

Lawrence County Part-Time Farmer



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

Cooperative Extension Service

Lawrence County
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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

November 2016



November 3rd: Veterinary Feed Directive Informational Meeting

Lawrence County Extension Office @ 6PM

November 7th: Heritage Harvest Tour Meeting

November 8th: Artificial Insemination Workshop

East Fork Farm, 10AM-12PM

November 17th: Maximizing Your Woodlands

Lawrence County Extension Office @ 6PM

November 22nd: Invasive Species Control and Wildlife Management

Lawrence County Extension Office @ 6PM

November 24th-25th: Thanksgiving Holiday

Office Closed

December 6th: Preventing Wildlife Damage

Lawrence County Extension Office @ 6PM

December 8th: Holiday Wreath Class

Lawrence County Extension Office @ Noon and 6PM



Laura Opell Maggard

Laura Maggard

Lawrence County Extension Agent
for Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Beware of Cyanide (Prussic Acid) Poisoning

With the start of fall comes the risk of cyanide poisoning in ruminants. Cyanide, prussic acid, hydrogen cyanide or hydrocyanic acid poisoning are all terms describing the same condition. A number of common plants, including sudangrass, johnsongrass, sorghums and sorghum sudangrass hybrids contain cyanogenic glycosides in the outer cells of the plant. Further inside the leaf tissue are the enzymes needed to convert these compounds to the cyanide poison. When the plant undergoes a stressful event such as cutting, wilting, freezing, drought, crushing, trampling, chewing or chopping, the plant cells rupture which allows the cyanogenic compounds and the enzymes to combine and produce hydrogen cyanide gas. Ruminants also have microflora in the rumen capable of converting the cyanogenic compounds in the plant into cyanide. The toxic gas goes to the bloodstream and blocks a necessary step in the release of oxygen from red blood cells. The animal essentially dies from lack of oxygen. Clinical signs of cyanide poisoning can occur within minutes to hours after consuming the toxic forage. Usually the affected animals are found dead but, if observed early, may show rapid, difficult breathing, frothing at the mouth, muscle tremors, staggering and then collapse.

The mucous membranes (such as the gums) are bright pink and the blood can be a bright cherry red color. It is important to recognize and avoid situations in which these forages pose a danger to livestock. Cattle and other

ruminants should only graze sorghum, sorghum hybrids, or johnsongrass when the plants have reached at least 18 - 24 inches in height. Do not graze plants with young tillers. Do not graze these plants during drought periods when growth is severely reduced or the plant is wilted or twisted and wait at least one week after rainfall to resume grazing. Do not graze at night when frost is likely. Frost allows conversion to hydrogen cyanide within the plant. Do not graze for two weeks after a non-killing (>28 degrees) frost. It is best not to allow ruminants to graze after a light frost as this is an extremely dangerous time and it may be several weeks before the cyanide potential subsides. Do not graze after a killing frost until the plant material is completely dry and brown.



If a high cyanide is suspected in forages, do not graze or feed as green chop. If cut for hay, allow at least 72 hours or longer before baling so that the cyanide will dissipate. Allow thorough drying because toxicity can be retained in cool or moist weather. Delay feeding silage 6 to 8 weeks following ensiling.

Nutrient Management Plan

Manure can be a valuable fertilizer if you store and use it correctly on your farm. But just how valuable?

A recent University of Kentucky research project studied 10 cattle in a confined area for 200 days. In that time period, the animals created an estimated 62 tons of manure. When compared to fertilizer prices the nutrient value of the manure was worth more than \$2,100. So maybe it's better to focus on the value rather than seeing manure management as a time-consuming hassle. Having and implementing a nutrient management plan and calibrating your manure spreader can all add up to sizable savings in nutrient costs. If you have livestock in confinement and/or you spread manure you must have a nutrient management plan to comply with the KY Ag Water Quality Act. Before starting a nutrient management plan you will need current (two years or newer) soil samples, a manure sample and a field map with acreage. The basic steps for developing a nutrient management plan include:

- Determine the total volume and amount of nutrients your farm generates.
- Determine soil fertility with bi-annual soil tests.
- Determine nutrient application rates based on existing soil fertility, crop nutrient requirements, nutrient application timing and method and fertilizer type.
- Create a cropping plan for how you will use generated manure on a field-by-field basis over a five-year period.
- Implement the plan, keep good records and follow guidelines and regulations.

There are two types of nutrient management plans. A comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) can only be written by a technical service provider. Your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office can help you find a technical service provider.



A CNMP is required when you apply for financial assistance for manure-related practices such as a lagoon or a manure stack pad. Producers can write a Kentucky Nutrient Management Plan (KyNMP) on their own or with assistance from the local conservation district or the local extension office. You can still receive cost-share on best management practices and be compliant with state regulations with this plan, but you cannot receive assistance for manure-related practices.

Anyone farming 10 acres or more should have an Agriculture Water Quality Plan. If you apply nutrients in the form of manure or commercial fertilizer you need a nutrient management plan as part of your Agriculture Water Quality Plan.



Firewood for Those Wintry Nights

Every winter we look forward to the pleasures of warming our hands and feet by a blazing fire, mesmerized by the dancing flames.

When buying firewood two factors will determine just how hot your fire is—seasoning and the kind of wood.

Wood is made up of air and cellulose (wood fiber). The more air space that wood has, the less there is to burn. Buying wood with the heaviest/densest per unit volume will keep you toasty. Osage orange, hickory, black locust, all of the oaks, sugar maple and ash produce hot fires; plus they are easy to split.

Yellow poplar, silver maple and red maple provide much less heat per log but are good for kindling because they catch fire quickly.

Avoid elm, sycamore and sweet gum because they are not as warm, and their fibers are so interlaced they will not split.

The good firewood species are found in Kentucky, although suppliers sometimes will identify their stock only as “hardwoods” without specifying the species. Be sure to ask what kind of wood you are buying.



The second thing to look for when buying firewood is how much water is in the wood. Since wood comes from a living plant, it contains water. The more water in the wood, the less heat it generates when it burns.

Ask the vendor if the wood is seasoned. Wood is 50 percent moisture and needs six months to a year to dry out enough to burn efficiently. Dry or seasoned wood has splits in the ends of the logs and a gray appearance.

Firewood is sold in a variety of measures. A cord measures 4 feet wide by 4 feet high by 8 feet long. Often this is too much for the occasional user, as most homeowners are. Many vendors will price their firewood by the pickup truckload.

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Artificial Insemination Workshop

November 8, 2016
10AM-12PM

Kevin and Bernice McCormick's Farm
Call for Directions- (606)673-9495

Hands-On Demonstrations



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Woodland Owners

Course: 2 Sessions

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



November 17, 2016

6-8pm Dinner Provided

Maximizing Your Woodlands

Guest Speaker: Billy Thomas, UK Extension Forester

November 22, 2016

6-8pm Dinner Provided

Invasive Species Control & Wildlife Management

**Guest Speakers: Jeff Stringer & Matt Springer,
UK Extension Professors**

For more information and to register, please call the
Lawrence County Extension Office at 606-673-9495.

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