

# Agriculture and Natural Resources

## A Message From Your ANR Agent:

Look around your farm and see what you need to accomplish. Here are some tips to assist you in achieving that goal.

A few items to do/follow/make a decision on:

1. Take time to assess the situation.
2. What is working or not working in dealing with the problem?
3. How much time and effort are you willing to put into accomplishing that goal or goals?
4. Make an overall plan for the project (break down into smaller accomplishable goals).
5. Choose a starting point.
6. One step at a time.
7. Celebrate each step as accomplished.
8. Be proud of each and every step accomplished.

Make sure to sit down and fully assess what needs to be done to accomplish each goal. The main decision is exactly how much time and effort are you willing to put into the job. Break the goal into smaller accomplishable increments. Doesn't matter how long it takes, just start working on one area or goal at a time.

Good luck and let us help you with your gardening needs.

Suzanne Stumbo, ANR Agent | [sstum1@uky.edu](mailto:sstum1@uky.edu) | (606) 432-2534

### In This Issue:

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- **Tick prevention, control, removal, & management**
- **How to help a drought-stressed lawn**
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- **10 backyard chicken basics**



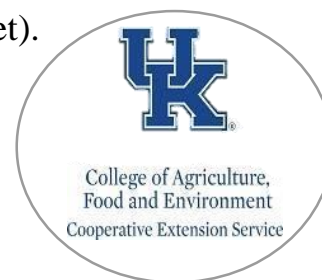


# Announcements



## Farmers Market

Summer is near and the Pike County Farmers Market is open for business! Stop by and get your local farm fresh produce, local honey, syrup, baked goods, handmade soaps, handcrafted gifts, and so much more! Join us Saturdays from 9:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. or Tuesdays 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 130 Adams Lane, near Pikeville High School at the green roofed pavilion. For more information on the Farmer's Market contact Suzanne Stumbo, Pike County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources or find us on Facebook (Pikeville Farmer's Market).



## Master Gardeners Class

The Kentucky Extension Master Gardeners program helps train and manage volunteers to assist in their county's horticulture education. Pike County Master Gardener classes will begin the last Thursday of August. (the 31<sup>st</sup>) and will continue for 12 consecutive Thursdays. More information about the Master Gardener program can be found on page 11 and 12 of this issue or by contacting the Pike County Extension Office.

## Welcome to the Team

The Pike County Cooperative Extension Service Agriculture and Natural Resources Department welcomes a new member to the team, Emily Davis, ANR Assistant. Emily Davis is a Pike County local and recent graduate with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from UPIKE. Emily previously worked for the University of Pikeville as the campus sustainability coordinator where she co-founded and developed a successful sustainability educational organization. Her passions include sustainable agriculture and preserving our biodiversity in the beautiful Appalachian mountains. "I am happy to be a part of the team!" says Davis.



**Cooperative Extension Service**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.  
LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# Prelude to Tick Prevention and Control

Summer time brings beautiful weather but also a higher prevalence of ticks. Kentucky is an ideal environment for these pests with our forests, humidity and a large deer population. Farmers and those who spend a significant amount of time outdoors can encounter ticks. Taking precautions to prevent tick bites is important in order to reduce risk of infection or contracting disease.

## Tick Prevention and Protection: Quick Overview

*By Michael F. Potter and G. Mark Beavers  
Al Cross, Kentucky Health News, April 25 2022*

Ways to protect yourself from ticks are:

- Keep grass and shrubs trimmed
- Avoid grassy, wooded and leaf-covered areas especially from April through July.
- Walk in the center of trails to avoid brushing up against vegetation where ticks might be waiting.
- Wear light-colored clothing, making ticks easier to spot
- Tuck in shirts and wear long pants tucked into boots or socks so it will be more difficult for ticks to attach to your skin.
- Use tick repellent that has Apply insect (tick) repellent containing diethyl toluamide (DEET) or picaridin to shoes, cuffs, socks, and pant legs. Be sure to read and follow directions for use on the container.
- Treat your clothes with permethrin, which repels and kills ticks
- Do a body check along the way and at the end of each day
- Regularly inspect family, pets and equipment carefully after they have been in tick-infested areas. Promptly remove any ticks.
- Shower within two hours of potential exposure, if possible. Showering or bathing may help to remove ticks that have not yet attached.



