



Kentucky Fruit Facts

Research & Education Center
P.O. Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445

March 1999 (3-99)

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<http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/HLA/extension.htm>

Meetings

Mar. 16 - Commercial Apple IPM Meeting, Spencer's Orchard, Jim Spencer, Harned, KY. See February Fruit Facts for directions and the meeting program.

Mar. 16 - Morgan County Farm and Home Night, Fruit and Vegetable Production. Contact Sarah Fannin 606/743-3292

Mar. 20 - KVS Grape Pruning Demonstration, Chrisman Mill Vineyard, Chris Nelson owner, 2385 Chrisman Mill Rd., Nicholasville, KY, 1:00 PM. Contact Chris Nelson 606/881-5007.

Mar. 20 - Alternative Agriculture Workshop, Large and Small Fruit Production, McCreary County, Whitley City, KY. Contact Greg Whitis 606/376-2525.

Mar. 23-24 - Kentucky Farmers Marketing Conference, Capital Plaza Holiday Inn, 405 Wilkinson Blvd., Frankfort. Contact Alason Duncan 606/233-7845. See article below.

Mar. 26-27 - Opportunities for Woodlot Owners, Includes basic forestry information, ginseng, goldenseal, mushrooms, as well as information on marketing, starting a small business, property rights, and taxation. Drawbridge Estates, Ft. Mitchell, KY. Registration \$50-75. Contact Deborah Hill 606/257-7610.

Mar. 27 - KVS Grape Pruning Demonstration, Century Vineyards, Jay Puce owner, 502/755-2807, Lewisburg,

Logan County. Contact Rodney Haines 502/726-6323.

Apr. 10 - Tri-State Farm & Garden Show, Huntington, WV Includes 30 classes on vegetable production, gardening, animal care, coyote control etc., indoor displays by master gardeners, 4-H and forestry and outdoor exhibits of farm machinery and garden supplies. Contact Lindall Harned 606/739-5184.

Apr. 20 - Apple Grafting Workshop, Pulaski County Extension office, Somerset, KY, 4:30 PM EST. Contact Beth Galloway 606/679-6361.

May 19-22 - National Agricultural Plastics Congress, Ramada Inn Tallahassee, Tallahassee, FL. Contact American Society for Plasticulture 814/238-7045
e-mail peh4@psu.edu

Jul 17 - Kentucky Vineyard Society's Summer Vineyard meeting, Bravard Vineyards and Winery, 15000 Overton Rd., Hopkinsville, KY. Contact Jim Bravard 502/269-2583.

Jul. 22 - UK Robinson Experiment Station & Robinson Forest Field Day, Quicksand, KY. Contact Terry Jones 606/666-2438, e-mail tjones@ca.uky.edu

Oct. 16 - Kentucky Vineyard Society's Annual meeting, Maker's Mark Conference Center, Loretto, KY. Contact Mitchell Wagner phone: 502/459-6958, Fax: 502/459-2026, Email: MITCH@KORT.COM

Jan. 3-4, 2000 - KSHS /KVGA Annual Meeting and Trade Show, Holiday Inn North, Lexington, KY

Kentucky Farmers Marketing Conference

The Second Annual Kentucky Farmers Marketing Conference, "Profits through Cooperatives and Direct Marketing," will bring national, regional, state and local farm marketers together in Frankfort, KY.'s Capital Plaza Holiday Inn on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 23 & 24, 1999, sponsored by the Commodity Growers Cooperative, and 21 cosponsors, including USDA - Rural Development of Kentucky, Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky Tourism Cabinet, and Kentucky Small Business Development Centers.

Keynoters for this event include:

- USDA Undersecretary Mike Dunn, discussing the new National Farmers Direct Marketing Plan and USDA's new initiatives in this area;
- Small Farm Today's publisher, editor and farmer Ronald E. Macher, discussing his viewpoints on preserving and promoting small farming, rural living, sustainability, community and agripreneurship;
- Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture Billy Ray Smith, Bruce Harper, Chairman of Kentucky's Agricultural Resources Development Authority and Jim Naive, Chairman of the Governor's Commission on Family Farms, discussing proposals for agricultural entrepreneurship, value added agriculture and direct marketing;
- Kentucky legislative leaders, Senator Joey Pendleton and Representative Roger Thomas, discussing use of tobacco settlement funds for agricultural development in Kentucky;
- Gail Feenstra, describing University of California's sustainable ag work in entrepreneurial gardening, direct sales to food service institutions, and community food systems;
- West Virginia Department of Agriculture's Cindy Martel describing methods of integrating Internet marketing into farm product marketing plans;
- Teresa Steig, Eco-labeling Consultant from Seattle, Washington with information about regional product labeling and trademarking throughout Europe and emerging in the U.S.
- Scores of farmers, Extension Agents, rural development specialists and others

in panels on aqua-culture, direct marketing livestock, agroforestry, entrepreneurship training, beginning and expanding farmers markets, cooperative marketing and marketing value added products.

Conference participants will complete surveys and provide recommendations on methods to increase direct marketing and cooperative marketing opportunities through USDA, state agencies and local programs. USDA recommendations will be presented at the listening session in Memphis and other recommendations will be presented to Kentucky state legislators and the Kentucky Commission on Family Farms.

For more information about this conference or to register, contact Alason Duncan or Karen Armstrong - Cummings, Commodity Growers Cooperative, 620 S. Broadway, Lexington, KY 40508; (606)233-7845 phone; (606)252-9255 FAX or email: cgrowers@mis.net

Cost for the two days is \$40, which includes lunches and materials. Call the Capital Plaza Holiday Inn at (502)227-5100 for lodging. Frankfort is approximately 20 minutes from the Lexington, KY airport and 65 minutes from Louisville, KY airport.

Apple Disease Control With Fungicides

Apples grown in Kentucky are exposed to many fungi capable of causing diseases of the fruits, foliage, and branches. Our warm, humid weather conditions during the growing season favor infections by these fungal despoilers. Growers have many options for controlling diseases and most growers use all available methods including:

- Sanitation - remove and destroy infected fruit mummies, branch and limb prunings, leaves, alternate hosts such as cedars, and supplementary hosts such as wild crabapples, pears, and brambles.
- Resistant cultivars - plant cultivars resistant to scab and other diseases where they are useful and if they are available; use rootstocks less susceptible to collar

rot and fire blight.

- Exclusion - reject nursery stock apple trees that are already diseased.
- Growing site management - modify the planting site so that nearby woodlots and fencerow trees and vegetation are not shading the orchard or providing inoculum for fruit diseases; improve soil drainage, if possible.
- Fungicides - follow IPM protocols so that fungicide sprays are applied only when needed; use the following chart to help select the most effective fungicides for apple diseases.

The following chart is intended as a general guide to assist the grower in fungicide selection. Results of fungicide use will vary depending on weather and location, size and age of trees, presence of disease the previous year, effectiveness of spray equipment, and fungicide formulation and rate. In this chart full labeled rates are assumed when products are used alone and lower rates are assumed when products are used in combination with other fungicides. There are known to be strains of the apple scab fungus resistant to Benlate and Topsin-M in nearby states; be alert for failure in effectiveness of these two fungicides. (Hartman)

Disease	Excellent to good disease control under heavy disease pressure	Good disease control under moderate disease pressure	Fair to poor control under moderate to light disease pressure	Not effective, little or no effect on indicated disease
Scab, caused by the fungus <i>Venturia inaequalis</i>	Benlate; Captan; Nova; Procure; Rubigan; Syllit; Topsin-M; Vanguard	Ferbam; Mancozeb; Polyram Sulfur (high rates); Ziram	Bayleton; Thiram	Ridomil; Aliette
Powdery mildew, caused by the fungus <i>Podosphaera leucotricha</i>	Bayleton; Benlate Nova; Procure; Rubigan; Topsin-M	Sulfur		Aliette; Captan; Ferbam; Mancozeb; Polyram; Ridomil; Syllit; Thiram; Ziram; Vanguard
Cedar rust diseases caused by <i>Gymnosporangium</i> spp.	Bayleton; Nova; Procure; Rubigan	Ferbam; Mancozeb; Polyram; Thiram; Ziram	Syllit	Aliette; Benlate; Captan; Ridomil; Sulfur; Topsin-M; Vanguard

