



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.



October - December 2023

AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE

Whitley County Cooperative Extension Service



IN THIS ISSUE:

Program / Events

- Field to Fork**
- Veterans Day Dinner**
- Rabbit Processing Workshop**
- Wilderness Trail Beef Reproductive Health Survey**
- Master Gardener**
- How Bugs Get Ready for Winter**
- Hammerhead Worms**
- Hunting & Trapping Season**
- Fall Beekeeping**
- Chicken**
- Winter Footing for Horses**

Office hours are
Monday-Friday
8:00 - 4:30

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

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



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



Programs / Events

- *October 3 - Master Gardener Informational Program @ 6pm
- *October 9 - Beekeepers Association @ 6pm
- *October 10 - Registration opens for Veterans Day Dinner 549-1430
- *October 14 - Rabbit Processing @ 10am
- *October 14 - Junior Master Gardener @ 10am
- *October 17 - Small Farms @ 7pm
- *October 26 - Whitley County Cattlemen @7pm

- *November 4 - Field to Fork (Deer Processing) @ 10am
- *November 7 - Election Day
- *November 10 - Veterans Day Dinner @ 1730 (5:30pm) 
- *November 11 - Junior Master Gardener @ 10am
- *November 13 - Beekeepers Association @ 6pm
- *November 21 - Small Farms @ 6pm
- *November 23 - Thanksgiving (Office closed)
- *November 24 - Office closed
- *November 30 - Whitley County Cattlemen @7pm

- *December 9 - Junior Master Gardener @ 10am
- *December 11 - Beekeepers Association @ 6pm
- *December 19 - Small Farms @ 6pm
- *December TBD -Whitley County Cattlemen @7pm
- *December 25 - Christmas Day (Office Closed)
- *December 26 - Office closed
- *December 27 - Office closed
- *December 28 - Office closed
- *December 29 - Office closed

- *January 1, 2024 - Office closed



University of Kentucky
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Cooperative Extension Service



FIELD

to

FORK

HARVEST YOUR OWN LOCAL MEAT

DEER PROCESSING WORKSHOP

Nov. 4, 2023

TOPICS COVERED

Deer Hunting Info, Cook Wild KY Recipes, Deer Processing Demo, & more!

Begins at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern)

Call to Register: 606-549-1430

Location: Whitley County Cooperative Extension Services

More Info: Stacy White, sjwhite@uky.edu



YouTube

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Disabilities



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

 University of
Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



WHITLEY COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
OFFICE PRESENTS



ANNUAL VETERANS DAY *Dinner*

*Join us as we celebrate our Veterans with a
Free Chili Dinner, Dessert and Drinks
Veterans and their families are invited to attend*



**Call 606-549-1430 to register
Please communicate the total
number of guest coming in your
party**

Registration opens October 10th



FRIDAY

10 NOV 2023

1730-1930

(5:30-7:30PM)



Achieve food freedom and sustainability on your own homestead

Rabbit Processing Workshop



Saturday
October 14th
10 AM

4275 N. Hwy 25W
Williamsburg, KY 40769



Rabbits are ideal for small or large homesteads, especially if you seek to create a sustainable life. They are quiet, easy to handle, and require very little work. Rabbits are a great addition to any urban or large homestead.



Space is limited for this *humane hands* on workshop. Call 549-1430 to reserve your spot now to ensure you are on the path to achieving food freedom.

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



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Rabbit Jambalaya

- 1 rabbit (cut up, about 3 pounds)
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 to 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup diced onion
- 1 cup diced bell pepper
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ pound Andouille or Polish sausage, thinly sliced
- *Can substitute, but will change fat content of serving.
- 2 cans (14.5 ounces each) no-salt-added diced tomatoes
- 1 cup, uncooked long grain rice
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon hot pepper sauce, if desired

Rub the rabbit pieces with paprika. Heat oil in a large skillet, add rabbit, and brown on all sides. Add 2 cups of chicken broth and bring to a boil. Cover skillet, reduce heat, and simmer for 2 hours or until the internal temperature of the rabbit reaches 165 degrees Fahrenheit. Add more chicken broth, if needed. Remove rabbit from skillet. When cool enough to handle, remove the bones from the meat. Add remaining chicken broth to skillet. Return rabbit meat to skillet and stir in remaining ingredients. Return to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer for 20 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to rest, covered, for five minutes. Fluff with a fork and serve.

