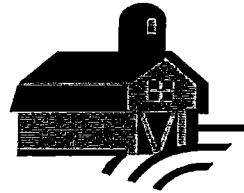


Garrard County Ag Newsletter



March 2011

**Garrard County
Cooperative
Extension Service**

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www.ca.uky.edu/garrard

Hello,

Cabin fever is an idiomatic term for a claustrophobic reaction that takes place when a person or group is isolated and/or shut in, in a small space, with nothing to do, for an extended period (as in a simple country vacation cottage during a long rain or snow). Symptoms include restlessness, irritability, irrational frustration with everyday objects, forgetfulness, laughter, excessive sleeping, distrust of anyone they are with, and an urge to go outside even in the rain, snow or dark.

I hope not too many of you are suffering from cabin fever. Spring is just around the corner, so just hang on. I see some signs of spring around the county as people are preparing greenhouses for seeding and some of you are over-seeding hay and pasture fields with clover. If anyone has a good cure for cabin fever let me know.

Sincerely,


Jay Hettmansperger

UP-COMING EVENTS

Area Futures & Options Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

4:00 pm, before the Stocker Meeting

Boyle Co. Extension Office, Danville, Ky

Area Stocker Calf Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

6:30 pm, meal served

Boyle County Extension Office, Danville, Ky

Garrard Co. Cattlemen's Assoc.

Thursday, March 10, 2011

6:30 pm, meal served

Garrard Co. Extension Office

Gardening 102, Backyard Fruits

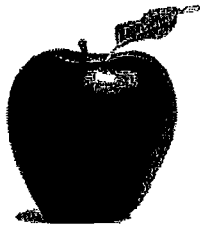
Friday, March 18, 2011

9:30 am Registration

Lancaster Baptist Family Life Center

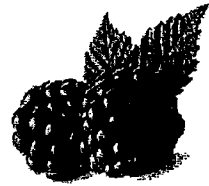
Jay Hettmansperger

Garrard County Extension Agent for
Agriculture and Natural Resources



Gardening 102

Backyard Fruits



Sponsored by
Garrard County Extension Service
Friday, March 18, 2011

Class Location: Lancaster Baptist Church Family Life Center on Richmond Street

Classes are free except the grafting class. There will be a \$15.00 charge for grafting which includes two rootstocks and a grafting knife.

Contact the Garrard County Extension Office at (859) 792-3026 to register by Tuesday March 15.

Schedule:

9:30 am Registration

10:00 to 10:45 three concurrent classes:

- Backyard Strawberries Jay Heitmansperger, Garrard County Ag Extension Agent
- Grapes: Starting and Keeping Your Vines Dr. John Strang, UK Horticulture Specialist
- Growing a Better Tomato Dr. Tim Coolong, UK Vegetable Specialist

11:00 to 11:45 three concurrent classes:

- Backyard Strawberries Jay Heitmansperger, Garrard County Ag Extension Agent
- Brambles - Blackberries & Raspberries Dr. John Strang, UK Horticulture Specialist
- Growing a Better Tomato Dr. Tim Coolong, UK Vegetable Specialist

12:00 to 12:45

Lunch is provided.

Menu will include recipes from
KY Proud Program.

- Fruit Salad
- Cucumber, Corn and Bean Salsa
- Beef and Mushroom Noodles

During lunch there will be a booth
with Master Gardeners to answer
gardening questions.

1:00 to 2:30 two concurrent classes:

- Pruning Fruit Trees, Dr. John Strang, UK Horticulture Specialist
 - Grafting and first year care of fruit Trees, Greg Whittis, McCreary County Ag Extension Agent
- (\$15.00 charge for this class. Includes two root stocks and a grafting knife. (Limit of 25 participants)

Weed Management Options for Grass Pastures Following a Dry Summer

By J.D. Green

Dry weather conditions last summer have resulted in grazed pastures with areas that may have bare soil and thin vegetative cover. Fields with thin stands of desirable pasture species are more likely to contain winter annual weeds such as chickweed, henbit, purple deadnettle, and mustard species. As these cool-season weeds die back, warm-season weeds will emerge and take their place. Other weeds such as buttercup and musk thistle are also likely to be more abundant this spring. Broadleaf pasture herbicides such as 2,4-D will aid control of buttercup and musk thistle; however, 2,4-D alone is not very effective for control of other plants such as chickweed. Therefore other labeled herbicide options should be considered.

