

Timing is important Plan your blue mold prevention program now, experts recommend

As Kentucky tobacco farmers cover themselves with growth healthy plants for transplanting, it's not too early to plan a program for controlling blue mold disease in the field.

Blue mold activity in the field is expected to begin in two to three weeks, according to Dr. Bill Nennith, Extension plant pathologist at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and national coordinator of the blue mold warning system.

The activity in Florida, near Gainesville, was confined to three farms with the disease spreading to the field on one farm. It was estimated that the disease had been active since early March.

Nennith said that growers had not used Hidemal, a fungicide effective in controlling the disease.

A Georgia plant pathologist reported finding active blue mold on one farm near Eatley in southern Georgia; again, Hidemal had not been used.

Conditions have been favorable for blue mold development over much of the flat cured areas since March, said

Nennith. Blue mold activity in the southern portion of the United States is a threat to Kentucky's tobacco crop because the blue mold fungus is wind-borne.

Conditions favorable

"Southeast winds have been coming up into higher production areas and conditions are favorable for blue mold development in 'hotter' plant beds," Nennith said.

Control strategies for Kentucky butley growers should be designed to reduce the length of time the foliage remains shaded and wet. And a direct attack should be aimed at

critical periods, said Nennith. He recommends tobacco farmers apply timely fungicide applications to control the disease in plant beds and prevent an early weevil infestation. (The two publications, "Chemical Controls for Tobacco Plant Bed Disease," available at county Extension offices, has specific recommendations.)

"Prevention is the key to blue mold control in the field," Nennith explains.

"Farmers should use proper cultural practices to reduce the length of time the foliage remains shaded and wet. And a direct attack should be aimed at

the blue mold fungus through timely fungicide applications."

In recent years, blue mold outbreaks in Kentucky have been associated with the crop once a heavy canopy has formed, usually within two to three weeks of topping. That means most of the state's blue mold activity occurs from mid-July to mid-August, when weather patterns with frequent dew, fog and rains are favorable for disease development, said Nennith.

"The heavy field canopy favors blue mold development because of the shading from leaf to leaf and the

trapping of moisture in the planting," he explained. "Outbreaks before heavy canopy formation are usually associated with shady areas or low wet areas of the field."

Nennith suggests that farmers

- Take steps to reduce leaf wetness and shade—both necessary for blue mold development.
- Select fields that are open and avoid low wet areas and shaded areas.
- Open up hill and row spacing to improve air and light penetration.

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Regional Olympics participants

These youngsters recently competed in the Bluegrass area Special Olympics held at Bourbon County. Front row, Vicky Ross, Robbie Glass, Melissa Helton, Victor Watkins and Darrin Morris. Second row, Scott Zornes, Beverly Gammon, George Watkins, Harvey Edlie, Reed, Harold Siffle, Mickey Sloss, Melissa Hally, Lisa Preston and Linda George. Mercury photo.

Tractor Pull Is Saturday at Wagoner-Wilson

The 1983 Carlisle/Nicholas County tractor pull is set for Saturday, May 7, at 8 p.m. on the Wagoner and Wilson farm on the Old Paris Pike.

Weights will begin at 6 p.m. and if the weather should happen not to cooperate, a rain date has been set for Sunday, May 8 at 1 p.m.

Admission is \$2.00 for students and adults. Children age 12 and under will be admitted free.

Entry fees are \$20 per driver with a

\$10 re-entry fee.

More information can be obtained by calling 289-2242.

Classes for the pull are as follows:

1st class: 5000 pounds stock 4 X 4 pickup truck. (Nicholas and adjoining counties only), 80 percent payback and trophy.

2nd class: 5000 pounds modified 4 X 4 pickup truck. 1st, \$200; 2nd, \$175; 3rd, \$90; 4th, \$40; 5th, \$25.

3rd class: 7000 pounds farm stock with or without blowers, 18.4 tire limit, 80 percent payback and trophy.

4th class: 5000 pounds two-wheel drive open. 1st, \$400; 2nd, \$300; 3rd, \$175; 4th, \$90; 5th, \$40; 6th, \$25.

5th class: 8000 pounds farm stock with or without blowers, 18.4 tire limit, 80 percent payback and trophy.

Rules and regulations according to Northern Kentucky Tractor Pull Association.

Lyons picked for Governor's program

Keith Lyons, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lyons of Sharpburg, has been selected as a student in the Governor's Scholars Program to be held at Centre College in Danville from July 3 through Aug. 5, 1983.

