

Ag and Natural Resources News

October 2022

Cooperative Extension Service
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Mark your calendars now!

► **Is That Cow Pregnant?**

October 4 • 5:30 pm
2707 Hempfling Rd.,
Morningview
• Register at 859-356-3155

► **Kentucky Grazing Conference**

October 27
Clark County Extension Office;
register at
<https://2022GrazingWinchester.eventbrite.com>

► **Hike the Trails**

10/5, 10/19, 11/2 • 10am-2pm
Boone County Extension
Environmental & Nature Center
Explore the natural woods of our
Environmental and Nature
Center on a self-guided tour.
There are 3 trails to choose from
ranging from experienced to
beginner. You must check in and
out at the main shelter house.

Welcome to Our New Ag Agent

For those of you that I haven't met yet, I thought that I would write just a little about myself. My wife and I recently moved to Northern Kentucky from Louisiana. I grew up in Haughton, Louisiana where I was a very active member of the FFA. As a teenager I spent my afternoons and summers working on farm at the Red River Research Station which was mainly cotton and soybeans. Once I graduated from High School, I attended Louisiana Tech University and received a BS in Agriculture Education and a MS in Biology. Wasn't long after that I began working for Louisiana State University as a County Extension Agent with 4-H club programs and later moved into Agriculture and Natural Resources work.



*Gary Stockton,
Extension Agent for Agriculture
& Natural Resources Education*

As County Agriculture Agent I spent much of my time working with livestock and poultry producers, forest landowners, and small vegetable and fruit operations. I had also worked closely with the local cattleman's association, Farm Bureau Board, and a variety of agriculture related organizations.

I'm looking forward to my time in Boone County and am excited about the opportunity to meet with everyone and begin conducting educational programs that will hopefully enhance agriculture in our community.



A New Pest for Soybeans Reported in Minnesota and Quebec, the Leafminer *Macrosaccus morrisella*

In Québec (Canada), white-colored blotch-type leaf mines have been observed in soybean fields since August 2016, whereas, in Minnesota (United States), leaf mines similar to those in Québec were observed in soybean fields in August 2021. In 2022, a larger presence of similar leaf mines have been reported in southern Minnesota by Dr. R. Koch (University of Minnesota).

The mine caused by *M. morrisella* begins as an elongate serpentine track on the abaxial (lower) side of the leaflet; the mine enlarges to an elongate-oval, whitish blotch, which eventually becomes strongly tentiform (Figure 1). The adaxial (upper) surface of the mine sometimes is slightly raised (i.e., tentiform). A leaflet can have more than one mine, and mines in soybean do not cross the midribs or main lateral veins of the leaves; one or more margins of individual mines are often defined by the midrib or lateral veins.



Figure 1. Blotch-type leaf mines caused by *M. morrisella*. (Photos: R. L. Koch, University of Minnesota).

The adult moths are small microlepidopterans measuring 6 to 7 mm; front wings have orange, white, and gray-black markings (Figure 2). Larvae reach about 4.7 mm in length and have five larval instars, and are pale green; pupae are about 3.6 mm in length.

Macrosaccus morrisella is known to feed on American hogpeanut, and sickleseed fuzzybean, which are both vining plants; leaves are trifoliolate, similar to soybeans. *Macrosaccus morrisella* is a native insect of the U.S. that apparently has adapted to feed on soybeans, a plant of exotic origin in the U.S.

This species is widely distributed in the U.S., including, Kentucky. However, reports on this type of damage have not been observed in Kentucky yet. In the past, three species of chrysomelid beetles have been reported feeding on soybeans in the U.S., but they do not have a significant impact on soybean production. However, there are several moth species in Africa, Asia, and Australia that are significant pests of soybeans. Species in the genus *Macrosaccus* spp. are known to feed on native plants of the Fabaceae (soybeans are in this family) and probably the process of evolutionary adaptation to switch to soybeans is happening now, although this needs further evaluation.

