



*February is here! We kicked off the New Year with a bang! A 4-H Goat Workshop started the ball rolling on January 5th, then we followed that up with 340+ in attendance at our 4-H Shooting Sports Interest Meeting. Next, 4-H Crepe Contest & 4-H Food Pantry Challenge Cooking Practices, Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training, the Northwest District Livestock Show, multiple Master Gardener Committee Meetings to plan their upcoming MG Training and the State Master Gardener Conference! WOW! Then FERN showed it's ugly face and showed us what it feels like to have a severe winter storm in the area. That's to just name a few of the larger highlights! It's been BUSY and COLD!*

*Please note our inclement weather policy. If DeSoto County Schools are closed, then local 4-H meeting(s) and events are canceled. Everyone else please check social media before traveling to see us if we experience inclement winter weather. We just might be closed due to road conditions!*

*Lara Angel*

*[Signature]*

*Jessica D. Sibley*



*Did you get caught off guard with the severe winter weather? When any severe weather happens, it's smart to think about having an emergency kit packed and ready to use. Here's some great tips to get you started so you are more prepared next time bad weather hits!*

*You'll need a large storage container to keep all your supplies in one spot.*

*Here's a list of some of the items to consider including in your emergency kit:*

- Water and food for 3-7 days
- First aid kit
- Blankets and pillows
- Toiletries
- Flashlight
- Batteries and chargers
- Extra set of keys for home and car
- Important documents stored in a waterproof bag.

If you lose power or are in need of a place to stay warm in an emergency please note these are the Warming Centers in DeSoto County. Please check social media or news first to ensure they're open first.

- Southaven Community Safe Room 7312 Highway 51 N
- Gale Community Center 2611 Elm Street
- Olive Branch Storm Shelter 9549 Pigeon Roost Rd

## Quick Chili

*Do you need a warm, satisfying meal fast? Try this Quick Chili. All you need are five ingredients and 30 minutes. While this basic recipe is quick and minimal, you can add other ingredients you have on hand to add extra nutrients and flavor.*

*Makes: 6 Cups*

- ½ pound lean ground meat (15% fat)*
- 1 medium onion, chopped*
- 1 15-oz. can kidney beans with liquid*
- 2 14.5-oz. cans diced tomatoes with liquid*
- 2 tablespoons chili powder*

## Directions

- 1. Wash hands with soap and water.*
- 2. Rinse or scrub fresh vegetables under running water before preparing.*
- 3. Brown meat and onions in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Drain fat (see Notes).*
- 4. Add undrained beans, tomatoes with liquid, and chili powder.*
- 5. Reduce heat to low. Cover and cook for 10 minutes. Serve warm.*
- 6. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.*

## Notes

- We used ground turkey, but you can use any kind of ground meat you like.*
- Add other vegetables such as bell peppers, carrots, celery, and corn, if desired.*
- You can add dried cumin, oregano, or red pepper flakes in Step 2 for extra flavor!*



# 4-H Livestock Shows

4-Hers also participated in the Northwest District Livestock Show in Batesville, MS between January 16-18, 2025. Congratulations to all of our DeSoto County 4-Hers!

**Beef Cattle:** Cheyenne Ricker, Easton Ricker, Weston Ricker, Savannah Stewart, Chandler McKnight

**Dairy Goats:** Evie Bemis, Hazel Bemis, Jayden Simpson, Zandrew Gomes, Michael Simpson, Lilly Bemis, Sidney Simpson, Nathan Bula, Addilyn Gomes, Jasidy Gomes, Anthony Bula

**Rabbits:** Evie Bemis, Hazel Bemis, Jan Schaafsma, Zandrew Gomes, Lillian Bemis, Fenix Schaafsma, Addilyn Gomes, Jasidy Gomes, Maisie Schaafsma, Charolette Kouba, Dominick Kouba, Everett Kouba, Cora Stokes





# How to Safely Use a Generator

You never know when a weather emergency will happen and cause you to lose power. Whether it be from ice, tornadoes, or hurricanes, you could potentially find yourself without power for days. When severe weather hits, a generator is very beneficial to have handy. When using gas-powered generators, here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. Generators are only used when needed, so they are likely stored for months (or even years) without being touched. They should be properly maintained throughout the year to make sure they will work when they're needed the most. Run it every couple of months up to operating temperature & with something plugged in to place a load on the electrical generator. This will exercise both main components of the unit while lubricating all parts and burning off any moisture or buildup from sitting. Do not keep gas in the tank. After a few months, gasoline becomes sticky and gummy. The degraded fuel will clog the carburetor and keep the generator from running.
2. Do not use the generator indoors, in garages or other partially enclosed areas, or near the doors or windows of a home. When running, gasoline-powered generators release carbon monoxide through the exhaust. Carbon monoxide, which is an odorless, colorless gas, can quickly build up in enclosed and partially enclosed spaces leading to illness and death.
3. Do not overload the generator, to ensure it protects appliances like power electronics, refrigerators and deep freezers. Select a generator with enough current and power ratings for the items you want to run during a power outage. If you want to power computers, televisions or other electronics, be sure to use a surge protector.

