

NIKKI'S NEWSLETTER

Marshall County's Agriculture and Natural Resources Update

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As the world and the weather continues to change, so does Extension meeting requirements. UK has released county offices to start offering more in-person programming. We are still very limited on what we can do but it's a start.

This month, I will be offering three essential programs in-person: the KY Master Logger Continuing Education program live zoom viewing on Feb, 23rd (see the KY Master Logger Web-Page) a private applicator training on Feb, 17th at 9am and the Beef Quality and Care Assurance Program (page 3.)

Also, our online offerings are not scaled down. Contact the office for information about these upcoming webinars:

Feb. 22nd- Crop Webinar Series: Travis Legleiter: DICAMBA: Can we use it, when can we use it, should we use it?

Feb. 25th- Rotating Tomatoes and Flowers in a High Tunnel

Mar. 1st - Crop Webinar Series: Carl Bradley/Kiersten Wise: Foliar Fungicides for Disease Control in Field Crops

March 2nd- Beef Series: The Importance of Body Condition Scoring and the Cost of Milk Production

March 8th- Crop Webinar Series: Josh McGrath: Precision Phosphorus Management

March 16th- Beef Series: Practical Considerations for Improving Hay Quality

March 2-4nd - KY Alfalfa and Stored Forages Conference

Wednesdays- www.fromthewoodstoday.com

Anytime- Pasture Please Program view on KYForages YouTube

Countdown
☀️ — 30 days — ☁️
to Spring

Try to keep your toes warm.

-Nikki Rhein

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Frost Flowers, *Amanda Sears, Agent for Horticulture, Madison County*

While taking a walk last December, I noticed a strange looking icy, foam-like material that appeared to be “growing” near the tree line. Upon further investigation, they were some type of ice formations. Although I did not know it at the time, I had stumbled upon was a patch of frost flowers, which are also called ice fringes, ice ribbons, or rabbit ice. They can take on strange, beautiful shapes.

With my interest piqued, I tried to find more information about this phenomenon but unfortunately there has not been a lot research done in this area. Which proves one thing, nature can be magical! Frost flowers are formed in a process called ice segregation. They develop when air temperatures are freezing but the soil is moist and still warm enough that the plant is still functioning and active. Stems that have already been killed due to freeze will not work.

Nutrients and water are pushed up from the root system and into the upper portion of the plant. As the flow goes upward, it expands due to colder temperatures above the ground. When this happens, the ice crystals are pushed out the side of the stems. Sometimes, when the ice cuts a slit in the stem, ribbons are formed. Other times, the stem splits open, forming a petal-like structure. Each flower is unique because it depends on where the slits are in the stem and the pressure of the fluid in the plant.

If in a shaded, protected location, ice crystals can continue to form as long as the conditions are correct. In sunlight, these creations melt away quickly. Not every plant can produce frost flowers. It is likely due to the plant’s pore space size on the stem or water permeability. They are most often found in low lying sunny areas along streams or roadside ditches. Some plants you may find associated with this phenomenon are ironweed, wingsteam, dittany or tickweed.



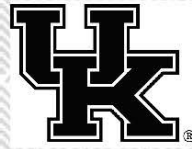
Caring for Houseplants in the Winter, *Rick Durham, Extension Professor, UK Department of Horticulture*

Inside or out, plants go through seasonal cycles in their growth and their needs. Whether your houseplants live inside year-round or just come in to overwinter, they can be undone by things like temperatures, dry air, too much water and limited light. Many house plants slow their growth rate in the winter or even go dormant, so they need less water to stay hydrated. Providing them with too much water can cause root rot, which can end up killing them. Drought-tolerant plants, such as succulents or cacti, will only need very occasional water depending on how much light they are receiving. Some water every two to three weeks may suffice.

Yellowing and dropping leaves are often a sign of overwatering. On the other hand, rapid leaf drop may be an indication that the plant needs water. You shouldn’t rely on the top of the soil as an indicator about moisture content. The soil surface dries quickly. Instead, plunge your finger into the soil about 1 to 2 inches deep. If it’s dry at that depth, water. If not, don’t and check again a few days later.

