Cooperative Extension Service

# Hickman County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

## March 2025


**Cooperative Extension Service**

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

**MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT**





Lexington, KY 40506

# Endangered Species Act – How Will it Affect You in the Near Future?

**Dr. Travis Legleiter, UK Extension Weed Specialist**

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has existed since 1973 and was implemented to ensure that any actions taken by a government agency did not jeopardize any species that are federally listed as threatened or endangered. So, why are we now talking about this law in 2025, nearly fifty years after its original passing? The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) as a federal agency is responsible for regulating pesticide use, which can affect animals and plants or their habitats. Due to this the EPA has a responsibility to consult with the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure its actions (registration of pesticides) do not jeopardize any threatened or endangered species or their habitats. As one might imagine, this is a complex process and the EPA had not been fulling completing the consultation process for past pesticide registrations. This has left many pesticides vulnerable to lawsuits that have resulted in a few pesticides being pulled from the market. In response, the EPA has spent the past half decade developing strategies to ensure all future pesticide registrations are more secure and are complying with ESA. The first strategy to be implemented in August 2024 was the "*Herbicide Strategy to Reduce Exposure of Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species and Designated Critical Habitats from the Use of Conventional Agricultural Herbicides*" or more commonly referred to as the "Herbicide Strategy".

The following list of questions and answers is intended to assist Kentucky growers and applicators in understanding how the strategy will affect herbicide applications in the future. While the strategy looks very complicated on its face, our goal here is to help alleviate some of the complications and show that Kentucky growers can meet the new requirements with minimal, or in many cases no changes to their current practices. If you would like to see the full 79 page strategy and its many appendix's and supporting documents, you can find them here: https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/strategy-protect-endangered-species-herbicides

**How will this affect the herbicides applications made to your field?**

All future herbicide labels receiving a new registration or a registration review (occurs every 15 years) will likely have the following mitigations added to the label:

- Spray Drift Mitigations
- Runoff/erosion Mitigations
- Requirements to check the EPA's Bulletins Live! Two website for further restrictions specific to the herbicide being applied and location of the application

**When will the new ESA requirements be implemented?**

As is alluded to in the above bullet point, this will not be an instant flip of the switch (no ESA mitigations one day and full mitigations the next). Rather ESA mitigations and restrictions will be added to all new herbicide registrations as they occur and will be added to all existing herbicide labels when those products

go through the registration review process that must occur every 15 years. In essence, the mitigations will be rolled out on a label-by-label basis over the next 15 years. The first herbicide to receive the ESA requirements on its label is the newly registered Liberty Ultra. We will use Liberty Ultra as our example in the questions below.

**What will the spray drift mitigations look like?**

Spray drift mitigations will appear as required downwind buffer distances that must be implemented during application of that herbicide. The distance of these downwind buffers will be different for each product based on the EPA determination of the potential impact that product may have on endangered or threatened species at the population level. Downwind buffer distances for ground applications will range from 0ft to a maximum of 230 ft. The Liberty Ultra label has a downwind buffer distance of 10 ft for ground applications.

These downwind buffers, especially those that occur at the 230ft level, look very arduous, but they do not have to occur completely within the field that is receiving the application. The following areas can be included in the downwind buffer distance if they occur immediately adjacent to the field receiving the application. (*The area descriptions are directly from the EPA Herbicide Strategy*)

a) Agricultural fields, including untreated portions of the treated field;
b) Roads, paved or gravel surfaces, mowed grassy areas adjacent to field, and areas of bare ground from recent plowing or grading that are contiguous with the treated area;
c) Buildings and their perimeters, silos, or other man-made structures with walls and/or roof;
d) Areas maintained as a mitigation measure for runoff/erosion or drift control, such as vegetative filter strips (VFS), field borders, hedgerows, Conservation Reserve Program lands (CRP)1, and other mitigation measures identified by EPA on the mitigation menu;
e) Managed wetlands including constructed wetlands on the farm; and
f) On-farm contained irrigation water resources that are not connected to adjacent water bodies, including on-farm irrigation canals and ditches, water conveyances, managed irrigation/runoff retention basins, and tailwater collection ponds.

