

JULY 2019

# ANR Report

THE EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER OF  
PIKE COUNTY EXTENSION  
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## Fireworks and Livestock

As everyone looks forward to fireworks displays celebrating the Fourth of July, please take a moment to consider those affected by these spectacular displays.

While many people know to consider their neighbor's timid dog, a hiding cat, or even small children that are often scared by the noise associated with fireworks, not everyone thinks about how this holiday can affect livestock. If you are near a barn, cattle pasture, or even your neighbor's goats, please be courteous and speak to them about your celebration plans.

Please remember every animal is different and may range from nonreactive to extremely sensitive, so this is simply a reminder to be kind to our stewards of the land during this holiday. Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

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### *Common Testing Services*

*SOIL TEST- \$8  
BASIC WATER- \$24  
EXPANDED WATER- \$64  
TOTAL BACTERIA/ E. COLI- \$46  
FORAGE- \$25  
RADON IN WATER- \$40  
HOME CLOSING KIT- \$95  
RADON IN HOME (AIR)- \$15*



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
**EXTENSION**  
*Pike County*

# The Importance of Proper Hay Storage

Each year more than 60 million acres of forage crops are harvested for hay in the United States. Annual production from this acreage is valued at more than 12 billion dollars. When protected from the weather, it can be stored indefinitely with little nutrient loss. Hay often can meet, or almost meet, the nutrient needs of many classes of livestock. Because of its many merits, hay is the most commonly used stored feed on livestock farms across the nation. Unfortunately, losses of hay during storage are often high, particularly with round bales stored outside in high rainfall areas such as the eastern United States. It is estimated that the total value of hay storage and feeding losses nationwide exceeds three billion dollars annually! On some farms, such losses account for over 10% of the cost of livestock production. These are real, and not just potential, losses (time, labor, and monetary inputs are lost along with the hay). Unfortunately, many producers probably do not realize how large their losses really are, or that with relatively little effort or expense they could be reduced considerably.

Hay storage losses vary greatly depending upon several factors, but storage technique is of utmost importance. Losses of dry hay stored inside a barn are usually of little concern. However, even for barn stored hay, losses rise sharply as moisture levels increase above 20%, and losses from round bales stored outside under adverse conditions can be much larger. During storage, hay can be subject to dry matter losses as well as losses of forage quality.

In the Southeast, it is not unusual for 4 - 8+ inches of spoilage to occur on the outside of large round bales stored outside with no protection. A weathered layer 6 inches in depth on a 5.6 foot x 5.6 foot bale contains about one-third of the package volume. This loss in quality drives home the reason to protect those bales as quickly as possible. If you would like help finding an economical solution to optimize your hay storage, please contact Pike County Extension.



In the Apiary participants were able to get true hands-on experience.

## What's All the Buzz?

On June 29, 2019, Pike County Extension hosted In the Apiary, a hands-on workshop focusing on beekeeping basics at the UGA Research and Demonstration Gardens in Griffin. Participants suited up, got their hands dirty, and experienced working in a hive with UGA Master Beekeeper and Pike County resident, Jim Quick.

Participants ranged from textbook knowledge only to those that already manage a handful of backyard hives. No matter the level of experience, all claimed they learned a lot and this was "just the type of class they had been needing."

Jim walked participants through preparing a smoker, properly utilizing equipment, inspecting frames, identifying the queen, and much much more. If this sounds like the type of program you would love to be a part of next time, please contact the Extension office today! If there is enough interest, we will host another workshop in July.

Some fascinating bee facts:

- Bees never sleep.
- Honey bees have hair all over their bodies, including their eyes.
- Honey bees are not native to North America.
- Honey bee hives are made up of predominately females.

## Seed Saving from the Garden

Seed saving can save money and can both be an enjoyable addition to vegetable production and help to conserve rare seed sources. Older varieties and local varieties may be limited in availability, so by saving the seed, you become part of the important effort in seed conservation.

