

FREE!
HAY TESTING

2024
EAST KENTUCKY
HAY CONTEST

SIGN UP EVEN IF YOU THINK YOUR HAY ISN'T THAT GOOD!

UK Cooperative
Extension Service

LIMITED TO 5 LOTS

TESTING PROVIDES: NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF HAY & HAYLAGE; RATIONS; & CAN RESULT IN: REDUCED FEED COSTS, INCREASED ANIMAL PERFORMANCE, & INFORMATION TO IMPROVE FORAGE STANDS

Robertson County
Agriculture &
Natural Resources
Newsletter
August
2024

USE THE QR CODE OR CALL: (606) 724-5796 TO SIGN-UP

DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP IS 9/1/24



UK launches new “Weather Alert” smartphone app

While designed with farmers in mind, the free app will assist all Kentuckians with real-time weather updates. In a move to boost weather-related awareness and agricultural decision-making, the University of Kentucky Ag Weather Center, in partnership with the UK Department of Biosystems and Ag Engineering, UK Center for Computational Sciences and the Southeastern Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention (SCAHIP), has announced the launch of “Weather Alert.” The smartphone application aims to serve both Kentucky’s farming community and other residents by providing critical weather updates and forecasts. Although designed for KY producers it works anywhere in the country.



Weather Alert is available at no cost and free from advertisements, ensuring a seamless and efficient user experience. The Weather Alert app has provided real-time weather information for our extension agents, producers, families and communities to make decisions and be proactive with weather-related events.”

Robertson County Livestock Show & Sale

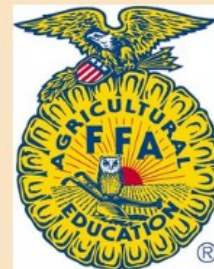


September 5, 2024

Show will begin @ 3:30 PM

Auction will begin @ 7:00 PM

Robertson County Ag Barn



We would like to invite you to come out to support our 4-H and FFA youth at the 2024 Livestock Show and Sale!

There are numerous ways to support!

If you are interested buying, group donations, or add-ons, please reach out to Samantha Saunders or Frank Gifford.



4-H'ers who completed the country ham project this year will be auctioning off one of their hams.

If you are looking for a holiday ham or just one to eat, come on out and join us during the livestock auction!

Optimizing Fertilizer Use for Kentucky Crops

Source: John Grove, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences professor

Proper fertilizer usage is essential for achieving high crop yields and farm profitability while maintaining soil health.

The Importance of Soil Testing

Soil testing is the foundation of effective nutrient management. The process involves collecting soil cores from 15-20 locations within a field/field area, to a specific depth. This method ensures that the samples are representative of the entire area, providing more accurate data on nutrient levels and soil pH.

Lime Application for Soil Health

Producers should apply lime based on soil test results to ensure that the soil pH is within the optimal range for their crops. By adjusting the soil pH, lime application can enhance nutrient uptake and improve overall soil health.

Fertilizer Recommendations for Various Crops

Different crops have varying nutrient requirements, and it is important to tailor fertilizer applications accordingly. Here are some specific recommendations for major crops grown in Kentucky:

Corn

Corn requires significant amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium for optimal growth. Soil testing can determine the exact nutrient needs, but general guidelines suggest applying nitrogen in split applications: a portion at planting and the remainder during the growing season. Phosphorus and potassium should be applied before/at planting, based on soil test results, to ensure adequate nutrition throughout the growing period.

Soybeans

Soybean, being a legume, can fix atmospheric nitrogen through a symbiotic relationship with a soil bacterial species. However, the crop still requires adequate phosphorus and potassium. Soil tests help determine appropriate application rates for these nutrients. Phosphorus and potassium for soybean should also be applied before/at planting.

Wheat

Wheat benefits from nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium applications. Sufficient wheat nitrogen nutrition may benefit from multiple splits: a small amount at planting, followed by additional applications just prior to/during tillering and another at early stem elongation. Phosphorus and potassium should be applied according to soil test results, before/at planting.

Tobacco

Tobacco has high nutrient demands, particularly for nitrogen and potassium. Nitrogen should be applied in split applications: a portion at planting and the remainder during the growing season. Potassium is critical for tobacco quality and should be applied according to soil test recommendations. Adequate phosphorus is also necessary, and both phosphorus and potassium are applied before/at planting, based on soil test results.

Benefits of Proper Fertilizer Usage

Following these fertilizer recommendations offers several benefits to farmers:

- ⇒ Improved Crop Yields: By providing crops with the right nutrients at the right times, farmers can achieve higher yields and a better-quality product.
- ⇒ Enhanced Soil Health: Proper nutrient management maintains soil fertility, ensuring long-term productivity.
- ⇒ Cost Efficiency: Applying fertilizers based on soil test results prevents both under and over application, optimizing yields and input costs while minimizing environmental impacts.
- ⇒ Sustainable Practices: Efficient fertilizer use supports sustainable farming by optimizing resource use and preserving soil quality for future generations.

Effective fertilizer use is crucial for successful crop production. Growers can optimize their fertilizer applications by conducting regular soil tests and following crop-specific nutrient recommendations. This approach not only enhances crop yields and soil health but also promotes sustainable farming practices. With careful management, producers can achieve productive and sustainable agricultural systems.

Additional information can be found at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment recommendation publication : <https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/AGR/AGR1/AGR1.pdf>.

