

MAY 2023

Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter

Magoffin County
15 Rockhouse Fork Rd
Salyersville, KY 41465
(606) 349-1236
magoffin.ca.uky.edu



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service



A Message From Your ANR Agent:

We have been busy bees at the Extension Office! We had several workshops last month: like our grafting class, country hams, and our most recent workshop- shiitake mushroom logs. Keep an eye out for more workshops to come by "liking" our Facebook page "Magoffin County Agriculture & Natural Resources" for more timely program updates.

Speaking of bees, it is bee swarming season. Bee swarms can be intimidating but they are just busy looking for a home and will soon move on. Swarms are not typically aggressive and if you are a beekeeper, you can always try to catch them and give them a new home in one of your hives. Catching a swarm is a relatively easy way to grow your operation. Plus, it's free bees!

It's almost time to start planting your gardens as well. Think about adding in some flowers to promote more pollinators and clean your garden tools before you begin working this year to help prevent the spread of any unwanted diseases from last year. Happy planting!



Kristen Stumbo
Kristen Stumbo

County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources

In this issue:

- Ten Backyard Chicken Basics 2
- SOW app available for
KY Gardeners 3
- Cleaning & Disinfecting
Home Garden
Tools & Equipment..... 4-5
- Spring Weather Can
Bring Heavy Rain and
the Risk of Flooding..... 6
- Planting Native
Flowers for Pollinators..... 7
- Rotational vs. Continuous
Grazing..... 8-9
- Farmers Market Meeting..... 9
- Honey Bee Association..... 10
- Sweet Potato Slip Order Form..... 11
- Plate It Up Recipe..... 12

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



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Ten 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 about small flocks, visit <https://afs.ca.uky.edu/poultry/poultry-publications> or contact the Magoffin County Cooperative Extension Service.

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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, you 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, or search for it in your mobile device app store.

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

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Cleaning & Disinfecting Home Garden Tools & Equipment

Source: Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate; Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist; Kara Back, Horticulture County Extension Agent

Importance

Dirty tools, containers, and surfaces come as no surprise to home gardeners (Figure 1). Rinsing with water to remove obvious soil or plant residues is a common practice. However, this type of basic cleaning can fail to remove microscopic plant pathogens that can remain on surfaces. Tools, containers, shoes, and surfaces should also be disinfected to remove fungal, bacterial, and viral plant pathogens to prevent transmission to healthy plants. Some household products can either clean items or disinfect, while others can both clean and disinfect. The following details the cleaning and disinfecting methods suggested for home gardeners.

Products for Cleaning

Cleaning products, such as soaps and detergents, help remove loose organic matter. This partial list includes some of the common products suitable for cleaning. When cleaning tools and supplies, it is helpful to use brushes, scrubbing pads, and paper towels to aid in the removal of dirt and plant debris.

- Dish detergent
- Liquid soap, hand soap
- Household cleaner
- Bathroom cleaner
- Brush or broom
- Towels



FIGURE 1. POTS (A) AND TROWELS (B) OFTEN BECOME COVERED WITH SOIL; PRUNERS (C) MAY BECOME COVERED IN PLANT SAP OR PLANT DEBRIS DURING USE. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE CLEANED AND SANITIZED TO REMOVE POTENTIAL PATHOGENS.

Products for Disinfection

Disinfectants/sanitizers are products that have anti-microbial activity and can kill disease-causing microorganisms. Microscopic organisms can be transmitted on tools and surfaces, even after rinsing or washing. Disinfectant products may also be labeled as antimicrobials or sanitizers. This partial list is a sample of common household products that can be used to disinfect garden tools and surfaces. Products that can be used to both clean and disinfect are noted with an asterisk (*).

- Rubbing alcohol or alcohol prep pads (available as 70% solution, do not dilute)
- Bleach (Mix 9 parts water with 1 part bleach to produce a 10% solution)
- Trisodium phosphate, TSP (Mix 9 parts water with 1 part TSP powder to produce a 10% solution)
- Hand sanitizer
- Household cleaner, such as Lysol™ Concentrate Disinfectant*
- Antimicrobial bathroom cleaner, such as Scrubbing Bubbles™*



FIGURE 3. EXAMPLES OF SOME COMMON HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS THAT CAN BE USED FOR DISINFECTING GARDEN TOOLS AND SUPPLIES.

