

# Tobacco Research Highlighted At All-Commodity Field Day At Princeton

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**T**obacco will be one of nine field production tours shown at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture All-Commodity Field Day held July 21 at the Research & Education Center in Princeton. Tobacco has always been a primary research

crop in Kentucky, and both burley and dark tobacco research is ongoing at this west Kentucky location. The tobacco tour at this year's field day will feature four stops that will highlight the latest research findings in tobacco production. Tobacco stalks have almost been considered a waste product by growers after cured leaves are removed, often only used to fill sinkholes in fields or pastures as a means of stalk disposal. Dr. Edwin Ritchey, a new soil management specialist at Princeton, will discuss new research on tobacco stalks as a potentially valuable nutrient source that could be utilized in other crops. The availability of these nutrients during stalk decomposition will also be discussed.

Foliar diseases such as target spot, frog-eye leafspot, and angular leafspot are annual problems that can heavily erode tobacco leaf quality. Dr. Kenny Seebold, tobacco pathologist at Lexington, will discuss new research findings regarding fungicide use and cultural strategies for managing foliar diseases in tobacco.

Variety development information is always one of the biggest draws on the tobacco tour, as

growers look for new varieties with improved yield, quality, and disease resistance characteristics. Dr. Bob Miller, burley and dark tobacco breeder for the University of Kentucky and the University of Tennessee, will discuss the latest tobacco varieties and how they perform compared to traditional varieties.

Tobacco has always been a labor-intensive crop, particularly during the harvesting and housing phases prior to curing. Dr. John Wilhoit, tobacco engineer in Lexington, will show a new concept in portable curing structures for burley tobacco that allow tobacco to be cured in the field on structures that can be transported to any suitable location.

In addition to the tobacco tour, other production tours at the field day include orchard/vineyard/and small fruits, ornamental crops, vegetable crops, beef cattle, forages, as well as three grain crops tours focusing on pest management, fertility, and general management of grain crops. Certified crop advisor and pesticide credits will be offered on the production tours.

Please make plans to attend the UK College of Agriculture All-Commodity Field Day, beginning at 8:00 AM on Thursday, July 21 at the Research & Education Center located at 1205 Hopkinsville Street, Princeton, KY.

For more information on the UK Research & Education Center and the field day, visit the UKREC website at:  
<http://ces.ca.uky.edu/wkrec/> Δ

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