



EXHIBIT DAYS AHEAD!

Our 2024 Exhibit Days are just around the corner. This year it will be held at the Springhill District Building, 2556 Clayton Road, on Monday, September 16th, through Wednesday, September 18th. This is an annual competition open to Lee County residents dating back to fair days downtown. We offer many ways for local residents, ages five and up, to show off their skills and abilities by offering many exhibit categories based on age. Several exhibition divisions are available for entry based on age and include Expressive Arts, Photography, Creative Sewing, Hobby Skills & Crafts, Canned & Dried Foods, and more!



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In turn, this offers local residents the opportunity to visit and admire other locals' and neighbors' work. Awards include: Blue Ribbons paying \$8 each; Red Ribbons paying \$5 each; and an additional \$15 for Best in Show. Each exhibitor is allowed up to fifteen entries.

HOW TO ENTER:

Register by picking up your Exhibitor Pack at the Lee County Extension Office, 5338 Cliff Gookin Blvd., before Wednesday, September 11. You will be assigned your exhibitor number, given the official rules with division listings, and your fifteen tags for exhibit entry. Please feel free to call 662-841-9000 with any questions.



5338 CLIFF GOOKIN BLVD., TUPELO, MS 38801

CATTLE MARKET NEWS



US Hay Production Expected to Increase Again in 2024

By: Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

As I have done the last few years, I selected some state estimates from the USDA's August Crop Production report to provide some regional perspective on likely hay production levels. As can be seen in the table below, non-Alfalfa hay production is expected to be higher in most states. Texas and Missouri especially stand out, and it is worth noting that they are projected to be the two states with the highest production levels nationwide. Oklahoma stands out to the downside, but that decrease is driven by a sizeable drop in expected harvested acres. Hay production was projected higher in Kentucky, Arkansas, and Mississippi, with Tennessee (down 10.2%) being the outlier in the Southeast.

While a lot can still change with respect to hay production this fall, the August Crop Production report does paint a picture of increased hay supplies in many areas. In addition to hay production, fall grazing prospects will also impact how much hay will be needed in the upcoming winter. It is also important to understand that these production estimates say nothing about hay quality, which is another important element of the discussion. I like to examine hay production estimates and do think it provides some general perspective, but I would also reiterate how different hay availability can be across the country. It's never too early to think about winter hay needs and make plans to source additional hay, if needed.

Non-Alfalfa Hay Production Estimates in Selected States and US (2023 and 2024)

State	2023 Production (1,000 tons)	Est. 2024 Production (1,000 tons)	Change from 2023 to 2024
Arkansas	2,204	2,684	+21.8%
Kansas	2,781	3,028	+8.9%
Kentucky	4,158	4,466	+7.4%
Mississippi*	1,102	1,276	+15.8%
Missouri	4,380	5,805	+32.5%
Oklahoma	6,630	5,270	-20.5%
Tennessee	3,740	3,360	-10.2%
Texas	8,280	10,780	+30.2%
United States	68,853	74,450	+8.1%

*Mississippi Estimates include Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures
Source: USDA-NASS August 2024 Crop Production Report

LEE COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 6 PM, AT THE LEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE.



LEE COUNTY CLASSIC

LEE COUNTY/MAFES AGRI-CENTER, 5395 HWY 145, VERONA, MS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH - Dairy Goat Show at 5:30 PM

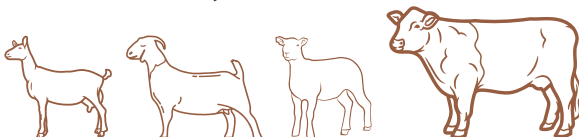
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH - Beef Cattle* at 9:30 AM

*Point show for MS Jr Santa Gertrudis Association

Meat Goats at 10 AM

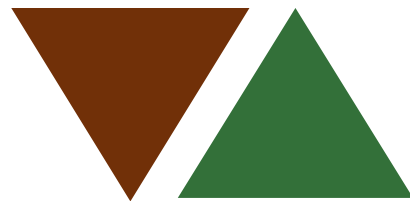
Sheep** at 1 PM

**Point show for MS Sheep Producers Association



Contact 662-841-9000 for more information.

FORESTRY



There will be a Forestry & Wildlife Field Day held on Tuesday, October 1st, from 8:30 AM to 1 PM. The host will be Simon Tree Farm located in the Cherry Creek area, 3736 HWY 345, Pontotoc, MS. Informational programming will include: timber management, wildlife management, kudzu control, prescribed burning, and more.

Lunch will be provided and is sponsored by West Fraser Timber Company. The Mississippi Forestry Association is working in conjunction with five county forestry associations: Calhoun, Lafayette, Lee, Pontotoc, and Union.



Bloom at Noon



Bloom at Noon will meet at the Lee County Extension Office on September 10 & October 8. Please call ahead to make your reservation at 662-841-9000. We look forward to seeing you!



Bloom at Noon offers two exciting and instruction filled programs for the months of September and October. In September, Kelsey Martin, Marshall County FCS & 4-H Agent, will elevate our wrapping skills just in time for the holiday season. Just bring wrapping paper, ribbon, and a gift, so you can participate in her wrapping and bow tying demonstrations.

For October, we will host Dr. Shaun Broderick, Horticulture Specialist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service and located at the Central MS Research & Extension Center in Crystal Springs, MS. He will conduct a hands-on workshop on plant propagation.



COURSE AVAILABLE NOW!



Master
GARDENER

Enroll online at

<http://msuext.ms/mg>

Registration for this self-paced online training course is open through September 12 with an enrollment fee of \$125. The online course is conducted October 1st - December 2nd.

The Lee County Master Gardener Program offers the opportunity to help extend the educational arm of the university to the public by providing horticultural information based on university research publications. For more information about the Master Gardener Program go to:

<http://extension.msstate.edu/community/leadership/master-gardener> or email Susan McGukin at susan.mcguikin@msstate.edu or call 662-841-9000.

You're Invited!



FALL
GARDEN
Day

October 5th

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

North MS Research & Extension Center

5421 HWY 145 S, Verona, MS

Featured Speakers

Dr. Eddie Smith, MSU Extension, Southern Gardening Host

Dr. Chris Cooper, UT/Shelby County Extension, Host of PBS's "The Family Plot"

Scarecrow Trail, Garden Tours, Children's Activities, & More



Garden Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Get Ready

- Order or purchase Spring bulbs locally for October planting.
- Build or buy a compost bin in anticipation of autumn leaves.

Plant

- Plant cool-season leafy root vegetables: Beets, Carrots, Lettuce, Spinach, & Turnips.
- Sow hardy annuals: Sweet Alyssum, Calendula, Annual Pinks, Snapdragon, & Sweet Peas.
- Sow rye grass seed in winter lawns.

Fertilize

- Stop feeding mums when the buds start showing color.
- Acidify Azaleas & Camelias.

Water

- Slow down watering of Azaleas & Hydrangeas to allow them to harden against winter freezes.
- Spray the foliage of Camelias in anticipation of their bloom.
- Water potted plants & hanging baskets frequently.

Miscellaneous

- Turn compost pile.
- Pick flowers in bloom and dry for future arrangements. Bundle flowers together and hang them upside down in a dry, sheltered area.
- Repot houseplants. Prune away damaged foliage and give a good dose of plant food.



OCTOBER



Plant

- Pot up Basil, Chives, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, and Sweet Marjoram for that sunny kitchen window.
- Wisteria & Trumpet Vine can be planted this month.
- Annuals to plant are Pansies, Violas, Pinks, Flowering Cabbage & Kale, & English Daisy. Wildflower seeds to be planted are Cornflowers, Larkspur, & Queen Anne's Lace.
- Perennials to plant include Asters, Salvia, Hollyhock, Daylilies, Babies' Breath, Iris, Shasta Daisy, Peonies, & Phlox.

Fertilize

- Test the soil in the garden to monitor the balance of minerals.
- Soil testing boxes are available at the Lee County Extension Office.

Prune

- Remove damaged and dead wood from trees and shrubs.
- Prune back annuals like Blue Salvia & Dianthus to the ground & mulch. They may go through the winter and bloom again.

