



Country Ham -2023 Speech Topics-

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Kentucky 4-H Country Ham Project

- 1,100+ 4-Hers
- 75 Counties from all over the Commonwealth
- 2 Green hams to cure
- Opening day of the State Fair
 - 60% Speech
 - 40% Ham Score



OMG! I have to talk in front of people!!

- Junior
 - History of Country Hams
- Senior
 - Pests that infest Country Hams and how to control them
- Tips for giving a speech
 - You're only talking to two people
 - Eye Contact, but not creepy eye contact
 - Control over exaggerated body movements
 - Calm down, don't talk so fast



The arrival of the Pig

- Columbus was encouraged to take pigs with him on his quest
- Landed in “Cuba”, left pigs there
- Hernando de Sota; explorer
 - Father of the US pork industry
 - Picked up 13 pigs in Cuba
 - Landed in Tampa Bay
 - 13 became 700
- Native American developed a taste for pig meat



How did it all begin?

- Mummies
- “Salt used to preserve the dead could be used to preserve food for the living”
- Domestication of pigs
 - Due to thriftiness pork became the meat of choice
- Techniques brought over from Europe
- 100 years ago, this was simply a ham



Country Ham; A History

- **Smithfield Hams**
 - Pigs fed peanuts from Smithfield, VA
- **Mr. Gwaltney's Pet Ham**
 - 1902
 - Left behind after clearing out the ham house
 - Isle of Wight Museum
 - Never been in refrigeration

