



Happy Spring!

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. We will offer our Farmer's Market again starting in June. If you have a farm and are interested in becoming a vendor, please drop by the office to complete a vendor application. As always if you have any questions, requests, concerns, or inquires please contact Newton County Extension at 601-635-7011 or email newton@ext.msstate.edu.

On a personal note, I'm excited to inform everyone about my upcoming retirement after this quarter. Thank you for participating in the various educational opportunities over the past 31 years with the MSU Extension. I've genuinely enjoyed meeting many of you and I hope to see you in the community.

Sincerely



CONTACT YOUR NEWTON COUNTY AGENT SHANI BRACKEEN FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR DETAILS ABOUT OBTAINING LIVESTOCK! 662-769-1004

- April 18 Lamar Co Shoot Sports Match**
- April 23 Robotics @ 4:00 @Coastal Plains Exp Station**
- May 1-2 Southeast District Shooting Sports Lumberton MS**
- May 11 Horse Ownership Forms due**
- May 12 Legos on the Farm @ Newton County Ext Office 4:00 p.m.**
- June 1 Horse Art and Photo Due**
- June 4 Southwest Horse Show Jackson, MS**
- June 9 Legos on the Farm Newton Co Ext Office @4:00 p.m.**
- June 11 Pickling Workshop Newton County Ext office @10:00 a.m.**
- June 17-20 State Horse Show Jackson, MS**
- June 26 Steam Day MSU Campus**
- June 26 Newton County Dairy Show**
- June 30 Project Achievement Day Poplarville, MS**



**Pickling Workshop
Newton County Extension Office
June 11th @ 10.00 a.m.
Contact via email
at newton@ext.msstate.edu**



**We are Eggcited about our Hatch Out Program
Contact Shani
@662-769-1004**



Come join us on May 12th and June 9th at 4:00 p.m. for Legos on the Farm at the Newton County Extension Office!!!

65 SEVENTH STREET DECATUR, MS 39327



ON APRIL 20TH

Mississippi gets
MOVING!




**MAGNOLIA
MOVES**
Activity Challenge

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

Weekly drawings for prizes!

extension.msstate.edu/magnolia-moves



April 20–May 31, 2026

JOIN THE CHALLENGE!

Let's get moving Mississippi! Join the **NEWTON Health in Motion Team** every Monday starting April 20th. The **Magnolia Moves Challenge** is from April 20-May 31, 2026. You do not have to join this team. You can start your own team or participate as an individual. Our **Extension team will meet at ECCC Walking track on Mondays at 9:00 and ESCO Walking track on Mondays at 4:30.**

Magnolia Moves Activity Challenge

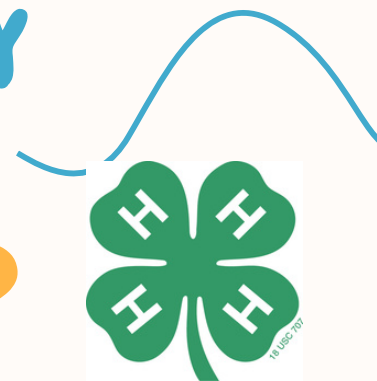
At MSU Extension Service, we believe movement is medicine—and walking is just the beginning. **Magnolia Moves Activity Challenge** is an individual or team-based health and wellness program that encourages people of ages 13 and older to increase physical activity and adopt healthier eating habits.

Magnolia Moves is a new statewide, walking and activity program designed to show that physical activity comes in many forms, whether it's a brisk hike through the woods, tending your garden, cleaning around the house, jogging through your neighborhood, dancing to your favorite music, or even doing yoga. Every step, stretch, and stride contributes to a healthier lifestyle—and now you can track it all in one place.

When you download the **MoveSpring app** it seamlessly syncs with a wide range of electronic devices. With automatic tracking, your movements and activities are captured by default, giving you a clear, real-time view of your progress and achievements. A desktop version is also available.



