

# Agriculture Natural Resources Newsletter JUNE, 2023

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

Cooperative Extension Service  
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Linda McClanahan, Mercer County Agent  
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## HELLO SUMMER!

### Reports of True Armyworm in Hay in Central & Western Kentucky

By Ric Bessin, UK Entomology Extension Specialist

This past week, there were a few reports of large numbers of armyworms in hay fields collecting on equipment as the fields were being cut. This is a different species from the fall armyworm that had an outbreak in soybeans, alfalfa, and pastures two years ago. In general, true armyworm, also known just as armyworm, tends to be more of a spring pest of grasses and corn. Fall armyworm, as its name implies, is more of a late season pest beginning mid-July until frost.

*True armyworm  
characteristically feeds  
on leaf margins (Photo:  
Ric Bessin, UK).*



### Habits & Description

Infestations usually first develop in fields of small grains or other grasses. In conventional tillage systems, partially-grown larvae can migrate into corn fields from grassy waterways or wheat fields; damage is usually first noticeable around the field margins adjacent to these areas. The name armyworm derives from its behavior of migrating in large numbers into fields similar to invading armies. In no-till or reduced tillage corn crops, infestation may cover the entire field. In these systems, eggs may be laid on grasses within the field prior to planting and herbicides may force armyworms to feed on corn as the weeds or cover crop dies. Cool, wet spring weather usually favors armyworm development.

The armyworm has a greenish brown body with a thin stripe down the center and two orange stripes along each side. The head is brown with dark honeycombed markings. Armyworm overwinters as partially grown larvae in grasses or small grain fields in Kentucky. When warm spring temperatures return, armyworm feeding resumes. Armyworms may move onto corn during this period. When feeding is completed, larvae pupate just below the surface of the soil. Adults of the first generation emerge in April and May and feed on nectar for 7 to 10 days before beginning to lay eggs. There are three to four generations per year in Kentucky.

As with fall armyworm, true armyworm usually feeds at night preferring to feed on the succulent leaves in the whorl first. During the day, armyworms are found in the soil or underneath ground cover. Ragged leaf feeding on leaf margins in the spring and early summer is consistent with armyworm feeding.

### Monitoring & Management

In hay fields and pastures, treatments for armyworm is based on monitoring. As with fall armyworm, true armyworm often hides under debris on sunny days, so monitoring is best done in the late afternoon or early evening. The same threshold is used for both true armyworm and fall armyworm: 2 to 3 per square foot. Materials listed for fall armyworm control in [ENT-17](#) are also effective against true armyworm.

Cooperative Extension Service  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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4-H Youth Development  
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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## Spring Tornado Safety

*By Jane Marie Wix - National Weather Service Jackson, KY (in coordination with Kentucky Emergency Management)*

Each year, the United States experiences an average of 1,200 tornadoes. Many strike rural areas and cause little damage, and most have paths well under one mile in length and winds under 100 mph. However, a few tornadoes can become large and violent, with wind speeds approaching 200 mph, tracking tens of miles and leaving swaths of destruction and death. In Kentucky, tornadoes have occurred during every month of the year and at every hour of the day. However, they occur most frequently from March through June and typically between 3 and 10 PM. Nighttime tornadoes are often more dangerous as they are harder to see and most people are sleeping. So what do you do if there is a tornado? How do you stay safe?

### Before a Tornado

- Have a family tornado plan in place and practice a family tornado drill at least once a year.
- Have a predetermined place to meet after a disaster.
- Learn the signs of a tornado: dark, greenish sky; large hail; dark, low clouds; and loud roaring sounds.
- When a tornado watch is issued, practice your drill and check your safety supplies.
- Increase your situational awareness by monitoring the weather on [weather.gov](http://weather.gov), watching local TV, or listening to NOAA Weather Radio.
- Flying debris is the greatest danger in tornadoes; so store protective coverings (e.g., mattress, helmets, sleeping bags, thick blankets, etc) in or next to your shelter space, ready to use on a few seconds notice.
- Tornado rule of thumb: Put as many walls and floors between you and the tornado as possible!
- If you are planning to build a house, consider an underground tornado shelter or an interior "safe room".
- **In a mobile home: GET OUT!** Go to a neighbor's house, underground shelter, or a nearby permanent structure. Most tornadoes can destroy even tied-down mobile homes.

