



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

April - June 2023

AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE

Whitley County Cooperative Extension Service



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Office Hours M-F, 8am-4:30pm

Cooperative Extension Service
 Agriculture and Natural Resources
 Family and Consumer Sciences
 4-H Youth Development
 Community and Economic Development

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, or physical or mental disability, University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
 LEXINGTON, KY 40546





*April 6 - Fishing 101 Bait to Plate (Fish Processing) @ 6 PM



*April 8 - Raised Garden Bed @ 10am WD Bryant Corbin

*April 9 - Easter

*April 10 - Beekeepers Association @ 6 PM



*April 18 - Whitley County Small Farms @ 6pm

*April 21-22 - KSU Eastern Kentucky Small Farms Conference

- Honey Bees
- Container Gardening
- Disaster Preparedness
- Papaw Trees
- Building your digital presence
- Predator Management

*April 22 - Earth Day

*April 25 - Farmers Market Opening Day (Corbin) 5-8pm

*April 27 - Whitley County Cattlemen Association @ 7pm



*April 29 - Chicken Processing @10am



*May 6 - Herb Gardening @ 10am WD Bryant Corbin

*May 8 - Beekeepers Association @ 6 PM



*May 16 - Whitley County Small Farms @ 6pm

*May 18 - Farmers Market Opening Day (Williamsburg) 5-7pm

*May 25 - Whitley County Cattlemen Association @ 7pm



*May 27 - Container Gardening @ 10am WD Bryant Corbin



*May 30 - Container Gardening @ 6pm Goldbug Extension Office

*May 30 - Honey Harvesting @ 6pm



*June 3 - 4H Community Yard Sale



*June 9 - Master Gardener Graduation @ 5pm

*June 12 - Beekeepers Association @ 6 PM



*June 13-16 - 4H Camp



Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
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4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

University of
Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



*June 17 - Jams & Jellies @ 10am WD Bryant Corbin

*June 20 - Whitley County Small Farms @ 6pm



*June 24 - Dehydrating Foods @ 10am WD Bryant Corbin

*June 27 - Honey Harvesting @ 6pm



*June 29 - Whitley County Cattlemen Association @ 7pm

Mark Your Calendars




Future Events

*22 July - Water Bath Canning Basics @ 10am WD Bryants's (Corbin)

*25 July - Hive Observation @ 6pm 


*31 July - Rinse & Return Recycling Program 10-2pm

*5 Aug - 4H Pine Car Derby 12pm @ Main Extension office 



*12 Aug - Hunter Education 9-4pm

*1 Sept - Farm Day 9-1 @ WC Fairgrounds

*14 Oct - Rabbit Processing @ 10am 

*4 Nov - Deer Processing @ 10am 

*10 Nov -Veterans Day Dinner 6pm @ main office (must register)

2023 HOMESTEADING SERIES



Plant, Grow, Process, & Eat

	Canning & Preserving	Beginning Beekeeping
<p>Introduction to Soil February 28 @ 6pm Zoom call to get Link</p> <p>Gardening 101 Beginning Gardening March 2 @ 6pm Goldbug</p> <p>*Raised Garden Bed 28 Mar 6pm Goldbug</p> <p>April 8th 10am WD Bryants Corbin</p> <p>Container Planting May 30th 6pm Goldbug Office May 27th 10am @ WD Bryants Corbin</p> <p>Herb Gardening (KSU) May 6 @ 10am WD Bryants Corbin</p>	<p>Beginning Basket Making 18 May 5-8 PM 25 May 5-8 PM 10 slots each \$20</p> <p>Basic Soap Making (KSU) Aug 3 @ 6pm</p>	<p>Basic Beekeeping January 31 @ 6PM</p> <p>Basic Hardware February 28 @ 6PM</p> <p>Diseases and Pests March 28 @ 6PM</p> <p>Honey Harvesting May 30 @ 6PM</p> <p>Value added Produce and Labels June 27 @ 6PM</p> <p>Hive Observation July 25 @ 6PM</p>
<p>Pork Processing March 4th Intro to basic slaughter Mar 11th Pork carcass Primal cuts of pork</p> <p>Rabbit Processing Oct 14 @ 10AM 16 slots</p> <p>Deer Processing NOV 4 @ 10AM</p> <p>Chicken Processing April 29 @ 10AM 15 slots</p> <p>Hunter Education March 25 9-4pm Aug 12 9-4pm</p>	<p>Shiitake Mushroom Logs (KSU) March 23 @ 1pm + 6pm</p> <p>Basic Cheese Making Demo Workshop March 17 10AM</p>	<p>Dehydrating Foods June 24 @ 10am WD Bryants Corbin</p> <p>Water Bath Canning Basics July 22 @ 10am WD Bryants Corbin</p>

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

APRIL



BAIT TO PLATE FISH PROCESSING

How do you process freshly caught fish? All these questions answered and more. Join us for Fish Processing 101.

***April 6 @ 6pm**

**Whitley County Extension Office
4275 N. Hwy 25W
Williamsburg, KY 40769**

RAISED GARDEN BEDS

- Is it cheaper to buy or build a raised garden bed?
- What do I put on the bottom of a raised garden bed?
- How deep should raised garden beds be?
- Do raised beds need foundations?
- How long does soil last in a raised bed?
- Should you line the inside of a raised garden bed?
- Can you put a raised bed on soil?
- Do you need topsoil in a raised bed?