NEWTON COUNTY EXTENSION STEAM CAMP



GET READY FOR A FUN AND ENGAGING SUMMER EXPERIENCE! JOIN US AT FOR A THREE-HOUR STEAM CAMP DESIGNED TO SPARK CREATIVITY AND CURIOSITY. PARTICIPANTS WILL EXPLORE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, AND MATH THROUGH HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES THAT ENCOURAGE PROBLEM-SOLVING, TEAMWORK, AND INNOVATION. YOU CAN COUNT ON AN INTERACTIVE, HIGH-ENERGY EXPERIENCE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS! SPACE IS LIMITED! TO REGISTER, USE THE LINK OR QR CODE BELOW.

WHERE: NEWTON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

WHEN: JUNE 18, 1:00-4:00 PM

WHO: YOUTH AGES 8-13

CLICK THE LINK HERE TO REGISTER





Computer 101

New to computers or just want a confidence boost? Our Computer Basics class is a friendly, welcoming space where no question is too simple—we'll break down common computer terminology, explain the difference between hardware and software, and cover essential basics at a comfortable pace. Computers provided but you may bring your own.

Thursday, May 14
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Newton County Extension Office
65 South 7th Avenue
Decatur, MS 39327

To register, use the QR code or the link found here:
https://reg.extension.msstate.edu/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0081-0004-c6178780c6614194ad0dc3e8bb4f3bf2





4-H HORSE & ARCHERY CAMP



July 13 - 16

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Newton Co Show Barn
615 Coliseum Dr, Newton, MS

COST: \$40 PER CHILD

- Horsemanship Basics
- Archery Fundamentals
- Safety & Handling Skills
- Teamwork & Confidence

Contact: Shani Brackeen | 662-769-1004

*Please make check or money order payable to Newton County 4-H!



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MSU Extension will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities or special needs, please contact our office at (601)635-7011 or newton@ext.msstate.edu prior to event.

Extension For Real Life

Rabbits: A Fun 4-H Project



Rabbits are a quintessential symbol of spring, representing fertility, rebirth, and resurrection since ancient times.

But did you know that these small animals have recently been added to the Mississippi 4-H livestock show list?

For 4-H'ers, showing rabbits can be a fun and educational experience. You don't need a big budget or a large amount of space to raise rabbits. That means even if you live in an urban area, rabbits could be the perfect project for you.

If you are considering a 4-H Rabbit Project, you'll need to make sure:

- You have the time and money to care for them.
- Local ordinances or community associations allow rabbits.
- You have a safe area to place the rabbit hutches out of reach of other animals.

Rabbits can be shown in two classes:
Commercial or Breeding.

Popular Commercial Class Breeds:

Californian

- This rabbit is an American breed.
- It is bred for its meat producing qualities and pelt.
- Maximum weight is 10.5 pounds.

Champagne d'Argent

- This rabbit is one of the oldest known breeds, bred in France for over 100 years.
- It is known for its silvery coat color.
- Maximum weight is 12 pounds.

Satin

- This rabbit is an American breed.
- Its shiny coat is the result of a genetic mutation.
- Maximum weight is 11 pounds

Popular Breeding Class Breeds

Silver Marten

- Its name is both a breed and a color.
- This breed comes in four colors: black, blue, chocolate, and sable.
- Maximum weight is 9.9 pounds.

Mini Lop

- This rabbit has a stocky and compact body.
- It has a softball-sized head and lopped ears.
- Maximum weight is 6.5 pounds.

Dutch

- This breed originated in Holland and was improved through breeding in England for show purposes.
- Dutch is one of the top 10 most popular breeds.
- Maximum weight is 5.5 pounds.

Want to know how to build a rabbit hutch? We have [construction plans](#) for you!

There are over 50 recognized rabbit breeds. You can learn more about all of them on the [American Rabbit Breeders Association website](#).

For more information about showing rabbits in 4-H, contact Newton County Extension Office @ newton@ext.msstate.edu



Preparing Your Evacuation "To-Go" Box

Are you prepared to evacuate quickly with important documents if disaster strikes? Natural disasters can strike suddenly. Taking time now to assemble important papers in a box that is safe and ready to go at a moment's notice can save a lot of time and frustration in the event of a fire, storm, or flood. Prepare now by creating a portable "to-go" box.

Steps to Create Your Evacuation "To-Go" Box

- Place items in paper folders or envelopes.
- Store these inside sealed, airtight, waterproof plastic bags.
- Place in a durable, sealed box, preferably a locking one. A portable, fireproof, waterproof box/bag is recommended.
- Store the box at home in a secure place you can get to easily.
- If you must evacuate, grab the box and take it with you.
- Keep the box with you at all times.
- Do not leave the box unattended in your vehicle.

Include in Your "To-Go" Box

- Cash for several days' living expenses.
- Rolls of quarters.
- Several blank checks from each checking account.
- Emergency phone numbers, email addresses, or other means of connecting.
 - Family/friends/neighbors
 - Employer
 - Landlord or mortgage company
 - Insurance agent (local and company headquarters)
 - Financial institutions
 - Credit card companies
 - Minister
 - School
 - Lawyer
 - Doctors
 - Pharmacies
 - Repair contractors
- Copies of these:
 - Homeowner, renter, auto, and flood insurance policies and policy numbers
 - Life insurance policies for household members
 - All medical insurance policies and cards (front/back) for household members

- Prescriptions for medications and eyeglasses
 - Pet insurance policy
 - Vital records (birth, death, adoption, marriage certificates)
 - Social Security cards for household members
 - Driver's license (color copies) and other wallet cards
 - Passports (color copies) and/or other identity documents
 - Immunization records for household members
 - Immunization records for pets
 - School records for each child
 - Documents for child custody arrangements
 - Deeds and titles
 - Vehicle titles
 - Rental agreements
 - Wills and trust documents (power of attorney, healthcare directives/living will, letters of instruction)
 - All bank and brokerage accounts with account and phone numbers
 - Mortgage documents and other loan documents
 - Copies of all credit cards (front/back) and phone numbers for each company
 - Employee benefit documents
 - Tax returns for a minimum of 3 years
 - Military discharge papers
- Back-up of computerized financial records
 - Labeled photos of family members
 - Home inventory (printed and digital version if available)
 - Location of safe deposit boxes (with key locations) and names of authorized signatories
 - Proof of pet ownership such as tag numbers, microchip information, or photos of you and family members with the pet
 - Flash drive with irreplaceable photos; data inventory of valuables
 - List of all electronic access user IDs, passwords, and PINs
 - List of debt obligations, due dates, and contact information
 - List of contact information for advisors, personal representatives, trustees, guardians, doctors, and dentists
 - List of these numbers:
 - Social Security
 - Bank accounts
 - Loans
 - Credit card accounts

- Driver's license
- Investment accounts
- Other accounts

A safe deposit box is recommended to store your original papers and other valuables. These boxes are located at financial institutions. Note that most original documents should be stored in your safe deposit box.

Secure in Your Safe Deposit Box

- Deeds
- Titles
- Mortgages
- Birth, marriage, death certificates
- Adoption papers
- Child custody papers
- Copies of passports
- Military/veteran records
- Appraisals
- Leases and other contracts
- Stocks, bonds, and certificates of deposit
- Trust documents
- Copies of power of attorney, will/trust
- Insurance policies
- Home improvement records and receipts
- Household inventory (list, photos, and/or digital)
- Jewelry, precious medals, collectibles, keepsakes

Backup and Digital Files

Store the contents of your "to-go" box and safe deposit box on a secure, password-protected jump drive. You may also consider saving them to a service like Dropbox or Google Docs.

There are a number of productivity apps for mobile devices that make this easy by using your phone's camera as a scanning device.

Capture electronic versions of your important documents. Back up your computer to protect photos and other important electronic documents. Scan old photos to protect them from loss.

The most portable files for your "to-go" box are digital files. Take the documents you have collected and scan them. Save

these images to a flash drive to save space in your "to-go" box. Also scan the contents of your safe deposit box and save to the same flash drive. Send a copy to a trusted friend or relative who lives at least 300 miles away. You may also want to provide your attorney with a copy of the flash drive in a sealed envelope to be opened with your permission if you become incapacitated.

Our lives are constantly changing—births, deaths, moves, marriages, divorces, and similar changes. You may buy a new house, acquire real property, or sell some. The best evacuation "to-go" box will not last forever. As things change, update the box and your safe deposit box by adding to or deleting your documentation. Review these materials at least annually. Planning and preparation can help keep the unexpected from becoming a harsh financial reality.

References

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