



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

DeSoto County Extension Newsletter

DESOTO COUNTY

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2026

Fall is almost here! Let this newsletter serve as your guide the rest of this month and through October, to living well and engaging yourself in something new! This newsletter is packed with things for all ages. FYI: our programmatic year runs October-September and we've got some great things planned this upcoming year. Join us! Our mission is to extend research based information into the community, serving the citizens of DeSoto County. We equip people like you with the skills to solve real world problems and improve your life.

We challenge you to get moving through our Magnolia Moves Activity Challenge. Make sure you set your county as DESOTO! We are in a competition against other counties to get the most registered participants. We want to win! Magnolia Moves is a fitness challenge that encourages both youth and adults to be more physically active and adopt healthier nutritional lifestyles. It officially starts on Oct. 12 and ends Nov. 22. We will be using the app called MoveSpring to help you track your activity. It is super easy and the app collects the data! The app converts each activity you do into miles and steps. If you don't have a smart phone and still want to participate let us know because we have a paper version and pedometers you can use. Those who participated in Magnolia Moves this past spring will be automatically entered into this challenge and will not have to re-register, but will need to sign in with their existing username and password on the MoveSpring app. New registrants should use the organization code MSUEXT at signup. Online registration opens September 14th at <https://extension.msstate.edu/magnolia-moves>. There's a QR code to register on page 2 of the newsletter!

Be on the lookout for the ruby-throated hummingbirds to make an appearance as they travel through the state and head south to find warmer weather. They should be in our area starting around September 27-October 4 give or take a few days. As you await their arrival make sure you clean your feeders and keep them full during this time. The birds will use your location(s) as feeding sites to fuel up before heading further south.

Parents and high school students we have an opportunity for you to schedule a meeting with our friend Bethany. She is a Mississippi State University recruiting counselor and she will be setting up office hours here on October 26th. Schedule a meeting with her to get questions answered about admissions, financial aid, scholarships, university student housing, academic programs, and student life. That info is on page 6. Make plans to attend if you want to be a future bulldog!

Last but not least, we have an open position at the Extension Office. If you know of someone who would be a good fit please spread the word! You can find the job description here <https://bit.ly/4ck0D2y> Don't delay, apply today! OR share with a friend who might be interested! Applications must be submitted through the Human Resources Management website at <https://www.jobs.msstate.edu> and provide necessary requirements listed within description and on application.

Are you having trouble finding us and getting to the DeSoto County Agri-Education Center? We are housed inside this building and currently we are surrounded by lots of road construction and work zones! If you come to see us use the WEST Entrance (this is the entrance where the construction is at by the National Guard Armory site)! It can get confusing when you get here and we don't want you riding around lost in the middle of the construction or feel defeated and leave without getting the info you came for. We don't want your vehicle harmed if you get off the path!

Our address is 1170 Star Landing Rd. West Nesbit, MS. You can now find us on google maps! Go past the 1170 entrance that the map takes you to...that is the red on this map. Please note that the main (East) entrance is closed. There is a widening project and lots of road construction on Star Landing...there are multiple projects happening. You will pass the east entrance with the main DeSoto County Agri-Education Center sign & gate (it is locked). Keep driving and enter at the West Entrance. Turn at the huge stop sign. You will cross over the new Star Landing road they are currently constructing. It is currently a dirt road entrance area, and they are prepping for new asphalt. Follow this road straight ahead (pass the construction) on the left side of the access road- this is the new National Guard Armory. Bare right when you face the Extension Office's community raised bed garden, & the hoop house/ greenhouse and follow the road to the large parking lot at the front of the building (park in the large parking lot). There is a little parking area if you happened to bare left when you come upon the building, but spaces here are limited and mainly employees park here. Enter the Entrance door on the North side of the building, typically the East door is locked. You will find our office down the main hallway. If you get lost or confused call 662-469-8480 and we can help navigate your way to finding us.



1170 STAR LANDING ROAD W. NESBIT, MS 38651

We're hiring!



Location: DeSoto County
Position: Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development



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Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination is prohibited in university employment, programs, or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status to the extent protected by applicable law. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Civil Rights Compliance, 231 Famous Maroon Band Street, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. ANGUS L. CATCHOT JR., Director

October 12–
November 22, 2026



MAGNOLIA MOVES

Activity Challenge

JOIN THE CHALLENGE!



WIN
WEEKLY
PRIZES!



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Download the MoveSpring app and use the organization code **MSUEXT** to sign up!

DESOTO COUNTY 4-H



Stitch with us!

1st Mondays of the Month
Starting in October
1:30 – 3:30pm

October 5, 2026

DeSoto County
Extension Office

Cost \$25
Register by calling
662-469-8480

Homeschool 4-H Sewing Club



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DESOTO COUNTY 4-H



4-H Cooking Kits

October- December Kits

Pickup at DeSoto County
Extension Office

Pickup dates:
Oct. 27
Nov. 17
Dec. 15

Cost \$40

Deadline to Register is Oct. 15

Explore more with 4-H!



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4-H COUNTY AWARDS NIGHT

Save this night for an evening in celebrating our 4-Hers and all their achievements this programmatic year! More details and registration info will be coming soon!



**NOV.
17**

6-8 PM

**1170 Star Landing RD W.
Nesbit, MS 38651**



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4-H AWARD APPLICATIONS



It's time to shine a spotlight on our 4-H all-stars!
Applications are open for the following awards:

4-Her of the Year

Nominate a 4-Her that exemplifies the 4-H pledge by making a positive impact on their club, community, and peers.

Friend of 4-H Award

This award recognizes an individual, business, or organization outside of 4-H who has provided remarkable support and encouragement to the program.

4-H Club of the Year

This award celebrates a club that has gone above and beyond in living out the 4-H motto, "To Make the Best Better." The winning club shows strong participation, community involvement, teamwork, and a commitment to providing meaningful opportunities for members to learn and grow.

4-H Volunteer of Year

This award goes to an outstanding certified 4-H Volunteer who goes above and beyond the call of duty.

These awards celebrate the awesome members, supporters, and clubs who make 4-H so special. The awards will be presented at the DeSoto County 4-H Awards Program.

Don't miss your chance to recognize someone who deserves it

Applications are due October 30, 2026.

Use QR Code for Application-Download application to your device then "enable editing" to make changes on your copy.

Application can be dropped of the DeSoto County Extension Office or email to ext-desoto@lists.msstate.edu

Library Programs

Master Gardener Series: Starting a Garden

September 12, 2026, 10:00am - 11:00am

Join Master Gardener, Jill DiStefano as she teaches how to identify your garden style & how to create your own garden from scratch. Topics covered: when to plant, how to create, in ground gardens vs. raised beds & formal gardens vs. cottage style. Please register for this program - **registration will begin 8/15/26**. Please call LaySee with any questions 662-895-5900. Location Olive Branch Library.

Easy Cooking with Pressure Cookers

September 14 @ 11 a.m. at the Southaven Library. Want to make quick, easy meals without the stress? Join MSU Extension Agent Lara Angel to learn the basics of pressure cooking, safety essentials, and easy recipes to get you started.

Rain Gardens- Join us on September 18th to learn all about rain gardens with Master Gardener Melisa Knirr! Join Melisa from 11:00am - 12:00pm at the Walls Public Library.

How Gardening with Houseplants Can Create a Happier, and Healthier, Indoor Environment.

September 19, 2026, 11:00am - 12:00pm at the Southaven Library.

Butterfly Tag and Release

September 23, 2026, 9:30am - 10:30am. Join us on to learn about tagging and releasing local butterfly species with Master Gardeners Reba Wright and Sherri Marshal. Our presenters will be featuring a live tag-and-release demonstration with real butterflies! Hernando Public Library.

Plant Propagation

September 26, 2026, 10:00am - 11:00am at the Olive Branch Library. Learn the methods for soft tissue propagation, both herbaceous and woody. It is done by taking cuttings of the parent plant to form a new plant - called clones. Summer and Fall are the best seasons to do this! Please register - registration will begin 9/1/2026. Please call LaySee with any questions 662-895-5900.

Garden Seed Saving

September 30, 2026, 9:30am - 10:30am at Hernando Public Library joining MG Don Murphy to learn about how to save garden seeds for future use.

Salt Free Spice Blends

October 7 @ 10 a.m. at the Olive Branch Library to discover cooking with Salt Free Spice Blends when cooking at home.

Boo on a Budget-DIY Fall Wreaths

Come make a wreath with us. Please RSVP to Southaven Library. October 12 @ 11 a.m. at the Southaven Library.