These questions answered and more

***April 8 @ 10am**

**WD Bryant's (Corbin)
1405 S. Main Street
Corbin, KY 40701**



APRIL



KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension Program

SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE
Eastern Kentucky Style

APRIL 21-22, 2023
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

REACHING OUT TO EASTERN KENTUCKY
TO PROMOTE SMALL-SCALE AGRIBUSINESS PRACTICES

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Honey bees
- Container gardening
- Disaster preparedness
- Papaw trees
- Building your digital presence
- Predator management

WHITLEY COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE
4275 N. HWY 25W
Williamsburg, KY 40769

Registration:
<https://bit.ly/ekyconference>
Call (606) 549-7373 or (606) 549-1430
with questions

EASTERN KENTUCKY SMALL FARMS CONFERENCE

***April 21-22 @ 9am-3pm**

Whitley County Extension Office
4275 N. Hwy 25W
Williamsburg, KY 40769

Topics:

Honey Bees
Container Gardening
Disaster Preparedness
Papaw Trees
Building your digital presence
Predator Management

****Lunch will be provided both days****

EARTH DAY EVENT

Saturday

***April 22 @ 2-6pm**

**River Fog Park
Downtown, Williamsburg**

Earth Day event will
include *tree giveaways, informational booths, food vendors, and
activities for the whole family

****limited number of trees available****



**EARTH DAY
CELEBRATION**
in memory of Marion Collet

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
University of Kentucky



APRIL / MAY



CHICKEN PROCESSING

Who should attend:

Those who are considering raising meat birds for their family or for sale and want to gain experience in the butchering process.

***April 29 @ 10am**

**Whitley County Extension Office
4275 N. Hwy 25W
Williamsburg, KY 40769**

HERB GARDENING

***May 6 @ 10am**

**WD Bryant's (Corbin)
1405 S. Main Street
Corbin, KY 40701**



MAY



Growing plants in containers is an easy way to create instant and changeable displays right outside your back door – especially useful if you're short on space.

Attend 14 of the 30 Programs in our Homestead Series 2023 and receive an attendance incentive

CONTAINER GARDENING

***May 27 @ 10am**
WD Bryant's (Corbin)
1405 S. Main Street
Corbin, KY 40701

***May 30 @ 6pm**
Whitley County Extension
Office
4275 N. Hwy 25W
Williamsburg, KY 40769



JUNE



JAMS & JELLIES

***June 17 @ 10am**

**WD Bryant's (Corbin)
1405 S. Main Street
Corbin, KY 40701**

DEHYDRATING FOODS

***June 24 @ 10am**

**WD Bryant's (Corbin)
1405 S. Main Street
Corbin, KY 40701**



Spring tasks for beef cattle producers

Source: Les Anderson, extension beef specialist

Rural Kentucky pastures are beginning to show off spring calves. For cattle producers, this brings in a new cycle of farm management. Farmers have a lot to remember to ensure healthy calves and to successfully rebreed cows.

Observe spring calves closely, checking them at least twice a day. Check first-calf heifers even more. Be ready to assist heifers after one to two hours of hard labor or 90 minutes after the 'water bag' is visible. Be prepared to dry and warm chilled calves as soon as possible. Remember that each calf should get colostrum within an hour of birth.

It's also important to begin identifying calves with ear tags or tattoos while they are still young and easy to handle. Record the birthdate and the dam ID. Castrate and implant commercial male calves as soon as possible and weigh registered calves within the first 24 hours of birth.

Go ahead and separate cows that have calved and increase their feed. Supplemental energy is important for cows receiving hay to prepare them for rebreeding.

A 1,250-pound cow giving approximately 25 pounds of milk per day will need about 25 pounds of fescue hay and five pounds of concentrate daily to maintain good condition.

To go from a condition score of 4 to 5, add an additional two pounds of concentrate to support that cow. Cows must be in good condition to conceive early in the upcoming breeding season.

Avoid feeding hay in excessively muddy areas of pastures to avoid contaminating cows' udders. Calf scours is something to watch for in the herd. If scours becomes a problem, move cows that have not calved to a clean pasture.

Calves with scours may become dehydrated and need fluids to reverse the situation. Consult your veterinarian and send fecal samples to the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab to determine the most effective drug therapy.

Plan to vaccinate calves for clostridial diseases like blackleg and malignant edema as soon as possible. It's also a good time to get yearling measurements on bulls and heifers, if necessary, for special sales. You may need to increase bulls' feed to increase their conditioning for breeding or order semen if you plan to use artificial insemination.

For more information on beef cattle management, contact Whitley Cooperative Extension Office. Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service 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 expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.



Kentucky residents should be on the lookout for an invasive bug with the potential to disrupt multiple industries.



Stripes and spots adorn an adult's front wings, while the back wings are a brilliant red, contrasting with the rest of the body's white, black and khaki coloring.

Kentucky residents should be on the lookout for an invasive bug with the potential to disrupt multiple industries. People have observed the spotted lanternfly close to the Kentucky border in Ohio and Indiana. If the insect enters the commonwealth, it can impact wine, apples, Christmas trees, hops and Kentucky's sizable forest industries.

"Spotted lanternflies feed on over 70 different host plants and could really wreck a number of small commodities we have in the state," said Jonathan Larson, entomology assistant professor. "They also feed on hardwood trees, so once they get in people's yards, their numbers can just explode. It kind of becomes a quality-of-life issue. Some people in Pennsylvania, where the lanternflies were first discovered in 2014, don't even want to go outside anymore. There's so many of these bugs jumping and flying around on their property."

While feeding, the spotted lanternfly excretes a sugary substance called honeydew. When large lanternfly populations establish themselves, the insects create so much honeydew that black sooty mold thrives, negatively impacting other vegetation. This honeydew also attracts stinging insects, who feed on the sugary material. Even though the impacts of infestation in diverse woodlands and natural areas are not as straightforward as in more uniform agricultural and landscape settings, the extra strain the bug puts on trees' resources may worsen tree stress.

"The spotted lanternfly can really devastate plant health, so if someone sees something they suspect is a lanternfly they either need to catch it or take a picture," Larson said. "Other insects in the state can resemble the spotted lanternfly, so we must verify the insect first."

