

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



GREEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWS

May 2009

**Cooperative
Extension Service**
Green County
106 South Public Square
Greensburg, KY 42743-1533
(270) 932-5311
Fax: (270) 932-4390
Email: bnewman@uky.edu
www.ca.uky.edu/green

Community Market

Greensburg and Green County have something new coming this summer, and it is the Community Market. Green County residents will be able to market their items which are either produced, manufactured, or grown in Green County. Whether it be produce, handmade aprons, flowers, or whatever else you can think of to sell, you are encouraged to participate.

On the second Saturday of each month, starting in June and going through September, the Green County Extension Council will be sponsoring the Community Market to be held at the Green County Cattlemen's Association covered pavilion on Campbellsville Road.

Set up will be at 8:30 a.m. central time the morning of each event, and the public will be invited to attend from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m.

There will be a charge of \$10 to participate for each day that it is held or you can also pay \$25 up-front to cover all of the sessions. This money will be used to advertise the event.

If you think that you might be interested in participating, please call the Green County Cooperative Extension Office at 270-932-5311.

Brian S. Newman,
County Extension Agent
for Agriculture &
Natural Resources

Tobacco Disease Update

Current situation. Diseases on tobacco seedlings have been relatively low-key this spring, despite earlier bouts of weather that created disease-favorable conditions. Our biggest issues on tobacco transplants at the moment are linked more to abiotic stresses (heat, cold, chemical & fertilizer injury, etc.) than a particular plant pathogen. Prior to the onset of warm weather, scattered cases of collar rot, *Rhizoctonia* damping-off, and *Pythium* root rot were observed. However, warmer weather has elevated water temperatures in float beds, increasing the likelihood that we'll start to see a spike in cases of *Pythium* root rot around the state. We know that *Pythium* can be an aggressive pathogen in the float system when water temperatures in the float bed rise above 70 °F, so it's important to keep a close watch on water beds as we head into the month of May. Beyond good sanitation to keep *Pythium* at bay, the best preventive practice that can be employed at this point in the season is treatment with Terramaster EC. I'd urge any grower who faces risk from *Pythium*, and hasn't applied Terramaster to date, to consider making an application of the product at a rate of between 0.7 to 1.0 fl oz per 100 gallons of float water.

Green County Fair

Applications are now available at the Green County Cooperative Extension Office to nominate someone's farm for either the "Cleanest and Greenest Farm" award or the "Best Kept Dairy Farm" award. Nominator's can be the owner or operator of the farm or just a neighbor or friend. Everyone is encouraged to do so if you have a farm in your part of the county that you think should be recognized. Applications are due back into the extension office by June 3.

Subject Your Bulls to a BSE

Producers searching for a cost efficient method to promote a successful breeding program may find breeding soundness examinations (BSEs) for bulls beneficial. The importance of the bull in a cattle breeding program often is underestimated. A cow is responsible for half the genetic material in only one calf each year, while the bull is responsible for half the genetic material in 20 to 50 calves. The bull's ability to locate cows in estrus and breed them is clearly vital to a successful breeding program.

For the breeding soundness evaluation to be successful, bulls should be evaluated 30 to 60 days before the start of breeding. It is important to allow sufficient time to replace questionable bulls. A BSE is administered by a veterinarian and includes a physical examination (feet, legs, eyes, teeth, flesh cover, scrotal size and shape), an internal and external examination of the reproductive tract and semen evaluation for sperm cell motility and normality. Many counties in Kentucky have contracted with their local veterinarian to provide the BSE service county-wide on a single day.

The physical examination studies overall appearance. Body condition score is one factor to evaluate. Body condition can be affected by length of the breeding season, grazing and supplemental feeding conditions, number of cows the bull is expected to service and distance required to travel during breeding. Ideally, bulls should have enough fat cover at the start of breeding so their ribs appear smooth across their sides. A body condition score 6 (where 1 = emaciated and 9 = very obese) is the target body condition prior to the breeding season.

Sound feet and legs are very important because if bulls are unsound, their ability to travel and mount for mating will be affected. The general health of the bull is critical since sick, aged and injured bulls are less likely to mate and usually have lower semen quality. Also, any illness that elevates body temperature two degrees for 48 straight hours can render a bull totally infertile for about 60 days. Producers should be aware of any incidence of foot rot, pink eye, or respiratory distress that could elevate body temperature.

The external examination of the reproductive tract includes evaluation of the testes, spermatic cords, epididymis, and penis. Scrotal circumference is an important measure since it is directly related to the total mass of sperm producing tissue, sperm cell normality, and semen output. Bulls with large circumference will produce more sperm with higher normality. Extension of the penis is vital to a complete BSE. Injury, hair rings, and genital warts are all abnormalities that can prevent the extension of the penis and produces infertility. Examination of the penis before and during semen collection will detect any inflammation, foreskin adhesions, warts, abscesses and penile deviations. The internal examination is conducted to detect any abnormalities in the internal reproductive organs.

The semen evaluation is done by examining a sample of the semen under a microscope. The veterinarian will estimate the percentage of sperm cells that are moving in a forward direction. This estimate is called "motility". In addition, the sperm cells will be individually examined for proper shape or "morphology". Less than 30 percent of the cells should be found to have an abnormal shape.

Any bull meeting all minimum standards for the physical exam, scrotal size and semen quality will be classed as a "satisfactory" potential breeder. Bulls that fail any minimum standard will be given a rating of "classification deferred."

