It’s County Fair Time!!

The 72nd Pearl River County Fair and Livestock Show and Rodeo will be held on August 27 thru September 3 at the fairgrounds in Poplarville, MS.

A quick perusal of the fair’s program shows that there should be something of interest for almost everyone: a wide range of youth livestock events from cattle and horses to many smaller animals, displays of arts and crafts, youth exhibits, school classroom displays, entertainers, a pet show, and the traveling carnival with rides and games.

Visit the Pearl River County Fair & Rodeo Facebook page for more information or call the PRC Extension Service office at 601-916-7484.
## September 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Transition into Autumn</td>
<td>12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lynette McDougald, Instructor and Manager, The University Florist.</td>
<td>The evenings are cooler, the leaves are changing color, and it's time to transition your house for the Fall Season. Call your local Extension office to RSVP for the program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Household Insect Control</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Bay St. Louis Library.</td>
<td>Christian Stephenson, Hancock County Extension Agent.</td>
<td>The program will include a discussion of common nuisance insects in homes as well as their control. Management for termites, roaches, flies, and other pests will be included.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Household Insect Control</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pass Christian Library.</td>
<td>Christian Stephenson, Hancock County Extension Agent.</td>
<td>The program will include a discussion of common nuisance insects in homes as well as their control. Management for termites, roaches, flies, and other pests will be included.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Basics of Freezer Cooking Meals</td>
<td>12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Natalie Ray, Extension Agent, Clay County.</td>
<td>Cook once and eat all month long! Get ahead on cooking healthy home cooked meals for your family by freezer cooking. Natalie will explain the basics of how to use your freezer to your advantage feeding your family healthy home cooked meals and not slaving in the kitchen every afternoon! Food preparation, safety, and supplies will be discussed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pearl River County Master Gardener Meeting</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Crosby Arboretum in Picayune.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Hancock County Master Gardener Meeting</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hancock County Extension Service Office.</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Fruit in the Backyard Garden</td>
<td>12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Jeff Wilson, Regional Extension Specialist, Horticulture.</td>
<td>Join us as we learn how to select the proper site and the proper fruits for your backyard garden. Dr. Wilson will share which varieties do well in MS as well as how to grow and maintain those plants.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Food Safety</td>
<td>11:30 a.m., Senior Center of South Pearl River County, Picayune, MS.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dawn Vosbein, Extension Agent.</td>
<td>The presenter for this program is Dawn Vosbein, Extension Agent. No registration is required for this program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Food Safety</td>
<td>11:00 a.m., Raine Street Senior Center, Poplarville, MS.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dawn Vosbein, Extension Agent.</td>
<td>The presenter for this program is Dawn Vosbein, Extension Agent. No registration is required for this program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Sustainable Landscaping</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pearl River County Extension Agent Dr. Eddie Smith.</td>
<td>Learn wise maintenance and landscaping practices to conserve resources and energy and create eco-friendly home landscapes through reducing maintenance needs. Benefit local wildlife and strengthening biodiversity by incorporating native plant species, learn methods for reducing stormwater impacts and conserving water, recycle yard waste, and work with your existing soil in this program with Pearl River County Extension Agent Dr. Eddie Smith. Program is free to members; cost for non-members is $5. Register by September 23 by calling 601-799-2311.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>What is the Point of Pre- and Probiotics</td>
<td>12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mandy Conrad, Registered Dietician Nutritionist, Department of Health, Promotion &amp; Wellness.</td>
<td>Did you know that some of the bacteria in your body is beneficial? There are hundreds of microbes in your gastrointestinal tract that provide health benefits. Learn what prebiotics and probiotics are, how to get them in your diet, and the health benefits you can gain by allowing the healthy bacteria in your GI tract to thrive.</td>
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MSU Extension will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities or special needs. Please contact your local Extension office prior to a program or event to request reasonable accommodation.
Garden Calendar: September

Get Ready
• Make sure you've ordered daffodils and other spring bulbs for October planting.
• Build or buy compost bin in anticipation of autumn leaves.

