

PLOWING AHEAD

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

July 2024



UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Cooperative Extension Service
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IT'S MADISON COUNTY FAIR TIME!

It's time for the **Madison Co Fair & Horse Show** to be held at the Madison County Fairgrounds, July 26 through August 3, 2024. Here is what is planned:

For more information, times, dates, etc., please visit <http://www.themadisoncountyfair.com/>, or find "Madison County Kentucky Fairgrounds" on Facebook, or watch the **Richmond Register**.

Motorsports:

- Back Seat Driving - Lawn Tractor
- Hall's Motor Sports - Mud Runs
- Jeep Day
- Commonwealth Garden Tractor Pull
- Battle of the Bluegrass Truck/Tractor Pull
- Demo Derby
- KOI Truck & ATV Drag Races

Animal/Livestock:

- Beef Cattle Show
- Pony Pull
- AQHA Horse Show
- Law Enforcement Dog Demo
- Gaited & Walking Horse Fun Show
- Horse Back Mounted Shooters
- 4-H Poultry Show
- Greased Pig Contests
- Sheep Rodeos
- Pet Pageant



Other Events:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 4-H Country Ham Speeches | Magic Show |
| Open Division, 4-H, & FFA Exhibits | Food Truck Competition |
| 4-H Fashion Revue | Corn Hole Tournament |
| Local Live Music | Swap Meet |
| New! Big Time Wrestling | Pageants |
| Remedy's Water Park Adventure | Mullett/Bald Head |
| Community Honor Awards | Contest |
| Foggy Bottom Petting Zoo | Gospel Singing |

New this year for egg producers, a category for "Eggs" in the Willis Hall Open Division Contests! See details on how to enter at <https://madison.ca.uky.edu>.

Eggs should be exhibited in a carton or container furnished by exhibitor and be a product of their farm. Please wipe off eggs, but DO NOT RINSE, as the bloom needs to remain intact for room temperature exhibition. There are a few different categories. Under poultry eggs there are three categories: white, brown and other colors. There is also a category for eggs other than chicken. We also have a category for children eight and under to enter. In each category we ask you bring half a dozen eggs. (see complete details at link above)

Honey Entries: You can also find details on how to enter the "Honey Show" at the same link. These and many other categories are available at the Willis Hall Open Division Entries. (see links below)

For details on:

- 4-H and Open Beef Cattle Show
- Willis Hall Open Division Entries
- 4-H Fair Exhibit Entries
- 4-H Youth Poultry Show

visit our website, <https://madison.ca.uky.edu>, or call 859-623-4072 for a hard copy.

Madison County Fair Special Needs Event:

A free event for children and adults with special needs to experience the fun of the carnival in a calmer setting. Rides will be open Wed, July 31, from 12 noon to 2 pm, and free refreshments and activities will be provided in Exhibit Halls. (Not all vendors or buildings may be accessible until 6 pm, when the main gates open for the Fair to begin.)

Brandon Sears
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Cooperative
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Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

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.”

To download via iOS, visit <https://apple.co/3wN3645>

To download via Android, visit <https://bit.ly/4dUyxdq>

WATCH FOR THREE-CORNERED ALFALFA HOPPER IN ALFALFA

By Ric Bessin, Entomology Extension Specialist

Last year, there were reports of high numbers of three-cornered alfalfa hopper (TCAH) on both alfalfa and soybean in some western Kentucky counties. While reports were not widespread, over the last couple of years, this insect has become more common. It can be an occasional pest of both alfalfa and soybeans, but rarely gets to economically damaging levels. While TCAH feeds like potato leafhopper, it does not inject any toxins while feeding. High levels in the field can result in reddening or yellowing of plants.

Description

TCAH is a triangular wedge-shaped ¼-inch-long bug that feeds with piercing-sucking mouthparts. Both male and female adults are green in color, but the male has a thin reddish orange stripe along its ‘shoulders.’ The nymphs are straw colored, also wedge-shaped, but with many branched spines.



Figure 1. The male three-cornered alfalfa hopper has a reddish line at the corner of the pronotum (Photo: Ric Bessin, UK).



Figure 2. Damage by three-cornered alfalfa hopper can result in yellowing of foliage. (Photo: Ric Bessin, UK).

Scouting

In alfalfa, the best sampling method is to use a sweep net weekly. Nymphs can be found feeding near the base of the plant and are less likely to be collected by sweep net.

Damage

TCAH damages the stem during feeding and egg laying. Both the nymphs and adults weaken the stem by repeatedly inserting their needle-like mouthparts to remove sap. This can result in girdling, yellowing of the leaves and, in some instances, stem breakage.

Economic Thresholds & Limiting Losses

Economic yield loss is uncommon but is more likely to occur when alfalfa is less than 10 inches tall. Economic thresholds have not been established and recommendations for treatments vary from an average of 1 to 2 adults per sweep to more than 4 per sweep in order to justify spraying. Another strategy to limit losses is through early harvest.

BE MINDFUL OF SURFACE WATER QUALITY

Water quantity for livestock is always an issue, but should be “top of mind” with dry weather persisting in parts of Kentucky. Grazing livestock that drink from surface water sources may be at risk of toxicity this summer as temperatures rise and water levels fall.

