

Warren County

AGRICULTURE

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

(SG)

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**New for
this Year:**

**Country Ham
Auction
to Benefit
4-H & FFA**

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

**AG
AWARENESS
BREAKFAST**

MARCH 13, 2025

**Food Supply Chain:
Linking Farm
to Table**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Dr. Trey Malone
Purdue University

**7:30am
National
Corvette
Museum**

**RSVP BY MARCH 6TH
BY CALLING
270-842-1681**



**Cooperative
Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

PESTICIDE UPDATES

RUNOFF MITIGATION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has introduced new runoff mitigation measures for pesticide labels to protect non-target species and reduce ecological exposure. These measures are part of the EPA's Final Herbicide Strategy, released in August 2024, which aims to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and protect over 900 federally endangered and threatened species

Key Points of the New Runoff Mitigation Measures:

1. **Mitigation Menu:** The EPA has updated its mitigation menu website, which provides a list of runoff and erosion mitigation measures. This menu is referenced on pesticide labels, allowing the EPA to update mitigation measures without changing individual labels
 2. **Runoff/Erosion Points:** Pesticide applicators must calculate runoff/erosion points for their fields. The mitigation menu includes a points calculator to help applicators determine the number of points earned for existing practices
 3. **Flexibility and Complexity:** The new strategy offers more flexible options for farmers but also increases the complexity of compliance. Farmers must ensure they meet mitigation measures based on the pesticide, crop, and field conditions
- **Planning and Compliance:** Applicators need to plan their pesticide applications in advance, considering the specific runoff/erosion mitigation requirements for each product. This involves evaluating their fields and implementing necessary measures
 - **Record-Keeping:** Farmers must keep detailed records of the mitigation measures implemented to ensure compliance with the new requirements

Overall, while the new runoff mitigation measures aim to protect the environment, they also require farmers and pesticide applicators to adapt to more detailed and complex management practices. For more detailed information <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mitigation-menu-measure-descriptions>

AEZ

The EPA's Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) rule, finalized in September 2024, reinstates protections under the 2015 Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The AEZ is an area surrounding pesticide application equipment where people are prohibited during pesticide application. Think of a bubble around the application equipment that moves with the equipment as the application is in process. The AEZ boundary can extend past the boundaries of the establishment.

Key Points of the AEZ Rule:

- **Size of AEZ:** The AEZ can be 25 or 100 feet, depending on the application method and droplet size. The AEZ typically extends 100 feet from the application equipment for aerial, air blast, fumigant, smoke, mist, and fog applications or ground applications with fine spray droplets. An AEZ of 25 feet applies to medium or large droplets sprayed with ground application at a height of 12 inches or higher. Medium or large droplets sprays applied at height less than 12 inches do not require an AEZ.
- **Suspension of Application:** Pesticide applicator must pause applications if anyone is in or enters the AEZ. Applications may resume when the person leaves the AEZ.
- **Responsibility:** Employers must ensure AEZ requirements are understood and followed by applicators and workers.
- **Off Property Protection:** The AEZ now applies to individuals both on or off the farm property or in an area subject to an easement. Farmers must be aware of people near their fields, including roads and neighboring properties.

Impact on Farmers:

- **Near Roads and Subdivisions:** Farmers must stop spraying if vehicles or people (even inside buildings) are in or enter the AEZ, which can be challenging on busy roads or near subdivisions. The only exception would be for immediate family members within structures.
- **Documentation:** Farmers need to keep detailed records to show compliance with AEZ requirements.



PESTICIDE UPDATES

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) labeling on pesticides is part of the EPA's Endangered Species Protection Program. This program ensures that pesticide use does not harm threatened or endangered species or their habitats. When a pesticide label references the ESA, it means there are specific use limitations to protect these species. These limitations are detailed in Endangered Species Protection Bulletins

Bulletins Live! Two is an online tool where users can access these bulletins. It provides geographically specific pesticide use limitations based on the intended application area, the pesticide product, and the application month

Users must follow the directions in these bulletins to comply with the ESA requirements



3 of Warren County endangered species

Here are some key points:

1. **Geographically Specific:** The limitations are specific to the area where the pesticide will be applied. This ensures that the restrictions are relevant to the local species and habitats
2. **Active Ingredients and Products:** The bulletins specify which active ingredients and pesticide products are subject to limitations
3. **Application Timing:** The limitations can vary depending on the month of application. This accounts for different life stages of species and seasonal habitat use
4. **Use Restrictions:** These can include buffer zones, application methods, and timing restrictions to minimize exposure to endangered species
5. **Enforceability:** When a pesticide label references these bulletins, the limitations become enforceable under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

To find the specific limitations for your area and pesticide product, you can use the Bulletins Live! Two tool on the EPA's website <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/bulletins-live-two-view-bulletins>

Join the conversation “What Could BG Be?” Share your ideas to make sure that growth makes us *better*, not just bigger.



CAPTURE THE
HEART OF FARMING

Share your best farm photos for
our Ag Awareness Slideshow.



We would love to highlight “Farm Life” in Warren County, but we need your help. Please submit your farm photos with captions to jcoles@uky.edu by March 7th. Photos can be family farm photos, harvest, planting, crop fields, livestock, flowers, vegetables or really anything that represents your “Farm Life”.

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you would like to register for any event, please call or email our office for more information.

March

- 3/6 Tall Fescue Workshop @ Leitchfield, KY
- 3/18 National Ag Day
- 3/18-24 National Ag Week
- 3/13 Ag Awareness Breakfast
- 3/25 District Board Meeting @ 10am
County Extension Council @ Noon
- 3/27 Italian Ryegrass Control Field Tour
9am - 11:30am @ Princeton

Register Here:



April

- 4/17 Warren Co. Cattlemen's Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 4/29-30 KY Beginning Grazing School @ Logan Co.

May

- 5/13 UK Wheat Field Day @ Princeton

LASAGNA SOUP

Ingredients:

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 jar (24 ounces) marinara sauce
- 1 box (32 ounces) low-sodium chicken, vegetable, or beef broth
- 12 ounces water (fill half of the marinara jar)
- 6 sheets lasagna noodles, broken into bite-size pieces (NOT oven-ready noodles)
- 1 container (10 ounces) frozen, chopped spinach

Directions:

Wash hands with soap and warm water, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. Heat a large pot over medium high heat. Add beef to pot and break into fine crumbles. Season with salt and pepper. Cook beef until it's no longer pink and it reaches 160 degrees F using a food thermometer. Drain any fat. Add marinara sauce, broth, and water to the pot with beef. Increase heat to high, place lid on the pot and bring to a boil, about 6 minutes. Once boiling, add lasagna noodles and lower heat to medium-high. Stir occasionally so noodles do not stick to the bottom of the pot. Cook uncovered for about 6 minutes, or until noodles are close to being done. Add frozen spinach. Cook until noodles have a bit of firmness left and until spinach is heated through, about 2 to 3 minutes. Ladle into bowls and add desired toppings. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.

Optional toppings:

a scoop of ricotta or cottage cheese,
a sprinkle of parmesan or mozzarella cheese



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