


FROM THE GROUND UP

BATH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL
NEWSLETTER

 Cooperative
Extension Service

Bath County
Ag and Natural Resources

June 2025

Robert Amburgey

Bath County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

BATH COUNTY AG FAIR

AG ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN ON JULY 7TH

10:00-12:00 AND 2:00-5:00

THE LIST OF AVAILABLE AG CLASSES CAN BE FOUND LATER IN THIS NEWSLETTER. EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO ENTER IN THE FAIR!

CAIP EDUCATIONAL CLASSES OFFERED

ALL CLASSES ARE BEING HELD
AT THE BATH COUNTY AG
CENTER.

JUNE 3 3:00 - 4:00
JUNE 3 5:00 - 6:00
JUNE 9 6:00 - 7:00

B.C . FAIR LIVESTOCK SHOW SCHEDULE

JULY 8TH - SHEEP AND GOATS 5:00P.M.

JULY 10TH HOG SHOW 6:30 P.M.

JULY 11TH BEEF CATTLE SHOW 6:30 P.M.

JULY 12TH POULTRY AND RABBIT 6:00

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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Lexington, KY 40506



Timely Tips

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Cows should be on good pasture with clover and preferably low endophyte levels in fescue for the spring breeding season. Keep pastures vegetative by clipping or making hay. They should have abundant shade and water. Our goal is to have cows become pregnant before July when temperatures and heat stress can ruin the “spring” breeding season.
- Observe the cows and bulls as the breeding season continues. Watch bulls for injury or lameness and change bulls if a high percentage of cows are returning to heat. Record cow breeding dates to determine next year’s calving dates and keep records of cows and bulls in each breeding group.
- Keep a good pasture mineral mix, which contains adequate levels of phosphorus, vitamin A, selenium, and copper, available.
- Consider a devoted area for creep grazing calves, or practice “forward grazing” this summer, allowing calves to graze fresh pasture ahead of the cows. This can be accomplished by raising an electric wire or building a creep gate.

Fall-Calving Herd

- Pregnancy test cows if not done previously.
- Cull cows at weaning time
 - Smooth-mouthed cows
 - Cows weaning light weight and/or poor-quality calves
 - Open cows
 - Problem cows” with bad feet, teats, udders, etc.
- Select replacement heifers based on:
 - temperament
 - conformation
 - weaning weight
 - dam and sire records
 - Select more than needed to allow for culling after a short breeding season



General

- Finish harvesting excess pasture as hay soon! It should be cut before it becomes too mature. Be sure and replenish your reserves. Try to put up more than you think you will need in case of a late summer drought.
- Pasture should supply adequate energy, protein, and vitamins now. However, be prepared for drought situations. Don't overgraze pastures so that recovery time will be faster. Overgrazed pastures will recover very slowly during July/August.
- Keep pastures small for rotational grazing so that nutritive quality can be maintained. They should be small enough, so cattle do not graze longer than a week. As the season progresses, you need several paddocks to give each properly stocked pasture about 4 weeks' rest.
- Maintain a clean water supply and check it routinely. Water is extremely important in hot weather.
- Control flies. Consider changing insecticides and/or methods of control this year, because insecticide resistant flies may have developed if you have used the same chemical year after year. Consider pour-on and sprays that allow you to put cattle in the corral or through the chute with little stress on them. It will make subsequent trips through the "chute" less stressful.
- Prevent/Control pinkeye
 - consider vaccinating,
 - control flies,
 - clip tall, mature grass,
 - treat problems quickly.
- Clip grazed-over pastures for weed control and so that seed heads do not irritate eyes. Pastures should be kept in a vegetative state for the best quality.



FRUIT TREE SPRAY GUIDE FOR APPLE AND PEAR TREES

For more information on managing or spraying fruit trees, contact the Bath County Extension Office at 674-6121
Ask for ID-21

Table 8. Spray schedules for pest control on apples and pears.