Procedure for Cleaning & Disinfecting Garden Equipment

Step 1: Cleaning

Clean and scrub to remove organic matter, which can inhibit the disinfection process. Begin with a water rinse and then follow up with a soapy wash. Rinse surfaces after washing to remove residues.

Step 2: Disinfecting

Methods for disinfection include soaking (Figure 5a), dipping (Figure 5b), and spraying (Figure 5c). Exposure time is the length of time the product needs to remain in contact with the surface to kill or inactivate pathogens. Most products, including household cleaners (Lysol™), rubbing alcohol (70%) and TSP (10%) require a 3- to 5-minute soak to effectively sanitize (inactivate pathogens). Note that bleach is the most effective disinfectant and can kill surface microorganisms within 30 seconds.

Both bleach and TSP are corrosive to metal tools and can be harmful if inhaled; thus, they are not recommended as a first choice for disinfection. Never mix bleach with other cleaning products, as a toxic a gas can be produced. Garden tools with wooden parts are often more difficult to disinfect than those made of plastic, metal, or fiberglass.



FIGURE 4. BRUSHES ARE HELPFUL FOR SCRUBBING SOIL AND DEBRIS FROM GARDEN TOOLS, SUCH AS PRUNERS AND TROWELS.

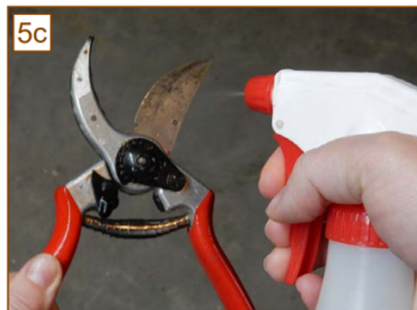


FIGURE 5. SUPPLIES, SUCH AS POTS, CAN BE SOAKED IN A DISINFECTANT SOLUTION (A). PRUNERS, SCISSORS, AND TROWELS CAN BE DIPPED IN DISINFECTANT; BE SURE ENTIRE CUTTING SURFACES ARE COMPLETELY SUBMERGED IN THE SOLUTION (B). SOME DISINFECTANT PRODUCTS CAN BE APPLIED BY SPRAYING (C).

Step 3: Rinse & Dry

A thorough rinse can remove residues, as well as products such as bleach, that may corrode tools and metal surfaces. Allow tools to dry completely before storing. Some tools may benefit from oiling before storage.

Disclaimer

Other products not listed in this publication may be appropriate and provide adequate cleaning and/or disinfection. Inclusion in this document does not confer endorsement of the product or brand.

Photos: University of Kentucky - Kimberly Leonberger (Figures 1 to 5, 7), Cheryl Kaiser (Figure 6)

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Spring Weather Can Bring Heavy Rain and the Risk of Flooding



By Derrick Snyder – National Weather Service Paducah, KY

As we head deeper into spring, we wanted to talk to you about something that's on our minds this time of year: flash flooding. Now, we know Kentuckians are no strangers to heavy rain and overflowing creeks, but it's important to be prepared for the worst.

So, what can you do to stay safe during a flash flood? Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

1. **Keep your eyes and ears open:** Listen for weather reports and stay alert for any signs of flooding in your area. If you see water starting to rise, don't wait until it's too late to take action.
2. **Have a plan in place:** Talk to your family about what you would do in case of a flood. Make sure everyone knows how to get to high ground and where to meet up if you get separated.
3. **Don't take any chances:** Never try to drive or walk through flooded areas. The water might look shallow, but it could be a lot deeper and faster than you realize. It only takes 12 inches of water to cause your vehicle to lose traction, and only 6 inches of water to sweep you off your feet.
4. **Get your homestead ready:** If you live in a flood-prone area, make sure you have sandbags or other barriers on hand to protect your home. Keep your gutters clean and your downspouts pointed away from your house.
5. **Stay safe during the flood:** If a flood does happen, get to higher ground as quickly as possible. And if you have to wade through water, be sure to wear rubber boots and stay away from downed power lines.

But there's one more thing you can do to help keep your community safe during floods: report rainfall measurements to the National Weather Service. Measuring and reporting rainfall can help the Weather Service better predict and prepare for flash floods.

Here's how to do it:

1. **Get a rain gauge:** You can buy a rain gauge at a hardware store or online. Make sure it's placed in an open area away from trees or buildings. You can obtain a high-quality rain gauge by becoming an observer with a nationwide network known as the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). Learn more at cocorahs.org or call your local National Weather Service (NWS) office.
2. **Measure rainfall:** After a rainfall event, go outside and check the gauge. Write down the amount of rainfall in inches, to the nearest hundredth of an inch. Don't forget to dump your gauge so it's ready for the next event!
3. **Report the measurement:**

You can report the rainfall measurement to the NWS by calling your local weather office or by visiting their website. Be sure to include your name, location, and the amount of rainfall you measured, as well as the period for which you measured the rain.

Reporting rainfall is a simple and important way to help your community stay safe during floods. We hope you'll consider doing your part to keep everyone informed.

3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR FLASH FLOOD SAFETY

During a flood, water levels and the rate at which the water is flowing can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television.

- 1 GET TO HIGHER GROUND**
Get out of the areas subject to flooding
- 2 DO NOT DRIVE INTO WATER**
Do NOT drive or walk into flooded areas. It only takes 6" of water to knock you off your feet.
- 3 STAY INFORMED**
Monitor local radar, television, weather radio, internet or social media for updates.

WHEN FLOODED TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN

weather.gov/flood

Planting Native Flowers for Pollinators

Source: Faye Kuosman, Horticulture County Extension Agent

Need a reason to plant more flowers? How does supporting local agriculture, ensuring the availability of healthy fruits and vegetables, and protecting thousands of plant and animal species sound? By planting flowers that sustain pollinators, you are accomplishing all of this, as well as making your yard more attractive. Pollinators, which include bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, hummingbirds, and bats, make reproduction possible for more than three-fourths of the flowering plants on earth, including many of the fruits and vegetables we eat every day.

Of all the pollinators in the world, bees are the best. While almost everyone is familiar with European honey bees, fewer people are aware of the vast variety of native bees found in North America. These include bumble bees, sweat bees, miner bees, and mason bees, all of which are valuable pollinators of crops as well as native flowering plants. Alarming, populations of both honey bees and native bees are in decline.

Reasons for bee decline include disease and parasite infection, habitat loss, and stress caused by pesticide exposure and malnutrition. As gardeners, we have a critical role to play in reversing this alarming trend. One of the most important things we can do to preserve and support pollinators is to plant flowers. Bees gather nectar and pollen from flowers to feed themselves and their offspring. To stay strong and maintain healthy colonies, bees need a season-long supply of flowers that have not been contaminated with pesticides.

Many of our native bees specialize in feeding on native plants. Including native plants in your landscape will support the widest range of pollinators. When planting flowers to support pollinators, aim to have at least three different types of flowers in bloom during each season, from early spring through late fall.

Flowering perennials are among the best nectar sources for bees. Recommended perennials native to our region that are available from most garden centers include spring bloomers such as spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*), Coreopsis species and varieties, wild indigo (*Baptisia* species), Wild geranium, beardtongue (*Penstemon* species), and bluestar (*Amsonia* species).

Some of the best native summer-blooming perennials for pollinators include coneflowers (*Rudbeckia* and *Echinacea* species), phlox, lobelia, butterflyweed and milkweed (*Asclepias* species), Stoke's aster (*Stokesia laevis*), bee balm (*Monarda* species), mist flower, liatris, and mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum* species).

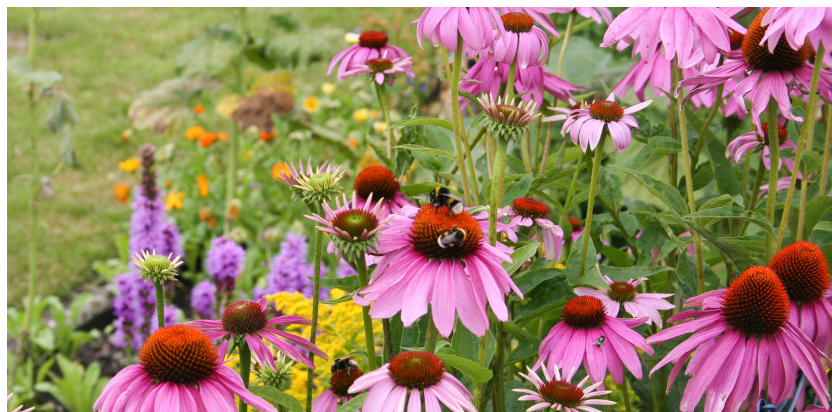
To provide late-season nectar sources, plant a variety of native asters (*Symphyotrichum* species), goldenrods (*Solidago* species), joe pye weed (*Eutrochium* species), ironweeds (*Vernonia* species), and perennial sunflowers (*Helianthus* species).



Asters (*Symphyotrichum* species)



Bluestar (*Amsonia* species)



Coneflowers (*Rudbeckia* and *Echinacea* species)

Rotational vs. Continuous Grazing

In Kentucky, having cattle that graze is how many farmers provide additional income for their families. Continuous grazing has been the traditional way to graze cattle over generations, but there may be a way to improve your grazing system and make your operation more profitable. An alternative to continuous grazing is a method called rotational grazing . Each farm is different, and a grazing system that works for your neighbor may not work for you.

Continuous grazing is when cattle graze a pasture for an extended amount of time with no, or infrequent rest to the plants from grazing. Advantages of this method are low fencing cost, low daily management requirements, and when stocking rate is correct, acceptable animal gains. This method is most effective where forage availability is plentiful and the manager does not wish to increase livestock numbers. Continuous grazing is more successful when implemented with dry cows, bred heifers, and beef cows of moderate to low milking ability. When implemented with lactating dairy cattle, stocker calves, or other animals that require better quality forages, they may not perform to their potential.

One disadvantage of continuous grazing is the difficulty in controlling the timing and intensity of grazing. Another limitation of this system is during slow forage growth periods animal numbers need to be adjusted, or more acreage available for grazing. Continually grazing a pasture with too many animals will lead to reduced forage availability and quality and animal growth.

A continually grazed pasture will take longer to recover after a drought than a pasture that has been rested because the plants are more stressed. Another disadvantage to continuous grazing is the limited number of forages that can withstand the grazing pressure. Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue are the two most popular grasses that can tolerate this grazing method and white clover is the only legume in Kentucky that has good stand survival under continuous grazing. Orchardgrass, red clover, and alfalfa are popular forages in KY, but stands of these species thin quickly under continuous grazing.

Rotational grazing is a system where a large pasture is divided into smaller paddocks allowing livestock to be moved from one paddock to the other easily. Using this method cattle are concentrated on a smaller area of the pasture for a few days then moved to another section of pasture. This movement allows the grazed paddock a rest period that permits forages to initiate regrowth, renew carbohydrate stores, and improve yield and persistency. When utilized properly, rotational grazing can help farmers increase forage productivity. Rotational grazing can help improve productivity, weight gain or milk production per acre, and overall net return to the farm. Rotational grazing allows for better manure distribution that acts as a source of nutrients to the soil. Rotational grazing also has the potential to reduce machinery cost, fuel, supplemental feeding and the amount of forage wasted.

The disadvantages of rotational grazing include the need for more fence to be constructed, time required to move cattle, and the need to have water and access to shade from each smaller paddock. The use of temporary fence is an inexpensive way to divide fields into the smaller paddocks and can be moved based upon the producers' preference. If additional watering sources are needed they can be added by using plastic pipe placed on top of the ground from a current water source to the desired location.




Rotational grazing can help extend the grazing season, allowing a producer to rely less on stored feed and supplement. One of the most desirable attributes of this system is that a producer can design it to fit their needs. Rotational grazing allows a producer to be more in control of the timing and intensity of forage grazed by cattle. For those wanting to start using this system try taking one pasture and dividing it in half to begin with. If you see an improvement, divide it again the next year, or try dividing another pasture in half. For those who use this method it may take several years to figure out exactly what works best. Using temporary fence materials and portable watering tanks allows a producer to experiment with different paddock sizes and watering systems.

The type of grazing system that is best suited for a given farm will depend on the goal of the producer and their resources. Rotational grazing allows a producer a better opportunity to use livestock to manage grasses, legumes, and weeds. Continuous grazing requires less input and labor.

Increased area per animal is required as the season advances into the hot summer months, when pasture regrowth slows down. This can be done either by moving cattle to another paddock, often hay fields are cycled into grazing rotation after first cutting, or reducing herd numbers in a continually grazed system. The key to making a grazing system work is managing the balance between production and use of forage throughout the year.



