

NEWSLETTER

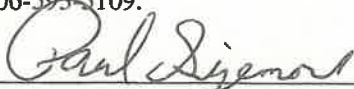
Owsley County
PO Box 186
Booneville, KY 41314
Phone: (606) 593-5109
<https://owsley.ca.uky.edu/>

Spring has arrived but it's still a bit on the cool side, everyone is itching to get started on those Vegetable Gardens but just keep in mind we can expect a killing frost up until the middle of May. We have been busy Grafting Fruit Trees and just completed our Plant Order for the year. I've had a couple of Gardening Workshops, the Beef Producers have attended some area programs and a tour of Eden Shale Farm in Owenton, Ky to look at some new practices they're implementing up there.

The Owsley County Farmers Market had yet another record breaking year last year with over \$120,000.00 in sales, we hope to top that this year as we were implementing new programs and have just trained some new vendors to join our growing market. We will have the Senior Voucher Program, WIC Program, FARMACY Program, Kids Kash and working on getting equipped to process SNAP at the market for 2023. Remember to shop local this year and come out and support our local Farmers.

Early spring is a good time to evaluate your hay field and pastures for Weed Control. If you have any questions just give me a call and we can get you set up on good weed control options. I have also been testing hay quality for a good number of people in the last couple of years and would like to get more producers involved. By increasing the quality of your hay you will be feeding a more nutritious forage to your livestock resulting in a healthier herd through the winter months.

As we change with the times we use social media more and more these days, so to follow my programs and see any future programming plans just go to the Owsley County Extension Service Facebook Page or to my personal page for updates. If I can be of any assistance or just answer questions just give me a call at 606-593-5109.



PAUL SIZEMORE - OWSLEY CEA
for Ag & Natural Resources



SAVE THE DATE

ELEVATE EKY

BQCA CHUTE SIDE TRAINING AND IMPLANTING 101
THURSDAY MAY 4, 2023 @ 5:30P.M.
ROBINSON CENTER FOR APPALACHIAN RESOURCE
SUSTAINABILITY (QUICKSAND)

GARDENING WORKSHOP #2

PLANNING AND PLANTING
WEDNESDAY MAY 10, 2023 @ 6:00P.M.
OWSLEY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL VO/AG ROOM

PESTICIDE TRAINING PRIVATE APPLICATOR
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 @ 10:00A.M. AND 6:00 P.M.
ONLY NEED TO ATTEND ONE OF THE TWO.
OWSLEY COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE.

RAISED BED GARDENING #1

PREPARING, FERTILITY, PLANTING, IRRIGATION
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 @ 6:00P.M.
OWSLEY COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

OPENING DAY OF THE FARMERS MARKET

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023 @ 9:00A.M.
(NEW THIS YEAR) TUESDAY'S FARMERS MARKET
WILL BE OPENING @ 2:00P.M.

GARDENING WORKSHOP #3

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023 @ 6:00P.M.
MAINTAINING & CONTROLLING INSECTS
AND DISEASES
OWSLEY COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Find us on 

Timely Tips
Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky
Spring Calving Cow Herd

Watch cows and calves closely. Work hard to save every calf (you can cull/sell them later). Calves can be identified while they are young and easy to handle. Commercial male calves should be castrated and implanted. Registered calves should be weighed at birth.

Cows that have calved need to be on an adequate nutritional level to rebreed. Increase their feed after calving. Don't let them lose body condition. Keep feeding them until pastures are adequate.

Don't "rush to grass" although it can be really tempting. Be sure that grass has accumulated enough growth to support the cow's nutritional needs before depending solely upon it. Cows may walk the pastures looking for green grass instead of eating dry feed. This lush, watery grass is not adequate to support them. Keep them consuming dry feed until sufficient grass is available to sustain body condition. We've spent too much money keeping them in good condition to lose it now!

Prevent grass tetany! Provide magnesium in the mineral mix until daytime temperatures are consistently above 60oF. Mineral supplement should be available at all times and contain a minimum of about 14 percent magnesium. Make sure that your mineral mix also contains adequate selenium, copper and zinc. You can ask your feed dealer about the UK Beef IRM High Magnesium Mineral.

Make final selection of heifer replacements. Strongly consider vaccinating with a modified-live BVD vaccine.

Purchase replacement bulls at least 30 days prior to the start of the breeding season. Have herd bulls evaluated for breeding soundness (10-20% of bulls are questionable or unsatisfactory breeders). Get all bulls in proper condition (BCS 6) for breeding.

Prebreeding or "turn-out" working is usually scheduled for late April or May - between the end of calving season and before the start of the breeding season (while cows are open). Consult your veterinarian about vaccines and health products your herd needs. Make arrangements now for products needed and have handling facilities in good working order. Dehorn commercial calves before going to pasture.

General

We've made a muddy mess this winter, so be prepared to reseed bare spots. Our forage group has some excellent information on restoring heavily traffic areas.

Make plans to improve hay feeding areas to avoid muddy conditions like we have faced this winter. Consider geotextile fabric with gravel or concrete feeding pads.

Prepare for the grazing season. Check fences and make necessary repairs. Check your corral, too.

Get everything ready to make high quality hay in May! Have equipment serviced and spare parts on hand. Order baler twine now. Be prepared to harvest an adequate supply of hay when you have the opportunity. Re-supply the extra hay that you fed out of the barn. This past winter caused most producers to exhaust their hay supply, so it's time to re-stock.

Plan now for fly control ... decide what fly control program that you will use but don't put insecticide eartags on cattle until fly population appears.

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status 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, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification

WAYS TO IMPROVE HAY QUALITY
WAYS TO IMPROVE HAY QUALITY / Published on Jan. 21, 2021
Source: Jimmy Henning, UK Extension Forage Specialist

If you raise livestock, you know it is very important to feed your animals nutritious hay to keep them healthy. You can take many practical steps to improve your hay quality.

You must first get and maintain a good forage stand. Making sure your soil has adequate nutrients is key to getting good stands. A soil test is important, because it will let you know the nutrient levels in the soil, so you only apply what is needed.

Your extension agent can help you learn how to effectively test your soil and can submit your samples to one of UK's soil testing laboratories. Agents can also help you understand the results.

Soil tests with adequate levels of phosphorus and nitrogen but low levels of potassium are becoming common across Kentucky hay fields. Inadequate potassium can increase the amount of broomsedge, a very undesirable forage. There may be a couple of reasons for low potassium levels. When you cut hay, potash is removed at nearly three times the amount that phosphorus is, and the soil is not able to replenish this nutrient to sufficient levels on its own. Repeatedly using only 'balanced' fertilizers like triple-19 (19-19-19) will deplete potassium in hayfields. In tight financial times, producers may skip potash applications to save money.

Controlling weeds at the right time and using the right herbicide will help you improve hay quality. With many weeds, like buttercup, by the time you see the blooms, they are much harder to control. University of Kentucky has an extension publication, AGR-207: Broadleaf Weeds of Kentucky, that contains common pasture weeds, when to treat each and which herbicide you can use for effective control. This publication is available online at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/AGR/AGR207/AGR207.pdf>. You can also get a paper copy at the Owsley County Extension office.

The stage of maturity when you cut your hay is the most important factor affecting quality. You must harvest at the right time, when the plant is switching from a vegetative to a reproductive (flowering) stage. Many times, this means cutting the hay earlier than normal. Of course, the challenge of cutting hay in the spring in Kentucky is our wet weather. However, we often get a string of days with good sun and dry weather in late April and early May. Being ready to cut early when the weather allows is extremely helpful.

Using legumes, especially the tall ones like red clover and alfalfa, provide high yields and will add nitrogen to the soil over time. They are higher in protein and energy than grasses and continue to yield well in the summer when many of our cool-season grasses are suffering from the heat. Research shows that red clover, in particular, is good at minimizing the adverse effects animals get from consuming too much toxic endophyte-infected tall fescue.

Tedding and raking hay are integral parts of harvesting. But if you ted or rake the hay when it is too dry, it can lead to leaf shatter. This hurts hay quality, because the high-quality nutrients are concentrated in the leaf.

Making good hay means baling at the right moisture content and protecting hay from the weather. Proper moisture at baling will prevent heating and molding of stored hay. Covered storage structures are best for hay storage. If you don't have covered storage space, breaking the contact between the bale and the ground is important, since most moisture enters the hay from soil contact. You can prevent moisture absorption by using materials, such as old tires and/or crushed rock, to elevate the hay off the ground.

