



4-H Camp

If you are signed up for camp, you will be receiving a packet in the mail before Spring Break with camp information and forms to complete!



We are still looking for Adult Volunteers to attend 4-H Camp!

AG PROGRAMS

- ⇒ Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Update
- ⇒ Spring Tasks for Beef Cattle Producers
- ⇒ Upcoming Educational Programs
- ⇒ Good Neighbors Farm Tour



FAMILY &
CONSUMER
SCIENCES



Creating Healthy & Sustainable Families

- ✿ Spring Fashion Show
- ✿ Scissor Sharpening
- ✿ AARP Smart Driver Class
- ✿ Family Fitness Day

Horticulture

Poison Hemlock
Getting Started With Compost



March: Tree Care Month
April: Annuals/Perennials Month

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First Saturday Walkabout
Saturday, March 1
Saturday, April 5

Don't forget about participating in the monthly **First Saturday Walkabout!** On the first Saturday of every month, sign in at the front desk of Clear Creek FAC between **8 - 8:30 a.m.** and you will receive one FREE Day Pass per person to use at a later date. After signing in, you can walk on the trails, on the walking path, or on the inside walking track. Then, you can use your pass at any future date of your choosing.



March 6. Lunch is included. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Let Elizabeth know if you are interested in carpooling.

Spring Fashion Show
March 20

11:30 a.m. Registration & Silent Auction
 12:00 p.m. Buffet Lunch
 12:30 p.m. Fashion Show Begins

Join us for the Spring Fashion Show, sponsored by the Shelby County Extension Homemakers, to see spring fashion styles.

Cost is \$15 per person (due by March 13). All proceeds from the silent auction benefit the University of Kentucky Ovarian Cancer Research Program. We are also looking for models! If interested, contact the Extension Office for details.

Sewing Circle

1st Tuesday of each Month, 1 - 8 p.m.

Interested in learning how to sew, hone your sewing skills, or gather with other sewing enthusiasts? Come join us on the 1st Tuesday of each month! Choose from two projects offered (an easier one and a more challenging one) and/or join us for open sew where you can bring your own project to work on and ask for guidance from our Certified Master Clothing Volunteers. For descriptions and photos of each project, pick up a flyer at the Extension Office or visit our Facebook page or website.



Please register to plan for supplies and food - call 502-633-4593 or email elizabeth.coots@ukv.edu

March 4 Projects: Scissors Holder, Sew Powerful Cross Body Purse, & Crafted Cross Body Bag

April 1 Projects: Storage Box, Small Zipper Bag

Cultural Arts Contest
March 21

Shelby County Homemakers will be entering items into the cultural arts contest. Items will be judged on the county level, with winners proceeding to the area contest, and then finally, the state contest.

The public is invited to come view the items after they are judged. **Come see the talents of the Shelby County Homemakers on March 21 from 2 - 3 p.m. at the Extension Office.**

Current homemakers, details of the contest are in your last homemaker letter.

Leader Lesson Seminar
March 11, 10 a.m.
Henry County Extension Office

Come enjoy some fun with homemakers from across the Louisville Area for this one-day interactive and hands-on workshop, learning the following topics:

- How to Get Out of a Mealtime Rut
- Strong Bones for Life: Prevent Osteoporosis
- Healthy Eating Around the World

Cost is \$12 per person—must pre-register by

Laugh & Learn Play Dates
Wednesday, March 26 @ 5 - 6 p.m.
Theme: Rainbows
Wednesday, April 30 @ 5 - 6 p.m.
Theme: Rain/Spring

This free monthly playdate is for children ages 3-5 and their caregiver. The program engages child (ren) in playful activities designed to prepare them for kindergarten. Children will listen to a story, sing songs, make crafts, play games, and enjoy a healthy snack. Parents/guardians must also attend. Each family receives a free book to take home, thanks to our partnership with Northside Preschool.

Please register - call 502-633-4593, email elizabeth.coots@ukv.edu

Homebased Microprocessors Workshop

March 18, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

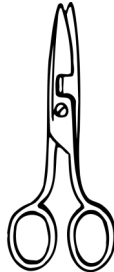
Homebased Microprocessors are farmers who grow and harvest produce to use in their value-added products. Homebased microprocessors are required to grow a predominant ingredient in the products they make. The first step to becoming certified as a homebased microprocessor is to attend this workshop.

Cost is \$50. To register, call 502-633-4593, email elizabeth.coots@uky.edu, or visit ukfcs.net/HBM. Attend in-person at the Shelby County Extension Office or virtually on Zoom.

Scissor Sharpening

March 24, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Jim Stohr, aka “Snippy Jim”, will be at the Extension Office for sharpening services. In addition to scissors, he sharpens snips, pinking shears, knives, garden tools, axes, loopers, and manual hedge trimmers. Any tool that needs to be sharpened can be brought. His technique does not involve grinding the implement, but rather sharpening.



Event is drop-in. No reservations required.
\$5 per item.

AARP Smart Driver Class

March 25, 12—4 p.m.

Take the AARP Smart Driver classroom course and you could save on your car insurance! Refresh your driving skills and knowledge of the rules of the road. Learn techniques for handling left turns, rights-of-way, and roundabouts. Discover proven driving methods to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road. Please bring your payment with you on the day of the class to give directly to the instructors.

Cost: \$20 for AARP Members
\$25 for non-members

To register: call 502-633-4593
or email elizabeth.coots@uky.edu

Make Your Own Salsa Garden

April 18, 1 p.m.

For details, see page 5 in the Horticulture section.

Starting a Food Business

April 21, 10 a.m.

Learn how to get started with your food business idea. Topics include requirements, permits, certifications, commercial kitchens, insurance, and resources. There will be guest presenters for each topic. Held at the Extension Office and virtually on Zoom. If you can't attend, you can still register to receive the resources.

To register: call 502-633-4593 or email elizabeth.coots@uky.edu.

International Luncheon

April 24, 11:30 a.m.

This is an annual program sponsored by the Shelby County Homemakers that spotlights a different country/region each year to learn about different cultures. Details for this year are still in the works, so stay tuned for the details, which will be posted on Facebook and the website. Cost will be \$15 and will be due by April 17.

Family Fitness Day

April 26, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Clear Creek Family Activity Center

Bring the whole family! Visit vendor booths with lots of swag, door prizes, giveaways, and more—all geared towards health, fitness, and fun! FREE for everyone to attend. No registration required. Door prizes will be drawn at the end of the event (you do not need to be present to win).

Articles By:

M. Elizabeth Coots

Elizabeth Coots
Cooperative Extension Agent for
Family & Consumer Sciences



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Poison Hemlock

Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is coming up across Shelby County again and now is the best time to treat for it with herbicides. It can easily be found along roadways, abandoned lots, fence rows, grazed pastures, and other sites. Not only is this plant invasive, but it is also extremely toxic and known to be responsible for accidental deaths in both animals and humans.

When emerging, the plant starts out looking much like a fern. It can, however, grow to quickly be around 6-8 feet tall and eventually develops purple spots along the stem which helps distinguish it from other plants that look similar.

The best strategy for controlling poison hemlock is to prevent it from going to seed. This plant is a biennial - meaning that it lives two growing seasons before it has to come up again from seed. With persistent removal, the population should, hopefully, be thinned out over time. This can be a challenge, as a single mature plant is capable of producing more than 35,000 new seeds and by the time the plant starts flowering, it is too late to use herbicides. Instead, mechanical methods such as mowing or cutting the plants down should be utilized. Make sure you wear gloves and take all necessary precautions against this poisonous plant.

Source: [Poison Hemlock: A Growing Concern in Kentucky](#), By JD Green.

Getting Started with Compost

Composting is a great way to add valuable organic matter to your soil while reducing the amount of yard and food waste that ends up in landfills. It's also something that is remarkably easy to do.