Stripes and spots adorn an adult's front wings, while the back wings are a brilliant red, contrasting with the rest of the body's white, black and khaki coloring. If spotted lanternflies appear in Kentucky and stay relatively contained, Larson said professionals may be able to locally eradicate the insects to prevent their spread and establishment. Treating potential host trees with insecticides and eradicating Tree-of-Heaven and other preferred hosts will help with containment. Early detection increases the chances of controlling the insect's spread.

The invasive Tree-of-Heaven is one of the insects' favorite hosts. The fast-growing tree thrives in both urban and woodland settings, out-competing native species and tolerating a wide range of environmental conditions. It commonly affects disturbed urban areas, roadsides and railroad tracks, also invading natural areas, particularly after harvests in wooded areas, where its papery wind-borne seeds can quickly colonize and form dense stands.

"If the spotted lanternfly makes it into Kentucky, it could lead to restrictions on the movement of goods such as lumber, the need for quarantines and even the requirement of permits to travel or move goods out of infested areas," Larson said. "All of this could have economic or quality-of-life repercussions for Kentuckians living in infested areas."

To learn more about spotted lanternflies, visit <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef465>. Kentuckians who think they spot a spotted lanternfly, please send pictures to the UK Department of Entomology at reportapest@uky.edu.

Available Equipment

Please call to reserve Equipment 606-549-1430



Small Mulch Layer



Mini Layer w/ Mulch Lift & Trailer (KSU)



Large Mulch Layer w/ Trailer



Potato Planter



Potato Hiller & Sprayer



Potato Harvester



Vegetable Planter



Lime Spreader



Mulch Lifter



Chicken Plucker



Scalder



Tiller



Raised Bed Tiller

*Lessee pays a refundable deposit of \$100, which will be refunded when equipment is returned clean.

Cook Wild KENTUCKY



VENISON



FISH



TURTLE



TURKEY



DOVE



RABBIT



SQUIRREL



BEAVER



DUCK



FROG

WHO WE ARE

The Kentucky Nutrition Education Program and its partners in Hunters for the Hungry, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Feeding Kentucky, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, among other local county collaborators, are helping to remove food insecurity barriers through wild game.

WHAT WE DO

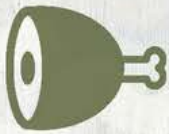
Here are some of the ways UK Cooperative Extension is involved in Cook Wild Kentucky:

- V Tasting demos and recipe handouts
- V Partnering with local food pantries
- V Organizing a deer harvest
- V Trainings conducted with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Hook and Cook
 - Field to Fork
 - Local community



“I support this program completely. It is one of the best outreach efforts to low income families that I have seen. It is also quite valuable to our audiences that are trying to eat more naturally.”

OUR IMPACT



More than 800

partner food pantries across the state accept venison donations.



2,108 deer

totalling 85,767 pounds were donated by Hunters for the Hungry in 2019.



10 counties

are participating in the youth 4-H Hunters for the Hungry pilot.

“The Field to Fork and Hook & Cook Programs have taught me so much about resources we have literally steps from our doors to help the fight against hunger and food insecurity in our county!”

“Wow! I love that venison! I don't usually like the taste of deer but that was great!”

Cook Wild recipe cards

We published 17 recipes in 2019 and 7 recipes for 2020. Recipe cards are available at your local Cooperative Extension office.



**FEEDING
KENTUCKY**



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP.



USDA
Supplemental
Nutrition
Assistance
Program



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

Master Gardener *Graduation* **BATCH 2023**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
our special celebration



June 9
Friday @ 5pm
4275 N. Hwy 25W
Williamsburg, KY 40769



**Whitley County
Beekeeper's Association**

**MONDAY
6 PM**



**MONDAY
6 PM**

Whitley County Extension Office
4275 N. Hwy 25W
Williamsburg, KY 40769

If your interested in Bee's this is the place to bee!
Connects local beekeepers
and the community through
information and education about
bees.

***10 April
*8 May
*12 June**

*Small Farms
meet today
Tuesday
7PM*

Whitley County
Extension Office
4275 N. Hwy 25W
Williamsburg, KY 40769

***18 April
*16 May
*20 June**

**Whitley County
Cattlemen's
Association**

**Thursday
7PM**

Whitley County
Extension Office
4275 N. Hwy 25W
Williamsburg, KY 40769

**Thursday
7PM**

We provide a strong proactive voice for Whitley County
beef farm families, serve as a resource for information
and education for producers, consumers and the
industry and be a catalyst for enhancing producer
sustainability.

***27 April
*25 May
*29 June**

Growing Asparagus

Asparagus is a wonderful vegetable, it can be prepared in so many different ways, it is full of nutrients, and by the end of April, there should be plenty of asparagus available. It is an easy crop to grow and is very popular, but different than most vegetables because it is a perennial.

If done correctly, one planting of asparagus crowns can keep you in asparagus for 20 to 25 years. Asparagus produces something other than the little spear you see in the grocery store. That spear is actually the sprout; it's the tip. After you stop harvesting, you have to let it grow to a ferny, shrub-like plant, six-to-eight feet in height, to make more food for the sprouts you will harvest next year.

It is easy to grow in the home garden and doesn't have a tremendous amount of disease or insect pressure. Asparagus is a slow reward because when you plant it, you are generally not going to get any that first season; it will produce spears, but you should not cut them. There will be only minimal production the second season and by year three, you will have a six-to-eight week harvest season.

When it comes to selecting asparagus, you should look for all-male varieties. Asparagus is seedling propagated, even in an all-male variety, there will be a few female plants. The ratio is less if they don't spend energy producing flowers and little berries, and that means more asparagus for you.

As far as varieties are concerned, Purple Passion is an older variety. Purple Pacifica has less lignin, is less fibrous, making it more crispy and crunchy, but it will turn green when you cook it. The sugar content is higher and it is great broken up in salads.

You should plant your asparagus six-to-eight inches deep and cover it as it grows. Asparagus is pretty much the first vegetable you can get out of the garden each season and is beloved because of the flavor. It tastes so much better when it is fresh-picked and hasn't been on a truck for weeks.