2016 University of Kentucky Department of Entomology



# Tick Control

By Michael F. Potter and G. Mark Beavers,  
University of Kentucky Department of Entomology

## Tick Control on Pets

**Free-roaming pets are much more likely to become infested than are pets that are confined.** Fencing yards prevents pets from picking up ticks from surrounding areas. Fencing also discourages dogs and other large animals from introducing ticks onto the property. **Ticks on pets can be controlled using sprays, dips, dusts, and insecticide-impregnated collars.** Pet owners should be advised to consult with their veterinarian for appropriate products to use on their pet.



Photo by Emily Davis

Pet pens and runs also can be sprayed to control ticks that may be present in those areas. Products labeled for tick control outdoors are usually labeled for use in these areas as well. Do not contaminate food or water.

## Tick Control in Landscapes

Ticks are sometimes a problem in yards, especially when pets are kept outdoors. **Ticks also can be a serious problem in parks, camps, picnic sites, and other recreational areas.** A good way to determine if ticks are present is to drag a 3-ft x 3-ft white flannel cloth through suspected areas. Ticks will attach and be visible against the white background. **Tick populations can be reduced in these areas by mowing and trimming lawns and other vegetation, thus creating a less favorable habitat for ticks and their wild hosts. Wood, brush piles, and other accumulated debris should also be removed.**

Insecticide sprays are most effective when directed into areas where ticks and their animal hosts are likely to frequent. Pay particular attention to borders and fences between wooded or brushy areas and the lawn, around ornamental plantings, beside foot paths, and the dog house. A single application during late April or May is often all that is required, although treatment may need to be repeated in June.

The ground and vegetation up to a height of about three feet should be thoroughly wetted with the insecticide. The insecticide should be applied according to label instructions. Children and pets should be kept off treated areas until the vegetation is completely dry. Treating the entire lawn is of little benefit since ticks avoid direct sunlight and normally will not infest areas that are well maintained.



## Controlling Ticks Indoors

**Tick control indoors is seldom required in Kentucky.** This is because the American dog tick and lone star tick are rarely found indoors except on the pet. **Indoor treatment is necessary only for the brown dog tick**, which is relatively rare in Kentucky. Controlling this tick is difficult because of its many possible hiding places inside the home. After feeding, brown dog ticks drop off the dog and conceal themselves in cracks and crevices, where they can survive without another blood meal for several months.

Management of the brown dog tick in homes requires frequent inspection and removal of ticks from pets. Pet bedding should be laundered, and rugs, floors, and furniture should be routinely vacuumed, especially along baseboards and under and behind furniture.

Insecticides are almost always required to kill ticks hidden in protected areas. Treatment should focus on cracks and crevices along baseboards and molding, around door and window frames, underneath furniture, beneath the edges of carpeting, behind loose wallpaper, and in similar areas where ticks might conceal themselves. Pay particular attention to areas where the dog spends time. Ticks tend to crawl up walls and other vertical surfaces, so it will be necessary to treat cracks and crevices up high as well as low.

Homeowners should be reminded to **follow label directions** and always keep children and pets off treated surfaces until the spray has dried. Because the eggs and immatures may take several weeks to hatch or molt, retreatment may be necessary to eliminate all ticks emerging from hidden areas.



Photo by Lee Townsend

## How to Safely Remove a Tick

by Anna Pasternak and Jonathan Larson (University of Kentucky Entomology) and Monica Cipriani (University of Kentucky Epidemiology) University of Kentucky College of Agriculture

**Step 1:** Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. the goal is to remove the entire tick including its head and mouth.

**Step 2:** Pull up with steady, even pressure. do not twist or jerk the tick. **Step 3:** Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine soap, or soap and water.

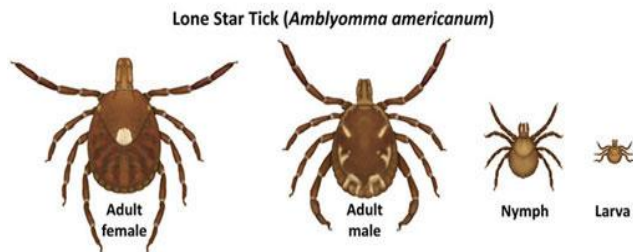
A feeding tick holds itself in place by barbed mouthparts and a type of glue. Grasp it with finepoint tweezers as close to the skin as possible. Pull it straight out gently but firmly. Do not twist or jerk the tick during removal. Afterwards, wash the bite area and your hands thoroughly with soap and water and apply an antiseptic to the bite site. You can store removed ticks in a sealed plastic bag with the date and location noted. Identification of ticks is available through your local Cooperative Extension Service office. Anyone with concerns about exposure to ticks and possible disease transmission should consult their physician to determine the best course of action. Most tick-borne diseases can be averted by early intervention with an antibiotic.

# Common Ticks in Kentucky

UK Agricultural Communication Services,  
Published Jul. 22, 2021

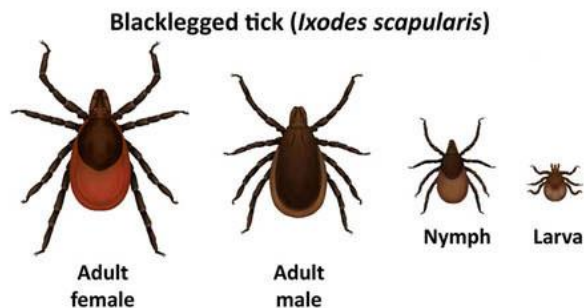
The three most common ticks in Kentucky are the lone star tick, American dog tick and the blacklegged tick.

You can identify female lone star ticks by the white spot on their backs. Males are reddish brown. Lone star ticks are vectors of human ehrlichiosis, a bacterial disease, and alpha-gal syndrome, known as the “red meat allergy.” All developmental stages of the tick will feed on humans, and unlike other tick species that lay in wait for a host, lone star ticks actively seek out a blood meal.

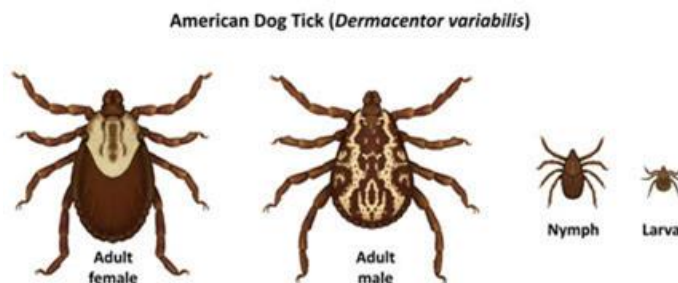


All stages of the lone star tick will feed on humans, including the tiny larva or "seed tick" (images: CDC drawing)

The blacklegged tick is the only species that tends to be active year-round in Kentucky, and it is the only vector of Lyme disease. Blacklegged ticks have a reddish-brown body, a dark head, long mouthparts and dark legs. Males have a dark plate that covers their whole body, while females have a dark plate that covers half of their body.



The American dog tick is the primary vector of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. It is reddish brown with mottled white markings on its back. Only adult American dog ticks feed on humans.



# How to Help a Drought-Stressed Lawn

*By Kenneth Clayton, plant and soil sciences extension associate professor*

*Published on Jun. 8, 2023*

Kentucky's been pretty dry the past few weeks. Even if we get a heavy rainfall in the near future, it won't completely alleviate drought symptoms.

When a lawn becomes excessively dry, the soil surface develops some water repellency that prevents water from soaking in during a quick, hard rain event.



Here are some things you can do to help your thirsty grass and hopefully avoid having to completely reseed your lawn:

1. Water every other day or every third day until good, soaking rains begin.
2. Apply about two-thirds of an inch of water each time. You can check this by probing the soil with a knife or screwdriver to determine if the soil is wet 2 to 3 inches deep.
3. Water in the early morning to help reduce diseases, remove dew and reduce evaporative water loss.
4. Water areas that have the earliest browning first. These are often on southern or western-facing slopes or areas with heavy clay soils, very compacted soil or rocks near the surface.
5. If possible, don't mow a drought-stricken yard until you can water it or you know a soaking rain is on the way. Weeds are still growing and flowering during summer droughts. Wait for the rain, then mow off the weeds.
6. Don't apply herbicides during a summer drought. They won't work when weeds are suffering and can damage drought-stressed grass more than weeds.
7. Wait for a soaking rain before applying nitrogen to the lawn in the fall. Nitrogen can greatly improve a lawn's drought recovery.

