

# Agricultural News in Jefferson County

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

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## October-2004

### 5TH Kentucky grazing conference almost here.

Our 5th Kentucky Grazing Conference will be held October 26 at the WKU Expo Center in Bowling Green. The program committee has put together an outstanding program with outstanding speakers from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. Registration fee is \$15 (students \$5.00) and included proceedings and other publications, lunch and refreshments. No pre- registration is required. For more information, contact Christi Forsythe (270-365-7541, X221 [cforsyth@uky.edu](mailto:cforsyth@uky.edu)) or Garry Lacefield (270-365-7541, X202 [glacefie@uky.edu](mailto:glacefie@uky.edu)) or visit our Forage Extension Website <http://www.uky.edu>



### How much a big bale worth?

As I travel the state, I hear of large round bales of grass hay selling for \$10.00 to \$25.00. It is not uncommon to see bales of approximately 750± pounds selling for \$15.00 per bale. We did some quick math on just the fertility value in a bale and with current fertilizer prices we calculated a



value of N-P-K in a 1000 pound bale to be \$8.50 to \$15.00. Think about it as we move hay from one farm to the other, we are moving a lot of fertilizer as well. We also need to recognize that we usually have more invested in our average round bale (labor, equipment, field, etc.) than most of us realize. How much is it worth is certainly a question of supply-demand and quality. For more forage information, visit our UK Forage Extension Website at:

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage>

## Early Management Decisions Meeting for Grain Crops

Helping producers make decisions on early purchases and pre-purchases of inputs.

**November 9, 2004**

Princeton, Kentucky, U.K. Research and Education Center

**November 11, 2004**

Elizabethtown, Kentucky, Hardin County Cooperative Extension Office

## Corporate tax bill wins approval of House-Senate negotiators

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- As a major rewrite of corporate tax law advanced closer to passage Wednesday, a push to permit first-time government regulation of tobacco products was left on a House-Senate conference committee's cutting-room floor.

The tax package will now go to the House and Senate where supporters hoped for quick passage this week before Congress adjourns to campaign for the election. However, supporters of FDA regulation of tobacco were considering a filibuster in the Senate over the tobacco issue.

The tax bill would repeal an export subsidy that was ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization and would lift retaliatory tariffs being imposed on 1,600 U.S. exports to Europe. In place of the export subsidy, the legislation would shower \$130 billion in new tax breaks on American businesses.

The conference committee passed the measure after supporters made a second unsuccessful attempt to put FDA regulation of tobacco into the bill. It had been in the Senate version of the tax bill but not in the House proposal.

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House leaders expect to have the measure up for a vote in the full House on Thursday and Senate supporters hope that chamber can complete work on the proposal by Friday. But that fast-track scenario could still hit a snag over the tobacco issue.

The legislation does include a provision to spend \$10.1 billion to buy out farmers who hold quotas giving them the right to sell a certain amount of tobacco. Both the Senate and House had approved buyout provisions for farmers, but the Senate linked its buyout to FDA regulation of tobacco. That's something the House refused to do.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., argued for the FDA regulation and warned that without it, it could jeopardize passage of the entire corporate tax bill. He and other supporters of FDA regulation have suggested they might stage a filibuster to keep the tax measure from passing.

However, Republicans, who used the fast-approaching election to win big passage by lopsided margins two weeks ago of a bill to extend three popular middle class tax cuts, are hoping the approaching election will build pressure to pass the corporate tax bill.

They believe that Democrats in the Senate will not want to be seen as blocking the tax bill with its buyout for tobacco farmers and run the risk of making that stand an issue in tightly contested Senate races in the Southern tobacco growing states.

Democratic Senate candidate Erskine Bowles of North Carolina announced that he had canceled his campaign schedule for Wednesday to fly to Washington to lobby on behalf of the tobacco buyout. He criticized his Senate opponent, Rep. Richard Burr, R-N.C., and a member of the conference committee, for voting against Kennedy's amendment to add FDA regulation because the amendment would have also restored a higher funding figure that the Senate bill would have provided to farmers.

Supporters of the corporate tax legislation faced questions raised by the Bush administration in a letter written by Treasury Secretary John Snow. Snow complained that both the House and Senate versions of the bill "include a myriad of special interest tax provisions that benefit few taxpayers and increase the complexity of the tax code."

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said he viewed the Snow letter as an effort to provide political cover from charges both from conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats that the tax bill has beneficial tax breaks for a number of companies.

