

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

HORTICULTURE INSIGHTS

Mason County

Note from the Agent

Hello Gardeners,

The new year has come on quickly, Make sure you read the entire newsletter as we have plant sales. If you have apple or pear trees make sure to prune them during this timeframe as the trees are dormate. If you need information on how to prune, give us a call or stop by for a quicky demo.

Macy Fawns, Mason Co Horticulture Agent



This issue:

Composting
PAGE 2

Program Flyers
PAGE 3-8

Fruit Order
PAGE 9

Recipe
PAGE 10

Plant of the Month:
SNAKE PLANT

Also known as Mother-in-Laws tongue. This is one of the most hardiest house plants, if you have a black thumb but love house plants try out Snake Plant.



Don't forget! You can still compost in winter

Source: Faye Kuosman, UK extension horticulture agent

Now that winter is here, are you continuing to compost? Some people give up the exercise in winter due to cold temperatures and will resume again in the spring when it warms up. Just because it is cold outside, you probably still have plenty of compostable kitchen items, and you can continue to successfully compost in winter regardless of the temperature.

Composting provides you with a rich, organic material to spread on your soil to aid in crop growth. Since many compostable items come from leftover food scraps, you are reducing your environmental footprint by keeping unnecessary trash out of the landfills when you compost.

Even if you are new to composting, you can pick up the practice in winter.

The decomposition process obviously slows down when the temperatures drop, but it doesn't completely come to a halt, or at least not for long. Bacteria, fungi and other microbes, as well as large decomposers like earthworms and insects, will survive year-round in compost piles. They will begin to break down organic matter when things warm up again.

Decomposition will completely stop when everything in a compost pile is frozen. But if your compost pile or bin is large enough, the organic matter inside should stay warm enough to avoid freezing and will allow decomposition to occur, even in winter.

You might want to gather leaves or pine needles in the fall for use in composting. Leaves and pine needles are excellent brown, carbon-rich materials that can improve compost pile aeration and reduce odors. Stockpile leaves in yard waste bags or bins throughout the year for use later in compost. Try to keep leaves from getting wet and matting together. If you don't have access to large amounts of leaves, try to stockpile other brown materials such as straw, sawdust, woodchips or shredded paper.

It is important to harvest finished compost to make room for the materials you add in winter. Compost can pile up quickly in winter because decomposition is very slow. It is especially important to harvest if you are composting in small bins or tumblers. Compost is ready to use if the original materials are not recognizable and the compost is dark and crumbly with an earthy odor. Compost can be spread on your garden, or saved for use in the spring. It may be helpful to keep the finished compost in containers with lids or cover with a tarp to keep it from getting wet.

Do not worry about turning the compost pile in winter, like you would in the warmer months. Turning it in winter will result in heat loss in the interior of the pile. It will slow the decomposition process. Instead wait until spring to turn the pile when it is completely thawed.

Composting
provides you with
a rich, organic
material to spread
on your soil to aid
in crop growth.





Planning A POLLINATOR GARDEN

Tuesday January 7th, 2025

4:00 PM



Mason County Public Library

Taught by local Master Gardener



UK Cooperative
Extension Service
Mason County



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener



Mason County
Public Library

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.



Buffalo Trace County Area

HOMESTEADING EDUCATIONAL SERIES

January 7:
Meat Cutting

January 21:
Gardening

January 14:
Mushrooms

January 28:
Preserving

at Mason County Extension Office
800 U.S. Hwy 68, Maysville

The meal & registration will begin at 5:30PM with
the program beginning promptly at 6:00PM



**USE THE QR CODE OR CONTACT YOUR
LOCAL OFFICE TO REGISTER:**

BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141

FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641

LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732

MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808

ROBERTSON COUNTY: (606) 724-5796

Cooperative
Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Homebased Microprocessing Workshop

Homebased Microprocessors are farmers who grow and harvest produce to use in their value-added products. Homebased microprocessors are required to grow a predominant ingredient in the products they make. The first step to becoming certified as a homebased microprocessor is to attend a Homebased Microprocessor (HBM) workshop presented by the University of Kentucky.