Yield: 6 servings

Nutrition Facts	
6 servings per container	
Serving size	2 cups (590g)
Amount per serving	
Calories	560
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 17g	22%
Saturated Fat 4.5g 23%	
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 205mg	68%
Sodium 690mg	30%
Total Carbohydrate 36g	13%
Dietary Fiber 2g 7%	
Total Sugars 7g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars 0%	
Protein 62g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 112mg	8%
Iron 10mg	60%
Potassium 1,089mg	25%

*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.



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



University of Kentucky
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Cooperative Extension Service

Wilderness Trail Area Beef Series

WTA Beef Marketing Alliance
1679 Hwy 30, East Bernstadt, KY 40729

October 19th @ 6 pm: Reproductive Health

Pregnancy checks by blood, ultrasound and palpation

Both classes will include demonstrations on live cattle. These sessions will be a great learning opportunity, and will qualify for your CAIP educational component if you sign in with your counties Ag agent upon your arrival to either class! BQA certification is required for the CAIP program if you do anything pertaining to large animals as your project. This includes buying gates, feeders, working facilities, chutes, etc.

A free meal will be served at each session as well!

Registration is requested by calling (606) 256-2403

**Cooperative
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Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development

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An equal opportunity organization

WHITLEY COUNTY

**How can we
serve you?**

Take a ten-minute
survey to help us develop
programs addressing
needs in our community.



go.uky.edu/serveKY

KENTUCKY  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Learn and Train in:

Kentucky Extension Master Gardener

Entomology
Botany
Soil and Fertility
Home Fruit and Vegetables Production
Annuals and Perennials
Woody Plant Care
Pruning
Identifying Plant Diseases
Pesticides and Pesticide Safety
Composting
Lawn Establishment and Care
Propagation



What do the Master Gardeners do to fulfill their service requirements?

Demonstration and Trial Gardens
Community Gardens
City Beautification Projects
Volunteering in the Horticulture Division of the OFTD Vegetable show
Assisting in Educational Programs, Workshops, and Projects at the Extension Office and in the Community
Educational talks to local clubs, schools, civic groups, and organizations
Participation in Community and Agritourism Events, such as Farmers Market Appreciation Day
Home Landscape Evaluations
Writing Columns for the Whitley County Horticulture Newsletter
Answering Horticulture-Related Questions and much more!

**If interested in our next
Master Gardener Program
Give us a call by October 31st
606-549-1430**



How Bugs Get Ready for Winter

As the season continues to cool, life outside is preparing for the cold. This includes the insects and spiders who must be able to survive exposure to freezing and sub-freezing temperatures. Insect development and survivorship is at the whim of the climate around them, in particular, temperature drives their lives. Some folks may be hoping that Old Man Winter will provide some free pest control in December or January. Unfortunately, insects have adapted many ways of mitigating the effects of cold and will be able to survive thanks to these “overwintering strategies.” When it comes to dealing with cold, there are two main ways for an insect to survive- either get away from the cold area completely or find local shelter that will provide some shielding

Migration

Some insects may behave similarly to human “snowbirds” and simply leave when things start to get cold. Migration is a great way to not get cold, as a species you will simply go somewhere warmer! One of the most famous examples of this behavior is the monarch butterfly (Figure 1). In the autumn, these orange and black beauties will start to fly south from northern states, progressively moving towards Mexico. Once they arrive in Mexico, they fly towards the oyamel fir forests north of Mexico City where they will cluster together until spring. Another butterfly species, the painted lady, also migrates long distances and dragonflies are also noted for logging in a lot of frequent flier miles in response to cold.



