

# Weed It and Reap

**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER**



## Grow a More Successful Garden With a new and fun Calendar

Source: Rick Durham, Department of Horticulture Professor

Gardening is a rewarding experience that provides fresh produce and a deeper connection to nature. [The Growing Your Own - GARDEN calendar from Plan Eat Move](#)—a part of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service—is an excellent resource to guide both novice and seasoned gardeners through the planting and harvesting seasons. With monthly recommendations and engaging activities, the calendar helps individuals and families plan a productive and enjoyable gardening experience.

A well-planned garden starts with careful preparation. Before planting, sketching a layout can be a useful exercise. For families, involving children by having them cut out pictures of vegetables and placing them

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

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*(Continued from pg. 1, Grow A More Successful Garden With A New And Fun Calendar)*

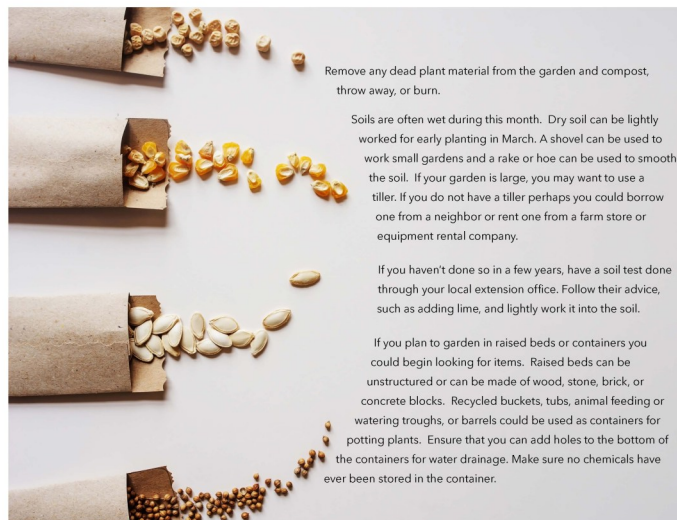
on the garden plan can be both educational and fun. This interactive approach encourages engagement while helping gardeners visualize plant placement and spacing for optimal growth.

The calendar provides a detailed month-by-month breakdown of what to plant and when to harvest. Beyond planting and harvesting, the calendar incorporates family-friendly activities to make gardening even more enjoyable. Keeping a garden journal allows individuals to track planting dates, growth progress and harvest yields.

Children can add their own observations through drawings or short descriptions. Taste tests with homegrown produce introduce youth to different flavors while emphasizing the benefits of fresh food. Creative activities, such as making DIY garden markers with craft materials, add a personal touch and help with plant identification.

Success in gardening often comes down to simple, consistent practices. By following the guidance in the Growing Your Own - GARDEN calendar, gardeners can cultivate a thriving space that not only produces nutritious food but also fosters family bonding. Gardening is a journey filled with learning, patience and the satisfaction of harvesting what was planted. Whether tending to a small backyard plot or a larger garden, these seasonal tips and activities provide the foundation for success.

To access the guide, visit <https://www.planeatmove.com/get-moving/growing-your-own-garden>. Or stop by the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office for a copy.



Remove any dead plant material from the garden and compost, throw away, or burn.

Soils are often wet during this month. Dry soil can be lightly worked for early planting in March. A shovel can be used to work small gardens and a rake or hoe can be used to smooth the soil. If your garden is large, you may want to use a tiller. If you do not have a tiller perhaps you could borrow one from a neighbor or rent one from a farm store or equipment rental company.

If you haven't done so in a few years, have a soil test done through your local extension office. Follow their advice, such as adding lime, and lightly work it into the soil.

If you plan to garden in raised beds or containers you could begin looking for items. Raised beds can be unstructured or can be made of wood, stone, brick, or concrete blocks. Recycled buckets, tubs, animal feeding or watering troughs, or barrels could be used as containers for potting plants. Ensure that you can add holes to the bottom of the containers for water drainage. Make sure no chemicals have ever been stored in the container.

FEBRUARY	
<p><i>Week 1</i></p> <p>Fix any broken garden equipment; clean and sharpen gardening tools</p>	<p><i>Garden Notes</i></p>
<p><i>Week 2</i></p> <p>Prepare compost pile</p>	
<p><i>Week 3</i></p> <p>Order fertilizer and lime for the spring and summer</p>	
<p><i>Week 4</i></p> <p>Decide and plan how to water your garden and prepare accordingly</p>	



**GARDEN PLAN**

Think about drawing a picture of your garden on a piece of paper. Your kids or grandkids can cut out pictures of vegetables you plan to grow. Then they can paste the pictures on the drawing. Place plants together that will mature at the same time so that they can be replaced with a new planting.

Look at seed catalogues, garden stores, or online sources for vegetable varieties and choose some to purchase.

**Be sure to follow our Facebook page  
for all the up-to-date  
information and articles.**

 @FranklinCountyKyCooperativeExtension



# SEED STARTING WORKSHOP

JOIN US  
WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY, 19TH  
6 PM

FREE!

SPACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE.

CALL TO REGISTER:

502-695-9035

101 LAKEVIEW DR  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601



**Cooperative  
Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

**MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT**

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# 10 Backyard Chicken Basics

Source: Jacquie Jacob, extension poultry project manager

Having a small chicken flock in the backyard is very popular these days. To have a successful flock producing eggs for your family, you'll want to learn the basics.

1. Make sure you check your local city and county ordinances to ensure you're able to have a backyard flock. Some ordinances require a minimum amount of land and some subdivisions and homeowners' associations have their own rules.
2. Chickens require daily care. You must feed them, provide clean water and collect eggs every single day. Managing a small flock is an excellent opportunity to teach children a certain amount of responsibility, but ultimately, you'll oversee the health and well-being of your flock.
3. Birds get sick and it may be difficult to find a veterinarian to provide care for them.
4. Cleanliness and sanitation are critical elements in caring for a small flock. Everyone must wash their hands before and after handling the birds. Also, no matter how tempting, avoid bringing your chickens into the house and don't use your kitchen sink to wash equipment.
5. Poop happens. Chickens eat a lot and hens use about 60% of the feed they consume and excrete the other 40% as manure. You must have a plan for that manure. One option is adding it as an odor-free fertilizer for your home garden.
6. Keep it down. Chickens make noise. Only roosters crow, however, hens are not always quiet and can make a lot of noise letting everyone know they just laid an egg.
7. The egg season will come to an end. Chickens stop producing eggs at some point in their lives and may live a long time beyond their egg-laying years. Have a plan for what you will do with hens that stop producing. If you keep them as pets, you'll have to keep feeding them and providing other resources for their care.
8. Housing is a big part of keeping a flock. Your birds will need a house that provides shelter from the weather, nest boxes for egg laying and perches for roosting at night. Make sure housing is easy to clean and provides protection from predators. You'll have to manage their bedding well to prevent rodents from making your chickens' house their home.
9. Scratch that. Chickens scratch when they forage. If you let hens run free, you may need to place a fence around your garden if you don't want the birds to destroy it.
10. Know how to get chicks. You will most likely want to raise your hens from chicks. You can buy them online and have them shipped to your home, but some suppliers have minimum quantities for orders. You may have neighbors or friends who also raise chickens willing to join you in an order. Remember you'll need to provide new chicks with a heat source, such as a lamp, for at least six weeks.

For more information, take a listen to *Small And Backyard Poultry* webinars:

<https://poultry.extension.org/webinars/>



SPRING PLANTING SEASON IS HERE!

# COMMUNITY SEED SWAP



Saturday, February 22, from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Paul Sawyer Public Library  
319 Wapping Street | Frankfort, KY 40601

Pick up some new seed packets, and bring your own to share. Meet other local gardeners, and exchange gardening tips. Franklin County Horticulture Extension Agent Adam Leonberger and Capital Area Extension Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions. Drop in while supplies last!



 Cooperative  
Extension Service

No registration necessary. For more information, please contact Diane Dehoney at [diane@pspl.org](mailto:diane@pspl.org).  
All library programs are accessible to people with disabilities.





# 2025 BLUEGRASS BEEKEEPING SCHOOL

**WHEN:**  
March 8, 2025  
8:30AM-5PM EST

**WHERE:**  
Kentucky State University

**REGISTRATION:**  
Register at:  
[https://beeschool.eventsmart.com/  
events/bluegrass-beekeeping-  
school-2025/](https://beeschool.eventsmart.com/events/bluegrass-beekeeping-school-2025/)



**\$35 for admission  
lunch included**

**For more info and a list of classes  
go to [bluegrassbeekeepers.com](http://bluegrassbeekeepers.com)**

**GUEST PRESENTER**

 **Michelle Flenniken, PhD**  
Dept of Plant Sciences  
and Plant Pathology,  
Montana State University

 **Class Offerings**  
Beginner,  
Intermediate &  
Advanced Beekeeping

**Doors open at 8:00AM for  
registration, donuts, and coffee**

**Hosted by:**  
Bluegrass Beekeepers Association  
Capital City Beekeepers &  
Kentucky State University



# UPCOMING HORTICULTURE EVENTS- MARCH



# 2025

# 8

## SEED STARTING WORKSHOP

MARCH

10:00 PM

FIRST CORINTHIAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
214 MURRAY ST.

REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED



# 26

## FREE- SPRING GARDEN KIT GIVEAWAY

MARCH

8 AM - 6 PM 101 LAKEVIEW COURT

In-person talk at noon, pickup from 8am-6pm (plants, seeds, handouts, and a video). Quantities are limited.

REGISTRATION  
**NOT**  
REQUIRED.



Call or email to register:  
502-695-9035  
franklin.ca.uky.edu

### Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Learn more about this program here



# HOOK and COOK

Learn the basics of fishing, including rod and reel setup, fish cleaning and how to cook fish.

Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office,  
101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Frankfort, KY  
March 3rd  
March 10th  
March 17th



Scan here to register using the camera on your smart device

More Info: [Easton.Copley@ky.gov](mailto:Easton.Copley@ky.gov) or 502-330-1411



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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.





**UK** Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
University of Kentucky.

# HERB GARDEN MASTERY

## From Planting to Plate

### MARCH 13, 2025

### 5:30PM

FRANKLIN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
101 LAKEVIEW COURT  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601

**RSVP 502-695-9035 or [pamela.holbrook@uky.edu](mailto:pamela.holbrook@uky.edu)**

**Adam Leonberger**  
Franklin County Extension Agent for Horticulture

**Pamela Holbrook**  
Nutrition Education Program Assistant

# Seed Day

Help us grow the Community garden! Join us for free seed starting workshops. All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. More garden programs coming soon!

February 24

March 10

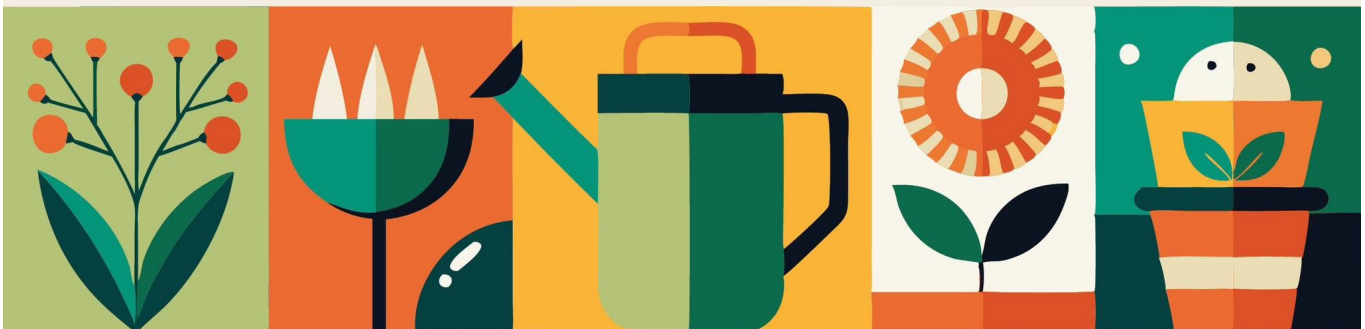
March 31

April 21

5-6:00PM

### Community Garden

Thorn Hill Education Center  
700 Leslie Avenue, Frankfort



at the Community Garden at *Thorn Hill Education Center*



WANDA JOYCE ROBINSON  
FOUNDATION

# 2025 BIG TREE CONTEST Elm Tree

## RULES

1. Must be Elm Tree
2. Measure circumference of tree at 4 ½ feet from the ground on the high side.
3. Tree must be 75% live and be located in Franklin County.
4. Tree measurement and date **must** be verified by landowner.
5. Same tree eligible for only one category.
6. **All entries must be submitted to the Franklin County Conservation District located at 103 Lakeview Court no later than March 19, 2025.**

**The Winner in each Category will be presented a \$50 cash award**

<b>K-5 grade</b>	<b>18 to 55 Years of Age</b>
<b>6-8 grade</b>	<b>Senior Citizen (56 &amp; Over)</b>
<b>9-12 grade</b>	<b>FFA Chapter</b>
<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Over All Winner</b>

For any questions, contact the Franklin County Conservation District at 502/352-2701.

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## ENTRY FORM

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Measurement at 4 ½ feet from ground: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Property (tree location): \_\_\_\_\_

Directions/Map to Tree: \_\_\_\_\_

**Landowner Verification: On the back, draw a map showing location of tree from nearest designated state highway in Franklin County (Give point to point distance).**

**The Winner in each Category will be presented a \$50 cash award**



# Franklin County Conservation District

BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
Urban Cost Share Program

**January 1, 2025 to June 1, 2025**

Raised Garden Beds, Rain Barrels, Compost Bins,  
Pollinator Gardens and Beehives

- First come, first serve.
- Franklin County Residents only
- One application per household
- 50% cost share up to \$250 maximum

**Must have approval before you  
begin project**



Franklin County Conservation District  
103 Lakeview Court  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
502-352-2701

fccd103@gmail.com

## JOIN US ALL YEAR FOR THIRD THURSDAY THING

February 20th: Organic Agriculture

March 20th: Natural Resource Management

April 17th: Grow, Buy, Eat Local

May 15th: Aquaculture

June 19th: Juneteenth/ Business Planning

July 17th: Cattle & Poultry

August 21st: Agri-technology & Vertical Farming

September 18th: Horticulture & Urban Agriculture

October 16th: Small Ruminants

November 20th: Small, Limited-Resource, Minority  
Farmers Conference



If you would like to join our Small Farms  
Programming email list please email Savanna  
Frye at: [savanna.frye1@kysu.edu](mailto:savanna.frye1@kysu.edu)

Capital Area Extension  
Master Gardeners'

Saturday, April 26th

9am - 1pm

Lakeview Park

(Farm Bureau  
Pavilion)

118 Park Avenue

Frankfort, KY

Plant  
Market

Tomatoes, peppers,  
herbs, perennials  
and MORE!

SAVE THE  
DATE!!!







Franklin County Conservation District  
 103 Lakeview Court  
 Frankfort, KY 40601  
 Phone: (502) 352-2701

**UK** Cooperative Extension Service  
 Franklin County  
 101 Lakeview Court  
 Frankfort, KY 40601-8750  
 502-695-9035  
 franklin.ca.uky.edu

# FREE SOIL SAMPLE COUPON

## Sponsored By: Franklin County Conservation District

January 1- April 30, 2025, the Franklin County Conservation District is sponsoring 10 FREE soil tests.

Bring this coupon in with your soil sample(s) and receive FREE BASIC SOIL TESTING.

Redeemable only at the FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE located at 101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort KY. (502) 695-9035 <https://franklin.ca.uky.edu>

For information on how to take a soil sample:  
[www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/agr/agr16/agr16.pdf](http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/agr/agr16/agr16.pdf)

**LIMIT 10 (ten) FREE SAMPLES per PERSON**  
**Coupon available for Franklin County or Frankfort Residents or Farms located in Franklin County.**  
**NO COMMERCIAL SAMPLES WITH THIS OFFER**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

