

Extension Highlights

Soil test is the first step for lime and fertilizer



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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

GARY HAMILTON
Montgomery County Extension Office

the same time of the year.

When sampling untilled fields in the fall, an equal number of cores should be collected from both between and close to the rows. For tilled areas, take soil cores to the depth of primary tillage (plow, chisel plow, big disc, etc.), usually six to eight inches. With pastures, lawns, no-tilled areas and turf, take soil cores to a depth of four inches.

With changing fertilizer and commodity prices, each production field should be sampled every two years. Annual sampling is preferable for high-value crops or rotations that remove large amounts of soil nutrients, such as alfalfa, tobacco and double-crop silage. Sampling each year after manure application is also recommended.

Recommended nitrogen additions are made with an expectation of a yield response as measured for that crop under Kentucky soil and weather conditions. Yield responses to phosphate and potash rate recommendations are more likely when soil test levels “very low,” “low” and “low-medium.” When the soil test value is “medium” or higher, associated phosphate or potash rate recommendations are mostly intended to “maintain” sufficient soil phosphorus and potassium availability.

Field research yield and soil test relationships measured by the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station were used to establish the

phosphate and potash recommendations contained in AGR-1. Those recommendations strive to enable each soil/field to supply a sufficient level of available plant nutrients, regardless of seasonal weather and assuming good management practices. *Source: John Grove, research and extension soils specialist; and Edwin Ritchey, extension soils specialist, UK Research and Education Center at Princeton*

Contact the Montgomery County Extension office for additional information, or view AGR-1, Lime and Nutrient Recommendations.

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The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment news and communications team provides monthly Extension Exclusives in the categories of Horticulture, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H and Family & Consumer Sciences.



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FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Cheyenne Lamb

Mulches, mushrooms and molds to know

Speakers support Rumpke landfill

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate writer

Before a packed house in the Fiscal Courtroom at the Courthouse Annex Aug. 18, three speakers defended operation of the Rumpke landfill on Orear Road.

During the regular meeting of the Fiscal Court, former Mayor Bert May told commissioners the landfill brought industry to the community.

May said 24 industries in particular came to the community during his eight years as mayor, creating an untold number of jobs. He also claims the county receives more money through the tipping fee at the landfill than it does in revenue from local property taxes and that Rumpke been a good community partner for the past 50 years.

Brian Groff, president of Groff Engineering and Consulting, added to what May had to say, claiming Rumpke is a “financial cornerstone” to the tune of \$1.4 million in revenue to the county each year.

Groff urged the court to act in the best interest of the county’s near 29,000 residents and not what he claims is a vocal minority opposed to the landfill expansion.

Groff said taxpayers should have a say on what happens with the future of the landfill.

Otherwise, Groff claims the message that would be sent to businesses throughout the region is the county

wants to change the rules in the middle of the game.

Without the landfill located here, Groff claims tax collection rates would double or triple.

Groff said he feels Rumpke operates an efficient, regulated landfill under local control, which he doesn’t believe the county should not give away.

Groff also noted Rumpke’s continued support for the community’s seniors, families and businesses.

Rejecting the proposed expansion could also potentially open the door to legal challenges, Groff expressed as a concern.

A third speaker, Patrick Bonfield, said he had worked at landfills and Rumpke had served as a community partner that has helped lure industry here.

Bonfield said the community’s trash has to go somewhere, so why not Montgomery County, where it supports local jobs.

He claims the community supports the landfill.

One speaker did address the court in opposition to the landfill. That was Belinda Farley, who has spoke out at previous Fiscal Court meetings and at a public hearing on the proposed expansion.

Farley claims the community does not support a proposed expansion.

There were no comments from Fiscal Court members in response to the Rumpke discussion.

Request granted to apply, begin comment process on amending solid waste plan

By Tom Marshall
Senior Advocate writer

The county’s solid waste coordinator made a request at the Aug. 18 Fiscal Court meeting for approval to apply to begin the comment process for an amendment to the solid waste management plan.

Donny Pennington asked the court to file an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet, Division of Waste Management, for approval to begin the comment process for the consideration of an amendment to the 2023-2027 solid waste management plan.

The court granted the

request.

Judge-Executive Chris Haddix told the Advocate it is important to note making this request to the cabinet to start the process does not obligate the county to finalize the amendment to the plan or authorize any particular tonnage amount.

Instead, Haddix said, it simply begins a process that will have public notice and an opportunity to comment.

There will also be an opportunity for a community hearing, he said, after which the court will consider such comments in determining whether to finalize the amendment to authorize

additional capacity and how much, if any capacity to authorize.

An amendment to the solid waste plan is required before an expansion at the Rumpke landfill could be granted.

Rumpke has proposed to the county a 48.2 acre expansion that would extend the lifespan of the landfill on Orear Road by about 12 years.

Rumpke officials say the landfill currently has a lifespan of about 7.5 years.

The tipping fee Rumpke pays to the county for operation of the landfill comes to about \$780,000 a year.

salad-no cheese, dressing French creamy, garlic breadstick, broccoli and cauliflower.

Monday, Aug. 31: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green peas, whole grain white roll, mandarin oranges, 1 percent milk.

The menu for September was not available at press time.



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