



“Hello,” March & April! Spring is almost here and that means daylight savings! We have some amazing opportunities advertised in this newsletter, so please join us for one of our programs or events. Don’t forget to check social media too just in case something is promoted there that didn’t make our newsletter deadline.

Germs are still everywhere so don’t let your guard down just because SPRING is almost about to make an appearance. Staying home when you are sick and covering your cough or sneeze are essential to help fight off strep, colds and flu.

Did you know that National Agriculture Day is on March 24th? Thank you if you are a producer! You help feed and clothe America! We are so thankful that we get to work alongside of you!

As always if you have any questions, requests, concerns, or inquires please call 662-469-8480 or email [desoto@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:desoto@ext.msstate.edu) .



*We never know when a disaster will strike. Always have multiple ways to receive information to stay informed in an emergency! Your phone alone can be VERY valuable in saving your life whenever disaster strikes. Think about all the ways you might communicate on it.*

- Text Messages
- Social Media
- Weather Apps
- Weather Websites
- Calls- from friends & family
- Wireless emergency alerts

*So make sure you have a way to charge your phone during an emergency, like a backup instant battery charger. Also, it’s a good practice to change the batteries in your weather radio annually (even it is plugged in an electrical source) to make sure that it works when the power is off.*

## Always Have Multiple Ways to Stay Informed in an Emergency.



Join us to learn!

# Master Urban Homesteader

## WORKSHOP

May 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21

@ DeSoto County Agri-Education Center in Nesbit, MS

*Start your journey homesteading with confidence, support,  
and trusted researched based information!*

### Workshop Information & Registration

- Hands on workshop series focusing on seed starting, gardening, poultry and small livestock, home canning, sourdough, cast iron cooking, micro-greens, chainsaw safety & floral arranging.
- Tour Adobe Ranch
- T-Shirt
- Hands on activities
- Cost \$100 (includes all materials & t-shirt)
- Ages 12 & Up can join for \$20 if accompanied by a registered adult.
- More info contact the DeSoto County Extension Office at 662-469-8480
- For disability accommodation, please contact Matt Thornton at 662-469-8480 or email [mtt52@msstate.edu](mailto:mtt52@msstate.edu)
- Register using QR Code



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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

For disability accommodation, please contact Lara Angel at 662-469-8480 or lara.angel@msstate.edu.



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# Acidified Canned Foods for the Farmers Market



**MAY 4 9 AM**

REGISTER NOW



1170 Star Landing RD West  
Nesbit, MS 38651

For disability accommodation, please contact Lara Angel at 662-469-8480 or email lara.angel@msstate.edu



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**March  
2026**

## Events Calendar

Wednesday **4** Olive Branch Library  
Slow Cookers  
10 a.m.

Tuesday **17** Horn Lake Library  
Slow Cookers  
3 p.m.

Saturday **21** Textures in the  
Garden  
Olive Branch Library @ 10 a.m.

Wednesday **25** The Mysterious  
Lives of Bees  
Hernando Library 9:30 a.m.



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**April  
2026**

## Events Calendar

Wednesday **1** Olive Branch Library  
Air Fryers  
10 a.m.

Monday **6** Hernando Library  
Discover Your  
Stand Mixer  
11 a.m.

Wednesday **22** Cooking with Salt  
Free Spice Blends  
Hernando Library @ 9:30 a.m.



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Join us for a Library Program in March or April! These are the ones we know of as of the printing of this newsletter. Visit their website calendar of events for a complete listing of all their programs. Use the QR code below. They always have an amazing listing of programs to get involved in! You can also drop by any DeSoto County library branch or the Agri-Center to pickup an Extension Brown Bag Grab and Go Kit.



# 4-H Sewing



**4-H Sewing Interest Meeting**  
March 26 @ 4:30 p.m.  
DeSoto County  
Agri-Education Center

Calling all 4-Hers, parents, & volunteers interested in 4-H Sewing.

# 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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## 4-H Cooking Kit

*April-June*

**Sign-Up Now!**

Pickup Dates:

April 21

May 26

June 30

Cost \$40

Questions? Call 662-469-8480



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## Volunteer Corner



## Certified Volunteers

### Ideal-Logic

If you keep getting automatic notifications from MSU Ideal-Logic system please open the email and take note of what is "missing" and see what within your volunteer application needs attention. Each year you have to re-watch the the Mandatory Online Training and complete the Minor Protection Policy Acknowledgment Form. If you need help please reach out to us here at the Extension Office.



Volunteers must be registered 30 days before any 4-H activity/event. So for example you want to chaperon at 4-H Congress your application needs to be up to date by April 27!