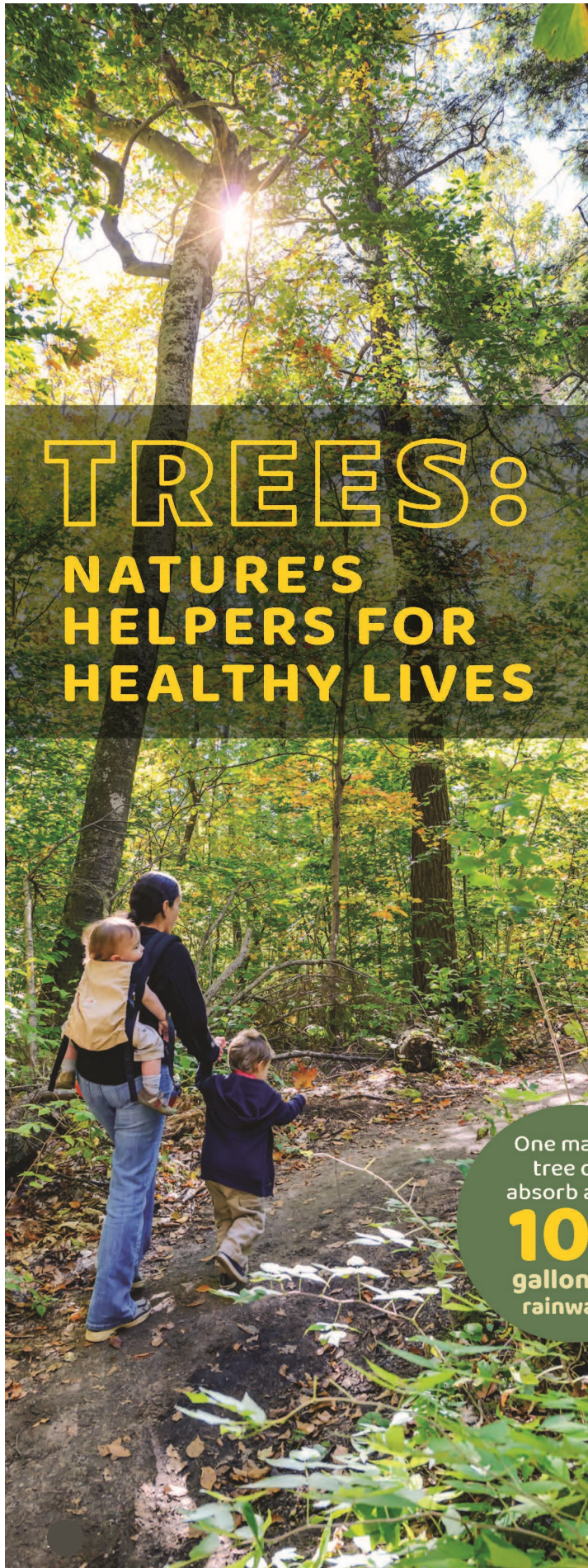
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

	Sample Number Office Use Only	Date Submitted		Sample Number Office Use Only	Date Submitted
1			6		
2			7		
3			8		
4			9		
5			10		

Staff \_\_\_\_\_





## Kentucky Division of Conservation, Protecting the Forest Together, 2024

Trees are magnificent and beautiful parts of our world with stunning trunks, leaves, and branches reaching the sky. Who doesn't love a tree!? The poet Kahlil Gibran said that "Trees are poems that the earth writes." But trees are more than just beautiful features of our world. They play an important role in our overall wellbeing. Let's explore how they do this.

Trees are essential for cleaning the air which directly impacts our health. They act as natural air filters. Through photosynthesis, tree leaves and green stems absorb and store carbon dioxide from the air. This is crucial because carbon dioxide levels have been increasing over the past hundred years, contributing to global warming/climate change. Besides absorbing carbon dioxide, trees also produce clean oxygen for us to breathe. Scientific studies show that one mature tree can produce enough oxygen for four people every day! Additionally, trees absorb harmful pollutants like sulfur dioxide, ammonia, and nitrogen oxides, which can come from cars, factories, and other human-made sources. Breathing cleaner air reduces the risk of respiratory problems and other health issues.

On a hot day, you might notice that it feels much cooler under the shade of a tree. Studies have shown that tree shade can reduce city temperatures by as much as 9°F. Areas without trees absorb more heat from the sun, making them uncomfortable and creating "heat islands." Cities and towns plant trees to cool these areas. Trees can also reduce the need for air conditioning, which cuts down on air pollution. Through a process called transpiration, trees release tiny amounts of water vapor, which cools the surrounding air as it evaporates, similar to how sweating cools our skin, helping to prevent heat stress and related health issues.

Trees serve as important natural managers of storm water as their roots absorb and store rainwater. This reduces the amount of excessive storm runoff that cities and towns need to manage. Studies have shown that one mature tree can absorb about 100 gallons

*(Continued on next page)*



2024 Conservation Writing and Jim Claypool Art Contest



(Continued from previous page)

Tree shade  
can reduce city  
temperatures  
by as much as

**9°F**

of rainwater, and areas without trees are far more prone to flash floods. But trees do more than just absorb rainwater, they are critical in preventing soil erosion. Sediment from urban soils may contain pollutants that are harmful to our overall health. Through a process called (warning big word ahead!!) “phytoremediation” trees absorb heavy metals, pesticides, excessive fertilizer (that harms aquatic creatures), and organic compounds. By keeping these pollutants out of our water, trees help protect our health and ensure we have clean water to drink.



Tree fruits and nuts are incredibly healthy and beneficial for our bodies. Fruits like apples, oranges, and berries are packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that help boost our immune system, keep our skin glowing, and protect us from illnesses. They are also high in fiber, which aids digestion and helps us feel full longer. Nuts like almonds, walnuts, and cashews provide healthy fats, proteins, and important nutrients like vitamin E

and magnesium. These nutrients support brain function, heart health, and strong bones. Eating a variety of tree fruits and nuts as part of a balanced diet can help us stay energized, maintain a healthy weight, and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

Trees play a big role in helping people stay active and improve their mental health. When neighborhoods have plenty of trees, people are more likely to go outside for walks, runs, or bike rides because the environment feels more inviting and comfortable. The shade from trees keeps areas cooler, making outdoor exercise more enjoyable, especially in hot weather. Additionally, being around trees and nature can reduce stress, improve mood, and boost overall mental well-being. Just spending time in green spaces can help people feel more relaxed and happier, showing how important trees are for both our physical and mental health.

We learned that trees are not only beautiful but provide us with numerous health benefits. They give us oxygen, filter the air, absorb water, prevent soil erosion, cool the atmosphere, provide food, and help us stay physically and mentally healthy. However, trees face constant threats from overlogging, development, wildfires, and invasive species. Every day, the world loses about 60,000 football fields worth of trees due to these pressures.



## SO, WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP TREES?

Planting trees at home, school, and in your community is a great place to start. There are many organizations dedicated to planting and preserving trees. Volunteering with one of these groups is a fantastic way to help trees help us.

**The next time you walk past a tree, take a moment, and thank it for all the healthy things they do for us!**



KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

# Farm City Field Day

# 07.10.25

5 pm - 8 pm

## SAVE THE DATE & TIME

Cooperative Extension Service  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.  
Lexington, KY 40506

For more details visit our website  
<https://franklin.ca.uky.edu/field-day>

**UK** Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

HIKE! EXPLORE! LEARN!

# OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP

Get together with friends and learn outdoor survival skills! Scan below for the application!

MAY 2-3, 2025  
STARTS AT 1 PM  
\$100 PER PERSON  
REGISTER WITH YOUR COUNTY 4-H AGENT

LAKE CUMBERLAND 4-H CAMP  
17500 KY-196  
NANCY, KY 42544

OPEN FOR KIDS AGED 13 AND UP.  
THE TEAM OF SKILLED PROFESSIONALS ENSURE  
ALL KIDS ARE SAFE 24/7.



## Cheesy Broccoli Potatoes

- 5 slices turkey bacon
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chopped chives
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4 large potatoes, cubed
- 2 cups fresh broccoli florets
- 1 cup fat-free, shredded cheese

**Preheat** oven to 425° F. **Cook** bacon until crispy, crumble and set aside. **Spray** 9x13-inch baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. In a small bowl, **combine** olive oil, garlic, chives, salt and pepper; **stir** to blend. In a large bowl, **toss** together potatoes and broccoli. **Pour** olive oil blend over potato mixture; **stir** to coat. **Pour** into baking dish and **cover** with foil. **Bake** for 35 minutes or until potatoes are

tender; **remove** from oven. **Sprinkle** cheese and bacon on top and place back in oven until cheese melts.

**Yield:** 8, ½ cup servings.

**Nutritional Analysis:** 140 calories, 5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 470 mg sodium, 15 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 2 g sugar, 10 g protein.



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

Adam Leonberger

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Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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