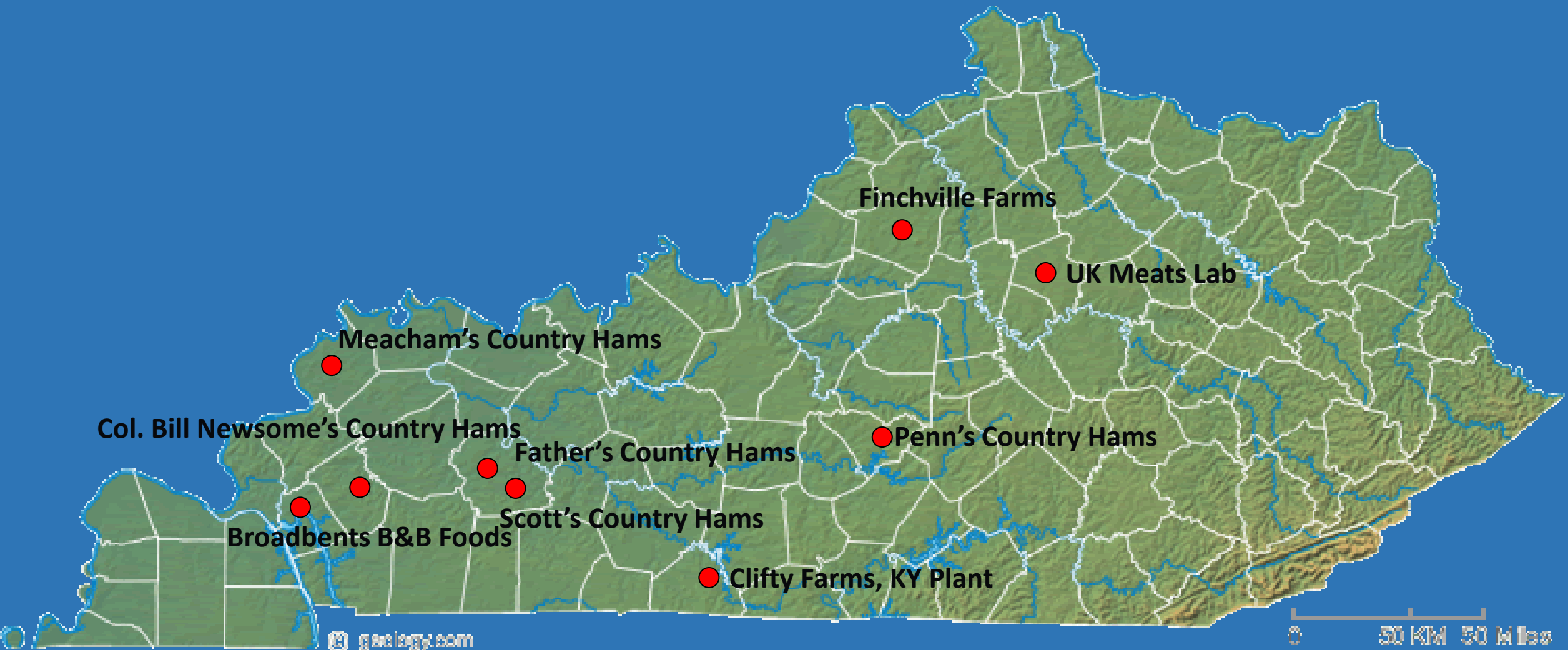


Country Ham; A History

- “Country Ham” first appeared in the early 1940’s
- Mechanization and the speed of making a wet cured ham became the norm
- Country ham became regionalized
- Country Ham vs City Ham



Kentucky Country Ham Curers

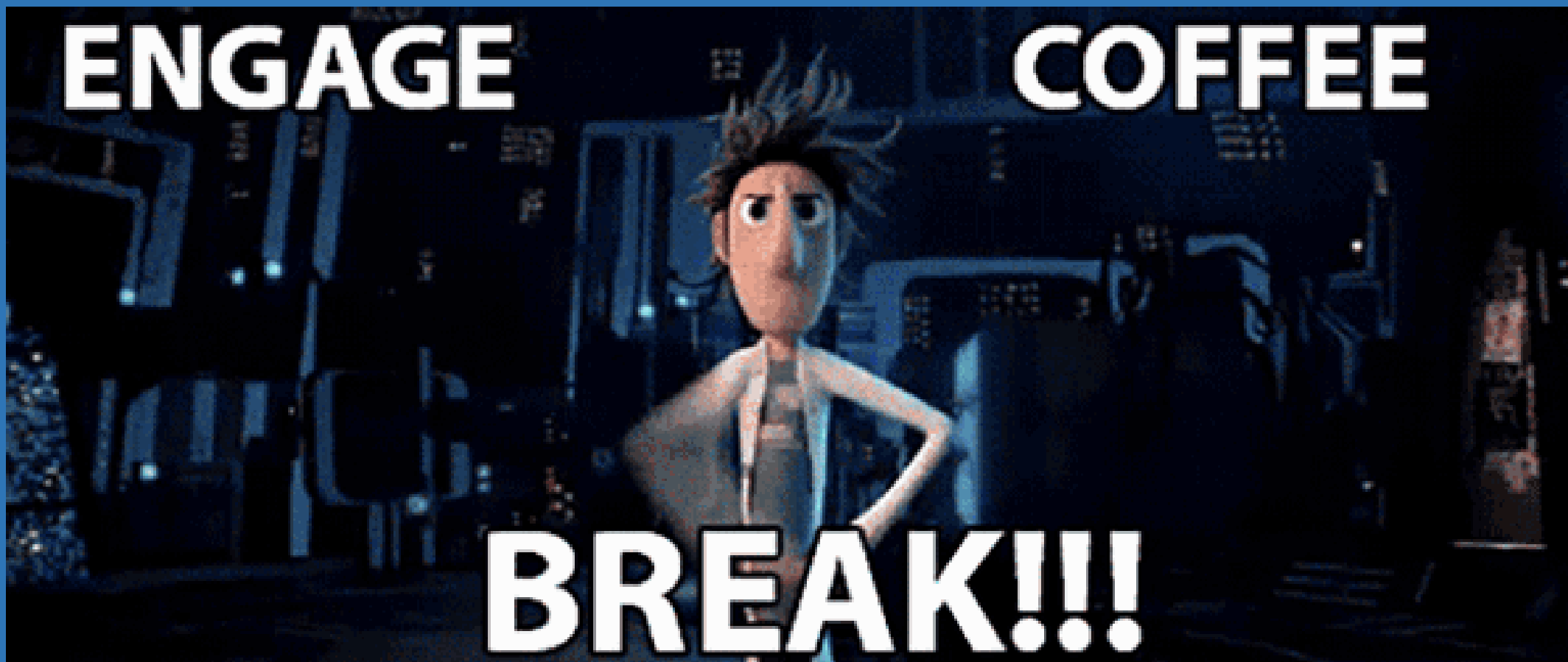


Other Country Ham Facts

- Country hams are slowly coming more popular
 - What's old is new
- The Kentucky 4-H Country Ham Projects continues to grow
- 4-H Programs in other states; Tennessee, Virginia, Missouri
- Kentucky Country Ham Curers Association
- National Country Ham Association



Senior Topic; Break?



