Ag & Natural Resources
Of Cows and Plows

FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Franklin County
101 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY 40601-8750
(502) 695-9035
Fax: (502) 695-9309
franklin.ca.uky.edu

CORN ACROSS KENTUCKY WILL JUMP OVER THE NEXT WEEK AND WE'LL FIND OUT IF WE NEED TO PAY FOR ANY PLANTING SINS.

Chad D. Lee, Ph.D.
Extension Professor, Grains
Director, Grain and Forage Center of Excellence
University of Kentucky

The heat and sun over the next few days will send a lot of corn to tassel and will help younger corn reach rapid growth. All of the corn that had looked pale and yellow during those storms will reach a deep green color by Monday, June 23, 2025 as long as it has adequate nutrients and good roots. Corn that was shin-high this week will be waist high or taller next week. Corn that was shoulder high this week will tassel by next Friday.

By next Friday, June 27, 2025, we will learn if we had too many planting sins. Corn suffering from sidewall compaction, corn planted too shallow (or soil washed away), and corn limited by subsurface compaction will start showing nutrient deficiencies by the end of next week. Before a farmer orders more fertilizer, the farmer or crop scout should identify if these other problems are occurring.

If corn roots are severely restricted to the seed furrow and/or severely restricted 1 to 3 inches beneath the soil surface, then walk away. Additional fertilizer will not help those roots break through. Those roots cannot access nutrients, oxygen or water beyond that compacted layer. The amount and cost of fertilizer needed over the course of the season would far exceed the returns to yield. Also, this corn is at extremely high risk for drought stress during seed fill. Leaves on this corn will roll long before corn with excellent roots will show any symptoms. Again, walk away until harvest. There is no need to throw more money after a bad situation.

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If corn roots have broken through the compaction layer, then this corn has a chance to make a good crop. It will be a little more susceptible to drought later. If adequate nutrients were already applied then there is no need to apply more. Monitor and scout these fields for insects and diseases later in the season.
If corn has a shallow placement (because of shallow planting or soil being washed away) then this crop can recover well. It is at greater risk for lodging during seed fill, but it has potential for excellent yields. If adequate fertilizer was applied already, then there is no need to apply more. Scout these fields for insects and diseases later in the season.

Contact your local extension agent for more information.

Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Department of Horticulture

Save the Date

Twilight Tour

Horticulture Research Farm




July 22, 2025
6-8pm

4321 Emmert Farm Ln,
Lexington, KY 40514

Scan the qr code to register or follow the link
bit.ly/twilighttour25

Center for Crop Diversification
Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

SUPPORT KENTUCKY PRICE REPORTING

The UK Center for Crop Diversification has been reporting prices for nearly 25 years. We report on **Farmers Markets** and **Produce Auctions** in the Kentucky. We are trying to see how people use the price reports and what impact they have.

WHY HELP?

- Improves price reports in the state
- Helps continue & expand reporting
- **Only takes about 5 minutes!**

TAKE THE SURVEY

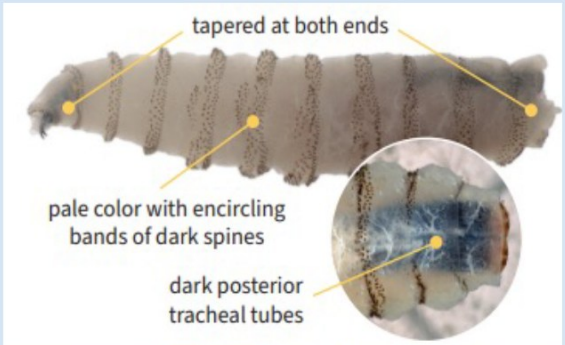
Contact brett.wolff@uky.edu for questions

