

County Agent's Notes

BY H. LEE DURHAM
COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
FOR AGRICULTURE

Shake, But Don't Panic

The word "termites" creates panic in any home owner. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says you should be concerned, but not panicked. Termites are really slow eaters. A colony of 60,000 workers eats only as fast as a fifth of an ounce of wood a day. Termites play an important role in forest ecology by recycling dead wood on the forest floor and enriching the soil. If it weren't for termites and decay fungi, much of the world's forest area would be an impenetrable mass of fallen trees and stumps. Since your home is made of your food, can you blame them for dropping in for lunch? If you find or suspect termites, call a responsible pest control operator. Get two or three cost estimates from established firms. Check the references of the operator and beware of firms that quote a price based on the gallons of the pesticide they will use. Get an estimate of the total price for the job. Beware of firms that profess to have a secret formula or ingredient for termite control. Chemicals tested by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture are the best known to man and are not expensive. The chemicals are aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin and heptachlor. Beware of a firm with no listed phone number. Beware of firms that show up without an invitation and use evidence of termites in trees as an excuse to inspect the house. And also beware of firms that want to trim trees and do general repair work as a part of the contract. In other words, don't become a victim of another pest in addition to your termites.

Not Every Scratching Dog

Is Fighting Fleas

If every dog has his flea, as the old saying goes, then it stands to reason that he will occasionally have to scratch that flea. But, according to William F. Wise, Extension specialist in veterinary medicine at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, when that occasional scratch becomes a 24-hour thumping symphony, there may be something more serious than these pesky parasites working on the dog. In case of continual scratching, says Wise, the first impulse of the dog's

master is to grab up a can of flea powder, give the victim a genuine good dusting and then, when the pup shows no improvement, cuss the remedy. Instead of fleas, the trouble besetting the dog may be a type of eczema that, while most prevalent in hot weather, can occur at any time of the year and whatever the time, cause the dog great distress. There may be several causes for this irritation: diet deficiency, allergies, environment, and even temperament, with the main symptom being extreme itchiness, manifested, of course, by the continuous scratching. Then there may be other symptoms. The dog's coat may become dull and dry in appearance. Bald spots may result from the scratching and biting, and a pinkish rash may show up on the more exposed areas of the legs and belly.

According to Wise, when a dog shows these symptoms, there's not much advantage in using flea powder or rushing to the drug store for a bottle of mange remedy. The problem is internal, rather than external, and the flea powder and mange remedy will be useless.

If your dog shows these symptoms and no fleas or mange problems are evident, Wise advises calling on a veterinarian who, after a examination, recommend cortisone, antihistamines, vitamins, or some other drug.

However, if a veterinarian is not available, Wise says the troubled dog may get some relief by a changed diet, by the addition of some fat to the diet, by putting a few drops of wheat germ oil in the food each day, and by applying calamine lotion or cortisone ointment to areas of skin damage caused by scratching. Brush, rather than bathe the dog, he said, and cut out all exotic foods such as candy, cake bread and potatoes.

At Wise points out, each case of prolonged scratching may have a different cause, and finding that cause may take some doing. However, if a veterinarian is not available the home remedies mentioned may help.

Make the Hole Fit the Tree

When you're transplanting shade and ornamental trees, you may want to do some pruning. So, the U.S. Department of Agriculture suggests that you remove all the branches that cross or touch other branches. Smooth the ragged ends of any broken parts. If the tree has been dug up carefully, and handled properly, you will need to do no other pruning. But if the roots are

damaged, you'll need to prune off about one-third of the length of twigs and small branches. By removing part of the top, you compensate for the loss of roots. If the tree has damaged roots, prune off the injured roots, too. But don't trim the roots to fit them into the hole. Make the hole big enough to accommodate all the roots. Leave the branches alone on the lower part of the tree at this time. To cut them would leave you a tree with a tuft of branches on a slender stem that will sway in the wind, and its roots will loose. Wait for a year or two before you start any pruning to improve the tree's form-provided your tree's form needs improving.

Tobacco Plant Beds Need Water

The importance of moisture for tobacco beds is continuing to be emphasized by UK extension tobacco specialist.

"See germination time and immediately after the plants begin to appear in the beds are the critical times when the plants need moisture," said Joe H. Smiley, UK's tobacco specialist. "Unwatered beds can result in poor stands and stunted plants."

Smiley pointed out that windy weather, which is quite normal for the spring season, can carry moisture away from the soil surface, causing a soil crust to form. As a result plant beds may need frequent watering, even though fields may be too moist to plow.

Smiley urged the growers to check the plant beds frequently to keep tabs on any moisture needs. "Frequent watering at germination time is recommended if the soil surface is dry," he said. "The soil surface is dry, 150 gallons of water per bed will moisten the surface adequately."

After the plants are established, however, he advised that form 300 to 500 gallons of water per 100 square yards of bed may be needed each week during any given dry period.

Smiley made another point for growers to check-fertilizer injury. He said if any fertilizer injury begins to show up in the bed and the plant stand begins to disappear it is a definite indication the bed needs water.

"The Small Tree Farm"

(Cont'd from P-11)
ready to market timber at this time, perhaps a visit from the service forester will reveal that TSI will be rewarded with a larger profit at harvest time. One feature of this program is the fact that the government will cost-share with you on the highly regarded TSI practices.

You owe it to yourself to look into the advice a professional forester can give. If the proper procedures are followed and precautions against fire are taken, it's kind of like the country boy said, "It's growing you money while you sleep." The small tree farm is well worth saving. And well worth the money our government spends to help us save it. Nobody ever said it was easy to run a tree farm right, but think of it this way, how many privately owned tree farms would you guess there are in the USSR?

"FISHING REPORT"

(Cont'd from P-4)
Laurel: Black bass fair on crank and spinner baits in timbered coves; crappie fair around stick-ups, clear to murky; muddy, stable at power pool and 57 degrees.

Green: Black bass on crank baits off rocky points and on spinner baits in the heads of inlets and bays; bluegill fair in inlets and bays, clear to murky, falling, one foot above summer pool and 56 degrees.

Barley: Crappie good over channel bank drop-offs and around stick-ups; black bass slow casting medium runners and jigging nightcrawlers in inlets and bays; in tailwaters, no activity; clear to murky, stable, three feet below summer pool and 60 degrees.

Kentucky: Crappie slow over submerged cover; in tailwaters, no activity; murky to muddy, stable, three feet below summer pool and 57 degrees.

Nolin: Black bass fair on medium to deep runners of rocky points and banks; crappie slow around stick ups; in tailwaters, trout fair (tailwaters open weekends only due to construction); clear to murky, rising slowly, one foot below summer pool and 61 degrees.

Grayson: Crappie slow around stick ups; black bass slow jigging nightcrawlers in inlets and bays; in tailwaters, trout slow, murky, falling, one foot above summer pool and 54 degrees.

Buckhorn: No activity; murky to muddy, falling slowly, 32 feet above summer pool and 58 degrees.
Cave Run: No activity; murky and muddy, stable, 3 feet above summer pool and 52 degrees.
Dewey: No activity; muddy, stable, 15 feet above summer pool and 58 degrees.

Fishtrap: No activity; muddy, falling, 15 feet above summer pool and 51 degrees.

"Letters to the Editor"

(Cont. From 2)
Assembly. Such legislation cannot pass without your help!

Yours very truly,
John M. Berry, Jr.
Kentucky State Senator

Dear Editor,
I want to answer Virgil Alcorn's Ad which appeared in last week's issue of the Signal saying he wants to be elected so he can clean up the jail.

Mr. Alcorn I have news for you, every 4 months, the Grand Jury inspects this jail, every 2 months the State

Parent Seminar To Be At Sue Bennett College

"Training for Parenthood: Whose Responsibility?" This is the title of a one day seminar to be held at Sue Bennett College, London, on Wednesday, April 20, 1977. Registration begins at 8:30 in the Student Center.

Dr. John F. Crosby, Family Sociologist, Chairman, Department of Human Development and Family Relations, University of Kentucky, will open the program with a review of types of families and the types of marriages to help us understand how the family and marriage are changing. His address is titled, "Family Change in Historical Perspective."

Dr. Crosby will follow this presentation with an address called, "Can the Family Survive in Its Present Form?" He will point out how social changes, legislation and attitudes have changed the functions and interaction of the today's family.

The morning session will conclude with discussion in small groups on public policy issues. During the afternoon, Dr. David Loeff, Professor of Child Psychiatry, University of Kentucky and Dr. Doris Sutton, Assistant Professor of General Studies English, Eastern Kentucky University, will make presentations.

Dr. Loeff will discuss new directions that may be taken to strengthen the family while Dr. Sutton will talk about the Ph.D. as a Mother.

The seminar is open to the public. There is no admission charge. It is being sponsored by the Cumberland River Water Control District and the County Jail. My equipment is in good shape and costs the taxpayers a lot of money. If you say the jail needs cleaning, why do you eat there.

You're slinging mud on the wrong man as I am not a candidate.

Ivory Anglin
Jailer, Rockcastle County

Comprehensive Care Center and Sue Bennett College. Funding for the program has been made available by the Kentucky Humanities Council.

"Diamond In The Rough"

Kentucky is a "Diamond in the rough" in potential natural gas reserves, an independent gas and oil producer told a legislative committee today.

DeWitt Langford, president of Langford Oil and Gas Co., told the Interim Joint Committee on Labor and Industry that a natural gas field in Grayson and Edmonson counties could supply enough fuel to keep Kentucky industries in production and homes warm for 100 years.

Langford's claims about the reserves, known as the Shrewsbury Field, have been disputed by state Energy Commissioner Damon Harrison and Richard Heman, Secretary of the Public Service Commission. Both

acknowledge there are gas reserves in the field, but not nearly as large as Langford estimates.

The committee, after hearing from Langford and Hugly, decided to invite Harrison, and representatives of the Public Service Commission, Louisville Gas and Electric Co., Columbia Gas of Kentucky and the state Department of Mines and Minerals, as well as a non-participating observer from the Federal Energy Administration to their next meeting. Langford and Hugly will also be invited.

In other action, the committee heard a report from James Carigan, assistant deputy commissioner, Department of Insurance, on the results of efforts to lower workmen's compensation insurance rates.

Millions of children have lung-damaging diseases. Every day is a struggle for breath for these kids. Please become involved by participating in the Cystic Fibrosis Breath of Spring Bike-A-Thon in Mt. Vernon.

Millions of youngsters have lung diseases. Won't you help at least one? Support the Cystic Fibrosis Breath of Spring Bike-A-Thon in our community.

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Virgil L. Alcorn

FOR

Jailer

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