

# Spencer County Agriculture & Horticulture Newsletter

 Cooperative  
Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service  
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February 2025

Wow! What a few weeks we had dealing with the snow, ice, then more snow and the cold temperatures. Driving around, I saw many limbs brought down by the ice. I know I lost a few limbs myself, but that pales to those of you who lost power through the ice and snow. Even as I write this, there is still a little bit of snow and ice left, but the temperatures are warming up and will hopefully melt the remaining snow and ice by the time you read this.

It's always good to be prepared for weather events like this. A little preparation can go a long way.

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 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.

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Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## **Farmers Market Planning Meeting**

The Taylorsville Farmers Market will be holding an informational meeting on March 6, 2025, beginning at 6 p.m. and will be held at Fresh Take Market.

The market will open up on April 12 and we do have applications here at our office. If you have any questions, please contact Sandi Deutsch at 502-376-3888.

## **Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings**

If your private applicator license has expired or will expire this year, you should receive a letter in the mail in the next few days. I do have trainings scheduled for Thursday, February 27 at 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. Call our office at 477-2217 to register.

## **Winter and Spring River Flooding**

Dean Acheson, a politician and lawyer, once said, “You can’t argue with a river - it is going to flow. You can dam it up, put it to useful purposes, you can deflect it, but you can’t argue with it.” The further we head into the winter, rivers seem to become more “argumentative” as they swell and flood. So why do we typically see most of our river flooding in the winter and early spring here in Kentucky? There are several factors.

During the winter months, the lack of vegetation, and the cold and occasionally frozen ground make it unable to absorb as much water. This creates more runoff into area creeks and streams, and eventually into the riverways.

The winter also tends to bring more amplified/stronger storm systems, which can result in more widespread significant precipitation. Typically in the spring and summertime, heavy precipitation associated with thunderstorms is more localized, while in the winter, it can cover vast expanses, leading to more impacts on the rivers.

Jam - it isn’t just for bread! Ice floating down the river can get backed up and dam up the waterway, known as an ice jam. The water behind the jam will rise and flow out of the banks, leading to areal flooding. The jam will eventually release, sending large chunks of ice and pent up water down the river, leading to potential flooding and damage downstream. Ice jams typically occur farther north than Kentucky, where rivers are more likely to

freeze over.

As we head into the early spring months, or even a warm spell after a large winter storm, rising temperatures begin to melt away at the snow and ice on the ground. If too much ice or snow melts at once, this creates a large amount of runoff into the waterways, leading to significant river rises. This gets amplified when heavy rains also fall on top of the melting ice and snow.

According to FEMA and the National Inventory of Dams (2007), there are more than 80,000 dams in the United States. Dam failure or levee breaches can occur with little warning. Failures and breaches can be slow, lasting from days to weeks, or can be very abrupt with profound, sudden impacts to locations downstream. Causes of dam failure vary from natural causes such as prolonged rainfall, landslides, earthquakes, or erosion -to human causes such as improper maintenance and design, and negligent operation.

In the last few months, the NWS launched nationwide Flood Inundation Mapping (FIM). These maps are available online and help decision makers, such as Emergency Management, show the extent of inundation at different river stage levels (both static and forecasted). FIM will help to better message the impacts for flooding events, with increasing accuracy and capability moving forward.



## **SAVE THE DATE**

**March 29, 2025**

**9:30 - 12:30**

**“March into Wellness” with us at the second annual Wellness Day hosted at the Spencer County Extension Office.**

**A variety of free services, health information, and community health partners will be available.**

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.  
Lexington, KY 40506



## **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>

[www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx](https://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx)

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS SUBJECT TO RENEWAL BY THE KDA.**

## **Beginning Beekeeper Survival 2025**

Back for its fourth year, the Beginner Beekeeper Survival School packages the bare essentials you need to have a successful first year of beekeeping.

This joint program includes Spencer, Bullitt, Kentuckiana and Oldham bee clubs in the greater Louisville KY area. Attendees do not have to be members of any of the aforementioned clubs or counties.

This 16 hour program was created to meet a recurring need, to prepare beginners for their first year of beekeeping! By setting up a joint program, we are able to integrate and educate these beginners in an organized manner. We are limited to 50 seats by our venues, **ONLY REGISTER IF YOU WILL ATTEND PLEASE.**

Several of the dates have door fees. Those fees will be collected by the club at admission. Sessions 1, 2, and 4 have \$15/person rates. Please bring cash.

Session 1 with Spencer County Beekeepers Association, Saturday 2/22 9A-1P  
@ Spencer Extension Office. 100 Oak Tree Way. Taylorsville KY 40071.

*Introduction to Beekeeping, Basic Bee Biology, and Beekeeping Equipment.*

Lead: Amanda McCutcheon, Spencer County Beekeepers Association President. \$15/ at the door.

Session 2 with Bullitt County Beekeepers Association, Sunday 3/2 1P-5P.  
@ Bullitt Extension Office. 384 Halls LN. Shepherdsville KY 40165.

*Hive Inspections, Annual Schedule, and Basic Management.*

Lead: Leonard Davis, EAS Master Beekeeper, President BCBA. \$15/ at the door.

Session 3 with Kentuckiana Beekeepers Association (Jefferson), Saturday 3/8?, 9:30A-1P.  
@ TBD

*Products of the Hive and Disease.*

Lead: Lara Augustine, UoFF Certified Master Beekeeper, Past President KBA.

Session 4 with Oldham County Beekeepers Association, Saturday 3/15, 9A-1P.  
@ TBD

*Pests, Varroa, Beekeeper Interventions, and Course Conclusion.*

Lead: TBD. \$15/ at the door.

Please go to

<https://bit.ly/2025BeekeeperSurvival>

to register.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Blackberry Coffee Cake

<b>1 cup</b> all-purpose flour	<b>1/3 cup</b> margarine	<b>2 eggs</b>
<b>1 cup</b> whole wheat flour	<b>1/3 cup</b> applesauce	<b>1 teaspoon</b> vanilla
<b>1 1/2 cups</b> white sugar	<b>1/2 teaspoon</b> cinnamon	<b>2/3 cup</b> 1% milk
<b>2 teaspoons</b> baking powder	<b>2 tablespoons</b> brown sugar	<b>2 cups</b> blackberries, washed
<b>1 teaspoon</b> salt		

**Preheat** oven to 350 degrees F. **Grease** and **flour** a 9-by-13- inch baking pan. In a large bowl, **combine** flours, sugar, baking powder and salt. Using a pastry blender, cut margarine and applesauce into the mixture until it resembles coarse crumbs. **Stir** in the cinnamon and brown sugar. **Set aside** 3/4 cup of crumb mixture to be used as a topping for the cake. In a medium bowl, **mix** together eggs, vanilla and milk. **Blend** into remaining flour mixture. **Spread** batter into prepared pan. **Sprinkle** blackberries evenly over the

batter. Gently **press** blackberries into the batter. **Sprinkle** reserved crumb mixture over fruit and gently pat down. **Bake** in preheated oven for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean.

**Yield:** 15 servings.

**Nutritional Analysis:** 170 calories, 5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 1 g trans fat, 30 mg cholesterol, 280 mg sodium, 32 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 18 g sugars, 3 g protein.