



Ohio County Farm & Home News

Cooperative
Extension Service

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KY MAPLE DAY – FEBRUARY 17TH AT HITCHEL FARM



The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and Kentucky Maple Syrup Association are excited to announce the fifth annual Kentucky

Maple Days Feb. 3rd and 17th. This event is part of the Kentucky Maple Syrup Project and wishes to invite the public to explore maple syrup production's rising status across the state's farms and sugarhouses.

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.

Kentucky's journey with maple syrup production traces back to the 1930s during the Great Depression. Sugar rationing led many to produce their own maple syrup. Though this practice dwindled over time, the state has experienced a resurgence in maple syrup production, revitalizing a nearly lost art.

You can visit a maple syrup producer locally at Hitchel Farm, at 4735 Rob Roy Rd. near Cromwell. They will open their farm to visitors on Saturday, February 17th, 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

PRIVATE APPLICATOR PESTICIDE TRAINING

For many years the 'Private Applicator Pesticide Training' was considered only for people using restricted-use pesticides, but with today's pesticide products **all** pesticide users producing crops for consumption, should attend one of the trainings. Pesticide products are safer than they have ever been, but if not used properly, they can be harmful to not only the user, but the environment, as well.

I have set up three "**Private Applicator Pesticide Trainings**", at the Ohio Co. Extension Center, with the first session being held this Friday:

- **Friday, Feb. 9 – 8:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.**
- **Thursday, Feb. 15 – 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.**
- **Monday, March 4 – 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.**

So, check your cards to be sure you have a valid certification for 2024. Cards expire on December 31 of the year of expiration. The "Pesticide Safety Education" 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.

KY MASTER LOGGER PROGRAM



The Kentucky Forest Conservation Act states that Kentucky Master Loggers must obtain six hours of Continuing Education (CE) every three years from the date their card was issued, in order to renew and maintain their Master Logger status. Continuing Education is important

because it enables individuals to stay current on new innovations, laws and regulations, best management practices and other topics related to timber harvesting resulting in more efficient and environmentally sound logging operations.

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 years’ program will be held on **February 27, 2024** at multiple locations in 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.

FORAGE TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

- Continue grazing stockpiled tall fescue if available.
- Assess grass stands. If thin, consider adding legumes.

- Begin frost seeding with at least 6 lb/A red and 1 lb/A white clover on closely grazed pastures.
- Consider applying nitrogen in mid to late February on some pastures to promote early growth.
- Sign up for shared use drills for spring renovation.
- Service and calibrate no-till drills.
- Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test if not done in fall.

UPCOMING Events

- Feb. 8 – Ky Crop Health Conference; National Corvette Museum; Bowling Green
- Feb. 8 – Ky Alfalfa & Stored Forage Conference; Warren Co. Extension Office; Bowling Green
- Feb. 9 – Private Pesticide Training; O.C. Extension Center; 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Feb. 9 – Ohio Co. Agricultural Development Council Meeting; O.C. Extension Center; 1:00 p.m.
- 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.