For more information on caring for your lawn, contact the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service.



# Water is Nutrient No. 1 for Horses

By Bob Coleman, UK extension horse specialist

Published on May. 11, 2023

Horses rely on many nutrients to thrive including protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. However, water is the most important nutrient. Water accounts for nearly 75% of a horse's body weight. Most horses need at least 6-8 gallons every day, but the amount required will vary based on weather or diet. In hot weather, horses will need more water, and a horse eating hay requires more than one on pasture. Lactating broodmares always require more water.

Always prioritize fresh, clean water for your animals for many reasons. Adequate hydration reduces the risk of colic and plays a vital role in digestion. Water helps horses regulate their body temperature, lubricates joints, assists in muscle contraction strength and get rid of waste.



Most horse managers easily prioritize clean, fresh water in the barn. They have a daily routine of checking, cleaning and filling water buckets. But outside water may end up being more accidental than routine. You can't rely on streams and ponds for your water source. Horse traffic can break down stream banks, contaminate the water source and even cause animal injuries. Regularly check stock tanks and troughs, frequently change the water and clean the container.

Stock tank water may get a bit warmer than what some horses prefer, so watching the capacity of the watering device can help. Keep water cooler by changing it more often or having the water refreshed in the waterer more often. This can help provide water horses want to drink. Carefully consider where to dump dirty water in the field so you don't create muddy areas.

Forages contain moisture and grazing horses will get some daily hydration while munching on pasture. However, still offer free-choice water sources for horses to visit throughout the day.

Learn to recognize dehydration signs in your horses. By the time you see the signs, your horse may have already lost 5% of its body weight. Dehydrated horses appear weak, have sunken eyeballs, dry mucous membranes, slow capillary refill time and an increased heart rate. Pinch the horse's skin near the base of their neck for two seconds. If the skin stays pinched, your horse most likely needs water and possibly electrolytes.

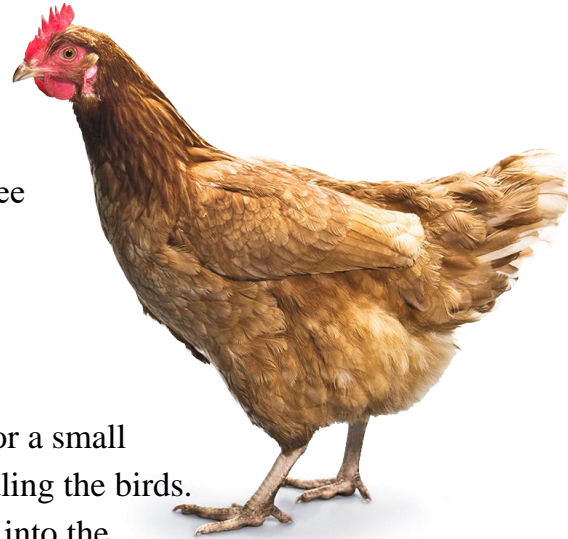


# 10 Backyard Chicken Basics

*By Jacquie Jacob, extension poultry project manager*

Having a small chicken flock in the backyard is very popular these days. To have a successful flock producing eggs for your family, you'll want to learn the basics.

1. Make sure you check your local city and county ordinances to ensure you're able to have a backyard flock. Some ordinances require a minimum amount of land and some subdivisions and homeowners' associations have their own rules.
2. Chickens require daily care. You must feed them, provide clean water and collect eggs every single day. Managing a small flock is an excellent opportunity to teach children a certain amount of responsibility, but ultimately, you'll oversee the health and well-being of your flock.
3. Birds get sick and it may be difficult to find a veterinarian to provide care for them.
4. Cleanliness and sanitation are critical elements in caring for a small flock. Everyone must wash their hands before and after handling the birds. Also, no matter how tempting, avoid bringing your chickens into the house and don't use your kitchen sink to wash equipment.
5. Poop happens. Chickens eat a lot and hens use about 60% of the feed they consume and excrete the other 40% as manure. You must have a plan for that manure. One option is adding it as an odor-free fertilizer for your home garden.
6. Keep it down. Chickens make noise. Only roosters crow, however, hens are not always quiet and can make a lot of noise letting everyone know they just laid an egg.
7. The egg season will come to an end. Chickens stop producing eggs at some point in their lives and may live a long time beyond their egg-laying years. Have a plan for what you will do with hens that stop producing. If you keep them as pets, you'll have to keep feeding them and providing other resources for their care.
8. Housing is a big part of keeping a flock. Your birds will need a house that provides shelter from the weather, nest boxes for egg laying and perches for roosting at night. Make sure housing is easy to clean and provides protection from predators. You'll have to manage their bedding well to prevent rodents from making your chickens' house their home.



9. Scratch that. Chickens scratch when they forage. If you let hens run free, you may need to place a fence around your garden if you don't want the birds to destroy it.
10. Know how to get chicks. You will most likely want to raise your hens from chicks. You can buy them online and have them shipped to your home, but some suppliers have minimum quantities for orders. You may have neighbors or friends who also raise chickens willing to join you in an order. Remember you'll need to provide new chicks with a heat source, such as a lamp, for at least six weeks.

For more information about small flocks, visit <https://afs.ca.uky.edu/poultry/poultry-publications> or contact the Pike County Cooperative Extension Service.

A photograph of a large, green-roofed pavilion with a wooden frame, situated in a gravel parking lot. The pavilion has a long, low profile with a central entrance. In the background, there is a dense forest of green trees under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image in white with a black outline.

# Pikeville Farmers Market

Tuesdays 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

130 Adams Lane, near Pikeville High School at the green roofed pavilion.



# PIKE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

Do you want to grow –  
Better Vegetables?  
Prettier flowers?  
Greener Lawns?  
Healthier Trees?



**Then take the Master  
Gardener Class!!!**

When – Thursdays from 5:30 -7:30 pm.

Beginning August 31st, 2023 and continuing for 12 Consecutive Thursdays

Where – Pike County Extension Office

148 Trivetter Drive

Pikeville, Ky.

Main Meeting room

For more information: phone 606-616-1449 and a Master Gardener will help

**Cooperative Extension Service**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

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## **Pikeville Master Gardener Class 2023**

**Attend with goal to become a MASTER GARDENER!!!**

### **Requirements:**

- 1. Participate in at least 10 of the 12 classes.**
- 2. Purchase a text book. (cost \$50.00) (\$50 will be returned to participants who complete the course and they will keep the book)**
- 3. Work with the group to meet UK certification standards.**

**Or**

**Attend with the goal of becoming a “Friend of Master Gardeners”. (Simply to gain knowledge)**

*All activities under the guidance of the Pike County ANR Agent, Suzanne Stumbo. For more info you may call the Pike County Cooperative Extension Office.*

# Programs and Events

## MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS



KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

### Eligible Investment Areas:

- Agricultural Diversification*
- AgTech & Leadership Development*
- Large Animal - Small Animal*
- Farm Infrastructure*
- Fencing & On-Farm Water*
- Forage & Grain Improvement*
- Innovative Ag. Systems*
- On-Farm Energy*
- Poultry & Other Fowl*
- Value Added & Marketing*

Administered by  
**Pike County Conservation  
District**

115 Zebulon Heights  
Pikeville, Ky 41501  
(606) 432-4695

## COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are available for Pike County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important Farm investments.

### Application Period:

**June 9<sup>th</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

***No applications will be accepted before  
June 9<sup>th</sup> or after July 9<sup>th</sup> 2023***

### Application Availability:

**Pike County Conservation District  
Monday – Friday (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)**

### For More Information:

**Contact Lesia Birchfield at (606) 432-4695 or  
email [pike.conserve@yahoo.com](mailto:pike.conserve@yahoo.com)**

*All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria  
set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.*

*Producer meeting will be held June 22 at 6pm*

Event	Date	Time	Location
<b>Diabetes Support Group Farmers Market Training</b>	Monday, June 26	2:00 p.m.	ARH Tug Valley
<b>Pike County Beekeepers Meeting &amp; Picnic</b>	Monday, July 3	6:00 p.m.	Extension Office
<b>Bee Grafting Workshop</b>	Saturday, July 8	9:00 a.m.	Extension Office
<b>Women's Garden Club: Stepping Stones</b>	Tuesday, July 11	5:30 p.m.	Extension Office
<b>Master Gardener Class Monthly Meeting</b>	Thursday, July 13	5:30 p.m.	Extension Office



**Join us Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Tuesdays 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Pike County Extension Service**

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