As always, remember to carefully follow the owner's manual for instructions specific to your generator. If you're considering purchasing a portable generator for the first time, ask yourself these questions before buying:

1. Is the generator large enough for your needs?
2. Is the fuel type acceptable?
3. Is the voltage correct for the equipment you want to power?
4. Is the noise level acceptable?
5. Can the generator be used safely at the location?
6. Does the generator meet legal requirements where it will be used?
7. Is the generator light enough to be easily moved around as needed?

Check out the publication below. It is a great resource if you need to purchase a generator or if you need advice or tips on ways to use larger generators when needed that can power central heating and cooling units, lights, and home appliances. Disaster preparedness is something many people don't think about until after it's too late.

P2972

Disaster Relief - Emergency Standby Electric Generators



## Planning for Warmer Times

There is not a lot of chores to be done in the garden, at least not the ones I enjoy doing, this time of year. However, this is a great time to start planning for your upcoming warm season crops, and it also appears the seed companies feel the same way. Seed catalogs and emails have been going out and it seems I get a new one almost daily. Considering that it takes about 8 weeks for many vegetables to be ready to transplant, now is a good time to order seed and replace any old equipment so you'll be ready come mid-February. Here are some things you can do to make sure you're ready to go!

- Flip through the catalogs or online stores and see what is available. Popular seeds and varieties are going to be the first to sell out in the spring. Keep in mind your garden size and what you will use, but don't be afraid to try out a couple new varieties.
- Look through any seedling trays and cells that you have from last year. Now is a good time to order any needed replacements online.



Workshop

# General Food Safety for the Farmers Market

for Mississippi Certified Farmers' Market Vendors  
and Cottage Food Industries



Friday

**20th  
March  
2026**

**FREE!**  
In-Person

**Starting @ 10 AM**  
DeSoto County Agri-Education Center  
1170 Star Landing Rd W  
Nesbit, MS 38651



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# Multi-County Row Crop Meeting

Tunica, Desoto, Coahoma, Tate, and Quitman County

**February 10, 2026 @ 10:30 AM**



## LOCATION:

Mid-South Ag Equipment, Inc  
4028 Josephine Rd  
Tunica, MS 38676.

**REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE  
FEBRUARY 6, 2025**

Lunch will be provided

Panel discussion including:

- Dr. Brian Pieralisi
- Dr. Justin Calhoun
- Dr. Will Eubanks
- Dr. Whitney Crow
- Dr. Brian Mills

Register by calling the Tunica  
County, Extension Office.  
662-363-2911.



DeSoto  
County

*Registration  
Is Open!*

*Register at the DeSoto  
County Ext. Office*

**Master Gardener**  
*Face-to-Face Trainings*

**WHEN: MARCH 10TH, 2026 TO APRIL 9TH, 2026  
TUESDAY AND THURSDAYS 8:30AM TO 12:00PM**

**WHERE: 1170 STAR LANDING RD W. NESBIT, MS**

**COST: \$175 PER PERSON**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ACCOMMODATIONS  
CALL 662-469-8480**



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# Master Urban Homesteader Workshop

Save  
the  
Dates



Tuesdays &  
Thursdays

**May**  
2026

Join us for our hands on workshop series focusing on  
gardening, seed starting, floral design, home food  
preservation, baking, livestock basics, small flock  
poultry management, and more!

Cost \$100

Registration  
coming soon...

More details to  
come...



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## Produce Safety Rule

# FDA Joint Cleaning & Sanitation Workshop

Thursday

19th  
February  
2026



**Cost**

**\$40.00**

**Registration**

<https://cvent.me/wl8xq9>

**8:00 AM-5:15 PM**

**Location:**

DeSoto County Agri-Education Center  
Nesbit, Mississippi

\*Pre-Workshop Webinar Online February 12, 2026 from 2:00PM - 3:30PM Central\*



Department of  
Agriculture



Register here



## VENDOR INTEREST MEETING



Feb 27, 2026  
9AM

In-Person  
Meeting

Hernando  
City Hall

### CURRENT & PROSPECTIVE VENDORS

Review Hernando Farmers Market and MS Dept of Agriculture  
and Commerce Guidelines

**SAVE THE DATE-MORE INFO TO COME!**

New Vendors please note Lara Angel will be offering a General Food Safety for the Farmers Market Course immediately following the HFM Vendor Meeting so you can get your certificate. If attending please register using QR Code.

