



# Ohio County Farm & Home News

Cooperative  
Extension Service

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## KY MAPLE DAY – FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> AT HITCHEL FARM



Be sure to come out to Hitchel Farm this Saturday for “Ky Maple Day”, to see how maple syrup is collected from trees and turned into “REAL” maple syrup.

Kentucky Maple Days is a great winter agritourism opportunity to get the family out to visit some of Kentucky’s maple producers and see how this industry is making a comeback in the state.

You can visit Hitchel Farm, at 4735 Rob Roy Rd. near Cromwell. They will open their farm to visitors on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. They will have tours to the sugarbush and sugar shack, as well as, live demonstrations, fresh maple syrup and other goodies for sale.

Further information, including event timings and a map of all participating farms, is available at: <https://ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu/ky-maple-day>.

The Ky Maple Day program represents a unique opportunity for Kentuckians to get their hands on pure Kentucky maple syrup and learn how it is made. So come visit Hitchel Farm on Saturday

## APPLY SEED-FERTILIZER MIXES WITHOUT DELAY

Frost-seeding season has begun, and it can sometimes be tempting to save a trip across the field by mixing the seed with dry fertilizer before broadcasting. Based on research at U.K., this might not be a good approach unless the mixture can be spread immediately.

Chris Teutsch, Extension Forage specialist, and Edwin Ritchey, Extension Soils specialist with U.K., initiated a trial looking at the impact on seed germination when mixing muriate of potash (0-0-60) or a blended fertilizer (19-19-19) with red clover seed. Their results were reported at the International Grassland Congress in Covington, Ky., last May.

The trial involved mixing 5 grams of either coated or uncoated red clover seed with 100 grams of one of the two fertilizer types. The mixtures were placed in containers but remained outdoors under a roof. Seed germination was evaluated after 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 14, 21, and 28 days of fertilizer exposure. There was also a control treatment with seed only (no fertilizer).

Seed germination was determined by extracting seeds using tweezers and placing them in a petri dish lined with wetted filter paper. The entire replicated trial was repeated twice within a week during June 2020. There was no trial by treatment interaction, so the data was combined when reported.

Mixing the red clover seed with the potash fertilizer resulted in a decline in seed germination, and this decrease was greater for the seed that was coated. The control treatments did not inhibit germination. The blended fertilizer resulted in a decline in seed germination, with the coated seed declining at a greater rate.

In general, germination was inhibited more by the blended fertilizer than the potash fertilizer alone. This

was likely due to the nature of the blended fertilizer to draw in more moisture than potash.

Seed coating also caused a greater decline in seed germination for both the potash and blended fertilizer, although the rate of decline was greatest for the blended fertilizer. This was likely due to the seed coating having an enhanced ability to draw moisture, leading to higher levels of salt injury. At 21 days of exposure to the blended fertilizer, the germination of the coated seed was near zero compared to the raw seed, which was about 55%.

It's clear from the results of this study that an extended exposure to fertilizer has a detrimental impact on the germination of red clover seed.

The researchers did point out that one limitation of this study was the size of the mixed samples, which was quite small compared to an on-farm application. They felt that the small sample unit size likely accelerated the rate of decline in seed germination compared to what might be found in larger piles or loads in spreader trucks.

In the case of larger quantities of seed-fertilizer mixtures, a surface crust would likely form, and that may slow the rate of germination decline in the interior of the pile. Nevertheless, it is still prudent to apply seed-fertilizer mixtures as soon as possible. After all, broadcast seeding is already handicapped by a lower germination and establishment percentage compared to drilling seed into the soil.

## PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

The next opportunity to renew your "Private Pesticide Applicators" license is this Thursday. So, be sure to mark your calendar and attend if needed.

- **Thursday, Feb. 15 – 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.**
- **Monday, March 4 – 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.**

Check your cards to be sure you have a valid certification for 2024. Cards expire on December 31 of the year of expiration. The "Private Pesticide Applicator" training is free and open to anyone wanting to attend, whether you are renewing your certification or need to receive your certification for the first time.

## SOYBEAN SUCCESS SCHOOL – FEB. 19<sup>TH</sup>

The Daviess Co. Extension Service is hosting a "Soybean Success School" on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> at the Daviess Co. Extension office. The program will begin at 8:30 a.m.

and run till 3:00 p.m. There is a \$10 registration fee to attend.

The program will include an extensive array of topics designed to improve your knowledge of soybean production. These include:

- Fundamentals of yield  
\*SCN numbers
- Maturity groups & planting dates  
\*Foliar fungicides
- Optimum herbicide timing  
\*Fungicide seed treatments
- Soil pH  
\*New disease "uglies" to be aware of
- Micronutrients  
\*North American soybean outlook
- Foliar nutrients vs fertilizer  
\*South American soybean outlook
- Biologicals
- Trends of our area
- Soybean marketing plans

This will be one of the most extensive soybean management programs you will find, so take advantage and attend. Register by contacting the Daviess Co. Extension Office at (270)685-8480 .

## KY MASTER LOGGER PROGRAM

There is still time to register for the "Logger Web TV" program on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The program allows Master Loggers to get enough continuing education (CE) hours to renew their certification for the next three years.



Every three years, U.K. Forestry Specialist, host the "Logger Web TV" to assist a large number of Master Loggers in fulfilling their CE. This program covers

information important to Master Loggers, such as updates on regulations, best logger practices and highlights various timber industries across the state.

This year's program will be held on **February 27, 2024** at multiple locations across the state, one of these

being the **Ohio County Extension Office**. The program will run from **8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. CT**, with lunch on your own from 11:00 a.m. till noon.

This program allows you to get 6 hours for your CE's to renew your certification, whenever it expires, in one location, on one day!!!

**Registration is \$50** and if you need to renew your license, an additional **\$25 renewal fee**. You can register by using by contacting Beth Williams, with U.K., at 859-257-6230 or stop by the office for a mail-in registration sheet. They can accept credit card payments by mail or over the phone.

## UPCOMING Events

- Feb. 19-20 – Heart of America Grazing Conference; Greenacres Art Center, Cincinnati, OH
- Feb. 20-22 – Ky Turf & Landscape Management Short Course; Hardin Co. Extension Center
- Feb. 27 – Master Logger TV Webinar; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 8:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.
- March 4 – Private Pesticide Applicators training; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.
- March 11 – Cow-Calf Profitability Conference; Warren Co. Extension Office, Bowling Green
- March 12 – Cow-Calf Profitability Conference; Hardin Co. Extension office; Elizabethtown