You can also wrap your hay in plastic, which will provide some protection from the rain. Hay should be as dry as possible before covering in plastic and should be fed out in the year it was made.

After you have done a good job harvesting hay, remember to feed it efficiently to minimize losses. There are many methods of feeding hay, but the best ensure that there is minimal waste. Livestock tend to eat high quality hay quickly, which also lowers waste.

More information on producing quality forages is available by contacting the Owsley County office of the UK Cooperative Extension Service.

MOVING HOUSEPLANTS OUTSIDE; GOOD CARE OF HANGING BASKETS

Source: Rick Durham, UK Horticulture Specialist

Moving houseplants outside in late spring or early summer is good for them; they get better air circulation and light exposure. This also is a good time to repot your container-bound plants.

Wait to move plants outdoors until at least mid- to late-May, or when the weather is consistently warm. Since most houseplants have a tropical origin, temperatures below 40 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit might damage them. Even if you know a particular plant prefers high-light conditions, don't immediately put it or any houseplants in direct sunlight outdoors because they will need time to adjust to a higher light intensity. Instead, gradually increase the amount plants receive by first moving them under a covered patio or large shade tree for seven to 10 days. If you notice foliage bleaching or burning, reduce the amount of sunlight for another week or so before moving a plant to a more intense light location. As your houseplants receive more light, most will require more water and will benefit from increased application of a general-purpose, houseplant fertilizer.

To test soil moisture, stick your finger into the first few inches of soil; if it feels dry, water the plant. When applying fertilizer, always follow the label instructions for the amount of fertilizer and water to use and application frequency. It's a good idea to check for pest problems on your houseplants outdoors so you can control the situation before it gets out of hand. Always read pesticide label directions to be sure the product is labeled for your houseplants. Insecticidal soap is an environmentally-friendly, effective product that will take care of most houseplant pests.

HANGING BASKETS

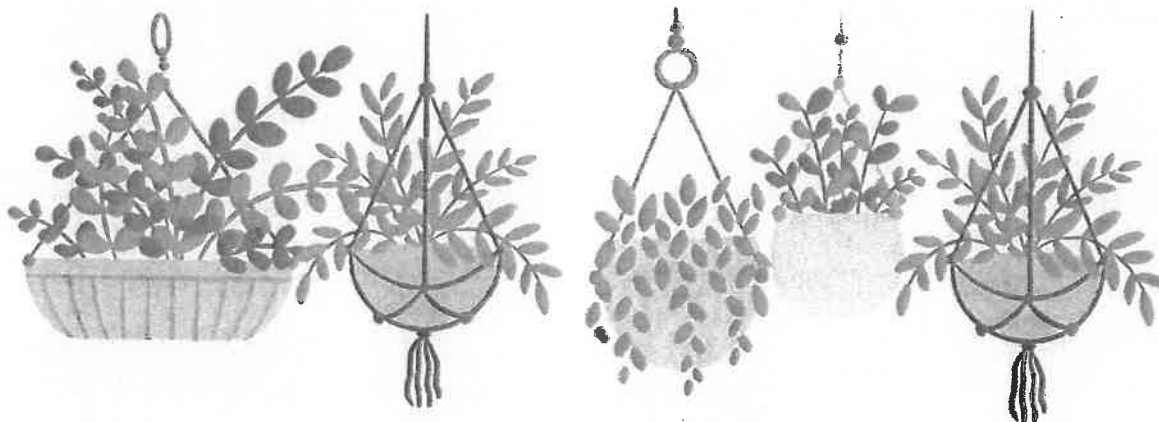
If that hanging basket plant you got for Mother's Day has the doldrums, a regular diet of plant food and water will rejuvenate it in no time.

Inadequate fertility is a common problem in hanging baskets because plants eventually use all fertilizer in the soil. Most hanging baskets need to be fertilized every one to two weeks during the peak growing season. Use a houseplant fertilizer according to the manufacturer's recommended level.

Hanging baskets also need to be frequently watered. How often depends on how much shade and rainfall they receive. Some baskets need water every day or every other day, while others might need water only every three to four days. Check soil moisture to a depth of several inches with your finger.