Compost is the result of a natural process where decaying organic substances, such as plants, are broken down by microorganisms. This produces a nutrient-rich, organic material that you can apply to your lawn or garden, much like you would a commercial fertilizer.

You can start a compost bin or pile in your backyard. You can purchase a bin or make one using inexpensive, leftover materials like pallets or chicken wire. The bin can be as big or small as you want, but for most rapid composting, a pile that is at

least one yard tall, one yard wide and one yard long is best. Make sure to place your compost in an area that is flat and well-drained.

When the compost area is ready, collect yard waste and food scraps. Yard waste can include twigs, shrub trimmings, grass clippings, leftover straw and leaves. Most fruit, vegetable and grain scraps are compostable as are coffee grounds, herbs, nuts and egg shells. Avoid meat scraps, oils and dairy products. You need to have a mixture of "brown" material (dried leaves, straw, twigs, coffee grounds, even cardboard) and "green" materials (fresh grass clippings, vegetable scraps, other fresh plant materials) for the composting process to work.

Mix or turn the pile once a week to help speed the breakdown of organic materials. If the compost pile is extremely damp, turn it more often. If it is dry, add some water or fresh plant material. It can take four to six months to complete the composting process. You will know it's finished when the compost is dark brown, crumbly and smells like soil.

Compost can be used in the vegetable garden or spread around ornamental plants in the landscape, but be careful not to use too much. A one-inch layer of compost, worked into the top few inches of soil, will feed plants for several months.

More information on composting or other gardening tips is available at the Shelby County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

Source: Rick Durham, extension professor

Soil Testing

Spring is a popular time for testing soil. For Shelby County residents, a routine soil test is available for free up to 30 samples. The soil test will test the nutrients and pH in the soil and return with recommendations. If anyone has additional questions about the results or would like someone to run through them with you, we would be happy to do so, just call the office. The Extension Office also has soil probes available which can be checked out/borrowed as well as (free) bags to put your soil samples into. Once it gets sent to the lab, it usually takes around 1-3 weeks to get the results back.



Master Gardeners Association
March 11th & April 8th

The Master Gardeners Association meets at the Extension Office on every **2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.** Zoom options are often available for those who cannot attend in person.



The **Master Gardener Plant Sale** will be taking place on **May 10th** this year between **9 a.m.** and **1 p.m.** More details to follow in the next newsletter.

Help Needed: It's time to start planning for the upcoming plant sale. Potting session dates for volunteers are now available and we need your help to source plants and materials. Do you have old pots taking up space? Maybe an overly large patch of irises? Donate them to the Extension Office so we can provide a wide variety of plant material for our wonderful community.

Beekeepers Association



The **Beekeepers Association** meets at **7 p.m. on the 4th Thursday of the month.** Regardless of whether you are brand new to beekeeping and looking to learn or have been a beekeeper for many years, the Beekeeper's Association welcomes everyone. Come learn about what's relevant in local beekeeping, ask questions, find a mentor, look to buy/offer to sell nucs, and expand upon your own knowledge and beekeeping practices.

**March
Tree Care Month**

Fruit Tree Pruning at 6:30 p.m.

On **March 11th** we are partnering with Mulberry Orchard to have a dormant fruit tree pruning demonstration. The program will take place at **Mulberry Orchard** (1330 Mulberry Pike, Shelbyville). It will be outside so please prepare to dress for the weather.

**Tool Sharpening Service
March 24, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Stop by and get your tools sharpened with Jim Stohr, (a.k.a. Snippy Jim). He will be setting up shop in the Extension Office and providing tool sharpening services. He sharpens handheld garden tools, knives, axes, scissors, and more. His technique does not involve grinding the implement, but rather sharpening.
\$5 per item.

**Planting Bareroot Trees
March 26th, 6:30 p.m.**

Every year the Extension office receives hundreds of bareroot native trees from Shelby Co. Soil Conservation to freely give to people in

the community. This is a first come, first serve event and we are expecting to have it around mid-March (we never know the exact date until a week before the event). If you are interested in being put on a list of people to be contacted when we have more information, please call the office at (502) 633-4593. This year, we'll keep a few handfuls to give out during this **March 26th** program on how to plant and care for bareroot trees, which will be held at **6:30 p.m.** This class is free but **limited to 15 participants** due to a limitation on supplies. Please sign up with the office. (502) 633-4593

**Basics for New Landowners
March 13th & 20th, 6 p.m.**

Join Corinne, Skye, and several guest speakers for a 2-day program all about the basics for new landowners. Both days will have different topics, so plan to come to both! Topics will include finding funding, things to consider when selecting what to do with your land, and much more. Please sign up at (502) 633-4593.

**April
Annuals and Perennials Month
Making Your Own Salsa Garden
April 18, 1 p.m.**

Join us on April 18th for this fun educational program between FCS and Horticulture. Learn from Skye Drane all about growing plants for a salsa garden, then learn from Elizabeth Coots on how to use those plants and herbs to make fresh salsa. Participants will get to take some plants home and will taste test fresh salsa. Limited to 20 participants. Contact the Extension Office to register at (502) 633-4593.

**Spring Wildflower Walk
April 30th, 5 p.m.**

Join us at Red Orchard Park on April 30th, 5 p.m. for a walk around the local wildflowers. We'll identify several of them and talk about how they each contribute to their ecosystem, as well the importance of our native flower and pollinator species. We'll also discuss tips on what you can do to make your own wildflower gardens. Please sign up at (502) 633-4593.

Articles By: *A. Skye Drane*
Skye Drane
Horticulture Technician

4-H Shooting Sports Meeting

Shelby County 4-H Shooting Sports Club will kick off a new year at a Parent/New Member Open Meeting on Tuesday, March 25 at 6 p.m. at the Shelby County Extension Office. This meeting will provide important information about the club and expectations for 4-H members and parents. We encourage anyone interested in shooting sports to attend this meeting. Shooting Sports includes the disciplines of archery, riflery, black powder, pistol, and trap.



4-H Camp Update

Response to attend 4-H Camp has been overwhelming! Camp is almost full. We only have a few girls spots remaining and a waiting list has started for boys. If you would like to be put on the waiting list for camp please turn in your camper registration form to the Extension Office. There is still a good chance you could go to camp as families make other plans for the summer and remove their kids from the camp list.

Camper Packets will be mailed out before Spring Break for those that have registered. The packets will have important information and paperwork to attend camp. Mark your calendars for Parent/Camper Orientation on May 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Teen Leaders and CIT's should submit their applications by March 14. The interviews and selection process will begin soon and you will be contacted by the Extension Office.

We still need additional adult volunteers to attend 4-H Camp. If you are interested, please complete an application and volunteer packet. We will have an orientation for all volunteers that go to camp. Camp is a rewarding experience for volunteers and it is free to volunteer!

4-H Fashion Revue

The 4-H Fashion Revue will be held on April 17 at 7 p.m. at the Shelby County Extension Office. Everyone is invited to attend and see the participants enrolled in 4-H sewing, crochet and knitting projects model their creations.



If you want to participate in the Fashion Revue, please fill out a Clothing Information Sheet. 4-H'ers who are sewing at Heritage and the Extension

Office will receive a Clothing Information Sheet during their workshop. If you are not sewing in one of the workshops, please contact candice.hollingsworth@uky.edu for a sheet. We need these turned in prior to the Fashion Revue so we can create score cards and write scripts for each model.

Kentucky Ag Tag Program Donations

During the month of March farmers can make the voluntary donation of \$10 when renewing their farm license plates at the county clerk's office in March. March is the month that all farm tags expire and need to be renewed. All voluntary donations will be split evenly between 4-H, FFA and the Kentucky Proud program.

Last year Shelby County 4-H received just over \$2,400 from the program. That put us in the Top 10 in the state because of the generosity of Shelby County. Funds were used to support the 4-H program in Shelby County.

Making the voluntary \$10 donation is an excellent opportunity for our agricultural community to support the youth of our community and help fund the programs that can make a lasting difference in their lives.



Shelby County Fair

The Shelby County Fair is June 9-14. We are looking forward to showcasing all of the great project work of our 4-H members. Winners at the County Fair are entered in the Kentucky State Fair in Cloverville.

It is not too early to start preparing your fair entries now. Please be aware that 4-H project categories can change from year to year and guidelines can change. Stop by the Shelby County Extension Office to pick-up a 4-H Fair Entry Catalog and, if applicable, the curriculum that goes along with the projects.

Shelby County 4-H Communications Day

All 4-H members should plan to participate in the 4-H Communication Day on March 18. Categories include Speeches, Demonstrations, Variety Acts and Mock Interview. This is a wonderful opportunity to practice your public speaking skills.

Please contact the Extension Office for a list of categories and guidelines for the contest. Registration is required.

2025 Livestock Project Tagging

Any 4-H or FFA member wanting to show market livestock and/or breeding swine at either KDA District Shows or Kentucky State Fair must complete the Livestock Validation Process. The process requires in-person tagging at one of the official validation sites. All exhibitors are also required to have a National Premise ID before coming to the Validation Site. If the location where the animal will be housed has a National Premise ID, that number will be used. If the location where the animal will be housed does not have a National Premise ID, one will need to be secured prior to travel to the Validation Site. No animals will be tagged without a National Premise ID. For validation forms, tagging sites and information on how to obtain a National Premise ID stop by the Shelby County Extension Office or visit our website. **Forms require an agent signature before attending a validation site.**

Animals that will only be exhibited as breeding animals (breeding heifers, breeding ewes, and breeding does) do not need to go through the validation process. However, any youth planning on showing a breeding animal will need to contact Regina or Candice by May 15 so we can enroll them in a breeding project and verify their 6 hours of education.



Livestock Validation Deadlines	
<i>Species</i>	<i>Last Day to Validate</i>
Market Cattle	March 15
Market Sheep, Goats & Market/Breeding Hogs	May 15

Educational Hours

All youth that want to participate in livestock, dairy or horse projects must receive six hours of education under the direction of a certified leader each year. You must obtain these hours before you are approved to show or participate in any district or state events. If you have questions about obtaining your hours, contact your club leader or the Extension Office.

Livestock Skill-a-thon and Quiz Bowl State Competition

Congratulations to the Shelby County 4-H Skill-a-thon and Quiz Bowl Teams. The Senior Skillathon Team are State Champions! Overall Competition Results included:

High Senior Team Overall:

Sophie Franklin, Preston Zinner, Jorja Gilleo, and Caleb Lipps.

Senior Overall Individual Results:

Sophie Franklin (4th), Preston Zinner (9th), Jorja Gilleo (19th) Caleb Lipps (21st), Robert Wood (51st) There were 75 Senior Contestants from across the state.

Reserve Junior Team Overall:

Henley Stephens, Mason Way, Ruby Ballard, and Isabelle Gilleo.

4th Place Junior Team:

Lane McCall, John Luke Miller, Henry Miller and Abigail Gajdzik.

12th Place Junior Team:

Nash Wonderlich, Grant Mitchell, and JW Hess

17th Place Junior Team:

Tripp Way, Woods Wonderlich, Rhett Schumer.

Junior Overall Individual Results:

Henley Stephens (5th), Mason Way (8th), Ruby Ballard (10th), Lane McCall(16th), John Luke Miller (22nd), Nash Wonderlich (31st), Henry Miller (32nd), Elle Gilleo (33rd), Grant Mitchell (38th), Abby Gajdzik (48th), Tripp Way (51st), Woods Wonderlich (61st), Rhett Shumer (64th), JW Hess (73rd). There were 100 Junior Contestants from across the state.