The measure repeals a \$5 billion annual tax break provided to U.S. exporters that was ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization. The European Union began in March imposing a penalty tariff on 1,600 U.S. products exported to Europe and was raising that tariff by 1 percentage point every month that Congress failed to repeal the outlawed tax break.

The legislation takes the \$57.7 billion saved over 10 years by eliminating the export tax subsidy and used that money to help provide more than \$130 billion in new tax breaks.

The biggest one of those measures, which would cost \$76.5 billion over 10 years, would give a tax deduction aimed at lifting the fortunes of America's hard-hit manufacturers. However, manufacturing is broadly defined to include construction companies and engineering and architectural firms. With an eye toward the Nov. 2 election, the tax measure was loaded with a wide array of tax breaks for other groups such as small businesses, bow and arrow hunters, fishermen and farmers.

The bill would also reinstate the deductibility of state sales taxes on individuals' federal income tax returns, a provision that is popular in the seven states that do not have state income taxes. In order to keep the bill from increasing the budget deficit, the legislation would raise an additional \$81.7 billion by closing various corporate loopholes and tax shelters.

### **Quadris emergency exemption expires on October 15.**

by William Nesmith



Recall that the US EPA and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture granted approval on July 29, 2004 to use Quadris Flowable Fungicide in Kentucky burley and dark tobacco fields under a Section 18 Crisis Emergency Exemption. Foliar fungicide sprays were authorized from July 29, 2004 to October 15, 2004, unless ordered to stop earlier. EPA did not order earlier cancellation; consequently, this exemption expires at midnight, October 15, 2004. Applications of Quadris for use in tobacco are not authorized after this date, even if the product was purchased during the authorized period for tobacco use. Quadris is labeled for many other crops grown on Kentucky tobacco farms so finding legal applications for carry-over product is not anticipated to be a problem.

Representatives from Syngenta, the company holding the label, indicated that a national label for using Quadris on tobacco is being seriously pursued. However, best estimates are that the national label will not be available for use during the 2005 crop season.

### **Northern corn leaf blight, Part 1. Considerations in planting for 2005**

by Paul Vincelli



Northern leaf blight (NLB) was more severe in Kentucky this past season than in any since I joined the faculty at UK in early 1990. The cool, wet, cloudy weather that prevailed during most of the 2004 season in many areas played a major role in disease development. Wet weather with temperatures in the range of 64-81°F favors infection and spore production by the fungus that causes NLB (called *Setosphaeria turcica*, but also known as *Exserohilum turcicum* and *Helminthosporium turcicum*).

Furthermore, extended cloud cover favors the disease by making plants of a susceptible corn hybrid much more susceptible to disease activity than when growing under sunny conditions.

However, my concern is that the unusual weather was only part of the picture, as there are some indications of a possible trend of increasing pressure from NLB. A respected and highly experienced corn pathologist from a neighboring, major corn-producing state reported to me that the incidence of this disease has increased over the past 4-5 years. Records from the UK Plant Diagnostic Laboratories are certainly consistent with this. The weather this past season certainly played a role in the severe outbreaks observed, as explained above.

However, the question is, are adequate levels of resistance to NLB available in the commercial hybrids being sown in the region? This question is especially critical given the high inoculum levels that are now present on many farms. At this time we don't know the reason for the apparent increased severity of NLB over the past several years. It could be due to a new race of the fungus. Alternatively, it could be due to an unintended erosion of partial resistance in the currently available hybrids to NLB as breeders focused on other priorities. It may simply be due to prevailing weather patterns. This issue is currently being researched by pathologists in the Midwest; I'll know more in a few months.



### **Shiitake Grower's Workshop**

**When:** November 9, 2004 (6-8 pm) and December 4, 2004 (1-3 pm)

**Where:** Sheltowee Farm (Direction provided below)

**Who should attend:** Anyone interested in learning the basic startup procedures for a small-medium scale Shiitake Mushroom Log operation.

**Note:** This class will be limited to the first 20 that register.

Topics to be covered:

- Log selection (what type and when to cut)
- Inoculation procedures (tools and techniques)
- Sight selection for a mushroom farm (why there and not here)
- Supplies need (purchase alone, pay a lot... buy bulk! It is cheaper)
- What to expect... the TRUTH!