Figure 1: Monarch butterflies are some of the most famous migrating insects. They pack their bags every autumn to fly to Mexico from the northern United States. This extravagant overwintering strategy is something many people enjoy watching as the butterflies fly through town. (Photo: Jonathan Larson, UK)

Cold Tolerance

If they don't pack up and go, then insects are still going to need to survive the winter to get populations restarted the next spring. For many species, this will mean finding an area that can protect them from cold air temperatures. It is important to point out that all species of insects have a lower lethal temperature, meaning there is a cold temperature that will kill them. Insects can't warm their own bodies; their body temperature is dictated by their local climate. However, there is also a set amount of time that they must stay at that temperature for death to set in. If their temperature rises above that lower lethal temp, then the clock resets and they may survive. This gives scientists a freezing equation of temperature and time to know when bugs might die from cold.

Some insects may prepare for the cold and ultimately can survive being frozen. These species can produce natural anti-freezes that prevent them from freezing solid or lowering the normal lethal temperature. Other species may be able to control where ice crystals ultimately form in their body. They would let their fat bodies freeze for example rather than their digestive system.

Figure 2: Bagworm bags are made of insect silk and materials from the host tree (bits of leaves and needles mostly) and provide protection for the caterpillar inside the bag for the summer. In the winter though, some bags will contain eggs that are protected by the bag as well. (Photo: Jonathan Larson, UK)



Figure 2: Bagworm bags are made of insect silk and materials from the host tree (bits of leaves and needles mostly) and provide protection for the caterpillar inside the bag for the summer. In the winter though, some bags will contain eggs that are protected by the bag as well. (Photo: Jonathan Larson, UK)

If these freeze tolerance methods aren't in their toolbox, an insect species is going to have to find a way to keep warm in a chilling environment. One trick bugs use is to go into winter as either eggs or pupae, stages of life that require much less food and are already semi protected. Mother bugs may lay their eggs in leaf litter, down in the soil, or provide extra protection. Bagworms and spotted lanternflies are good examples of moms that go the extra mile. Female bagworms never leave their bag-like construction, they lay their eggs inside with them and then perish (Figure 2). The bag then keeps those eggs slightly warmer than they would be outside. Spotted lanternfly females will “spray” a substance on top of their eggs, which helps the eggs to survive the winter.

Pupating insects often burrow into soil or leaf litter to finish the job. Once covered, they have a natural blanket between them and the cold air temps. Wood boring pests can also be highlighted as they are inside of a tree, under the bark and are rarely exposed to the frigid cold that may be hovering just outside their tree.

Some species may go into winter as adults. Brown marmorated stink bugs, multicolored Asian lady beetles, and boxelder bugs are some famous examples. Part of their fame is due to their penchant for using human buildings for their overwintering habitat. Instead of their usual hiding under logs or stones, they have found our homes to be deluxe, heated hideaways! This intersection of insect winter ecology and humanity can be quite annoying.

Pest-Proofing Your Home

Many pests seek refuge in homes and buildings in response to changes in weather, such as extended periods of rain or drought, or the onset of cool autumn temperatures. In response to these pest invasions, homeowners often apply liberal amounts of insecticides indoors. Although indoor insecticide application often provides quick results for the pests you see, this strategy is generally ineffective at providing a long-term solution because most of the pests being treated are coming in from outside the home. Therefore, to ensure a pest-free home, it is important that residents focus their attention towards denying pest entry before they make their way indoors, a process better known as “pest-proofing”.

Outlined below are six tips for pest-proofing one's home or business. The suggestions in the first three bullets will also conserve energy and increase the comfort level during winter and summer. Equipment and materials can be purchased at most hardware or home improvement stores.

****Install door sweeps or thresholds at the base of all exterior entry doors.** Lie on the floor and check for light visible under doors. Gaps of 1/16 inch or less will permit entry of insects and spiders; 1/4-inch-wide gaps (about the diameter of a pencil) are large enough for entry of mice; 1/2-inch gaps are adequate for rats.

Pay particular attention to the bottom corners as this is often where rodents and insects enter. Garage doors should be fitted with a bottom seal constructed of rubber (vinyl seals poorly in cold weather). Gaps under sliding glass doors can be sealed by lining the bottom track with 1/2- to 3/4-inch-wide foam weather stripping. Apply sealant (see “Seal cracks” below) along bottom outside edge and sides of door thresholds to exclude ants and other small insects.

