

Muhlenberg County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service
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December 2022

Note: All meetings will be held at the Muhlenberg County Cooperative Extension Office unless noted otherwise.

The Muhlenberg County Cooperative Extension Office will be closed December 26 - January 2, 2023 in observance of the Christmas and New Years Day holidays and January 16, 2023 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and sponsors for your help with the 2022 Ag Day event.

Beef production and Cattlemen's Association meeting will be Monday, December 5. The meeting starts at 6:00 PM with a meal provided by the Cattlemen's Association. Participants are encouraged to bring their spouse or a friend and a dessert. The program starts at 6:30 PM. **Please contact the Muhlenberg County Cooperative Extension Office at 270-338-3124 no later than Thursday, December 1 to preregister as we need a head count for the meal.**

Lack of rainfall during the late Summer and early Fall resulted in limited nitrogen fertilizer being applied to fescue for stockpiling purposes. Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Forage Specialist and I have discussed the potential of applying nitrogen in early December to achieve the same results, just in a later time frame. Forage producers interested in participating in a field demonstration can apply 40 actual pounds/units of urea or 90 pounds of material per acre. The field that a producer selects should have an adequate stand of fescue and the producer needs to be able to keep livestock off the field until early to mid February. Depending on the amount of growth, it may be as late as early March. Contact me for full details.

Tobacco producers typically use sulfate of

potash in the Spring prior to transplanting their tobacco crop. This form of potash is more expensive than muriate of potash and at times is not as available. To overcome these obstacles, muriate of potash has been used on a limited basis in the Fall and prior to January 1 of any given year. Producers now have the option to use as much muriate of potash in the Fall as they want. However; Spring applications of potassium fertilizer for tobacco should ideally be made using a combination of muriate of potash (0-0-60) and sulfate of potash (0-0-50). One hundred pounds per acre of 0-0-60 supplying 60 pounds per acre of potash can be applied without negative impacts on leaf quality. Recent research has suggested that including muriate of potash can help reduce TSNAs in the cured leaf for both burley and dark tobacco. The balance of the potash requirement should be supplied by sulfate of potash because Spring applications of chloride-containing fertilizers at rates greater than 50 pounds of chloride per acre, can lead to excessive levels of chloride in cured leaf. Extremely high chloride levels in leaf lead to increased moisture retention, curing and storage problems, decreased combustibility, and ultimately, reduced quality and usability. Some tobacco company contracts specifically limit the amount of muriate of potash that can be applied during a growing season.

For more information on topics in this newsletter contact Darrell Simpson, Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources Education at 270-338-3124 or email me at roger.simpson@uky.edu.

Darrell Simpson
County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources Education

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