Lastly, if these areas are not immediately adjacent to the field in the downwind direction, there are additional measures that can be implemented to reduce the downwind buffer distance. A complete list of potential mitigation measures can be found in Table 8 (Page 37) in the Herbicide Strategy . These mitigations include simple mitigations, some that you are likely already implementing, such as the use of a coarse droplet can reduce the buffer distance by 65 to 75% depending on boom height. Additionally, applying when relative humidity is above 60%, which occurs nearly every day in a KY summer, allows for an additional 10% reduction in buffer distance. These mitigation percentages are cumulative, so in essence if you can find mitigations that add up to 100% you can completely eliminate the downwind buffer for that application.

In the case of Liberty Ultra, the downwind buffer of 10ft for ground applications is very manageable and is an encouraging signal that downwind buffers on future labels are likely to be reasonable and manageable.

Finish reading the entire article at **https://graincrops.ca.uky.edu/newsletters**
Kentucky Field Crops News, March 2025, Vol 1 Issue 03 **Pages 2-6**

# Italian Ryegrass Control Field Tour Slated for March 27

For a second consecutive year, the University of Kentucky will host the Italian Ryegrass Control Field Tour. Presented by Dr. Travis Legleiter, UK Extension Associate Professor - Weed Science, this year's tour will take place Thursday, March 27, 2025. The day will begin at 9 a.m. CDT with introductory remarks at the Caldwell County Extension Office, located at 1025 U.S. Hwy. 62 W. in Princeton. A caravan will then proceed to the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center in Princeton to tour ryegrass research plots. Topics will cover ryegrass control in the fall and spring prior to no-till corn and soybean planting as well as continued research on ryegrass control in wheat. The field tour will conclude by 11:30 a.m.

"The battle against Italian ryegrass is increasing in the Commonwealth every year with more cases of failed ryegrass burndowns occurring each spring. We are continually looking for better options for gaining an advantage on this troublesome weed and are excited to showcase some of our findings so far at the 2025 Italian ryegrass Field Tour," Legleiter said.

Once categorized as solely a problem in wheat, Italian ryegrass has increasingly become problematic in all of Kentucky's major agronomic crops, now affecting no-till corn and soybean acres. Italian ryegrass (aka annual ryegrass) is one of the most problematic weed species globally with over 75 unique cases of herbicide resistance reported across the world. If allowed to compete with corn, Italian ryegrass can reduce yields up to 60%. Options for Kentucky farmers to control this weed prior to corn and soybean planting will be discussed.

**Presented by Dr. Travis Legleiter, UK Extension Associate Professor - Weed Science, this field tour will highlight the options available to Kentucky farmers for maximum control of this problematic weed in the fall and spring prior to corn and soybean planting.**

Educational credits for CCA include 3 CEUs in IPM. Kentucky Pesticide Applicator Credits include 3 CEUs for Category 1A (Ag Plant).
Register at https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2c6KX2NmiqEp1TE

For more information about the 2025 Italian Ryegrass Control Field Tour call (859) 562-2569 or email jason.travis@uky.edu.

# 2025 Corn and Soybean Fungicide Efficacy Guides Now Available

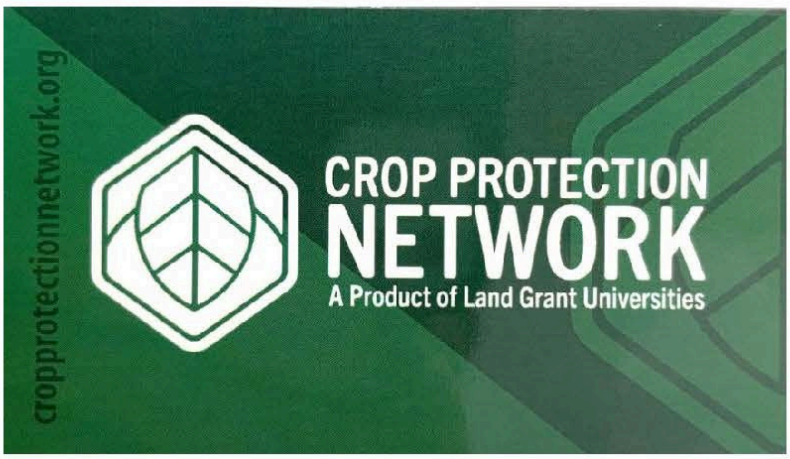
**Dr. Kiersten Wise, UK Extension Plant Pathologist & Dr. Carl Bradley, UK Extension Plant Pathology**

