



Ohio County Farm & Home News

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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SOLAR SOLUTIONS FOR POULTRY FARMERS – NOV.29TH



Making your farming operation more sustainable is what every farmer strives to achieve. Have you ever considered

using solar to power your poultry operation?

Solar Energy Solutions is offering a webinar, you can watch in the convenience of your own home, discussing the benefits of using solar and how to implement it on your operation, on the evening of November 29th, at 6:00 p.m. CT. To view the webinar, you must register at: <https://tinyurl.com/solarpoultry>

The program will discuss:

- Financial and other benefits to poultry farmers
- How to implement solar on your farm
- Resources available for farmers
- Cost considerations and steps forward

I realize solar is not the answer for everyone, but this is an opportunity to learn more about the applications of solar to your farming operation

BEAT HAY SPOILAGE WITH BETTER STORAGE

The following article was in a recent issue of "Hay & Forage Grower". I feel it accurately describes how to minimize spoilage loss with your rolls of dry hay.

Like refrigerated foods left on the counter, bales stored outside have a greater risk of spoilage. Mark Johnson with Oklahoma State University suggests good hay storage is always important, but controlling spoilage

in bales is especially critical in regions where drought conditions hindered forage yields and hiked up the price of hay this year.

Baling hay at a higher density can help reduce oxygen infiltration, and using net wrap, instead of baler twine can also reduce dry matter loss. That said, these measures taken during the haymaking process will only be effective if bales are stored properly for the long run.

The best-case scenario for hay storage is keeping bales in a barn or a similar building. In fact, Johnson notes dry matter losses for round bales kept in a barn up to nine months can be less than 2%, but barn storage isn't always an option. Although hay that is stored outside will inevitably incur more spoilage, producers can minimize this loss with appropriate site selection, bale orientation, and bale protection.

• Location, location, location

Start by choosing a well-drained area to limit the amount of moisture bales can absorb. Johnson suggests using old pallets, fence posts, railroad ties, or tires as a base to keep bales off the ground. A 6-inch layer of coarsely ground rock can also act as a barrier between bales and soil moisture.

"Anything that can be done to maximize drainage and minimize moisture within and around the storage site will be beneficial," says Johnson, an extension beef cattle breeding specialist.

After selecting a suitable site, that is out of the shade, arrange bales end to end in rows that stretch north to south. This will ensure better airflow and exposure to sunlight, which will boost hay drying rates. Johnson also recommends allowing at least 3 feet of space between rows and eliminating vegetation among bales to encourage even more airflow.

• Cover the costs

Avoid stacking bales in a triangular formation. This can lead to more spoilage in bales in the bottom levels of the pyramid. If possible, Johnson encourages producers

who have already stacked hay this way to reorient bales in single-tiered rows to slow the rate of spoilage that could occur.

Once bales are situated, cover them with a plastic or canvas tarp instead of leaving them unprotected. Although these coverings may not be an expense that was originally factored into the cost of production, it could be one that pays for itself when more dry matter is available for feeding.

“Producers are encouraged to consider the cost-to-benefit ratio of providing this protection,” Johnson asserts. “Factors to consider include the value of hay, projected in-storage losses, local environmental conditions, the cost of providing protection, and how long the hay will be in storage before it is fed.”

U.K. CORN & SOYBEAN VARIETY YIELD RESULTS



The 2023 University of Kentucky Corn & Soybean Variety Yield results are now available online, which includes results for corn variety results at an Ohio Co. site, in cooperation with Sanderfur Farms. Booklets with results should be available in December.

Corn: <https://varietytesting.ca.uky.edu/corn>

Soybean: <https://varietytesting.ca.uky.edu/soybean>

The corn variety site also has corn silage yield results from three locations in Kentucky, which would be useful for livestock producers.

When evaluating variety yield results, it is good to look at the location closest to your farm but, pay particular attention to the overall summary. By selecting a variety which does well over different locations, soil types, and environment, you will have a variety which should perform well on your farm, no matter the weather conditions.

U.K. FALL CROP PROTECTION WEBINAR SERIES

The next session of the “2023 Crop Protection Webinar Series” will be this Thursday, Nov. 16th, on the

video conferencing app Zoom. The weekly webinars will occur at 9:00 a.m. CT on Thursdays and are hosted through the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center.

Preregistration is required to attend each webinar. The webinar schedule and preregistration links are as follows:

- Nov. 16 – U.K. Fall Crop Protection Webinar: Managing the Offensive Spread of Weeds; Over Zoom at 9:00 a.m. till 10:00 a.m. CT; Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SIOzGyibQiOk4A6pTRHGmw

This program is an excellent opportunity for commercial applicators to get CEU’s as program organizers have applied for continuing education credits for pesticide applicators and Certified Crop Advisers.



- Nov. 16 – U.K. Fall Crop Protection Webinar: Managing the Offensive Spread of Weeds; Over Zoom at 9:00 a.m. till 10:00 a.m. CT; Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SIOzGyibQiOk4A6pTRHGmw
- Nov. 30 – U.K. Fall Crop Protection Webinar: Insects in Field Crops During 2 Years of Drought and Heat; Over Zoom at 9:00 a.m. till 10:00 a.m.; Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AqvCh08TQGCAJXvKxqdwFA
- Nov. 29 – Solar Solutions for Poultry Farmers Webinar; 6:00 p.m. CT
- Nov. 29 - Dec.2 – Ky Farm Bureau Convention; Galt House, Louisville
- Dec. 7 – Green River CPH Sale; Kentuckiana Livestock Market; 6:00 p.m.

More information about these programs is available by contacting the Ohio Co. Extension Office at (270)298-7441.

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