# Master Cattlemen's Certification Program

## Jefferson, Bullitt, and Spencer County

Nov. 7, 2004 – Feb. 28, 2005

Jefferson, Bullitt, and Spencer Counties will co-sponsor a Master Cattlemen's Certification Program. The Master Cattlemen's Association is a Kentucky Beef Network program funded through the Agricultural Development Board. Their goal is to educate producers on production practices and industry issues that could enhance profitability. The event is sponsored by the **delete LABCA unless their board voted support** Louisville Area Beef Cattlemen's Association, the Jefferson County Farm Bureau, MSD, and the Cooperative Extension Service in Jefferson County **list all three CES**.

Any producer in Kentucky can take advantage of this event. The grant requires a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 35 participants per session. Twenty-one producers are already registered. No registration fees are required to attend. Each participant will pay \$6 per meal. All the educational materials and the cost of the instructors are provided free through a Phase-I grant. The minimum requirement to be certified is to attend 8 **of** 10 sessions. The Beef Quality Assurance Certification is optional **and will be offered after the --- maybe genetics**. Contact your local Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in Jefferson, Bullitt, or Spencer County **no later than -----**.

The school begins November 7, 2004 and ends the last week of February 2005.

A multi-disciplinary team of University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service specialists and the Ag Agents of Jefferson County, Bullitt, and Spencer has been actively engaged in instituting this pilot program. In addition to the traditional benefits (ready reference of materials covered and certification), the following important improvements are included in this program.

1. The main effort will be to help cattlemen to change practices conducive to increasing profitability.
2. The number of hours assigned to each issue is dependent upon the importance/difficulty of the issue.
3. Optional hands-on sessions assisted by Specialists and ANR County Agents.
4. A supporting network will assist farmers to apply the acquired knowledge into profits.
5. The schedule and a convenient, central location will facilitate the attendance.
6. No fee, **other the meal cost of \$6 per meal**, will be charged for attending the Master Cattlemen's Certification Program **however, registration is required**.

With the Master Cattlemen's Certification Program, a supporting network will be formed to aid in the implementation of knowledge and to follow-up on the impact it has achieved. This network will enable each producer to take advantage of the support

from UK/KSU specialists and ANR County Agents to apply this acquired knowledge in their cattle operations.

Nutrition, herd health, and reproduction are among the issues which will be given additional time and attention in this training. This Master Cattlemen's Certification Program will **begin with the first class on November 7, 2004**, continuing through the last week of February, 2005, at the Jefferson County Farm Bureau. Their address is 4200 Gardiner View Ave, Louisville, KY. **[ Do you want to rotate to Bullitt and Spencer Counties?]**

Each school[[/program]] will consist of 10 classroom sessions **[ of approximately four hours each]** and 5 hands-on sessions (nutrition, herd health, reproduction, facilities and animal behavior). "The end product" session will be at the UK processing lab in Lexington. An optional hands-on session will be available for cattle genetics at the UK animal research farm. The classroom work includes these educational sessions: management skills, forages, nutrition, facilities and animal behavior, environmental stewardship and industry awareness, genetics, reproduction, herd health, end-products, and marketing and profitability.

This unique program is designed to enhance the profitability of beef operations by furnishing producers vital information. It will also provide participants with a ready reference on the 10 educational sessions and introduce them to several different techniques that farmers can use to increase net return from their cattle investment. At the conclusion, participants will be better managers, producers, and marketers.

Additionally, the participants will have the opportunity to reach the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification and the five-state certification**[[explained below]]**. With the BQA certification, the holder knows how to properly vaccinate and handle cattle. BQA has become a very useful tool for buyers in attaining better prices for their cattle. Some marketing alliances already require the BQA certification.

The certification will allow producers to participate in the Five-State Beef Initiative (FSBI). The consortium includes Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. The FSBI is designed to provide feedback to the producer from the time the animal leaves the farm until it is slaughtered, through the use of electronic identification tags and a comprehensive data management system. This information will provide producers with the information needed to make management and marketing decisions.

| <b>Educational Sessions</b> |     | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Educational Sessions</b>   |     | <b>Dates</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----|--------------|-------------------------------|-----|--------------|
| Management Skills           | 1   | Nov 10       | Facilities & Animal Behavior  | 1   |              |
| Marketing & Profitability   | 1   | Nov 15       | Reproduction                  | 1-2 |              |
| Forages & Grazing           | 2   |              | Genetics                      | 1   |              |
| Nutrition                   | 1-2 | Dec 7        | Environment & Industry Issues | 1   |              |
| Herd Health                 | 2   | Dec 13 & 15  | End Products                  | 1   |              |