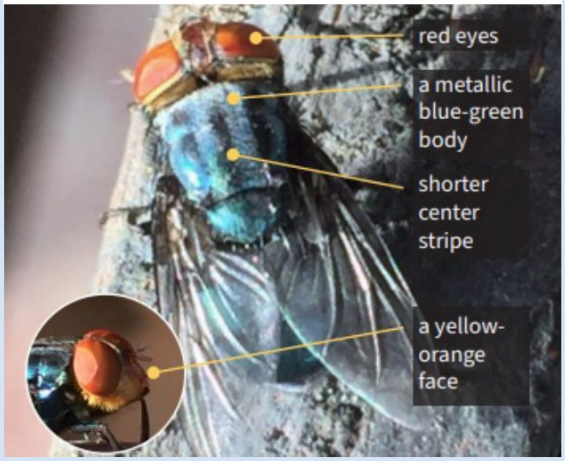
NEW WORLD SCREWWORM (NWS)

Authored by: Hannah Tiffin (Assistant Extension Professor, Medical/Veterinary Entomology, Department of Entomology), Jessie Lay (Animal Health Extension Veterinarian), and Kenny Burdine (Extension Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics).

QUICK FACTS:

- NWS is a fly species with maggots that burrow deep into animal tissue and cause extensive tissue damage, leading to secondary infections and even death. This results in high economic costs due to animal loss and treatment, as well as pest containment and control efforts.
- The United States has been considered NWS-free since 1966, with a few notable outbreaks.
- The current outbreak is north of the Panama barrier zone, with outbreaks detected in Mexico.
- NWS has not been detected in the United States during the current outbreak.
- It is critical to understand and follow cattle-import regulations to prevent an outbreak of NWS in the United States, which would be devastating for U.S. cattle health, producers' livelihoods, and consumers' access to beef and other livestock products and byproducts.





WHAT IS IT AND WHY SHOULD PRODUCERS CARE?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

New World screwworm, or NWS for short, can cause serious tissue destruction and lead to disease and death in livestock and other animals. The fly larvae, or maggots, "screw" their way into living animal tissue by tearing through and eating the host's tissue with sharp mouth hooks. This causes extensive tissue damage and can lead to severe secondary infections as the maggots cause deep wounds, leading to sickness and potentially death in untreated animals. The NWS flies are often associated with cattle but can affect sheep, goats, horses, and other livestock and companion animals, as well as wildlife species including infrequent reports on birds, and in rare circumstances can affect humans.

An outbreak in Texas in 1976 infested nearly 1.5 million cattle and over 300,000 sheep and goats before the outbreak was contained. Adjusted for inflation, this could cost Texas producers alone an estimated $732 million in treatment, control, and livestock losses, and the Texas economy overall $1.8 billion. Since NWS eradication, most outbreaks in the United States have been limited to Texas and other southwestern states, with one notable exception affecting Key deer in the Florida Keys in 2016 and contained in 2017.

Today, these flies are found in several South American and Caribbean countries. However, they used to have a wider range that included Mexico and extended to the southern United States, including Kentucky. Fortunately, NWS was eradicated from the United States, and the United States was considered NWS-free in 1966. To reduce risk of reintroduction of these pests from Mexico and Central America, the United States partnered with Mexico and Central American countries to continue eradication programs and push this pest southward, with a permanent barrier zone established in Panama in 2006. In collaboration with Panamanian authorities, this barrier zone releases sterilized male flies that mate with females and prevent the females from producing new flies, reducing the overall NWS fly burden and limiting northward expansion of this pest from the barrier zone.

WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM NOW?

For a variety of reasons, NWS was able to move northward from the Panama barrier zone and made its way through Central America into Mexico, risking re-introduction to the United States from the movement of infested animals through the livestock trade (legal and illegal), travel, and border crossings of stray livestock, equids, and wildlife from affected regions.

There has always been a risk of re-introduction of NWS since the southern United States has the right environment for this pest given its historic range throughout the South. Live cattle trade and this pest's resilience highlight the importance of vigilance and international and intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration. While there have been several outbreaks of NWS in the United States, all outbreaks were able to be contained through coordinated efforts by the USDA and other inter-agency and international partners.

NWS has been confirmed in cattle north of the Panama barrier zone, including in southern Mexico. There have not been confirmed reports in the United States but with NWS moving northward, it is imperative that producers continue to follow USDA regulations for live bison, cattle, and equine imports and stay vigilant for this pest, particularly in border states such as Texas. Sterile male NWS flies are being released in these outbreak locations to reduce the number of flies and to re-establish barrier zones in outbreak locations, with the goal of pushing NWS southward to the well-established Panama barrier zone.