2026  
*Vendor Applications*  
APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN



Completed applications can be submitted to City Hall ATTN: Farmers Market, during business hours. City Hall is located at 9200 Pigeon Roost Road. Deadline for applications is April 24, 2026



## DeSoto COUNTY 4-H



### Congress Interest Meeting



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02.26.2026  
5:30pm  
DeSoto County  
Agri-Education Center

Calling all Senior 4-Hers (ages 14-18 as of Jan. 1) who like competition. Come learn all about State 4-H Congress.

## DeSoto COUNTY 4-H



Project  
Achievement  
Day

### Interest Meeting



Thursday,  
March 26  
6:00pm  
DeSoto County  
Agri-Education  
Center

Junior 4-Her members 8-13 years old come explore all the possibilities of 4-H Project Competitions available at PAD on July 9.



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## DESOTO COUNTY 4-H

### 4-H POULTRY Chain Interest Meeting

February 19, 2026  
6:00pm  
1170 Star Landing Rd. W.  
Nesbit, MS  
662.469.8480

Who? Cloverbuds (youth ages 5-7) can show at county level & 4-Hers ages 8-18 can show at county level & state fair.



What? If you have interest in being a part of the 2026 4-H Poultry Chain and showing chickens in 4-H this year join us!

Why? Youth learn responsibility and time management skills & how to keep records. They raise birds for approximately 25 weeks & show them! After show season you can either keep or sell them.



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### Mississippi 4-H Award Applications



Deadline to  
STATE 4-H Office is  
Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>.



Please request your letter of recommendation to an DeSoto County Extension Agent by Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>!



# ANNUAL TREE GIVEAWAY

**FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

**8:30 AM- 12:00 PM**



FREE TREES!

CHERRYBARK OAK  
SHUMARD OAK  
SAWTOOTH OAK  
BALD CYPRESS  
NATIVE PECAN  
SASSAFRAS  
TULIP POPLAR  
GINKGO  
BLACK-RUM CHERRY  
WHITE FLOWERING DOGWOOD

FREE TREES!

PERSIMMON  
AMERICAN PLUM  
HIGH BUSH BLUEBERRY  
COMMON HACKBERRY  
PAW PAW  
WHITE CRAPE MYRTLE  
SPICE BUSH  
BLUE HYDRANGEA  
BUTTON BUSH  
LOBLOLLY PINE

*LIMITED AVAILABILITY PER SPECIES PER PERSON  
TREES ARE PROVIDED FOR PERSONAL USE- NOT FOR RESALE*

**AGRI-ED ARENA**

**1170 STARLANDING RD W.**

**NESBIT, MS 38651**

CONTACT STACEY PIRTLE AT 662-469-8251 OR  
swcddesoto@gmail.com TO VOLUNTEER OR FOR QUESTIONS

**SPONSORED BY:**



# PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

**IN-PERSON**

**COST: \$60**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Marshall County Extension  
(662) 252-3541  
February 24, 2026

DeSoto County Extension  
(662) 469-8480  
February 26

Tate County Extension  
(662) 562-4274  
March 13

**What time?**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Check or Money-Order, No  
Cash. To register call local  
Extension Office.

Cost Includes: Private  
Applicator Certification  
training, testing & lunch!

**HEALTHY CROPS. SAFE PRACTICES.**



# FEBRUARY 2026

AEC - Agri-Education Center

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Dixie Nationals  Kids & Kits 4-H Club	3	4 All About Stand Mixers @ OB Library @ 10 a.m.	5 Wester Wranglers 4-H Club	6	7
8	9 Dining with Diabetes Reunion @ Southaven Library @ 10 a.m.	10	11 MG Board Meeting	12 Tree Give-A-Way	13 Shooting Sports Paperwork Deadline	14 Shooting Sports Equipment Check
15	16 Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)	17 Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)	18 MG Monthly Meeting	19 Joint FDA Produce Cleaning and Sanitation Workshop	20 Lucky Leaders 4-H Club	21 Shooting Sports .22 Rifle/Pistol & Shotgun
22	23 Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)	24 Pick-Up 4-H Cooking Kit Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)	25	26 4-H Congress Interest Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	27 Hernando Farmers Market Vendor Meeting	28 Mid-South Farm & Gin Show Shooting Sports .22 Rifle/Pistol & Shotgun
	Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)	3 Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)	4	5	6	7 Shooting Sports .22 Rifle/Pistol & Shotgun

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI STATE, MISSISSIPPI 39762-5446  
PO BOX 5446

EXTENSION

MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY