

# Agricultural News in Jefferson County

**Cooperative Extension Service**  
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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

## November-2004

### Hay production.

All hay production was forecast at 5.96 million tons, down 6 percent from both the August 1 estimate and 2003. Alfalfa hay was forecast at 962,000 tons, down 16 percent from the August forecast, but 10 percent above 2003. Yield was estimated at 3.7 tons per acre, down from 4.4 tons per acre in August but above the 3.5 tons harvested during 2003. Other hay production was forecast at 5.00 million tons, down 4 percent from August and 9 percent below the previous year. Yield per acre was estimated at 2.5 tons per acre, down slightly from August and equal to the record yield set in 2003. Haying has been difficult due to the wet spring, and late fall production has been reduced by dry conditions over much of the state.



(SOURCE: Kentucky Agri-News,  
Vol. #23, No. 20, Oct. 12, 2004)

### Bred heifer sale.

Sponsored by the Montgomery County Cattlemen's Association, in Mt. Sterling on Monday, November 8th, 6:30 pm at New Gateway Livestock Auction. Please put in your news columns and radio scripts. Following are details of the sale:

260 + bred heifers offered for sale.

Viewing starts at 1 pm on the 8th

All heifers guaranteed pregnant for 30 days after sale.

All have been through the spring/fall health regime

All have been pelvic measured

If you or your producers have questions, have them call our marketing specialist, Allen Johnson, at 859-498-8734 or 859-585-0448.



### Notice of check-off referendum.

A check-off referendum will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, from 8 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (local time) at all county Cooperative Extension Service offices. Producers of bovine animals involved in the marketing or sale of bovine animals are eligible to vote. Identification will be necessary to vote.

Application to hold a statewide referendum was made by the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association and approved by the Kentucky State Board of Agriculture at their October 7, 2004 meeting.

The referendum will be asking bovine animal producers to increase the state check-off program from \$.25 to \$1.00. The Kentucky Cattlemen's Association will administer the funds on behalf of the Kentucky Beef Council in the areas of Beef Promotion, Consumer Information, Producer Communication, Industry Information, and Research. This program has been in place since 1986.

Although collection of check-off funds shall be mandatory, reimbursement of funds paid is an option to the producer.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The state check-off program will take effect **ONLY** if the national check-off program is terminated. In the case of termination of the national program, the state bovine animal check-off would take effect immediately.

Absentee voting is permitted. The request for an absentee ballot shall be made in writing to the Commissioner at least ten (10) days in advance of the referendum date. The request for the absentee ballot must contain the following statement: "I am engaged in the production of bovine animals on a commercial basis and I am eighteen (18) years of age or older" or a request form can be obtained from any Cooperative Extension Service Office. The signature of the person applying for the absentee ballot must be notarized. Requests should be sent to Mark Farrow, Kentucky Department of Agriculture Room 188, Capital Annex, 702 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

For additional information, contact Dave Maples, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, 859/278-0899, email: [dmaples@kycattle.org](mailto:dmaples@kycattle.org) or Mark Farrow, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, 502/564-5126, email: [mark.farrow@ky.gov](mailto:mark.farrow@ky.gov).

### **Gray leaf spot risk to new annual ryegrass seeding.**

by Paul Vincelli

When annual ryegrass is seeded in late summer in Kentucky, it can produce a high-quality forage suitable for grazing in late autumn and through most of the spring. However, some recent efforts to use annual ryegrass on dairy- and beef-cattle farms in Kentucky have resulted in failure, due to severe leaf blighting by a disease called gray leaf spot, caused by the fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae* (also known as *Pyricularia oryzae*). To the best of our knowledge, this is the same fungus that causes the occasionally severe, widespread epidemics on perennial ryegrass used in turfgrass swards (golf courses, athletic fields, etc).



In recent UK research, we were disappointed to find that all cultivars of annual ryegrass seedlings tested—both diploid and tetraploid—exhibited moderate to high susceptibility to *P. oryzae* isolates from annual ryegrass.

Adult plants also exhibited substantial levels of susceptibility in our tests. Weather over the past month or so has generally been favorable for gray leaf spot, with mild, humid weather and periodic rains. Given this weather pattern and the susceptibility of the annual ryegrass, there may be pastures and fields where recent seedings are dying.

This risk would be highest in untilled pastures where annual ryegrass is sown annually in late summer following an annual crop. Producers are encouraged to scout recent sowings of annual ryegrass and involve your county Extension agent if stands are deteriorating.

## USDA CONFIRMS SOYBEAN RUST IN U.S.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service confirmed the presence of soybean rust on soybean leaf samples taken from two plots associated with a Louisiana State University research farm on Nov. 6. While this is the first instance of soybean rust to be found in the U.S., the detection comes at a



time when most soybeans have been harvested across the country. As a result of the harvest, the impact of the fungus should be minimal this year. The Societies will continue to monitor the presence of soybean rust and will provide members with information through our regular publications. For the complete USDA Press Release, go to: [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

## Kentucky's Changing Land Values.

According to the USDA, farm real estate value across the U. S, including land and buildings, averaged \$1,360 per acre as of January 1, 2004, an increase of 7.1% from 2003. This is the largest percentage increase since 1994 when land values increased 8.0 percent. The \$90/acre increase



was also the largest dollar increase per acre since 1980. Kentucky farm real estate value averaged \$2,000 per acre as of January 1, 2004. **Cropland and cash rental rates**. The average Kentucky cropland cash rental rate was \$72.00 per acre in 2004. This is a \$2.00 per acre increase over the 2003 rental rate. Looking further back, one can see that, unlike farm real estate values, the cash rental rate has been stable since 2000. Kentucky's cropland cash rental rate is comparable rates in Tennessee (\$67.00) and Missouri (\$76.00) but much lower

than those observed in Illinois (\$126.00) and Indiana (\$107.00) and higher than those prevailing in Virginia (\$39.00) and West Virginia (\$30.00).

**Soybean Rust / URGENT.** Dr. Don Hershman informed that Soybean Rust has been found in Louisiana confirmed by USDA, November 10, 2004. The following link is to the official announcement from USDA  
<http://snipurl.com/ake3>