## Union County ANR Newsletter **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024**



Union County **Cooperative Extension Service** 1938 US HWY 60W Morganfield Ky 42437 270-389-1400



Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development

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#### Cooperative **Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources 4-H Youth Development Community and Economic Development

#### MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Ekstension serve all people regardless of economic or social stats and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnarcy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification

#### **Farmer's Appreciation Dinner Highlight**

UC FSA and Extension Offices

On July 30,2024 the Union Co FSA and Extension Office held the 2nd annual Farmer's Appreciation Dinner at the Union Co Expo Center. This dinner gives all the proceeds to a local charity in the community, this year's was the Union Co Family Resource Youth Service Centers Christmas Angels (2023 they had 375 students for this program). This year's dinner raised \$3,451.60!

Thank you to all the sponsors and ticket buyers for making this dinner possible.

Speaker: Commissioner of Ag Jonathan Shell

Catering the Meal: Country Fresh and Hummingbird House Catering

Serving the Meal: Union Co FFA

Sponsors: Nutrien Ag Solutions-Waverly **C-Plant Federal Credit Union** Strings Attached Vaughn, Geiger & Associates Ervin Cable Construction LLC Mex-I-Can Tractor Supply Ervin Physical Therapy Morganfield Home Center Helena Agri-Enterprises LLC Consolidated Grain & Barge Uniontown Union Co Farm Bureau Southern States Morganfield AgriSelect, LLC James Septic Pumping Peak Bros BBQ Ellie D's Boutique Danhauer Garden Center Ohio Valley Insurance LLC A New Leaf Flowers, Gifts & More United Community Bank of West KY Carrie Divine State Farm Agent H&R Agri-Power Hutson, Inc Union Co FSA Union Co Extension The Bee Men Livers Farms Ice Cream and Farm Market Feldman Farms







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#### A New Disease on Corn Observed Across Southern and Mid-South States

David Langston, Virginia Tech; Dr. Mychele Batista Da Silva, Virginia Tech; Kiersten Wise, University of Kentucky; Bob Kemerait, University of Georgia; Trey Price, LSU AgCenter; and Tom Allen, Mississippi State University.

Since 2020, there have been increased reports of new leaf spotting on corn in some southern and mid-southern states. Symptoms include tiny (less than 1 mm) tan to brown spots with a darker brown margin (Figure 1). The associated leaf spots can appear as individual spots, that later occur in small, tight clusters, which can coalesce and cover large sections of the leaf surface (Figures 2 and 3). In general, the spots are more commonly concentrated along the mid-rib and veins (Figure 4). Symptoms are generally more noticeable on field edges.



Figure 1. Newly observed leaf spots appear as tiny tan to brown spots with a darker brown margin.

Kiersten Wise



Figure 2. Clustered leaf spots on corn.

Kiersten Wise



Figure 3. Lesions can coalesce and cover large sections of the leaf surface.



Figure 4. In general, the spots are more commonly concentrated along the mid-rib and veins.

David Langston

Initially the symptoms were thought to be due to an abiotic disorder. However, in 2022, Virginia Tech pathologists began investigating a potential fungal pathogen believed to be the cause of these symptoms after observing that symptoms were reduced in situations where foliar fungicide applications occurred. Similarly, foliar fungicide applications appear to reduce disease in fungicide trials conducted in several states. The suspected pathogen has been observed on symptomatic leaves, and undergone laboratory experiments to confirm its identity, including microscopy and DNA sequencing, but pathogenicity tests are still pending. Preliminary results indicate that the disease is caused by a fungus in the genus *Diaporthe*, which is rare in grass crops. It is possible that symptom expression is associated with a physiological crop shift from vegetative to reproductive stages as symptoms have appeared after tasseling (VT) and during grain fill (R1-R5), and most notably developing during July and August each year. Symptoms have not been observed during vegetative growth stages of corn. Symptoms and severity vary depending on hybrid.

