

# Weed It and Reap

## FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



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Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service  
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## 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

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quiet and can make a lot of noise letting everyone know they just laid an egg.

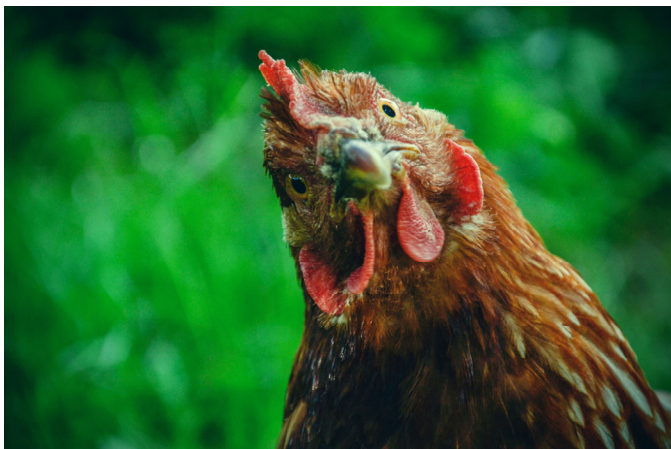
7. The egg season will come to an end. Chickens stop producing eggs at some point in their lives and may live a long time beyond their egg-laying years. Have a plan for what you will do with hens that stop producing. If you keep them as pets, you'll have to keep feeding them and providing other resources 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 about small flocks, visit <https://afs.ca.uky.edu/poultry/poultry-publications> or contact the Franklin Cooperative Extension Service.



**Franklin County Conservation District**

Backyard Conservation Program  
Urban Cost Share Program

**April 1, 2023 to August 1, 2023**

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

- 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

*Are you a mom-to-be & Medicaid recipient?*

**Ask us about FreshRX!**

Fresh RX provides \$24 of free produce each week to qualifying moms!



Sign up now at [www.fcmarket.org/fresh-rx](http://www.fcmarket.org/fresh-rx)

**Questions? Contact us!**  
Call (502) 382-1254 or email [vista@franklincountyfarmersmarket.org](mailto:vista@franklincountyfarmersmarket.org)



## Franklin County Farm Service Agency is Accepting Emergency Conservation Program Applications

(Versailles, KY), April 5, 2023- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director CED Jimmy Chambers today announced that Franklin County is accepting applications for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to address damages from the Severe Storms that occurred on March 3rd, 2023. **ECP Signup will begin on April 10th, 2023, and end on June 9th, 2023.**

The Approved ECP practices under this authorization includes List Eligible practices:

EC1 Removing Debris from Farmland; EC3 Replace/Restoring Permanent Fencing

ECP assists producers with the recovery cost to restore the agricultural land to pre-disaster conditions. Approved ECP applicants may receive up to 75 percent of the cost of approved restoration activity. Limited resource socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers may receive up to 90 percent cost share.

“Dealing with natural disasters is never easy, especially when you have to consider the health and safety of livestock, but it’s important for producers to call our office before they take any action,” said Chambers.

Producers with damages from such events must apply for assistance prior to beginning reconstructive work. FSA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and environmental compliance review process is required to be completed before any actions are taken. Submitting an application after reconstructive work has been completed may not qualify for ECP.

FSA County Committees will evaluate applications based on an on-site inspection for the damaged land, taking into consideration the type and extent of the damage. As on-site inspection does not guarantee that cost-share funding will be provided.

The 2018 Farm bill increased the payment limitation for ECP to \$500,000 per Disaster. The use of ECP funds is limited to activities to return the land to the relative pre-disaster condition. Conservation Concerns that were present on the land prior to the disaster are not eligible for ECP assistance.

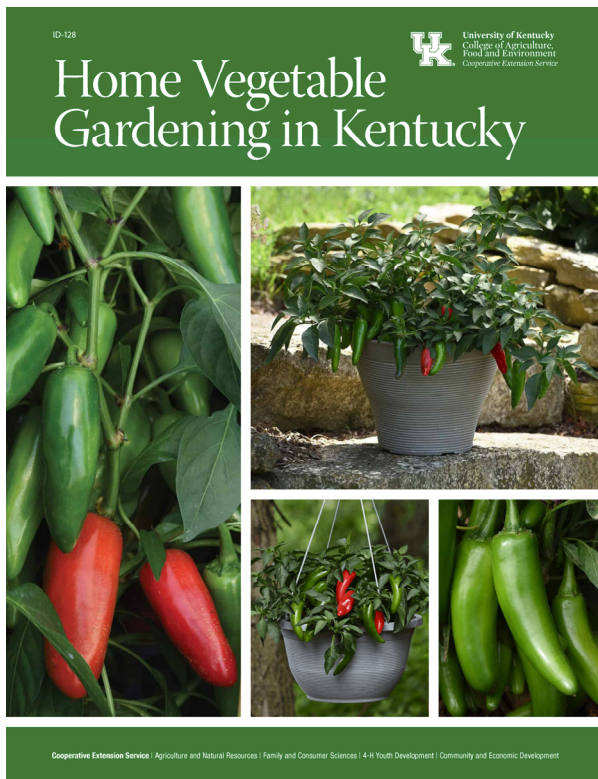
For More information on ECP, Please **Contact the Franklin County FSA Office at 859-873-3411 Extension 2 or visit [Farmers.gov/recover](https://www.farmers.gov/recover).**

# SOW App Available for Kentucky Gardeners

Source: Rick Durham, UK horticulture extension specialist

Kentucky gardeners have a new tool available in Apple and Google Play app stores to assist with planting, sowing and harvesting decisions for their home garden.

SOW—A Planting Companion is a free app based on University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension's [publication ID-18 Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky](#).



The app also incorporates information for Alabama and North Carolina and other areas in U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zones 6a-9a. Kentucky is primarily in zone 6b, with a few areas in 6a or 7a. After downloading the app, enter your state and county to get customized plant information based on your hardiness zone. You can always change the information later in the settings menu.

The app has three main sections: My Garden, Journal and Library. The library currently has information and photos of about 36 popular home garden vegetables. You may sort the vegetables alphabetically, by harvest date or by planting

date. Clicking on a vegetable in the library will open information about that vegetable, including estimated days to harvest, expected yield, plant spacing, planting depth, soil pH range and average number of plants per person you need to include for a good harvest.

You can add vegetables to the My Garden section. You can develop more than one garden, for example, a spring garden, a summer garden and a fall garden, and keep them separate. My Garden helps you keep track of planting dates, seed or transplant planting method, the specific cultivar or variety you planted and when you should be able to harvest it. You can even plan ahead and enter a planting date for the future and the app will give you the option to add this date to your phone's calendar as a reminder.

After you harvest a crop, use the Journal section to record yield, harvest date or any other notes you may need to help plan next year's garden.

The app can also link you to your local Cooperative Extension office, where you'll find staff information and ways to contact extension agents with questions. Download the app through Apple, <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sow-a-planting-companion/id840347996>, or Google, [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.aces.SOW&hl=en\\_US&gl=US&pli=1](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.aces.SOW&hl=en_US&gl=US&pli=1), or search for it in your mobile device app store.

For more information about gardening or other horticulture topics, contact the Franklin Cooperative Extension Service.



# Garden With Us!

## Frankfort Community Gardens Private Plot Program



10ft x 10ft private plots available

\$10/year plot "lease"

Access to tools and water

Education available for success

Plots available at Dolly Graham Park  
& Thorn Hill Education Center

To get your gardening adventure started to day contact us!

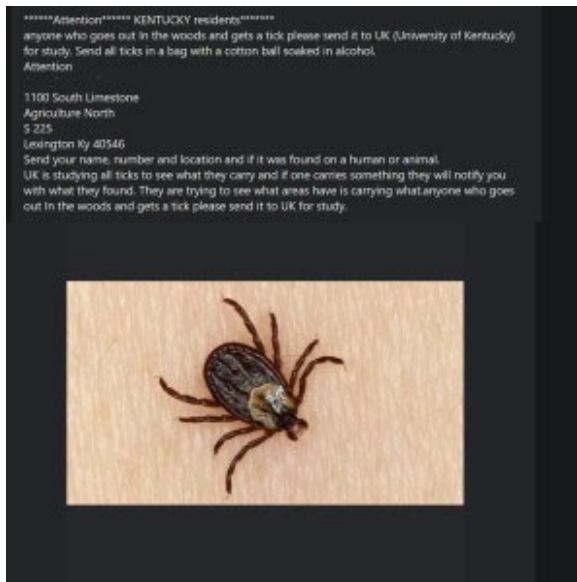
Email: [cgnfrankfort@gmail.com](mailto:cgnfrankfort@gmail.com)

Facebook: Commonwealth Gardens

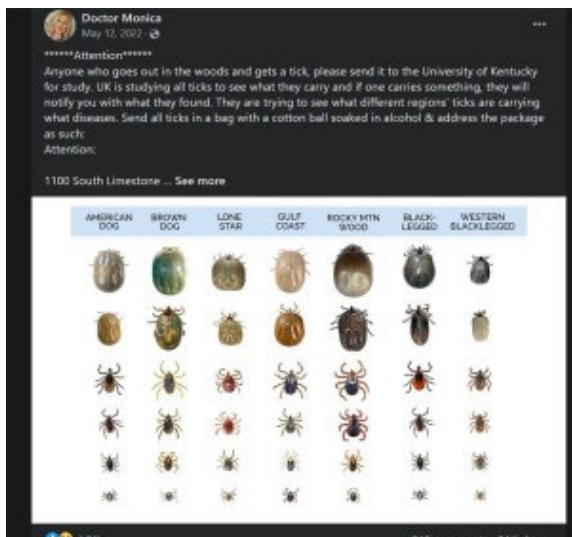


# Please Don't Mail Us Live Ticks

If you are active on social media, you might find some people posting about a project to collect ticks and send them to the University of Kentucky called the UK Tick Surveillance Program. Unfortunately, as with many things on Facebook, while there is a nugget of truth to these posts; they also get a lot of information wrong. The UK Tick Surveillance Program is real and will accept tick submissions in 2023. However, there are a lot of caveats that need to be considered before you slap a stamp on the back of that dog tick.



**Figure 1:** This is currently the most common Facebook post about the Kentucky Tick Surveillance Project. While it is great to see so many people are interested in public health entomology, this post unfortunately contains several errors that will result in the submitted tick being discarded.



**Figure 2:** Another type of Facebook post about the project. Again, the submission advice is incomplete and there are promises of medical services, which also are not a part of his project.

## UK Tick Surveillance Program Facts

### This project is not a free medical service

Despite what some posts on Facebook say, this is not a free alternative to paying for a tick to be tested for pathogens. The Tick Surveillance Program is designed as a citizen science volunteer opportunity, where Kentuckians can help with public health monitoring in the state. It is not designed as a testing service where a volunteer will be contacted with a possible “diagnosis.” If a submitted tick tests positive for one of the three pathogens being monitored for, the submitter will be notified but this could be multiple weeks after the tick was sent in. If you are concerned with a possible tickborne infection, you need to seek medical help from a physician.

### There is a form you have to fill out

Ticks that are submitted must be accompanied by a form, found at [https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/files/tick\\_submission\\_information\\_form.pdf](https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/files/tick_submission_information_form.pdf). Any tick submitted without this form is discarded.

### Submitted ticks should also conform to required specifications

Beyond the form, there are other rules which can be found at <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ticksurveillance2022>. To summarize these rules:

- Only ticks submitted from Kentucky residents are accepted; any ticks submitted from out-of-state are discarded.
- Ticks should be dead when submitted.
- Ticks should be shipped inside of a hardened container, which is then placed in a padded envelope. You cannot ship free floating alcohol through the U.S. Postal service.

### How to prepare a tick for shipment

There is a step-by-step guide at the above link but in the interest of completeness, here is how to prepare a tick for shipment.

### You will need the following supplies:

- 91% isopropyl alcohol (can be found at nearly any pharmacy)

- One hard plastic container, for example pill bottles with identifying info removed, small plastic travel jars, etc.
- Tweezers
- One plain cotton ball
- Two Ziploc bags
- A padded envelope

**Step 1** Take your hard plastic container and pour alcohol into the container. You only need to pour in enough liquid to submerge the tick into.

**Step 2** Use the tweezers to pick the tick up and submerge it in the alcohol inside of the container. Leave the tick submerged in alcohol for 24 hours.

**Step 3** After 24 hours, pour the excess alcohol out of the container into a waste receptacle. There should be no liquid alcohol left. Next, take a cotton ball, or a cut off section of cotton ball, and stuff it into the container.

**Step 4** Seal the tick and cotton ball by closing the container lid. Take the closed container and insert it into a sealable Ziploc bag. Then, seal the Ziploc shut.

**Step 5** The Ziploc bag that has the container with the tick and cotton ball in it will then itself be inserted into a second sealable Ziploc bag which is also sealed shut. This double bagging helps preserve the sample. The sample is now ready for shipping.

**Step 6** Insert the double bagged sample into a padded envelope. Ship the padded envelope and contents to this address:

**Tick Surveillance Program  
C/O Subba Palli  
Department of Entomology  
S-225 Ag Science Center N  
Lexington, KY, 40546-0091**

If you have found a tick and you merely want to have it identified, you can also ask your local Extension agent for help in contacting the UK Department of Entomology.

By Jonathan L. Larson, Entomology Extension Specialist



*Community Gardens*  
**WORKSHOPS**

-  **COMPOSTING 101**  
February 25th @ 10am  
Location: Thornhill Education Center
-  **STARTING TRANSPLANTS INDOORS**  
March 11th @ 10am  
Location: Thornhill Education Center
-  **GROWING YOUR OWN MUSHROOMS**  
April 22th @ 10am  
Location: Thornhill Education Center
-  **POLLINATOR GARDENS**  
May 13th @ 10am  
Location: Dolly Graham Park/Fantasy Forest
-  **CONTAINER GARDENING**  
May 20th @ 10am  
Location: Thornhill Education Center

**Commonwealth Gardens**  
THORN HILL EDUCATION CENTER  
FRANKFORD COUNTY AND SOCIETY  
FRANKFORD, KY

**FOLLOW US:**  


**CONTACT US:**  
Thornhill Education Center  
700 Leslie Ave., Frankfort, KY  
Dolly Graham Park  
125-199 Logan St, Frankfort, KY  
CGNFRANKFORT@GMAIL.COM  
<https://franklincenterforinnovation.com/thorn-hill-garden-1>



**THIRD THURSDAY THING**

**Topic: Aquaculture**

May 18, 2023  
10:00 AM EDT

 KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY  
Land Grant Program

Join us in person at the Harold R. Benson Research & Demonstration Farm or online!

 1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

 [youtube.com/kysuag/live](https://youtube.com/kysuag/live)



**MAY 13**

**8:30AM - NOON**

**Kids  
Day**

**At The Franklin Co. Farmers Market**

**Riverview Park - 404 Wilkinson Blvd - [fcmarket.org](http://fcmarket.org)**



Kids get \$2 in tokens  
**FOR FREE**  
to buy produce or plants



**Fun & Free Activities**  
Paper Pot & Seed Planting +  
Bluegrass Realty & Investments  
Stick Horse Obstacle Course +  
Ivory Creek Farm  
Goats + KSU Research Farm  
Paul Sawyer Library



**BLUEGRASS REALTY**  
AND INVESTMENTS



Thanks To Our May  
Kids Day Sponsor



# SOUTH FRANKFORT FOOD SHARE

## -DATES-

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY  
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

- MAY 30
- JUNE 13 · 27
- JULY 11 · 25
- AUG. 8 · 22
- SEPT. 5 · 19
- OCT. 3 · 17



## JOIN US TO ENJOY

a box of local produce, cooking demonstrations, free samples & recipes, fun activities, and more!



**Dolly Graham Park**  
225 River Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 382-1254

**LEARN MORE & ORDER AHEAD**  
[fcmarket.org](http://fcmarket.org)

**SLIDING SCALE PRICING**

**\$6** – SNAP/EBT  
**\$12** – Limited Income

**\$30** – Market Value  
**\$40** – Food Justice



**FRESH. LOCAL. LIVELY.**

You can shop the Franklin County Farmers Market online or in-person for fresh, locally grown food and more!

[order now](#)

### ONLINE



[fcmarket.org](http://fcmarket.org)



### IN-PERSON

Market Pavilion  
River View Park  
404 Wilkinson Blvd.  
Frankfort, KY 40601

## -2023-

### SHOP IN-PERSON

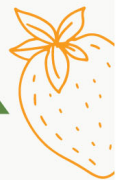
**Regular Season**  
8:30 AM – 12 Noon  
Tuesday May 9 – Sept. 26  
Saturday April 22 – Nov. 18


**Winter Market**  
January through April  
Every other Saturday  
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

### SHOP ONLINE

**Curbside Pickup**  
Thursday 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM  
**Market Pickup**  
Saturday 8:30 AM – 12 Noon

Shop with SNAP? Pregnant & have Medicaid?  
Get extra money to SHOP at the Market





# Solarize Frankfort



The Kentucky Solar Energy Society and their partners are organizing a group-purchasing campaign making it easier to go solar in the Frankfort area. **Solarize Frankfort** connects participants with pre-screened solar installers and provides access to bulk-purchase discounts (up to 15% off solar PV installations).

### Who Is Eligible?

- Homeowners, small businesses, non-profits, places of worship
- Residents of Franklin County and surrounding counties (Anderson, Henry, Owen, Scott, Shelby, and Woodford)

### Solarize Frankfort makes it easier to go solar by...

- Pre-screening your home to see if it is a good fit for solar.
- Connecting you with our vetted, experienced solar installation partners, *Pure Power Solar* or *Wilderness Trace Solar*.
- Providing a step-by-step walk-through of the installation process.

### Go Solar!

- Reduce your energy bill!
- Lower your carbon footprint!
- Help the City of Frankfort meet its goal of 100% renewables by 2030!

To Enroll in *Solarize Frankfort* and receive a free solar assessment:

[www.kyses.org/solarize](http://www.kyses.org/solarize)

### Our Partners



### Solarize Frankfort's Solar Installation Partners



**WILDERNESS TRACE SOLAR**  
 PLUG INTO THE SUN  
 DANVILLE, KENTUCKY  
 859-439-0620



PURE POWER  
**SOLAR**



# Volunteers Needed

## No Experience Required


Kentucky's Office of the State Entomologist manages current invasive pests & monitors for new threats. Their new program & App allows volunteers to monitor for several invasive insects.

*The Spotted Lanternfly was recently found in Cincinnati.*

Early detection of invasive pests is key to deterring establishment.

If you have the willingness to learn and scout for invasive pests, please get involved! Use the QR code or contacts below.

For more information:  
 Carl Harper [carl.harper@uky.edu](mailto:carl.harper@uky.edu)  
 Seth Spinner [seth.spinner@uky.edu](mailto:seth.spinner@uky.edu)  
 Jonathan Larson [jonathan.larson@uky.edu](mailto:jonathan.larson@uky.edu)  
 Julie Collins [jlco241@uky.edu](mailto:jlco241@uky.edu)

 College of Agriculture,  
 Food and Environment  
 Entomology




Spotted  
Lanternfly  
nymph



Spongy  
Moth  
caterpillar







## Red Potato Salad

<p><b>6 medium</b> red potatoes cut into 1½ inch pieces</p> <p><b>4 cups</b> fresh green beans cut into 1½ inch pieces</p> <p><b>1</b> small red onion, chopped</p>	<p><b>1</b> red bell pepper, chopped</p> <p><b>1</b> yellow bell pepper, chopped</p> <p><b>1 cup</b> chopped cherry tomatoes</p>	<p><b>¼ cup</b> mayonnaise</p> <p><b>2 tablespoons</b> red wine vinegar</p> <p><b>2 teaspoons</b> fresh oregano</p> <p>Salt and pepper</p>
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- 1. Wash** vegetables in warm water.
- 2. Boil** potatoes until tender and drain.
- 3. Boil** green beans until tender crisp and drain.
- 4. Place** the potatoes and green beans in a bowl.
- 5. Add** chopped red onions, peppers and tomatoes.
- 6. In** a small bowl, **mix** mayonnaise, red wine vinegar and chopped

- oregano.
- 7. Add** to potato mixture and mix lightly.
- 8. Season** with salt and pepper. **Mix** well. **Serve** cold.

**Yield:** 16, ½ cup servings

**Nutritional Analysis:**  
 140 calories, 1.5 g fat,  
 0 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 35 mg sodium,  
 26 g carbohydrate, 6 g fiber, 3 g sugar, 5 g protein.

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



*Adam Leonberger*  
 Adam Leonberger

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

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.