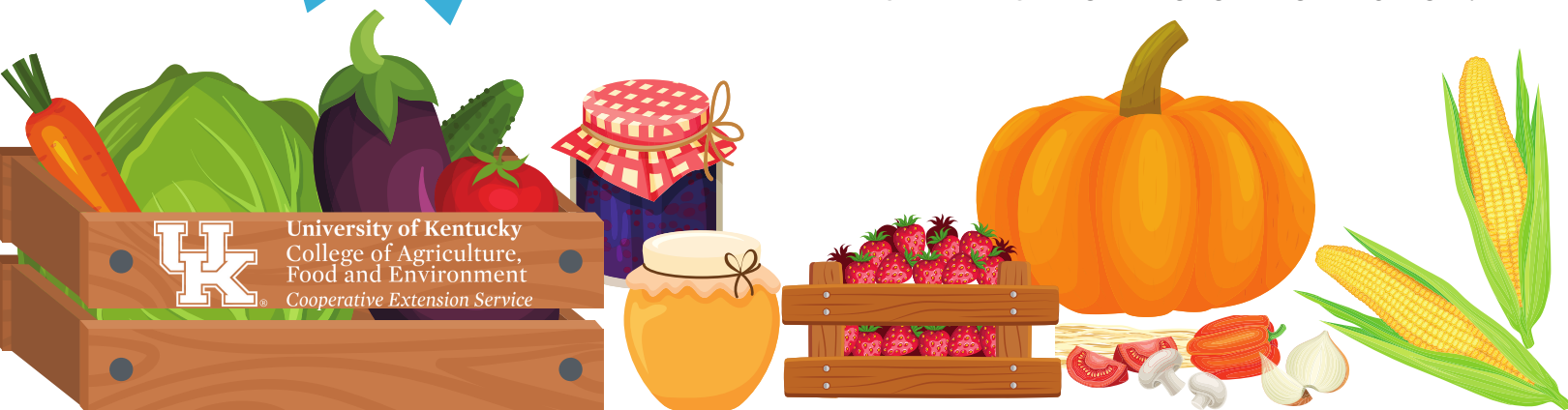
Vendors Meeting for the MAGOFFIN COUNTY FARMER'S MARKET



**June 6th
@ 5:30pm**

**Calling all Magoffin County Farmers,
Gardeners, Crafters, and Beekeepers!**

If you are interested in selling homegrown or handmade goods at the Magoffin County Farmer's Market join us on June 6th at the Magoffin County Extension Office for our Farmer's Market Vendors Meeting, we would love to have you join for the 2023 market season! Call our office at 606-349-1236 for more information.



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MAGOFFIN COUNTY HONEY BEE ASSOCIATION

Meeting Dates for 2023:

May 22nd



September 25th

October 23rd



All meetings will begin at 5:30 pm at the
 Magoffin County Extension Office.

If you are interested in learning more about
 beekeeping, “bee” sure to join us!

Or if you would like to join the association,
 please contact our office at (606) 349-1236 and
 request to be added to the mailing list.



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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
 accommodated
 with prior notification.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



2023 Sweet Potato Slip Order Form

Purchaser Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

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 magoffin.ca.uky.edu

Varieties/Color/ Days to Maturity

- Beauregard (Red)- 90 Days
- Orleans (Red)- 90 Days
- Bonita (White)- 100 Days
- Covington (Red)- 120 Days
- Murasaki (Purple Skin/ White Flesh)- 120 Days

Pricing

- 50 Slips- \$20
- 100 Slips- \$30
- 300 Slips- \$45
- 500 Slips- \$60
- 1,000 Slips- \$95

VARIETY	QUANTY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
TOTAL DUE			

Orders and pre-payment are required by May 4th, 2023
Make checks payable to: Magoffin Co. Ext. Non-Tax Fund

Payment Information:
 Amount Paid: _____
 Date: _____
 Received by: _____
 Check no. _____ or Cash _____

***Slips are scheduled for delivery the last week of May.
 The Extension Office will contact you as soon as the slips
 have been sorted and are available for pickup***

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Strawberry Salsa

1 tablespoon olive oil

2 tablespoons white vinegar or white balsamic vinegar

½ teaspoon salt

2 cups, coarsely chopped fresh strawberries

8 green onions, chopped

2 cups chopped cherry or grape tomatoes

½ cup chopped fresh cilantro

1. Whisk olive oil, vinegar, and salt in large bowl.

2. Add strawberries, green onions, tomatoes, and cilantro. Toss to coat.

3. Cover and chill for 1 hour.

4. Serve with tortilla or pita chips.

Yield: 7, ½ cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 40 calories; 2 g fat; 0 g saturated fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 170 mg sodium; 6 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 4 g sugar; 1 g protein; 60% of vitamin C.

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

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