Humidity levels in heated houses can be as much as 10% to 20% lower, and many houseplants suffer because of that. There are ways to improve the environment for your plants. First, group them together, because plants transpire moisture from their leaves. By clustering your plants, they can take advantage of that expelled moisture. If you have room and ample light, clustering them together in a bathroom or kitchen is a good idea, because those are the most humid areas of the house. You could also place your plants next to or above a tray of water. You can elevate your pots above the water in the tray by placing them on stones, so that the bottom of the pots aren’t resting in water. If you have a humidifier, plants will benefit from being placed close to it.

Sunlight, when it shows up at all, hits at a lower angle during the winter, so you may have to move your plants to find more light. Look for a south or west facing window for the best light, but don’t move them too close to that window to avoid drafts. Finally, don’t worry about fertilizing your houseplants during the winter. In early spring, when new growth starts to appear or the green seems to brighten, resume fertilizing. Until then, let your plant rest and enjoy a long winter’s nap.



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

Beef Quality and Care Assurance

Date: February 25th

Time: 9:00-10:30 am

Watch virtually using zoom:
uky.zoom.us/j/81851774058

or if zoom access is unavailable,
you can attend in-person at the
Marshall County Extension Office
1933 Mayfield Hwy.
Benton KY 42025

All participants must pre-register
by calling 270-527-3285



The Beef Quality and Care Assurance (BQCA) Program's mission is to maximize consumer confidence in and acceptance of beef by focusing the producer's attention to daily production practices that influence the safety, wholesomeness and quality of beef and beef products through the use of science, research and education initiatives. BQA is valuable because it:

- Shows commitment to food safety and quality
- Safeguards public image of beef and dairy industry
- Upholds consumer confidence in beef products
- Improves sale value of marketed beef cattle
- Enhances herd profitability through better management



PPP Update



The Economic Aid Act reauthorized the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) through March 31 and made several modifications beneficial to farmers. It also authorizes second draw PPP loans.

Eligible expenses paid with PPP loans are deductible for tax purposes. And Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) advance grants are not taxable. See your tax preparer for details.

New rule for farmers only. Calculation of PPP loans is now based on gross income instead of net farm income. Gross income comes from Line 9 of Schedule F. The rule applies to sole proprietors and eligible self-employed farmers who report on Schedule F and were in business as of February 15, 2020.

This means farmers who did not qualify before may now qualify. It also means farmers who did not qualify for the maximum amount may request an increase in the original PPP loan if the loan has not been forgiven.

For those without employees the maximum is now \$20,833. Those with employees add the higher of 2019 or 2020's monthly payroll multiplied by 2.5.

Increase in existing loan amount. Borrowers may be able to request an increase in the original amount of the loan under certain circumstances if SBA has not remitted a forgiveness payment to the Lender (the loan is forgiven). This includes the new loan calculation for farmers and partnerships that did not include partner compensation in the application. Contact the lender that made the PPP loan to request the difference.

Other New Rules. Borrowers may use 2019 or 2020 for purposes of calculating their maximum loan amount. And they may now choose a covered period to pay or incur eligible expenses stretching from 8 weeks up to 24 weeks from the date loan proceeds are disbursed.

Eligible expenses for PPP loans have been added including payments for certain business software and services, cost for goods that are essential to the operation, and rent and business interest paid on obligations incurred before February 15, 2020. These eligible expenses apply retroactively to existing unforgiven PPP loans. PPP loans still require that at least 60 percent of the proceeds be used for payroll costs.

There is a simplified loan forgiveness application for PPP loans under \$150,000.

New Loans (First Draw). A borrower who did not receive a PPP loan in 2020 may apply for a new loan based on the new rules. This applies to small businesses, self-employed and sole proprietors with or without employees, partnerships, and others in operation on February 15, 2020.