Resource: Raul T. Villanueva, Entomology Extension Specialist.
Kentucky Pest News. September 20, 2022



Figure 2. Adult *Macrosaccus morrisella* can be 6 to 7 mm in length with orange, white, and black patterns. (Photo: R. L. Koch, Univ. of Minnesota).

App to Extend University of Kentucky Beef Resources, Connect Farmers

Beef specialists from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the University of Tennessee created a mobile app called X10D to modernize the way farmers and universities share information.

"It's pronounced 'extend' as it electronically extends what we are doing for farmers," said Les Anderson, UK Extension Beef Specialist and professor. "We have an incredible amount of information through the Cooperative Extension Service and sometimes it's not so easy to find, so we wanted to make it easier for people to find what they need on their phone; they don't want to be sitting at the computer trying to figure it out at 10 p.m."

Anderson describes the app as an information hub for cattle producers to manage, connect and learn about things that matter to their enterprises. UT beef specialist Justin Rhinehart partnered with Anderson to develop X10D.

"Producers will be able to manage data from their operations in one place," Anderson said. "It will enable them to make data-driven decisions; nothing a producer can do can impact revenue and profit more like using data to drive decision-making."

All the users in one county will be connected to each other through a message board. They can network and communicate about beef industry topics, items for sale and production practices. The learning component will allow users to bypass popular search engines and find unbiased educational content on the app. Users may opt to receive regular notifications about current educational content in beef production.

"We created X10D to modernize the connection of the beef industry to information," Anderson said. "X10D links users to their peers and to the most trusted source of unbiased information—the Cooperative Extension Service. It also links other users to their businesses. The X10D platform is simple, easy, convenient and makes daily production data collection possible from any device. Most records can be input in fewer than 10 button pushes and 30 seconds. Reports can be generated in four button pushes and less than 20 seconds."

Brandon Sears, UK Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Madison County, has been part of the testing phase. He believes the app will help him interact in a more meaningful way with his clients.

"We will be able to interact with producers wherever they are," he said. "In turn, beef cattle farmers can share with us information about their operations or about challenges they may have. X10D will help us develop a network of local farmers for idea sharing and problem solving. It's a win-win."

Anderson said the app received funding from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board and began beta testing in October 2021. Approximately 50 Kentucky counties have financially supported X10D. Some counties have already paid for subscriptions, so cattle producers should contact their local county agent to find that out before subscribing. Single-user subscriptions are \$20 per year, and all the proceeds go to the UK Department of Animal and Food Sciences to support beef Extension programming.

For more information, visit <https://x10d.org/>. The app is available on Apple and Android platforms. Other partners include the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, Kentucky Beef Network and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

By: Aimee Nielson, UK Agricultural Communications Specialist / Writer



Cattle producers like Anderson County's Eric Phillips, pictured above, can input data in the field with the X10D app. Photo provided

UK BARN Program Aims to Decrease Farmer Suicides

In 2020, the Kentucky legislature proclaimed the Wednesday of National Farm Safety Week "Farmer Suicide Prevention Day." Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death among Americans. Unfortunately, farmers experience an even worse toll. From 2004 to 2017, 109 Kentucky farmers died by suicide, with those over 64 most at risk. Currently, stressors are the highest they have been in years, with producers suffering with supply chain issues, changing weather patterns and increasing input prices.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that between 2012 and 2015, male farmers died by suicide at rates twice as high as the national average in 17 different states. Though, this may actually be an understatement because the data collection process overlooked some agricultural states.

However, the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and College of Nursing are working to address these issues through a joint program coined BARN, or Bring Action Right Now.

One way the program addresses the industry's mental health issues is through the "Farmer Dinner Theater." These gatherings assist farm families in discussing health issues affecting their communities through dramatic presentations starring local community youth as actors. The program encourages an open dialogue about mental health and reassures farmers and their families that it is okay to seek treatment if needed.