### During a Tornado

- Wear a bicycle or motorcycle helmet to protect your head and neck or cover your head with a thick book.
- **In a house with a basement:** Avoid windows. Get in the basement and under some type of sturdy protection (heavy table or workbench), or cover yourself with a mattress or sleeping bag. Know where very heavy objects rest on the floor above (pianos, refrigerators, dressers, etc.) and do not go under them. They may fall down through a weakened floor and crush you.
- **In a house without a basement, a dorm, or an apartment:** Avoid windows. Go to the lowest floor, in a small interior room (like a bathroom or closet), under a stairwell, or in an interior hallway with no windows. Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down. A bath tub may offer a shell of partial protection. Even in an interior room, you should cover yourself with some sort of thick padding (mattress, blankets, etc.), to protect against falling debris in case the roof and ceiling fail.
- **In a car or truck:** If you are caught by extreme winds or flying debris, park the car as quickly and safely as possible - out of the traffic lanes. Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat, or other cushion if possible. If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area. Avoid seeking shelter under bridges.
- In the open outdoors: **lie flat and face-down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can.**



### After a Tornado

- Remain calm and alert, and listen to the radio or TV for instructions from authorities.
- Keep your family together and wait for emergency personnel to arrive.
- Carefully render aid to those who are injured.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Watch your step to avoid broken glass, nails, and other sharp objects.
- Stay out of any heavily damaged houses or buildings.



- Do not use matches or lighters, there might be leaking natural gas pipes or fuel tanks nearby.





# MERCER COUNTY 4-H YOUTH AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (YAIP)

- Money for on-farm investments available
- Applicants must be 9 years old & enrolled in elementary, middle or high school (includes home-schooled)
- Investment areas eligible:
  - Ag Diversification
  - Animal Production
  - Forage & Grain Improvement
  - Showmanship
  - Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE)
  - Country Ham Projects
- Cost-share on a 50/50 basis
- Eligible up to \$1,500. per program year
- Youth must complete educational components

## APPLICATION PERIOD MAY 8-JUNE 9, 2023

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM:

Mercer County Extension Service

1007 Lexington Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call 859-734-4378

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Linda McClanahan [linda.mcclanahan@uky.edu](mailto:linda.mcclanahan@uky.edu)



## ONE-POT CREAMY CHICKEN AND BROCCOLI

A new spin on a nostalgic casserole that's still super easy to make in just one pot. No need for the canned soup, simply using rice cooked in milk created enough of a binder to hold all the ingredients together. Make it even easier by buying pre-shredded chicken.

### INSTRUCTIONS

Melt butter in large shallow straight-sided oven-safe pan, such as cast iron 3.5 or 4-quart braiser. Add onion and cook just until soft. Add garlic and stir until combined. Stir rice into pot and sauté for one minute. Gradually stir in 2 cups milk, followed by chicken broth. Bring up to a low simmer, stir and cover with lid, stirring occasionally to ensure it doesn't stick or boil over, about 15 minutes, adding additional 1/2 cup of milk if needed. Once rice mixture is cooked, stir in shredded chicken, broccoli florets and seasoning until well combined. Add in half of the cheese and stir until melted. Remove from heat and top with remaining cheese. Place pan in oven and broil for about 5 minutes or until cheese is bubbly and melted. Serve immediately.

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 cup long-grain rice
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 2 cups shredded chicken, cooked
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES | COOK TIME: 20 MINUTES  
TOTAL TIME: 30 MINUTES | SERVINGS: 6

contains 8 grams of protein;  
an egg contains 6 grams.



Mercer County Extension Office  
1007 Lexington Road  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



June is National Dairy Month

- June 1 Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7pm
- June 3 Harrodsburg District Dairy Show, 9:30am
- June 7 Farmers Market Wednesday begins, 2-5pm
- June 8 Mercer County Ag Development Council Meeting, 6pm
- June 9 YAIP Application Deadline
- June 17 Vintage Dad's Day, Shaker Village
- June 19 Juneteenth Holiday, Extension Office Closed
- June 20 Fort Harrod Goat Association Meeting, 6:30pm
- June 29 Pest Management Field Day, Princeton
  
- July 4 Independence Day, Extension Office Closed
- July 7-8 KFB Young Farmer Summer Outing
- July 11-14 4-H Day Camp
- July 21-22 KFB Generation Bridge Meeting
- July 23-29 Mercer County Fair & Horse Show

