

Todd County Extension Agriculture Newsletter

KENTUCKY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



October 2025

FORAGE FOR CATTLE DURING DROUGHT: STRIP-GRAZING CORN

Even though it may be raining when you read this, don't forget what late summer looked like this year and several before. Our cool season grasses - fescue, orchardgrass, and ryegrass - go dormant during hot weather and then regrow as it cools in the fall. But the extended dry spell combined with above average temps delayed regrowth until nearly October 1st this year.



What do you do when pasture isn't producing? Feeding hay is always an option, but if you purchase hay or worry you'll run short, warm season annuals may be another option to consider. These crops can bridge the hot weather grazing gap in late summer and early fall. Sorghum sudangrass, millet, and corn can be planted in May, June, and July and provide high quality forage. **One caution**, these crops can accumulate nitrates and can be toxic for cattle. Amount of nitrogen applied and length of dry spells affect nitrate accumulation. We have quick test strips here and can check for nitrate accumulation before turning cattle in on these forages.

I recently visited with a farmer who was strip grazing cattle on corn. We tested it for nitrates before he turned cattle in on it to confirm it was safe. It's amazing what you can accomplish with a little portable electric fencing. Turn to page 2 for photos and more information.

Traci Johnson
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

Inside This Issue

Strip-Grazing Corn	page 2
Upcoming Events	page 3
Cucurbit Anthracnose.	page 4
Planting Garlic, Events	page 5
Fly Control	page 6
Forage Timely Tips	page 6
LLC Information	page 7-8

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STRIP-GRAZING CORN (continued from page 1)

Strip-grazing lets you limit the area given to cattle, allowing them to eat more than what they trample down. Cattle should be trained to portable electric fencing before using it to strip-graze. On a recent farm visit, Robbie Weathers allowed me to photograph the corn strip-grazing setup. He stretched some fence using a portable reel attached to the back of his UTV, drove posts, added clips, electrified the fence, and turned cows in. For cattle accustomed to portable electric fencing, one strand should be enough (assuming, too, you have good perimeter fencing just in case.)



UPCOMING AG EVENTS

Kentucky Grazing Conference

October 30th, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Grayson County Extension Office, 64 Quarry Road, Leitchfield, KY

Register at <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/> or pick up mail-in form

Cattle Field Day - Feeding Systems

November 22nd, 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Laster Farm, 2715 Blue Hole Road, Elkton

Fenceline Feeding, Heavy Use Areas, & Hay Storage Barns

West Kentucky Bred Heifer Sale

November 22nd, 12 noon, KY-TN Livestock Market, Guthrie

KY-TN CPH Advantage Sale

December 9th, KY-TN Livestock Market, Guthrie

Grain Safety/Rescue for Farmers & Emergency Responders + Chili Cook-Off

December 9th, 6:00 pm

Todd County Extension Office, 240 Pond River Road, Elkton

Continuing Education Credit Available for Emergency Responders

Call 265-5659 to Register or to Enter Chili Cook-Off

West Kentucky Commercial Horticulture Conference

December 10th, 8:30 - 3:00 pm

Fairview Produce Auction, Pembroke, KY

Master Cattleman

Begins January 6th, 5:30 pm, Christian County Extension Office

See ad on page 5 for details

Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference

January 12-13, Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green, KY

Details and registration: <https://kyhortcouncil.org/>

Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention

January 15-16, Owensboro Convention Center

Details and registration: <https://www.kycattle.org/>

CUCURBIT ANTHRACNOSE RESEARCH UPDATE

Todd County Extension collected watermelon and cucumber leaf samples late this summer in support of a UK Extension Plant Pathology research project. The project's goal is to identify which races of Cucurbit Anthracnose are present in counties across the state.

Of the 12 diseased leaf sample sets collected, only half of these were confirmed positive for Cucurbit Anthracnose disease. Four samples were confirmed as Gummy Stem Blight disease. Plant Pathologist Nicole Gauthier pointed out that symptoms for Cucurbit Anthracnose and Gummy Stem Blight often look alike.

In addition to ID-36, the Commercial Vegetable Spray Guide, our Extension Plant Pathology team has written several commercial spray guides for specific crops. These feature sample spray schedules to protect against common plant diseases in Kentucky, including those noted here. Spray guides are available online at <https://plantpathology.mgcafe.uky.edu/> or at the extension office.

Further Cucurbit Anthracnose research findings will be shared as these are made available.

Thank you to the Todd County farmers who assisted with this research study.

