


# Agriculture Natural Resources Newsletter NOVEMBER, 2023

 Cooperative  
Extension Service

Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

**Mercer County**  
1007 Lexington Road  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330  
(859) 734-4378  
mercer.ca.uky.edu



*Linda McClanahan*

Linda McClanahan, Mercer County Agent  
for Agriculture & Natural Resources



## Extension Expansion Meeting November 9 at 6:00pm



College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Mercer County

Join us to share your input on programs and  
facility needs! Pizza will be provided.  
**Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!**

Mercer County Extension Office  
1007 Lexington Road—Harrodsburg, KY 40330

### 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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



  
Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification

## **Johnsongrass and Cyanide Poisoning**

Cyanide poisoning, more commonly referred to as prussic acid poisoning, can have a very abrupt and deadly effect on ruminant livestock grazing forages and requires careful management as frost and freezes begin in this area. Plants, such as sorghum, sudangrass, sorghum-sudan hybrids, johnsongrass, wild cherry, and others, contain compounds that produce free cyanide when these plants are damaged by frost or drought conditions. When the plant cells rupture after a frost the plant enzymes react with the cyanogenic compounds.

The important thing is that johnsongrass should be completely dry and brown before it is considered safe to graze. Young leafy growth is the most toxic after frost and old stemmy, mature growth is the least toxic. Cyanide is a gas, so it dissipates as the plant dries or during the ensiling process. But make sure it's completely dry before baling or completely ensiled before feeding (6 to 8 weeks). It doesn't matter if the frost happens when the plant is standing or when it is laying in a swath.



### **Do not graze potentially hazardous forages when frost is likely (including at night).**

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 plant material is completely dry and brown (the toxin is usually dissipated within 72 hours). Grazing at night when a frost is likely is not recommended as high levels of cyanide are produced within hours after frost occurs. Grazing these plants when they are producing young shoots (less than 18 inches tall) also increases the risk.

### **If high cyanide is suspected in forages, do not feed as green chop (or just after cutting) following ensiling of forages in the sorghum family.**

If cut for hay, allow to dry completely so the cyanide will volatilize before baling. Allow slow and thorough drying because toxicity can be retained in cool or moist weather. Delay feeding silage 6 to 8 weeks following ensiling.

Using caution when grazing these forages during times of stress can usually eliminate the possibility of cyanide poisoning in livestock. For more information, follow this link to the UK publication "Cyanide Poisoning in Ruminants": <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ID/ID220/ID220.pdf>.

**Farm-City Week will be celebrated this year from Nov. 15 through Nov. 22.** It is a week to express appreciation for the beneficial partnerships between rural and urban communities.

Farmers and ranchers rely on essential partnerships with urban communities to supply, sell and deliver finished products across the country and around the world. Consumer purchases, in turn, make sustainable farm enterprise possible. Foods, fibers and renewable fuels are available to us because of the daily relationships among farmers and ranchers, processors, brokers, truckers, shippers, advertisers, wholesalers and retailers. The collective efforts by these members of our society provide a wholesome diet for everyone. In addition, farms and ranches conserve freshwater resources, wildlife habitat and greenspace.



**farm-city**  
WEEK

# University of Kentucky presents 2023 Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series

Beginning Nov. 2, 2023, the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will present a series of four webinars covering field crop protection. Hosted through the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center, the webinars will feature UK extension pest management specialists discussing weed science, plant pathology and entomology topics. Continuing education credits for Kentucky pesticide applicators and Certified Crop Advisors will be available.

The Thursday morning webinars will take place via Zoom at 10 a.m. EST/9 a.m. CST, and pre-registration is required for each webinar. The webinars are open to agriculture and natural resource County extension agents, crop consultants, farmers, industry professionals, and others, whether they reside or work in Kentucky or outside the state.



Dr. Kirsten Wise

Webinar #1: *Do multiple corn fungicide applications pay?*

November 2, 2023

Registration: [https://zoom.us/join?register/wn\\_C0X8T0d0Gq5Gf4h4u6z2A](https://zoom.us/join?register/wn_C0X8T0d0Gq5Gf4h4u6z2A)



Dr. Carl Bradley

Webinar #2: *What have we learned from nearly two decades of research on soybean with foliar fungicides?*

November 9, 2023

Registration: [https://zoom.us/join?register/wn\\_35wXpHtL0SSWkTh4u0d1v0QJ](https://zoom.us/join?register/wn_35wXpHtL0SSWkTh4u0d1v0QJ)



Dr. Travis Legleiter

Webinar #3: *Managing the offensive spread of weeds*

November 16, 2023

Registration: [https://zoom.us/join?register/wn\\_5D0zGy5bQ0k4M4qjTR8K0mw](https://zoom.us/join?register/wn_5D0zGy5bQ0k4M4qjTR8K0mw)



Dr. Raul Villanueva

Webinar #4: *Occurrence of insect in field crops during two years of partial drought and heat wave*

November 30, 2023

Registration: [https://zoom.us/join?register/wn\\_Ap0C08T0G6CA0X0w0p0h7A](https://zoom.us/join?register/wn_Ap0C08T0G6CA0X0w0p0h7A)



Hosted by



# America Recycles Day

## Wednesday, November 15 1:00-4:00 pm

In observance of America Recycles Day, Mercer County Extension Office will have **“The Shred Truck”** available for free to you!

Bring your old documents & sensitive papers to be recycled! Paper only. No electronics, paint, etc. Staples do not have to be removed but please take off any paper clips.

**1007 Lexington Road  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330**

Organized and Sponsored by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, UK Cooperative Extension Service, and the Master Grazer Program

*This program is designed for producers and agricultural professionals to learn the newest fencing methods and sound fencing construction through a combination of classroom and hands-on learning*

**WHEN:** November 7-Scott County, KY  
November 9-Caldwell County, KY

**WHERE:** Scott County Extension Office  
1130 Cincinnati Road  
Georgetown, KY 40324

Kentucky Soybean Board Office  
1000 Highway 62 West  
Princeton, KY 42445



**COST:** \$35/participant -- includes notebook, refreshments, safety glasses, hearing protection, and catered lunch

**Registration DEADLINE: 1 week prior to workshop**

**ONLINE Registration with Credit Card:**

Georgetown, KY [Register for KY Fencing School in GEORGETOWN](#)  
Princeton, KY [Register for KY Fencing School in PRINCETON](#)

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**Registration by U.S. Mail:** Christi Forsythe  
UK Research and Education Center  
P.O. Box 469  
Princeton, KY 42445

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 per participant = **Total Cost**

**Make CHECKS payable to: KFGC**

For more information contact Krista Lea at 270-625-0712 or [Christi.Forsythe@uky.edu](mailto:Christi.Forsythe@uky.edu)



# 2023 Kentucky Fencing Schools

# Grazing Conference

## Low Stress Livestock Handling for Serious Graziers

**October 31, 2023**  
**Elizabethtown**  
Hardin County Extension Office  
7:30 AM - 3:30 PM CDT

**November 1, 2023**  
**Lexington**  
Fayette County Extension Office  
7:30 AM - 3:30 PM EDT

### Our speakers...

**Curt Pate** is a nationally renowned expert in low stress livestock handling. His focus on reducing stress in grazing systems makes him unique.

**Lewis Sapp** is a nationally recognized fencing expert with extensive experience in both temporary and permanent fencing systems.

**Jeff Lehmkuhler** is an award winning extension educator with more than 20 years of experience in designing flexible watering systems.

**Chris McBurney** has over 25 years of experience in designing, fabricating, and installing livestock facilities throughout the eastern United States.

**Greg Brann** is well known for his extensive knowledge of grassland ecosystems, grazing management, and mixed species grazing.

**Tickets: \$45 Advance / \$60 Onsite / \$15 Students**

### Register Online:

Elizabethtown-<https://2023-KY-Grazing-Conference-Hardin-Lexington-https://2032-KY-Grazing-Conference-Fayette>

**Register by Email:** [info@kfgc.org](mailto:info@kfgc.org)  
**Register by Phone:** 513-470-8171

**Register by Mail:** Christi Forsythe, PO Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445  
Make Checks payable to: **KFGC**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 per participant = \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount  
Names of additional Participants: \_\_\_\_\_



# Building an Emergency Kit

Jane Marie Wix - National Weather Service Jackson, KY

(Source: Ready.gov/kit)

After an emergency (whether it be natural or man-made), you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water, and other supplies to last during this amount of time. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Make sure your emergency kit is stocked with the items on the checklist below. Once you take a look at the basic items, consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets or seniors.

## **Basic Disaster Supplies Kit**

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic emergency supply kit includes the following recommended items:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

## **Additional Emergency Supplies**

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- Soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- Prescription Medications. An emergency can make it difficult for you to refill your prescription or to find an open pharmacy. Organize and protect your prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, and vitamins to prepare for an emergency.
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, allergy medication, antacids, etc.
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

**Maintaining Your Kit** After assembling your kit remember to maintain it so it's ready when needed:

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers.
- Replace expired items as needed.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.

Mercer County Extension Office  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you no longer  
wish to receive the  
ANR Newsletter,  
please notify us at  
859-734-4378.



November 2-16	North American International Livestock Expo, Louisville
November 2	Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7 PM
November 4	Mercer Cattlemen's BSE Day, 4 Kings Angus
November 4	Mercer County 4-H Holiday One Stop Shop
November 5	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 7	Fencing School, Scott County
November 9	Mercer County Extension Council Meeting, 5 PM
November 18	Mercer County Farmers Market Holiday Market
November 21	Fort Harrod Goat Association Meeting, 6:30 PM
November 22-29	National Farm City Week
November 23-24	Extension Office Closed, Happy Thanksgiving
November 29-Dec 2	KY Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Louisville
December 7	Mercer County Extension Holiday Open House
December 8	Mercer County Extension Day of Holiday Fun
December 14	UK Extension Beef Confinement Conference, Hardin County Extension
December 19	Fort Harrod Goat Association Meeting
December 25-Jan 1	Extension Office Closed for the Holidays

