

# Ohio County Farm & Home News

Cooperative  
Extension Service

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## PRIVATE APPLICATOR PESTICIDE TRAINING



For many years the 'Private Applicator Pesticide Training' was considered only for people using restricted-use pesticides, but with today's pesticide products **all** pesticide users producing crops for consumption, should attend one of the trainings. Pesticide products are safer than they have ever been, but if not used properly, they can be harmful to not only the user, but the environment, as well.

I have set up three "**Private Applicator Pesticide Trainings**", at the Ohio Co. Extension Center, for this year:

- **Friday, Feb. 9 – 8:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.**
- **Thursday, Feb. 15 – 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.**
- **Monday, March 4 – 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.**

So, check your cards to be sure you have a valid certification for 2024. Cards expire on December 31 of the year of expiration. The "Pesticide Safety Education" is free and open to anyone wanting to attend, whether you are renewing your certification or need to receive your certification for the first time.

## KY MASTER LOGGER PROGRAM

The Kentucky Forest Conservation Act states that Kentucky Master Loggers must obtain six hours of Continuing Education (CE) every three years from the date their card was issued, in order to renew and maintain their Master Logger status. Continuing Education is important because it enables individuals to stay current on new innovations, laws and regulations, best management practices and other topics related to timber harvesting resulting in more efficient and environmentally sound logging operations.



Every three years, U.K. Forestry Specialist, host the "**Logger Web TV**" to assist a large number of Master Loggers in fulfilling their CE. This program covers information important to Master Loggers, such as updates on regulations, best logger practices and highlights various timber industries across the state.

This year's program will be held on **February 27, 2024** at multiple locations in the state, one of these being the **Ohio County Extension Office**. The program will run from **8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. CT**, with lunch on your own from 11:00 a.m. till noon.

This program allows you to get 6 hours for your CE's to renew your certification, whenever it expires, in one location, on one day!!!

**Registration is \$50** and if you need to renew your license, an additional **\$25 renewal fee**. You can register

by using by contacting Beth Williams, with U.K., at 859-257-6230 or stop by the office for a mail-in registration sheet. They can accept credit card payments by mail or over the phone.

## HIGH PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA DETECTED IN KY – POULTRY PRODUCERS SHOULD BE VIGILANT

Recent tests have confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in two deceased snow geese found in Henderson County. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention assures that the risk to human health remains low. However, as the infected birds are migratory, the outbreak poses a significant threat to poultry within the state, affecting both large poultry operations and small backyard flocks.

- **Understanding Avian Influenza:**

Avian Influenza (AI), or bird flu, is an influenza type A virus affecting various bird species, including poultry and wild birds. Classified based on their pathogenicity, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza strains, such as the one currently identified, are known for their rapid spread and high fatality rates in poultry.

Signs of avian influenza include sudden death; little to no appetite or energy; little to no egg production; soft or deformed eggs; nasal discharge; coughing, sneezing or breathing difficulty; swelling around the head, neck and eyes; purple discoloration; loss of muscle control; drooping wings; twisting of the head and neck; inability to move and diarrhea. Birds may have the disease for three to seven days before they show signs, and death can occur between 24 and 48 hours after the first sign.

Poultry owners, especially in Kentucky with its diverse range of poultry farms, are urged to adhere strictly to the outlined precautions and guidelines.

- **Key precautions for handling wild game:**

With waterfowl season still open, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife urges hunters to follow routine precautions when handling wild game:

- Avoid harvesting or handling wild birds that appear sick or are found dead.
- Process harvested waterfowl in open, well-ventilated areas.
- Utilize gloves and practice hand hygiene post-handling, using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Clean and disinfect equipment that comes in contact with birds.
- Refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking during the handling or cleaning of game birds.
- Securely dispose of bird remains, ensuring they are inaccessible to scavengers.
- Make certain all game meat is cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Prevent dogs and cats from consuming raw or undercooked waterfowl meat.

More information about HPAI and wild birds is available on Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) under Avian Influenza.



- **Immediate Actions for all poultry owners:**

Observe the "FLU" biosecurity and prevention guidelines:

**F—Flock observation**—Early detection is important to stop the spread of disease. Growers

need to observe flocks daily and note changes in appearance, behavior and drinking and eating habits.

**L—Limit traffic**—Contaminated clothing and equipment can spread avian influenza between poultry premises. Keep a log of visitors and vehicles on the farm. Be aware of places visitors may have had contact with birds or their droppings such as hunting lands, ponds, pet stores, zoos and parks. Visitors can accidentally bring disease to the farm.

**U—Unwanted critters**—avian influenza can be spread through the feces and bodily fluids of infected birds, so keep your poultry from coming into contact with wild birds.

If bird owners observe unusual symptoms or a large number of deaths in a flock, contact a local veterinarian or the Kentucky Department of Agriculture at <https://www.kyagr.com/statevet/poultry.html> or by phone at (502) 573-0282.

Additional information on bird flu, including biosecurity tips for backyard flocks, can be found at <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>.

## UPCOMING Events

- Feb. 1 – U.K. Wheat Meeting; James E. Bruce Convention Center; Hopkinsville
- Feb. 8 – Ky Crop Health Conference; National Corvette Museum; Bowling Green
- Feb. 8 – Ky Alfalfa & Stored Forage Conference; Warren Co. Extension Office; Bowling Green
- Feb. 9 – Private Pesticide Training; O.C. Extension Center; 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Feb. 9 – Ohio Co. Agricultural Development Council Meeting; O.C. Extension Center; 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 19-20 – Heart of America Grazing Conference; Greenacres Art Center, Cincinnati, OH
- Feb. 20-22 – Ky Turf & Landscape Management Short Course; Hardin Co. Extension Center
- Feb. 27 – Master Logger TV Webinar; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 8:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.
- March 19 – Multi-County Tobacco Production & GAP Certification Meeting; Breckinridge Co. Extension – Community Building; 10:00 a.m. CT