Contests 4-H DAY AT THE STATE FAIR

Oct. 17, 2026
Jackson, MS

- ✓ 4-H Chopped
- ✓ Fashion Revue
- ✓ LEGO Build

- ✓ Omelet Cook-Off
- ✓ Public Speaking
- ✓ Rockets

- ✓ Table/Floral Arrangements
- ✓ Robot Round-Up
- ✓ Share-the-Fun

**Saturday,
October 17**

- ✓ Cookie Decorating (NEW)
- ✓ Egg Decorating (NEW)

Let us know if you would like to participate in these contests so we can help you prepare and register!
Deadline to Register is Sept. 30, 2026



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4-H Day at the Fair Admission

Oct. 17
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Trade Mart Entrance



Mississippi 4-H youth may obtain a 4-H State Fair button through our office. Cost is \$2 per button. Click here to register or scan the QR Code:

<https://tinyurl.com/statefairbuttons>

4-H Record Book Winners

Junior Record Book Results:
Blue Ribbon

Charlotte Kouba: Pet Care/Dog Care
Amelie Trudell: Food, Nutrition, Pres. & Safety

Senior Record Book Results:
Clara Trudell: Expressive Arts 1st Place; Blue
Will Trudell: Shooting Sports: 3rd Place; Blue

Congratulations to 4-Hers for their record books!

DINING WITH DIABETES

Mondays @ 12:00 p.m.
October 19, 26 & November 2, 9
1170 Star Landing RD W.
Nesbit, Mississippi
662.469-8480

Workshops to equip Mississippians with the knowledge and skills necessary to combat diabetes.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Living Well with Diabetes
- Carbohydrates and Sweeteners
- Fats and Sodium
- Vitamins, Minerals, and Fiber/Putting it All Together

Please register reg.extension.msstate.edu



**eat confidently.
live fully.**

Join us to learn ways to eat and cook for your health!



SCHEDULE! A VISIT!

Meetup with Bethany Prudente

During meeting discuss admission process, housing, scholarship opportunities, being a MSU bulldog & more!

When: October 26, 2026

Where: 1170 Star Landing Rd W. Nesbit, MS 38651

Please reserve your spot using QR Code!



DESOTO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER



Lunch and Learn

Wednesday Oct. 7th

12:15pm - 1:15pm

1170 Star Landing Road W Nesbit, MS

GUEST SPEAKER:
GEORGETTE EHTERTON

TOPIC:
WHY LEAVES CHANGE COLORS IN THE FALL

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



SENIOR SAFETY BINGO BASH

★ RODEO EDITION ★

PLAY - LEARN - PROTECT - WIN!

Cowboy attire encouraged! Wear your favorite cowboy hat or boots for a chance to be named **Best Dressed Cowboy or Cowgirl!**

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026**

**DOORS OPEN: 8AM
BINGO STARTS: 9AM
ENDS: NOON**



AGRI-EDUCATION CENTER
1170 Starlanding Rd W.
Nesbit, MS 38651

Round up the scams!

Join us in the Agri-Ed indoor arena for a **FREE** Rodeo-themed event featuring bingo, prizes, and resources to help seniors stay safe from scams & fraud.

THE FUN INCLUDES:

- BINGO GAMES + PRIZES
- RESOURCES AND GIVEAWAYS
- INTERACTIVE SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

**FREE EVENT
GREAT PRIZES!**

YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO:

- ✓ Spot and stop scammers - before they spot you
- ✓ Protect your money and personal information
- ✓ Tell the difference between what's real vs. AI
- ✓ Use your phone for safety

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



DESOTO COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



DESOTO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



TIMES-TRIBUNE



HOLLYWOOD
Casino





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Master Urban Homesteader Workshop

Explore, learn, and grow!

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



Featured Activities:

Home Canning Small Livestock
Gardening Cast Iron Cooking
Floral Design Seed Starting
Sourdough Backyard Poultry
Micro-greens Chainsaw Safety



Register here

Program will run
October 13, 15, 20, 22, & 27
8:30 AM to 12:30 p.m.
October 29 @ 2 p.m.
Cost \$100

1170 Star Landing RD West
Nesbit, MS 38651
662-469-8480

Sign up to enrich your life!

For disability accommodation, please contact Matt Thornton at 662-469-8480 or email mtt52@msstate.edu



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JR. MASTER GARDENER

CLUB MEETING
4:30PM Sept. 22nd, 2026

1170 Starlanding Rd. W
Nesbit, MS, 38651

TOPICS COVERED:

We will be discussing all things Junior Master Gardener. We will cover what the program is, how you can be involved, and educational hands-on activities.