Research in ND by Dr. Miranda Meehan shows that yearlings and calves can have improved gains of up to 0.24 and 0.33 pounds per day, respectively, when they have access to good-quality water. Surface water sources like creeks and ponds naturally contain salts comprised of dissolved solids and minerals. These components become much more concentrated when it is hot and dry because they do not evaporate with water.

Elevated concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS) and sulfates can be toxic to livestock. Symptoms of toxicity include lower animal performance, abortion, blindness, central nervous system disorders, and possibly death. Dr. Meehan recommends monitoring TDS and sulfate levels throughout the grazing season with handheld TDS meters and sulfate test strips to ensure surface water is safe for animals to drink.

Cyanobacteria blooms, or blue-green algae blooms, also become problematic when it is hot and dry. They can be toxic to livestock as well as other wildlife and humans. Toxicity depends on the type and concentration of cyanobacteria, the amount of water ingested, and the species of animal consuming the water.

Visual observations are the best way to monitor cyanobacteria blooms. If a bloom occurs, immediately move livestock away from the water source and send water samples to a lab to determine the type of cyanobacteria that is present and if it's toxic. (Source: Amber Friedrichsen, Hay and Forage Grower)



REDUCE HEAT STRESS TO MAINTAIN STOCKER CALF GAINS

Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, University of Kentucky, Department of Animal & Food Sciences

Forage availability is a key driver of stocker calf performance followed by forage quality. As we begin to see temperatures increase, forage growth slows. Photosynthetic rates of tall fescue can be reduced when temperatures reach 86F/77F degrees Fahrenheit, day/night. These warmer temperatures slow forage growth of our perennial cool-season forages. More importantly, research has demonstrated that soil surface temperatures can have a larger effect on photosynthesis than air temperature. Close grazing or mowing exposes more soil to direct sunlight increasing soil surface temperature. Reducing stocking density or implementing a managed grazing system to better control forage residual heights may help cool-season forages be more persistent.

Be mindful of feeder calves that are not shedding winter hair coats. Studies show that lower hair coat scores, and better shedding, improve daily gains during the grazing season. Several factors may be involved with shedding of winter hair including fescue alkaloids, genetics, plane of nutrition, and others. Calves that don't shed will be more susceptible to heat stress. Ensure stocker calves always have access to clean water. As temperatures increase water intake will increase creating more demand on your water system.

Shade should be available during periods of heat stress. University of Missouri research demonstrated that stocker steers grazing Kentucky 31 tall fescue gain 0.3 pounds per day more when they had access to shade compared to those that did not have shade.

As forage quality and availability declines in mid-summer combined with increased temperatures, cattle performance may dip. To combat this, supplementation can increase the plane of nutrition of stockers sustaining higher performance. Strategies will be dependent on feed prices, target levels of gain, marketing windows, and other factors. If there is a need to increase supplementation rates to achieve either higher rates of gain or stretch forage, a low starch, highly digestible fiber coproduct feedstuff that is 14-16% crude protein can be utilized. Using commodity blends containing corn at 50% or less with soyhulls, distillers grains, corn gluten feed and other quality coproducts can be offered to boost energy and protein intakes of grazing cattle.






Fireside Turtle Pocket

Fireside Turtle Pocket

- 4 large turtle legs, about 2 1/2 pounds
- 2 tablespoons dried minced onion
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- Water to cover
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 4 large potatoes, peeled and diced
- 4 carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch lengths
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder

Pick out the meat and discard the bones and cartilage. Place a long sheet of heavy-duty foil on a large cookie sheet. The ends of the foil will hang off the pan. Slice butter into pats onto the foil. Place potatoes, carrots, and onion in center of foil. Place turtle meat on top of vegetables, and sprinkle with salt, pepper and garlic powder. Bring ends of foil to center and fold to seal in juices. Bake at 450 degrees F for 40 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

Yield: 6 servings

Adapted from: Clinton Harily's Sorgho Creek Turtle recipe.

Nutrition Facts	
6 servings per recipe	
Serving size 12 ounces (475g)	
Amount per serving	
Calories 360	
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 2g	3%
Saturated Fat 0.5g	3%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 95mg	32%
Sodium 490mg	21%
Total Carbohydrate 42g	15%
Dietary Fiber 7g	25%
Total Sugars 7g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 42g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 282mg	20%
Iron 4mg	20%
Potassium 1509mg	30%

*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.



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USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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Find this Cook Wild Kentucky recipe and others for Fish, Venison, Rabbit, Dove, Frog Legs, and more at: <https://www.planeatmove.com/recipes/>, then Browse by Category, and choose Cook Wild Kentucky.

MADISON COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
 Madison County Beekeepers Association will meet Monday, July 22, 6:00 pm, at the Madison County Extension Office. For more information, call Kent, 859-623-3576, or Paul, 859-582-6172.




PLATE IT UP! KENTUCKY PROUD!
 Whether it's spring, summer, fall or winter, you can Plate It Up with delicious recipes that put a new twist on your favorite Kentucky Proud foods. Visit <http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/piukp-recipes> to find all the Plate It Up recipes using Kentucky Proud products.