

Newsletter

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

**Mason County Cooperative
Extension Service**

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November/December '11

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Grain Meeting

Dr. Chad Lee will be at the Mason County Extension Office on November 22 at 6:30 PM to discuss grain production in the Buffalo Trace Area.

Discussion about fertility, marketing, grain following sod, and other topics will be discussed. The meeting is designed for area producers to get a jump start for next year's grain production season.



will forge enhanced relationships between law enforcement and the agricultural community.

The meeting is scheduled for the 8th of December, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mason County Extension Office located at 800 US 68 Maysville, KY 41056.

Topics of discussion will include safety regulations, licensing requirements and driver qualifications.

For more information about the program, please contact the Kentucky State Police Division of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement at (606) 783-9542.

Kentucky State Police hosting Farmer Outreach

KSP INVITES FARMERS TO ATTEND
OUTREACH PROGRAM

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The Kentucky State Police is partnering with the University of Kentucky and the Mason, Lewis and Fleming County Extension Offices to provide a 'Farmer Outreach' forum that



Horse Health Meeting

The University of Kentucky Equine Group is hosting a health management program on December 13 beginning at 6:00 PM. The program is highlighting the newest methods of deworming and other health management issues. If you are a horse owner or enthusiast don't miss this opportunity and join us at the Mason County Extension Office.



Woodland Owners Forestry Webinars

The University of Kentucky's Forestry Department is offering a series of forestry webinars. Two sessions will be hosted at the Mason County Extension Office. Shiitake Mushroom Production will be hosted on November 22. The last session, Wildlife Damage: Control and Management will be held November 29 at the Mason County Extension Office. All sessions will take place from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Feel free to contact the Extension Office for more details and to register.

District Horticulture Series

District One ANR and HORT Agents are hosting a series of horticulture topics beginning November 29. There will be a different session each month discussing various topics in the horticulture field. The sessions will be connected via the web and offered in twenty different counties. The following topics are scheduled for the program:

Nov 29	Planning for Your Garden
Jan 31	Growing More in Less Space
Feb 29	The Three Gardening Seasons
Mar 29	Irrigating, mulching, Fertilizing, composting
Apr 30	Garden Weed Control
May 29	Harvest and Storing Vegetables
Jun 21	Canning and Freezing Vegetables

Each session will begin at 6:30 p.m. at each host site. A collection of specialists, agents, and volunteers will teach the above topics. If you have any questions about the program feel free to contact the Extension Office at 606-564-6808. Please register for the meeting by November 24.



Food Safety Procedures During Power Outages

From time to time we face periods when we have no power. The tips following will help when those times do arise. Devise a plan now to be prepared for times of prolonged outages.

Improperly stored or handled food during extended power outages can lead to food contamination and related foodborne illness, which can be serious and life-threatening.

The Kentucky Department for Public Health recommends following these safety tips to help you and your family to prevent foodborne illness:

- Keep freezers closed to maintain the proper temperature for frozen foods. A full freezer will hold the temperature for approximately 48 hours and for 24 hours if the freezer is half full.
- A refrigerator will only hold its temperature for about four hours. Food items like milk, dairy products, meats, eggs and leftovers should be placed in a cooler surrounded by ice if the outage lasts for more than four hours.
- Dry ice can be used to keep refrigerators cold. If the outage lasts for several days, 50 pounds of dry ice should preserve food in an 18-cubic foot full freezer for two days. *Be careful when handling dry ice. Never touch dry ice with bare hands or breathe its vapors in an enclosed area. Dry ice is frozen carbon dioxide, a gas.*

- If left without power, purchase one or more coolers, ice and a digital, dial or instant-read food thermometer,
- If the freezer is not full, DPH strongly advises that poultry and meat items be grouped away from other foods to prevent juices from contaminating other items.



When the refrigerator and/or freezer are operating again, follow these guidelines to decide what to do with foods:

- Refrigerated foods should be safe as long as power is out for no more than four hours.
- Throw out any perishable food in your refrigerator, such as meat, poultry, lunchmeats, fish, dairy products, eggs and any prepared or cooked foods that have been above 41 degrees Fahrenheit for four hours. Bacteria can multiply to unsafe levels under these conditions.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables are safe as long as they are still firm and there is no evidence of mold or sliminess.

- If an appliance thermometer was kept in the freezer, read the temperature when power comes back on. If the appliance thermometer stored in the freezer reads 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below, the food is safe and may be refrozen.
- If the food still contains ice crystals or is 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below, it is safe to refreeze.
- Raw meats, poultry, cheese, juices, breads and pastries can be refrozen without losing too much food quality.
- Prepared food, fish, vegetables and fruits in the freezer can be refrozen safely, but food quality may suffer.



Winter Livestock Care

As the days shorten and the nights become more brisk, it signals time for winter care of livestock. Providing ample food sources that provide the nutritional needs of livestock will ensure a healthier animal. As temperatures drop continue to offer fresh clean water sources for livestock. Continuing to care for livestock properly will promote a healthier, more productive herd.

Be Careful It's Hunting Time

November marks the annual firearm deer hunting season for Kentucky. During this time many more people are in the woods and deer activity picks up. Continue to be careful on the roadways and be aware of higher instances of crossing by deer during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tad Campbell".

Tad Campbell,
CEA for Agriculture/Natural Resources