Contact Whitley County Extension office for more information on growing asparagus.



CREATE A CONSERVATION PLAN FOR YOUR FOREST

The Ruffed Grouse Society, in partnership with the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Division of Forestry, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), is excited to share with you an opportunity to improve forest health and wildlife habitat on your land with the help of our new KY Forest Wildlife Specialist.

You can take advantage of this new opportunity to create a conservation plan and receive technical assistance for improving habitat in your forest through practices like early successional habitat creation, forest stand improvement, controlling invasive plants, prescribed burning, and planting beneficial native plants.

Our Forest Wildlife Specialist will work with you to create a plan that fits your goals for your forest and benefits declining species like ruffed grouse, American woodcock, wood thrush, and native pollinators, as well as a variety of other wildlife.



Ruffed Grouse photo by Agnieszka Bacal



Forest photo by Liz Brewer

Financial assistance opportunities are available for landowners in Kentucky through USDA-NRCS programs to help you implement the practices in your conservation plan. Landowners do not need to reside in-state to be eligible for assistance for properties in Kentucky. The Wildlife Specialist will write a plan that meets USDA-NRCS requirements to help streamline your application for financial assistance.

More information on financial assistance can be found on our blog at ruffedgrousesociety.org/blog.

If you are interested in actively managing your forest to enhance wildlife habitat and forest health, we want to hear from you!

Contact:

Ben Rhodes
Kentucky Forest Wildlife Specialist
(859) 487-0177 | benr@ruffedgrousesociety.org

KENTUCKY

Early Successional Habitat

(Edge Feathering)

Edge feathering is the practice of creating a soft edge or a gradual transition from one habitat type to another. Edge provides excellent wildlife habitat. Species such as white-tailed deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbits, American woodcock, bobwhite quail, and various song birds utilize these areas for cover, browse, and nesting habitat. Edge feathering removes undesirable tree species while leaving wildlife friendly hard and soft mast. This selection creates varying amounts of sunlight that generally increase as you move closer to the field. This allows various plant communities to be available in a small area which provides diverse cover and browse.



If you are a landowner that may be interested in technical guidance, cost-share assistance, and/or a forest management plan please contact:

Daniel Skinner KDFWR Private Lands Biologist

Phone: 606-224-5822

Email: Daniel.Skinner@ky.gov

Poultry



There are many reasons an individual or family may want to raise poultry:

1. For-profit through the sale of meat, eggs, and/or chicks.
2. For family consumption of meat and/or eggs
3. As a control for pests
4. As a hobby and/or for poultry exhibitions
5. As a 4-H or FFA project

A small poultry flock is relatively inexpensive, requires less space than most animal enterprises, and doesn't require much time. In addition, raising a small poultry flock is a good way to introduce youth to animal agriculture (for food or fiber) and to help build a sense of responsibility (since animals need to be taken care of 365 days a year).

There are some important things to remember though. Every year CDC reports multi-state outbreaks of human salmonellosis linked to contact with backyard poultry. It is important to wash your hands after handling poultry or anything that they have come into contact with. Keep an eye on any young children handling poultry to make sure they don't kiss the birds or bring them near their faces. Make sure they don't put their fingers in their mouths.

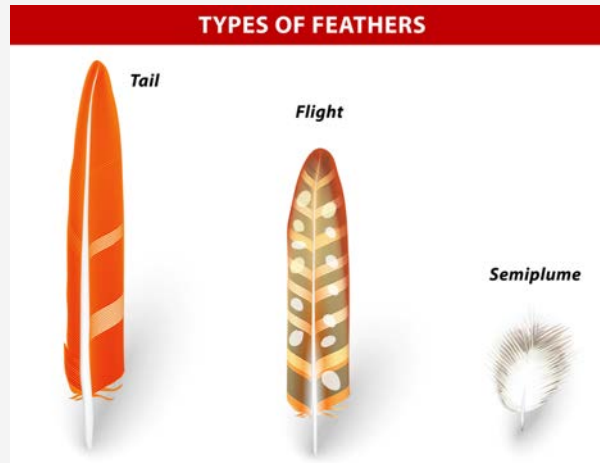


Backyard flocks can be a source of great entertainment. This backyard flock owner likes to have a cup of coffee while watching the antics of his chicken flock. Photo by: Dr. Jacquie Jacob, University of Kentucky

Poultry feathers - What can they be used for?

While feathers are often considered a by-product of poultry production (and often a waste by-product), some producers raise poultry specifically for their feathers. Feathers are used in a number of decorative products such as boas, feather fans, masks, costume accessories, bird ornaments, and even earrings and flowers. Feathers are also routinely used in the production of fishing flies.

There are three main types of feathers as shown in the image.



While chicken feathers don't weigh much, with the amount of chicken produced in the U.S. annually, the volume of feathers produced is considerable. For the 8+ billion broilers produced each year, 2-3 billion pounds of feathers are produced. Research has shown that the keratin in the feathers (a protein also found in hair, hoofs, horns, and wool) can be used in the production of a wide variety of products.

- Pillow stuffing
- Diapers
- Insulation
- Upholstery padding
- Paper
- Plastics
- Feather meal

Feather fiber has properties in common with cellulose, the starch that forms wood and paper. Feathers are keratin just like wool, but the surface area is much larger because the diameter of the fibers is smaller. As a result, the fiber can absorb more moisture than wool or cellulose fibers. The crystal structure of feather fibers also makes them naturally stable and durable. More than 16 million diapers, made from wood pulp, are discarded each year. A year's worth of feathers could replace approximately 25% of the wood pulp used annually for diapers. Three companies - Featherfiber Corporation, Maxim Systems, and Tyson Foods - are now working to scale up the production of absorbent feather-based products including diapers, filters, insulation, upholstery padding, paper, and even clothing.

The orderly structure of keratin helps stabilize the structure of plastics, making them stronger. Feather meal is produced by a high-pressure, steam-processing method similar to autoclaving, followed by drying. Heat and steam hydrolyze the feathers into a cysteine-rich, high protein product that is 60% digestible.

Spring Hunting Season

April 1-2

Youth Only

April 15 - May 7
General Season



There is actually only one breed of turkey with several varieties, although many people do refer to these varieties as breeds.

Turkeys are raised for meat, but not eggs. There are no varieties of turkeys that have been developed for egg production (as with chickens, ducks, and quail). As a result, turkeys do not produce many eggs.

Vocabulary

- Turkey is singular; turkeys is plural
- Tom = adult male turkey (also often referred to as a 'gobbler')
- Hen = adult female turkey
- Poult = young (baby) turkey
- Jake = young male turkey
- Jenny = young female turkey
- Caruncle = brightly colored growths on the throat region. Turns bright red when a tom is upset or during courtship activities.
- Snood = flap of skin that hangs over the turkey's beak. Engorges and turns bright red when a tom is upset or during courtship activities.
- Wattle = flap of skin under the turkey's chin. Turns bright red when the turkey is upset or during courtship
- Beard = stiff hair-like projections from the top of the neck of a tom (male turkey)

As turkeys get older it is easier to tell the males (toms) from the females (hens).

- Toms are typically larger than hens
- Toms have a larger snood (the fleshy material that hangs from their head) than hens
- Toms have larger caruncles (the fleshy bumps on the top of their necks) than females
- Sexually mature toms will grow a beard (stiff hair-like projects from the top of their neck)
- Toms will strut

Broad-breasted White is the most common type of turkey raised commercially in the United States. It has a larger breast than the other varieties of turkeys.

The term heritage turkey refers to naturally mating turkey breeds indigenous to the Americas. These varieties date back to early colonial times. They are Beltsville Small White, Bourbon Red, Jersey Buff, Narragansett, Royal Palm, Slate, Standard Bronze and White Holland. Heritage turkeys grow at a much slower rate than Broad-Breasted Whites. The result is a smaller bird but one with a more balanced dark-to-white meat ratio; a more intense, sometimes gamey, flavor; and a thick layer of fat surrounding the breast.

Opening Days!



Corbin

April 25th 5-8

NIBROC Park

Williamsburg

May 18th 5-7

Bill Woods Park

Still accepting Vendors!

email wcfarmermarket@gmail.com

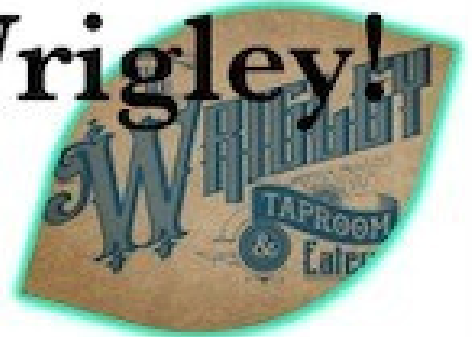


Join us at **The Wrigley!**

April 11th

Fundraiser Night!

First 30 food orders will receive a FREE limited edition WCFM pin.



**Have a Great Meal and
Support Locally Grown Food!**



Spring – An Exciting Time for Bees & Beekeepers

by the Whitley County Beekeepers Association



Spring - if you are a beekeeper or a beekeeper-in-waiting, this time of year is filled with excitement. In practical terms, what does spring tell us about the winter just ending and the year ahead? Let's tackle that by looking at three topics. First, what aspects of spring weather conditions are relevant for bees and beekeepers? Second, what has been going on in the hive over the last few months, and what's happening now? Third, what can you be doing now to increase the likelihood of a successful 2023 beekeeping season?

Spring Conditions: The longer days mean warmer daily high temperatures, but the nights are still cool. Occasional nights are still very cold, not unlike the low temperatures that might occur during the winter. In any given 24-hour period it is likely there will be significant temperature fluctuations, especially in early spring, but this is possible through March and April.

The longer, warmer days mean spring flowers are erupting on trees, in lawns, in the woods, in gardens, and in your neighborhood. The timing of flowering may be influenced by factors that include daily high temperatures, how long warm periods last, day length, moisture availability, and other factors, but it is very important for bees. Species that flower at this time of year may experience flowering "fits and starts" when a string of warm days is followed by nights of below freezing temperatures. This can mean interruptions in the availability of resources that help bees during the spring build-up.

What's been happening in the hive over the last few months, and what is going on now: If your colonies are still going they will likely have consumed a lot of their winter stores by now, even if they had a lot of provisions going into winter. The bees will try to replenish this when the nectar flow begins but it's a slow process in early spring. It's easy to overlook how important this is. The days are getting warmer and flowers are blooming – maybe you've assumed that if your bees have made it this far they'll be okay, but starvation is still a real threat. The spring nectar flow, though it started somewhat early this year, has been interrupted, colder spring nights mean bees can't start foraging as early in the morning, and spring rains may prevent foraging for hours or days. Combined, these stresses may keep bees dependent on winter stores, which are dwindling.

In preparation for the spring build up the queen will have begun to lay eggs again, possibly as early as January or February. This serves two purposes - producing a new work force, and producing drones for colony reproduction. Rearing brood is costly work for a colony, requiring energy in the form of carbohydrates, and protein (why pollen is so important). Healthy, vigorous colonies will be growing exponentially if the queen has been busy for weeks. If you watch the entrance on warmer days you should expect to see increasing activity, including foragers coming back to the hive with full pollen sacs, and possibly drones. Drones would indicate that the queen has been laying for more than three weeks since drones take 24 days to develop from egg to adult.

A booming hive also means the colony is preparing for colony reproduction, which we call *swarming*. The timing of the earliest swarms is always hard to predict precisely, but with a warmer winter and early spring flowers it can be as early as late March or early April. If you do an inspection on a healthy colony at this time you might expect to see capped brood (worker and drone), cells filled with watery honey that are not yet capped, some freshly capped cells with honey, and possibly queen cells, depending on



how early the queen started laying eggs. The queen cells are easy to distinguish because of their shape (elongated), and location (along the lower edges of frames that have brood on them).