To date there have been no observed or reported yield losses associated with these symptoms, but the impact on yield continues to be investigated. To distinguish between this new disease and other foliar diseases, like <u>Curvularia leaf spot</u> (Figure 5), we recommend submitting samples to a diagnostic laboratory. Research on this new disease and its causal organism are underway.



Figure 5. The abiotic disorder can also resemble symptoms of Curvularia leaf spot shown here.

#### Kentucky Soybean Board-FREE Soybean Cyst Nematode Testing

Beginning in the Fall of 2019, the Kentucky Soybean Board funded a pilot program for free soybean cyst nematode (SCN) testing for Kentucky soybean farmers. The Kentucky Soybean Board is continuing to fund free soybean cyst nematode (SCN) testing. The Kentucky Soybean Board is working closely with University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension to implement this program. With this program, each county has a limited number of free samples. Farmers must contact their local County Extension Office for information on how to receive free SCN testing for one of their fields. Fall and Spring (before planting) are the best times to collect soil samples from fields for SCN testing.

#### HOW TO COLLECT SOIL SAMPLES FROM A FIELD FOR SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE

#### **TESTING:**

• Use a soil probe to collect soil 6 to 8 inches deep from at least 20 locations within the sampling area (i.e. 20 sub-samples).

• Follow a "zig-zag" pattern when sampling.

• If you are sampling a field that has most recently been in soybean, collect the soil cores from the soybean root zone area.

• Once the sub-samples have been collected, mix the contents in a bucket and immediately place at least one pint in a soil testing sample bag or in a double-plastic bag and then seal the bag.

• Mark the field name / sample number on the bag.

## • Protect the sample from extreme heat. If not sending for analysis immediately, refrigerate sample until sending for analysis. Do not freeze sample

For more information contact Katie at 270-389-1400 or email katie.n.hughes@uky.edu

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series

Oct 15, 29, Nov 12 &26 For more information contact Katie

> 2024 CPH60 Sale Dates Dec 5

#### Kentucky Commodity Conference Jan 16,2025

More information to come

#### UKY Winter Wheat Meeting Feb 4,2025

More information to come

#### Kentucky Crop Health Conference Feb 6,2025

More information to come

<u>Union Co Bull Sale</u> Feb 22,2025 More information to come

#### Women In Ag Conference March 14,2025 Union Co Expo Center

More information to come

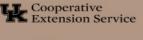
#### UKY Wheat Field

May 13,2025 More information to come

#### **2024 Union Co Hay Show Results**

Class A	RFV #	
Caliey Divine	209.71	Class A: Alfalfa
Coy Divine	182.39	
Joe Bob Rudd	172.44	Class B: Grass
Robinson Farm	168.84	Class C: Red Clover
Joe Bob Rudd	165.32	Class D: Small Grain Hay
Miach Shirel	135.84	Class D. Shian Grain Hay
Class B		Class E: Grass Hay Less than 10%
Caleb Jenkin	101.32	Legume
Roy Lawrey	96.65	Class F: Grass Hay Over 30% Leg-
Maggie Robinson	96.18	ume
Emalyne Davis	90.36	
Brianna Hill	90.07	-
Jeremy Hill	89.26	Total Samples: 40
Emmett Davis	87.64	-
Nathan Jenkin	84.65	
Flint Jenkin	74.34	
Class C		
Chett Jenkin	108.26	
AvaTurley	106.4	
Brianna Hill	99.58	
Class D		
Caleb Henshaw	86.61	
Mason Turley	83.76	
Caleb Jenkin	53.61	
Class E		
Miach Shirel	103.23	
Selah Jenkin	103.01	
Kensley Jenkin	97.98	
Jeremy Hill	97.62	
Caleb Jenkin	94.9	
Flint Jenkin	94.66	
Chett Jenkin Kristian Jenkin	93.04	-
Nathan Jenkin	88.19	
	00.15	
Coy Divine	172.36	
Caliey Divine	166.33	
Joe Bob Rudd	117.84	
Robinson Farm	110.32	
Maggie Robinson	106.47	
Jake Mason	98.61	
Miach Shirel	95.71	
Caleb Jenkin	95.5	
Caleb Henshaw	92.48	
Nathan Jenkin	85.61	
1	1	