Regardless of how often you water a hanging basket, be sure to do it thoroughly so you see water dripping from drainage holes. You can rejuvenate hanging baskets by cutting back leggy plants. Pruning one-third to one-half the stem length will force new growth, causing plants to branch out more and flower again. Adequate fertility is critical in this situation because removing stems eliminates nutrients stored in plant tissues.

To learn more about home and garden topics, visit <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/homegarden> or contact the Owsley County Cooperative Extension Service.



Plans and Preparations

Before You Begin

Every aspiring gardener should follow seven steps to have a successful gardening season:

1. Plan your garden on paper before you begin.
2. Select a good gardening site that is:
 - a. in full sun for at least eight hours each day,
 - b. relatively level,
 - c. well-drained,
 - d. close to a water source,
 - e. dries quickly from morning dew.
3. Prepare the soil properly, conduct a soil test, and add fertilizer and lime according to U.K. test result recommendations.
4. Plan only as large a garden as you can easily maintain. Beginning gardeners often overplant, and then they fail because they cannot keep up with the tasks required. Weeds and pests must be managed, water applied when needed and harvesting done on time.
5. Grow vegetables that will produce the maximum amount of food in the space available.
6. Plant during the correct season for the crop.
7. Choose varieties recommended for Kentucky.
8. Harvest vegetables at their proper stage of maturity. Store them promptly and properly if you do not use them immediately.

Planning Your Garden

A garden plan helps you grow the greatest amount of produce with the least amount of effort. To use your plan you must expect to harvest each crop as soon as it matures. Then put old plants in the compost pile and plant a new crop. This approach is called succession planting.

Grow only those vegetables that your family will eat. A well-planned and properly kept garden should produce 600 to 700 pounds of produce per 1,000 square feet (Table 1) and may include many different crops. Consult *Vegetable Cultivars for Kentucky Gardens* (ID-133) for the latest recommendations on home vegetable varieties.

Draw a scale model of your garden space when planning where to plant. There are also a number of computer programs that can be used to plan your garden. Plant perennials like asparagus, rhubarb, chives and horseradish along one side of the garden since they may produce for six to 12 years. Tall plants such as sweet corn, tomatoes and pole beans should be planted on the north or west side of the garden where they will not shade smaller vegetable crops. However, summer lettuce should be grown in a partially shaded area if possible.

Table 1. Average vegetable yields and amounts to plant per person.

Vegetable	Yield per 10 ft of row	Planting	
		Fresh	Store/Can/ Freeze
Asparagus	3 lb	10-15 ft	10-15 plants
Beans, snap bush	12 lb	15-16 ft	15-20 ft
Beans, snap pole	15 lb	5-6 ft	8-10 ft
Beans, lima bush	2.5 lb, shelled	10-15 ft	15-20 ft
Beans, lima pole	5 lb, shelled	5-6 ft	8-10 ft
Beets	15 lb	5-10 ft	10-20 ft
Broccoli	10 lb	3-5 plants	5-6 plants
Brussels sprouts	7.5 lb	2-5 plants	5-8 plants
Cabbage	15 lb	3-4 plants	5-10 plants
Cabbage, Chinese	8 heads	3-10 ft	---
Carrots	10 lb	5-10 ft	10-15 ft
Cauliflower	10 lb	3-5 plants	8-12 plants
Celeriac	6 lb	5 ft	5 ft
Celery	18 stalks	10 stalks	---
Chard, Swiss	7.5 lb	3-5 plants	8-12 plants
Collards and Kale	10 lb	5-10 ft	5-10 ft
Corn, sweet	1 dozen	10-15 ft	30-50 ft
Cucumbers	12 lb	1-2 hills	3-5 hills
Eggplant	10 lb	2-3 plants	2-3 plants
Garlic	4 lb	---	1-5 ft
Kohlrabi	7.5 lb	3-5 ft	5-10 ft
Lettuce, head	10 heads	10 ft	---
Lettuce, leaf	5 lb	10 ft	---
Muskmelons (cantaloupe)	10 fruits	3-5 hills	---
Mustard	10 lb	5-10 ft	10-15 ft
Okra	10 lb	4-6 ft	6-10 ft
Onions (plants or sets)	10 lb	3-5 ft	30-50 ft
Onions (seed)	10 lb	3-5 ft	30-50 ft
Parsley	3 lb	1-3 ft	1-3 ft
Parsnips	10 lb	10 ft	10 ft
Peas, English	2 lb	15-20 ft	40-60 ft
Peas, Snow	2 lb	10-15 ft	30-40 ft
Peas, Southern	4 lb	10-15 ft	20-50 ft
Peppers	6 lb	3-5 plants	3-5 plants
Potatoes, Irish	10 lb	50-100 ft	---
Potatoes, Sweet	10 lb	5-10 plants	10-20 plants
Pumpkins	10 lb	1-2 hills	1-2 hills
Radishes	10 bunches	3-5 ft	---
Salsify	10 lb	5 ft	5 ft
Soybeans	2 lb	50 ft	50 ft
Spinach	4-5 lb	5-10 ft	10-15 ft
Squash, summer	15 lb	2-3 hills	2-3 hills
Squash, winter	10 lb	1-3 hills	1-3 hills
Tomatoes	10 lb	3-5 plants	5-10 plants
Turnip greens	5-10 lb	5-10 ft	---
Turnip roots	5-10 lb	5-10 ft	5-10 ft
Watermelons	4 fruits	2-4 hills	---