The 2025 fungicide efficacy tables for foliar diseases of corn and soybean, and for soybean seedling diseases have been updated, and are now available through the Crop Protection Network website: https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/ .

These tables are updated annually based on data provided by United States Extension plant pathologists, with efficacy determined through replicated research trials across a broad geographic area. Results from University of Kentucky research trials are included in the development of these national fungicide efficacy ratings.

The ratings in these guides reflect the efficacy of a fungicide against a given disease and are not rating yield response to a fungicide. It is an applicator's legal responsibility to read and follow label directions. Updated tables include:

- **Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Corn Diseases**
- **Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Seedling Diseases**
- **Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Foliar Diseases**

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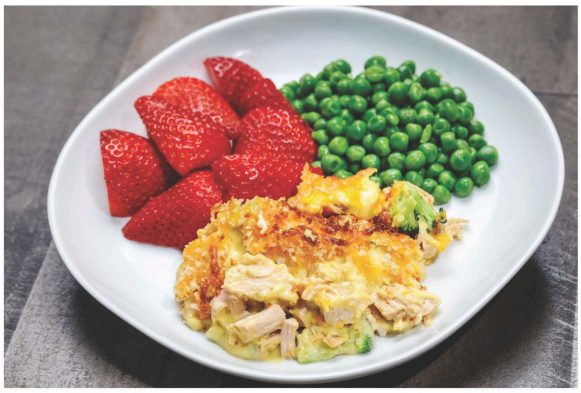
# Wild Turkey & Broccoli Casserole

Servings: 8  Serving Size: 1 slice



## Ingredients:

- 2 packages (10 ounces each) frozen broccoli, or 2 bunches fresh broccoli, washed and cut into pieces
- 4 cups cubed, cooked wild turkey meat
- 1 cup light mayonnaise
- 2 cans (10.5 ounces each) low-sodium cream of chicken soup
- 1 teaspoon curry powder or 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- ½ cup grated cheddar cheese
- ½ cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1 tablespoon melted butter

## Directions:

To cook turkey breast, preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Add vegetable oil to roasting pan. Place turkey breast in roasting pan. Season meat lightly with garlic powder and black pepper. Cover with lid or aluminum foil. Cook at 325 degrees F until internal temperature is 165 degrees, about 1 ½ to 3 ½ hours for 4 to 8 pounds of meat. Let meat cool in pan for 5 minutes before cutting into cubes. Steam broccoli until tender. Drain. Grease a 2-quart casserole dish or 9-by13-inch pan. Place turkey on the bottom and arrange the broccoli over the turkey. Combine mayonnaise, cream of chicken soup, curry powder or mustard, and lemon juice. Combine cheese, breadcrumbs and butter. Sprinkle over casserole. Bake at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes.

Source: Adapted from: “Fish & Game Cookbook” Bonnie Scott. 2013.

Nutrition Facts per Serving: 270 calories, 12g total fat, 3g saturated fat, 0g trans fat,65mg cholesterol, 660mg sodium, 17g total carbohydrate, 0g dietary fiber, 2g total sugars, 23g protein, 6% DV calcium, 6% DV Iron, 8% DV Potassium

# SAVE THE DATE
# 5 - 13 - 25

# UK Wheat Field Day

## 9 am-12 pm CT

## UK Research and Education Center
## Princeton, KY


Wheat Science Group | Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment | Grain and Forage Center of Excellence

Cooperative Extension Service

**For more information follow us at**
**https://hickman.ca.uky.edu/**
**or**
**Hickman County Cooperative Extension Service on Facebook**

**Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources**

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Cooperative Extension Service**

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