## HOMEMADE SOAP MAKING CLASS



SEPTEMBER 25, 2024 5:30PM UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE (1938 US HWY 60W, MORGANFIELD)

**COST \$7/PERSON** 

Oct 2, 2024

2 P.M.

PAYMENT IS DUE BY: SEPTEMBER 20,2024 TO THE UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE (1938 US HWY 60W MORGANFIELD) PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED TO SAVE A SPOT! Cooperative Extension Service

OR



COME LEARN HOW TO MAKE HOMEMADE SOAP.

THIS IS APART OF THE HOMESTEADING SERIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE AT 270-389-1400 KATIE HUGHES, ANR AGENT SHEA HEADY, FCS AGENT

#### MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT \*\*



## Succulent Pumpkin Workshop

Oct 3, 2024

5:30PM

Learn how to create a beautiful fall succulent topped pumpkin

Cost is \$15.00 Sign up and Payment is due to the Union Co Extension Office by Sept 20,2024 All materials will be provided

> Classes will be held at the Union Co Extension Office 1938 US HWY 60W Morganfield,KY

For More Information Contact Katie Hughes, ANR Agent 270-389-1400 or katie.n.hughes@uky.edu

Cooperative Extension Service

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT



#### Free BQCA Certification

The Kentucky Beef Network and University of Kentucky Extension are pleased to announce that they will be offering free Beef Quality and Care Assurance (BQCA) certifications in September 2024.

The Kentucky BQCA program takes national BQA practices one step further to provide a holistic program for Kentucky producers, by adding cattle handling and animal care components to the training modules. Educational modules provide the best management practices for handling cattle and providing for their well-being, in addition to training on the core principles of BQA.

The cost of BQCA enrollment is \$5 for in person training through their local county extension office and \$10 for online training, however from September 1-30, 2024 the Kentucky Beef Network and University of Kentucky Extension will be sponsoring the enrollment costs, making it free for producers.

Producers interested in taking advantage of this opportunity can visit <u>www.kybeefnetwork.com</u> for access to the online training platform or contact Katie at the extension office 270-389-1400 for training opportunities.

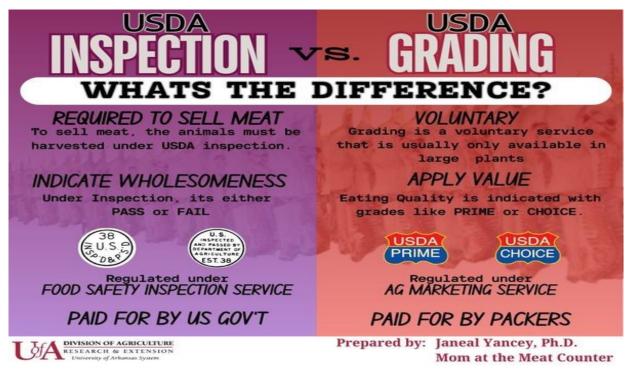
#### **USDA Inspection VS. USDA Grading**

Dr. Janeal Yancey, U of A Extension Specialist

USDA Inspection is required to sell meat in the US. There is an exemption where you can pay to have an animal harvested as a service, but you cannot sell that meat. All meat sold in the US has been inspected and Passed.

USDA Grading is a voluntary service that applies value to carcasses and cuts based on eating quality (taste and tenderness) and other factors.

Both are regulated by part of USDA, but under different services. Grading is paid for by the packers, whereas Inspection is paid for by the government.



#### Fall Landscape Care

#### Dr. Rick Durham, UKY Extension Horticulture Specialist

So often we hear that fall or winter is a particularly good time to do certain things in the landscape. This is usually due to the fact that plants have entered into winter dormancy. You can compare dormancy to an extended period of "rest" for plants, when they are relatively inactive in terms of metabolic processes (photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration, for example). I say relatively inactive, because although these processes slow during dormancy, they do not cease altogether. Most temperate perennial plants will enter dormancy in autumn as daylight shortens, temperatures (including soil temperatures) become cooler, terminal buds are set, and perhaps as a result of drier conditions during late summer and fall.

Going dormant is the way these plants survive the cold of winter. It is important that landscape maintenance activities not interfere with the plant's natural process of becoming dormant. Let's use pruning and fertilization practices as examples. Fall is considered a poor time to prune most woody perennials. Pruning will remove terminal buds that help to maintain dormancy in many species. The presence of the terminal bud, even in a seemingly inactive state, suppresses the growth of lower buds through a process called apical dominance, a type of dormancy imposed on the lateral buds. If you remove the apical bud, it may encourage lateral buds to initiate growth in a plant that has not yet fully entered a dormant state. Once lateral bud growth is initiated, dormancy will be hard to achieve, even with the advent of shortening day length and cooler temperatures. So pruning in the fall may trigger new growth that delays dormancy and predisposes the plant to winter injury.

It is better to prune plants in late winter, around mid-February to mid-March. This also allows you to evaluate and remove winter damaged limbs. Pruning in late winter will occur just before one of the most active times of plant growth, bud break, when the plant is redirecting stored nutrients from the root system out to the branches. This would be the most rapid time for the plant to heal wounds (in our case the pruned surface), while fall would be the slowest time for wound healing. An exception is if you are removing dead or severely damaged limbs due to breakage, insects or disease. In that case, it is best for you to remove them as soon as possible at any time of the year. If the plant you are pruning is spring-blooming (generally flowering before early June), it would be better from a flowering display perspective to wait until after flowering to prune since the pruning process will remove preexisting flower buds. What about fertilization of woody plants? Fall and winter are considered the best times to apply fertilizer, but you should only do this once woody plants are fully dormant. Otherwise, applying fertilizer might trigger new growth and predispose the plant to winter injury.

How can you tell if plant is dormant? If leaves are falling, the plant has probably entered dormancy sufficiently to allow fertilization. To be doubly safe, wait until temperatures are unlikely to climb into the 70-degree range. In Kentucky this could occur anytime from mid-October to mid-November, so to be absolutely safe this probably means mid-November or later. It's best to get the fertilizer down before the soil has frozen so it won't remain on the soil surface and won't be subject to runoff with any additional precipitation. If you don't fertilize between Thanksgiving and Christmas, wait until the ground thaws in late February or early March to apply fertilizer.

However, you must realize that February and March are not the best times for applying fertilizer to lawns composed of cool-season grasses (fescues, bluegrass and perennial ryegrass). If you are regularly applying fertilizer to your lawn, woody plants growing nearby are likely getting sufficient nutrients from these applications and probably don't need additional fertilizer.



# Mum and Pumpkín Típs



#### Mums

- Pick a mum that is about 50% flower or just starting to bloom. This will allow them to last longer through the fall season.
- Don't let them dry and wilt.
- Water them from the bottom, placing water can near the soil. This will help keep the foliage dry and help fight against any diseases that could occur.
- If you plan on keeping them as part of your landscape try looking for mums that say hardy on its label and plant them once you get them.

#### Pumpkins

- Look for stems that are at least 2 inches long. Pumpkins without stems don't last as long.
- Avoid dark marks, soft spots, cuts or bruises.
- Wipe them off with a 10% bleach solution (1part bleach to 9 parts water) to reduce decay.
- Match the pumpkin for its purpose: carved Jack-O-Lantern-select a large uniform shaped pumpkin. For pumpkin pie-choose small, heavy fruits (pie pumpkins which have more pulps).
- For carved pumpkins cuts to help from shriveling is to coat them with petroleum jelly.



