

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Charles May: Agent

email: cmay@uky.edu

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Before I begin this month's newsletter I wanted to pass along some items that may of interest. First, let me wish all of you a Happy New Year. I hope 2017 brings you peace and happiness.

**Cooperative
Extension Service**
Perry County
933 Perry Park Road
Hazard, KY 41701
(606) 436-2044
Fax: (606) 436-9961
www.ca.uky.edu/ces



The East Kentucky Winter Bee School will be held on **Saturday, January 21, 2017**. The location will be the Hazard Community and Technical College First Federal Center Building. Registration form, flyer and classes can be found on the Perry County web page. That web site is, <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/perry> then click on the Agricultural Natural Resources link.

This school will have a little something for everyone. **You don't have to be a beekeeper to attend. If you are interested in bees or bee products this school is for you.**

If you plan to attend the school you will need to register with the Perry County Extension Office. I have enclosed a registration form. The registration fee is \$20.00, if you register before **January 13, 2017**. The registration fee will be \$25.00 after this date. This fee helps to cover breaks, lunch and facility cost.

We have plenty of door prizes that will be given away at the school. Also, there will be at least two Bee Keeping Supply Companies on hand to discuss the latest in beekeeping products and they will have products for sale. They will also deliver orders to the school free of charge. The companies that plan on attending are Dadant and Walter T Kelley.

If you are needing supplies, just call in your order and tell them to deliver them to the East Kentucky Winter Beekeeping School in Hazard.



The Perry County Extension Service will be taking Apple and Pear rootstock orders again this year. We will be ordering Apple M7A 3/16", M7A 1/4" Bud 9 3/16" M111 3/16" M111 1/4" and Pear rootstock. All the rootstock are \$1.00 each. To place your order simply call the Perry County Extension Office at (606) 436-2044. Orders will be taking now through January. Delivery will be in mid-February.

The Perry County Extension Service will also be taking orders again this year for Blackberry, Raspberry, Strawberry, Blueberry, Asparagus and onion plants beginning in January. Prices will be the same as last year, \$3.00 ea. for Blackberry, \$2.00 ea. for Raspberry, \$6.00 ea. for Blueberry \$3.25 per bundle of 25 plants for Strawberry, \$1.00 ea. for Asparagus and \$4.00 per 60 sets for the candy onions. Orders must be prepaid. I have placed an order form on the Perry County web page. I have also placed one in this Newsletter. Orders

will be taken up through the end of March. Plants will be delivered around the first week in April.

The annual Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference will be held on January 9 & 10 2017. It will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky. This meeting will be of great benefit particularly for new growers who are considering growing and marketing a crop as well as for experienced growers. I have placed a registration form and program on the Perry County web page under the Agriculture Natural Resource link. You can also find the information on the UK Horticulture Department web site at <http://www.uky.edu/hort/node/1724>

For all you Beef producers out there, the Kentucky Cattlemen Association Annual Convention and Trade show will be held on January 19th & 20th 2017 at the Hyatt Hotel and Lexington Convention Center. This Convention is always a fun time and packed full of good information for Beef Producers. For information on the Convention and to register, you can visit the Kentucky Cattlemen Association web page at www.kycattle.org or call the Perry County Extension Office.



The Annual Perry County Home Vegetable Gardening workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 and the Annual Perry County Fruit Growers Workshop will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2017. Both will start at 10:00A.M. and will be held at the Perry County Extension Office. I will have registration information in the February Newsletter. I just wanted to pass along the dates. Both of these workshops usually fill up fast.



I am going to switch gears a little for this month's Newsletter. I have mainly been submitting articles related to the home and home horticulture. This month's article is for the livestock producers who read this newsletter. I thought this was a timely subject since we are in the dead of winter. The three most important things you can do to protect livestock in cold weather are providing sufficient water, giving ample high-quality feed and offering weather protection. Cold stress reduces livestock productivity, including rate of gain, milk production and reproductive difficulty, and can cause disease problems. Pay special attention to very young and very old animals that might be less able to tolerate

temperature extremes and have weak immune systems. Also monitor heifers and cows as calving time approaches. They have a high risk of frostbite, because the swelling of the udder and teats causes poor circulation. Dehydration and hypothermia are the two most likely life-threatening conditions for livestock in cold weather. Necropsies (autopsies) have shown that dehydration, causes more livestock deaths than cold during the winter and early spring. Animals tend to drink less water in severely cold conditions, increasing their risk of dehydration. Many animals, especially young ones, might not know how or be able to break through ice to reach fresh water. Livestock need water to aid digestion, which produces heat



when fiber breaks down. Be sure your livestock always have plenty of clean water in liquid form. Dirty water is a host for disease organisms. Disease can rapidly spread if animals drink from a trough containing dirty water. If an animal gets sick, isolate it from the trough and thoroughly clean and disinfect the trough. Cows given free access to water will produce more milk and more butterfat than those allowed to drink only twice a day. Water ranging from 40 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit is the most ideal temperature to ensure adequate livestock intake under cold conditions. The amount of water needed daily varies based on the temperature and animals' size, lactation and feed intake. Generally, horses will need eight to 12 gallons of water per day; cows, seven to 12 gallons and sheep and goats, one to four gallons. Before severely cold weather arrives, haul extra feed to the feeding area. It's important to provide extra hay, forage or feed, because livestock might need up to twice as many calories to maintain normal body heat under extremely cold conditions. Livestock produce body heat through fiber fermentation, which produces heat while releasing energy. Good quality grass hay or alfalfa are the best source of total digestible nutrients for cold weather. Feeding some feed concentrates also provides energy to maintain body temperature. Finally, it's important that you provide some sort of protection for livestock because wet conditions and wind chill add to animal cold stress. Windbreaks provide protection, especially for young animals. Reducing the winter wind exposure lowers animal stress, improves animal health, reduces the amount of feed needed to maintain body temperature and increases feeding efficiency, and that can lead to increased profitability. You can design windbreaks to meet needs of your specific livestock operation. Windbreaks also have the advantages of providing wildlife habitat, protecting the working environment of the livestock area and screening noise and odors associated with livestock operations. Using a three-sided shed opening away from prevailing winds is another way to protect livestock from the cold and wind. Be sure to allow enough room for animals to enter the facility and have protection from the wind. Also provide clean, dry bedding to provide insulation from the cold ground. If you keep animals in a barn, be sure to reduce drafts. For more information, contact the Perry County Cooperative Extension Service.