



Ohio County Farm & Home News

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

Ohio County
P O Box 66
Hartford KY 42347
270-298-7441
<http://ohio.ca.uky.edu/>

MAPLE DAY SHOWCASES GROWING SYRUP INDUSTRY – FEB. 4TH



**KENTUCKY
MAPLE
DAY**

February 5, 2022

Join maple syrup producers from across the state as they open their operations for the public to learn about maple sugaring.

To view all locations visit:
ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu

Ohio County



Hitchel Farm
4735 Rob Roy Road
Cromwell, KY 42333
270.274.3939
8am - 4pm

Kentucky maple syrup producers will open their facilities to the public, this Saturday, Feb. 4, for the fourth annual Kentucky Maple Day. Sponsored by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and the Kentucky Maple Syrup Association, the day allows the public to visit the state's maple syrup producing farms and sugarhouses to observe syrup's production and purchase locally produced maple syrup products.

Ohio County's own Hitchel Farms, operated by Ben & Bekki Hitchel will open their farm to visitors this Saturday, February 4th, from 9:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m., for the Ky Maple Day. Their farm is located at 4735 Rob Roy Rd., outside Cromwell.

"There is currently a great deal of interest in the maple syrup industry in Kentucky," said Billy Thomas, extension forester with the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. "Kentucky Maple Day is not only a great opportunity for the public to learn more about our growing syrup industry, but according to producers, it has also increased their visibility and revenue. In addition, the day provides a reminder to all that Kentucky's woodlands are a valuable resource which provides many benefits." "Kentucky Maple Day highlights a Kentucky

forest product that is not only delicious but can serve as an important agritourism catalyst during winter for Kentucky's farm operations," Thomas said.

Activities will vary at each location. Producers will showcase their operations and sell pure maple syrup and syrup products, and some will also offer tours of their sugar bush and sap-collection systems.

Organizers recommend those interested in attending call local producers in advance if they have any questions about what activities and products their location offers.

More information, including event times, addresses, phone numbers, and a map of all participating farms, is online at <https://ky-maplesyrup.ca.uky.edu/ky-maple-day>.

KY DEPT. OF AG – NUISANCE WEED SPRAYING PROGRAM

Each spring the Ky Dept. of Agriculture coordinates a nuisance weed control program for Kentucky producers. Under the program, a producer can spray 10 acres of grassland for weeds having a negative impact, such as thistles or buttercup. The KDA provided the chemical and boomless sprayer and the producer must provide the tractor, water and labor for spraying.

There is a maximum of seven participants allowed per county. Participants may only apply every 36 months. To apply, go to the KDA's nuisance weed website at : <https://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx>

BACKYARD POULTRY PRODUCTION WEBINARS

You can only apply from February 1 thru February 28th.

Backyard chicken flocks are popular in urban and suburban communities throughout the country. Most owners raise them for eggs, meat, controlling pests and sometimes, just as pets. Preparation is essential for a thriving backyard flock.

The U.K. College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is leading a series of webinars throughout the coming year on various aspects of raising backyard poultry, in conjunction with the Universities of Wisconsin, Florida, Minnesota, Ohio State University, and Utah State University.

U.K will host 10 FREE, Zoom webinar sessions in 2023 on everything from reproductive issues to managing poultry flocks on pasture. The sessions include:

- “Reproductive Issues with Small and Backyard Poultry Flocks”
(February 7, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. CT)
- “Raising Turkeys in Small and Backyard Flocks”
(March 7, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. CT)
- “Daily Management of a Home Poultry Incubator”
(April 4, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. CT)
- “Hatching Waterfowl Eggs in a Home Incubator”
(May 4, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. CT)



- “Doing Fecal Flotations for the Identification of Intestinal Parasites in Poultry”
(June 6, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. CT)

The date

is subject to change due to the availability of the speaker

- “Sanitizing in a Poultry House”
(August 1, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. CT)
- “Organizing a County Poultry Show”
(September 5, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.)
- “Respiratory Issues with Poultry”
(October 3, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. CT)
- “Designing a Small Flock Poultry House”
(November 7, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. CT)
- “Managing a Poultry Flock on Pasture”
(December 5, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. CT)

Suburban poultry has made a comeback over the past several years and skyrocketed when COVID-19 hit. With schools closed and workers laid off, furloughed or working remotely, many Americans saw starting a backyard flock as a rewarding project for the weeks or months of confinement at home. Chickens are beneficial for several reasons, but most importantly they produce colorful eggs with rich, nutritious, orange yolks that beat any grocery store egg in flavor and beauty.

To register for a session go to <https://poultry.extension.org/webinars> , click on the title for the session you wish to register. This will provide a more detailed description of the program and you can register for the session. You will need to register for each session you wish to view.

You can find recordings of past webinars posted at:

<https://poultry.extension.org/webinars/past-webinars/>

You can also follow U.K. Extension Poultry on Facebook at :

<https://www.facebook.com/poultryextension>

And you can find additional backyard poultry videos on their YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRMPDhvuDXb2sjDTF3Tj7w>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 9 – Ky Crop Health Conference; National Corvette Museum, Bowling Green
- Feb. 15-18 – National Farm Machinery Show; Louisville
- Feb. 16 – G.R. CPH Sale; Kentuckiana Livestock Market; 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 21 – Ky Alfalfa & Stored Forage Conference; Cave City Convention Center
- Feb. 21&22 – Mid-South Stocker Conference; WKU Ag Expo Center, Bowling Green
- March 8 – IPM School; McCracken Co. Extension office

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