What you can be doing now to avoid a spring loss due to starvation: If you overwintered some colonies and aren't confident they went into winter with a lot of reserves, it is very important that you check them. One easy, non-invasive way to do this is to stand behind the hive and lift very slightly. A game scale can help with this! If the hive feels light you might consider giving them a sugar cake to hold them over for a few weeks. Even a small section of plain newspaper with some table sugar on it is better than letting them starve. While some beekeepers prefer to give syrup, this can be problematic. Bees will treat the sugar syrup as though it was nectar by dehydrating and storing it, even capping it with wax, but it is NOT honey and will contaminate any honey the bees actually produce during that time. You don't want to extract from any supers that were on a hive while sugar syrup was being fed.

What you can be doing now if you have overwintered colonies that appear to be building up well: If you have vigorous hives and it isn't your first year of beekeeping, you will probably have thought about swarm season and decided in advance how to manage your bees. Some beekeepers do "swarm prevention" because they feel swarming will significantly reduce the amount of honey they can harvest, and honey production is a priority for them. Other beekeepers elect not to use swarm prevention in their management because they see swarming as normal and healthy, and prioritize natural methods over honey production. By the time a swarm happens the bees have been making preparations for weeks. It may take you by surprise, but it won't be a surprise for them.

Preventing swarming usually means making splits early – this takes planning at the very least, and ideally, some experience. If you haven't made splits previously, do plenty of research in advance and ask an experienced beekeeper to help you. If you decide to try doing a split make sure before you start that you have all the equipment ready to go, including hive stand, bottom board, deep or medium box with additional frames, inner cover, outer cover, and set up for feeding. Be prepared to nurture your splits through the early weeks to give them the best chance of succeeding. If you go in for an inspection or to do the split and find quite a few queen cells, it may very well be too late for a split. Some beekeepers cut out every queen cell they can find and assume a swarm will not leave the hive, but swarms leave with the "old" queen, so cutting out queen cells may not prevent swarming. It may also guarantee that when the swarm leaves with the old queen there will not be a new queen available for the existing hive.

If you use a more natural approach to beekeeping you can plan ahead to catch some of your swarms by having additional hives ready to go (see equipment list above). If you haven't caught swarms before seek out high quality resources and reach out to an experienced beekeeper. Catching swarms can be exhilarating – it is great fun and will give you a whole new perspective on beekeeping!

If you are a beekeeper-in-waiting, have all your equipment and hive stand ready and wait for that call, either that your package of bees has arrived in the mail, or that a beekeeper has caught a swarm for you. Your beekeeping journey is about to begin!



Whitley County Beekeepers Association

Who We Are: Beekeepers sharing successes, learning, knowledge, wisdom, ideas, tips, excitement, honey, recipes, and encouragement.

What We Do: Enthusiastically help new beekeepers get started, expand the knowledge of experienced beekeepers, share our passion for beekeeping, collect swarms, process and sell honey through local contacts and farmers markets

When We Meet: 2nd Monday of every month at 6 p.m.

Where We Meet: Whitley County Extension Office, 4275 N. Hwy 25 W, Williamsburg, KY 40769

Facebook Page: Whitley County Beekeepers Association

E-mail Address: whitleycountykybeekeepers@gmail.com

For more information contact:

Whitley County Extension

606-549-1430

Follow the Whitley County Beekeepers Association on Facebook



2023 Education Programs*

Mon. Jan 9 – Ordering Equipment and Bulk Order: Duane Foley

Sat. Feb 11 – Bee School at McCreary Central High School

Mon. Feb 13 – Assembling Equipment: Duane Foley and Edward Watson

Mon. Mar 13 – Sanitizing Equipment: Theresa Martin

Mon. Apr 10 – Pollination and Flower Structures: Renee Yetter

Mon. May 8 – Raising Queens: Bonnie Joseph

Sat. May 20 – Field Day with Dr. Tammy Horn Potter

Mon. June 12 – Dead Bees Don't Make Honey: 10 Tips for Healthy Bees: Theresa Martin

Mon. Jul 10 – Wax Moths: Univ of Cumberland Entomology Expert

Sat. Jul 15 – Field Day at Darren Whitaker Farm

Mon. Aug 14 – Propolis Uses by Bees and Humans: Todd Yetter and Theresa Martin

Mon. Sep 11 – Races of Bees: Laura Rogers

Sat. Sep 16 – Field Day at Michelle Breedlove Farm

Mon. Oct 9 – Business Meeting and 2024 Planning

Mon. Nov 13 – Wax, Candles, Soaps: Linda Reynolds

Mon. Dec 11 – Holiday Party and Beekeeper of the Year

* Subject to Change. Visit [Whitley County Beekeepers Association Facebook page](#) for updates



