

# Regulatory Services News

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Feed - Fertilizer - Milk - Seed - Seed Testing - Soil Testing

Summer 2010

## Director's Digest

What a rapidly moving spring this has been. And it is not all finished. Seed was processed on short notice, fertilizer moved faster during a two week period than any time in recent memory, and feed has continued to be in demand by producers. Producers started with a heavy load of soil samples for our soil testing laboratory to be ready for recommended fertilizer applications. Crop planting was delayed a few days early in the season followed by full speed ahead to get it completed. With recent heavy rains, and many parts of Kentucky flooding, replanting will keep seed moving at a fast pace to fulfill grower needs. Rapid fertilizer movement was confirmed when our inspection staff took some 500 samples of custom mixes moving to producers in the two week period. Certainly, part of the rapid movement of fertilizer was due to having lower amounts applied during the previous fall season.

Our inspectors were busy in keeping up with this rapid movement of seed and fertilizer. They view their role of consumer protection seriously in order to maintain high quality products for crop and livestock producers, and other citizens of Kentucky. More products we sample are now being marketed or delivered in larger containers or in bulk. In years past most seed was marketed in one bushel bags that now is marketed in large totes of 2,000 to 2,500 pounds. More fertilizer now moves with trucks, and a large amount of feed is delivered in bulk trucks. Through all of these changes our inspectors have adapted sampling methods to fit these changes in container sizes and delivery methods. This is to ensure that products are labeled correctly, that product quality is maintained in the large containers, and that production methods used for bulk products continue to maintain high quality throughout the batch.

The various laboratory facilities in our Division responded to this heavy sample load in order to get analytical results in a reasonable time. Our dedicated lab personnel see the need to perform accurate yet timely analysis on these various samples. In the Division we practice teamwork through

*continued on pg. 3*

## What's inside...

Division Contact Information.....	2
A Wet Spring—Presidedress Nitrate Test (PSNT) for Corn.....	3
Wheat Seed/Fusarium—What can we expect in 2010?.....	4
Inspector News.....	4
Regulatory Services Hosts Visiting Scientist from Indonesia.....	5
Update of All-States Noxious Weed Seed List.....	5
Milk Transportation Project Featured at <i>ukTech10</i> Event.....	6
Milk Program Annual License Renewals.....	7
Upcoming Milk Sampler Training Programs.....	7
New Location for Milk Haulers School.....	7
Milk Plant Receiver Training Scheduled for Western KY.....	7
Parting Thoughts on the Seed Regulatory Program.....	8
Employee News—Sarah Cprek joins Division.....	10
Kentucky State University Field Day—July 15, 2010.....	10
Announcements .....	11

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Contact information for other staff members can be found online at [www.rs.uky.edu](http://www.rs.uky.edu).

## Another Wet Spring— Consider the Presidedress Nitrate Test (PSNT) for Corn

Like 2009, this spring has been wetter than normal. Wet conditions cause concern about loss of nitrogen from soil. When the soil is wet, particularly in low lying areas, denitrification can be significant. Denitrification causes nitrogen loss as anaerobic microbes use nitrate nitrogen. Nitrate is converted to nitrogen gas which is lost to the atmosphere.

The presidedress nitrate test (PSNT) can be used to check soil nitrogen levels. It is designed to determine nitrate levels in soil when growing corn and helps producers determine if any sidedress nitrogen needs to be applied. Soil is sampled at 0 to 12 inch depth when corn is about knee high. The soil is sampled at a deeper depth than normal soil testing at 0 to 6 inches. The deeper depth is required because nitrate moves through the soil profile more than other plant nutrients such as phosphorus and potassium. After taking a sample, it is very important to air-dry the soil promptly to avoid further nitrogen loss which may not represent field conditions. Nitrogen levels in soil changes dramatically from one week to the next. That is why a PSNT only works if soil is sampled at the time when corn needs nitrogen the most.

The University of Kentucky soil test lab at Princeton, KY first offered the PSNT in 2008. If you are interested in the test, discuss your interest with a local county extension agent. The cost of the test is \$8 per sample and may vary from county to county to cover shipping and handling costs.

*F. Sikora*  
*Soil Testing Program*

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### Director's Digest, *continued from front*

our cooperation with each other to get needed analysis completed.

As we look toward the future, we see opportunities for improvements in our data handling during these busy times. Keeping up with improved analytical methods and equipment is necessary to maintain efficient laboratory operation while being committed to accurate analytical results. We want to use our results to assist businesses in maintaining high quality products for Kentucky consumers.

