

Spencer County Agriculture & Horticulture Newsletter



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

Cooperative Extension Service
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January 2024

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.

I would like to take a moment to thank each and everyone of you as we have connected in some form or fashion over the past 26 years, whether it be discussing soil samples, home or farm visit, or just chatting about things in general.

You are the reason I appreciate this position more and more each year. I hope that we cross paths again this year.

As always, feel free to call or email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bryce Roberts,
Spencer County Extension Agent for
Agriculture and Natural Resources

More Information

As always, if you need more information, feel free to **call me** at 477-2217.

You can also **email me** at broberts@uky.edu or you can **visit my website** to view archived newsletters and news articles. The web address is: www.spencerextension.com



Soil Sample Now

As we are now into winter, this is one of the best times to sample your fields, gardens, or lawns to see what type and how much fertilizer you need to make the soil as productive as possible. For each sample you want to submit, we need at least one pint (sandwich bag) of dry soil 4-8 inches below the soil surface. Please put your name and sample ID (north lawn, hayfield 2, etc.) on each bag.

Bring those in now so that you can get the results more quickly and in some cases go ahead and apply the fertilizer now so that the soil will be ready for your yard or crops.

This is a free service provided by the Spencer Co. Conservation District. Thanks to them for sponsoring the soil sampling program.

Our office is open normal business hours, but you have the option to drop off your samples anytime you like.

As you pull into our parking lot, please go to the right to the back of our building. You will then see our pavilion and on the pavilion, you will see a blue tub to the right of the double doors. Inside the tub, you will find some paperwork that you will need to fill out so that we can properly test your soil. Place the paperwork and samples back into the tub.

I'll review the results and mail or email them to you in 2-3 weeks.

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Winter Farmers Market

The Taylorsville Farmers Market will be holding some indoor markets during the winter months. They will be held on the first Saturday of each month (February 3 and March 2). The markets will be held at our office, located at 100 Oak Tree Way and will be open from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Master Cattleman Sessions

Some of our nearby counties will be hosting the Master Cattleman classes starting in January.

Here are the classes and locations:

- **January 29, Shelby Co. Extension Office
- **February 5, Henry Co. Extension Office
- **February 12, Trimble Co. Extension Office
- **February 19, Henry Co. Extension Office
- **February 26, Shelby Co. Extension Office
- **March 4, Trimble Co. Extension Office

Cost is \$80 per person and meals are provided. All sessions will start with the meal at 5:30 p.m. and meetings will run from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Please contact me for more information if you are interested.

Beginning Producer Session

We had to postpone our November Beginning Producer Session until February. Here is the updated information. It will be held on February 27 beginning at 6 p.m. and it will be held at the Spencer Co. Extension Office.

Following up with our September meeting on Farm Estate Planning/Transitioning, we will have Keith Jeffries, Attorney at Law, in attendance to provide “An Attorney’s View on Farm Estate Planning and Transitioning.” Keith will have a short presentation, but he is prepared to answer any questions that you may have about this topic.

Pre-registration is required as a meal will be served. Please call our office at 477-2217 or you can click here to register:

<https://bit.ly/46SdDHQ>

Nuisance Weed Spraying Program

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is once again sponsoring the Nuisance Weed Spraying program. The department will provide the sprayer and enough chemical for the treatment of 10 acres of agricultural land or 100 gallons of spot spraying mix to be used on agricultural land. The department’s representative will demonstrate proper mixing and application techniques. A number of nuisance weeds can be treated under this program depending on the needs of the participant. This program is limited to broadleaf weeds. **If you have participated in the last 3 years, you are not eligible this year.**

Broadcast Spraying demonstration plots consist of:

- **10 acres of agricultural land will be treated with chemical provided by the department
- **Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with boomless nozzles
- **If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 10 acres can be treated

Spot Spraying demonstration plots consist of:

- **100 gallons of broadleaf chemical mix which is applied until sprayer is empty
- **Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with a handheld spray wand used by the tractor operator

For each demonstration:

- **The participant must provide water source
- **The participant must provide tractor and operator
- **All chemical products must be labeled and the product label will be strictly followed
- **A maximum of 7 participants per county

This program is designed to target weeds that have a negative impact on the participant’s agricultural production. There will be an annual online application period to participate in this program. Applications can be completed **starting February 1.** To submit an application, please go to <https://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx>



Seasonal CRD Preparedness Tips

January: Extreme Weather Preparedness

As winter storms are becoming more prevalent within this season, there is higher risk for car accidents and extreme cold. Blizzards can bring extreme temperatures, high winds, and freezing rain/snow. See the following tips to stay safe in this winter season:

1. Learn the types of winter storms

Winter Weather Advisory:

- Issued during snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet

Could lead to life-threatening situations if ignored

Winter Storm Watch:

- Are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm
- Issued for: blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet

Winter Storm Warning:

- Issued typically 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected
- Issued for: heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet



2. Practice car safety during winter storms

Stay off roads if at all possible

If you must go out, then let someone know your route and times

If your car skids:

Remain calm, ease your foot off the gas and turn your wheels in the direction you want the front of the car to go

If trapped in your car, then stay inside:

Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat.

While running the motor, open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

Be visible to rescuers by turning on your dome light at night, tie a bright colored cloth to your antenna/door, and raise your hood (after snow stops)

3. How to handle extreme temperatures

Limit your time outside: If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing and watch for frostbite and hypothermia

Frostbite: causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers and toes

- Signs: Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, firm or waxy skin.
- Actions: Go to a warm room, soak the area in warm water, use body heat to warm, and do not massage or use a heating pad.

Hypothermia: An unusually low body temperature

A body temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency

- Signs: Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech or drowsiness.
- Actions: Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first (chest, neck, head and groin). Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

Reduce the risk of a heart attack:

- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow
- Passing out in the snow (without help) is deadly

Sources:

<https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter-during>

<https://canva.com>



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