Black rot and White rot caused by <i>Botryosphaeria obtusa</i> ; and <i>B. dothidea</i>	Benlate plus Captan; Topsin-M plus Captan	Benlate; Captan; Mancozeb; Polyram; Topsin-M	Ferbam; Sulfur; Thiram; Ziram	Aliette; Bayleton; Nova; Procure; Ridomil; Rubigan; Syllit; Vanguard
Bitter rot, caused by the fungus <i>Glomerella cingulata</i>	Captan; Mancozeb; Polyram; Ziram;	Benlate or Topsin-M plus Mancozeb or Polyram	Benlate; Ferbam; Thiram; Topsin-M	Aliette; Bayleton; Nova; Procure; Ridomil; Rubigan; Sulfur; Syllit; Vanguard
Sooty blotch, <i>Peltaster fructicola</i> , <i>Lepodontium elatius</i> , <i>Gastrumia polystigmatis</i> and other fungi; and Flyspeck, <i>Zygophiala jamaicensis</i>	Mancozeb; Benlate plus (Captan, Mancozeb, or Ziram); Topsin-M plus (Captan or Ziram)	Benlate; Captan; Polyram; Topsin-M; Ziram	Ferbam; Sulfur; Syllit; Thiram	Aliette; Bayleton; Nova; Procure; Ridomil; Rubigan; Vanguard
Collar and Crown rot, caused by <i>Phytophthora</i> spp.		Ridomil; Aliette		All other fungicides

Despite Claims to the Contrary, Fruits and Vegetables are Safe

(Farm Bureau response to EWG)

COLUMBUS, Ohio (OFBF) "It's not in our best interest to kill our customers." That's the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's (OFBF) reaction to recent claims made by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) that farm pesticide use is putting American consumers at risk. "The idea that farmers would do anything to harm consumers is absurd" according to Constance Jackson, OFBF's director of regulatory affairs. "Our growers are highly trained and exceedingly conscientious. For EWG to claim otherwise is offensive to both producers and consumers."

The safety of fruits and vegetables is borne out in numerous studies conducted by reputable scientific organizations. The National Research Council says "the great majority of

individual toxic chemicals found in food, whether naturally occurring or synthetic, occurs at levels far too low to have any adverse effects on health." An American Cancer Society report states "agricultural uses of pesticides play a substantial role in providing high quality food products, especially fruits and vegetables, that contribute strongly to population health and to the primary prevention of cancer."

Unlike these valid sources of information, the EWG's track record shows that their studies are not peer reviewed (which is a basic tenet of sound science) and are based upon faulty scientific methodology.

"Farmers today use fewer, safer, and more highly regulated crop protectants than ever" according to Jackson. "They eat what they grow, and they're certainly not going to hurt their own families, let alone millions of consumers, who buy their products everyday. Take this latest report for what it is: another case of an activist group screaming that the sky is falling. It's nothing more than slick marketing of

pseudo-science."

Some American FBF Talking Points

! The Consumers Union report apparently is based largely on United States Department of Agriculture data that prove overwhelmingly the safety of food. The USDA 1997 Pesticide Data Program report concludes: "... the nation's food supply is among the safest in the world and residues of pesticides, when found on the tested foods, were generally within tolerance safety levels."

! The testing of residues show that farmers are using significantly fewer pesticides than would be suggested by the worst case assessment.

! Such reports, as expected from Consumers Union, tend to be alarmist, and may drive parents to serve fewer fruits and vegetables to their children. Health organizations have repeatedly told parents that the benefits of children consuming fruits and vegetables far outweigh the risks possibly associated with pesticides.

! The National Academy of Sciences concluded in a report on diet and cancer that "the great majority of individual toxic chemicals found in food, whether naturally occurring or synthetic, occurs at levels far too low to have any adverse effects on health."

! The American Cancer Society has concluded: "Agricultural uses of pesticides play a substantial role in providing high quality food products, especially fruits and vegetables, that contribute strongly to population health and to the primary prevention of cancer."

Actual Findings from USDA AMS Pesticide Data Program 1997 Report (note: Consumers Union aggregated studies done from 1994 to 1997, but percentages will be very reflective)

! Of the 6,321 fruit & vegetable samples collected and analyzed, 13 percent were imported and 2 percent were of mixed national origin. Apple juice, orange juice, pears, tomatoes, and winter squash accounted for most of the imports. This naturally means that there is a higher propensity to find residues on more domestic products. Of the 6,321 samples, only 4 had pesticide residues exceeding EPA tolerances

! DDT was NOT detected on produce,

but rather DDE, a metabolite of DDT, residues were detected on only 5 percent of all samples. No samples had residues above the allowable levels established by FDA. No residues were the result of application of DDT since its ban in 1972, residues are from contaminants in the soil.

! NONE of the fruits and vegetables analyzed for methyl parathion had residue levels that exceeded even half of the established tolerance level.

! Producers rely on the use of more than one pesticide as part of an Integrated Pest Management Program. IPM programs allow producers to use less pesticide because they can rotate the use and insects do not build up the tolerances that would eventually require larger doses for control. Finding residues from more than one pesticide is not a concern if residues remain below tolerance levels, which virtually all residue levels do.

! Consumers Union is basing its assertion that standards are being exceeded by assuming proposed environmental standards will be accepted, these standards are being seriously questioned by scientific sources.

! CU is relying on EPA preliminary risk assessments. These preliminary risk assessments were forced to be made public, despite scientific reservations within the agency, by environmental groups.

! Advances in technology mean we can detect residues at levels virtually unheard of in the past, parts per million, billion, and even trillion. This means that it is very difficult to use a product that will not be detected, it does not mean that it would cause any health concerns to our population.

! A health effect has NEVER been linked to the use of organophosphate pesticide residues.

! Ohio farmers receive training and education in the application of crop protectant products, these products are not applied frivolously. Additionally, the costs of these products mean farmers are economically incited not to over apply pesticides.

! Ohio farmers care about the health and safety of US consumers and exert considerable care in the use of these

products, they and their families consume the same products they sell to US consumers.

! Consumers Union annually evaluates thousands of products, why have they chosen to have a press conference regarding food safety, because it sells magazines!

The 1999 Horticulture Directory is Available

The 1999 Horticulture Directory for Kentucky has been recently updated. This publication lists sources of fruit, nut, greenhouse, herbaceous perennial, nursery, sod, and vegetable crops as well as horticultural services and supplies by county. It also provides horticultural business information on each operation. The directory may be obtained through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, James Mansfield, Director, Division for Value-Added Horticulture/Aquaculture, 500 Mero Street, 7th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601, phone 502/564-4696.

Don't Overlook Responsibilities on Worker Protection Standards

Worker Protection Standards are a relatively new addition to the many laws and regulations that directly affect farmers. The standards were written and implemented to reduce the exposure risk for farm workers and to ensure that certain minimum items for personal protection and clean-up were readily available. They apply to those who hire people to work on the farm. There are requirements to protect employees who never handle or apply pesticides. These include having a displayed list of treated fields, and in some cases, posting entry ways to fields. Agricultural Use Requirements are listed on pesticide labels now in the Directions for Use section. There is a list of

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personal protective equipment that must be used during mixing and application, as well as minimum re-entry times. The EPA has designated WPS as an area of emphasis. A recent column on Division of Pesticide News in KFACA News contained the following information on the topic. "The Worker Protection Standards will be on the front burner this year. This Division is building a database to include locations where migrant labor is utilized and will be doing specific WPS inspections at these locations. Please remember your responsibility in this area pertaining to notification when you apply pesticides." (Townsend)

Receiving Fruit Facts Electronically on the Internet

Fruit Facts is available on the web in the pdf format. To get notification of the monthly Fruit Facts posting automatically and approximately two weeks earlier than it would normally be received via mail, you can subscribe to the UK College of Agriculture's Majordomo list processor.

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