****Seal utility openings** where pipes and wires enter the foundation and siding, such as around outdoor faucets, receptacles, gas meters, clothes dryer vents, and telephone/cable TV wires. These are common entry points for ants, spiders, wasps, rodents, and other pests. Holes can be plugged with mortar, caulk, urethane expandable foam, copper mesh (like the material in pot scrubbers), or other suitable sealant.

****Seal cracks around windows, doors, fascia boards, etc.** Use a good quality silicone or acrylic latex caulk/sealant. Although somewhat less flexible than pure silicone, latex-type caulks clean up easily with water and can be painted. Caulks that dry clear are often easier to use than pigmented caulks since they don't show mistakes. Buy a good caulking gun; features to look for include a back-off trigger to halt the flow of caulk when desired, a built-in ‘slicer’ for cutting the tip off of new caulking tubes, and a nail for puncturing the seal within. Prior to sealing, cracks should be cleaned and any peeling caulk removed to aid adhesion. For a professional look, smooth the bead of caulk with a damp rag or a moistened finger after application. A key area to caulk on the inside of basements is along the top of the foundation wall where the wooden sill plate is attached to the concrete foundation. Ants, spiders, and other pests often enter through the resulting crack.

****Repair gaps and tears in window and door screens.** Doing so will help reduce entry of flies, gnats, mosquitoes, and midges during summer, and cluster flies, lady beetles, and other overwintering pests in autumn. Certain insects are small enough to fit through standard mesh window screen. The only way to deny entry of these tiny insects is to keep windows closed during periods of adult fall emergence.

****Install 1/4-inch wire mesh (hardware cloth) over attic, roof, and crawl space vents** in order to prevent entry of birds, bats, squirrels, rodents, and other wildlife. Be sure to wear gloves when cutting and installing hardware cloth as the wire edges are razor-sharp. Backing the wire mesh from the inside with screening will further help to prevent insects such as ladybugs, paper wasps and yellowjackets. If not already present, invest in a chimney cap to exclude birds, squirrels, raccoons, and other nuisance wildlife. Raccoons, in particular, are a serious problem throughout Kentucky. Many chimneys become home to a family of raccoons which, in turn, are often infested with fleas.

****Consider applying an exterior (barrier) insecticide treatment.** While sealing is the more permanent way to exclude pests originating from outdoors, comprehensive pest-proofing is laborious and sometimes impractical. For clients needing an alternative, pest-proofing can be supplemented by an exterior treatment with an insecticide. Homeowners will get the most for their efforts by applying longer-lasting liquid formulations containing pyrethroids (e.g., cypermethrin, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, Gamma-Cyhalothrin, etc.). Such products are sold at hardware and lawn and garden shops. For better coverage, it's often best to purchase these products as concentrates so that they can be diluted and applied with a pump up sprayer, hose end sprayer, etc. Treat at the base of all exterior doors, garage and crawl space entrances, around foundation vents and utility openings, and up underneath siding. It also may be useful to treat around the outside perimeter of the foundation. Be sure to follow all label instructions, and use this information only as general guidance. Clients who choose not to tackle these activities may want to hire a professional pest control firm, many of which offer pest-proofing services

Hammerhead Worms Slithering into Kentucky

Jonathan Larson, Extension Professor, Entomology

Recently we have received several inquiries about hammerhead worms and their prevalence in Kentucky. These predaceous flatworms look like something out of a bad 1950's sci-fi movie, sometimes described as snake-like with a hammer for a head. They have also been in the news a lot lately after some social media posts went viral and people began to notice them. So, what are they and should anything be done about them?

Identification

These particular land planarians are distinct looking. Typically they are light brown or honey in color. Species may also have varying numbers of dark stripes that run down their back. For example, *Bipalium kewense* (also known just as hammerhead flatworm) has five dark lines, while *Bipalium pennsylvanicum* or the three-lined flatworm has... three lines. The species vary in size but they can be over 10 inches long. Their most distinguishing characteristic is the sickle or half-moon shaped head that gives the group their name. They are also slimy looking, flat in profile, and legless.

What is the issue?

