



# Roane County Agricultural Happenings

September 2017

Jessica Wilkinson • (865) 376-5558 • [jwilki21@utk.edu](mailto:jwilki21@utk.edu) • Roane County

**Private Applicator Certification Courses and Recertification Courses are now being offered!**



**Private Applicator Initial Certification Training Date**  
This is for applicators who do NOT have a current pesticide card  
**The cost for initial certification is \$75 (bring 2 checks one for TDA and one for UT Extension)**  
Thursday, September 21, 2017  
6:00pm-10:00pm

**Private Applicator Recertification Date**  
If your Pesticide Safety Education Program Certification is still current you can attend a **one hour** recertification training to extend your PSEP Certification through June 20, 2020 **Cost for recertification training \$25**  
Tuesday, September 19, 2017  
6:00pm-7:00pm

**All Training will occur at the Roane County Extension Office**  
For more information please contact the Roane County Extension Office at (865) 376 5558 or email Jessica Wilkinson at [jwilki21@utk.edu](mailto:jwilki21@utk.edu)

Programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, Family and Consumer Sciences and Resource Development  
The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, US Dept. of Agriculture and County Governments cooperating.  
UT Extension Provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

## Master Gardener Happenings

September Lunch – n – Learn will focus on composting. Come learn from a skilled community member, Mrs. Lisa Deutsch, at noon on September 9th, at the Extension Office.

October 14<sup>th</sup>, Lunch-n-Learn will focus on weed identification, with Mrs. Maureen Leavitt.

## Roane County Livestock News

**Livestock Judging:** Practice has resumed, contact Jessica for location. Practice is weekly on Friday's at 6pm until contest on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Hog Project:** Meetings will begin on October 6, 2017 at 6pm. The meeting is open to anyone interested in showing hogs. We will answer questions and complete paperwork, to get everyone ready for showing season.

## Lady bugs, elder box beetles, and stink bugs oh my!

By Jessica Wilkinson

It is becoming the time of year, that these insects start making their way into our homes. These cool nights are nature's way of telling them it is time to look for a place to hibernate. Our homes end up becoming a perfect hibernation place for these critters to hide. These insects cannot only be a nuisance, but cause some health and allergy related issues for some individuals.

The Asian Lady Beetle is on average a fourth of a inch long, dome shaped insect. These insects have orange wing covers with black spots. "Lady Bugs" are helpful insects, they help in controlling aphids on trees and shrubs. They were originally imported into Georgia to control pecan aphids. In their native habitats these insects hibernate in cracks and crevices of cliffs. Since cliffs are sometimes not easily found they look for buildings. Controlling these are relatively easy. Insecticides do not typically work well for the hard shelled insect, so physical control is best. Simply vacuum the insects up, or there are some traps available on the market to catch these insects.

Box elder bugs are very common in our area. They generally aren't noticed during the summer, however in the winter and fall they become one of the most common insects, I receive a call about. Why? Because just like the lady bug, these insects migrate indoors to hibernate in the fall and winter. These insects are about a half inch long, black with orange and red markings. These insects are drawn into homes that have a large amount of sun exposure. These insects are not common or over abundant every year, they are most common during hot, dry summers that are followed by warm springs. The important thing to remember is these insects are a nuisance however, they do not bite and are essentially harmless to your property. To control these insects, you can make simple changes in and around your home. Ensure you have windows, cable entrances, and other small openings sealed. Insecticides are not overly recommended however you can treat the exterior of the building with common active ingredients such as bifenthrin, permethrin, or deltamethrin. Indoors, physical removal with a broom and dust pan or vacuum is the best option. Indoors, insecticides have very limited value and is not suggested.

Stink bugs are small grey and brown insects. These insects can become smelly and wreak havoc on a garden and make homeowners uneasy. These insects come in and make your home theirs over the winter. Just like the other insects above, they want a warm place to stay over the winter. The best way to prevent stink bugs from taking up residence in your home, seal all the cracks you can; around windows, pipes, cable entrances, etc. control of stink bugs again is just vacuuming and sweeping them up. Chemical control is not recommended.

Basically with all of these insects there is not much you can do chemically to control. Winterizing and sealing your home is the best plan of action to keep these insects out of your home. Ensuring you have a good vacuum or a solid broom, you will be able to remove these insects easily. If you have any more questions or would like more information contact Jessica at [jwilki21@utk.edu](mailto:jwilki21@utk.edu) or 865-376-5558.