

## A Message From Your ANR Agent:

The Magoffin County Extension Office will be closed on June 19th for the Juneteenth Holiday.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook at "Magoffin County Agriculture & Natural Resources" to stay up to date on upcoming programs! We have a lot of fun planned for youth and adults alike. Check out a few of the Summer Activities we have planned like Day Camp and Farmer's

The Farmer's Market will be opening on July 2nd from 3-6pm to kick off our season. Starting in July the market will be open every Tuesday and Friday from 3-6pm. We hope to see all of you there!

Keep an eye out for pests and diseases in your gardens. The earlier you notice the problem the easier it will be to maintain. If you have any questions, please call our office at (606) 349-1236.



Market First Friday Fun on page 6!

Kristen Stumbo

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County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural

Resources

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Cooperative Extension Service MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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## Corn Earworm Management in Sweet Corn

Source: Ric Bessin, UK extension specialist

Corn earworm is potentially the greatest threat to sweet corn production in Kentucky. Because it feeds directly on the market product, is difficult to control, and is common in high numbers at the end of the season, most insecticides used on sweet corn target this pest. Once earworm has become established within the ear, control is impossible. Earworms spend a relatively short period of their life feeding in a site that can receive an adequate insecticide application. A effective program, especially on late season corn, is necessary to ensure that damaged ears are kept to a minimum.

Currently, the primary insecticides used for corn earworm control in sweet corn belong to the pyrethroid class. There is growing concern that corn earworm in some regions of the Midwest has developed resistance to this class of insecticides. Some field failures have been reported.

Earworms are variable in color, but they have a brown head without markings and numerous microscopic spines covering their body. Corn earworms are moderately hairy larvae that vary from yellow, to green, to red to brownish black. They may be found feeding in the ear tips following silking. The larvae are cannibalistic, rarely is their more than one per ear or whorl.

The moth has a wing span of 1 to 1-1/2 inches. The front wings of the male are usually a light yellowish olive; those of the female are yellowish brown to pinkish brown. Each forewing has a dark spot in the center. The dome-shaped-egg is usually white when first laid but develops a reddish-brown band before hatching.

#### **Biology**

Corn earworms overwinter as pupae in underground cells. Some adults from these pupae begin to emerge as early as late March, others may not appear until August. There are generally four generations each year, however, overlap is great and adult moths that can lay eggs may be present in significant numbers throughout most of the growing season.



Figure 1. A young corn earworm larva feeding on a tip of an ear.

Female moths search out fresh silks on which to lay single eggs. Following hatch, the small larvae often eat the egg shell before beginning to feed on the silk. Within a day or so they move down the silks to the tip of the ear. Corn earworms generally complete their development in 14 to 16 days. Full grown worms leave the ear and pupate in the soil. The new adult will be active in another 10 to 14 days. Damage to the kernels in the tip make the ear more attractive to sap beetles.

#### Cultural Controls

There are a number of approaches that growers can implement to control corn earworm besides just spraying insecticides. This includes selecting the best varieties and planting dates. Varietal selection is very important. Corn hybrids having a long, tight fitting shuck appear to suffer less damage than those with loose shucks. The key factor determining the relative risk of corn earworm attack is planting date. Early and midseason we typically have fewer corn earworm moths to lay eggs on the silks. But late-planted corn will be late-silking corn, and many more moths are searching for egg-laying sites at this time. In addition, late in the season, the field corn crop is producing high numbers of corn earworm moths and is not attractive to the moths for egg laying.

#### Spray Coverage

Spray solution should be driven deep into the silks to be of maximum benefit. The center third of the plant is the only zone that needs to be protected. Ground application has always been shown to be superior to aerial application, particularly when using drop nozzles on each side of the row directed towards the ears. A spray pressure of 30 psi or higher is recommended.

#### Preventative Management

A preventive program against corn earworms may begin when 10% of the ears are silked. Repeated sprays at three to five day intervals until 90% of the silks have wilted should give a high percentage of worm free ears during early and midseason. Control is more difficult late in the season. Even shortening spray intervals may produce only 90% clean ears.



Figure 2. Although variable in color, corn earworm larvae feel rough to the touch.



Figure 3. Initial corn earworm sprays are applied when silks first emerge.

An Integrated Pest Management Approach
Since moth intensity varies considerably
during the season, it makes good sense to monitor
adult activity and adjust the need for sprays
accordingly. Pheromone traps need to be examined
twice a week for corn earworms beginning in early
June to determine moth activity and the need to
spray. Special attention should be given to late
planted fields and fields with green silks. Moths
should be removed from traps, counted, destroyed,
and removed from the field during each visit.

Economic Threshold: When tassels emerge and silks are still green, numbers of corn earworm moths captured in pheromone traps will determine the frequency of insecticide applications.

Weekly Trap Catch	Treatment Frequency
350 or more	Every 3 days
11 to 349	Every 4 days
5 to 10	Every 5 days
When corn earworm weekly counts are less earworm.	than 5, there is no need to spray for corn



A Corn Earworm Moth



Corn Earworm generally damage the tip of the ear.



### **Kentucky Tornado History**





Here's some Bluegrass state tornado facts that blow your mind - pun intended!