Table 15. Earliest and latest planting dates in the garden in Kentucky. (If producing your own transplants, begin two to 12 weeks earlier than these listed dates. See Table 6.)

Crops	Earliest Safe Planting Date			Latest Safe Planting Date ¹		
	Western	Central	Eastern	Eastern	Central	Western
Asparagus (crowns)	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	(Spring only)		
Beans (snap)	Apr 10	Apr 25	May 1	July 15	July 25	Aug 1
Beans (lima)	Apr 15	May 1	May 10	June 15	June 20	July 1
Beets	Mar 10	Mar 15	Mar 20	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 15
Broccoli (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
B. Sprouts (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cabbage	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Carrots	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Cauliflower (plants)	Mar 30	Apr 5	Apr 10	July 15	July 20	Aug 5
Celery	Apr 1	Apr 5	Apr 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Chard	Mar 15	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 15	July 15	Aug 1
Collards	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 15	Aug 20	Aug 30
Sweet Corn	Apr 10	Apr 20	May 1	June 15	July 10	July 20
Cucumbers	Apr 20	May 1	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Eggplant (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Garlic	-	-	-	Nov 1	Nov 7	Nov 15
Kale	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Kohlrabi	Mar 15	Mar 20	Mar 25	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (leaf)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	Aug 1	Aug 15	Sept 1
Lettuce (bibb plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Lettuce (head plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Muskmelons	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Okra	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 1	July 15	Aug 1
Onions (sets)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Onions (plants)	Mar 15	Mar 25	Apr 1	June 15	July 1	July 15
Onions (seed)	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Parsley	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Parsnips	Mar 10	Mar 20	Apr 1	June 1	June 15	July 1
Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Peppers (plants)	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Irish Potatoes	Mar 15	Mar 15	Mar 20	June 15	July 1	July 15
Sweet Potatoes	May 1	May 10	May 20	June 1	June 10	June 15
Pumpkins	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 1	June 15	July 1
Radishes	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Sept 1	Sept 15	Oct 1
Rhubarb (crowns)	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	(Spring only)		
Rutabaga	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	July 1	July 10	July 15
Southern Peas	Apr 20	May 5	May 10	June 15	July 1	July 15
Snow Peas	Feb 20	Mar 1	Mar 15	July 20	Aug 1	Aug 8
Spinach	Feb 15	Mar 1	Mar 10	Aug 15	Sept 1	Sept 15
Summer Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	July 15	Aug 1	Aug 15
Tomatoes (plants)	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 1	June 15	July 1
Turnips	Mar 1	Mar 10	Mar 15	Aug 1	Aug 10	Aug 20
Watermelons	Apr 20	May 5	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15
Winter Squash	Apr 20	May 10	May 15	June 15	July 1	July 15

¹ Based on average of early maturing varieties. Mid-season and late-maturing varieties need to be planted 15 to 30 days earlier than latest date. Nearly all of the fall-planted garden crops will require irrigation during dry periods. Additional insect controls may be necessary for these tender young plants.