RSVP by Calling:
662-469-8480

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact Matthew Thornton at mtt52@msstate.edu

BEYOND READY

YOUR STORY.
YOUR VOICE.
YOUR 4-H.

SHOW US HOW 4-H HAS HELPED
YOU BE BEYOND READY!

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE:

Because of 4-H,
I am/was
Beyond Ready for

1 **SHARE YOUR STORY**
Tell us how 4-H has helped you be Beyond Ready.

2 **CHOOSE PICTURE OR VIDEO**
A photo or short video— it's your choice!

3 **SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY**
Your story could inspire the next generation of 4-H!

OPEN TO
4-H ALUMNI
& YOUTH

ONLY LOOKING
FOR 1 ENTRY
PER PERSON

YOUR STORY
CAN MAKE A
BIG IMPACT!

YOU COULD BE
FEATURED ON 4-H
COMMUNICATIONS!

Whether 4-H helped you build confidence, gain leadership skills, discover your passion, or prepare you for your future—

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY!

READY TO SHARE?
Contact your Local Extension office.

Desoto County Extension Office
662-469-8480



DeSoto County

MASTER GARDENER Face-to-Face Training

Spring 2027

1170 Star Landing Rd. West
Nesbit, MS 38651

8:30am - 12:30 pm

For more information, contact the
DeSoto County Extension Office.

662-469-8480
mtt52@msstate.edu



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4-H GROWS HERE. LEADERS ARE MADE HERE. BEYOND READY!

Fall Spiced Pumpkin Bread

Ingredients

- 1 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup melted margarine
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 cups pumpkin puree
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Directions

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, pumpkin spice and salt; set aside.
3. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together margarine, sugar, honey, pumpkin puree and olive oil.
4. Blend in eggs to wet ingredients.
5. Add flour mixture to wet mixture.
6. Stir until dry ingredients are moistened.
7. Spray a 8-by-4 inch loaf pan with non-stick cooking spray.
8. Pour batter into pan; sprinkle walnuts or pecans on top of batter.
9. Bake for 1 hour.
10. Remove from oven and cover with foil.
11. Return to oven and bake an additional 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
12. Cool for 10 minutes and remove from pan.

Fall Garden Tips

Fall brings thoughts of cooler weather, while that is true we still have some hot dry days ahead! However, this can be a particularly fruitful time of year. Here of some tips and chores to help make your garden a success.

Watering: This time of year can be particularly demanding time of year for watering. Plants are larger, rainfall is scarce, and the cooler weather can trick us into thinking everything is doing fine. The truth is, if you planted a fall garden or have healthy plants that made it through the heat of the summer, now is the time water and a little bit of fertilizer can bring big yields. As the weather cools down, plants will begin setting fruit and producing much more regularly. To help keep up with this demand regular waterings are needed. While watering may not be needed as often, regular watering will help your plants produce until the first frost.

Seed Collecting: If you're like me, starting a garden from seed is the only way to go. There are infinitely more varieties available to you than when purchasing seedlings. This goes for vegetables and flowers alike. It's also much more cost effective to purchase a packet of seeds and some starter than to buy seedlings at the same price, plus they yield more plants. If you have a particularly pretty variety that is hard to find, or just want to save a few dollars when you can, collecting your own seeds is the way to go. Make sure you are collecting seeds from fully ripe fruit. In peppers and tomatoes, they turn red (or whatever color that variety turns such as purple or yellow). Flowers are a bit easier. They will usually have dried deadheads that are ready to pick. Make sure and select plants, fruits, and blooms that are disease free to harvest seeds from and avoid issues next year. Fungal spores are almost impossible to detect, but many love to carry over on the seeds. With fleshy fruits and vegetables like peppers, remove the seeds, spread them out, and allow them time to dry down before storage. Lastly, before getting started keep in mind what you planted this year. Heirloom varieties are going to produce offspring that are true to the parent plant, while hybrids are going to be a smattering of the genetics that went into that hybrid. Plants that are open pollinated will likely show variation from crossing.