*Bill Thom*  
*Director*



*This spring, flooding occurred at locations along many rivers in Kentucky including the Green River, Ohio River and Mississippi River. Photo (above) is of the Cumberland River at Barkley Dam in Western Kentucky.*

For more information about flooding and corn, refer to the following publication:

Evaluating Flood Damage in Corn, *Chad Lee, James Herbek, Greg Schwab, and Lloyd Murdock, Plant and Soil Sciences (AGR-193).*  
Online: <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/agr/agr193/agr193.pdf>.

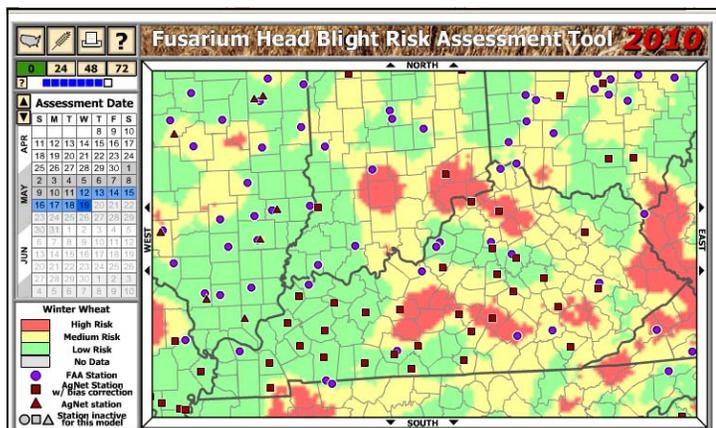
Another online resource is the UK Ag. Weather Center where the Kentucky Weekly Weather and Crop Reports are posted:  
<http://www.wagwx.ca.uky.edu/sdfwcrsdf.shtml>.

Specific recommendations and more information can be obtained from your local County Extension Office.

## Wheat Seed Quality and Fusarium—What can we expect in 2010?

In a recent issue of Kentucky Pest News, UK Plant Pathologist Don Hershman detailed an online tool that can be used to assess location-specific infection risk of wheat by *Fusarium* spp. (head scab). This information can be used to make decisions regarding spray applications (KPN April 27, 2010, #1227 is online at: [http://www.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/plantpathology/extension/KPN%20Site%20Files/kpn\\_10/pn\\_100427.html](http://www.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/plantpathology/extension/KPN%20Site%20Files/kpn_10/pn_100427.html)).

The web tool (shown below) can be found online at <http://www.wheatcab.psu.edu/>. Choose the risk map tool option and zoom in on Kentucky. As of mid-May, areas of the state are considered high risk to low risk. During flowering is when plants are susceptible to head scab, but weather conditions influence infection and disease development. It is a bit too early to tell, but we will continue to monitor quality as the seeds develop.



*C. Finneseth*  
*Seed Testing Program*

For additional information about head scab and production control methods, information is available from your local county extension office and the following resources:

### *Head Scab of Small Grains in Kentucky, PPA 38*

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ppa/ppa38/ppa38.htm>

### *Small Grains Extension webpage*

[http://www.uky.edu/Ag/GrainCrops/small\\_grains.htm](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/GrainCrops/small_grains.htm)

### *Kentucky IPM Pest Information Pages - Wheat Head Scab*

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/IPM/scoutinfo/wheat/disease/headscab/headscb1.htm>

## Inspector News

For those of you in the Quicksand, Lake Cumberland, and Wilderness Trail areas who have not seen Dewey Coffey lately, he is on temporary medical leave and hopefully will return soon. In the meantime, if you need assistance please call me here at the UK Division of Regulatory Services' office at 859-257-2785 ext 224. I will continue to fill in for Dewey until he is able to return to work. I have been able to collect the fertilizer custom mixes in his area over the last month and may be traveling the area soon to collect some feed samples. Please feel free to call me if I can assist you

with any issues. To the fertilizer dealers in Dewey's area, I want to thank you for helping me collect the custom mix samples while Dewey was out.

This spring has been fast and furious with the dry April and corn planting in the western part of the state proceeding quickly. The field inspection staff have been sending in fertilizer samples at record pace and by the time you get this most of the fertilizer samples should be collected. The inspectors have worked hard during this busy time to collect the custom mixes we need for the Regulatory Service. We appreciate

your cooperation in working with the inspectors when they are at your facility.

The inspectors have also done a great job in making sure the seed has been inspected or the tags have been reviewed at your locations.

We will be changing focus in the near future and be switching to working on sampling feed as soon as the planting is completed in your area.

*J. True*  
*Inspection Program Coordinator*

## Regulatory Services Hosts Visiting Scientist from Indonesia

The Division of Regulatory Services recently hosted an honored guest, Dr. Saiful Hikam, who was participating in a World Bank sponsored project (I-MHERE—Indonesia Managing Higher Education Relevance and Efficiency). Dr. Hikam of the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Lampung is a prominent researcher in Indonesia. His breeding program focuses primarily on development of field corn varieties, but also improved lines of sweet corn, potatoes and peppers. He had an excellent visit with industry members and met with various researchers in the UK College of Agriculture. The month was spent visiting facilities and firms in Kentucky to observe inspection activities, commercial scale field corn and vegetable seed production systems. He also presented seminars to the Division of Regulatory Services and the inter-departmental Seed Biology Group at UK.

*C. Finneseth  
Seed Testing Program*



*Kentucky Seed Improvement Association and Foundation Seed Project at Spindletop Farm, Lexington, KY. Left to right: Cindy Finneseth, Saiful Hikam, Kenny Hunter and Steve Jones.*



*Observing inspection and sampling activities in South Central Kentucky. Left to right: Mark Barrow, Saiful Hikam and Bill Thom.*

## Noxious Weed Seed Update

If you are shipping seed across state lines, you need to be aware of the noxious weeds in other states. The USDA list of noxious weeds has been updated for 2010. It is available online at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRD3317318>.

**State Noxious-Weed Seed Requirements Recognized in the Administration of the Federal Seed Act** lists noxious weed seed by state and also by common and scientific names of each seed kind. No changes have been made to KY's list.

Kentucky Seed Law and Regulations recognizes five prohibited noxious weeds and eight restricted noxious weeds, listed at left. Restricted weeds have an allowable number per pound of seed, prohibited weeds cannot be present. The allowances which are listed in regulation can be found online at: <http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/012/001/120.htm>.

*C. Finneseth  
Seed Regulatory Program*

## Kentucky Noxious Weed Seeds

Common name (Scientific name)

### Prohibited

Balloonvine (*Cardiospermum halicacabum*)  
Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)  
Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*) and *S. x alnum*  
Purple moonflower (*Ipomea turbinata*)  
Quackgrass (*Agropyron repens* = *Elytrigia repens*)

### Restricted

Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*)  
Buckhorn plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)  
Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*)  
Dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.)  
Giant foxtail (*Setaria faberi*)  
Ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* = *Luecanthemum vulgare*)  
Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*)  
Wild onion/wild garlic (*Allium* spp.)

## Milk Transportation Project Featured at UK Event

The bulk milk transport security and traceability project was featured in downtown Lexington on April 8. The event, known as “ukTech10”, featured a number of innovative technologies being developed at the University of Kentucky.

“ukTech10” was aligned with other downtown events occurring that day, specifically organized to allow the public to have an opportunity to see up-close demonstrations of new technologies.

The milk truck was a prominent feature of the event. Fred Payne, Professor in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering and Milk Program Coordinator, Chris Thompson described the project to those in attendance. As an added bonus, Eunice Schlappi of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Kentucky Dairy Development Council’s Denise Jones brought “Kentucky Kate” to downtown Lexington. Kate was a big hit and helped to attract a number of visitors!

Approximately 150 people attended “ukTech10”. The event was a great opportunity to share information with the public about the milk transportation project and Kentucky’s dairy industry.

*C. Thompson  
Milk Program Coordinator*



*Visitors stopped by ukTech10 to visit “Kentucky Kate” and the milk transport demo to learn about the dairy industry and the bulk milk transport security and traceability system.*



### **Reminder: Milk Program Annual License Renewals**

All Milk Program licenses expire on June 30, 2010. Each license holder, including milk handlers, laboratories, transfer stations, testers, and sampler-weighers should receive a renewal notice and application by early June. If you do not receive a renewal notice by June 15, 2010, please contact our office to request an application or you may obtain one from the Milk Program's website at [www.rs.uky.edu](http://www.rs.uky.edu).

It is important for all licensees to submit their application and fee to Regulatory Services promptly. *License fees for renewals that are past due are subject to a penalty fee.* If you have any questions, you may contact us at (859) 257-2785.

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### **Upcoming Milk Sampler Training Programs**

Regulatory Services and the Milk Safety Branch regularly conduct milk sampler training programs for milk sampler-weighers (haulers) and milk plant receivers. Attendance is required for individuals who sample and/or measure milk or who physically handle Kentucky producer's official milk samples. Managers and supervisors of dairy organizations also regularly attend these programs to stay current on industry protocols.

Please be sure to pre-register individuals who will be attending either of these programs. Temporary License applications, directions and additional information can be found on the Milk Program's "training program information" webpage at [www.rs.uky.edu](http://www.rs.uky.edu).

### **New Location for Milk Haulers School**

The milk hauler training program will be offered on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at the Hardin County Cooperative Extension office in Elizabethtown. The program will begin at 9:30 am EDT (8:30 am CDT) and will conclude by mid-afternoon.

Hardin County Cooperative Extension Service  
201 Peterson Drive  
Elizabethtown, KY 42701-9370

### **Milk Plant Receiver Training Program Scheduled for Western Kentucky**

A milk plant receiver training program is scheduled for Thursday, August 5, 2010 and will be hosted by the Morningstar Foods in Murray. The training program will begin at 9:30 am CDT and will conclude by mid-afternoon. Please contact Regulatory Services for additional information regarding the receiver training program.

*C. Thompson*  
*Milk Program Coordinator*

## David Buckingham's Parting Thoughts on the Seed Regulatory Program

The time has come for me to go on to other things as of April 30. I have worked with the Division for almost 35 years. I began my career May 12, 1975. At this point, I look back and ask myself where all of those years went and think now how quickly they passed. I have had a good career with the Division. I was fortunate to have worked as a field inspector almost 19 years before I came into the office to accept the Seed Regulatory Coordinator position. I have been in this position since May, 1994. Since 1975, I have worked with five different Division directors.



1975

With the help of many people, I have held the responsibility for the administration of the Kentucky Seed Law and the Federal Seed Act as it relates to interstate commerce of seed into Kentucky. I have worked and communicated with my counterparts across the United States and Canada. I was allowed the privilege of participating in the meetings and activities of a strong professional association (AASCO, the Association of American Seed Control Officials) and have been honored that the membership of that association selected me to assume a number of leadership roles. I am sure my high school English teacher would be amazed that I have written as much as I have during all of these years and I am really overjoyed that she was not around to grade any of it.

Our inspection program has been focused in many different arenas during my tenure. We initiated programs in non-traditional agricultural areas so that lawn/turf products and vegetable and flower seed products were provided coverage. We became involved with inspection of native seed that are now commonly used in CRP, CREP, and other USDA programs. We started and continue to be involved in screening non-GMO corn and soybean seed products for those in that market.

We are very involved in monitoring seed quality and inspection of labeling to assure compliance with our state labeling and seed quality requirements. We have maintained almost constant communication with regard to proper variety/hybrid labeling as Kentucky law requires this type of labeling for our economically-important seed products. We have also actively participated with USDA-AMS Seed Branch in the administration and enforcement of the Federal Seed Act because at least 80% of all seed offered for sale in Kentucky comes from out-of-state shippers. These areas are important to Kentucky and it is my hope these efforts will continue.

I cannot find the right words to express my gratitude to those I have directly worked with in the seed program. The inspection staff and the seed testing staff have performed their job responsibilities with exceptional dedication and professionalism. Everything that has been accomplished during my 16 years as the Seed Regulatory Program Coordinator is to the credit of the combined efforts of all of these individuals. I have only directed traffic. I have been richly blessed to have had the opportunity to work with a staff of this caliber.

I have enjoyed the association and friendship of many individuals in Kentucky involved in the seed industry, either as dealers, seedsmen, seed processors, or seed consumers. I have occasionally had to tell some of you things that you did not want to hear. I have always respected each of you for all that you do for Kentucky agriculture. During my time here, I have tried to administer our seed law with common sense and equity. I hope I have lived up to your expectations.



*The Division hosted a retirement reception for David on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. Many current and former Division employees, colleagues, industry members and representatives from the UK College of Agriculture attended to celebrate his career.*

I have also been privileged to have worked with the membership of several very important professional and seed trade organizations on current seed issues of significance to Kentucky and American agriculture. I have been honored that I was called upon to participate in a number of regional inspector training programs across the United States. I have also worked with a number of dedicated individuals far more capable than myself to develop a national handbook on seed sampling and a basic seed inspection training program. I feel that I gained far more from these professional efforts than I was actually able to contribute myself.

I have enjoyed my time here at the Division of Regulatory Services and feel that I have gained many friends. I take with me many good memories of experiences and accomplishments we have shared. I hope our program has served the people of Kentucky in a fair and equitable manner and that it will do so in the future. Thanks to everyone.

*D. Buckingham  
Seed Regulatory Program*

**Note:** *The University is currently accepting applications for the position of Seed Regulatory Coordinator. Until that position is filled, Cindy Finneseth, Seed Testing Coordinator, will be serving as the Interim Seed Regulatory Coordinator.*



*David Buckingham (left) with individuals who served as Director or Interim Director from 1975-2010 (left to right): David Terry, Bill Thom and Wilbur Frye.*



*Among the many awards and accolades presented at his retirement reception, David Buckingham received commission as a Kentucky Colonel for his dedicated service to Kentucky agriculture (presented by Cindy Finneseth).*



*Current and former members of the inspection staff at the Division of Regulatory Services (left to right): David Mason, Brad Johnston, Steve McMurry, Dewey Coffey, David Troutman, John Flood, David Buckingham, Terry Prather, Noel Johnston, Bob Hickerson, Warren Pinkston and Jesse Whitehouse.*

## Employee News

Sarah Cprek recently accepted the position of Senior Laboratory Technician in the Feed and Fertilizer Laboratory. Her work includes receiving and preparing feed and fertilizer samples for the corresponding regulatory programs as well as maintaining the Laboratory.

Sarah is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology. From 2003-2005 she worked in the clerical pool at the Chandler Medical Center. In 2005 she began working in an environmental testing laboratory as a Biology Analyst and performed acute and chronic toxicity testing as well as microbiological work with drinking water and waste water samples. She has been a certified drinking water analyst since 2006.

Sarah is a native of Lexington, Kentucky. She, her husband Nick and their one-year-old son, Henry, reside in Lexington. Nick also works at UK in the College of Engineering as a Scientist Assistant in the Consortium for Fossil Fuel Science. We welcome Sarah to the Department and look forward to her contributions in the laboratory.



*Sarah Cprek*

*M. Bryant*

*Feed-Fertilizer Laboratory*

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## Kentucky State University Field Day—July 15, 2010

The Kentucky State University Sustainable Farms and Families Field Day will be July 15, 2010, at the KSU Research Farm and Center for the Sustainability of Farms and Families in Frankfort, KY. To date, there are 70 presentations, numerous demonstrations, and displays covering agriculture, apiculture (bee-keeping), aquaculture, home and commercial horticulture, youth educational programs, Family and Consumer Science programs, and health screenings. Registration opens at 9 a.m. (no charge), the workshops commence at 10 a.m. and continue through 5:45 p.m. The Plenary Session, 12 noon – 1:45 p.m., includes the welcomes, presentations by Mr. James Hill (Southern SARE), Mr. William “Bill” Buchanan (USDA-Risk Management Agency), Dr. Jill Auburn (Invited, USDA REE program), song and dance by the KSU International students from Central America, samples of their native foods, and lunch. For directions and more information visit <http://organic.kysu.edu/index.shtml> or contact Marion Simon ([marion.simon@kysu.edu](mailto:marion.simon@kysu.edu)).

### Upcoming Events at KSU:

June 17, 2010

**Organic Horticulture**

August 19, 2010

**Home Gardens**

September 16, 2010

**Pawpaws and Sweet Sorghum**

October 21, 2010

**Goats and Sheep**

November 16-18, 2010

**Small, Limited-Resource/Minority Farmer Annual Conference**

# Announcements

## Upcoming UK Events

### UK's Turf Research Field Day—July 8

Lexington, Kentucky  
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/ukturf/>

### Milk Hauler School—August 3

Hardin County Cooperative Extension office  
Elizabethtown, Kentucky  
[www.rs.uky.edu](http://www.rs.uky.edu)

### Milk Plant Receiver Training—August 5

Morningstar Foods  
Murray, Kentucky  
[www.rs.uky.edu](http://www.rs.uky.edu)

### Kentucky Grazing School—August 9-10

Woodford Co. Extension Office &  
UK Animal Research Center  
Versailles, Kentucky  
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>

### Kentucky State Fair—August 19-29

Louisville, Kentucky  
<http://www.kystatefair.org/>

### National Hay Association Annual Convention September 1-4

Marriot Griffin Gate Resort  
Lexington, Kentucky  
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>

### KY Forage and Grassland Council Field Day— September 14

Barren County, Kentucky  
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>

### College of Ag Roundup—September 18, 2010

E.S. Good Barn, Lexington, KY  
<http://www.ca.uky.edu/alumni/>

### Beef Bash 2010—September 23

U.K. Research & Education Center  
Princeton, Kentucky  
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>

### World Equestrian Games— September 25-October 10

<http://www.alltechfeigames.com/>

### Mountain Ag Field Day—October 2

Robinson Center,  
Jackson, Kentucky  
<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/rcars/>



## Kentucky Seed Issues

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