Senior Topic; Pests that Infest Country Hams and How to Control Them

- Due to Country Ham being aged in warm temperatures, and containing fat and protein they are perfect food sources for many insects
- Ham Mites
- Larder Beetles
- Red Legged Ham Beetles
- Cheese Skippers





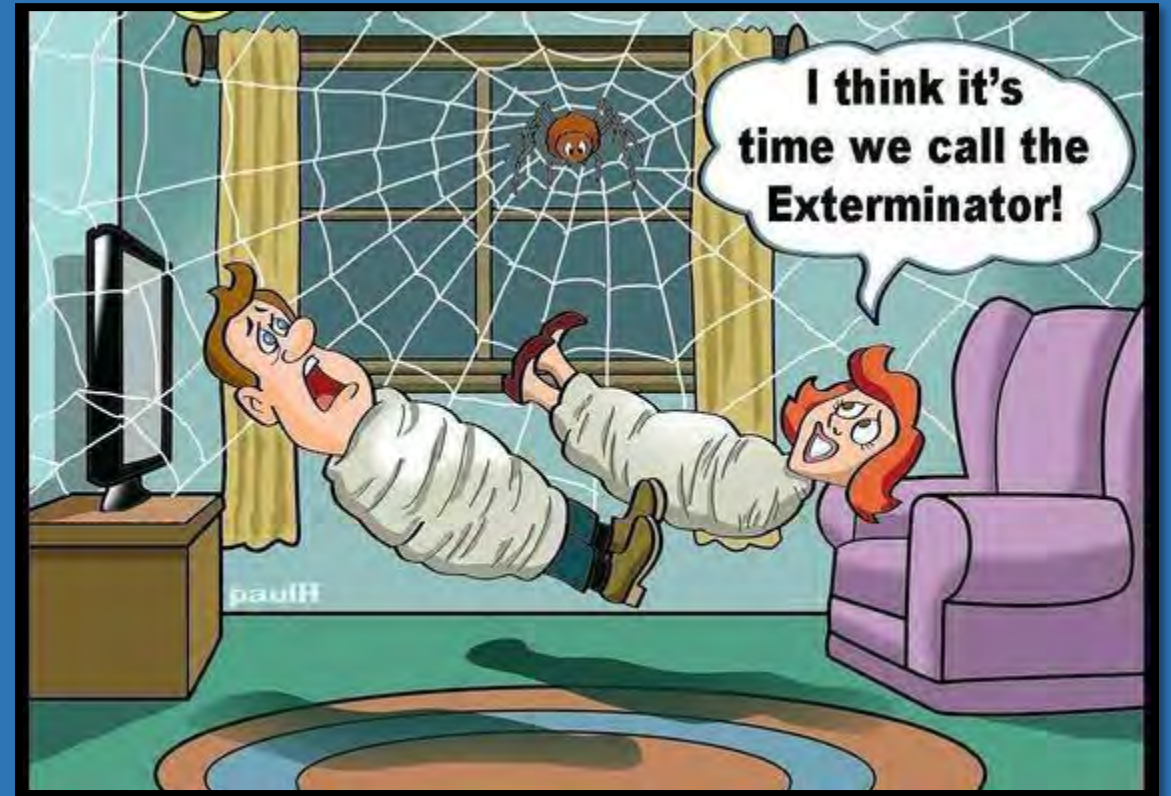






How to control these pests

- Sanitation
- Freezing
- Limit the contact to the ham from people, dogs, cats, etc
- Light covering of oil
- Ozone
 - Very corrosive
- Bad cases use:
 - Methyl bromide
 - Sulfuryl fluoride



Just for Fun; Unexpected Pests





COUNTRY HAM WITH RED EYE GRAVY