For more information on fertilizing crops and soil health, contact the Robertson County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

Bacterial Spot & Bacterial Speck on Tomato

By Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate, and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

Bacterial spot and speck are common diseases of backyard and commercial tomatoes in Kentucky. Both diseases look similar, and differentiating between these diseases can be challenging. Leaves, stems, and fruit may become infected, resulting in reduced fruit quality or yield losses. Preventative practices are critical for disease management to avoid damage and losses.

Bacterial Spot & Speck Facts

- Bacterial spot begins as small, circular, brown spots on leaves, often with a wet or greasy appearance. Over time, spots may merge resulting in large, blighted areas. In severe cases, defoliation may occur. Small lesions may form on green fruit and appear as raised blisters or scabs.
- Bacterial speck may affect leaves, stems, and fruit. Leaf lesions are small, circular, and brown and often surrounded by a yellow border. Lesions spread and come together, resulting in large dead areas. Defoliation may occur in severe cases. Small, sunken specks may develop on green fruit.
- Conditions for infection are different for each disease. Bacterial spot disease favors warm, humid, or rainy conditions, while bacterial speck is more likely to occur during periods of cool, wet weather.
- Both bacterial spot and speck can be introduced via infected seeds or transplants. Pathogens can overwinter in infected crop debris from the previous season.
- Both bacterial spot and speck pathogens are spread by water such as irrigation or rain.
- Bacterial spot is caused by the bacterial pathogen *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*, and bacterial speck is caused by the bacterial pathogen *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato*.

Management

- Plant pathogen-free seed and transplants.
- Disinfect tools and implements.
- Manage weeds in and near plantings.
- Avoid overhead irrigation and working with plants when leaves are wet.
- Increase plant spacing.
- Promptly remove and destroy diseased plant material.
- Rotate with non-host crops.
- Destroy crop residues after harvest.
- Deep plow to bury residual inoculum.



DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION
SEPTEMBER 1	DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR FREE HAY SAMPLING	CALL 606-724-5796 TO REGISTER
SEPTEMBER 5	ROBERTSON COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE	AG BARN
SEPTEMBER 9	BQCA—FREE 10:00 AM	ROBERTSON CO. EXT. OFFICE
SEPTEMBER 25	BQCA—FREE 5:00 PM	ROBERTSON CO. EXT. OFFICE
SEPTEMBER 30	ROBERTSON COUNTY BEEF FIELD DAY	11952 FIVE LICK RD. MAYSLICK, KY 41055
OCTOBER 3	FARM SCHOOL FOR WOMEN—BEEKEEPING 6 PM	FLEMING CO. EXTENSION OFFICE
OCTOBER 8	BULL VALUE ASSESSMENT 6 PM	MASON CO. EXTENSION OFFICE
OCTOBER 10	FARM SCHOOL FOR WOMEN—POND MANAGEMENT 6 PM	FLEMING CO. EXTENSION OFFICE
OCTOBER 15	BULL VALUE ASSESSMENT 6 PM	MASON CO. EXTENSION OFFICE
OCTOBER 17	FARM SCHOOL FOR WOMEN—PLANT DISEASES 6 PM	FLEMING CO. EXTENSION OFFICE
OCTOBER 24	FARM SCHOOL FOR WOMEN—BASICS OF ELECTRIC 6 PM	FLEMING CO. EXTENSION OFFICE
NOVEMBER 1	NEW/SMALL FARM SERIES	MSU FARM

Robertson Conservation—Equipment Rental

- ⇒ No-till Drill (Hay Buster)
\$65/day, 1-10 acres
\$65 + \$6.50/acre, 11 acres and up
- ⇒ Lime Spreader
\$50/day

***NEW* \$100 check deposit is required upon pick-up of equipment**
Contact Grant Paynter to schedule: (606)-842-0320

Soil Samples

First 10 Soil Samples are free!
 \$10 deposit on soil probe

Hay Samples

\$10 (Check) /sample

For more information call the
 Extension Office at (606)-724-5796

****We do free samples for the East KY Hay
 Contest in the fall. If you could like to be
 added to the list for sampling, please
 call the office.**

Robertson County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter

August 2024

 Cooperative
Extension Service

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It is hard to believe that July is almost over and we are making our way into August. This summer sure has been one for the books with the high temperatures and little rainfall. Hopefully everyone has been able to keep the heat stress on our animals, our crops, and ourselves to a minimum.

We have been busy planning fall programs, that you can find some of the dates for on the back of this first page. Flyers will be coming out next month, that includes more information on the topics that will be covered at each program. This will include the East KY Hay Contest, for anyone wanting to get their hay sampled this year, please let me know so we can get you added to the list!

For those of you who may not know, I am expecting our second child in November. Because of this, I want to encourage everyone to go ahead and get your CAIP education completed for this year! This includes anyone that needs the educational requirement or the BQCA requirement. I have 2 BQCA's scheduled for this fall, but it is very important to plan to get those done.

Bacon Tomato Dip

Samantha Saunders

Samantha Saunders
Robertson County Agriculture & Natural Resources/
4-H Youth Development Agent

Ingredients:

- 1 cup fat free sour cream
- 1 cup low fat mayonnaise
- 2 large tomatoes, diced, reserve excess juice
- 4 slices bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder

Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients.
2. Add reserved tomato juice until dip reaches desired consistency.
3. Serve with fresh vegetables or reduced fat crackers.

Inside this edition:

- Bacon Tomato Dip
- Important Dates
- Equipment Rates & Soil Testing
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- UK launches new "Weather Alert" smartphone app
- Robertson Co. Show and Sale

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

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.