Some flatworms are native to the US and Kentucky but others, like the two mentioned above, are introduced and potentially invasive. Broadly, this group is predaceous, and they can feed on snails, slugs, and earthworms. Their potential to harm earthworm populations could hurt the beneficial services that earthworms provide by decomposing various materials in nature.

In addition, there are some medical and veterinary concerns. Some species produce tetrodotoxins, which are potent and most famously associated with pufferfish. That doesn't mean that contact with these odd critters will automatically kill you, but caution should be exercised with them. **Handling them should be avoided but if it does occur, wash your hands afterwards.** They can also be a host for rat lungworm, similar to snails and slugs. This parasite can be passed to humans when eating undercooked or raw snails, slugs, freshwater shrimp, crabs, and frogs. Because of the toxin and possible parasites, if you were considering it, definitely do not eat hammerhead worms!



Figure 1: Hammerhead worms are slimy, legless, predatory worms most noted for their hammer or half moon shaped heads. They feed on earthworms, snails, and slugs.

Photo © Jean-Lou Justine, Leigh Winsor, Delphine Gey, Pierre Gros, and Jessica Thévenot

Continued on next page...

Are they in Kentucky?

The short answer is yes, these have been found in the state. In 2020 there were two confirmed samples, one from Letcher County and one from Calloway County. In 2021 there was at least one inquiry from Pulaski County and in 2022 a sample was confirmed from Fayette County. These counties are spread fairly far apart which could indicate they could be found in other Kentucky counties. They are most likely to be found in warm, damp environments. They might be spotted under rocks and logs or in leaf litter. Sightings of hammerhead worms may increase on rainy days, particularly if the rainy day occurs after a dry period.

Management

It is hard to recommend a broad management tactic that would rid an area of these worms. However, if you do spot one in your garden or near your home, there are some simple things you can do using products likely already in your home.

First, don't try to physically destroy or cut up the worms. Segmenting them can result in reproduction. Part of their body does naturally "fall off" and turn into a new individual, so don't help them with that process. You can however use salt on them, like you would a snail or slug. It will destroy them, but you need to be cautious about not getting salt in the soil around your plants. Spritzing the hammerhead worm with vinegar or citrus oil can also kill it. If you need to isolate the treatment, you can pick up the hammerhead worm with tweezers or gloved hands and put in a sealable bag, then apply the salt or vinegar.

If you think you have found a hammerhead worm, please reach out to your county Extension agent for identification confirmation and sample recording.



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Figure 2: We have received multiple reports of hammerhead worms in Kentucky. People should exercise caution around them and avoid handling with bare hands if at all possible. They may be found in damp areas and appear more frequently after a rain.

Photo by Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

****Confirmed in Whitley County
September 18th 2023****



KENTUCKY HUNTING & TRAPPING SEASONS 2023-24

DEER	Early Season	Late Season
Archery	Sept. 2, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024	
Youth/Senior Crossbow		
Crossbow	Sept. 16, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024	
Youth-only Gun	Oct. 14-15, 2023	
Muzzleloader	Oct. 21-22, 2023	Dec. 9-17, 2023
Modern Gun	Nov. 11-26, 2023	
Free Youth Weekend	Dec. 30-31, 2023	

Buy your licenses and permits online here!



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT of FISH and WILDLIFE RESOURCES
1-800-858-1549
fw.ky.gov

FALL TURKEY	Shotgun	Archery	Crossbow
	Oct. 28 - Nov. 3 and Dec. 2-8, 2023	Sept. 2, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024	Oct. 1-22 and Nov. 11 - Dec. 31, 2023

QUOTA ELK	Bull (antlered)	Cow (antlerless)
Firearms	Week 1: Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, 2023 Week 2: Oct. 7-11, 2023	Week 1: Nov. 25-29, 2023 Week 2: Dec. 30, 2023 - Jan. 3, 2024
Archery/Crossbow (either sex)	Sept. 9-22 and Dec. 2-8, 2023	
Youth-only Quota (either sex)	All seasons as noted above	

