Walk Your Land

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Marriott Griffin Gate Resort
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UK
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Objectives

- Define clandestine methamphetamine production.
- Discuss implications to land, water, homes, and health.
- Discuss safety measures for property owners.
- Provide reporting information for participants.

What is methamphetamine?

- Clandestinely produced psycho-stimulant
- Cheap and easy to produce
- Highly toxic production process
- Capable of producing metabolic brain change in users
- A public nuisance

What is methamphetamine manufacture?

The process of extracting pseudo-ephedrine from cold pills to create a chemical structure that produces intense euphoria when ingested, snorted, smoked, or injected.

Cold tablets containing Ephedrine or Pseudoephedrine

Veterinarian Products

Alcohol

Iodine

Salt

Methanol

Lithium

Red Phosphorus

Toluene

Sodium Hydroxide

Ether

Sulfuric Acid

Trichloroethane

Coffee Filters with pink or white tablet residue.

The blue coloring is caused by a chemical reaction when Anhydrous Ammonia comes in contact with the brass valve.

Hydrogen Chloride (HCL) gas generators.

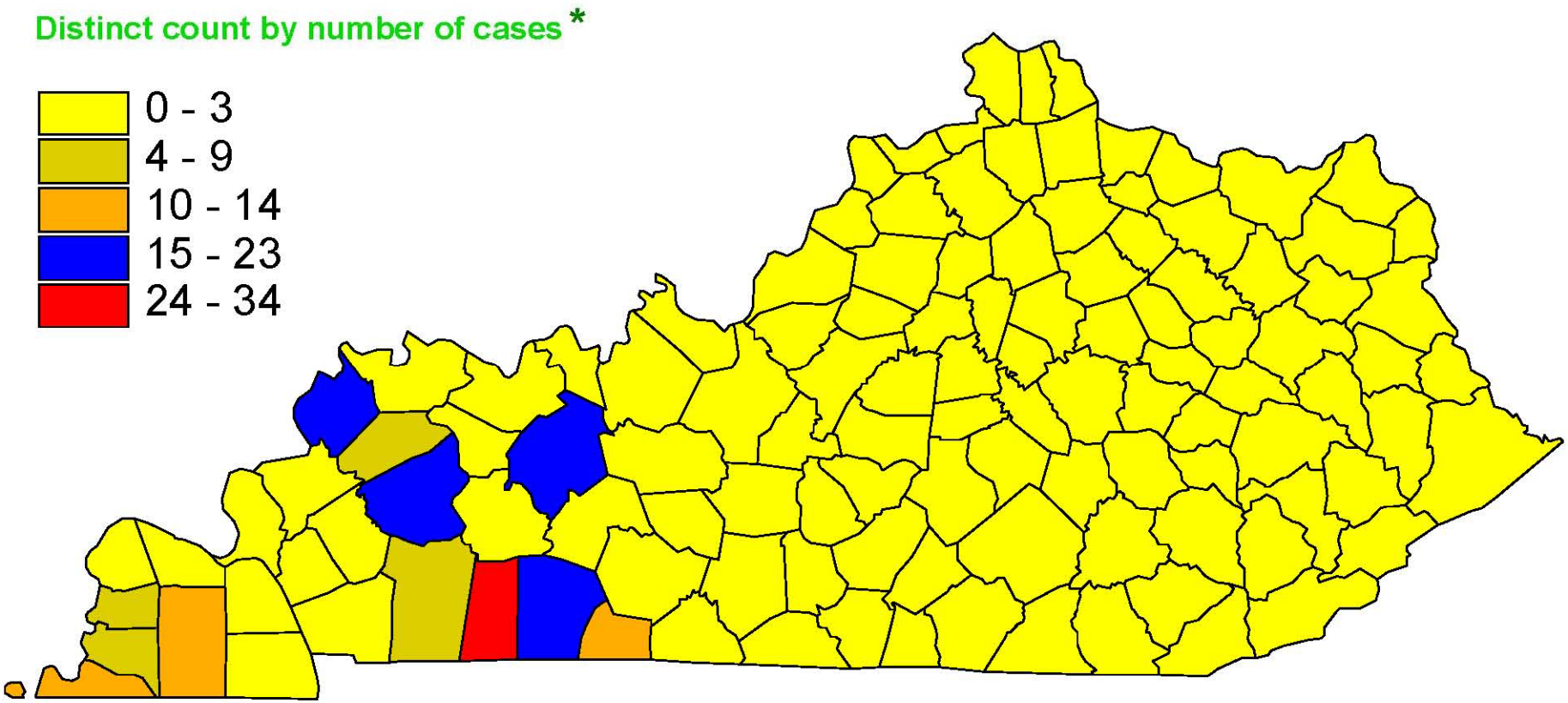
Small 20-lb. propane tanks are used to steal anhydrous ammonia from larger agricultural tanks commonly found on farm proprety.

