflowers

Many unique wildflowers are found in shady areas near streams and rivers in springtime. I've already seen Spring Beauty, Cutleaf Toothwort, Rue Anemone, and these spectacular Virginia Bluebells blooming in the area. Many spring-blooming wildflowers are important early season food sources for beneficial insects and pollinators, including honeybees.

Learn about Kentucky's wildflowers at:

<https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/for/for71/for71.pdf>

Learn about attracting butterflies with wildflowers/native plants at:

<https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/for/for98/for98.pdf>

Contact our office if you'd like a printed copy of these publications.

Photo: Virginia Bluebells, Port Royal State Historic Park, March 24, 2024