

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

AG News

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April showers bring May flowers!!! If this is true then we should have the most beautiful flowers in May. This has shaped up to be the wettest April on the books. I am extremely glad that Spring meeting season is over. I believe I average 3 night meetings a week and some days had three meetings in one night. Now that Summer is approaching a new type of business starts. Please, remember if you have a disease, insect, or weed on your farm and you would like it ID then bring it to the office. Even if you are just curious or need the ID to control the problem. This is a service that is free of charge. I hope that everyone has a safe summer.

Mary McCarty

Up Coming

- May 5 County Extension Council
- May 5 4-H Livestock
- May 10 4-H Tagging
- May 12 4-H Livestock
- June 9 4-H Livestock
- June 12&13 East Expo
- June 16 Farmer's Market
- July 5 Opening Day of Farmers Market
- July 7 4-H Livestock

Soil Test

Soil test are probably one of the most important practices that can occur on your farm. Most everyone fertilizes their pastures, hay fields, crop fields, and gardens. Without a soil sample it is really a guess in the dark on what to apply. A soil test comes back with how much lime, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium to apply. If you need help getting your soil test please call the office and Mary would be more than happy to assist you. If you want to do the sample yourself that is fine. Just keep in mind the soil test is only as good as the sample that is provided. If you have question on how to do the sample yourself just give Mary a call. Starting July 1 soil samples will cost \$7.00 a sample and samples will be mailed out on the 15th and the 30th of each month. The reason for this is that it cost \$4.94 to send one sample and it cost \$6.14 to mail 4 samples. Plus it cost \$5.00 to run a sample at the lab. Bring on the soil samples.

Rinse and Return

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Wrigley 711 will be having a Rinse and Return Program at the feed store on June 16. Farmers may bring any empty plastic pesticide container not exceeding 5 gallons in size. Containers must be tripled rinsed or pressure rinsed. Caps and loose booklets are to be removed. Each container must be inspected before it is accepted. Any container that has caked product or color liquid will not be accepted. Any containers that are declined for the program must be removed from the premises by the delivery truck.

Save the Date

The Elliott County Farm and Home Field Day has been set. Save the date of September 17th at 10:00am. Yes, this is a Saturday. The field day will be located at the office. If you have ideas or topics that you would like to see demonstrated give us a call.



Tips for Buying Healthy Tomato Seedlings

Dr. Kenneth Seebold

1. If possible purchase plants grown locally from seed and not plugs brought in from out-of-state. Out State plants are plants that are normally for sale at the box stores. The risk from late blight is generally lower on these types of plants than on imported, finished plants or locally-grown plants produced from imported plugs.
2. Look carefully at all plants on display for the characteristic symptoms and signs of late blight . The disease may be evident on just a few plants in a garden center at first, and symptoms will be mild. The disease often develops earliest in shaded areas of the retail bench, particularly beneath overhanging racks. Left unmanaged, the disease can affect large numbers of seedlings in a short time frame.
3. If you suspect that plants are infected by late blight, alert your local Cooperative Extension representative as quickly as possible. Suspect plants need to be tested quickly to confirm the presence of late blight. This is important because certain diseases or environmental problems can mimic late blight and laboratory tests are needed to provide a positive identification. Do not buy plants from retail outlets where late blight is suspected until testing is complete. It may seem reasonable to just buy the healthy-looking plants around those that appear to be diseased, but there is still risk if late blight is active in the retail center. It takes several days from the time a plant is infected by the late blight pathogen to the appearance of symptoms. Plants that seem healthy could actually have the disease and would certainly show symptoms once brought home and planted. If tests come back negative, it should be safe to plant seedlings purchased from that particular retail outlet.
4. Do not purchase tomato seedlings from a retail center where late blight has been confirmed until all plants have been destroyed and new, healthy stock brought in. In cases where late blight is confirmed in retail outlets, Cooperative Extension will work with store management to help bring the problem under control.
5. As an added measure of safety, consider holding purchased plants in an isolated area for a week before transplanting them in the garden or field. Water the plants as needed and watch for the appearance of symptoms of late blight (or other diseases and insects). Plants that appear healthy after this period will likely be safe to plant. If late blight (or another problem) is suspected, contact a representative of the Cooperative Extension Service for assistance in identifying the problem before moving these seedlings outside.

Symptoms and Signs of Late Blight

On seedlings, late blight first appears as circular-to-irregularly shaped, water-soaked blotches on leaves, petioles, and stems that expand rapidly under favorable conditions. In humid environments, white and fuzzy fungal growth may be present and indicates that spores are being produced and released into the area. Extensive blighting of foliage follows; death of seedlings is common where stem infections occur. If conditions become unfavorable for disease after the appearance of symptoms, lesions can "dry out", leaving brown-to-black necrotic areas on foliage and stems. If you have any questions on Late Blight or any other diseases of tomatoes or other crops give us a call at the Extension Office.