Planning for the Future: Now that the season is winding down, its a good time to look at what equipment, containers, or supplies need to be repaired or replaced. Not only will this help you avoid the rush, you have plenty of time to look for exactly what you need. It's also a great time to catch a deal as many gardening store may have marked down prices on equipment and supplies they brought in for the spring growing season. Speaking of the future, one of the best things you can do for your garden this time of year can have a major impact on production next year. Soil test! Soil testing this time of year allows you to start making any adjustments you need to before the growing season to get the biggest impact. Lime in particular needs to sit for a few months to incorporate properly into the soil profile. You can also add phosphorus and potassium to the soil, but avoid nitrogen applications, as it will be long gone by next planting season.

Lastly, here is a picture of my garden (part of it anyways), and its gaurdian Weezy, just because. I needed to fill in some blank space on the page and I am happy with how far it has come the last couple of years. I like peppers, growing in containers (even if none of them match), and overcrowding my plants. My advice to every gardener is to have fun, try new things, and never stop learning. A good resource if our recently updated Vegetable Gardener's Guide. It an many other resources can be found at this link:

<https://extension.msstate.edu/lawn-and-garden/vegetable-gardens>

Message from Mary Chandler Holt

Dear 4-H Family,

As I say goodbye to my time as the DeSoto County 4-H Agent, I want to take a moment to thank all of the wonderful people who made this chapter so special. It has truly been a privilege to work with the youth and families of DeSoto County. I have loved watching our 4-H'ers learn, grow, try new things, and accomplish goals they once may not have thought possible. From competitions to shooting sports, club meetings, and everything in between, I will carry so many special memories with me. To our 4-H'ers,

parents, and volunteers thank you for trusting me, supporting our program, and allowing me to be a part of your lives. The relationships and friendships I have made along the way have meant more to me than I can put into words. Although it is bittersweet to leave, I am excited for this next chapter for both myself and DeSoto County 4-H. I will always be cheering on our 4-H'ers and will forever be grateful that I had the opportunity to be your 4-H Agent. DeSoto County 4-H will always hold a very special place in my heart.

With love and gratitude,
Mary Chandler Holt

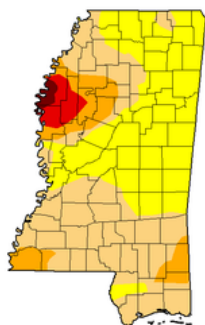
September & October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
18 September	14 Easy Cooking with Pressure Cookers 4-H Kits & Kids & Taking the Lab to Farm Visit the 4-H Exhibits at the DeSoto County Magnolia Moves Agri-Education Center Registration Starts	15 Cookers	16 MG Monthly Meeting	17	18 Lucky Leaders 4-H Club Rain Gardens	19 4-H Poultry and 4-H Rabbit Show Houseplants
20	21 4-H Horse Club	22 Pick-Up 4-H Cooking Kit 4-H Junior Master Gardener	23 DeSoto County Senior Safety BINGO Butterfly Tag and Release	24	25	26 Plant Propagation
27	28	29	30 Garden Seed Saving	1 October	2	3
4	5 4-H Homeschool Sewing Club 4-H Kits & Kids	6	7 Lunch & Learn Salt Free Spice Blends	8	9	10
11	12 Boo on Budget Magnolia Moves Challenge Starts Officially	13 MUH	14 MG Board Meeting	15 MUH	16 Lucky Leaders 4-H Club	17 4-H Day at the Fair
18	19 4-H Horse Club Dining with Diabetes	20 MUH	21 MG Monthly Meeting	22 MUH	23	24
25	26 MSU Recruitor Meetup Dining with Diabetes	27 Pick-Up 4-H Cooking Kit MUH	28	29 MUH	30 Deadline for 4-H Awards Applications!	31 

Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor
Mississippi

September 1, 2026
(Released Thursday, Sep. 3, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.asp>

Author:
Curtis Rogge
National Drought Mitigation Center
USDA NWS NOAA
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

How are your soil conditions? According to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, our county is experiencing moderate drought conditions & abnormally dry conditions depending where you are located at within the county. With little to no meaningful precipitation expected in the forecast, drought conditions could continue to worsen in the coming days.

What can I do?

- Practice fire prevention. Open flame burning can get out of hand quickly. We currently are not in a burn ban at the moment but be careful with open flames!
- Be aware that trees may loose their leaves earlier than normal and lawns may show signs of drought stress. Watering may be necessary to save the costly expense of tree removal or lawn repair. Keep in mind to water efficiently you should try to water thoroughly to replenish the rooting zone of plants.
- Don't forget about livestock and pets. Make sure they have necessary water, shade and supplemental food source(s). Watch for stress.