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DESOTO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER



# Lunch and Learn

Wednesday May, 6th

12:15pm - 1:15pm

1170 Star Landing Road W Nesbit, MS

**GUEST SPEAKER:** DUSTY DIXON

**TOPIC:** SEED, SOIL, & BLOOMS  
ANNUALS & PERENNIALS THAT THRIVE IN NORTH MS

**COST:** \$10 A MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED

**RSVP REQUIRED BY CALLING:**  
DESOTO COUNTY EXTENSION  
AT 662-469-8480



Mississippi State University is and Equal Opportunity Institution



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# PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

AVAILABLE IN-PERSON

Tate County Extension  
March 13  
662.562-4274  
205 French's Alley  
Senatobia, MS 38668

HEALTHY CROPS. SAFE PRACTICES.



**Beef Quality Assurance™**



## Northwest MS Beef Quality Assurance Program

**Cost:** \$10 payable online  
**When:** 2pm - 6pm April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**How:** Register and Pay online with QR Code  
**Where:** DeSoto County Extension Office  
1170 Star Landing Road West Nesbit, MS  
For more information call 662-469-8480




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High School Juniors, get a jump-start on college and explore a career in health or science!

## Rural Medical & Science Scholars

June 7-19, 2026  
Mississippi State University



Learn more information and apply online at [extension.msstate.edu/RMS](http://extension.msstate.edu/RMS).

Applications due April 13, 2026!



# Save the Date!



Location: DeSoto County Agri-Education Center

## Home Canning Workshops

May 8 & June 18

More details to come...

This is a hands on workshop! There will be a registration fee to cover supplies. This is one of our best loved workshops!

# Lawn Weed Control

Spring is an important time of year for your lawn and it can be particularly important for controlling summer weeds. As we move towards the end of winter, now is the time to think about applying a pre-emergent herbicides to control summer annuals such as crabgrass. Crabgrass is a common nuisance in turfgrass across the state. Controlling it takes a bit of skill and luck, but when timed right, pre-emergent herbicides can make this a lot easier. Pre-emergent herbicides are those that are applied to the soil prior to the germination of weed seeds. Crabgrass seeds generally germinate when the soil surface (1-2in layer) has several sustained days of 55-60 degree temperature. Pre-emergent herbicides applied after seed germination will not be effective, and any seeds that have already germinated will continue to grow unfazed. That makes applying at the proper time critical. Here are some tips to help you get the most out of your applications.

**Timing** - As I write this we are in the middle of a cold front, and soil temperatures have dropped. Just a few days ago they were approaching the mid 60's and are now in the 40's. As we move through March and April our soil temps will continue to fluctuate, but generally speaking pre-emergent herbicides need to be out around by the middle of March. Applying early ensures that the product is out prior to germination, however, applying too early allows for the product to degrade and lose its effectiveness on weeds. Applying too late means that those weeds have already germinated will not be controlled. Those wishing to fine tune their approach can keep an eye on the weather and soil temperature as conditions will vary year to year. A simple soil thermometer can be used to give you site specific temperature or online at websites such as <https://www.greencastonline.com/tools/soil-temperature> can give you a good idea of where they are at. Any time in early to mid March is a good time to apply, particularly when weather conditions look favorable for warming soils and seed germination in the future.

**Product Selection and Application** - Selecting an appropriate pre-emergent herbicide and applying it correctly is key to getting adequate control of crabgrass. When evenly applied at the labeled rates and incorporated into the soil you will get good protection and avoid damaging the turf. Some common products that you can find to accomplish this are those containing the active ingredient dithiopyr, oryzalin, prodiamine, and pendimethalin. Pay attention to how the product comes and how it is applied. Many of these are found in various forms from granules that are applied with a spreader to wettable dry granules and liquids that are applied as a liquid with a sprayer. Homeowners often find it difficult to get good coverage on larger areas because they don't have the ideal equipment for treating large lawns with liquids. It can be difficult to use a backpack sprayer to cover a area properly. If you do use a hand pump or backpack sprayer I recommend using a dye and mixing enough to cover one to two thousand square feet at a time. Then apply that product to a known area of that size and repeat until the lawn is covered. This can be time consuming, but will ensure even coverage at labeled rates. When possible, my recommendation to homeowners is to use a product that comes in a granule. These are easier to apply and most folks have a fertilizer spreader that can be calibrated for good coverage.

**Cool-Season Weeds** - We get a lot of questions about cool-season weeds this time of year. They are taking advantage of warm sunny days and can grow rapidly during the spring. As we move towards green-up they compete with the turfgrass as it emerges from dormancy. Post emergent control of winter weeds like henbit, chickweed, and poa annua should be done prior to green up, as many post emergent herbicides can damage turf during this time. To get ahead of these weeds, you can use many of the pre emergent herbicides listed above in the fall before soil temps get low enough for the weed seed to germinate. This is usually mid-September, but you just reverse the steps listed above.



Broadcast spreaders such as this are easier to calibrate and apply pre-emergent herbicides and fertilizers evenly for homeowners. Often it can be easy to calculate how much product is needed in an area of lawn then apply with a spreader in two (north /south and east/west) directions until the proper amount of product has been applied. This ensures good coverage and application rates.



A small scale is a handy tool. This makes measuring out the proper amount of herbicide or fertilizer for your lawn quick and easy. Always read the label and measure before each application. Density and concentration can vary from product to product and within batches of the same product.

# Dixie Nationals Jr. Livestock Show

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



**Rabbits:** Evie Bemis, Hazel Bemis, Zandrew Gomes, Lillian Bemis, Addilyn Gomes, Jasidy Gomes, Charlotte Kouba, Dominick Kouba, Cora Stokes

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

**Congratulations!**



# MARCH 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY                                | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--------|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1      | 2<br><b>Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>                                    | 3<br><b>Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>   | 4<br>Slow Cookers @ OB Library @ 10 a.m. | 5<br><b>Wester Wranglers 4-H Club</b>   | 6  | 7   |
| 8      | 9<br><b>Kids &amp; Kits 4-H Club</b><br><b>Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b> | 10<br><b>MG Intern Training</b><br><b>Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>                                     | 11<br><b>MG Board Meeting</b>            | 12<br><b>MG Intern Training</b>   | 13   | 14<br><b>Shooting Sports .22 Rifle/Pistol &amp; Shotgun</b>   |
| 15     | 16<br><b>Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>                                   | 17<br><b>Poultry Chain Meeting @ 6</b><br><b>MG Intern Training</b><br><b>Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b> | 18<br><b>MG Monthly Meeting</b>          | 19<br><b>MG Intern Training</b>   | 20<br><b>Lucky Leaders 4-H Club</b><br><b>General Food Safety @ 10</b> | 21<br><b>Shooting Sports .22 Rifle/Pistol &amp; Shotgun</b>   |
| 22     | 23<br><b>Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>                                   | 24<br><b>MG Intern Training</b><br><b>Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>                                     | 25                                       | 26<br><b>MG Intern Training</b><br><b>4-H Sewing &amp; 4-H Project Achievement Day Interest Meeting</b> | 27   | 28<br><b>Mid-South Farm &amp; Gin Show</b><br><b>Shooting Sports .22 Rifle/Pistol &amp; Shotgun</b> |
| 29     | 30<br><b>Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>                                   | 31<br><b>MG Intern Training</b><br><b>Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b><br><b>Pick-Up 4-H Cooking Kit</b>   |  |   |  |   |

AEC - Agri-Education Center

# APRIL 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY                       | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--------|--|---|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
|        |  |   | 1                               | 2<br><b>MG Intern Training</b><br><b>Wester Wranglers 4-H Club</b> | 3<br><b>CLOSED</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br><b>Good Friday</b> | 4<br><b>Shooting Sports .22 Rifle/Pistol &amp; Shotgun</b>  |
| 5      | 6<br><b>Kids &amp; Kits 4-H Club</b><br><b>Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b> | 7<br><b>MG Intern Training</b><br><b>Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>       | 8<br><b>MG Board Meeting</b>    | 9<br><b>MG Intern Training</b>                                     | 10   | 11<br><b>Shooting Sports .22 Rifle/Pistol &amp; Shotgun</b> |
| 12     | 13<br><b>Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>                                   | 14<br><b>Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>                                   | 15<br><b>MG Monthly Meeting</b> | 16   | 17<br><b>Lucky Leaders 4-H Club</b>                              | 18<br><b>Shooting Sports .22 Rifle/Pistol &amp; Shotgun</b> |
| 19     | 20<br><b>Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>                                   | 21<br><b>Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>                                   | 22                              | 23   | 24   | 25<br><b>Shooting Sports .22 Rifle/Pistol &amp; Shotgun</b> |
| 26     | 27<br><b>Archery Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b>                                   | 28<br><b>Air Rifle/Pistol Practice @ 6 PM (AEC)</b><br><b>Pick-Up 4-H Cooking Kit</b> | 29                              | 30   | 1  | 2<br><b>District 4-H Shoot</b>                              |