

Ag & Natural Resources Of Cows and Plows

FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION JUNE / JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER



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TEMPERATURE CHECKING HAY CAN KEEP FIRES AT BAY

By Laura Skillman

Hay should be monitored to ensure it does not reach temperatures that can damage the hay or lead to spontaneous combustion. Doug Overhults, UK Extension agricultural engineer

Hay bale or barn fires can be prevented if farmers bale hay at appropriate moistures and monitor the temperature of recently baled hay.

Generally, hay will go through a heating phase within one to two weeks after baling. During this time, hay should be monitored to ensure it does not reach temperatures that can damage the hay or lead to spontaneous combustion, said Doug Overhults, an agricultural engineer with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

It is not unusual for the temperature within a bale of hay to reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and may go as high as 130 degrees before beginning to decline. If the temperature peaks below 130 degrees, there may be some loss of quality but no danger of fire.

With free air circulation around a bale, both heat and moisture can dissipate. A single bale rarely heats enough to catch on fire, but when they are placed close together or stacked with other bales that are also heating, it is much more difficult for the heat to leave the bales, he said.

If hay temperatures reach 150 degrees, bales need to be moved to allow for better air circulation and the temperature should be checked frequently. At 180 degrees fire is imminent, and at 200 degrees it is likely to be present. In either case, the fire department should be notified. It is best to wait for them to arrive before removing the hay from the stack in case of a flame up, Overhults said.

Smoke from hay that has been treated with an acid preservative may contain toxic fumes, so keep people away from the smoke and inform the firefighters of the treatment that was applied.

To check the temperature of hay, several types of thermometers can be used, Overhults said.

“There is really a multitude of ways to do this,” he said. “There are no stringent requirements. We’d like something that’s easy to use, something that’s durable. We’d like to have something that would measure up to 200 degrees. It does not have to be real accurate. If it is within 5 degrees, you have enough information to make a decision.”

Attaching a string or thin wire and lowering or pushing it into a probe that has been inserted into the hay is one way to use a simple glass thermometer. Do not insert them directly into the hay because they break very easily. It is best to use only spirit-filled glass thermometers. That prevents any risk of accidentally contaminating hay with mercury from a broken thermometer.

Electronic thermometers with remote sensors and a digital readout can be used. Avoid LED displays because they are often hard to read in bright light. An LCD is a better choice. For farmers who are also moisture testing their hay, some of the electronic moisture meters also measures temperature.

Long stem thermometers, commonly called compost thermometers, are probably the most rugged and reliable. With these types, the price increases with the dial size and length of the stem. It may be tempting to stick these directly into a hay bale, but the stem can be easily bent and the accuracy or operation of the thermometer could be destroyed, Overhults said.

It is best and necessary in most cases to use some kind of hay probe. A farmer can easily make one for himself using steel pipe or electrical conduit, he said. Probes can also be purchased commercially.

When using a thermometer, measure the wettest hay first. Probe square bales from the side and round bales from the end. The probe should be inserted near the center of the bale. In round bales, if the core is loosely formed, probe six to 12 inches away from the center where the hay will be more tightly packed.

In large stacks, it may be difficult to reach the center, but it is important to get at least five to 10 feet down from the top or in from the side, Overhults said. The most critical factor is to reach where the wettest hay is stored. It is best to probe at several locations and at different depths within a stack to locate the warmest spot.

For more information on temperature checking and other aspects of hay production contact the Franklin County Extension office of the Cooperative Extension Service.

2024 CENTRAL KENTUCKY HAY CONTEST

TEST YOUR HAY!

Testing provides nutritional value of hay to assist in balancing rations, and can result in reduced feed cost, increased animal performance, and information to improve forage stands.

Free analysis to determine hay quality and livestock needs.

Call the Franklin County Extension Office to sign up.
502-695-9035



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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Join us for

Good Idea Shop Talks

A free meet-up series for row crop and livestock producers to exchange ideas for improving on-farm soil and water resources, while protecting profitability

Thursdays, August 1st, 8th, and 15th, 2024
at 11:30am CT / 12:30pm ET via Zoom

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER:
[HTTPS://GOODIDEAFARM.ORG/SHOP-TALKS](https://goodideafarm.org/shop-talks)



ON JUNE

19

WE CELEBRATE

JUNETEENTH

On this day in 1865, African-American slaves were told that they had been set free.

The Franklin County Extension Office will be closed on June 19th to honor this day.

SAVE THE DATE

Franklin County Fair

July 16-20, 2024

FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR IMPORTANT DATES:

July 15– 6:30-8:30 pm—Exhibit Hall Entries Accepted

July 16– 8-11:00 am—Exhibit Hall Entries Accepted

6:00 pm—Sheep Show

7:00 pm—Off Road/ Tuff Truck Competition

July 17– 7:00 pm—Swine Show

July 18– 6:00pm—Market/Meat Goat Show

7:00 pm– Hall’s Mud Racing

July 19– 6:00pm—Franklin County Beef Show

7:00 pm– Demolition Derby

July 20– 7:00 pm KITPA Truck & Tractor Pull



1776

Happy 4th of July!



The Franklin County Extension Office will be closed
July 4th in celebration of Independence Day.

You've visited Happy Jacks, your kid's have school trips there and you can purchase their produce at The Farmers Market.

But, do you know how large-scale vegetable production is accomplished in a sustainable fashion on a family farm in Kentucky?

Find out how at the **64th Annual**
FARM CITY FIELD DAY
Happy Jack's Farm
July 11, 2024 9am-1pm



Tickets available at all Franklin County Farm Bureaus

- Learn the history and evolution of Happy Jack's farm and their on-going diversification efforts to remain viable.
- Hear from the restaurateur's point of view the values and challenges of restaurants serving local products.
- Discover how Happy Jack's produce is grown, harvested & prepped.
- How does large-scale vegetable production impact local land and water?
- What are the components of a home or barn solar panel system AND is it affordable for you?

Discover all this and much more on the educational farm tour!

**Tickets are available at all
Franklin County Farm Bureaus!**



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

“Kentucky First Farm” Workshop

A Beginning Farmer Rancher Development Program by
UK Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension
Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource
Sustainability (RCARS)
130 Robinson Rd, Jackson KY 41339

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Time (ET)	Event	Speaker
8:30 – 9:00	Registration and Refreshments	
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and Introductions	Ricky Yeagan UK Extension Associate Senior
9:15 – 10:00	History and Importance of Robinson Center for Appalachian Resource Sustainability	Shawn Wright, UK Horticulture Specialist
10:00 – 10:45	Kentucky’s Diverse Horticulture A presentation by the Center for Crop Diversification & Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) Program	Brett Wolff, UK Extension Specialist Senior
10:45 – 11:00	Break	
11:00 – 12:15	Value-Added Products, Rules and Regulations, Product Safety	Joni Nelson, M.E.S. KSU Extension Associate Manager of the Center for Sustainability of Farms & Families
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:00	Be Safety Smart on the Farm	Dale Dobson, KDA Safety Administrator Education & Outreach Division
2:00 – 2:30	Farmer’s Markets – Are You Ready? A Question and Answer Session	Speaker Panel
2:30 – 3:30	Trip to Breathitt County Farmers Market * Farmer’s Market is located directly across from the RCARS farm	

- *Funded by NIFA BFRDP Award # 2021-70033-35706*

References:

- KCARD (Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development): www.kcard.info
- FSA (Farm Service Agency): www.fsa.usda.gov
- Farm Credit: www.farmcredit.com
- NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service):
www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ky/home
- SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education): www.sare.org
- Rural Development: www.rd.usda.gov
- KOAP (Kentucky Office of Ag Policy): www.kyagr.com

USDA REMINDS PRODUCERS TO FILE CROP ACREAGE REPORTS

WASHINGTON, June 10, 2024 – Agricultural producers should make an appointment with their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to complete [crop acreage reports](#) before the applicable deadline after planting is complete. July 15 is a major deadline for most crops, but acreage reporting deadlines vary by county and by crop.

“By filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, producers can avoid the loss of important safety net, disaster assistance, conservation and crop insurance program benefits,” said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “Call your local FSA office to make an appointment to report your acres once planting is complete. While you’re in the office, make sure to check on other FSA business that might require your attention. Our knowledgeable staff is more than happy to help make the most of your visit.”

How to File a Report

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch, its intended use and location. Producers can contact their FSA county office for acreage reporting deadlines that are specific to their county.

To file a crop acreage report, producers need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety
- Intended crop use
- Number of crop acres
- Map with approximate crop boundaries
- Planting date(s)
- Planting pattern, when applicable
- Producer shares
- Irrigation practice(s)
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable
- Other required information

Acreage Reporting Details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or crop harvesting begins.

Prevented Planted Acreage

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant but were unable to because of a natural disaster, including drought. Prevented planted acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, *Notice of Loss*, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

FSA recently updated policy that applies to prevented planted acreage due to drought. To certify prevented planted acreage due to drought, all of the following must apply:

- The area that is prevented from being planted has insufficient soil moisture for seed germination on the final planting date for non-irrigated acreage.
- Prolonged precipitation deficiencies that meet the D3 or D4 drought intensity level as determined by the U.S. Drought Monitor.
- Verifiable information must be collected from sources whose business or purpose is recording weather conditions as determined by FSA.

Continuous Certification Option for Perennial Forage

Agricultural producers with perennial forage crops have the option to report their acreage once, without having to report that acreage in subsequent years, as long as there are no applicable changes on the farm. Interested producers can select the continuous certification option after FSA certifies their acreage report. Examples of perennial forage include mixed forage, birdsfoot trefoil, chicory/radicchio, kochia (prostrata), lespedeza, perennial peanuts and perennial grass varieties.

Once the continuous certification option is selected, the certified acreage will roll forward annually with no additional action required by the producer in subsequent years unless the acreage report changes.

Farmers.gov Portal

Producers can access their FSA farm records, maps, and common land units through the farmers.gov customer portal. The portal allows producers to export field boundaries as shapefiles and import and view other shapefiles, such as precision agriculture boundaries within farm records mapping. Producers can view, print and label their maps for acreage reporting purposes. Level 2 eAuthentication or login.gov access that is linked to a USDA Business Partner customer record is required to use the portal.

Producers can visit farmers.gov/account to learn more about creating an account. Producers who have authority to act on behalf of another customer as a grantee via an FSA-211 *Power of Attorney* form, Business Partner Signature Authority or as a member of a business can now access information for the business in the farmers.gov portal.

More Information

For questions, producers should call their FSA county office. To find their FSA county office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America and committing to equity across the department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.



[KYSES.ORG/SOLARIZE](https://kyses.org/solarize)

SolarizeFrankfort@fastmail.org

Solarize Frankfort

The **2024** campaign is live!

Go Solar!

- Reduce your energy bill
- Lower your carbon footprint
- Help the City of Frankfort meet its goal of 100% renewables by 2030



The *Kentucky Solar Energy Society* and local partners are organizing a group-purchasing campaign making it easier to go solar in the Frankfort area. Solarize Frankfort connects participants with pre-screened solar installers and provides access to bulk-purchase discounts (up to 15% off solar PV installations).

Want to learn more?

FREE Solar 101 Virtual Webinar

June 25 • 6-8PM



SCAN CODE TO REGISTER

2024 SOLARIZE FRANKFORT PARTNERS



MASTER CATTLEMAN

2024

The Master Cattleman program is the flagship educational program for Kentucky cattle producers. This program incorporates all aspects of beef production into a mid-level educational program developed to provide foundational knowledge to allow Kentucky beef producers to be competitive and successful. Participants will receive up to 40 hours of classroom instruction.

\$100 per person
\$125 per couple

5:30-9:00 PM

Limited Spots!
RSVP Today at 502-695-9035

Location	Date	Topic
Woodford	Spetember 3	Facilities
Jessamine	September 10	Breeding
Jessamine	September 24	Nutrition
Woodford	October 1	Health
Jessamine	October 22	Handling
Woodford	October 29	Genetics

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Why Reduce Single-Use Plastic?

**Extending the life of the landfill:
Estimated to be at capacity by 2058.**

**Polypropylene products take 400+
years to break down. Styrofoam
takes 500+ years**

**Consumer Health: Plastics and
Styrofoam are known to contain
PFAS and various carcinogens**

**Environmental Safety: These
chemicals leach into our
community's soil and water**

**Wildlife Safety: Plastics cause
entanglement and animal death
by ingestion**

**Rethinking Throwaway Culture: The US
produces more plastic waste per-capita
than any country**

**Policies are Already Changing: Many
states, cities, and counties have
implemented legislation that eliminates
plastic in their area**



Sources:**Plastic Biodegradability:**

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acssuschemeng.9b06635>

<https://wwf.org.au/blogs/the-lifecycle-of-plastics/>

Consumer Health:

https://greendiningalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/real-cost-of-styrofoam_written-report.pdf

<https://ecologycenter.org/factsheets/adverse-health-effects-of-plastics/>

<https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/guidance-industry-preparation-premarket-submissions-food-contact-substances-chemistry>

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.1c01103>

<https://analyticalscience.wiley.com/content/news-do/plastic-containers-can-contain-pfas-and-s-getting-into-food>

Environmental Safety:

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.9b03304>

Wildlife Safety:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8116388/>

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11270-014-2184-6>

Rethinking Throwaway Culture:

<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abd0288>

<https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/plastics-material-specific-data>

Policies are Already Changing:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/26/2023-27942/general-services-administration-acquisition-regulation-reduction-of-single-use-plastic-packaging>

<https://www.ncsl.org/environment-and-natural-resources/state-plastic-bag-legislation#:~:text=Eight%20states%E2%80%94California%2C%20Connecticut%2C,bags%20at%20large%20retail%20stores>

Jr. Cattlemen's Corner

On June 8, 2024 The Jr. Cattlemen served at the Franklin County Dairy Show Inc. See them next at Farm City Field Day and the Franklin County Fair!



WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM
YOU!



Calling all producers!

We want to hear from YOU!

We are getting ready to start planning programs for the next two years and we want to hear from you! What topics are you hoping to learn more about? Tell us by clicking on the link below or scan the QR Code!

https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a2EnDIP3wpX6K1M



2024-2025

LOCAL COST SHARE SIGNUPS

Franklin Co Conservation District

July 1, 2024 to June 1st, 2025

Contact the office at 502-352-2701 for more information

Recipe



Green Bean Medley

1 pound fresh green beans	1½ tablespoons lime juice	1 medium red bell pepper, sliced to narrow lengthwise strips
6 tablespoons light soy sauce	2½ tablespoons sesame oil	2 cups sliced mushrooms
1½ teaspoons balsamic vinegar	4 teaspoons minced garlic	2 cups yellow sweet corn, fresh or frozen

Place the green beans in a large saucepan with one inch of water. Bring to a **boil, cover** and **steam** for 5 minutes. Green beans should still be firm. **Drain.** In a small bowl **stir** together soy sauce, balsamic vinegar and lime juice; set aside. **Heat** the sesame oil in a large skillet over medium heat. **Add** minced garlic and **cook** until it starts to brown. **Add** red bell pepper and mushrooms; **stir** to coat with oil. **Cook** 3 minutes. **Add**

corn and green beans; **stir** to coat with oil. **Cook** an additional 2 minutes. **Stir** in the soy sauce and lime juice mixture and **simmer** for a couple of minutes, **uncovered** to reduce the sauce. **Serve.**

Yield: 6, 1 cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 150 calories, 7 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 640 mg sodium, 17 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 6 g sugars, 4 g protein.



SAVE THE DATES:

June 15	Unity in the Community
June 19	Juneteenth—Franklin County Extension Office Closed
June 20	Third Thursday Thing
July 4	4th of July—Franklin County Extension Office Closed
July 11	Farm City Field Day—Happy Jack’s Farm
July 16-20	Franklin County Fair
July 27	KSU Field Day

**Keenan Bishop, County Extension Agent
for Agriculture and Natural Resources
Education**



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