

Spencer County Agriculture & Horticulture Newsletter

UK Cooperative
Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service
Spencer County
PO Box 368
Taylorsville KY 40071-0368
(502) 477-2217
Fax: (502) 477-1343
extension.ca.uky.edu

April 2025

Mother Nature just keeps rolling on through this year! As I write this, we just came through the Sunday night storms that, fortunately, didn't do much damage here in Spencer County, but more storms are forecasted for later on this week.

I like to put reminders in my newsletter every now and then for being "Weather Ready" and there is another article provided by the National Weather Service in this issue.

I hope you'll take a look at it and hope that you are ready for any storms that we may encounter in the next few weeks.

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



Farmers Market Opening Soon

The Taylorsville/Spencer County Farmers Market will open on April 12 and will be open beginning at 8 a.m. until noon or so on Saturdays. Some of the vendors may stay past noon if there is a crowd. The market will be open every Saturday (rain or shine) until the end of October. It is located at 751 Taylorsville Road next to Fresh Take Market.

There are several vendors selling a wide variety of products, including meats, cheeses, jams, jellies, honey, breads, goat milk soaps and lotions, candles, and other produce. Make sure you support our local producers...they are the ones that are growing what you're buying.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor (small producers are welcome), please contact me or stop by our office for an application. For more information on the market, feel free to contact Sandi Deutsch at 502-252-1400.



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.

Beginning Producer Sessions

We, along with the Bullitt Co. Extension Service, are continuing our Beginning Producer Sessions in 2025. Please note that these sessions are for anyone, but for those especially with 10 years or less ag production experience.

Funding Sources for Your Operation Tuesday, April 22, 2025 | 6:00 PM Spencer Co. Extension

This class will help you identify and apply for grants, loans, and other funding sources available for small and beginning farms. A light meal will be served at each meeting so registration is required. Please call our office at 477-2217 or click here to register: <https://uky.info/FundFarm25>

Small to Medium Scale Backyard Chicken Production Tuesday, June 24, 2025 | 6:00 PM at Bullitt Co. Extension.

Interested in raising chickens? This class will cover everything you need to know to start and maintain a small to medium scale backyard chicken operation, from breed selection to egg production. To register, please click on this link: <https://uky.info/Chickens25>



**Don't let a small project
cause a **BIG** problem!**

**811 is your first step to safety for all
digging projects, regardless of the size.**

Keep yourself, your community and underground utilities safe
this summer and all year round by calling 811 or going online
to 811beforeyoudig.com before putting a shovel in the ground.



Soil Sample Now

As we are now into spring, 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 black tub with a yellow top 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 them back to you in 2-3 weeks.

Rinse and Return Program

Our office will once again be a drop off location for the Rinse and Return program. It will be held on **August 11 from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.** Please collect and hold onto your containers until then. More information on this program will be in my next newsletter.



Spencer & Shelby County Beekeepers Association's would like to invite you to the

"What Now?!" - Intermediate Beekeeping Seminar

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Amanda Skidmore
Kentucky State Apiarist



Kent Williams
EAS Master Beekeeper



Dr. Johnny Wise
PhD, School of Medicine, UofL



Jake Barker
Cornell & EAS Master Beekeeper

APRIL 19TH, 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
100 OAK TREE WAY, TAYLORSVILLE, KY 40071
\$25 A TICKET
PRICE INCLUDES LUNCH
[REGISTER NOW!](#)



Ready to take your beekeeping skills to the next level? - Welcome to "What Now?!" - The Intermediate Beekeeping Seminar, where we tackle the burning questions that come after the basics!

From advanced hive management and bee health to sustainable apiary practices, this seminar dives deep into the "What Now?!" moments every beekeeper faces. Learn from experts, discover innovative techniques, and gain the confidence to keep your colonies thriving!

Whether you're troubleshooting tricky hive issues or looking to refine your beekeeping strategies, this seminar is your next step toward mastering the hive!

Don't miss out - enroll now and level up your beekeeping game! Click here to register: <https://bit.ly/whatnowintermediate>

Preparing for Severe Weather

This information is provided by By Tony Edwards – National Weather Service Charleston, WV

In parts of the Deep South, the risk of severe thunderstorms persists throughout the winter months. For us here in the Bluegrass State, however, we're quickly approaching a time when thunderstorms become both more frequent and more intense. As winter storms make way for spring, severe weather—including damaging winds, hail, and even tornadoes—becomes the primary concern.

As I write this article in mid-March, much of the Bluegrass State is already facing the threat of severe weather, a common occurrence for this time of year. Data from the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center reveals that the likelihood of severe weather increases as March progresses, peaking in mid-June at around 4%. This means, based on historical data alone, residents of Kentucky have a 4% chance of experiencing damaging winds, hail larger than quarters, or a tornado within 25 miles of their home in the middle of June! The risk then significantly decreases by mid-September.

Given this, now is the time to start preparing for the upcoming severe weather season. The first step is simple: be aware that severe weather is a real possibility. Make checking your local forecast part of your daily routine to stay informed and prepared. Did You Know? The National Weather Service (NWS) offices that serve Kentucky offer a 24-hour recorded weather forecast, and in many cases, you can even speak to a live person if you have questions about the forecast. Contact your local NWS office to learn more!

Preparing for Severe Weather

When severe weather is in the forecast, it's essential to take action ahead of time. Start by ensuring you have access to emergency supplies. This is particularly important if you live in an area prone to flooding and might need to evacuate on short notice.

Make sure you know where your safe spaces are. In most cases, this is the lowest floor of your house—preferably a basement. If you don't have a basement, an interior room with no windows and doors will suffice. If you own livestock, consider moving them to a protected area, especially if hail is in the forecast.

Understanding Watches and Warnings


Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Watches: Issued when conditions are favorable for severe weather or tornadoes in the near future.

Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Warnings: Issued when severe weather or tornadoes are occurring or imminent. This is when you need to act fast!

When a warning is issued, take shelter immediately. You may only have seconds to respond, so knowing what to do and where to go is essential.

SEVERE WEATHER

HAZARDS



Over 280 fatalities occur each year in the U.S. from thunderstorm related hazards.

weather.gov/safety

TORNADO
Take shelter immediately in a sturdy structure



LARGE HAIL
Move indoors away from windows



SEVERE WIND
Move indoors away from windows



FLOODING
Avoid rising creeks and water covered roads



LIGHTNING
Move indoors if you hear thunder



Brussels Sprouts Gratin

2 pounds (4 cups) Brussels sprouts	½ cup low sodium chicken broth
6 slices turkey bacon	1 ½ cups skim milk
2 medium onions, diced	1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese (packed)
3 tablespoons butter	1 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons flour	1 teaspoon black pepper

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. **Wash** Brussels sprouts and **remove** the outer leaves. Using a paring knife, **score** the core end of each sprout. In a large saucepan over medium-high heat, **boil** sprouts 3-5 minutes or until just tender. In a skillet over medium heat, **cook** turkey bacon until crisp. **Remove** from pan. **Add** the onions to the pan and **cook** until tender, about 5 minutes. **Remove** from pan. **Melt** butter in skillet. **Add** flour and stir until smooth. Using a whisk, slowly **add** chicken broth and milk. **Stir** until thick and smooth. **Add** cheese and **stir**

until smooth. **Add** bacon and onions. **Season** with salt and pepper. **Coat** a 9-by-13 inch pan with non-stick spray. **Place** Brussels sprouts in pan and pour the gratin sauce over the top. **Bake** 25 minutes or until the top is lightly brown.

Yield: 8, ½ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 170 calories, 6 g fat, 2.5 g saturated fat, 0 g trans fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 660 mg sodium, 20 g carbohydrate, 5 g fiber, 7 g sugars, 11 g protein.



Plate it up!

