



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!

Lana Angel

MATT S

Jessica G. Dillaway



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

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.

1170 STAR LANDING RD WEST SUITE B, NESBIT, MS 38651

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



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



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION



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



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

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.

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...



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

Produce Safety Rule

FDA Joint Cleaning & Sanitation Workshop

Thursday

19th
February
2026



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



Cost
\$40.00

Registration
<https://cvent.me/wl8xq9>

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.



DeSoto COUNTY 4-H



Congress Interest Meeting



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION



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

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.



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

DeSoto COUNTY 4-H

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.



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

Mississippi 4-H Award Applications



Deadline to
STATE 4-H Office is
Feb. 20th



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



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

**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

HEALTHY CROPS. SAFE PRACTICES.

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

PERSIMMON
AMERICAN PLUM
HIGH BUSH BLUEBERRY
COMMON HACKBERRY
PAW PAW
WHITE CRAPÉ 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 PIRTE AT 662-469-8251 OR
swcddesoto@gmail.com TO VOLUNTEER OR FOR QUESTIONS

SPONSORED BY:


FEBRUARY 2026

AEC - Agri-Education Center

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Dixie Nationals	3	4	5	6	7
	Kids & Kits 4-H Club		All About Stand Mixers @ OB Library @ 10 a.m.	Wester Wranglers 4-H Club		
8	9	10	11	12 Tree Give-A-Way	13	14 Shooting Sports Equipment Check
	Dining with Diabetes Reunion @ Southaven Library @ 10 a.m.			MG Board Meeting		
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)	Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)	3	4	5	6
						7 Shooting Sports .22 Rifle/Pistol & Shotgun

March*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI STATE, MISSISSIPPI 39762-5446
PO BOX 5446

EXTENSION

MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY