



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

DeSoto County Extension Newsletter

DESOTO COUNTY

MAY 2025

Within the next few weeks or sometime in the next month we are expecting to MOVE locations when the new Agri-Education Center opens. So before you come see us please check to see where we're at! We will post on social media when this move happens. Our phone number will remain the same (662-469-8480). Please be understanding if you visit too because we are still trying to keep the doors open while packing boxes to move.

Don't forget we are transitioning to an electronic newsletter to help MSU Extension save on postage and printing fees. Our goal for this switch in format to begin in June 2025. However, we want to be sure that you can still receive our info in a format accessible for you. If you would like us to still send a printed newsletter in the mail that's ok. Our goal is to move as many households as possible to the digital mailing list moving forward. 4-H families and Master Gardeners will automatically be moved to the electronic version because we have your contact info on file already. Everyone else help us by signing up for the electronic newsletter! Use the information on the right in the gray box to do this.

Inside this month's newsletter, you will find lots of information about upcoming events and programs we have going on.

*Yours,
The Extension Agents
Jessica, Matt, Laura & Lara*



The DeSoto County Board of Supervisors recently recognized some of our 4-Hers! The dairy goat group was recognized for winning the Dixie National Premier Dairy County award at this years Dixie National Livestock Show. 15 4-H exhibitors exhibited 52 dairy goats!

3260 HIGHWAY 51 S. HERNANDO, MS 38632

Electronic
**DESOTO
COUNTY
EXTENSION
NEWSLETTER**

Sign-up
NOW



What: Plans are in the works to offer the DeSoto County Extension Office Newsletter in a convenient and readable electronic newsletter version.

Why: This transition will help us reach your household to conserve postage funds. We understand this might not be for everyone, but if you use email please help us transition.

How: Sign up using the QR code by scanning the code to signup or reach out to our Extension Office by calling 662-469-8480.



DESOTO COUNTY

AGRI-ED CENTER

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE
Thursday 19 2025

1170 STAR LANDING ROAD
NESBIT, MS

DeSoto County Extension Office at 662-469-8480.



General Food Safety Course

May 5 @ 4 P.m.

Location: Olive Branch Senior Citizens Center

Register by emailing info@obms.us

Sign up Today!



CLICK HERE! 

SCAN ME 

Join our Agriculture Newsletter that will be delivered to your email monthly!

NEW

PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE GROWER TRAINING

& GAP'S COURSE
DESOTO COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE




PRE-REGISTRATION (REQUIRED) DEADLINE MAY 2

MAY 9

MASTER GARDENERS INFORMATION SERIES



Roses in the Natchez Clay Plateau

Presented by Master Gardener Spencer Bennet

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 * 9:30 am

JAMES F. ANDERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
370 West Commerce, Hernando, MS
A branch of First Regional Library

662-429-4439
www.firstregional.org



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
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2025

PLANT SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

ABOUT:

This project offers a hands-on, at-home experience designed to introduce young people to the world of agronomy and plant science.

OTHER INFO:

Jr. Division 10-13, Sr. Division 14-18
Prizes awarded in both divisions
1 kit per youth

WE PROVIDE:



Seeds



Pots



Notebook



Rain Gauge

FOR MORE INFO:



Scan this QR code to contact your county Extension office or contact
Bill Burdine
(662) 566-2201
bill.burdine@msstate.edu



4-H SUMMER CAMP EXPLORE

June 9-12, 2025

HCC, Goodman, MS

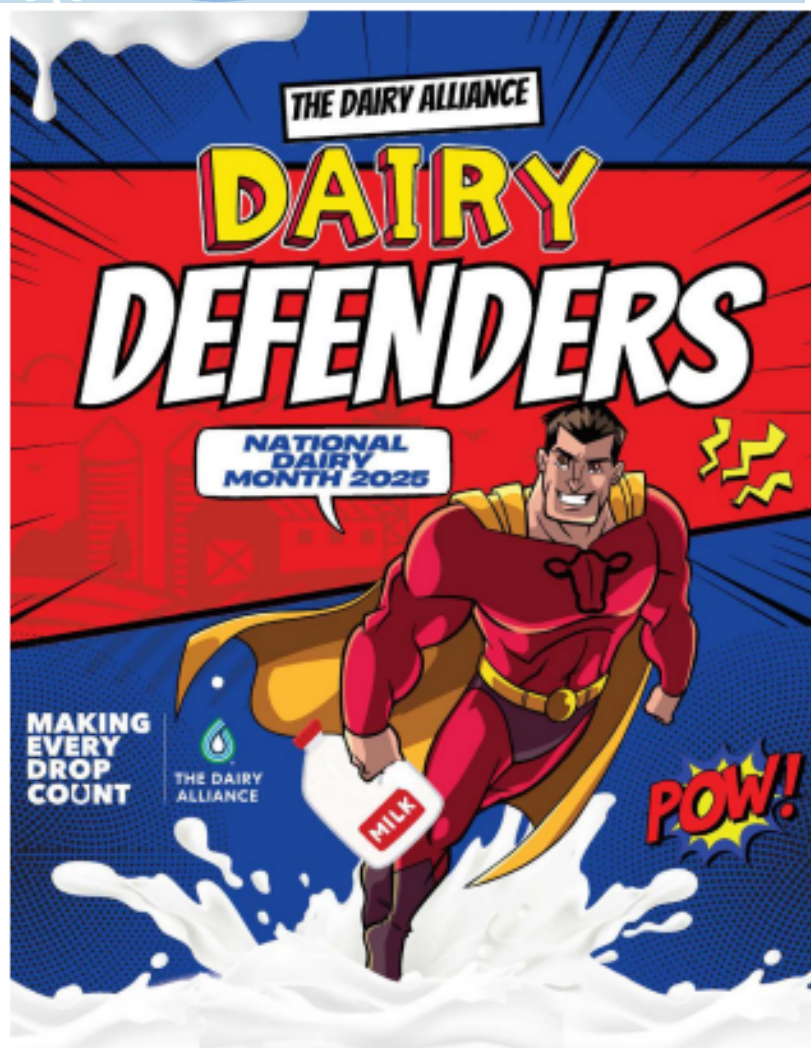
Junior 4-H'ers Age 8-13

Registration Fee \$225
Includes Lodging,
Meals, Activities,
T-Shirt, and 4-H
Activity Insurance

Deadline to register is
May 23, 2025



Contact your county
Extension Agent for
more information



Dairy Poster Contest

Using the theme, "Dairy Defenders", make a poster about the benefits of the dairy industry and dairy products. The poster must be 22 in by 28 in.

All posters will be judged on the county level. 1st place posters in each age division (8-10, 11-13, and 14-18 years) will advance on to the state competition.

Monetary awards available to STATE poster winners.

SCAN HERE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION



**Deadline to turn poster in to DeSoto
County Extension Office by 5 pm on
June 23, 2025**

Ignite your Child



If you have a child and want to engage them in interactive activities and programs we offer a wide range of things in 4-H! From Agriculture, STEAM, Healthy Living, Civic Engagement and everything in between.

Stop by and grab a 4-H Grab and Go Kit from one of the DeSoto County First Regional Library branch locations or the Extension Office. Explore all the

different avenues of 4-H to get a taste of what all we have to offer. If this peaks their interest the next step is enrolling them into our 4-H Youth Development program. So reach out to us and enroll them so they can participate in contests, events, and activities. Visit 4-h.org for ways to spark your child too!

This summer we have 4-H Project Achievement Day, 4-H Steam Day, 4-H Cookout Contests, and MORE! Don't miss out. Keep reading this newsletter for more information.

4-H Record Books

The Mississippi 4-H Record keeping program has three age categories. Juniors age 8-9; Juniors age 10-11;

Intermediates age 12-14; and Seniors age 15-18. 4-Hers work at their own pace on an individual project, include a 4-H story and photos, and complete 4-H report forms.

Ribbons and prize money is awarded to winners and the winning Senior Record Books receives a reward trip to National Congress. Got questions or need help reach out to us at 662-469-8480. **Deadlines to remember (due to**

DeSoto County Extension Office)

June 16 Seniors

July 15 Juniors and Intermediate



DAIRY GOAT

SHOWMANSHIP CLINIC

June 12, 2025 at 4 pm



FREE for all to attend

SCAN ME

RSVP BY JUNE 6, 2025

Donations are accepted

Open to all 4-Hers age 7-18 years old as of January 1, 2025

Must provide your goat and supplies

TOPICS COVERED

- ✓ Show fitting- clipping the goat & preparing for the ring
- ✓ Ring Etiquette and maneuvers

LOCATION



DeSoto County Agri-Education Center
1170 Star Landing Rd
Nesbit, MS 38651



DeSoto County Extension Office
662-469-8480
L.anglin@msstate.edu



Save the Date!

4-H STEAM Day

is

June 24, 2025

Registration opens on April 23, 2025 and closes on June 11, 2025.

The 4-H Junior STEAM Day is open to 4-H youth, ages 5-13, as of January 1, 2025.

Cloverbuds (5-7-year-olds) may participate but are not scored. All Cloverbuds will receive a certificate of participation.

For Cloverbuds, the focus is on experience and building communication skills and confidence.

Juniors (8-13-year-olds) are scored and will be ranked.

Participants may compete in more than one contest.

Each contest has an entomology (insects, bugs, etc) theme.

The morning contest are listed below. Youth may choose from each column.

Choose 1	Choose (up to) 2	Bonus (Plus 1)
Judging Event	Visual Presentation	Exhibit
<input type="checkbox"/> Dash Robotics Contest - Cloverbud	<input type="checkbox"/> LEGO Build Contest	<input type="checkbox"/> STEAM Art Contest
<input type="checkbox"/> Spike Robotics Contest - Juniors	<input type="checkbox"/> Makerspace Contest	<input type="checkbox"/> STEAM Snacks Contest
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lights, Camera, Science!	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ScratchJr.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> STOP Motion	

For more information about this contest reach out to us at the Extension Office. This contest is at Mississippi State University, not in DeSoto County! It is a great day and it is fun for all. Here is the tentative schedule for the day. For descriptions of contest(s) and for registration information please reach out to us.

4-H JUNIOR STEAM DAY SCHEDULE

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration and Check-In
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Opening Remarks
- 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Judging Events
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Workshops Start
(4-H'ers that do not have a contest can participate in workshops.)
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch is on your own
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Workshops Continue
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony and Closing Remarks



Mississippi State University is an equal-opportunity institution. Discrimination in university employment, programs, or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status protected by applicable law is prohibited.

For disability accommodation, please contact Brad Staton at 662-325-3350 and/or email dpl4@msstate.edu.

IT'S PAPER CLOVER TIME!



April 18–May 5, 2025

Funds support scholarships to 4-H camp and leadership activities.






Agronomy Day Camp

Thursday June 12, 2025
North Mississippi Research and Extension Center
5421 MS-145 S., Verona, MS 38879

9:00 am- 4:30 pm

Attendance is Free

Open to youth 10 to 18 years old

Registration deadline: Monday June 9

Lunch and refreshments provided




MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY...
EXTENSION

Fire up the grill!


The North Cook-out Contest will be held

July 1, 2025

Where: Yalobusha County Extension Office in Coffeeville.



cook-out contests

 What: This is a grilling contest. There are two divisions—junior and senior. Junior contestants must be between the ages of **8-13** and senior contestants must be between the ages of **14-18**.

Contest categories are chicken, turkey, beef and pork. Youth may only enter one category. Please reach out to us for further details about the contest and info on registration. The chicken and turkey senior winners advance to state contest July 14. And the winners of that contest win a National Trip to Louisville, KY.

Battle of the Bark: Tackling Crape Myrtle Bark Scale!



Crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) is a destructive pest that compromises both the health and appearance of crape myrtle trees. Infestations lead to weakened trees and the development of black sooty mold, which further diminishes the tree's aesthetic appeal and overall vigor. Effective management requires a proactive, integrated approach. Regularly inspect crape myrtles for early signs of infestation, including clusters of white, felt-like scales on the bark and the presence of black sooty mold on leaves and branches. Pruning heavily infested branches helps reduce the pest population while improving air circulation, which can aid in tree recovery.

For chemical control, systemic insecticides such as imidacloprid, dinotefuran, or thiamethoxam are the most effective treatments. These should be applied as soil drenches or injections to ensure proper absorption and long-term protection. The optimal treatment period is from late March through May when trees are actively growing and can best absorb the insecticides. However, treatments can be applied at any time when an infestation is detected, provided the tree is not dormant. Consistent monitoring and timely intervention are key to managing CMBS infestations and maintaining the health and beauty of crape myrtles.



What is 4-H Project Achievement Day? This is a day of contests for 4-Hers ages 8-13. Youth can compete in visual presentations, public speaking, cloverleaf exhibits, judging contests, bicycle, insect collections, modeling squad, share the fun and more! If you're interested please reach out to us. More information will be available soon.

Save the Date

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Northwest Project Achievement Day

Holmes Community College
Grenada, Mississippi

 MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY...
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Tate & DeSoto POND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Covered Topics:
Water Quality
Nutrient Issues
Pond Stocking
Vegetative Management

MAY 1, 2025

6:00 PM

LOCATION:
205 FRENCH'S ALLEY
SENATOBIA, MS 38668

TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL THE TATE COUNTY OFFICE AT
662-562-4274

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact Tate County Office at 662-562-4274.

Commercial Poultry Production Dual-Credit Course



Mississippi State University offers a unique opportunity for high school students to take an online poultry course while earning high school and college credits! Through this course, students will learn the basics of the poultry industry and be exposed to the numerous opportunities within the poultry industry.

Start Date: August 20, 2025

End Date: Dec. 11, 2025

Student Requirements:

- Any HS student classified as a sophomore or higher
- Minimum overall HS GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

Benefits:

- Students receive a 3-credit hour college course at a discounted rate (\$377 vs \$1300)
- College credit can be applied to most degree tracks and colleges/universities, not just those seeking a career in agriculture.
- Students receive high school credit
- Course can be applied to school "accountability points"



Cost: \$377

PO3313

COMMERCIAL POULTRY
PRODUCTION



Scan for more information

TATE/DESOTO Forestry Association

MFA MISSISSIPPI LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Thursday, May 22
6:00 PM



205 French's Alley
Senatobia, MS 38668



Dave Godwin
MFA Landowner
Coordinator



Call to register:
662-562-4274



SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 21, 2025

KEVIN NELMS, NRCS PROGRAMS

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B.J. CHAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

6619 Highway 305 North
Olive Branch, Mississippi 38654
Phone: (662) 895-5900 Fax: (662) 895-9171
A branch of First Regional Library
www.firstregional.org

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES...

Let's Be Prepared!

Join MSU Extension agent Lara Angel to gain knowledge on when to call 9-1-1 for help and learn different tactics to handle man-made or natural threats.

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 * 10:00 am

PLEASE REGISTER. Call Jennifer at 662-895-5900 for info.

Blossom End Rot is not caused by a pathogen and is not a disease. It is caused by lack of adequate calcium in the developing fruit. Most Mississippi soils have enough calcium for tomatoes to develop properly. Blossom end rot is a calcium deficiency, but that deficiency is normally caused by uneven water availability to the plant. In other words, even if your soil has plenty of calcium, the plant can't take it up if there isn't enough moisture in the soil. So, it's best to keep soils evenly moist, especially when the plant begins to bloom. Don't let plants wilt between waterings. If your plants wilt because of inadequate moisture, the fruits are more likely to develop blossom end rot.

However, some soils do not have enough calcium and that will help cause blossom end rot. Most of us have heard that eggshells can help increase the calcium in our garden soil, and some of us may have even tried it in our own yards.

The goal is to help prevent blossom end rot on tomatoes and other plants affected by calcium deficiency. As it turns out, using eggshells really doesn't fix anything.

It's best not to guess whether your soil has enough calcium or not. To ensure your plants will get enough calcium, do a soil test. That's the only way to know for sure, and then you can adjust the soil accordingly. We can give you a soil sample kit that here at the Extension Office. You will need to bring a quart size bag of soil for the selected area to get tested for \$10.00. Need more help understanding how to take a soil sample or interpreting your results? Contact your local Extension agent and they can help you with that.

Blossom End Rot: The Silent Tomato Killer!



https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/P3175_web.pdf

Be Prepared When Disaster Strikes

Before an emergency, have a plan of action ready to go!
Think non-perishable food items, water, shelter, medical kit, multiple communication channels (TV, Weather Radio, Phone), and have an evacuation to go box.

Living among greenery may lower disease risk

The Green Heart Louisville Project, led by the University of Louisville's Envirome Institute in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and other organizations, has found that increasing tree and shrub density in neighborhoods significantly improves residents' health.

Key Findings:

- Over 8,000 trees and shrubs were planted in select neighborhoods, while others remained unchanged for comparison.
- Researchers analyzed 745 participants through blood, urine, hair, and nail samples.
- Residents in the greener areas showed 13-20% lower levels of high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP), a marker of inflammation linked to heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.
- This reduction corresponds to a 10-15% lower risk of heart attacks, cancer, or mortality from any cause.

Study Significance:

- First research to show that actively increasing urban greenery improves health.
- Strengthens the case for urban greening as a public health strategy.
- Received over \$16 million in funding, including \$4.6 million for further studies.


The findings suggest that planting trees can be a low-cost, natural intervention to reduce disease risk and enhance community well-being. 🌳💚



<https://louisville.edu/medicine/news/uofl-green-heart-project-residents2019-inflammation-lower-after-trees-added-to-neighborhoods/>

May

2025

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
27 April	28	29	30	1 May Kids and Kits Club Meeting Pond Workshop	2	3 District Shoot  Hazardous Household Waste Day
4	5 Food Safety for the Farmers Market at OB Senior Citizens Center	6 When Disaster Strikes at OB Library	7	8	9 PSA	10
11	12	13 4-H Sewing	14	15 Tate DeSoto Livestock Meeting 6 p.m.	16 Lucky Leaders 4-H Club	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Western Heritage Meeting	24
25	26	27 4-H Cooking Kit Pickup Poultry Chain Meeting @ 6	28 Roses Library Program	29	30	31