- Well over 1,000 tornadoes have hit the Bluegrass State since 1950! And that's just counting the ones we know about. Many more have occurred but gone unreported to the National Weather Service.
- While tornadoes are much more common in central and western Kentucky, every one of Kentucky's 120 counties has had at least one documented tornado.
- Tornadoes occur most frequently from March through June, but they have occurred in every month of the year.
- While tornadoes typically occur between 3 pm and 10pm, they have occurred during every hour of the day. The ones that occur during the nighttime hours can be especially dangerous.
- The longest tracked tornado to strike Kentucky occurred on December 10, 2021. The tornado first struck Obion County, TN before crossing into Fulton County, KY. The tornado, which reached EF4 intensity with peak winds of up to 190 mph, covered a track of over 165 miles in about three hours, claiming 57 lives and injuring over 500 people.
- The strongest tornado you can get is one that is rated a five on the Fujita Tornado Intensity Scale. There have only been two F5 tornadoes to strike Kentucky and they both occurred on April 3, 1974. One struck Breckinridge and Meade Counties and another occurred in Boone County.
- Unfortunately, 222 Kentuckians have lost their lives in tornadoes since 1950 with over 3700 injuries and over four billion dollars in property damage!



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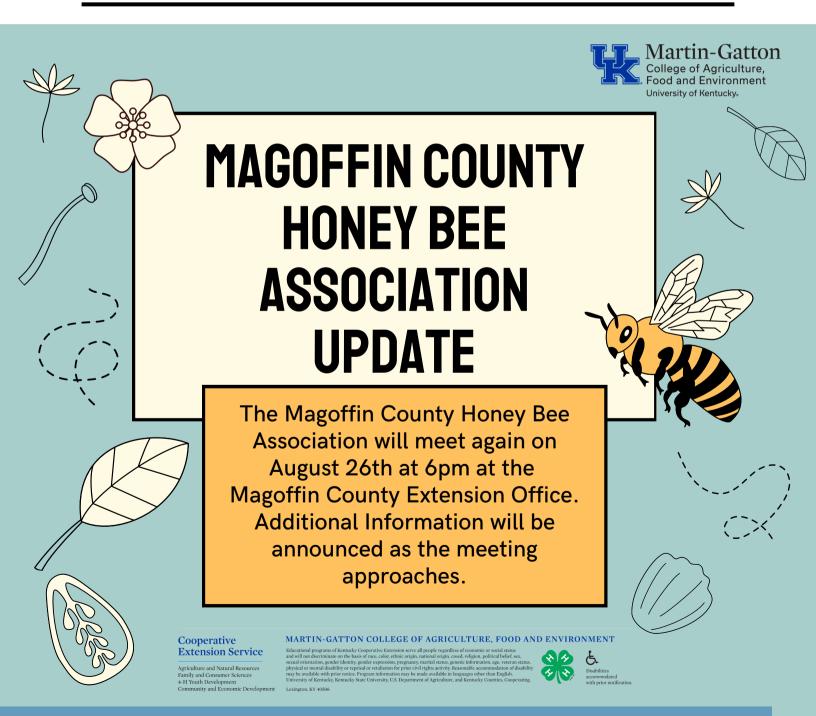
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## **Kentucky Tornado History Continued**

The good news is that the National Weather Service has meteorologists on staff 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, keeping a lookout for severe weather and tornadoes. We issue outlooks, watches and warnings that keep you informed of the potential for severe weather. Severe weather outlooks are produced by the Storm Prediction Center and can be accessed online or in our Hazardous Weather Outlook product on NOAA Weather Radio. Severe Thunderstorm and/or Tornado Watches are issued when environmental conditions are supportive of severe weather and/or tornadoes. You may get the notification that a Watch has been issued and look outside and see the sun shining. However, that Watch is telling you to get a plan in place as severe weather and/or tornadoes could soon threaten. Warnings are issued when severe weather and/or tornadoes are happening or about to happen. Warnings mean to take action and to get to your safe place!





# **Magoffin County 4-H**

# Summer ( tivities





for CloverBuds grades K-3

June 11, 2024 12:30-2:30pm

CloverBuds Creative Fun!

July 23-26, 2024 10:00am-3:00pm

Summer Day Camp!

July 9, 2024 1:00-3:00pm

CloverBuds Summer Splash Party!

First Friday Fun at the Magoffin Co. Farmers Market

Free kids activites every 1st Friday each month at the market! 3:00-6:00pm

Call to register: (606) 349-3216 Space is limited.

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

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# Blackberry Peach Crumble

2 cups fresh blackberries

**2 cups** peeled and sliced fresh peaches or 1 (16 ounce) bag frozen peach slices, thawed

1 teaspoon grated lemon peel 2 tablespoons cornstarch

1/3 cup, plus 1/2 cup packed brown sugar

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup chopped blanched almonds, (optional)

1/4 teaspoon salt

6 tablespoons butter, cut into pieces

**Combine** blackberries, peaches, lemon peel, cornstarch and  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup brown sugar in a large bowl.

**Pour** ingredients into a lightly greased 8 inch baking dish.

**Mix** together flour, almonds, salt, and remaining ½ cup brown sugar. With pastry blender or two knives, cut in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse meal.

Sprinkle flour mixture over fruit.

**Bake** in a pre-heated 400° F oven for 30 minutes.

**Cool** 10 minutes prior to serving.

Yield: 8, 1/2 cup servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 270 calories, 14 g fat, 25 mg cholesterol, 135 mg sodium, 35 g carbohydrate, 2 g protein, 3 g fiber. Without almonds: 220 calories, 9 g fat, 25 mg cholesterol, 135 mg sodium, 35 g carbohydrate, 2 g protein, 3 g fiber.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