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food & Environment
Extension Plant Pathology

Martin-Gatton
 College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
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Plant Pathology Fact Sheet
PPFS-VG-37

Commercial Spray Schedule for Production of Melons

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INTRODUCTION

In Kentucky, muskmelons (cantaloupe and honeydew) and watermelon are common cucurbit crops grown in open field production. Numerous plant pathogens can cause disease, resulting in plant damage and yield loss. Applications of fungicides and bactericides are often necessary to limit plant diseases. Fungicides and bactericides provide the greatest efficacy when applied preventively (prior to disease onset), rather than after observing disease symptoms. Growers can develop a spray schedule for each season to limit the impact of diseases on crop production. This document provides information on the timing of the most common muskmelon and watermelon diseases, as well as an example spray schedule. Fungicides and bactericides recommended here include a few of the most common products. A complete list of registered fungicides can be found in the *Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers* (ID-36) and the *Southeast U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook* (SEVEW); generic products may also be available.

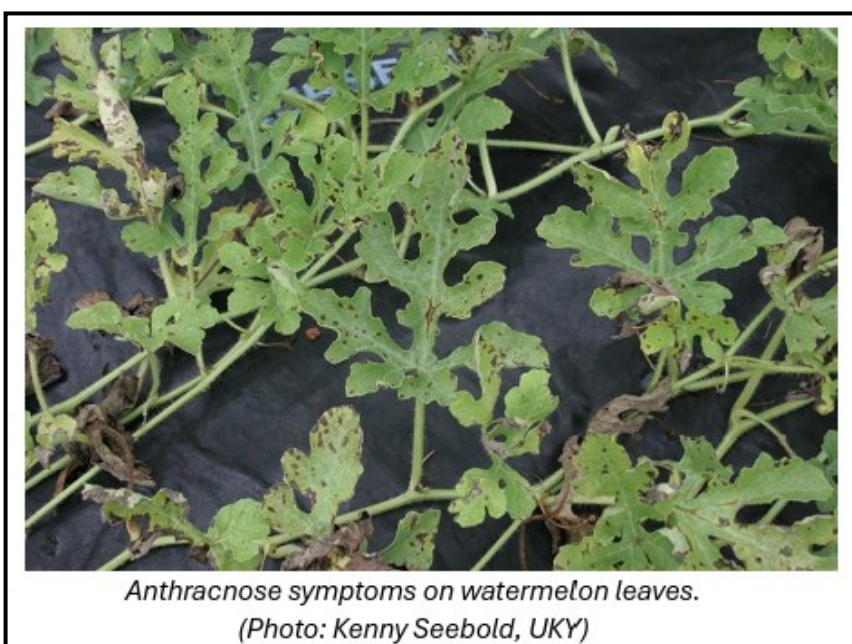
TABLE 1. TIMELINE OF COMMON AND IMPORTANT DISEASES OCCURRING ON MUSKMELON AND WATERMELON.

Muskmelon	
Disease	Time Period
Pythium root rot	May – July
Bacterial wilt	June – Aug
Anthracnose	July – Aug
Powdery mildew	July – Aug
Alternaria blight	July – Aug
Cercospora leaf spot	July – Aug
Southern blight	July – Aug

Watermelon	
Disease	Time Period
Pythium root rot	May – July
Pythium cottony leak	June – July
Gummy stem blight	June – Aug
Anthracnose	July – Aug
Powdery mildew	July – Aug
Southern blight	July - Aug

ANTHRACNOSE (left) AND FRUIT ROTS (right) ARE COMMON DISEASES OF MELONS IN KENTUCKY.

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Cooperative Extension Service

2026 Master Cattlemen

Cost: \$125/Person
Dinner 5:30PM
Program 6:00PM-9:00PM
 Can Attend Either Location

Hosted by: Caldwell, Christian, Henderson, Hopkins, Muhlenberg, Todd, Trigg, Union and Webster counties

Location 1:	Location 2:
Hopkins Co Extension Office 25 Mahr Park Dr. Madisonville, KY	Christian Co Extension Office 2850 Pembroke Rd Hopkinsville, KY
Jan 5: Genetics, Dr. Darrh Bullock Jan 12: Reproduction/Record Keeping, Dr. Les Anderson Jan 26: Herd Health, Dr. Michelle Arnold Feb 2: Forages, Dr. Chris Teutsch Feb 9: Nutrition, Dr. Katie VanValin Feb 16: Marketing & Profitability, Kevin Laurent Feb 23: Facilities & Winter Feeding, Dr. Katie VanValin	Jan 6: Genetics, Dr. Darrh Bullock Jan 13: Reproduction/Record Keeping, Dr. Les Anderson Jan 27: Herd Health, Dr. Michelle Arnold Feb 3: Forages, Dr. Chris Teutsch Feb 10: Nutrition, Dr. Katie VanValin Feb 17: Marketing & Profitability, Kevin Laurent Feb 24: Facilities & Winter Feeding, Dr. Katie VanValin

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 and must attend all sessions to receive certification!