Plant Stage ¹	Insects and Diseases	Examples of [Organic] Pesticides Required ²		Comments
		Apple	Pear ³	
Dormant	scale	[dormant oil]		Check label carefully for dormant vs. delayed dormant rates on apple vs. pear. Do not spray dormant oil when temperature is below 40°F (5°C) or likely to drop below 40°F within 24 hours. Do not mix bactericide with oil.
	fire blight	[fixed copper]		Copper sulfate is not the same as fixed copper and should not be mixed with oil.
Green tip to half-inch green	scale	[dormant oil]		See above. Last chance to apply oil on apples, if not applied in dormant spray.
	scab	Captan, Mancozeb, thiophanate-methyl + Captan, myclobutanil + Captan, [fixed copper, sulfur]	No spray needed	Oil, fixed copper, and myclobutanil can be mixed together.
Tight to open cluster	scab	Same as green tip	No spray needed	Using fixed copper past this point is likely to cause fruit russetting.
Pink	aphids, tarnished plant bug, stink bug (if present)	Multipurpose tree fruit spray mixture, [Pyrethrum], malathion		[citrus peel oil, garlic oil]
	scab, rust	Same as green tip but must include myclobutanil, Mancozeb, [fixed copper, sulfur]	myclobutanil, Mancozeb [fixed copper, sulfur]	
Bloom	scab, rust, powdery mildew	Same as green tip but must include myclobutanil, Mancozeb, [fixed copper]	No spray needed	Do not use insecticide during bloom.
	fire blight	[Streptomycin]—provided sanitation pruning has been done		All dead twigs and branches must have been pruned out while trees were dormant before considering chemical use now.
Petal fall	plum curculio, pear psylla, plant bugs, leafrollers	Multipurpose tree free spray mixture, [Pyrethrum, Surround], malathion		Surround for plum curculio.
	scab, rust, fruit rots, sooty blotch	Same as green tip but must include myclobutanil, Mancozeb, [fixed copper, sulfur]	myclobutanil, Mancozeb, [fixed copper, sulfur]	
First cover	codling moth, plum curculio	Malathion, [Pyrethrum, Surround, multipurpose sprays, Spinosad]		Surround for plum curculio. Spinosad for codling moth.
	scab, rust, fruit rot, sooty blotch	Same as green tip but must include myclobutanil, Mancozeb, [sulfur]	myclobutanil, Mancozeb, [sulfur]	
Second cover	codling moth, plum curculio, San Jose scale crawlers	Malathion, [Pyrethrum, multipurpose sprays, Spinosad]		
	scab, rust, fruit rots, sooty blotch, leaf spots	Same as green tip, but must include myclobutanil, Mancozeb, [sulfur]	myclobutanil, Mancozeb, [sulfur]	
	mites (if present)	Vendex, insecticidal soap		
Third cover	codling moth, pear psylla	Malathion, [Pyrethrum, multipurpose sprays, Spinosad]		
	scab, fruit rots, sooty blotch	Captan, thiophanate-methyl + Captan, [sulfur]		See label for Captan use.
Remaining covers ⁴	codling moth, leafhoppers, pear psylla	Malathion, [Pyrethrum, multipurpose sprays, Spinosad]		
	fruit rots, scab, sooty blotch	Captan, thiophanate-methyl + Captan, [sulfur]		See label for Captan use.

¹ See pages 18 and 19 for illustrations of plant floral stages.

Dormant: Early spring before buds swell. **Green tip to half-inch green:** When blossom buds show ½ inch green. **Tight to open cluster:** When fruit buds are visible. **Pink:** Just before blossoms open. **Bloom:** When 20 to 60% blossoms are open. **Petal fall:** When last petals are falling. **First cover:** Seven days after petal fall spray. **Second cover:** Two weeks after first cover spray. **Third cover:** Two weeks after second cover. **Remaining covers:** Spray every two weeks.

² Growers must read the pesticide label for proper rates of chemical to use. Some materials are effective against some pests and not others. Choose materials needed to control the most important pests in your fruit planting. See Table 5 for information on mixing small quantities of pesticides.

³ Although cleared for use on apples, Captan is not labeled for pears. Materials in [brackets] are approved for organic production.

⁴ Check label for waiting days to harvest. Tables 6 and 7 also give waiting days to harvest.

Note: There are several formulations of multipurpose fruit sprays. Be sure to check the label to determine which are organic formulations.



Strawberry Salsa

1 tablespoon olive oil	2 cups , coarsely chopped fresh strawberries	2 cups chopped cherry or grape tomatoes
2 tablespoons white vinegar or white balsamic vinegar	8 green onions, chopped	½ cup chopped fresh cilantro
½ teaspoon salt		

1. Whisk olive oil, vinegar, and salt in large bowl.

2. Add strawberries, green onions, tomatoes, and cilantro. Toss to coat.

3. Cover and chill for 1 hour.

4. Serve with tortilla or pita chips.

Yield: 7, ½ cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 40 calories; 2 g fat; 0 g saturated fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 170 mg sodium; 6 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 4 g sugar; 1 g protein; 60% of vitamin C.

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.



Kentucky Strawberries

SEASON: May through June

NUTRITION FACTS: Strawberries are low in calories and high in nutrients. One cup strawberries contain 55 calories. Strawberries are a great source of vitamin C. They also contain vitamin A, iron, fiber, and folic acid. Folic Acid is especially important for childbearing women. When consumed in adequate amounts, it has been proven to prevent certain birth defects.

SELECTION: Choose fully ripened, bright red berries. Strawberries do not ripen after they have been picked. Berries should be plump and have a natural shine with bright green, fresh looking caps. Use strawberries as soon after picking as possible for the best flavor and highest nutritional value.

STORAGE: Store strawberries in the refrigerator, covered, unwashed, with the caps on. Do not crowd. If you have the space, gently spread the berries on a cookie sheet and cover with plastic wrap. Use berries within 2 to 3 days.

HANDLING: Handle strawberries gently. Never remove

the caps before washing. The cap prevents water from soaking into the berry, which lessens the flavor and changes the texture. To wash, cover berries in cold water and lift gently out of the water to drain. Dry by placing berries in a single layer on paper towels.

After washing, remove the caps if necessary. Give the cap a gentle twist or use the point of a sharp paring knife or pointed spoon.

Pat berries dry with paper towels before serving whole or sliced, fresh or cooked.

STRAWBERRIES

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Nutrition and Food Science students

March 2011

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Asparagus Ham Quiche

1 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into ½ inch pieces

1 cup, finely chopped ham
1 small finely chopped onion
2 (8 inch) unbaked pie shells

1 egg white, slightly beaten
2 cups shredded reduced fat cheddar cheese

4 large eggs
1 container (5.3 ounces) plain Greek yogurt

½ cup 1% milk
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

Preheat oven to 400 F. **Place** asparagus in a steamer over 1 inch of boiling water and **cover**. **Cook** until tender but still firm, about 4-6 minutes. **Drain** and **cool**. **Place** ham and onion in a nonstick skillet and **cook** over medium heat until lightly browned. **Brush** pie shells with beaten egg white. **Spoon** the ham, onion and asparagus into pie shells, dividing evenly between the 2 shells. **Sprinkle** 1 cup shredded cheese over the mixture in each shell. In a separate bowl, **beat** together

eggs, yogurt, milk, nutmeg, salt and pepper. **Pour** egg mixture over the top of the cheese, dividing evenly between the 2 shells. **Bake** uncovered in a preheated oven until firm 25-30 minutes. Allow to cool approximately 20 minutes before cutting.

Yield: 16 slices

Nutritional Analysis: 200 calories, 11 g fat, 4.5 g saturated fat, 65 mg cholesterol, 370 mg sodium, 14 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 3 g sugars, 10 g protein.

SEASON: April through May.

NUTRITION FACTS: Asparagus is a good source of vitamin A and folate. One-half cup of fresh, steamed asparagus has 22 calories, 2 grams of protein, and 4 grams of carbohydrate.

SELECTION: Choose bright green stalks with tightly closed tips. The most tender stalks are apple green in color with purple-tinged tips.

STORAGE: Fresh asparagus will keep 1-2 weeks in the refrigerator. Refrigerate upright with cut ends in water or with cut ends wrapped in wet paper towels in a plastic bag.

Kentucky Asparagus

PREPARATION: One pound of asparagus will yield 4 one-half cup servings, about 6 spears per serving. Wash asparagus thoroughly in cool, running water. Eat asparagus raw or lightly boil, steam, stir-fry, or grill. Overcooked asparagus will be mushy. Try seasoning it with herbs, butter, or Parmesan cheese.

KENTUCKY ASPARAGUS

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

March 2015

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Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov



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BATH COUNTY FAIR AG CLASSES

Fruits, Vegetables and Herbs Classes - Premiums: 1st - \$3.00; 2nd - \$2.00; 3rd - \$1.00

1. Beans, Green bunch (plate of 12)
2. Beans, Green pole (plate of 12)
3. Beets, bunch of 4 with tops
4. Cabbage, 1 head
5. Corn, Sweet (3 white ears in shuck)
6. Corn, Sweet (3 yellow ears in shuck)
7. Cucumbers (4 small for pickling)
8. Cucumbers (4 large for slicing)
9. Onions, white (3)
10. Onions, yellow (3)
11. Peppers, green (3)
12. Peppers, other (3)
13. Potatoes, Irish (3)
14. Tomatoes, red (plate of 4)
15. Tomatoes, yellow (plate of 4)
16. General Vegetable Display (10 different vegetables)
17. Summer Apples (plate of 4)
18. Largest Apples (plate of 4)
19. Cusshaw
20. Pumpkin
21. Watermelon
22. Squash, all varieties
23. Cantaloupe
24. Most unusual vegetable
25. Grapes
26. Lima Beans (Plate of 6)
27. Carrots (plate of 4)
28. Sweet Potatoes (plate of 4)
29. Chives (small bundle in water)
30. Dill (small bundle in water)
31. Mint (small bundle in water)
32. Oregano (small bundle in water)
33. Parsley (small bundle in water)
34. Rosemary (small bundle in water)
35. Sage (small bundle in water)
36. Other herbs (small bundle in water)
37. Any other fruit/veg not listed
38. Country Ham (Salt Cured)
39. Country Ham (Smoked)



Crops Classes - Premiums: 1st - \$4.00; 2nd - \$3.00; 3rd - \$2.00

1. Burley Tobacco - 1 stalk
2. Ear Corn - Yellow (2022 crop, 4 ears)
3. Ear Corn - White (2022 crop, 4 ears)
4. Stalks of corn (2023 crop, 2 stalks)
5. Tallest stalk of corn
6. Alfalfa Hay - 1/4 square bale
7. Red Clover Hay - 1/4 square bale
8. Grass Hay - 1/4 square bale

CARPENTER BEES BUZZING AROUND

Well, many of you probably have noticed large black bees buzzing around your house, deck or outbuildings. Chances are, these are carpenter bees searching for mates and favorable sites to construct their nests.

Carpenter bees resemble bumble bees, but the upper surface of their abdomen is bare and shiny black; bumble bees have a hairy abdomen with at least some yellow. Other than appearance, the two bees are quite different.

Bumble bees nest in the ground while carpenter bees tunnel into wood to lay their eggs. Bare, unpainted or weathered softwoods are preferred, especially redwood, cedar, cypress and pine. Painted or pressure-treated wood is much less susceptible to attack. Common nesting sites include eaves, window trim, fascia boards, siding, wooden shakes, decks and outdoor furniture.

Carpenter bees overwinter as adults in wood within abandoned nest tunnels. They emerge in the spring, usually; in April or May. After mating, the fertilized females excavate tunnels in wood and lay their eggs within a series of small cells. The entrance holes are perfectly round and about the size of your finger. The extent of damage to wood which has been utilized for nesting year after year may be considerable.

The best way to deter the bees is by painting all exposed wood surfaces, especially those which have a history of being attacked. Wood stains and preservatives are less reliable than painting. Garages and outbuildings should be kept closed when carpenter bees are actively searching for nesting sites.

Liquid sprays of carbaryl (sevin), or a synthetic pyrethroid (permethrin or cyfluthrin) can be applied as a preventive to wood surfaces which are attracting bees. Residual effectiveness of these insecticides is often only 1-2 weeks, however, and the treatment may need to be repeated.

Tunnels which have already been excavated are best treated by puffing an insecticidal dust (5% Carbaryl) into the nest opening. Leave the hole open for a few days after treatment to allow the bees to contact the distribute the insecticide throughout the nest galleries. Then plug the entrance hole with a piece of wooden dowel coated with carpenter's glue, or wood putty. This will protect against future utilization of the old nesting tunnels and reduce the chances of wood decay.



Common questions and concerns about periodical cicadas

When millions or billions of bugs come out of the ground, people have questions! Luckily, there is very little to worry about with these insects but let's cover some specific FAQs.

17

Why seventeen years?
The long period between emergences means nothing only eats these cicadas.



Safe for pets?
Dogs and cats can safely consume cicadas in moderation.



Why so loud?
Male cicadas sing together to attract females, the noise is a bug concert.



Managing dead cicadas?
Usually they can mulched or mowed into landscape.



Safe for people to eat?
If you don't have a shellfish allergy, eat them after cooking and in moderation.



Where to find?
Most commonly found near oaks by streams, creeks, and rivers. Also by fruit trees.

Cicadas and new trees

Periodical cicadas lay their eggs in tree branches by cutting slits in the bark. Big, mature trees can handle this. New trees or fruit trees should be protected though. The best option is to purchase "cicada netting" which is gauged to exclude females from trees. Secure excess netting to the tree around the trunk where there are no branches. It will look a bit like a lollipop when finished.



AFTER EFFECTS OF PERIODICAL CICADA EMERGENCE ON TREES

OVIPOSITION SLITS



When female periodical cicadas lay their eggs, they cut slits in tree branches. Heavily used twigs and branches may "flag", or turn brown and snap off.

BRANCH "FLAGGING"



CICADA EGGS



At this point, the damage is done. Most trees will suffer no ill effects. The exceptions would be new trees and fruit trees. No chemical treatment or burning of twigs will fix the damage, only care and time will.

Thanks, mom!



Over the next few weeks, baby cicadas will hatch from the eggs and burrow into the soil to begin feeding and growing. They will have 17 years to wait before they see the light of day again!

Cooperative Extension Service



The periodical cicadas are here! Brood 14 is emerging across much of central and eastern Kentucky in 2025, check iNaturalist or Cicada Safari to see if they are out in your part of town!

<https://cicadasafari.org/>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/83854-Magicicada>