

COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
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College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

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EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Changing Lives*



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Plant pathology specialists monitor diseases in grower fields across the state.

**When you
invest in
Extension,
fruit growers
decrease
inputs,
increase fruit
quality, and
increase yields**

Commercial Fruit Growers Turn to Extension Specialists and Resources to Improve Yields

A recent survey of commercial fruit growers indicated adoption of UK Extension-recommended sustainable practices, which reduced the costs of pesticides and fungicides and increased yields.



I would not be in farming without Extension. I attend their workshops at the research farm, they have evaluated my farm and I follow their recommendations. I am able to grow good fruit.

Larry Ayers, Owen County Grower

The Department of Plant Pathology has a strong commitment to serving the needs of the people of Kentucky. Its dedicated group of Extension plant pathologists conducts applied research and works closely with lab-based researchers to address diseases that concern local agricultural producers and homeowners.

Extension plant pathologists work with specialists in various departments to provide research-based educational programs and resources for management of diseases and other pests. They also provide plant disease diagnostic support through County Extension Agents and explore regional and state-specific alternatives for managing plant diseases of importance in Kentucky.

With a recent shift in crop diversification, Extension plant pathologists lead a team of UK Extension fruit workers who work closely with commercial fruit growers. Their ultimate goal is to increase crop yields. Programs include on-farm workshops and field days, individual grower visits, production manuals, and spray guides that are unique to Kentucky's climate and conditions.

In a recent survey, commercial growers indicated that as a result of the UK Fruit Working Group's research and educational activities, they have experienced a 34% increase in profit and a 43% increase in fruit quality in the last three years. When making decisions about pesticide use, 76% of growers refer to information and knowledge gained from Extension workshops and field days, and 71% refer to Extension publications or fact sheets. Eighty percent of commercial fruit growers consult the Midwest Fruit Spray Guide, which is co-written and distributed by the UK Fruit Working Group. Forty-four percent of regional fruit growers reported using the UK Ag Weather



The Extension team conducts research to help them provide more state-specific recommendations to growers.



Field days and grower trainings are a major outlet for discovery of new management practices and up-to-date resources.

Center prediction models before spraying, which is an increase of 34% from 2013.

Extension specialists in plant pathology, entomology, and horticulture continue to improve crop yields and grower profits by conducting research on resistant cultivars, integrated pest management practices, and development of print and digital resources to assist commercial and residential producers. The UK Fruit Working Group serves more than 1,500 farms consisting of 4,500 acres with a market value of \$7.8 million.