Plant
• Plant cool season leafy root vegetables: Carrots, Beets, Turnips, Lettuce, and Spinach.
• Sow hardy annuals: Sweet Alyssum, Calendula, Annual Pinks, Snapdragon, and Sweet Peas.
• Sow rye grass seed in winter lawns.

Fertilize
• Stop feeding mums when the buds start showing color.
• Acidify Azaleas and Camellias.

Water
• Slow down watering of Azaleas and Hydrangea to allow them to harden against winter freezes.
• Spray foliage of Camellias in anticipation of their bloom.
• Water potted plants and hanging baskets frequently.

Prune
• Disbud Camellias, Dahlias, and Chrysanthemums to produce specimen blooms. It is generally not a good idea to prune this late in the year, because new growth will be more susceptible to winter freezes.

Miscellaneous
• Turn compost pile.
• Propagate by layering. Scrape underside of a strong branch, bend down to ground, cover with soil and weigh down with a brick. Water from time to time and end of branch will put out new growth; becoming a new plant.
• Pick flowers in bloom and dry for future arrangements. Bundle flowers together and hang upside down in a dry, sheltered area.
• Repot houseplants. Prune away damaged foliage and give a good dose of food.

In Bloom
• Canna, Cosmos, Copper Plant, Marigolds, Periwinkle, Plumbago, Crape Myrtle, Althea, Four-o'clocks, Salvia, Ageratum, Coleus, Lycoris, Aster, Begonia, Celosia, Chrysanthemum, Coral Vine, Ginger Lily, Gladiolus, Jacobina, Liriope, Morning Glory, Petunia, Phlox, Rattle Box, Rose, Spider Lily, Torenia, Vinca, White Zephyranthes Lily, Zinnia, Buddleia, Franklin Tree.

Fall Color
• Flowering Dogwood with showy, drooping red leaves.
• Ginko leaves turn pure yellow.

https://www.facebook.com/MSUPRCES and https://www.facebook.com/MSUESHancockCounty
Opossums are often found scavenging around homes. These unique animals are the only marsupial native to North America. As a marsupial, females carry their young in an abdominal pouch for several weeks. Adult opossums are about the size of an average house cat, weighing between six and fifteen pounds. Opossums have white fur tipped with grey or black, and a long narrow snout with a pink nose. The tail of an opossum is as long as the body and nearly hairless. The tail of an opossum is prehensile and can hold and manipulate small objects. Opossums can hang from their tails, but only for short time.

Opossums are active at night and can often be seen along roadsides or moving through yards. In addition, evidence of opossums can often be found in the morning as they leave tracks or droppings as well as disturb compost piles and garbage cans. Opossums live in or near wooded areas, and they especially prefer areas near streams or wetlands. Opossums do not build their own shelters. They will take cover in abandoned nests of other animals, brush piles, or fallen logs. Around homes, opossums will den under steps, porches or outbuildings. They may also occasionally den under houses or invade attics or garages.

As a true omnivore and scavenger, opossums will eat insects, fruit, earthworms, small invertebrates and lizards as well as green plants. However, the main component of their diet is carrion. Opossums are frequently struck by cars while scavenging for carcasses along roads.

Opossums breed in late January and early February and may in some cases breed again in May. Females may have one or two litters per year with each litter being seven to eight young. Females give birth around thirteen days after mating to young about the size of a bumblebee. Young crawl to the mother's pouch where they continue to develop. Young leave the pouch at two to three months of age but will return to the pouch to nurse for a short period of time. Young opossums are sometimes seen riding on their mother's back.

If threatened, opossums will growl or hiss and bare their teeth. If growling is ineffective, opossums will pretend to be dead, which is actually a nervous shock reaction similar to fainting. Opossums may pose a threat to domestic pets, either through bites or by spreading diseases. They may also be a host for dog and cat fleas.

The removal of possible food sources such as pet food and spilled bird seed as well as keeping garbage in secured cans will help prevent opossums from becoming a problem around homes. Opossums are not wary of traps and can be caught easily. Whole raw chicken eggs or overripe bananas are very effective lures. Relocating opossums requires a permit, so it is usually best to hire a professional to remove them from the property.