HOW DOES NWS AFFECT ANIMAL HEALTH?

While maggot (fly larvae) infestation is not uncommon, the New World screwworm causes much more harm than species that typically affect U.S. livestock. Most species of maggots found in the United States infest infected wounds and feed on necrotic (dead) tissue at the skin's surface. Instead of staying at the tissues' surface to feed, NWS maggots burrow deeper into wounds to feed on healthy tissue. This is extremely painful to affected animals and causes severe lesions and extensive tissue damage. The female flies can be attracted to even minor wounds, such as bites from other insects or ticks or the umbilical cord of a newborn calf. Female flies will also deposit eggs in mucous membrane openings such as the nose, eyes, ears, anus, and genitalia. As the maggots continue to feed on deeper tissues, the wounds enlarge and frequently develop secondary infections, which can lead to death of the animal.

If the outbreak spreads to the US, early detection will be essential to prevent potentially devastating losses. Producers should call their veterinarian if they notice maggots deep in wounds, a strong smell of decaying flesh, or wounds that grow rapidly in size and are infested with maggots in companion animals, livestock, or wildlife.

Photo of the different life stages of New World screwworm on an infested host (USDA APHIS-25-028, April 2025)

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEXICO-U.S. CATTLE TRADE

The ban on live-cattle imports from Mexico has also affected U.S. cattle markets. A significant number of cattle are imported from Mexico to enter the U.S. beef system each year. These tend to be lighter cattle that would be placed in a growing program, such as grazing or backgrounding, before entering a feedyard.

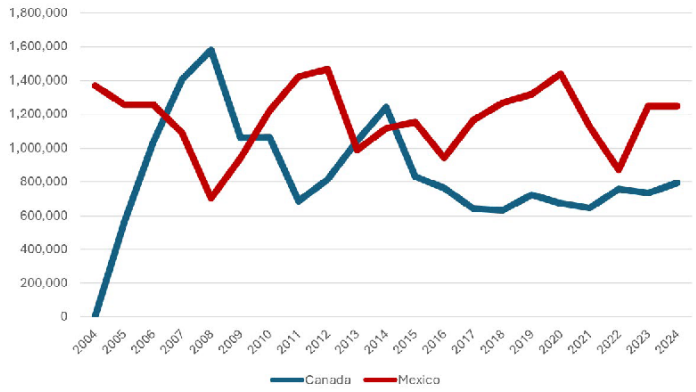
The first ban on live-cattle imports from Mexico occurred in late November of 2024 and decreased the total number of imports from Mexico for several weeks last year. For perspective on volume, 2024 live-cattle imports from Mexico would have likely represented 4-5% of U.S. feedlot placements for the year. Importantly, these imports represent a much larger share of feedlot inventories in the southern United States, including Kentucky.

The initial ban on live-cattle imports from Mexico was lifted in February of 2025. Cattle began to move north again, but at a reduced pace compared to most of 2024. Mexican cattle imports were down by 32% in March of 2025 compared to March of 2024 and were down more than 50% year-to-date. The latest ban was put in place on May 11 and remains in effect at the time of this writing.

WHAT IMPACT HAS THE BAN HAD ON CATTLE MARKETS?

The reduction in live-cattle imports further reduced an already tight feeder-cattle supply. Both bans resulted in price increases, with CME© feeder-cattle futures prices reaching record highs. In the short term, supplies will continue to tighten while the import ban is in place. Longer-term implications are less clear, as feedlot and packing capacity (especially in the South) are somewhat dependent on Mexican cattle imports. How long the ban lasts and the implications of continued reductions in feeder-cattle supply remain key questions going forward. However, keeping the United States NWS-free is critical for ensuring food security for U.S. consumers and economic stability and longevity for cattle and other livestock producers given the New World screwworm's ability to infest a wide range of animals.

U.S. Live Cattle Imports by Country of Origin



WHAT IS KENTUCKY DOING?

Federal, state, and local officials and specialists are monitoring the situation. An emergency response plan is in place if detected in the United States, with a specific control plan in place if detected in Kentucky.