For additional information or to sign up, contact one of the host counties ANR agents. DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: December 19, 2025

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Register at <https://ukrec.mgcafe.uky.edu/events> to receive webinar links for the Crop Protection Webinar Series

Crop protection webinars begin Oct. 30th

Register now for multiple webinars focusing on agronomic crops and Integrated Pest Management. The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will present the 2025 Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series, hosted through the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center. The series will begin at 10 a.m. ET/9 a.m. CT on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025, and will continue consecutive Thursday mornings through Nov. 20 at the same time. Each webinar will be one hour in length. Continuing Education Units for certified crop advisors will include 1 CEU in Integrated Pest Management per webinar or 4 CEUs total for participation in all four webinars; Kentucky pesticide applicators will receive 1 CEU in Category 1A (Ag Plant) for each webinar attended.

The webinars are open to agriculture and natural resource county extension agents, crop consultants, farmers, industry professionals, and others, whether they reside or work in Kentucky or outside the state. Pre-registration is required by clicking on the links below.



Webinar #1: Oct. 30, 2025; 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Carl Bradley, Extension Plant Pathologist
Title: Research Update on Red Crown Rot of Soybean
Registration link: https://zoom.us/join/wn_lyKRsRuTR7i5KjzMcGh36g



Webinar #2: Nov. 6, 2025; 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Raul Villanueva, Extension Entomologist
Title: Delayed Appearance or Declining Insect Pest Numbers in Field Crops in Recent Years
Registration link: https://zoom.us/join/wn_gmiW6VE5R5GzmJUl5biDw



Webinar #3: Nov. 13, 2025; 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Kiersten Wise, Extension Plant Pathologist
Title: Stopping Southern Rust: Scouting, Spraying, and Staying Ahead
Registration link: https://zoom.us/join/wn_uRGIZOK-T1KcNRBvU3lscA




Webinar #4: Nov. 20, 2025; 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Travis Legleiter, Extension Weeds Specialist
Title: Defense Wins the Ryegrass Battle
Registration link: https://zoom.us/join/wn_X72Xki21QzGKIX2BA9Ht6w

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Garlic Planting in Kentucky

Garlic is typically planted in the fall, around October or November. Choose a sunny location with well-drained and fertile soil. Plant cloves root end down, about 6 inches apart, with 2-3 inches of soil. Mulching helps protect the garlic during the winter and conserves moisture in the summer.

For more information on garlic planting and care, check out UK Extension Publication ID-128 or contact your local Extension office.

*Source: UK Extension Publication ID-128
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CONTROL FLIES THROUGH FROST



“Do not give up on fly control in late summer, especially if fly numbers are greater than about 50 flies per animal. You can use a different “type” of spray or pour-on to kill any resistant flies at the end of fly season.” - UK Extension Beef Specialist Les Anderson, September 2025 ‘Off the Hoof’ Newsletter

Fly tags put on in the spring usually give out by late summer. Insect control is still important for your livestock in late summer until we get a killing frost. Permethrin and pyrethrin sprays will effectively control flies and biting midges.

FORAGE TIMELY TIPS

- ◆ Feed hay to allow cool-season pastures to accumulate forage growth for winter grazing.
- ◆ Leave 4” stubble on some pastures to stimulate faster spring regrowth.
- ◆ Do NOT harvest or graze alfalfa fields mid-September through November or after a hard frost.
- ◆ Inventory and test each hay lot for nutritive value and consult a nutritionist to design a supplementation program as needed.
- ◆ Remove ruminants from pastures that contain sorghum species (forage sorghums, sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, sudangrass, and johnsongrass) when frost is expected. Even small patches of johnsongrass that have been frosted can cause prussic acid poisoning.
- ◆ Begin strip grazing early planted small grain and brassicas (turnips and rape) mixes by the end of this month.
- ◆ Late October/early November can be a great time to control broadleaf weeds like plantain (broadleaf or buckhorn), biennial thistles (bull, musk, plumeless), and poison hemlock.



LLC BY NAME VS. LLC IN PRACTICE: WHAT FARMERS AND FOOD BUSINESSES NEED TO KNOW



SOURCE: KENTUCKY CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

If you're starting a business or thinking about how to grow your existing one, you've probably come across the term **LLC**, or **Limited Liability Company**. It's one of the most popular business structures in the U.S.—especially for small business owners, independent contractors, and family-run operations.