January 17, 2025

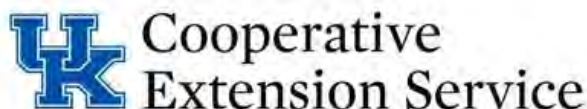
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Fleming County Extension Office
1384 Elizaville Road
Flemingsburg, KY 41041**

**To register & for additional
dates/locations:
ukfcs.net/HBM**

606-845-4641

katie.fryman@uky.edu



**Cooperative
Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.
University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

2025 FARMERS MARKET EDUCATION PROGRAM

HOSTED BY THE BUFFALO TRACE COUNTY AREA UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE



6:00PM

**AT FLEMING COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
OR VIA ZOOM OR ****WATCH PARTY******

****Check local office to verify watch party option****

- **FEBRUARY 18**
PRODUCE BEST PRACTICES TRAINING
- **MARCH 25**
SENIOR/WIC FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM TRAINING
- **APRIL 8**
HOMEBASED PROCESSOR DO'S & DON'TS
- **APRIL 29**
PARTNERING GROUPS-HOW THEY CAN HELP

REGISTER BY: FEBRUARY 14TH

USE THE QR CODE OR CONTACT LOCAL OFFICE TO REGISTER:

- BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141
- FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641
- LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732
- MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
- ROBERTSON COUNTY: (606) 724-5796





UK Cooperative Extension Service

APPLE TREE GRAFTING/PRUNING WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY THE BUFFALO TRACE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICES

MARCH 8, 2025

8:30AM - 2PM @ FLEMING COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1384 ELIZAVILLE RD, FLEMINGSBURG, KY

TOPICS:

- GRAFTING & APPLE VARIETIES
- DISEASE & INSECT MANAGEMENT
- PRUNING: HANDS-ON DEMO @SMS



**PLEASE REGISTER BY:
MARCH 1ST**



USE THE QR CODE OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE TO REGISTER:

- BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141
- FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641
- LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732
- MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
- ROBERTSON COUNTY: (606) 724-5796



Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506





UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

CAIP

Kickoff Producer Meeting

RESCHEDULED

NEW DATE:

January 24th 10 AM & 6 PM
Mason Co Extension Office

many updates to guidelines for the
coming program year

KADF
KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND



REGISTER HERE

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



UK Cooperative
 Extension Service
MASON COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE
PLANT ORDER
2025

All plant orders due February 14th

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____



Item	Quantity (bundle of 25 plants)	Unit Price	Total Price
Seascape Strawberries		\$8.00	
Earliglow Strawberries		\$8.00	
Flavorfest Strawberries		\$8.00	

**** IF ORDERING BLUEBERRIES, IT IS RECOMMENDED TO PURCHASE TWO DIFFERENT VARIETIES FOR POLLINATION****

Item	Quantity (per plant/crown)	Unit Price	Total
Jewel Black Raspberry		\$13.00	
Chandler Blueberry		\$13.00	
Duke Blueberry		\$13.00	
Triple Crown Blackberry		\$13.00	
Marge Elderberry		\$13.00	
Hinnomaki Red Gooseberry		13.00	
Jersey Knight Asparagus		\$2.00	
		Total Due	

Orders payment is required by February 14th, 2025

Make checks payable to: Mason County Extension Office

Taxes included in price

Payment Information:

Amount Paid: _____

Date: _____

Received by: _____

Check no. _____ or Cash _____

**WE WILL CONTACT YOU WHEN ORDERS ARE READY FOR PICK-UP.
 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL (606) 564-6808**



