

Bell County



Beekeepers Club



Our Beekeepers club will begin meeting Spring of 2024.

Mushroom Cultivation

In the **Spring 2024**, learn how to cultivate edible mushrooms in this fun class. At the end of class you can leave with a mushroom inoculated log so you can grow your own mushrooms at home.

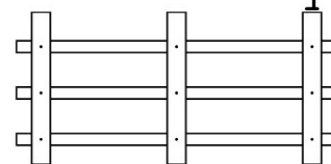


Self-Reliance Series

If you're thinking of Homesteading or simply wish to be more self-sustainable then this is the program for you.

Learn about:

- Food preservation
- Gardening
- Beekeeping
- Animal care
- Hunting
- Butchering and processing
- Carpentry
- Alternative energy sources
- and more



If you are interested in attending any of these programs please call the Bell County Cooperative Extension Office at 606-337-2376 to register.

Please watch our newsletter, Facebook page, and the Bell County Extension office webpage for updates, times and dates.



Bell County Agriculture and Natural Resources

Horses and Hay



Growing and harvesting good-quality hay isn't easy, and depends heavily on good weather for success. This is where we get the old saying, "Make hay while the sun shines." Hay farmers have to keep a close eye on plant growth, the weather and the moisture content of the hay to make sure it is top quality.

Things to keep in mind:

- Molds grow on hay due to excess moisture.
- High humidity and rain can effect the best cured hay, causing it to mold.
- Stack hay in a well ventilated area.
- Stack hay in an alternating pattern to allow air flow between the bales.
- Check hay bales before feeding them to your horses.
- Discard any bales that have black or gray spots, or are very dusty.

Molds reproduce by producing spores. When pulling your flakes of hay apart, if it appears to "smoke" or release a blue gray cloud. This is more then likely mold spores. Mold spores can irritate horses airways, this can cause Recurrent Airway Obstruction (RAO), also known as heaves.

RAO can lead to severe difficulty breathing. Special attention must be given to the hay being fed to a horse who already suffers from RAO to avoid more complications. While mold may be difficult to see sometimes, you can usually smell it.

Remember, if hay is dusty or smells musty, do not feed it. Any black or gray spots are a sure sign of spoiled hay and should not be fed to your horse.



Image of moldy from: www.horseforum.com

If you have any concerns about the hay you are feeding or considering feeding to your horses please feel free to contact me at the Bell County Extension office at 337-2376.

You can read more about hay on the *Kentucky Equine Research* web page at: KER.com