"The BARN program delivered in Kentucky has helped increase awareness about mental health challenges, farm stress and suicide prevention in Kentucky," said Paul Norrod, Extension specialist for Rural Health and Farm Safety as well as health

instructor in the College of Nursing. "Dinner theater attendees have stated that mental health challenges can affect anyone and that it is important to talk about them in the community to help prevent suicide."

Through the program, participants expose themselves and their families to a variety of proven mental health interventions, ranging from basic suicide intervention resources to breathing techniques. However, all of the scenarios are reenactments based on real-life situations that farm families may have faced.

The overarching BARN initiative, created by the Kentucky Nurses Action Coalition, has dramatically expanded its impact since receiving their first innovation award in 2020. In 2021, a KNAC innovation award allowed the BARN program to expand to address mental health issues and suicide among young people, with the participation of 100 school nurses.

The same training and tools will be used to address nurses' well-being, an urgent priority in The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity by the National Academy of Medicine.

However, the increased impact extends beyond any single program. New strategies and connections developed in recent years have helped Kentucky's nurses become more influential on policy issues. For example, the state recently mandated that nurses receive continuing education in suicide prevention.

All of this will hopefully provide the resources needed to cut down on a tragic trend of suicide among farmers and residents of rural communities.

Janie Heath, dean and Warwick Professor of Nursing in the UK College of Nursing and president of the Kentucky Nurses Action Coalition says anyone looking to improve their mental health and wellness can use strategies highlighted in the BARN programming. Some of these strategies include:



"Farmer Dinner Theater" gatherings assist farm families in discussing health issues affecting their communities through dramatic presentations starring local community youth. Photo by Steve Patton, UK Agricultural Communications.

- Staying focused on what can be controlled – for example, one cannot control the weather, but one can control how we react to or prepare for the weather.
- Breathing – focusing on breathing and practicing breathing exercises is a proven method for combating stress and refocusing your mind away from stressors.
- Practicing gratitude – take time each day to identify something to be thankful for, as this helps promote positive thinking and perspective. For example, being thankful for a sunny day, talking with a friend or spending time with a pet.
- Prioritizing time for ourselves – prioritize “me time” at least once a day by taking the time to do something beneficial for yourself, such as reading, exercising or watching a favorite TV program.
- Embracing resources – use free and/or paid professional counseling services, mental health apps or other treatment that aids in your mental wellness, especially if in a crisis situation. For example, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 is available for free 24/7 to those experiencing suicidal thoughts.

“If you are concerned about a friend or family member or they are having thoughts of suicide, you can call or text our crisis hotline,” Norrod said. “Text ‘KY’ to 988 which indicates that you live in Kentucky or call 988 and indicate you live in Kentucky.”

“We are thrilled to partner with colleagues who are dedicated to addressing mental health and well-being needs for healthier and stronger Kentucky communities and farm families,” Heath said.

The BARN Farm Dinner Theater has been developed into a toolkit that will allow County Extension Offices to easily replicate the program. As part of a USDA Farm Ranch Stress Assistance Network, the toolkit will be disseminated through the Southern Ag Exchange Network to 15 southern states. A southern region train-the-trainer program is slated for 2023.

The BARN Farm Dinner Theater program is possible through support from the Center to Champion Nursing in America, a joint initiative of the American Association of Retired Persons Foundation, AARP, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Kentucky Beef Council.

By: Jordan Strickler, Agricultural Communications Specialist / Writer

2022 Kentucky Grazing Conference

Profitable Grazing Systems from the Soil Up

Western Kentucky - October 26th

Grayson County Extension Office, Leitchfield

Eastern Kentucky - October 27th

Clark County Extension Office, Winchester

7:30	Registration
8:30	My soil is alive! Ray Archuleta
9:30	Right-sizing your cows for profit Les Anderson
10:30	Don't let grazing myths impact your profitability Greg Halich
11:15	Hay Feeding Strategies to Build Fertility in Grazing Systems Nick Roy & Fred Thomas
12:00	Lunch
1:15	Producer Speaker / Forage Spokesperson Contest
2:15	The role of extended grazing in profitable ruminant livestock operations Jim Gerrish
3:15	Closing



Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council

Tickets: \$35 Advance / \$50 Onsite / \$15 Students

Leitchfield: <https://2022GrazingLeitchfield.eventbrite.com>

Winchester: <https://2022GrazingWinchester.eventbrite.com>

Ag Census Coming Soon

The 2022 Census of Agriculture will begin in November. NASS needs your help to encourage people to respond to the census. Listed below are common questions, and the answers, that you may have. For questions contact david.knopf@usda.gov or 360-265-8219.

What if I:

- Tossed the form? Don't worry, another mailing will occur. You may also be contacted by phone or in person.
- Am only a landlord?
 - Please answer the initial questions in Section 1, write a note on the front saying "Landlord only," and mail it back. Your renter will report on the land you rented to them.
 - But, if you are still involved in some agricultural activity such as raising a few head of cattle or cutting hay, you need to complete the form with only that information.
- Only have CRP? Please complete the questionnaire and answer the questions that apply to your CRP land. Because CRP is cropland, it is still considered agriculture and should be reported.
- Don't raise crops or livestock, and don't receive government payments? Please write a note on the front saying "Do not raise crops, livestock or receive government payments," and mail it back.
- Need help in filling out the form? Call 888-424-7828 for assistance. You can contact the Louisville office at 502-907-3250.
- Want to respond online? Great option! The online method actually helps streamline the completion process. Go to : www.agcounts.usda.gov and enter the survey code on the label of the form.

Expected Changes to the Private Pesticide Applicator Program in 2023

On December of 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the final rule to improve pesticide applicator certification and training standards. Implementation of this plan has been plagued by delays, but a new plan for Kentucky has been reviewed and approved, and its use is set to begin at the start of 2023. This is the most significant change to the program since 1978. There are some substantial changes in how Kentucky operates the program that I will outline in this article.

Only persons 18 and older are qualified to become private applicators. The EPA requires that applicators present a government issued photo ID in order for county agents to verify age and identify. County Agents must use this to verify age and identity, but do not need to record this information. For those who do not have a government issued photo ID due to some specific reasons, there are some alternative methods of verification that can be used.

A new category of applicator has been created to work under the supervision of certified private applicators on farms. This is the "Non-certified Applicator under the Direct Supervision of a Certified Applicator." These applicators must be trained annually and be supervised while applying general use pesticides. They cannot apply restricted use pesticides. There are a number of responsibilities for the supervising certified applicator beyond training and supervision. While any certified applicator can conduct the annual training of non-certified applicators, there is specific content that must be covered in each annual training. A Non-Certified Applicator card is being developed that can be issued from the county office for NCAs to carry to verify their training.

The EPA now requires specialized training and certification for fumigation and aerial applications. As such, applicators using fumigation or applying pesticides aerially, either manned aircraft or drone applications, will need to be certified in the appropriate commercial category. Through Kentucky statutes, farmers applying general use pesticides to their own land or land they rent using ground equipment are exempt from needing to become certified private applicators, but this exemption does not apply to aerial applications. So, drone applications of any type of pesticide must be done by category 11 applicators. Persons using fumigation will need to certify in one of the commercial categories for fumigation depending on what they are treating: soil, non-soil, or structures.

The KDA has brought the length of the certification for private applicators in line with commercial applicators. Both of these groups will be certified for up to three years, which includes the year they were trained. Previously, private applicators were given three years plus the year they were trained. There is no fee charged to those certified as private applicators.

By Ric Bessin, Entomology Extension Specialist, Kentucky Pest News, September 20, 2022.