The first step in determining weed management options is to do a critical evaluation of pasture fields in late winter and early spring. Scout fields looking for any developing weed problems. Identify areas of the field with potential problems such as biennial thistles, poison hemlock, buttercup, chickweed, or spring mustard species. Also, assess the growth of desirable forage grasses and legumes. Evaluate several areas within the field to determine the percent of the area occupied by desirable forage species, weeds, and bare ground.

The primary question then becomes – does the existing stand of desirable forages appear to be healthy and potentially competitive against any emerging weed problems? If the forage stand is acceptable and weed pressure is light, then the best course of action is likely to do nothing this spring except other routine pasture management practices. However, if you do see developing weed problems then you may want to take action to begin to correct these problems. In some cases there may not be any good solutions that will correct all weed problems observed. Highlighted below are some points to consider as you make those decisions.

After evaluating the field, you must decide whether or not to 1) overseed or drill more forages into an existing pasture to improve the stand of desirable forage grasses or 2) spray to control emerging broadleaf weeds. *You will not be able to do both practices in the spring since most broadleaf herbicides have the potential to injure newly emerging forage grasses or legumes.* For most broadleaf pasture herbicides such as 2,4-D it is generally recommended to wait at least 4 to 6 weeks after spraying before reseeding forage crops. Other broadleaf herbicides may require a 6 month or longer waiting period between application and seeding forage legumes and grasses (consult the label of specific herbicide products used). As a rule of thumb, if you decide to spray this spring you will need to wait until late summer or fall before seeding additional forages. If you decide to reseed first, then it is recommended that you wait until the new seedlings have become well established with a good root system before making a herbicide application this summer. It is important to also note that broadleaf type herbicides cannot be used in fields where desirable clovers or other legumes have been seeded.

Another alternative to consider is the use of a more complete pasture renovation technique to control or suppress growth of the weedy vegetation followed by interseeding more

forage grasses or legumes. This assumes that the field is not needed for grazing animals until the newly seeded forages become well established. In this approach a herbicide product containing paraquat (eg. Gramoxone) is applied to kill back winter annual weeds. Leaves of actively growing forage grasses will also be "burned back" by the paraquat application, but established plants are not likely to be killed. Desirable forage grasses and legumes which have a good root system should regrow and resume active growth within a few days after treatment. Since paraquat has no soil-residual activity, desirable forages can be interseeded into the soil immediately after herbicide application. Paraquat is a "Restricted Use" pesticide; therefore, only licensed and certified applicators are allowed to purchase and apply it. Weedy plants such as curly dock, chicory, or Canada thistle with perennial roots or other weeds with established taproots (such as musk thistle) will likely survive this treatment.

Another course of action is a "wait and see" approach. But, keep in mind that smaller, actively growing weeds are easier to control than after they increase in size. Specific details on herbicides labeled for use on grazed pastures and hay fields and their effectiveness on target weed species can be obtained in the University of Kentucky Extension bulletin, *Weed Management in Grass Pastures, Hayfields, and Fencerows* (AGR-172) available at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/agr/agr172/agr172.pdf>.

Note: Trade names are used to simplify the information presented in this newsletter. No endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not named.

Futures and Options Workshop

The area Extension Offices have scheduled a meeting for anyone that is interested in learning more about using risk management using futures and options. With the volatile cattle market right now several producers have asked about risk protection information. Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky Agriculture Economics specialist will be with us on **Tuesday, March 8th starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Boyle County Extension office.** Kenny will be working through several examples on paper with producers so that you can better understand the markets. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and then the area beef stocker meeting will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. that night. If you are interested in the futures market workshop please call the Extension office at 859-792-3026 to register for the meeting.

Beef Stocker Meeting

We have scheduled an area beef stocker meeting for **Tuesday, March 8th starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Boyle County Extension office.** Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler will be discussing Nutrition and Health, and Kenny Burdine will be going over futures, insurance and the cattle market. We will have a beef meal and if you plan on attending please call the Extension office by Monday March 7th. at 859-792-3026 so that meal plans can be finalized.