KENTUCKIANS, WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- **Follow import/export regulations** for all animals including livestock, equines, and domestic pets. Helpful links to USDA regulations are included below.
  - Livestock imports from Mexico: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/live-animal-import/cattle-bison-germplasm/mexico
  - Live animal imports, any country: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/live-animal-import
  - Domestic dog import permit requirements: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/another-country-to-us-import/dogs
- **Stay aware** of the situation and changes in import/export regulations.
  - Current NWS outbreak situation: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/ticks/screwworm/outbreak-central-america
- **Know the signs of NWS** and where to report if you have a suspected case. Observable signs to report include:
  - Smell of decaying flesh on your animals
  - Wound(s) or openings (nostrils, genitalia) with maggots on your animal
  - Animals with irritated behavior and/or head shaking
- **Report it!** If you have a suspected case of NWS on one of your animals or wildlife in your area, contact an accredited veterinarian or one of the agencies below.
  - KY Department of Agriculture, Office of the State Veterinarian
    - Phone: (502) 573-0282
    - https://www.kyagr.com/statevet/
  - USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services
    - In Kentucky, phone: (502) 848-2040

Center for Crop Diversification
Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

LABOR FOR SMALL FARMS: OVERVIEW & TIPS

Guest Speakers:

MICHAEL BAYER & DR. KIMBERLY MORGAN

Labor Experts from the University of Florida IFAS

Key Discussions & Insights:

- 2025 Labor landscape overview
- Evaluating the cost and process
- When does hiring labor make sense?
- Specific requirements for shared guest worker contracts

6:30 – 8:00 PM EST

JUL 14, 2025

VIA ZOOM

You MUST Register @
https://ccd.uky.edu/events
or scan the QR code


KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UK MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
KSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Farm City Field Day
07.10.25
KSU Harold R. Benson Research Farm
5PM- FREE MEAL
6-8PM FARM TOURS
Tickets available now at either Farm Bureau
For more details visit
https://franklin.ca.uky.edu/field-day

Farm City Field Day Tour Stops

There will be 3 tour options. Attendees will be able to take multiple tours during the evening!

Green Tour

- Urban Agriculture
- Agronomy
- Back Yard Poultry/ Mobile Processing Unit
- 1/4 Acre Garden

Gold Tour

- Pond/ Raceways
- Ethnic Vegetables
- Soil Health

Walking Tour

- Pawpaw's/ Horticulture
- Beef Cattle
- Goats

July 1, 2025 to June 1st, 2026

Contact the office at 502-352-2701 for more information

Franklin County Junior Cattlemen's Association

Franklin County Dairy Show

On June 14th, Franklin County Junior Cattlemen worked the 2025 Franklin County Dairy Show serving meals to participants and attendees. A big shout out to Cassie for showing this year!

Franklin County Fair

July 15-19, 2025

Stop by the Franklin County Extension Office to pick up a fair catalog today!

Or visit franklincofairky.com for the schedule, events and catalog!

HERBICIDE WORKSHOP

What? When? Why?

Location

Harold R. Benson Research & Demonstration Farm
Frankfort, KY

Speaker

Joe Omielan
University of Kentucky

Date

Tuesday,
August 19th
9AM - 1PM

Join KSU Forestry and Natural Resources and UK's Joe Omielan for a morning learning about the specifics of herbicide selection.

This workshop will include indoor and outdoor sessions and CEUs are available to participants. Registration begins at 8:30AM and includes lunch.

Please register by August 15.

To register, scan the QR code or email anna.rogers@kysu.edu for a link.

Reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities as well as language access services such as interpretation or translation of information will be provided free of charge upon request. Contact us by August 1 if you need reasonable accommodations to participate. Kentucky State University is an equal opportunity provider.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension Program

Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

HTTPS://WWW.VETERINARYENTOMOLOGY.ORG/VETPESTX

The Vetinaryentomolgy.org website is a “pest management and education resource for animal owners and producers, extension agents, veterinarians, wildlife professionals, and the public.” Here you can look up the different pests that are on your livestock or pets.

At the “VetPestX - Pesticides for control of Insect Pests of Animals” tab you can search for the correct pesticide to use based on animal and pest..

JOIN US ALL YEAR FOR

THIRD THURSDAY THING

~~January 16th: Farm Safety & Disaster Recovery~~

~~February 20th: Organic Agriculture~~

~~March 20th: Natural Resource Management~~

~~April 17th: Grow, Buy, Eat Local~~

CAIP APPROVED

~~May 15th: Aquaculture~~

~~June 19th: Juneteenth/ Business Planning~~

July 17th: Cattle & Poultry

August 21st: Agri-technology & Vertical Farming

September 18th: Horticulture & Urban Agriculture

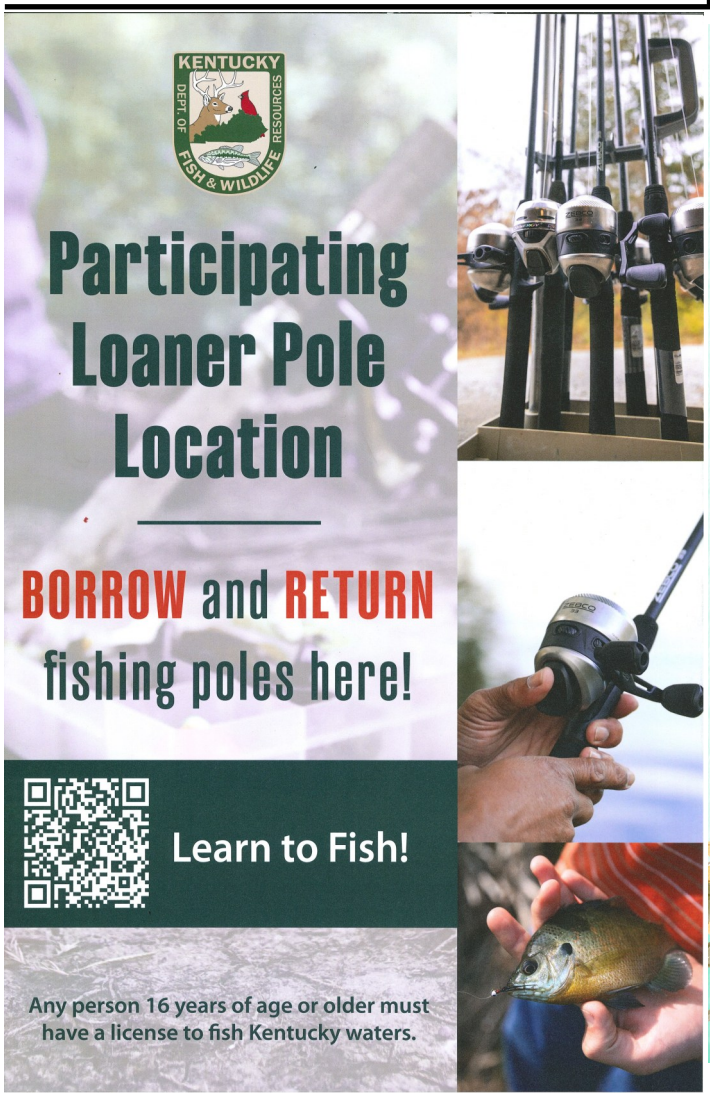
October 16th: Small Ruminants

November 20th: Small, Limited-Resource, Minority Farmers Conference

Important Numbers

Raising Hope (Suicide & Crisis Lifeline)	988
Franklin Co Extension Office	695-9035
Conservation District	352-2701
Farm Service Agency (FSA)	859-873-3411
NRCS	695-5023
Dead Animal Removal	875-8760
State Rd. Dead Animal Removal	564-6998
Unwanted Pesticide Removal	1-800-205-6543
Fish and Wildlife	1-800-585-1549
Franklin County Wildlife Biologist	859-879-8411

(All numbers 502 area code unless otherwise noted)



Franklin County Conservation District

BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM
Urban Cost Share Program

July 1, 2025 to June 1, 2026

Raised Garden Beds, Rain Barrels, Compost Bins, Pollinator Gardens, Beehives and Bat Houses

- First come, first serve.
- Franklin County Residents only
- One application per household
- 50% cost share up to $500 maximum

Must have approval before you begin project

Franklin County Conservation District
103 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-352-2701

fccd103@gmail.com

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky.

2025 CAEMG Lunch & Learns

Join the Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners for monthly educational talks to enhance your gardening skills. Bring your lunch and enjoy a casual atmosphere while learning from knowledgeable speakers.

July 16

Botanical Sleuthing: Expert Tips on Plant Identification

Dive into the fascinating world of plant identification and enhance your gardening skills. We'll discuss how tips and tricks to recognize plants, guided by Dr. Rick Durham, UK Faculty Extension Specialist.

Classes begin at 11:30 AM
No registration required.
101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort KY

FRANKLIN & WOODFORD

2025 MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

AUGUST 21 - DECEMBER 11
9 AM - 12 PM

EVERY THURSDAY

TOPICS INCLUDE:
Botany, Entomology, Plant Pathology,
Proper Care and Maintenance, and Disease Diagnosis

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE JUNE 2
APPLICATION DEADLINE JULY 25

Kentucky Extension Master Gardener

Franklin County
502-695-9035
franklin.ext@uky.edu

Woodford County
859-873-4601
woodford.ext@uky.edu

RECIPE

Berry and Basil Pizza Crisp with Honey Balsamic

Balsamic Honey Glaze:
- **½ cup** balsamic vinegar
- **3 tablespoons** honey

Flatbread:
- **6** flatbreads
- **12** pieces of cheese, such as Havarti (2 per flatbread)
- **1 cup** blackberries, halved
- **1 ½ cups** strawberries, chopped
- **15** basil leaves, chopped and divided

Preheat oven to 400°F. **Place** flatbreads on a baking sheet and **add** two slices Havarti cheese, blackberries, and strawberries. **Bake** for 5-7 minutes, or until cheese is melted. After flatbreads are removed from oven, **add** chopped basil and honey balsamic glaze. **Serve** warm.

To make the glaze:
Add balsamic vinegar and honey to a small sauce pan and **simmer** until reduced by half (10-15 minutes). **Remove** from heat and **set aside**.

Serves: 6 Flatbreads

Nutritional Analysis:
340 calories, 16 g fat, 9 g saturated fat, 40 mg cholesterol, 520 mg sodium, 34 g carbohydrate, 11 g fiber, 16 g sugar, 20 g protein

Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Be sure to follow our Facebook page for all the up-to-date information and articles.
@FranklinCountyKyCooperativeExtension

SAVE THE DATES:

July 10	**Farm City Field Day**
July 15-18	**Franklin County Fair**

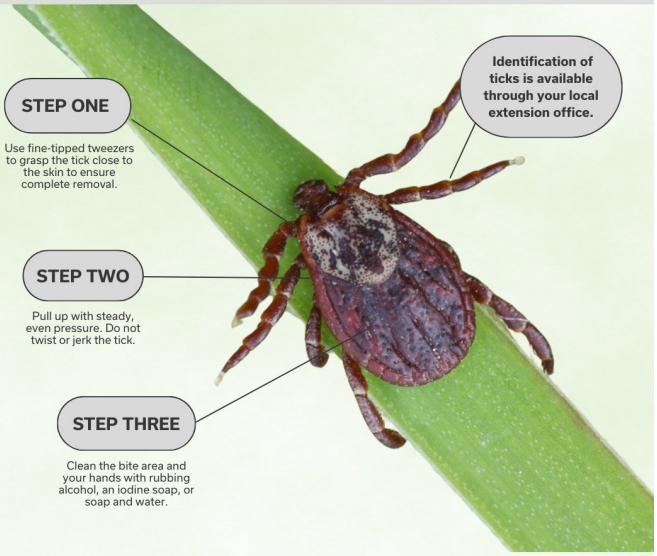
2025 Livestock Events at Lakeview Park

September 27– Rabbit Show

Cooperative Extension Service

HOW TO REMOVE A TICK SAFELY

UK Extension Publication ENTFACT-618



Source: UK Extension Publication ENTFACT-618
An Equal Opportunity Organization.

Keenan R Bishop

Keenan Bishop, County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources Education

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