Knowing the difference between open-pollinated and F1 hybrid seed can help a grower decide whether to save their own seed. There are several caveats to seed saving. Even when dealing with open-pollinated varieties, changes can occur over time, resulting in poor performance in subsequent generations. In order to maintain the traits and quality of the original variety, seed from a minimum number of plants should be saved. For crops that are primarily self-pollinated (e.g., tomatoes or beans), seed should be collected from a minimum of 20 plants. For plants that are primarily cross pollinated (e.g., corn or watermelon), seed should be saved from at least 80 plants. In addition, the individual plants chosen for seed saving will also have an impact on future generations. For example, if you save seed only from the last harvested plants in your garden, you may be selecting for late maturity, which can be an undesirable trait. Disease occurrence and pressure often increases as the growing season progresses. When selecting plants from which to save seed, always choose healthy plants that are free of disease.

Each plant has a specific stage of growth at which mature seeds should be harvested. This may or may not coincide with when the vegetable is harvested for consumption. In many cases, vegetables are harvested before seed are produced. When saving seeds from biennial plants like carrots, remember that they will not produce seed until the second year of growth. Bell pepper fruits are usually harvested for consumption when the fruit is green and seeds are present but the seed has not completely matured. For some plants, like cantaloupe and tomatoes, the seeds are fully ripe when the fruit is ready to eat.

For more information on handling seed for specific vegetables, find the full article on seed saving at: <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1486>



Most home well water tests can be pulled from the kitchen faucet.

## Home Loan Closing- Water Sample

'Tis the season for home closings! As the school year quickly approaches, home closings tend to peak as families try to get settled in before school starts. Not too many things are as stressful as home closings, but this can be even more stressful than necessary when buyers and sellers do not consider the home well. A couple things to consider as a buyer or a seller:

- Does the well have adequate filtration/ need filtration?
- Has the well been treated in the past couple of years?
- Has the well been tested in the past year for bacterial presence?
- Does the lender require a home loan closing water sample?

That last question is what tends to add headache. If the lender requires the test, it must be completed within 30 days of the closing date and often collected by a third party. If you require any assistance with a home loan closing sample, please contact the Pike County Extension office.

# Dates to Remember

## Within Pike County

7/20 - EQUINE ENTHUSIAST WORKSHOP

7/25 - NATIVE BEE HOTEL WORKSHOP-ADULT

7/30 - NATIVE BEE HOTEL WORKSHOP-YOUTH

8/15 - LUNCH AND LEARN: CONTAINER GARDENING- FALL VEGETABLES

8/23 - LUNCH AND LEARN: POLLINATOR PLANTS

8/24 - GREAT GA POLLINATOR CENSUS GUIDED COUNTS

9/13 - DEADLINE TO PULL SOUTHEASTERN HAY CONTEST SAMPLES

9/19 - ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION WORKSHOP

\*FOLLOW UGA EXTENSION PIKE COUNTY ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS

## Other Extension Events

7/8 - LUNCH 'N LEARN (LAMAR)

7/9 - 2019 SUMMER MUSCADINE CONFERENCE (ATHENS)

7/11 - SMALL FRUIT SEMINAR FOR THE BACKYARD GARDENER (MONROE)

7/15 - FOOD 4 THOUGHT (UPSON)

7/16 - EGG CANDLING CERTIFICATION CLASS (CRAWFORD)

7/16-17 - ADVANCED GRAZING SCHOOL (ATHENS)

7/17-18 - DEEP SOUTH STOCKER CONFERENCE (ATHENS)

7/22 - BENEFICIAL BUGS & GA POLLINATORS (SPALDING)

7/25 - SUN BELT AG EXPO FIELD DAY

8/8 - LUNCH AND LEARN: MAKE POLLINATORS COUNT (SPALDING)

7 4 G W Y N S T . Z E B U L O N

# Stay up to date with Extension

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