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#### Wildfires and Weather a Potentially Deadly Combination Tony Edwards - National Weather Service Charleston, WV

Wildland forest fires are fairly common across the Commonwealth, but especially so in the forests of eastern Kentucky. The Kentucky Division of Forestry reports that, on average, there are over 1,400 wildfires each year across Kentucky. Arson is the number one cause of those fires, with uncontrolled burning ranking second. Ninety-nine percent of all wildfires in Kentucky are caused by humans!

Many of us have seen what look like harmless fires burning in the leaf litter in our forests during the dry fall and spring seasons. Some of us may have even been responsible for a burn pile or two getting "out of control". These situations shouldn't be taken lightly, however, as given the right conditions, these fires can become deadly.

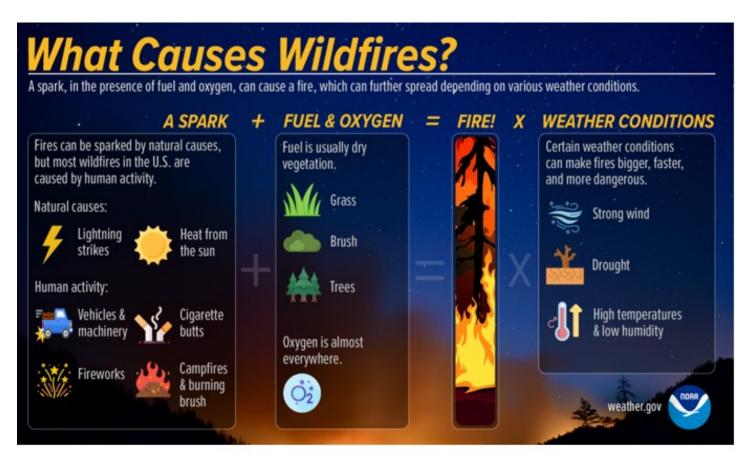
On April 6, 1999, rapidly changing weather conditions and steep terrain combined on a wildfire (named the Island Fork Fire) in Rowan County, resulting in the death of two volunteer firefighters, ages 28 and 30. These firefighters were overrun by the wildfire which likely started when a landowner lost control of a fire while clearing a fence line. The wildfire advanced quickly up the steep terrain, with flames as high as 20 feet and winds increasing rapidly to over 35 mph! Char marks on the tree bark were up to 50 feet high! While such fire conditions are rare in Kentucky, they illustrate how dangerous wildfires can be and why you should take measures to prevent them from occurring.

The National Weather Service issues Red Flag Watches and Red Flag Warnings to inform fire management agencies and the public when weather conditions are right for rapid wildfire growth. A **Red Flag Watch** means to be prepared as dangerous fire weather conditions are possible in the next few days but are not occurring yet. A **Red Flag Warning** means dangerous fire weather conditions are occurring now or are expected to occur shortly. During a Red Flag Warning, you should use extreme caution when dealing with anything that could pose a wildfire hazard.

When fire danger is elevated, you may see a burn ban go into effect. Usually these are on a local county level, and are enforced with assistance from local law enforcement. Burn bans generally prohibit burning of forest, grass, crops, woodlands, marshes and other similar areas. Make sure to check with your local fire department or county officials before burning.

Keep in mind that during fire seasons in Kentucky, it is illegal to burn anything within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. The **Spring Forest Fire Season runs from February 15 - April 30** and the **Fall Forest Fire Season runs from October 1 - December 15**. Violation of the burn ban is a misdemeanor punishable by law!

#### Wildfires and Weather A Potentially Deadly Combination, Continued;



## FIRE WEATHER WATCH

A Fire Weather Watch is issued when critical fire weather conditions are *possible*.

"Critical fire conditions" means warm temperatures, low humidity, and strong, gusty winds.

## Be Prepared.

## RED FLAG WARNING

A Red Flag Warning is issued when critical fire weather conditions are happening or are about to happen.

Avoid burning, be careful around open flames, safely dispose of cigarettes. Fires can spark and grow very quickly.