Second Draw Loans. Borrowers who received a PPP loan during 2020 may be eligible for a second PPP loan, even if the first loan has been forgiven. A qualifying borrower: has 300 or fewer employees, will have used all the original loan funds for authorized purposes before the new loan payments are dispersed, and can show gross receipts in any one quarter of 2020 was reduced by at least 25% compared to the same quarter in 2019.

A borrower in operation all four quarters of 2020 need only show that gross receipts for 2020 was reduced by at least 25% compared to 2019. PPP forgiveness received in 2020 is not included in gross income.

This is based on SBA guidance through January 13, 2020. SBA intends to issue guidance on loan forgiveness and the loan review process later.

ARC vs PLC- The Basics

Will Snell, Extension Economics Professor



The 2014 Farm Bill developed two programs to provide income support for specified row crops. -- the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. These risk management programs were reauthorized in the 2018 Farm Bill with slight modifications and remain in effect for the 2019-2023 crop years. The ARC program provides payments when actual crop revenues fall below a specified guaranteed level, while the PLC program provides payments when the national marketing year average price (MYA) (or the loan rate if higher) for a given covered commodity falls below a specified effective reference price for that commodity. Farmers will be required to make an election of ARC vs PLC for the 2021 eligible crops at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office by March 15, 2021. This article will provide the basics of the two programs and a follow-up article in next month's Economic and Policy Update newsletter will analyze scenarios and important issues for farmers to consider under the two programs to assist farmers in their selection for 2021.

Eligible Crops – The following crops are eligible for ARC/PLC coverage -- barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short-grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Program Selection – Program selection can vary on a crop by crop basis (by FSA farm number) and can vary across FSA farms. All owners/landlords for each farm must make a joint (i.e., same) decision on which option to select. If one fails to make an election of covered crops by March 15, 2021, the election for that crop defaults to the program enrolled in 2020. Producers will have the option to change programs at a later date for the 2022 and 2023 crop years.

Payments – Payments will be made on the current base acres assigned to the farm by USDA, not 2021 planted acres, to insure that the program does not influence current production. There is a \$125,000 annual limit per payment entity on all ARC and PLC payments. If triggered, 2021 ARC and PLC payments will be made on October 1, 2022.

ARC vs PLC Specifics

For the ARC option:

Producers selecting the ARC option will have to decide between county or individual (whole-farm) level revenue protection.

For the ARC County Option (ARC-CO)

The decision on ARC-CO is made on a program crop-by-crop basis, which allows producers to select the ARC-CO option for some crops and PLC option for other crops.

Producers selecting the ARC-CO option will receive payments when the actual county revenue (defined as the applicable county yield multiplied by the national marketing year average price) is below the county revenue guarantee (defined as 86% of the previous five-year Olympic average revenue for the county, excluding the highest and lowest MYA prices and county trend-adjusted yields for the most recent five year period).

Payments will be made on 85% of base acres

Payments will be capped at 10% of the ARC-CO benchmark revenue

Continued:

For the ARC Individual Option (ARC-IC)

Payments will be based on whole-farm revenues (across all program crops and all FSA farms) enrolled in ARC-IC. Producers selecting the ARC-IC option will receive payments when the farm's actual revenue for all covered crops planted on ARC-IC farms in the current year (defined as the MYA price multiplied by the individual's certified yield for each crop, weighted by the share of the current year acres planted of that crop, and summed across all covered crops for that year) is below the farm's ARC-IC benchmark revenue (defined as 86% of the previous five-year Olympic average revenue, which excludes the highest and lowest years for prices and certified yields, weighted by the share of the current year acres planted of that crop, and summed across all covered crops for the most recent five year period).

Payments will be made on 65% of base acres for ARC-IC vs 85% of base acres for ARC-CO.

Payments will be capped at 10% of an individual's weighted benchmark revenue

For the PLC option:

Producers selecting the PLC option for an individual commodity will receive payments if the U.S. MYA price (or the loan rate if higher) is less than the crop's effective reference price. For the 2021 crop, the effective reference prices will be \$3.70/bu for corn, \$5.50/bu for wheat, and \$8.40/bu for soybeans. Effective reference prices for other crops can be found by clicking here:

www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/arc-plc/2021/pdf/2021_erp.pdf

Payments, if triggered under the PLC option, will be made on 85% of base acres.

