# AUGUST 2023 Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter

Magoffin County 15 Rockhouse Fork Rd Salyersville, KY 41465 (606) 349-1236 magoffin.ca.uky.edu



Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



## In this issue:

Gardening in Small Spaces 2
Stockpile Forages to Extend the Grazing Season
4-H Career Exploration 4
2023 KY Fencing Schools 5-6
Farmers' Market7
Plate It Up Recipe 8



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#### Cooperative Extension Service

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

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Lexington, KY 40506

### **Gardening in Small Spaces**

Gardening in its many forms is a popular hobby in Kentucky. It promotes healthy habits such as spending time outdoors, being physically active and raising homegrown fruits and vegetables for your family. If you live in urban areas, have little space or have limited mobility, you may think gardening won't work for you. However, raised-bed and container gardening are good solutions for these challenges.

Raised-bed gardens allow you to have control over the planting media. You can create your own soil or soilless mixes. This is great for areas with poor soil quality or poor drainage. You'll get better root growth with amended soils and typically higher yields. Raised beds are easier for those with mobility issues because they usually require less stooping and bending during weeding and watering tasks.

Vegetables usually do well in areas that receive full sun, but many will thrive and give you a good crop with less than a full day of sun. For example, carrots, lettuce, radish, spinach, onion, winter squash, cucumber, peas, cauliflower, parsley and Swiss chard will grow in areas with as little as four to six hours of daily sunlight. Make sure you put your raised beds near a good water source as they will dry out quicker than if planted directly into the ground.





Container gardening may be a great solution for those living in apartments and condominiums or those who just want to garden on the patio. You may use just about any container that holds soil and is large enough to support the plant when it's fully grown. You will need drainage holes in the bottom of any container to avoid overwatering. You don't want the plant roots standing in water. Think about clay or wood pots, plastic buckets, wheelbarrows, window boxes and hanging baskets. Try to avoid very small or dark-colored containers as they will hold heat and the root zone could get dangerously overheated in full sun.

Nearly all leafy vegetables will do well in containers. You may find many dwarf varieties of your favorite vegetables that will thrive in containers. Crops with many fruits per plant such as tomatoes are good choices.

The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service has a publication with many more details about gardening in small spaces. Find and download it here <u>http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID248/ID248.pdf</u>

For more information on gardening, contact the Magoffin County Cooperative Extension Service.



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### **Stockpile Forages to Extend the Grazing Season**

Good pasture management can help extend the grazing season further into the fall and early winter. Take advantage of good growing conditions to obtain high-quality pasture for late fall and early winter grazing. Stockpiling helps broaden the pasture season for the cow herd, reduces feed and labor costs by lowering the amount of hay needed and provides an ideal location for the beef cow herd to winter and calve.

It's easy to begin to stockpile. Simply take cattle off pastures in late summer, apply nitrogen fertilizer and allow grass to accumulate growth through late fall. Then, put cattle on the pasture one section at a time until they've finished grazing the whole field.

Take soil samples for analyses to determine pasture requirements for phosphorus, potassium and lime. You'll need this information to renovate with clover in the spring.

Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass are the best grasses to stockpile in Kentucky. Both retain green color and forage quality late into winter, are somewhat resistant to low temperatures and form a good sod. Tall fescue produces more fall and winter growth than Kentucky bluegrass.

Nitrogen and moisture are critical to successfully stockpiling grasses.

Apply nitrogen in mid-August. Topdress at the rate of 40 to 60 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre for Kentucky bluegrass. Use 40 to 100 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre on tall fescue.

Numerous studies show wise fertilizer use and timing results in high yields during fall and early winter. Tall fescue crude protein and digestibility are better during fall and early winter than at any other time of the year.

Yields can be very good when water is available during the stockpiling period. Tall fescue can produce two tons of dry matter up to late November. With adequate water, producers can achieve 25 pounds of dry matter for each pound of nitrogen used.

After frost, let cattle graze grass-legume fields quickly before plants deteriorate. Then, put animals on the stockpiled grass fields. For the most efficient use of stockpiled fields, establish a strip grazing system by using a temporary electric fence to section off areas of the field. The first grazing area should have water and mineral sources. When animals have grazed this area, move the fence to open a new strip. Repeat this process until the entire field has been grazed.

Stockpiled grass is an excellent choice for fall-calving cows because it can be used to meet high nutritional needs after calving and during the breeding season. Grazing stockpiled grasses may offer the most benefit to spring-calving cows in thin body condition during the fall. Growing, weaned cattle can be grazed on stockpiled fescue. Using stockpiled grasses helps lower feed costs when backgrounding cattle.

For more information about pasture management and other topics, contact the Magoffin County Cooperative Extension Service.



### 4-H is a Good Place for Career Exploration

4-H provides youth numerous opportunities to learn, grow and become productive adults. As a result, 4-H is a perfect place for young people to start exploring potential careers.

From robotics to cooking, 4-H's many programs, clubs and activities have something to interest every young person. If youth have an interest, talent or hobby, chances are they can learn more about it or do something productive with it in 4-H. As they learn more and do more in a particular interest area, a young person may develop a passion for a particular activity, eventually leading to a career in that field. 4-H provides a safe environment for exploration before young people choose a college major or commit to a particular career.

Through 4-H, members can explore many of their interests under the guidance of a caring adult volunteer. These volunteers are often experts in the topics they teach, help educate youth and show the many career possibilities available in a particular field. Volunteers also provide valuable networking experiences as youth begin thinking about careers.

Many 4-H activities foster creativity and get youth thinking outside of the box. Just some of the county-level programs offered by the UK Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Youth Development are job shadowing, mentoring, career preparation, assistance with cover letters, resumes and interviewing skills. Their passions may one day turn into a career.



For more information on becoming involved with 4-H, contact the Magoffin County Cooperative Extension Service.

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### Organized and Sponsored by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, UK Cooperative Extension Service, and the Master Grazer Program

This program is designed for producers and agricultural professionals to learn the newest fencing methods and sound fencing construction through a combination of classroom and hands-on learning

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# 2023 Kentucky Fencing School Agenda



















# Shop locally grown produce and handmade goods at the MAGOFFIN COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET

# 241 WEST MAPLE STREET TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS SALYERSVILLE, KY 41465 3:00PM-6:00PM











1709 KY Route 321 Prestonsburg, KY 41653 Phone: 606.886.8546 Fax: 606.886.8548 www.bshc.org

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### Summertime Sensation Casserole

4 strips turkey bacon <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup minced onion

3 tablespoons diced green pepper

4 ears fresh sweet corn

**1.** In a large skillet, **cook** turkey bacon until crisp.

2. Drain turkey bacon on paper towel, chop and put aside. Do not drain pan. Cook onion and green pepper in bacon drippings over medium heat until tender.

3. Cut corn from cob and add to onion and green pepper mixture in skillet. 1/2 teaspoon salt 1/8 teaspoon black pepper 1 teaspoon dried sweet basil

Add salt, black pepper, basil and tomatoes. Cook 5-10 minutes. Add chopped turkey bacon and cook an additional minute.

- **4. Pour** skillet contents into a greased 1-1/2 quart casserole dish.
- **5. Top** with shredded cheddar cheese.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

2 cups tomatoes, chopped

⅓ **cup** reduced fat shredded cheddar cheese

**6. Bake** at 350°F for 30 minutes, or until cheese is melted and bubbling.

Yield: 5, 1/2 cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 160 calories, 7 g fat, 2.5 g sat.fat, 25 mg cholesterol, 680 mg sodium, 19 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 7 g sugar, 8 g protein.

