

# Lawrence County

# Part-Time Farmer



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

## Cooperative Extension Service

Lawrence County  
249 Industrial Park Road  
Louisa, Kentucky 41230  
(606)673-9495  
Fax: (606) 673-9498  
extension.ca.uky.edu

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

## August 2017



**August 8th: Master Gardener Meeting**

6:00PM @ the LC Extension Office

**August 12th: Open Sale Day at**

**the Farmers Market**

*New Farmers Welcome!*

*See flyer for more information*

**August 15th-September 7th: Hay Samples**

*Call to set up a time for me to pull hay samples!*

**August 17th-27th: Kentucky State Fair**

*Louisville, Kentucky*

**August 29th: Heritage Harvest Tour Meeting**

*Location to be Announced*



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.

## Establishing Late Summer Forages

The period from late summer into early fall in Kentucky is the best time to establish the common cool-season grasses such as orchardgrass, tall fescue, timothy and bluegrass for pasture or hay. These four grasses make up 95 percent of pasture acreage.

Many years of research have shown this time frame is the best opportunity for successful establishment. Mother Nature has a hand in this because seed produced in late spring remains dormant until late summer and then early fall rainfall provides the moisture necessary for the seed to germinate.



To increase your success rate, remember these four points:

First, address soil fertility needs. Take soil samples now to determine fertility needs and to give you enough time to supply the needed nutrients. Inadequate levels of phosphorous, potassium or limestone can limit the success of late-summer seedings. For pure grass stands, apply nitrogen at the rate of 40 to 60 pounds per acre. Second, control competition. Late-summer seedings most often fail from competition and lack of water. When you control existing vegetation with herbicides or tillage, the emerging seedlings will have access to whatever water and nutrients are present without having to compete with weeds.

To maximize the success of seedings, use a burn-down herbicide to kill annual weeds. Translocated herbicides can be used where labeled to kill or suppress perennials such as johnsongrass.

Remember to wait two to three weeks after spraying translocated herbicides before you plant in no-till situations. This will allow time for killed weeds to dry out and for residual effects of the herbicide to decay.

## Forages Continued

Third, select high quality seed of an adapted variety. Planting high quality seed is an essential step toward establishment and longevity of a pasture. These seeds have high percentages of germination, low percentages of weed seed and freedom from noxious weed seed.

Certified seed meets or exceeds minimum standards for purity, germination and quality. The certified seed should be from an “improved” variety adapted to your farm. “Improved” means the variety has been selected for improved yield, quality, persistence, disease resistance or other positive traits.

Varieties greatly differ in yield, persistence, disease resistance and cost. Expensive varieties aren’t necessarily good, and the cheaper ones aren’t necessarily bad.

## Dividing Perennials



If your perennials weren’t putting on their usual show this spring, it may be time to dig and divide. Perennials need space, and once they become crowded, blooms can become smaller and infrequent. Dividing the plants to create more room usually restores their vigor.

Spring is a good time to divide many perennials. If you are unsure about the timing, here is a good rule of thumb. If the plant blooms in the spring, divide it after it blooms or in the fall. If the plant blooms in the summer or fall, divide it in the spring.

Perennials grow from underground structures like fleshy roots, rhizomes or bulbs. This is the part of the plant that needs to be divided. Dig up the plant, remove old leaves and shake off loose dirt to expose the underground parts. Gently pull or cut the plant apart into several sections making sure each section has some recent growth at the top. Use one section to replace the original plant and set it in so that the crown is just at soil level. You can use the remaining “new” plants created from your divisions to expand your landscaping or share with gardening friends and relatives.

## Planting a Fall Garden

It's not too late to continue to enjoy your garden and to add new plantings. You can grow a variety of produce in Kentucky gardens in the coming weeks and have several fresh items available well into the fall.

Cooler nights later in the year can increase the sugar content of many crops and thus increase their quality. Cooler nights also slow growth, so your crops can take longer to mature than in the summer. Keep this slower pace in mind when you check seeds for days to maturity.

Early August is the right time to make your last planting of bush beans, carrots, sweet corn, kale, collards, bibb lettuce, turnips, and cole crops such as kohlrabi, Chinese cabbage, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. For late August and into September you can try planting mustard greens, spinach greens, radishes, turnip greens and leaf lettuce.

Before planting, remove any existing debris, including crops and weeds from your garden bed, move them to the compost bin and then prepare the soil.

If the previous crop was well fertilized and grew vigorously you may not need to add much, if any additional fertilizer, otherwise apply about 2 to 3 pounds of a complete fertilizer such as 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 per 100 square feet of planting area.

Remember to keep fall gardens well watered as this tends to be a fairly dry time in Kentucky. A weekly irrigation sufficient to wet the soil to 6 or 8 inches should be adequate. This is more or less equivalent to a weekly 1-inch rain.





# Open Sale Day at the Farmers Market



**August 12th 9AM-Noon (or sellout)**

**Any farmer in a surrounding county in KY is  
welcome to set up at the**

**Lawrence County Farmers Market!**

**One Day Only!!**



Homegrown Produce ONLY! No craft items.

If you sell at another certified Farmers Market please let the Market Manager know.

(Vendors will be allowed to sell similar items that they sale at other Markets)

Each vendor will be charged a \$15 set up fee and will need to provide their own bags.

Vendors set their own prices. Prices MUST be displayed.

Vendors must be approved by the Market Manager the Friday before the sale day.

Please call to get approved. 606-673-9495



# Save The Date

2017

## Heritage Harvest Tour

September 30th & October 1st



A self-guided driving tour through rural Boyd and Lawrence Counties. Enjoy a country breakfast in the morning and a delicious home cooked meal for lunch, but in between purchase your fall decorations, visit operating farms, shop for antiques, and so much more!

For more information call: (606)-673-9495