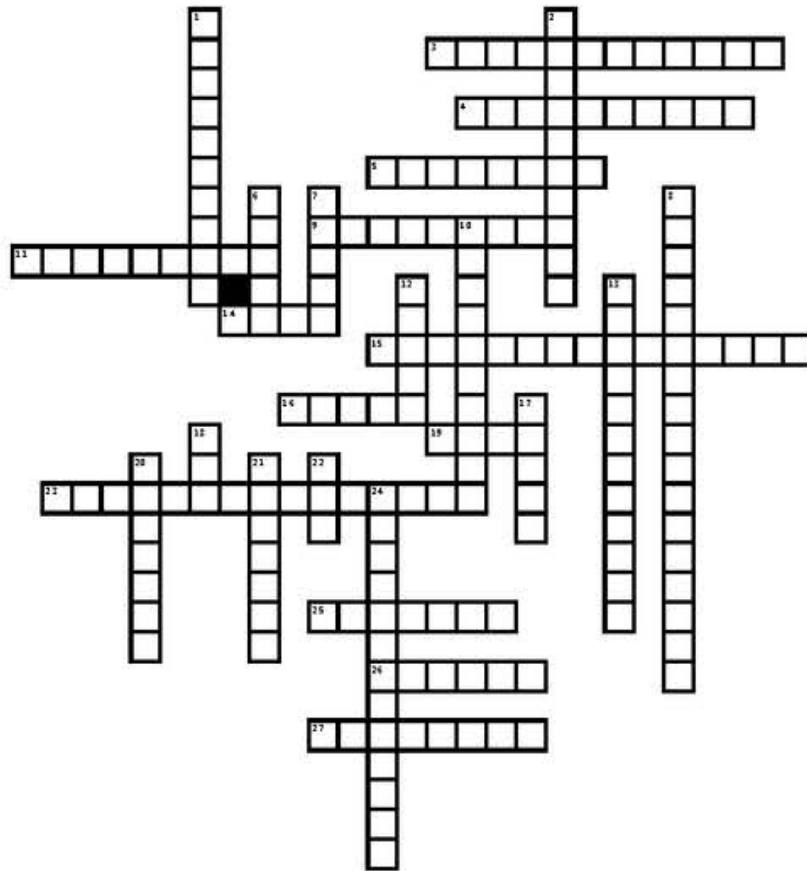
BEE SWARM?

DON'T KILL

Call the Whitley
County Extension
Office at

606-549-1430 and we
will send a trained
beekeeper to come
get it.

Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. Who meets the 3d Tuesday of every month
2. What program would harvesting a deer fall under
6. County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent
7. how many different mulch layers do we have for community usage
8. Kentucky residents should be on the lookout for what invasive bug
10. How many lbs of fescue hay would a 1250 lb cow giving approx 25 lbs of milk per day need to maintain good condition
12. County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent
13. What program would Gardening fall under at Extension
17. KSU Small Farms Area Agent
18. What program would water bath canning fall under at Extension
20. How many different host plants does the spotted lanternfly feed on
21. Fine Arts Agent
22. What is the adult male Turkey called
24. Who is having opening day on April 25th

Across:

3. what is the spotted lantern fly's favorite host
4. Who meets the 2nd Monday of every month
5. County Horticulture Agent
9. What Series are we promoting for 2023
11. Who meets the last Thursday of every month
13. what camp is June 13-16
14. What is the name of our new registration program
15. Who is having a graduation in June
16. What is a young female Turkey called
19. County 4H Agent
23. What agency would you contact for information on Beef Cattle Management
25. What day do we do the weekly AG report on the Radio between 7-8 AM
26. What is another word for the tip of the Asparagus plant
27. what is another name for a blooming hive or colony that is preparing for reproduction

****most of the answers can be found in this newsletter****

Lawn Mower Safety

The start of the season is also a good time to check the lawn for any hazards such as metal, sticks or other items.

With the arrival of spring comes the weekly chore of mowing the lawn. Each year, this simple task results in thousands of injuries to adults and children.

Lawn mower injuries can include loss of fingers and toes, broken bones, cuts and eye injuries and can be devastating to a family.

Proper safety precautions can go a long way toward eliminating these injuries, said Larry Piercy, safety specialist with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. Those safety precautions begin before the lawn mower ever cuts a blade of grass.

First, be sure all the safety equipment on the mower is in good condition. If it is in poor condition, replace the equipment prior to operation.

“The start of the season is also a good time to check the lawn for any hazards such as metal, sticks or other items.

If youths will be using the equipment, be sure they are physically capable. If the handle of a push mower is too high, they will not have proper control and pushing will be difficult. Be sure to emphasize safety with youth and oversee their work until you are sure they are capable of safely handling the chore.

The following tips are compiled from information from Piercy, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- *Keep children and pets out of the yard when mowing.
- *Wear proper clothing such as sturdy shoes and long pants.
- *Don't cut the grass when it is wet. Wet clippings can clog the discharge chute, jam the blades and shut down the engine.
- *Push the mower forward, never backward.
- *When using a push mower, cut across the slope. If using a riding mower, drive up and down the slope.
- *Never carry passengers.
- *Refuel the mower only after the engine cools off and disconnect the spark plug when servicing the mower.
- *Make sure your walk-behind mower has a rear skirt to catch debris slung backwards at your feet.
- *What age is appropriate for youth to begin mowing is subject to the individual child but the AAP recommends children younger than 14 should not be allowed to use riding mowers and children younger than 12 should not be allowed to use push mowers.

Tractor Roll-Over Protection Is Life and Death Matter

Kentucky's rolling hills may provide a scenic springtime backdrop for spring fieldwork, but those steep inclines also provide for a potentially deadly scenario if farmers don't use roll-over protection devices on their tractors.

"The death rate in Kentucky agriculture is two to three times higher than the national average, primarily because of our high number of tractor and tractor overturn deaths," said Larry Piercy, Extension agricultural safety and health specialist in the UK College of Agriculture.

"Even sadder is the fact that most of those deaths could have been prevented if the victims had installed roll-over protection structures and seat belts on the tractors that killed them." said Piercy.

Roll bars or ROPS are designed to provide a zone of protection for the operator in the case of an overturn and, in most situations, will stop the tractor on its side. The seatbelt will keep the operator within the zone of safety provided by the roll bar.

"Unfortunately, less than a third of the tractors in our state are equipped with roll-over protection," said Piercy.

Prices for this life-saving equipment have been greatly reduced in recent years and many older tractors can be now be retro-fitted with ROPs at a cost ranging from \$600-\$1,000.

