

Spencer County Agriculture & Horticulture Newsletter



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service
Spencer County
PO Box 368
Taylorsville KY 40071-0368
(502) 477-2217
Fax: (502) 477-1343
extension.ca.uky.edu

February 2024

One month down already for 2024.
It's hard to believe.

After some winter weather and some very cold temperatures, we're dealing with some rain and warmer temperatures as I write this newsletter. Hopefully, that will be all of the snow and colder temperatures we'll have this winter. But, Mother Nature may have other plans for us.

Take care and I hope you have an enjoyable February.

As always, feel free to call or email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bryce Roberts,
Spencer County Extension Agent for
Agriculture and Natural Resources

More Information

As always, if you need more information, feel free to **call me** at 477-2217.

You can also **email me** at broberts@uky.edu or you can **visit my website** to view archived newsletters and news articles. The web address is: www.spencerextension.com



Soil Sample Now

As we are now into winter, this is one of the best times to sample your fields, gardens, or lawns to see what type and how much fertilizer you need to make the soil as productive as possible. For each sample you want to submit, we need at least one pint (sandwich bag) of dry soil 4-8 inches below the soil surface. Please put your name and sample ID (north lawn, hayfield 2, etc.) on each bag.

Bring those in now so that you can get the results more quickly and in some cases go ahead and apply the fertilizer now so that the soil will be ready for your yard or crops.

This is a free service provided by the Spencer Co. Conservation District. Thanks to them for sponsoring the soil sampling program.

Our office is open normal business hours, but you have the option to drop off your samples anytime you like.

As you pull into our parking lot, please go to the right to the back of our building. You will then see our pavilion and on the pavilion, you will see a black tub with a yellow top to the right of the double doors. Inside the tub, you will find some paperwork that you will need to fill out so that we can properly test your soil. Place the paperwork and samples back into the tub.

I'll review the results and mail or email them to you in 2-3 weeks.

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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Cattleman's Meeting

The **Louisville Area Cattleman's** group will meet on **Thursday, March 7**, with registration at 5:30 p.m. and meal starting at 6 p.m. We're still working on the details, but you can go ahead and register by calling our office at 477-2217. Registration deadline will be Monday, March 4, at 4 p.m. More information will be in my next newsletter.

Winter Farmers Market

The Taylorsville Farmers Market will be holding some indoor markets during the winter months. They will be held on the first Saturday of each month (February 3 and March 2). The markets will be held at our office, located at 100 Oak Tree Way and will be open from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Beginning Producer Session

We had to postpone our November Beginning Producer Session until February. Here is the updated information. It will be held on February 27 beginning at 6 p.m. and it will be held at the Spencer Co. Extension Office.

Following up with our September meeting on Farm Estate Planning/Transitioning, we will have Keith Jeffries, Attorney at Law, in attendance to provide "An Attorney's View on Farm Estate Planning and Transitioning." Keith will have a short presentation, but he is prepared to answer any questions that you may have about this topic.

Pre-registration is required as a meal will be served. Please call our office at 477-2217 or you can click here to register:

<https://bit.ly/3vIchSc>

Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings

If your private applicator license has expired or will expire this year, you should receive a letter in the mail in the next few days. I do have trainings scheduled for Thursday, February 22 at 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. Call our office at 477-2217 to register.

Nuisance Weed Spraying Program

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is once again sponsoring the Nuisance Weed Spraying program. The department will provide the sprayer and enough chemical for the treatment of 10 acres of agricultural land or 100 gallons of spot spraying mix to be used on agricultural land. The department's representative will demonstrate proper mixing and application techniques. A number of nuisance weeds can be treated under this program depending on the needs of the participant. This program is limited to broadleaf weeds. **If you have participated in the last 3 years, you are not eligible this year.**

Broadcast Spraying demonstration plots consist of:

**10 acres of agricultural land will be treated with chemical provided by the department

**Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with boomless nozzles

**If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 10 acres can be treated

Spot Spraying demonstration plots consist of:

**100 gallons of broadleaf chemical mix which is applied until sprayer is empty

**Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with a handheld spray wand used by the tractor operator

For each demonstration:

**The participant must provide water source

**The participant must provide tractor and operator

**All chemical products must be labeled and the product label will be strictly followed

**A maximum of 7 participants per county

This program is designed to target weeds that have a negative impact on the participant's agricultural production. There will be an annual online application period to participate in this program. Applications can be completed **starting February 1**. To submit an application, please go to <https://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx>



Winter and Early Spring River Flooding

Jane Marie Wix – National Weather Service Jackson, KY



I came across an interesting quote recently from a man named Dean Acheson that said, “You can’t argue with a river - it is going to flow. You can dam it up, put it to useful purposes, you can deflect it, but you can’t argue with it.” As we head into the winter months, rivers seem to become more “argumentative” as they swell and flood. So why do we typically see most of our river flooding in the winter and early spring here in Kentucky?

There are several factors...

During the winter months, the lack of vegetation, and the cold and occasionally frozen ground make it unable to absorb as much water. This creates more runoff into area creeks and streams, and eventually into the riverways.

The winter also tends to bring more amplified/stronger storm systems, which can result in more widespread significant precipitation. Typically in the spring and summertime, heavy precipitation associated with storms is more localized, while in the winter, it can cover vast expanses, leading to more impacts on the rivers.

Jam - it isn’t just for bread! Ice floating down the river can get backed up and dam up the waterway, known as an ice jam. The water behind the jam will rise and flow out of the banks, leading to areal flooding. Subsequently, the jam will eventually release, sending large chunks of ice down the river, and leading to potential damage downstream as well. This is more typical farther north than Kentucky, where rivers are more likely to freeze over.

As we head into the early spring months, or even a warm spell after a large winter event, rising temperatures begin to melt away at the snow and ice on the ground. If too much ice or snow melts at once, this creates a large amount of runoff into the waterways, leading to significant river rises. This gets amplified when heavy rains also fall on top of the melting ice and snow.

According to FEMA and the National Inventory of Dams (2007), there are more than 80,000 dams in the United States. Dam failure or levee breaches can occur with little warning. Failures and breaches can be slow, lasting from days to weeks, or can be very abrupt with profound impacts to locations downstream. Causes of dam failure vary from natural causes such as prolonged rainfall, landslides, earthquakes, or erosion - to human causes such as improper maintenance and design, and negligent operation.

Know your risk... Is your home, business, or school near a river or stream? Are you in the flat land adjacent to that river or stream? More than likely if you answered yes, you are located in a floodplain. Floodplains are the natural overflow for rising waters in these streams and rivers, and were formed/flattened by repeated flooding and water flows. Where is water likely to collect on the roadways you most often travel? What is the fastest way to get to higher ground? Knowing the answers to these questions ahead of time can save your life.



Clay City, KY. Persistent heavy rain causes major flooding across east Kentucky February 27-March 1, 2021 (NWS Jackson)



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Spencer County
PO Box 368
Taylorsville, KY 40071-0368

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Blueberry Cream Cheese Pound Cake

1 (8 ounce) package fat free cream cheese	1 (5 ounce) package instant vanilla pudding mix	2 teaspoons vanilla extract
½ cup canola oil	2 large egg whites	2 cups fresh blueberries
1 (18 ounce) package yellow butter cake mix	2 large eggs	

- 1. Preheat** oven to 325° F.
 - 2. Lightly spray** Bundt pan with nonstick cooking spray and dust with flour.
 - 3. Combine** cream cheese and oil in a medium bowl; beat with mixer at high speed until smooth and creamy.
 - 4. Add** cake mix, pudding mix, egg whites, eggs, and vanilla extract. Beat at medium speed until blended.
 - 5. Fold** in berries.
 - 6. Spoon** batter into prepared pan.
 - 7. Bake** 60 minutes or until wooden toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
 - 8. Cool** cake in pan for 20 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely.
- Yield:** 16 slices.
Nutrition Analysis: 260 calories; 10g fat; 1.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 30 mg cholesterol; 390mg sodium; 38g carbohydrate; 1g fiber; 23g sugar; 4g protein.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