Meth: Anhydrous Method

Cold pills + Anhydrous ammonia + Sodium or Lithium Metal =

Methamphetamine

Theft of Anhydrous Ammonia in Kentucky 2003



* A case may consist of one or multiple charges. The distinct count on cases counts the case only once.
The activity on this report is current as of January 2004.

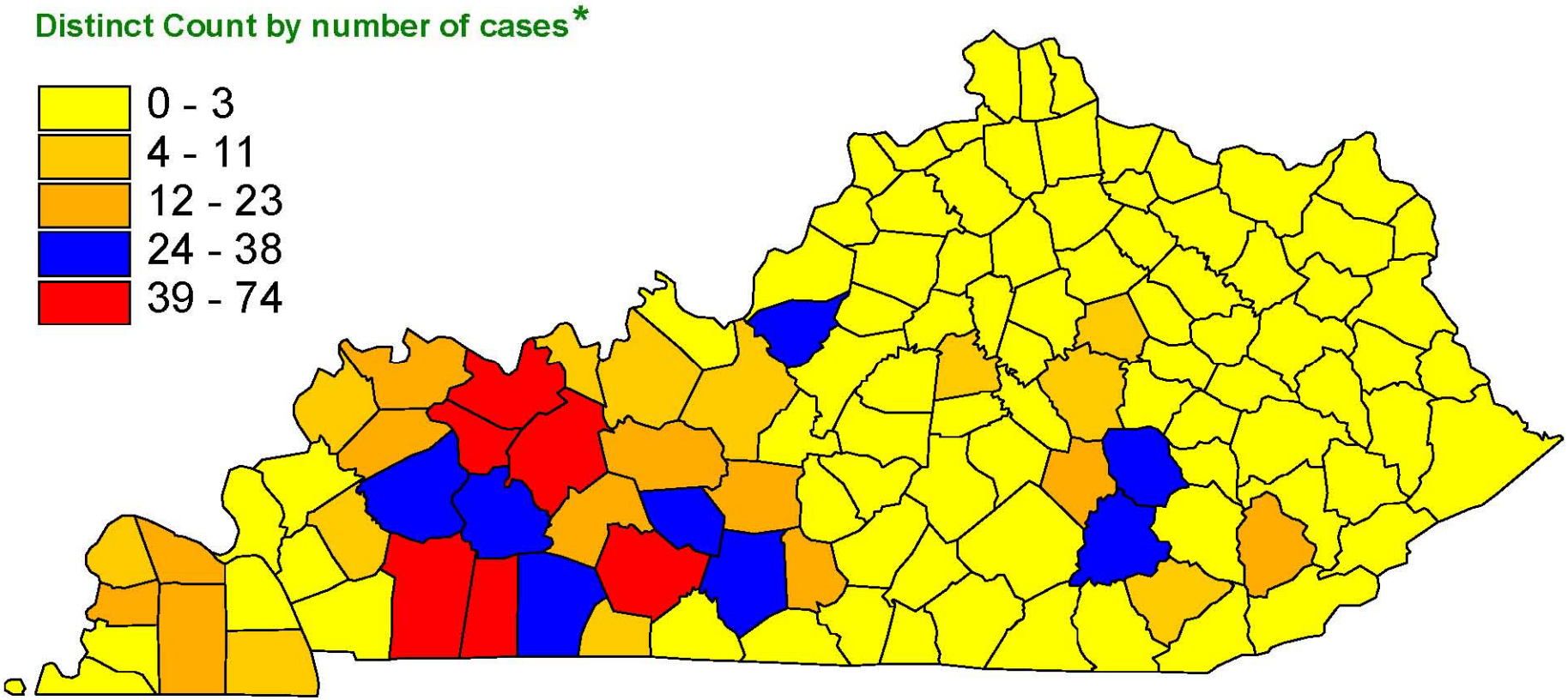
Source: Administrative Office of the Courts Research & Statistics 01/04/02004

Done by Owen Johnson

UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
University of Kentucky – College of Agriculture

KSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMS
Kentucky State University

Illegal Possession/Storage of Anhydrous Ammonia in Kentucky 2003



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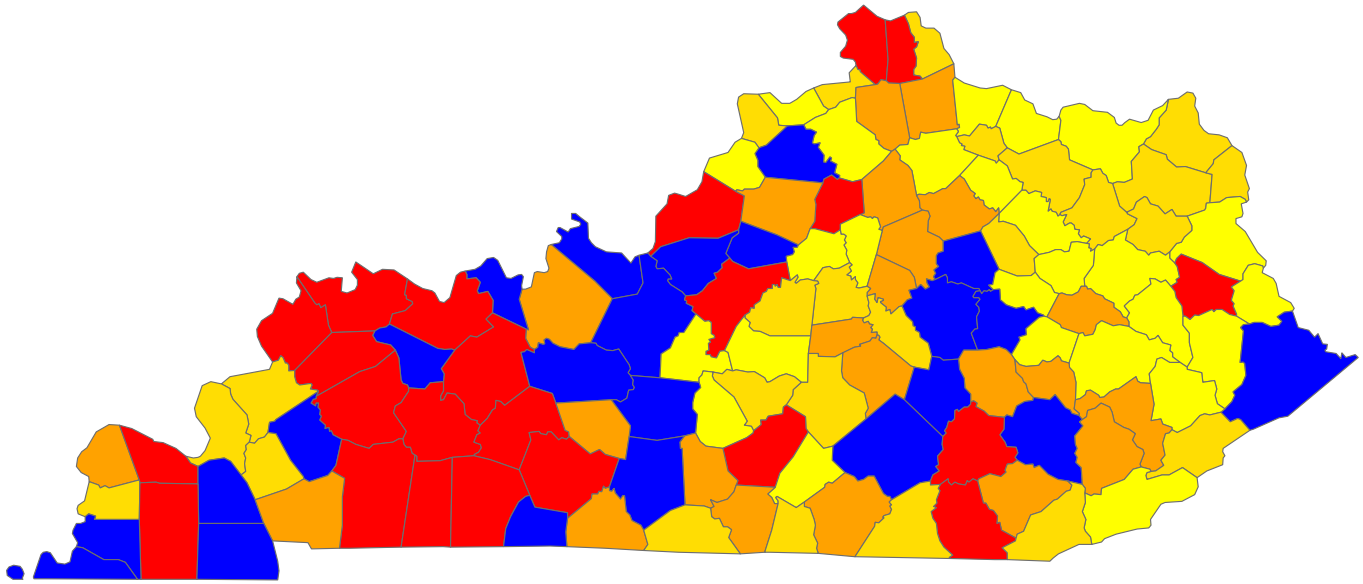
Methamphetamine and Related Drug Charges in Kentucky 2001- 2003

Frequency by Quintile

Number of Charges per County

- 0 - 4
- 5 - 15
- 16 - 44
- 45 - 92
- 93 - 1653



Source: Administrative Office of the Courts: 2/18/2003

Prepared by: Owen Johnson

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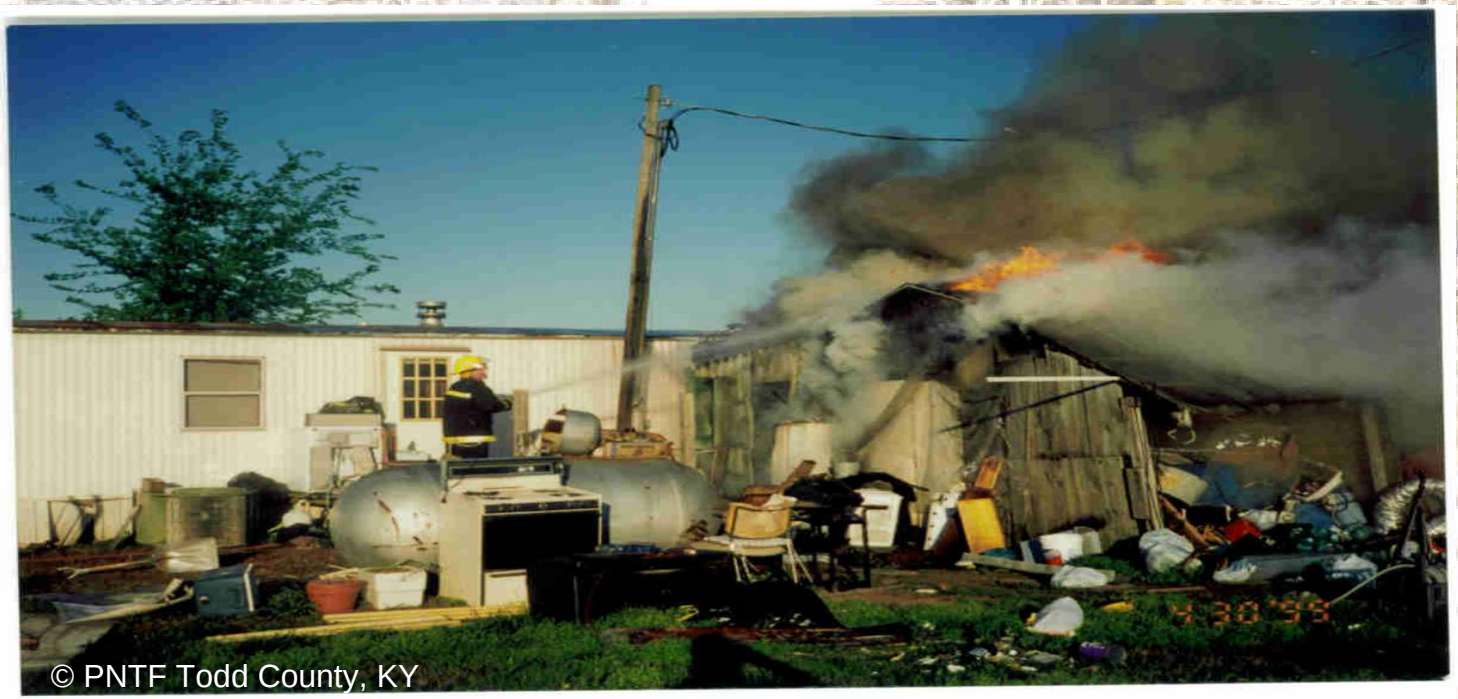
Basic Meth Facts

- 1 lb. of meth leaves behind 5-7 pounds of **toxic waste** on your land.
- This waste can remain in soil for years.
- Chemicals combined during meth production are hazardous to land, health, and home.

Meth: Judgment is Affected

The person cooking methamphetamine out of this home set his own home on fire when he saw police. His wife and three children were inside.



© PNTF Todd County, KY

Meth: Water Quality is Affected

These two propane tanks have been used to transport anhydrous ammonia.

Note the damage to the top of the tanks.

Waste is likely to be dumped in creeks or open sink holes that are on your land.

Water Quality Issues

Advocate-Messenger, Danville, Kentucky

Crab Orchard still coping with meth damage
Writer: STEPHANIE SCHELL
Section: Casey News
Publication date: Wednesday February 8, 2006

Abstract: CRAB ORCHARD –

The cleanup of meth-production chemicals
in the Crab Orchard sewer system
won't be as costly as originally thought.
However, the cost of the damage hasn't changed.

Meth: High Risk of Explosion

If you ever find something that looks like this, please call law enforcement IMMEDIATELY.

This is lithium that is reacting with the moisture in the air.

Lithium catches fire when in contact with water.

Meth: Good Hiding Places

Many meth cooks believe your property is a good place to cook drugs.

The goal for them is to get the drug—and leave the waste for you.

Many lab sites look like a campsite or litter.

Know the signs.

Protect your land.

Meth: Know what goes on at night.

Meth: Know the Signs

This jar contains a solvent and cold pills. The clear liquid is the meth solution.

Beware of trash piles that look like this.

Discarded cans with punctured holes are a clue.

Beware of discarded bottles that have tubing in them or appear to have residue in them.

Safety Information

- **Do not** touch or move anything you suspect is part of a meth lab.
- **Do not** move items can reactivate a chemical reaction that can cause burns, fire, or explosion.
- **Do** protect your skin, lungs, eyes, and health from these hazards by reporting this to law enforcement.
- **Do** protect your land from the hazardous waste left behind by calling meth-certified officers to remove above-ground waste.

Walk Your Land

Landowners get educated about methamphetamine

By LAURA SKILLMAN

UK News • College of Agriculture

Illegal production and use of methamphetamine is reaching epidemic levels in Kentucky. To combat use and help property owners understand the dangers associated with these labs, the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Pennyrile Narcotics Task Force and East Kentucky's Operation UNITE are joining forces in a program called Walk Your Land.

Meth labs can be found almost anywhere from homes to rural farm land. The production, or "cooking" process, and waste left behind can be dangerous to people, animals and the environment.

For every pound of meth produced, about six pounds of hazardous waste is left behind, said Cheyenne Albro, director of the Pennyrile Narcotics Task Force.

The Walk Your Land program is an effort to educate all property owners about meth production and then get them to check their properties. Most people would not expect to find the remnants of a lab on their property, and most would not realize what it was even if they came across one.

"The components are things that we use in everyday life — gallon fruit jars, aquarium tubing, plastic spoons, plastic bowls, glassware," Albro said. "Because of that they are often overlooked as being a lab and when someone sees them in the woods or locates them, they don't realize the dangers associated with them. They think it's just a bag of trash."

Tackling drug abuse and awareness, especially methamphetamines, is an area where Extension in western Kentucky wanted to focus its efforts with the assistance of the Extension Health Education through Extension Leadership program.

"We really hope to get farmers and landowners, outdoors people, anyone who has a chance at seeing these clandestine meth production areas to really know what they are know how to deal with them and know whom to call," said Torey Earle, McCracken County 4-H Youth Development Extension agent and chair of the drug awareness quick response team.

Besides encouraging owners to regularly examine their property, the program provides a photo identification guide of items that might indicate methamphetamine production.

"One of the biggest things we try to get across in the Walk Your Land program is if you see anything unusual, first learn to recognize what it is," Earle said.

"If it's trash, leftover meth production, don't touch it, don't smell it, don't shake it, don't try to do anything, just call someone immediately."

The photo identification guides will be available at county Extension offices and the guides include information on who to call should a person find anything.

"By organized vigilance, they have fewer options for them to cook and that's what we want to happen," said Doug Burnham, HEEL program specialist.

To help get the program rolling, the Pennyrile Narcotics Task Force has agreed to take the program one step further by co-sponsoring a pilot program with Cooperative Extension beginning Monday, Nov. 8, through Dec. 31.

Operation Safe Land will provide removal of meth-related waste from rural properties belonging to farmers who have been victims of unauthorized use of their land for meth production. It is hoped that the program will serve as a model for other areas.

Farm or landowners who believe they may have an abandoned meth lab on their property and would like to participate in Operation Safe Land can call the Pennyrile Narcotics Task Force at 270-885-0031.

To learn more about the Walk Your Land Program contact a local county Extension office.

Caldwell County Extension Agent for Agriculture Shane Bogle notes that the program begins during the same time period as a deer season (Nov. 13-28) and alerts landowners to use extreme caution in the areas that might be used by deer hunters.

An information packet telling and showing landowners about methamphetamine production is available through the local Extension service.

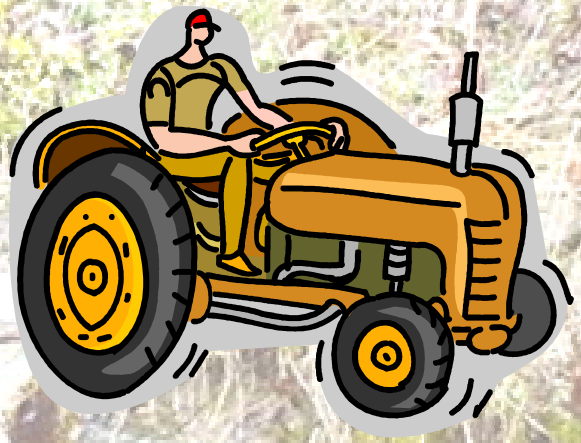
- Graves County
  - Farmer shot in shoulder after interrupting anhydrous ammonia theft
- Barren County
  - 87 year old landowner removing meth waste from open sink hole on property; discovered by son

Cooperation: things to consider

- Lack of awareness of problem
- Fear of property seizure
- Fear of clean-up (remediation) costs
- Fear of harm
- Level of damage unrealized
- Criminal mindset
- The lure of $$

Suggested Program Ideas

- Partner with Law Enforcement
  - Operation Safe Land
- Involve Cooperative Extension
- Involve local Farm Bureau
- Consider victimization of person and property



Reporting Information:

Kentucky State Police

1.800.222.5555

Pennyrile Narcotics Task Force

1.800.624.4596

Operation UNITE

1.800.424.4382

For more information:

www.ca.uky.edu/heel/land

Or contact your local
Cooperative Extension Office