Managing for Woodland Wildlife Resources

Ask any Kentucky woodland landowner "Why is it important to you to actively manage your woods to make them as productive as they can be?" and you will get many different answers. Some folks want to maximize timber production. Others want their woods to be as healthy and aesthetically pleasing as possible. A large number would probably tell you they want to encourage the presence of more wildlife to enjoy by viewing or to harvest during the hunting seasons. Which answer is the right one? That's an easy one, all of them! Woodland management can involve many overlapping goals that will often merge and, with small adjustments, lead landowners to use nearly the same woodland improvement techniques on their property.

While most landowners can identify their primary goals, many are not exactly sure of how to get there, or who can give them advice. From the fellow down the road hanging at the country store to the gentleman logging the neighbor's property, lots of folks have their own opinions of the best thing a person can do for or to their woodlands. Another alternative for woodland improvement guidance is the Forest Stewardship Program. The price for both forms of advice is the same, it's free! At no cost or obligation, owners of at least 10 acres of woodland can get professional assistance from the Kentucky Division of Forestry. The Forest Stewardship Plan landowners receive is full of great how-to guidance that helps landowners move from a list of goals to a healthy, productive woodland that supports a wide array of wildlife species.

If you, as a woodland owner, decide to pursue a Forest Stewardship Plan keep in mind you can also request more in-depth assistance on improving wildlife habitat by requesting that a Private Lands Biologist, from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources accompany the Forester on their visit to your property. There are fifteen Private Lands Biologists in Kentucky to offer technical guidance, equipment loans, and even possibly the provision of some herbicide and seed to help complete wildlife habitat improvement projects. We can also focus on any woodland openings or open fields on the

(Continued on next page)

Loaded Butternut Squash

- 1 large butternut squash, cut in half and seeded
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound ground venison, elk, or beef
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried chili powder; cumin, OR paprika
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 green bell pepper; diced
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 4 cups kale, chopped
- ½ bunch green onions

Preheat oven to 400° F. Place butternut squash on a baking sheet, cut sides up. Evenly drizzle 1 tablespoon olive oil over each piece. Roast in oven for 50 to 60 minutes, until squash is soft.

While squash is roasting, heat a large skillet to medium-low and cook venison slowly. Cover pan to keep moisture from evaporating. Stir a few times during cooking to break meat apart. Add salt, pepper, and spice of your choosing to meat.

When meat is almost fully cooked, add onion, green pepper, and garlic powder. Cook until vegetables are soft. Add kale and cover with lid. Cook 5 minutes longer. Keep venison mixture on low heat until butternut squash is fully cooked.

Scrape soft insides out of squash and place in a large bowl. Be careful not to rip squash skin. Set squash skins on serving dish.

Add meat mixture to squash in bowl. Stir to combine. Refill squash skins with mixture. Trim ends of green onions and slice. Sprinkle green onions on top of filled squash skins.

Serve immediately. Store leftovers in the refrigerator within 2 hours.

Serves 4; ¼ squash each serving. Per serving: 430 calories; 17g total fat; 5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 75mg cholesterol; 710mg sodium; 48g total carbohydrate; 11g dietary fiber; 11g sugars; 0g added sugars; 32g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 20% Daily Value of calcium; 35% Daily Value of iron; 20% Daily Value of potassium.

Source: Cook Wild Kentucky Project <https://www.planeatmove.com/recipes/recipe/loaded-butternut-squash/>



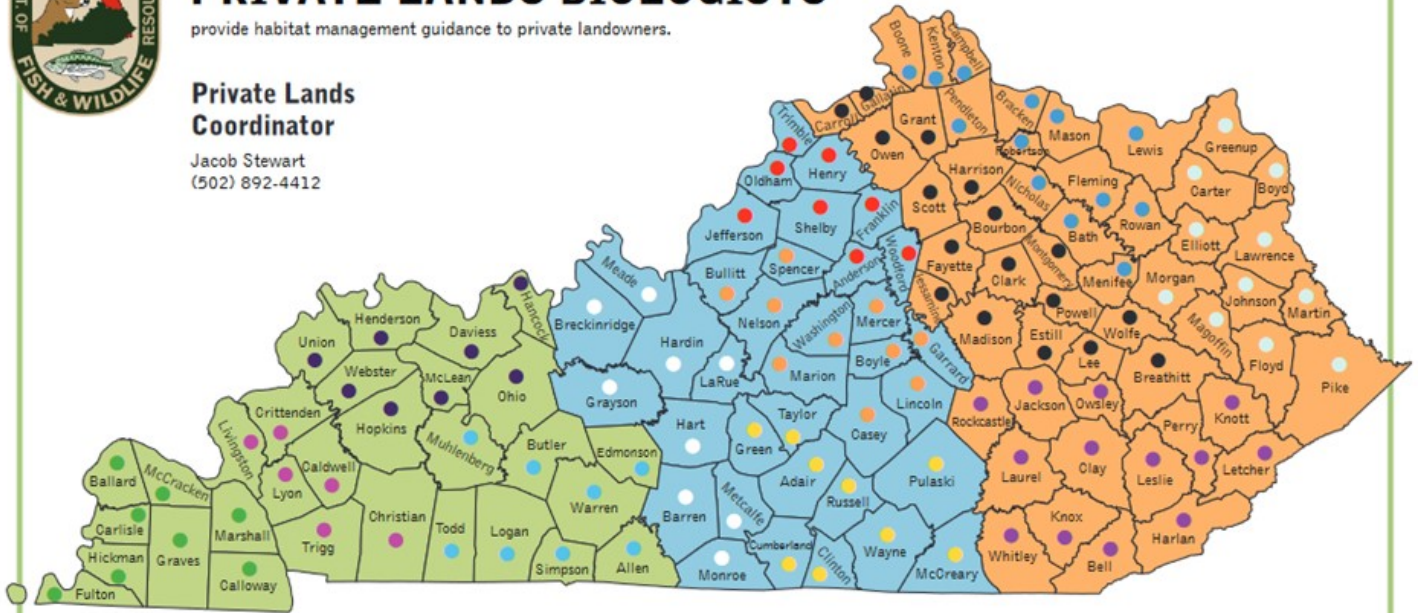


PRIVATE LANDS BIOLOGISTS

provide habitat management guidance to private landowners.

Private Lands Coordinator

Jacob Stewart
(502) 892-4412



AREA 1

Biologists

- Zack Slinker (270) 821-4430
- vacant (270) 987-3505
- Lucas Powell (270) 843-1111
- Riley Dollenbacher (270) 356-6377

NRCS Liaison

Tyler Reagan
(270) 843-1112

WRE Biologist

Jill Kimmel, Madisonville
(270) 339-0024
Jason Beirman, Mayfield
(270) 356-8122

AREA 2

Biologists

- Matt Stevens (502) 871-0490
- Kiersten Bowling (502) 348-3363
- Jon Anderson (606) 219-7825
- Richard Hines (270) 629-6811

NRCS Liaison

Cody Stephens
(606) 787-6581

WRE Biologist

Cody Jarrett
(270) 465-4651

AREA 3

Biologists

- Randall Alcorn (606) 224-5739
- Andrew Whitaker (502) 892-8822
- Harley Weaver (606) 474-5183
- Daniel Skinner (606) 224-5822

NRCS Liaison

Randall Alcorn
(606) 224-5739

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property and help convert them into places where wildlife will flourish. Biologists can also help guide landowners through the “acronym soup” of federal Farm Bill cost-sharing opportunities and direct them to the program that best suits their needs. What you’ll soon find out during the property visit is that many woodland improvement practices will be recommended, and agreed on, by both Forester and Private Lands Biologist to help insure that we’ll have healthy forests and wildlife populations across the Commonwealth far into the future. To locate your local Private Lands Biologist, see the map in this article or call 1-800-858-1549. To learn more about the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources please visit the website at www.fw.ky.gov.

Author: Clay Smithson. Excerpt from Kentucky Woodlands Magazine



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