This rating indicates that the bull will need another test to confirm status. Mature bulls should be retested after six weeks. Mature bulls will be classified as unsatisfactory potential breeders if they fail subsequent tests. Young bulls that are just reaching puberty may be rated as "classification deferred", and then later meet all of the minimum standards. Therefore caution should be exercised when making culling decisions based on just one breeding soundness exam.

Many producers work hard to manage their cows for high fertility. They may assume that the bulls will do their expected duties. However, it's important to pay close attention to bulls to establish successful breeding.

Avoiding Herbicide Resistance

Herbicide resistance has become an important issue to consider when making weed management decisions. Weed resistance can and has occurred to several products in recent years.

The potential for weed resistance to develop increases with continued use of herbicides that have similar chemical compositions. So, herbicide use should be monitored and production practices implemented to prevent and reduce the potential for resistance to develop.

A key to avoiding herbicide resistant weed populations is prevention. Here are some management strategies to consider in preventing and dealing with herbicide resistant weeds.

- Scout fields regularly and identify weeds present. Respond quickly to shifts in weed populations to restrict the spread of the weeds.
- Select an herbicide based on weeds present and use an herbicide only when necessary.
- Rotate crops. Crop rotation helps disrupt weed cycles and some weed problems are more easily managed in some crops than others.
- Rotate herbicides. Avoid using the same herbicide or another herbicide with the same mode of action for two consecutive years in a field. Remember that it is possible for an herbicide used in one crop to have the same mode of action as a different herbicide in another crop.
- Apply herbicides with different modes of action as a tank mixture or sequential application during the same season.
- Combine other weed control practices, such as cultivation, with herbicide treatments where soil erosion potential is minimized.
- Clean tillage and harvest equipment to avoid moving weed problems from one field to another.

June is National Beef Month

SZECHUAN BEEF STIR-FRY

This fast and easy stir-fry gets a spicy kick from crushed red pepper.

Total preparation and cooking time: 15 minutes

<i>2 beef shoulder center steaks, cut 3/4 in. thick (about 8 oz. each)</i>	<i>1 package (10 oz.) stir-fry fresh vegetable blend</i>
<i>3 tablespoons water</i>	<i>1 clove garlic, minced</i>
<i>1/2 cup prepared sesame-ginger stir-fry sauce</i>	<i>1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper</i>
<i>2 cups hot cooked rice or brown rice, prepared without butter or salt</i>	<i>1/4 cup dry-roasted peanuts</i>

Combine vegetables and water in large nonstick skillet; cover and cook over medium-high heat 4 minutes or until crisp-tender. Remove and drain vegetables. Set aside.

Meanwhile cut beef steaks into 1/4-inch thick strips.

Heat same skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add 1/2 of beef and 1/2 of garlic; stir-fry 1 to 2 minutes or until outside surface of beef is no longer pink. Remove from skillet; keep warm. Repeat with remaining beef and garlic.

Return all beef and vegetables to skillet. Add stir-fry sauce and red pepper; cook and stir 1 to 2 minutes or until heated through. Spoon over rice. Sprinkle with peanuts.

Makes 4 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 351 calories; 11 g fat (3 g saturated fat; 5 g monounsaturated fat); 64 mg cholesterol; 1147 mg sodium; 29 g carbohydrate; 3.0 g fiber; 32 g protein; 5.4 mg niacin; 0.3 mg vitamin B6; 2.9 mcg vitamin B12; 4.1 mg iron; 33.0 mcg selenium; 6.6 mg zinc.

This recipe is an excellent source of protein, niacin, vitamin B12, iron, selenium and zinc, and a good source of fiber and vitamin B6.

Interest Rate from Your Forest Woodlands

No one has to remind you of how the investments in your financial portfolio are holding up during these early months of 2009. From every direction, people are providing you with their suggestions and methods of "investing" to maintain a high degree of sound fiscal planning strategies for your long- and short-term goals.

Kentucky woodland owners are not exempt, but those owners who actively are involved in a sound woodland management plan are seeing continued growth rates in their tree investments during these turbulent times. Each tree continues to grow every year with added wood, both in diameter and height. Most of the growth rate many woodland owners see is the result of working closely with their "woodlands financial adviser," who probably is a professional forester, helping to identify ways for owners to continue increasing their woodland values.

Many of the more than 400,000 Kentucky woodland owners invest little or no time developing a forest plan to increase the maximum amount of growth possible from each timber stand. Owners should let the skills and knowledge of a professional forester analyze their woodlands future potential by developing a forest stewardship plan. The plan will incorporate both your objectives and the characteristics and potential of your unique woodlands.

Your forester's job is to work in the complex, natural community that provides us with not only trees for the varied products we derive from a woodland stand, but a managed timber stand, which can provide clean water resources, abundant wildlife habitat opportunities or simply an enjoyable place for recreation and relaxation.

A sound woodland management plan, developed by a forester and carried out with the coordination of the landowner, should be a sound component of the landowner's financial portfolio for future economic times. This plan should be realistic, achievable and for many financial reasons, measurable. Not only will woodland owners increase the value of the stand by following a professionally-developed fiscal formula, but they will feel a sense of stewardship and pass on a caring attitude toward the land for future generations.

COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
SERVICE



Cooperative Extension Service

*University of Kentucky
Green County
106 South Public Square
Greensburg KY 42743-1533*

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
GREENSBURG KY
PERMIT 35

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED