

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



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**Lewis County Agriculture & Natural
Resources Newsletter
February 2012**

Hay Production

Hay producers: Are you having trouble with weeds in your fields and you would like to know how to get them under control?



Then on February 6 and April 12 you will learn all about what options are available to you as a forage producer. The February 6th meeting will be held at the Fleming County Extension Office, starting at 6:00 P.M. There you will talk about early season weed control. April 12th will be held at the Lewis County Extension Office at 6:00 P.M. During that session we will be talking about late season weed control. If you have any questions please call the office at 796-2732.

Pesticide Training

Do you need to renew your private applicator license or maybe you need to receive it for the first time. In either case you can come to one of the following classes: February 21 starting at 6:00 P.M. at the Extension Office, March 1st starting at 6:00 P.M. at the Extension Office, and March 8th starting at 6:00 P.M. at the Tollesboro Volunteer Fire Department. There is no charge for the private applicator license.

Farm Family Night

Tuesday, March 13th will be the third annual Farm Family Night at the Maysville Community College in Maysville. The event will run from

5:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M. The night includes something for the whole family. A BBQ supper will run from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. and is free but you must pick up a ticket from the Extension Office. Several local agriculture businesses will be set up, door prizes will be awarded including a 32 inch flat screen TV for the adults and a Nook for the kids. For a full list of classes you can call the Extension Office.



Congratulations

Congratulations to a couple of local farmers who received an award for having the best quality soybeans in the state. Jim and Matthew Meadows received first place for growing soybeans that had the highest protein level. They received their award at the Commodity Conference in Bowling Green. The award was sponsored by the Kentucky Soybean Board.



Customer Appreciation Day

Rip's Farm Center will be hosting a customer appreciation day on March 2nd from 10:00 to 2:00. Make sure you stop by and see them. Extension will be out there along with many other great things.

Lewis Co. Vegetable Producers



The Lewis County Vegetable Producers would like to invite anyone that is interested in vegetable diseases to come to the Extension Office on February 23rd at 6:00 P.M. Dr. Shawn Wright will be here to talk about different vegetable diseases and what we can do to control them. They would also like to remind anyone that is interested in joining the farmers market this summer they must attend the meeting.

National Farm Machinery Show



The National Farm Machinery Show will take place in Louisville on February 15th through February 18th at the Kentucky State Fair and Expo. The event is free to attend, you will just have to pay to park.

Burley Co-op Regional Meeting

The Burley Co-op will be hosting a regional meeting on February 28th at 12:00 P.M. at the Mason County Extension Office. Dr. Pearce from the University of Kentucky will talk about production, and a representative from Burley Co-op will give an industry update. The meeting is open to any tobacco producer. If you plan on attending please call in by February 27th to the

Lewis County Extension Office so that we can get a head count for the meal.

Growing and Processing Energy Crops and Material

The study group just completed the first meeting with representatives of Show Me Energy and the Biomass Energy Development Company from Missouri. They have started the Feasibility Study to evaluate the potential for growing and processing energy crops and material. The success of this project will require support from the whole region. It began in Bracken County, but as the process moves forward they need the involvement and expertise from each of the surrounding counties to help in the planning. They would like for one or two individuals that are very interested in renewable energy, and would have the time and commitment to serve on a steering committee, to join in this effort. This steering committee will meet with the study group and help guide the process and learn first-hand, the results and determine how the project will proceed after the study. If you know of an individual in Lewis County that has this interest, please share this information with them. Identifying those key individuals that have an interest in this new evolution in agriculture will determine the future of this project. For more information and/or to volunteer for the steering committee, contact me at the Lewis County Extension Office at 796-2732.

Strawberry Order

Winter will soon be over, and it will be time to play in our gardens. If you would like to have strawberry plants in the garden you can place an order with the Lewis County Extension Office. You can place an order with the Lewis County Extension Office. You can order strawberry plants in bundles of about 25 plants at a cost of \$6 per bundle. Orders need to be turned in by March 2 and the plants will be shipped in by mid-April. The berries will be a



June bearing plant. The variety will be Allstar. It is a mid-season, large fruit plant. It is resistant to leaf spot, verticillium wilt, and fed stele. Allstar is great for home use and processing. You can place your orders by calling 796-2732.

February Gardening Class



A gardening class will be held on February 29th at the Extension Office at 6:30 P.M. We will be discussing three gardening seasons, and what we can grow at different times of the year to get the most out of our garden. This class is a great way for home gardeners to learn some wonderful tips. The class is free to attend. If you have any questions please call 796-2732.

Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is a simple and inexpensive means of conserving fresh water by collecting and storing rainwater from rooftops for use during drier periods. Though water collected in rain barrels is not suitable for drinking it can be used in a variety of ways around your home.



Rain barrels offer a number of benefits such as helping to reduce storm water runoff, decreasing municipal water usage and potentially protecting your home's foundation. Impervious surfaces such as rooftops, parking lots and roads prevent rainwater or storm water from soaking into the soil. Instead, the storm water flows across these impervious surfaces where it picks up trash, oil and grease, pet waste, pesticides and other pollutants before entering streams, rivers or lakes, untreated by way of storm drains. Rain barrels can be used to capture and store rainwater or even detain and slowly release rainwater so the amount of runoff from rooftops is decreased.

Once captured in a rain barrel, rainwater can be used to water lawns and gardens, moisten

compost bins, rinse tools and equipment or even as a water supply for ornamental ponds and bird baths. Remember, harvested rainwater is not suitable for cooking or drinking. By using rainwater, the amount of municipal water used can be reduced thus resulting in a lower water bill.

Rain barrels can also help control soil erosion caused by water gushing out of downspouts and can potentially help control the setting of water near foundations by containing and redirecting water to more desirable locations such as a rain garden.

Sincerely,
Philip Konopka
County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources



Public Notification of Procedure for Filing a Complaint

The Cooperative Extension Service prohibits discrimination in its programs and employment on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. To file a complaint of discrimination, contact Rosemary Veach, UK College of Agriculture, Lexington, KY 40546 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

Discrimination Complaint Procedure

Any person who believes they have been discriminated against in any Cooperative Extension Service sponsored activity or program may file a complaint with the Secretary of Agriculture by writing to: USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Bldg., 14th and Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250.