Miscellaneous

- Dig up Caladiums now with foliage intact and allow to dry. Remove dried foliage & store in peat moss in a cool, dark place for replanting next year.
- Force bulbs for indoor show. Place the bulb on gravel and water enough to cover the roots. Keep in a dark place until the root system is established and the sprout reaches three inches. Bring gradually into the light and refill the container with water to its original level. Enjoy the blooms of Paper-white, Narcissus, Jonquil, or Hyacinth indoors.
- Make sure the birds in your garden have food, shelter, and water or nectar.
- Place leaves in compost bin.





TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER

School has begun, and fall is upon us. As children return to the classroom, please keep in mind the vast educational experiences that our local 4-H offers youth year-round. Along with traditional clubs focused on agriculture, livestock, and family consumer sciences, we are expanding our programming into newer areas. Newer clubs provide activities in art, gardening, robotics, and more. Many programs are offered through our local 4-H while keeping an emphasis on nurturing and developing young individuals with outreach and leadership skills. In the future, these young people become valuable citizens within our communities. "To make the best better" continues to be the motto for 4-Hers all over the world today, and it is a better place for it. If you know a child that would be interested, please contact us at 662-841-9000.

4-H AGE ELIGIBILITY*

Cloverbuds 5 -7 Years
Junior Leaf 8-13 Years
Seniors 14-18 Years

***Age is as of January 1 of the current year.**



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

LEE COUNTY 4-H CLUBS

Aggies 8-18

Bunny Bunch 5-18

Clodhoppers 14-18

Cloverbuds 5-7

Crochet 10-18

Expressive Arts 8-13

Foodie 4-Hers 10-18

Junior Leaf 8-13

Junior Master

Gardener 8-13

Ropes & Reins 8-18

Shooting Sports 8-18

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) 5-13

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SEPTEMBER



2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 Master Gardener Training Course Online Registration through September 12th	02 LABOR DAY Lee Co. Extension Office Closed	03 Foodie 4-H Ages 10-18 5 PM Lee Co. Extension Office - Back Kitchen	04 Crochet Club Ages 10-18 4:30 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	05	06	07
08	09 Cloverbuds Ages 5-7 & Junior Leaf Ages 8-13 4:30 PM Rabbit Club Ages 5-18 6 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	10 Bloom at Noon Clodhoppers Ages 14-18 5 PM Aggies Club Ages 8-18 6 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	11	12 DEADLINE for Master Gardener Training Course Online Registration	13	14
15	16 Lee Co Youth & Adult Exhibit Days Check in 3 - 6 PM at Spring Hill District Building	17 Lee Co Youth & Adult Exhibit Days Viewing & Extension Open House 4 - 6 PM at Spring Hill District Building	18 Lee Co Youth & Adult Exhibit Days Check Out 2 - 5:30 PM at Spring Hill District Building	19 Cattlemen's Meeting 6 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	20	21
22	23 STEM Club Ages 5-13 4:30 PM Lee County Extension Office	24	25	26 Junior Master Gardener Ages 8-13 4 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	27 Lee Co Classic Livestock Show Dairy Goats at 5:30 PM	28 Lee Co Classic Livestock Show Beef at 9:30 AM, Goats at 10 AM, & Sheep at 1 PM

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OCTOBER



2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	01 Forestry Field Day 8:30 AM - 1 PM at Simon Tree Farm Foodie 4-H Ages 10-18 5 PM Lee Co. Extension Office - Back Kitchen	02 Crochet Club Ages 10-18 4:30 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	03	04	05 Lee Co. Master Gardener Fall Garden Day 9 AM - 1 PM N MS Research & Extension Center Verona, MS
06	07	08 Bloom at Noon Clodhoppers 14-18 5 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	09	10	11	12
13	14 Cloverbuds Ages 5-7 & Junior Leaf Ages 8-13 4:30 PM Rabbit Club Ages 5-18 6 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	15	16	17 Cattlemen's Meeting 6 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	18	19
20	21 Ropes & Reins Ages 8-18 6:30 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	22	23	24 Junior Master Gardener Ages 8-13 4 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	25	26
27	28 Stem Club Ages 5-13 4:30 PM Lee Co. Extension Office	29	30	31 Halloween	01	02 Lee Co. Rabbit Show N MS Research & Extension Center Verona, MS

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