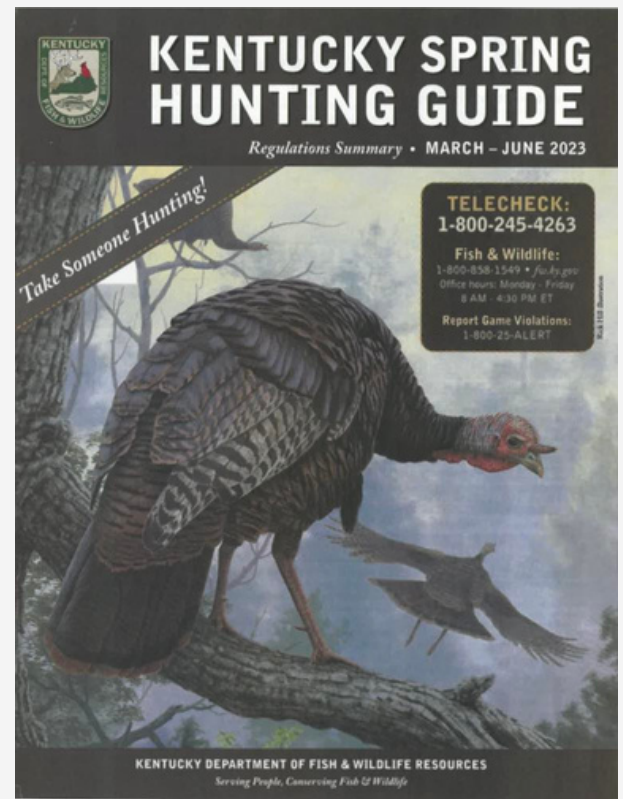
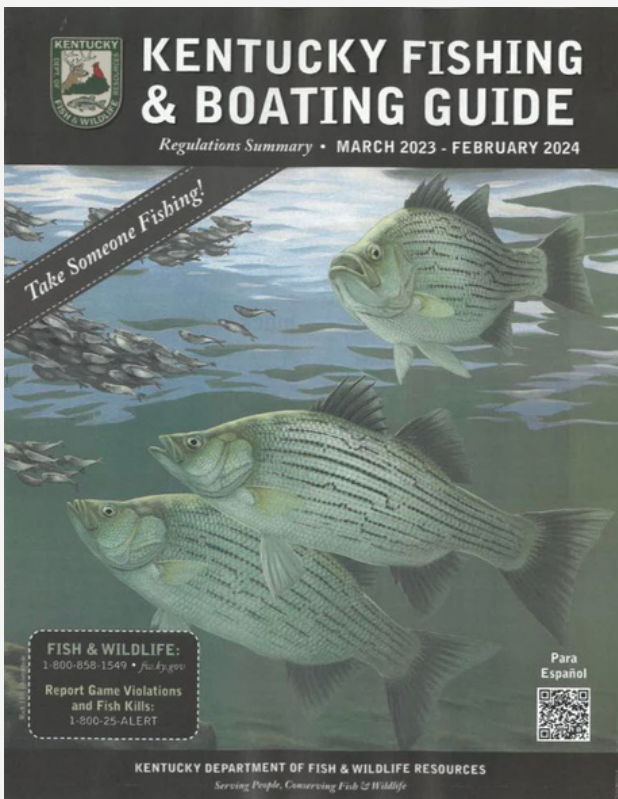
Some older tractors manufactured before the late 1960's may be more expensive and ROPS may not be available for some older tractors. County Extension agents may be able to help producers locate ROPs sources for older tractors.

If you have ROP's or a safety cab, get in the habit of using the seatbelt," said Piercy. "While ROPS provide basic protection but the seat belt insures that you will be held inside that zone of protection or from being thrown from the tractor."

One excuse that has probably been uttered by more than one rollover victim is that "nothing like that could ever happen to me." The statistics say otherwise.

"A survey of farmers over 55 years of age indicated that one in nine had experienced a roll-over during their lifetime," emphasized Piercy. "Of those who flipped their tractor, a third had the tractor roll completely over more than two times so the risk of overturning a tractor during a lifetime of farming is fairly high."





Stop by today and get your copy
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**Whitley County
Cooperative
Extension -
Agriculture & Natural Resources**



**Whitley County
Cooperative
Extension -
Horticulture**



**For weekly updates tune into 104.3 FM
every Tuesday between 7am-8am for the
weekly AG report given by Agriculture Agent
Stacy White and Horticulture Agent
Ben Prewitt**

Individual Assistance

The Whitley County Extension Office can assist individuals with questions on many topics. Do you have an animal that has a disease or an insect and you don't know what it is or what to do with it? A tree or weed you need identified or information on? We can help you find the answer to many of these questions. Feel free to contact us by phone (606-549-1430), email, or stop by the office.

We have a registration program through PACE.

Take a moment to create your user account at ukywhitley.pacecommunity.net

This will allow you to sign up for classes, at your convenience. Our system will send out reminders and recommend classes, based on your interest. PACE will also track enrollment for our database. This will help to make our classes more efficient and user friendly.

When registering more than one person, each person will need an account. If you are registering minors, that do not have an email, leave that part blank and use your phone number to register them. Or you can add them to your registration. Each person will need to be registered to hold their spot in class.

You will receive a confirmation email.

The first step and most important step is to set up your user account. This is a simple 5 minute process.

After registering for a class, in the checkout phase- you need to hit checkout twice, to actually be registered. If you have any issues registering or need assistance, please don't hesitate to give us a call at 606-549-1430. We can walk you through the process or help you get registered.

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University of Kentucky
 College of Agriculture,
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 Cooperative Extension Service

Whitley County
 P.O. Box 328
 Williamsburg, KY 40769

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 US POSTAGE
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 WILLIAMSBURG, KY
 PERMIT NO. 4



Stacy J. White
 ANR Agent

sjwhite@uky.edu

Cell: 606-521-1705



Andrew Modica
 ANR /Hort
 Program
 Assistant

andrew.modica@uky.edu

Cell: 317-739-9497

Office: 606-549-1430



Ben Prewitt
 Horticulture Agent

ben.prewitt@uky.edu

Cell: 606-521-0511