High 9 & 10 Year Old Award:

Lane McCall (1st), Henry Miller (5th)

Reserve Senior Quiz Bowl Team:

Sophie Franklin, Preston Zinner, Robert Wood, and Nick Gajdzik.

Reserve Junior Quiz Bowl Team:

Henley Stephens, Ruby Ballard, Mason Way, and Nash Wonderlich.

4th Place Junior Quiz Bowl Team:

Lane McCall, Woods Wonderlich, Tripp Way and Raylon Tucker.

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Articles By:
Regina Browning
Cooperative Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development

Candice Hollingsworth
Cooperative Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 Update (as of 2/12/25)

Source: USDA

Current Situation in Kentucky:

On January 16, 2025, [CDC issued a Health Advisory](#) to encourage rapid subtyping for patients hospitalized with influenza A. The Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) disseminated this communication to acute care facilities and health departments on January 21, 2025. KDPH continues to work with healthcare facilities to conduct enhanced surveillance of influenza A.

The latest detections of avian influenza A(H5N1) in [wild birds in Kentucky](#) include waterfowl in Franklin County (January 2025), Rowan County (December 2024), and Henderson County (December 2024).

There are currently no detections of avian influenza A(H5N1) in poultry, dairy cattle, or cats in Kentucky.

There have not been any human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) in Kentucky.

Current Situation in the United States:

Avian influenza A(H5N1) is widespread in wild birds worldwide and causing outbreaks in poultry and U.S. dairy cows.

As of February 12, 2025, [68 human cases of avian influenza A\(H5N1\)](#) have been reported in the United States, including one death. Nearly all identified cases had known exposure to infected animals. There is no evidence of human-to-human transmission of avian influenza A(H5N1).

CDC considers the current public health risk to be low.

What is Avian Influenza?

Avian influenza (aka “Bird Flu”) is a type of influenza A virus that primarily affects birds but can occasionally infect humans and other animals.

The virus is highly contagious among birds and can lead to severe illness and death in poultry and wild birds.

Recently, avian Influenza has been detected in an increasing number of mammal species including dairy cattle and domestic cats.

How Does Avian Influenza Spread?

Avian influenza virus spreads through direct contact with infected animals, their feces, saliva, or mucus, or contaminated surfaces and materials (e.g., feed, water, equipment).

Humans can become infected through close contact with infected animals or their contaminated environments. Human-to-human transmission is extremely rare.

Risk to the Public:

The current risk for the general public remains low. However, people with direct exposure to infected animals or their environments (e.g. people who work with birds, poultry, or cows, or who have recreational exposure to them) are at higher risk.

Poultry, egg, and other animal products cooked to proper temperatures and pasteurized dairy products are safe for consumption.

What Are the Symptoms of Avian Influenza in Humans?

If infected, symptoms may range from mild flu-like illness (conjunctivitis, fever, cough) to severe (difficulty breathing, pneumonia, death).

Individuals should notify public health and seek medical attention if they experience flu-like symptoms after exposure to birds, animals or their environments.

Laboratory testing is required to confirm diagnosis and differentiate between avian and seasonal influenza.

Antiviral treatment (oseltamivir) for avian influenza is recommended as soon as possible and should not be delayed while awaiting laboratory results.

Protecting Yourself and Your Family:

The best way to protect yourself and your family from avian influenza is to avoid sources of exposure. Avoid direct contact with wild birds and other animals infected with or suspected to be infected with avian influenza viruses.

Avoid Contact with Wild Animals and Birds:

Do not handle sick or dead animals or birds. Contact local wildlife or agriculture authorities for assistance. Keep pets away from sick or dead animals and their feces.

Practice Good Hygiene:

Wash hands thoroughly after handling animals, birds, their waste, food, water, bedding, or equipment.

Safe Food Handling:

Fully cook animal and poultry products to the correct internal temperature before consuming.