SMALL GAME	Hunting	Trapping
Squirrel	Aug. 19 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024	Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024
Rabbit	Eastern Zone Nov. 1-10 and Nov. 13, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024	Nov. 13, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024
	Western Zone Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 10, 2024	Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 10, 2024
Quail	Eastern Zone Nov. 1-10 and Nov. 13, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024	No trapping
	Western Zone Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 10, 2024	
Grouse	Nov. 1-10 and Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024	
Falconry	Sept. 1, 2023 - March 30, 2024	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week	Dec. 30, 2023 - Jan. 5, 2024	

FURBEARERS	Hunting	Trapping
Raccoon & Opossum	Oct. 1, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024, day or night (exceptions apply)	Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024
Coyote	Year-round, day or night (exceptions apply)	
Bobcat	Nov. 18, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024	
River Otter, Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel & Striped Skunk	Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week	Dec. 30, 2023 - Jan. 5, 2024	

BEAR	Zone 1	Zone 2
Chase-Only	June 1 - Aug. 31 and Sept. 9-30, 2023	
Hunt with Dogs	Oct. 23-27, 2023	Oct. 23-27, 2023 and Nov. 2-10, 2023
Archery/Crossbow	Oct. 28-30, 2023	Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2023
Firearm	Dec. 9-11, 2023	Dec. 9-13, 2023

WATERFOWL	Hunting
Early Teal & Wood Duck	Sept. 16-20, 2023
Teal	Sept. 16-24, 2023
September Canada Goose, Western Zone	Sept. 1-15, 2023
September Canada Goose, Eastern Zone	Sept. 16-30, 2023
Duck, Coot & Merganser	Nov. 23-26 and Dec. 7, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024
Canada/Cackling Goose, White-Fronted Goose, Brant & Snow Goose (including Ross' Goose)	Nov. 23, 2023 - Feb. 15, 2024
Falconry (ducks, coots & mergansers)	Nov. 23, 2023 - Feb. 25, 2024
Falconry (geese)	Same as regular season
Snow Goose Conservation Order	Feb. 16 - Mar. 31, 2024
Youth-only Days	Nov. 18, 2023; Feb. 10, 2024
Military/Veteran-only Days	Nov. 19, 2023; Feb. 11, 2024

OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS	Hunting
Dove	Sept. 1 - Oct. 26, Nov. 23 - Dec. 3, 2023 and Dec. 23, 2023 - Jan. 14, 2024
Wilson's Snipe	Sept. 20 - Oct. 29, 2023 and Nov. 23, 2023 - Jan. 28, 2024
Virginia & Sora Rail	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2023
Purple & Common Gallinule	Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2023
American Woodcock	Oct. 28 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 13 - Dec. 13, 2023
Sandhill Crane	Dec. 7, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024
Crow	Sept. 1 - Nov. 7, 2023 and Jan. 4 - Feb. 29, 2024

OTHER SPECIES	Hunting
Bullfrog	Noon May 19 - Midnight Oct. 31, 2023
Groundhog	Year-round
Turtles	Year-round, day or night

NOTE: Seasons on Wildlife Management Areas and other public hunting lands not managed by Kentucky Fish & Wildlife may be different from those above. Go online to fw.ky.gov for details.

FALL BEEKEEPING

Taking care of your bee hives during the changing seasons is crucial for the well-being of your bee colonies. Here are some additional tips and insights to help you ensure your hives are ready for the upcoming winter:

1. Feeding if Necessary: If your hives don't have enough honey stores to reach the recommended 60 to 70 pounds, consider supplemental feeding. You can provide your bees with sugar syrup or fondant to help them build up their winter reserves. Monitor the hive's weight to ensure they are getting enough food.

2. Reduce the Entrance: Reduce the hive entrance size to prevent drafts and intruders. A smaller entrance will help the bees defend against pests and maintain a warmer environment inside.

3. Varroa Mite Treatment: Continue monitoring for varroa mites and treat your hive if necessary. Varroa mites can weaken bee colonies, making them more vulnerable during winter.

4. Check for Disease: Inspect your bees for signs of disease, such as deformed wings or unusual behavior. Treating any disease issues now can prevent them from becoming more severe during the winter.

5. Provide Windbreaks: If possible, place your hives in a location that offers protection from strong winds. Windbreaks can help reduce heat loss and maintain a more stable temperature inside the hive.