Keith was nominated by the faculty at Nicholas County High School for the

prestigious program. He will choose one basic field of study from a variety of courses designed to broaden intellectual horizons, rather than material offered in regular school classes.

Courses will include biology, geology, astronomy, physics, mathematics, function of languages, history, fine arts, literature, anthropology, and political economy. Computer studies will be integrated with the curriculum and a computer laboratory with teaching assistance will be available.

Keith was selected by the faculty because of his high grade point average and his top scores on his achievement tests. Only 250 students were selected from throughout the state. The theme of the program is "Science, Technology and Kentucky's Future" and will be taught by college professors and selected high school faculty.

Students will attend free, with funds for the program provided through a partnership of government, business and education.

"I am extremely pleased by the outstanding quality and diversity of the students who will attend our first Scholars Program," Gov. Brown said.

"The enthusiastic response of school officials, teachers, counselors and parents to this program shows their deep commitment to excellence in education."

Carlisle gas users get decrease!!

City of Carlisle natural gas customers will get a rate decrease on the gas bill they are about to receive, according to City Clerk Mary Tapp.

Columbia Gas has lowered their rates and the city is passing along the decrease.

"The minimum gas charge in town is only three cents, but much less above that is down 24 cents," Tapp said.

On a normal user, with a quantity of 10,000 cubic feet a month, it will mean a decrease of \$2.19 a month.

"For a large user, such as a factory, it could be a saving of several hundreds of dollars," Mrs. Tapp told the Mercury.

600 attend Farmers Appreciation Day

Event is held despite damaging winds

Despite high winds that blew down the first under which the First National Bank Farmers Appreciation Day was to have been held Saturday, the event drew nearly 600 farmers from Nicholas, Fleming and Heath counties to the back-up location at the Carlisle Armory.

"You can't imagine what the last 24 hours have been like," FNBA President Andy Dudley told the crowd in welcoming remarks. "At 12:30 we were fully set up on the Harold Letton farm on the Carpenter Pike for you and me."

"At 12:45 the tent was ripped in half and down the hill," Dudley said, "and the last time I saw the post-poly it was rolling and over."

The high winds were estimated to have caused about \$200 in damage to the huge tent and other furnishings. The winds blew across the county over the weekend, bringing heavy rains and forcing the Farmers Appreciation Day indoors under hectic last minute arrangements, for which Dudley said, "we owe a debt of gratitude to the workers from the Harold Letton farm."

Completion arrived.

The crowd was told that in a recent computer survey of accounts at the First National Bank of Carlisle, it was

revealed that more than 10 percent of the bank's business came directly from the farm community.

"That's when we decided to have this day as a way of thanking you for supporting our assets in the last 10 years," Dudley told the crowd.

Principal guests at the event were Congressman Carl Perkins and Larry Hopkins, Perkins was the representative for Nicholas County for many years, but under a redistricting plan passed by population changes, lost the seat to the sixth district and its representative Larry Hopkins in 1982.

Head beef manham

The crowd munched on roast beef and ham sandwiches catered by O'Leary and Gannon Foodtown and listened intently as Perkins and Hopkins talked

about how the tobacco price support program is doing in Congress.

"The fact is, our tobacco program is in trouble," Hopkins said, "and it's my feeling that we won't get a carryover program for export barley next year like we have now."

Hopkins also said he thought it was unfortunate that the fine-tuned program and the barley program had been lumped together by Congress last year, but that it was responsible to stop it from happening.

Perkins disagreed with Hopkins, saying the "flaw cured program was in the center while the barley program was way up in the sky."

"We should never have lumped them together," Perkins said.

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Carlisle guard unit to give blood

Members of Company D, 201st Engineer Battalion, Carlisle, think they are pretty healthy. So healthy, in fact, that they want to share some of that health with others not fortunate.

On Saturday, May 21, the National Guard unit will sponsor a blood drive at the new Carlisle Armory from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

"It's been several years since we had a blood drive here," commented Sergeant Wayne Capps, unit administrator. "When the Center contacted us

about how the tobacco price support program is doing in Congress.

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Perkins, Hopkins speak

Carl Perkins, former Congressman for this county and present Congressman Larry Hopkins spoke to 600 farmers Saturday at the Farmers Appreciation Day in Carlisle. They are shown here with First National Bank President Andy Dudley. Seated at the rear are Betty Dudley, Elmer Whitaker, chairman of the board, and Mrs. Jack Whitaker, his daughter-in-law. Mercury photo.



First ever performance

The revitalized Nicholas County High School Chorus held its first ever performance recently at the high school gymnasium. The chorus is under the direction of Mrs. Pat Massie. Photo submitted.