But what exactly is an LLC? How does it protect you? And what's the difference between *having* an LLC and actually *operating* as one?

What Is an LLC?

An LLC is a type of legal business entity that offers protection for your personal assets. In short: if your business is ever sued, falls into debt, or faces other legal challenges, your personal belongings—like your car, house, or savings account—may be protected from creditors and lawsuits. That's one of the main reasons people choose to form an LLC.

But an LLC isn't just about legal protection. It also combines the best parts of two other structures:

- The **flexibility and tax benefits** of a sole proprietorship or partnership
- The **liability protection** of a corporation

Unlike a corporation, an LLC doesn't pay corporate income taxes. Instead, business profits and losses "pass through" to the individual owners (called *members*), who report those figures on their personal tax returns. This is known as **pass-through taxation**—and it can simplify things during tax time.

Creating an LLC: Filing the Paperwork Is Just Step One

Many business owners think that once they've filed their **Articles of Organization** with the state, paid the filing fees, and received an official LLC certificate, they're good to go but it's not quite that simple. While filing the paperwork **legally creates** the LLC, that's just the beginning. There's a big difference between *forming* an LLC and *operating* your business as an LLC.

The Pitfall: Acting Like a Sole Proprietor in LLC Clothing

Imagine someone forms an LLC but continues to:

- Use their personal name on business documents and checks
- Run all business income through a personal bank account
- Pay business expenses with a personal credit card
- Skip recordkeeping or financial reports

If a legal issue arises, a court could say, "You're not actually treating your LLC like a separate business." This could result in what's called **piercing the corporate veil**, meaning the LLC's legal protections could be stripped away—and personal assets could be on the line.

What It Really Means to *Operate* as an LLC

To fully benefit from the protections and advantages of an LLC, you need to treat it as a **separate and professional business entity**.

That includes:

1. Using Your LLC Name

Always use your business's full legal name (e.g., "Bluegrass Family Farm, LLC") on:

- Contracts and agreements
- Invoices and checks
- Marketing materials and business cards

- Your website and email signature

This shows the public—and the courts—that you are operating as a business, not as an individual.

2. Keeping Finances Separate

Mixing personal and business finances is one of the fastest ways to lose your liability protection. You should:

- Open a separate business bank account
- Get a business credit card
- Track income and expenses through accounting software
- Maintain a profit and loss statement, balance sheet, and other records

This isn't just about protecting yourself—it also makes your business easier to manage and grow.

3. Following Your Operating Agreement

An **Operating Agreement** is a document that outlines how your LLC will be run. It covers things like:

- How profits are divided
- Who makes decisions
- What happens if a member leaves or passes away

Even if your state doesn't require one, having an operating agreement can help avoid misunderstandings—and is another way to show that your LLC is a real, functioning entity.

4. Filing Taxes Properly

Most LLCs are considered “disregarded entities” by the IRS, meaning they don't pay taxes at the company level. Instead, the profits and losses go to the owners' individual tax returns.

That said, you may still need to:

- File an informational return
- Pay self-employment taxes
- Collect and remit sales tax
- Pay state or local business taxes

Some LLCs choose to be taxed as an **S-Corporation** or **C-Corporation** for additional tax benefits. A tax professional can help you decide what's best for your situation.

LLCs Aren't for Everyone

While LLCs are flexible and offer strong protection, they aren't the right fit for every business. For example:

- If you plan to raise money from investors, a **corporation** might be better.
- If you're a freelancer with minimal risk, a **sole proprietorship** might work just fine—at least for now.
- If your business is highly regulated or requires multiple licenses, another structure may be more appropriate.

Talk to a Pro Before You Decide

Setting up an LLC is relatively easy but making sure you're using it correctly—and legally—is where many business owners fall short.

Before you file, talk to a qualified **attorney** or **accounting professional**. They can help you:

- Choose the best structure for your goals
- Understand the costs and responsibilities
- Avoid common mistakes that can cost you down the road

Final Thoughts

Forming an LLC is more than just paperwork—it's a commitment to treating your business like a business. When done correctly, it can provide the legal protection and flexibility you need to grow with confidence.

Whether you're selling products at a local market, offering professional services, or launching an online brand, an LLC might be the right next step in your journey. If you're in the process of considering business structures, check out our previous blog post with an overview of structures. You can also contact KCARD at (859) 550-3972 or kcard@kcard.info.