6. Maintain a Dry Hive: Ensure the hive remains dry throughout the winter. Moisture can be a significant problem, leading to mold and freezing. Use moisture-absorbing materials like cedar shavings or insulation above the inner cover to help absorb excess moisture.

7. Emergency Feeding: Be prepared to provide emergency feedings if necessary during the winter. In severe cold spells or extended periods of bad weather, bees may need extra food to survive.

8. Keep an Eye on Hive Weight: Periodically check the weight of your hives throughout the winter. If they become too light, it's a sign that the bees are running low on food, and you may need to provide additional feeding.

9. Learn from Experience: As you gain more experience with beekeeping, you'll develop a better understanding of the specific needs of your hives in your local climate. Each year can bring unique challenges, so please make sure to adapt your beekeeping practices accordingly.

Remember that beekeeping is both a science and an art, and it's lovely to see beekeepers dedicated to the well-being of bee colonies. Taking these precautions and continuously monitoring hives can increase the chances of bees surviving the winter and thriving in the coming spring.



Chicken

All the different breeds of chickens today can trace their origins back to the Red Jungle Fowl of East Asia.

Through generations of genetic selection, specialized breeds have been developed for meat (broilers) and eggs (layer). There are also dual-purpose breeds that are reasonably good in both meat and egg production, but not as good as the specialized breeds. There are also breeds developed strictly for exhibition.

Vocabulary

Chicken is singular; chickens is plural

Chick = young (baby) chicken

Pullet = immature female chicken

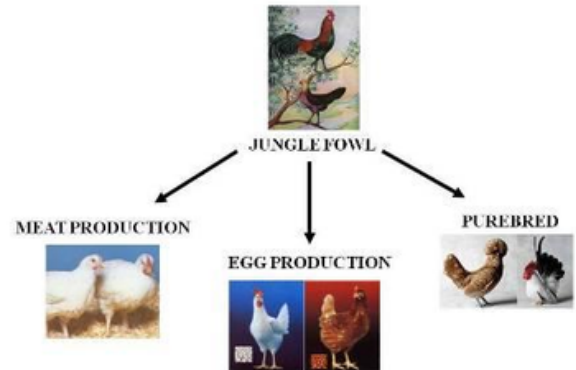
Cockerel = immature male chicken

Hen = adult female chicken

Cock/Rooster = adult male chicken

Capon = castrated male chicken (requires surgery since the reproductive organs are internal)

Note: Some people incorrectly believe that 'chicken' is the plural form of chick, as oxen is to ox. This is not the case - The word comes from the Anglo-Saxon word cicen, for which the plural is cicen-u. "Chick" is simply a contraction of chicken. Chicken can also refer to the meat coming from the bird so it is okay to say "I eat a lot of chicken" rather than "I eat a lot of chickens," which would change the meaning somewhat.



A common question is "How can you tell the difference between a male and female chicken?" In the photo the male (rooster) is the chicken on the left and the female (hen) is the one on the right. Notice the difference in the size of comb and wattles and the tail feathers. Males have a larger comb and wattles. Their tail feathers are pointed while those of the female are rounded. In addition, males crow while females do not.

- *Bantam = chicken breed that is one-third to one-half the size of a standard breed. There are several breeds which have both standard and bantam breeds. There are also bantam-only breeds
- *Bantie = non-technical term sometimes used in place of 'bantam'
- *Biddy = nontechnical term for a laying hen that is over one year of age
- *Broody = a hen that is sitting on eggs (hers or someone else's) with the intent of hatching them
- *Chicken tractor = portable cage for chickens on pasture. The chickens are allowed to scratch for bugs and weeds and to fertilize the area with their manure, and then they are moved to fresh pasture.
- *Chook = Australian term for chicken. It has been used in the U.S. for chickens in a small flock.
- *Cull = to remove a chicken from the flock because of productivity, age, health, or personality issues (i.e., overly aggressive or timid, egg eating, etc.)
- *Mounting = term for when a rooster mates with a hen
- *Peep = term for chick sometimes used by small flock owners

Chicken trivia: About 4 million pounds of feathers are produced each year by the U.S. poultry industry.