Avoid consuming unpasteurized raw milk or cheese from animals with suspected or confirmed infection.

Report Sick or Dead Animals and Birds:

Notify the [Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources](#) (KDFWR) if you observe unusual illness or deaths in wild animals or birds. [Report](#) sick, injured, or dead birds to KDFWR.

For owners concerned about pets exposed to avian influenza, seek veterinary care for your pet.

What is Being Done in Kentucky?

The KDPH is working closely with agriculture, wildlife, and federal partners to monitor the current avian influenza situation.

The KDPH is monitoring persons exposed to infected birds or animals for symptoms of avian influenza during and 10-days after their last exposure.

The KDPH is working with healthcare facilities to provide subtyping of influenza A samples from hospitalized patients.

The KDPH, University of Kentucky and Breathitt Veterinary Diagnostic Labs have been conducting HPAI H5N1 testing in cats that test negative for rabies submission, since May 2024.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and KDPH are collaborating on efforts in support of the [USDA National Milk Testing Strategy](#) and anticipate raw milk testing efforts in the Commonwealth in the near future.

The CDC is monitoring for changes in the virus that may suggest that it can spread easier to and among humans, cause more severe disease, or be less responsive to antiviral medications or candidate vaccine viruses.

Where to Get More Information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/situation-summary/index.html>

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections>

Spring Tasks for Beef Cattle Producers

Source: Les Anderson, Extension Beef Specialist

Rural Kentucky pastures are beginning to show off spring calves. For cattle producers, this brings in a new cycle of farm management. Farmers have a lot to remember to ensure healthy calves and to successfully rebreed cows.

Observe spring calves closely, checking them at least twice a day. Check first-calf heifers even more. Be ready to assist heifers after one to two hours of hard labor or 90 minutes after the ‘water bag’ is visible. Be prepared to dry and warm chilled calves as soon as possible. Remember that each calf should get colostrum within an hour of birth.

It’s also important to begin identifying calves with ear tags or tattoos while they are still young and easy to handle. Record the birthdate and the dam ID. Castrate and implant commercial male calves as soon as

possible and weigh registered calves within the first 24 hours of birth.

Go ahead and separate cows that have calved and increase their feed. Supplemental energy is important for cows receiving hay to prepare them for rebreeding.

A 1,250-pound cow giving approximately 25 pounds of milk per day will need about 25 pounds of fescue hay and five pounds of concentrate daily to maintain good condition.

To go from a condition score of 4 to 5, add an additional two pounds of concentrate to support that cow. Cows must be in good condition to conceive early in the upcoming breeding season.

Avoid feeding hay in excessively muddy areas of pastures to avoid contaminating cows’ udders. Calf scours is something to watch for in the herd. If scours becomes a problem, move cows that have not calved to a clean pasture.

Calves with scours may become dehydrated and need fluids to reverse the situation. Consult your veterinarian and send fecal samples to the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab to determine the most effective drug therapy.

Plan to vaccinate calves for clostridial diseases like blackleg and malignant edema as soon as possible. It’s also a good time to get yearling measurements on bulls and heifers, if necessary, for special sales. You may need to increase bulls’ feed to increase their conditioning for breeding or order semen if you plan to use artificial insemination.

Upcoming Educational Programs

Educational programming is continually being added to our schedule. Please check the Shelby County Extension website and Facebook page for the most up-to-date and comprehensive information.

- ⇒ **Tobacco GAP Training**—March 10, 9 a.m.
- ⇒ **Basics for New Landowners**—March 13, 20, 6 p.m.
- ⇒ **Produce Best Practices Training**—March 26, 6 p.m.
- ⇒ **Making Hay for Horses**—April 3, 6 p.m.
- ⇒ **BQCA Certification**—April 15, 11:30 a.m.

Good Neighbors Farm Tour

If you would like to be involved in planning/executing the next Farm Tour, call Corinne at 633-4593 or email corinne.belton@uky.edu.

Articles By:

Corinne F. Belton

Cooperative Extension Agent for
Agriculture and Natural Resources





SAFER DRIVING MAY SAVE YOU MONEY

Take the AARP Smart Driver classroom course and you could save on your car insurance!*

- >> Refresh your driving skills and knowledge of the rules of the road.
- >> Learn techniques for handling left turns, right-of-way and roundabouts.
- >> Discover proven driving methods to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road.

THERE'S A CLASSROOM COURSE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

Date & Time:

March 25, 2025 12 - 4 p.m.

Location:

Shelby County Extension Office
1117 Frankfort Road
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Register:

502-633-4593
elizabeth.coots@uky.edu

CLASSROOM COURSE

\$20 for AARP members
\$25 for non-members

TO FIND ADDITIONAL COURSES

Visit: www.aarp.org/driving36
Call: 1-88-773-7160

**Master Gardener Plant Sale will be held
May 10th from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

MARCH

- FCS 01 First Saturday Walk about, 8:30 a.m.
- FCS 04 Sewing Circle, 1 - 8 p.m.
- 4-H 10 Fur & Feathers Club, 6:30 p.m.
- AG 10 Tobacco GAP Training, 9 a.m.– noon
- HORT 11 Fruit Tree Pruning, 6:30 p.m.
- FCS 11 Leader Lesson Seminar, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 4-H 11 4-H Livestock Club, 6 p.m.
- HORT 11 Fruit Tree Pruning, 6:30 p.m.
- AG 13 Basics for New Land Owners, 6 p.m.
- 4-H 17 4-H Dairy Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 4-H 18 4-H Communications Day, 6:30 p.m.
- FCS 18 Homebased Microprocessing Workshop, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- FCS 20 Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1: 30 p.m.
- AG 20 Basics for new Land Owners, 6 p.m.
- FCS 21 Cultural Arts Contest, Public Viewing from 2 - 3 p.m.
- FCS 24 Scissor Sharpening, 11 a.m.—3 p.m. (Snippy Jim)
- 4-H 24 Saddle-N-Spurs, 6 p.m.
- FCS 25 AARP Smart Driver Class, 12 - 4 p.m.
- 4-H 25 4-H Shooting Sports Informational Meeting, 6 p.m.
- AG 26 Produce Best Practices Training (PBPT), 6 p.m.
- FCS 26 Laugh & Learn, 5 p.m.
- HORT 26 Planting Bareroot Trees, 6:30 p.m.
- 4-H 27 4-H Cloverbuds, 6 p.m.
- HORT 27 Beekeepers Association Meeting, 7 p.m.

APRIL

- FCS 01 Sewing Circle, 1 - 8 p.m.
- AG 03 Making Hay for Horses, 6-8 p.m.
- FCS 05 First Saturday Walk about, 8:30 a.m.
- 4-H 7 4-H Fashion Revue, 7p.m.
- 4-H 14 Fur & Feathers, 6:30 p.m.
- AG 15 BQCA Training, 11:30 a.m.
- HORT/
FCS 18 Making Your Own Salsa Garden, 1p.m.
- FCS 21 Starting a Food Business, 10 a.m.
- FCS 24 International Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
- 4-H 21 4-H Dairy Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 4-H 24 4-H Cloverbuds, 6 p.m.
- HORT 25 Beekeepers Association Meeting, 7 p.m.
- FCS 26 Family Fitness Day, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- 4-H 26 Area 4-H Communication Contest, 6 p.m.
- 4-H 28 Saddle-N-Spurs, 6 p.m.
- FCS 30 Laugh & Learn, 5 p.m.
- HORT 30 Spring Wildflower Walk, 5 p.m.

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Mulberry Orchards
Henry County Extension

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Red Orchard Park

C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

KEY

4-H
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Develop-
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AG
Agriculture

HORT
Horticulture

FCS
Family &
Consumer
Sciences





Cooperative Extension Service
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