## Take Action!

weather.gov

#### Drought Conditions on the Rise? Matthew Dixon, UKY Senior Meteorologist

So, what can we expect moving forward? If you're looking for some rain, the forecast isn't very promising. As it stands now, with high pressure expected to remain in control, there's a good chance that most of Kentucky will stay dry over the upcoming week. Unfortunately, as high pressure moves east today, our winds will shift to a southerly direction, pushing highs back into the mid to upper 80s, and even into the low to mid-90s this weekend and into next workweek. I wouldn't be surprised if some of the driest areas in Western Kentucky hit 100. These temperatures WILL push the livestock heat stress index back into the danger category, so be sure to take necessary precautions.

Long-range outlooks suggest that this warm and relatively dry trend will continue through the start of September (see images below). While the Climate Prediction Center indicates that we are favored to see near-normal precipitation, it's important to remember that "near normal" for this time of year is not particularly significant and likely won't be enough to alleviate drought conditions. In doing so, many of us will start monitoring the tropics, but currently, there is nothing in the picture (which is somewhat unusual for this time of year).

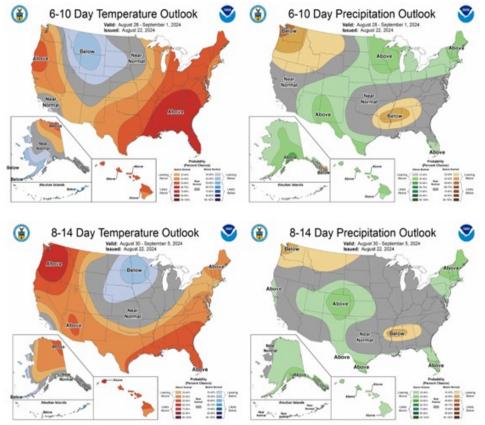
As much as I hope to avoid a repeat of 2022 and 2023, it's something that remains a possibility. Dry conditions combined with high heat are a concerning combination. We saw the impacts of this in August and September of 2019. Below is the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, released yesterday. Currently, the spatial coverage of abnormally dry conditions and moderate drought is relatively sparse. However, as mentioned earlier, some areas are already starting to go in the wrong direction. For instance, the Fulton County Mesonet Station has only recorded 0.38 inches of rain for the entire month of August so far, and this amount is unlikely to change much given the current forecast and outlooks. That number only increases to 1.17 going all the way back to July 10th. Shallow soil moisture levels have been tanking and we still have a sizable portion of the growing season ahead.

Moving forward, be sure to take a proactive approach in case conditions deteriorate again. The Climate Prediction Center has just released the latest 8-14 day U.S. Hazards Outlook and Western Kentucky is under an elevated risk for rapid drought onset (map below).

UK Extension Specialists, Drs. Bob Coleman and Jimmy Henning, recently highlighted some drought mitigation tips in an article from M-G CAFE Communications titled "Smart feeding and planning: Tackling hay challenges

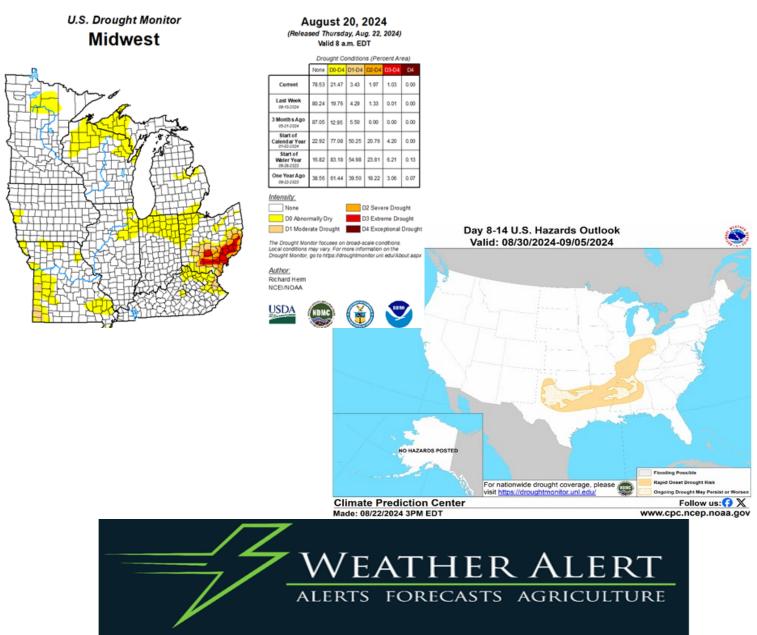
for horses amid Kentucky's drought." In summary, hay prices are rising due to what appears to be a "looming scarcity." If necessary, now is the time to secure hay for the upcoming winter and/or implement efficient hay management systems to reduce waste. As a sidenote, UK Forage Specialists are also receiving an increased number of reports regarding fall armyworms and advise producers to scout fields and pastures, "treating if numbers exceed a threshold of 2 to 4 larvae (caterpillars) per square foot on average". More information will be available in their September issue of UK Forage News.

In some closing thoughts, although we've seen five of our top-10 wettest years on record since 2011, the fall seasons haven't necessarily followed this trend. In fact, the fall seasons of 2022 and 2023 rank as the 9th and 12th driest falls ever recorded in Kentucky. 2016 is 6th on the list, and September 2019 was the driest September ever recorded in



state history. A dry fall in Kentucky isn't necessarily unusual (it is our driest season of the year), but the dryness has been taken to another level over recent years.

#### **Drought Conditions on the Rise?**, Continued;

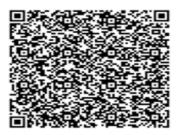


Just a quick reminder that "Weather Alert" is now available on both Android and iOS platforms. More information on the project can be found in the May 7th <u>Ag Weather</u> <u>Update</u> or from UK M-G CAFE, in their article titled, <u>"UK launches new "Weather Alert"</u> <u>smartphone app".</u>

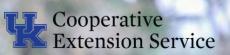
Again the project was two-fold: to heighten awareness during extreme weather conditions and secondly, to empower Kentucky farming operations with valuable insights for management and production-related decisions. Please share!













## Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation Clinic



## **Stone Veterinary Clinic**

(8862 US HWY 60W Sturgis, KY) 8am-12pm

## There will be a Evaluation Fee of \$60/Bull

\* Optional vaccine/deworming can be done at appointment for additional price\* Evaluation Will Include: Physical Examination Reproductive Examination Semen Evaluation

#### Reserve your Spot by Nov 18,2024

To save your spot or for more information Contact Katie Hughes Union Co ANR Agent 270-389-1400 or katie.n.hughes@uky.edu

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# Alpha-Gal Information Meeting

### **SPEAKERS:**

- Dr. Jonathan Larson, **UKY Entomology** Specialist
- Shea Heady, Union Co FCS Agent

DEC 12,2024 **5:30PM UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE** (1938 US HWY 60W, MORGANFIELD KY)

**THIS MEETING IS FREE TO ATTEND!** 

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS ALPHA-**GAL SYNDROME, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO** LEARN MORE ABOUT **ALPHA-GAL, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO** COME OUT.

**CONTACT THE UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE TO SIGN UP BY DEC 12 OR FOR MORE INFORMATION 270-389-1400** SHEA HEADY, UNION CO FCS AGENT KATIE HUGHES, UNION CO ANR AGENT

> Cooperative Extension Service

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT



#### **Extension Office will be Closed:**

Sept 2,2024 Nov 5,2024

Katie Hughes Katie Hughes

Katie Hugnes UK-Union Co Extension ANR Agent 270-389-1400 Katie.n.hughes@uky.edu

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Union Co Cooperative Extension Service 1938 US Highway 60 West Morganfield, KY 42437-6246

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**