There are different types of combs including:



The most common is the single comb



Rose Comb



Cushion comb



Buttercup Comb



V-Comb

Other combs include the pea comb and the strawberry comb.

A common question is "How can you tell the difference between a male and female chicken?" There are distinct differences in adult chickens (known as sexual dimorphism) related to comb and wattle size, size of spurs, and type and shape of feathers.



Female Black Australorp

- *Smaller comb and wattles
- *Smaller spur
- *Hackle feathers are more pointed



Male Black Australorp

- *Larger comb and wattles
- *Larger spurs with size varying by age
- *Hackle feathers are longer and pointed
- *Has long, pointed sickle feathers that cover the main tail feathers
- *Has long, pointed saddle feathers over the back

It is much harder to sex young chicks, especially at hatch.

Winter Can Mean Poor Footing for Horses

Winter is on the horizon, which means it's time to talk muddy fields.

Those familiar with horses know that cold seasons can make your farm quite muddy. Mud is not ideal ground for a variety of reasons. First off, it can create erosion of topsoil and the loss of organic matter, while increasing soil compaction. Second it can cause weight loss as horses who traverse through mud expend more energy. They also can suffer because mud on the animals' coats makes it more difficult for them to regulate their body temperature. This increases the amount of energy they need to generate heat for warmth in the winter. Mud can also up the risk of slipping and falling. And don't forget lost shoes, the bane of most horse owners.

"In winter you get the same amount of rain as you would in the summer, however, you don't have the temperatures to evaporate it," said Stephen Higgins, PhD, director of environmental compliance for the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Agricultural Experiment Station. "When you mix water, soil and foot traffic, you get a lot of mud."

Fortunately, there is a solution: heavy-use traffic pads.

"Traffic pads are a great solution," Higgins said. "You have many material choices for heavy-use pads. Some of these include concrete, plastic traffic grid and geotextile fabric and rock. However, for horses, I would not recommend concrete as they need softer surfaces. The material you use varies depending on many factors, including material availability, installation costs and the size of your operation

Pad thickness depends on the type of livestock you have, stocking density and whether the area also gets a lot of equipment traffic. Higgins says with equine traffic, an eight-inch-thick layer of dense grade aggregate placed on a six-to-eight-ounce non-woven geotextile fabric would be the best course of action.

Geotextile fabrics are generally used in road construction projects for subgrade stabilization. The geotextile, which is used to separate the soil from the rock layers, is a key component for effective long-term performance of the traffic pad. If the geotextile is not used, the rock material will sink into the ground over time and mud will seep up through the voids. This would negate all of the work (and money) which had been dedicated toward creating safe footing for horses in the first place. The purpose of geotextile fabric is to separate the rock from the soil, provide reinforcement, and friction, while providing drainage for the rock matrix.

Ideally pads would be located on a summit and not a sloping area. If it must be constructed in a hilly location, the area should be leveled to allow runoff to move across as sheet flow to reduce channeling and erosion of the rock pad.

However, like everything else, COVID-19 has thrown an unforeseen wrench in the works.

"Some things aren't as cost effective anymore," Higgins said. "The price of plastic resins has gone up 30% in the past year. So now we've had to look at other ideas. Some are a little inventive, such as cinder blocks."

Higgins says that one idea is to set the blocks on the ground on filter fabric and then backfill it with rock. In addition to providing infiltration, cinder blocks absorb moisture from the environment. The blocks end up acting like sponge in that they wick moisture. This type of footing surface is an idea for indoor areas. A bench top lab study suggested that each block could actually store an entire gallon of liquid. It's not without its drawbacks, however. This type of flooring might also draw moisture to the surface near an animal and bedding.

"We all want to take care of our horses," Higgins said. "One of the best ways to do that in the winter is to take care of their footing. Pads can really save owners plenty of headaches down the road."

More information for installing pads for horses can be found online at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id164/id164.pdf>.





For weekly updates tune into **104.3 FM** every Tuesday around 7:15 am for the weekly AG report by **Agriculture Agent Stacy White** and **Horticulture Agent Ben Prewitt**



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