Additional information and details can be found on the following USDA sites:

Enrollment Information: www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2020/enrollment-begins-for-agriculture-risk-coverage-and-price-loss-coverage-programs-for-2021

ARC/PLC Program Information: www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/arcplc_program/index



March Classes

March 3 - New Plants for a New Year

March 10 - Starter Fertilizer & Lawn Establishment

March 17 - Building a Self-Watering Raised Bed

March 24 - Rain Gardens

12:30 pm EST/11:30 a.m. CST

Register at this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/UKYHortWebWed21>

visit kentuckyhortnews.com



KENTUCKY SMALL FLOCKS WEBINAR SERIES
MANAGING A BACKYARD FLOCK

https://uky.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZU5fuyrqi8vGdeU_S-2-ss5GinfWn8koMWK

**FEBRUARY 25, 2021
7 PM - 8 PM EASTERN TIME**

We'll discuss the daily, weekly, and monthly activities involved in managing a backyard poultry flock
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

SAVE THE DATE:
MARCH 11TH DISEASE PREVENTION
MARCH 25TH WASTE MANAGEMENT

Potato Broccoli Soup



4 cups cubed potatoes
2 heads broccoli,
 (3-4 cups florets)
2 tablespoons olive oil
¼ cup all-purpose flour
⅓ cup melted butter

3 cups 2% milk
¼ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
5 ounces cheddar
 cheese, reduced-fat,
 shredded

2 green onions, finely
 minced, divided
½ cup reduced-fat
 sour cream
¼ cup bacon bits
 (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. **Place** potatoes in large saucepan, **cover** with water and bring to a boil. **Reduce** heat and **cook** potatoes until tender, about 15 minutes. **Cut** broccoli heads into small florets and **place** on baking tray. **Drizzle** with olive oil and **roast** for 15 minutes. **Drain** cooked potatoes in a colander. In the saucepan, **combine** the flour and melted butter; **cook** on medium heat for 1 minute. Slowly **add** milk to the mixture, stirring constantly until thickened. Soup can be thinned by adding an additional

½ cup of milk or water, if desired. **Add** the potatoes, broccoli, salt, pepper, cheese, half of the green onions and bacon bits. **Cook** on low until heated. A few minutes before serving, **add** the sour cream and **stir** to combine. **Serve** topped with remaining onions.

Yield: 6, 1¼ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 390 calories, 24 g fat, 13 g saturated fat, 60 mg cholesterol, 370 mg sodium, 30 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 9 g sugars, 15 g protein.

Kentucky Potatoes

SEASON: Late June to October.

NUTRITION FACTS: Potatoes are a good source of vitamins B and C, potassium and complex carbohydrates. They do not contain fat, cholesterol or sodium. There is only 70 calories in a ½ cup serving of cooked potato. Most nutrients are located just below the skin, so avoid peeling whenever possible.

SELECTION: Select firm potatoes free from wrinkles, green spots or bruises. New potatoes are immature potatoes of any variety. They are creamy, thin-skinned and small enough to serve whole. New potatoes

are best in dishes that call for boiled potatoes as they will hold their shape. For baking, frying and mashing, choose drier varieties such as russet or Yukon Gold.

STORAGE: Potatoes should be kept in a cool, humid, dark, well ventilated place. Do not store in the refrigerator.

PREPARATION: Potatoes should be thoroughly washed and scrubbed before cooking. Any sprouts or eyes should be cut out. Common methods of preparation include boiling, baking, microwaving, mashing, frying and grilling.

KENTUCKY POTATOES

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

September 2017

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

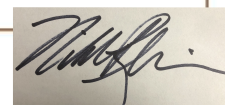
Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers market, or roadside stand.
<http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>



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Marshall County
 Agriculture and Natural
 Resources Agent

For more information go to:
<http://marshall.ca.uky.edu/AgNaturalResources>
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