Mason County

800 US HWY 68

Maysville, KY 41056

Return Service

Requested

Tomato Basil Bruschetta

Servings: Makes 16 servings

Serving Size: 1/2 inch slice

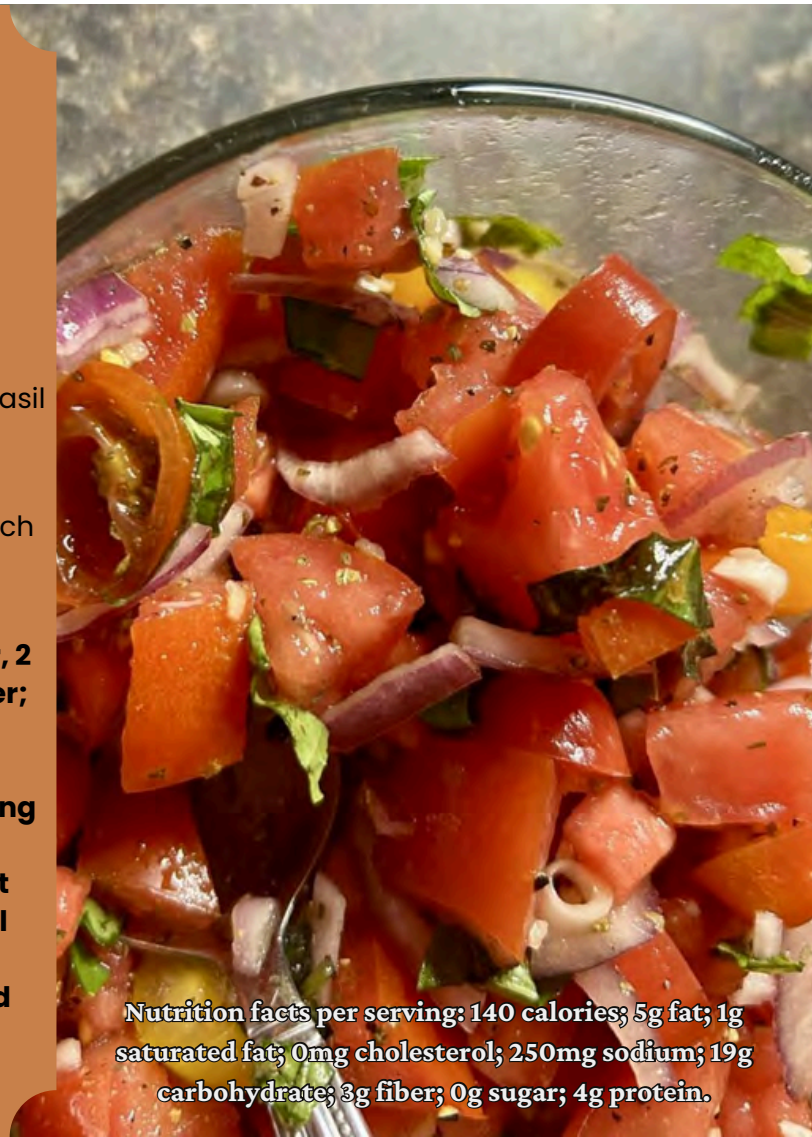
Ingredients:

- 3 plum tomatoes, chopped
- 1/3 cup thinly sliced and coarsely chopped onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh basil or 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 pound loaf, whole wheat French bread, cut into 1/2 inch slices

Directions:

1. **Combine tomatoes, onions, garlic, red wine vinegar, 2 tablespoons olive oil, basil, oregano, salt and pepper; set aside.**
2. **Preheat broiler of oven.**
3. **Lightly brush both sides of bread slices with remaining olive oil and arrange on ungreased baking sheet.**
4. **Place three to four inches from the broiler and heat slices for two to three minutes on each side or until golden brown.**
5. **Top each slice with tomato mixture, using a slotted spoon and serve.**

Source: Plate it up! Kentucky Proud Project.



Nutrition facts per serving: 140 calories; 5g fat; 1g saturated fat; 0mg cholesterol; 250mg sodium; 19g carbohydrate; 3g fiber; 0g sugar; 4g protein.