



Fall technically doesn't begin until the 22nd, but as you can see in this newsletter, we have a lot of fall -themed events coming up. For those summer lovers, have no fear, we still have at least another month or more before that first cold snap arrives. Get out and enjoy those gardens!

Happy Gardening!

*Jessica Bessin*

Jessica Bessin,  
Mercer County Extension Agent for Horticulture



### Color for the Fall Garden

Everyone knows about mums, pansies, and maybe even goldenrod for the fall garden. If you are looking for another pop of bright color to add to your fall flower bed consider purchasing an aster. There are close to 250 different types of asters all over the world. Asters are a member of the Asteraceae family. The name *Aster* is Greek, meaning "star," and refers to the appearance of the flowers.



These plants come in a variety of colors; white, pink, purple and blue. They are easy to grow and require little maintenance. Some species are drought tolerant and can take full sun to part shade. Its height may range from 6 inches to 8 feet tall with a width of 1 to 3 feet. They have woody rhizome roots and can easily be propagated through division or by seeds. With so many positives there are, of course, a few negatives to this plant as well. If you choose a native variety, they tend to look a little more weedy. At times they require staking, so they don't flop over or break. Finally, if they are really happy in the location they are in, they can become aggressive with their rhizome roots. That just gives you an excuse to divide them up and share them with your neighbors.

Asters are often sold with mums and other fall décor and can make a great container plant for the season. Just make sure it is thoroughly watered often. The quickest way to kill a mum or aster, is letting them dry out while displayed on our porches. These plants are planted in the spring to mid-summer and then bloom in the fall. We often don't think about them until the fall when we are drawn in by those bright purple flowers. If you wish to save the aster you purchased in the fall, the trick is to get it in the ground as soon as you can. Continue to water throughout the fall for its roots to get established before winter. If you can't plant one this fall, make sure to add one for your spring plant list.



### NOTICE

Public Notification of Procedure for Filing a Complaint:

The Cooperative Extension Service prohibits discrimination in its programs and employment on the basis of race, color, age, religion, gender, disability, or national origin.

To initiate a complaint at the college level, contact Tim West in the Business Office at 859-257-3879. At the University level, Terry Allen and Patty Bender in the [UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity](#) (859-257-8927) may be contacted. Additionally, employee or clientele complaints involving any research or extension sponsored program or activity may be directed to the USDA, Director Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Bldg., 14th & Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 (202-720-5964).

### 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

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification



### Green Bean Bundles

**1 pound** fresh green beans  
**¼ teaspoon** black pepper  
**12 slices** turkey bacon  
**2 tablespoons** unsalted butter

**2 cloves** garlic, minced  
**½ teaspoon** ground cinnamon  
**¼ teaspoon** allspice

- Preheat** oven to 400° F.
- Remove** ends and strings from beans. Wash and dry beans thoroughly and season with black pepper.
- Bundle** together 5-8 beans and wrap with a strip of turkey bacon to hold them together.
- Lay** each bundle, seam side down in a large baking dish. In a small saucepan, heat butter, garlic, cinnamon and allspice over low heat, whisking until butter is melted.
- Brush** the mixture over the top of each green bean bundle with a pastry brush.
- Cover** with foil and bake for 35 minutes.
- Remove** foil and bake for 15 additional minutes, until bacon is crisp.

**Yield:** 12 bundles  
**Nutritional Analysis:** 60 calories, 5 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 170 mg sodium, 3 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 1 g sugar, 3 g protein.

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



### Twice-Baked Acorn Squash

**2 medium** acorn squash (1 - 1 1/2 pounds)  
Nonstick cooking spray  
**2 cups** fresh spinach, chopped  
**4 strips** turkey bacon, cooked and crumbled  
**1/2 cup** grated parmesan cheese  
**1** thinly sliced green onion  
**1** tablespoon olive oil  
**2 teaspoons** garlic powder  
**1/2 teaspoon** salt  
**1/4 teaspoon** black pepper  
**1/4 teaspoon** nutmeg

**Wash** hands with warm water and soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. **Preheat** oven to 350 degrees F. **Cut** squash in half; **discard** seeds. **Place** squash flesh side down on a baking sheet **coated** with nonstick cooking spray. **Bake** for 50 to 55 minutes or until tender. **Carefully scoop out** squash, leaving a 1/4-inch-thick shell. In a large bowl, **combine** the squash pulp with the remaining ingredients. **Spoon into shells.** **Bake** at 350 degrees F for 25 to 30 minutes or until heated through and top is golden brown. **Store** leftovers in the refrigerator within two hours.

**Yield:** 4 servings.  
**Serving size:** 1/2 of an acorn squash.

Nutrition Analysis: 210 calories, 9g total fat, 3g saturated fat, 25mg cholesterol, 710mg sodium, 27g total carbohydrate, 4g fiber, 1g total sugars, 0g added sugars, 9g protein, 0% DV vitamin D, 15% DV calcium, 15% DV iron, 20% DV potassium.





### Seven Ways to Help a Drought Stressed Lawn

Source: Gregg Munshaw, plant and soil sciences extension associate professor


Kentucky's been pretty dry the past few weeks. September and October are usually our driest months. Even if we get a heavy rainfall in the near future, it won't completely alleviate drought symptoms. When a lawn becomes excessively dry, the soil surface develops some water repellency that prevents water from soaking in during a quick, hard rain event. Here are some things you can do to help your thirsty grass and hopefully avoid having to completely reseed your lawn.

- Water every other day or every third day until good, soaking rains begin.
- Apply about two-thirds of an inch of water each time. You can check this by probing the soil with a knife or screwdriver to determine if the soil is wet 2 to 3 inches deep.
- Water in the early morning to help reduce diseases, remove dew and reduce evaporative water loss.
- Water areas that have the earliest browning first. These are often on southern or western facing slopes or areas with heavy clay soils, very compacted soil or rocks near the surface.
- If possible, don't mow a drought-stricken yard until you can water it or you know a soaking rain is on the way. Weeds are still growing and flowering during summer droughts. Wait for the rain, then mow off the weeds.
- Don't apply herbicides during a summer drought. They won't work when weeds are suffering and can damage drought-stressed grass more than weeds.
- Wait for a soaking rain before applying nitrogen to the lawn in the fall. Nitrogen can greatly improve a lawn's drought recovery.

### Rinse and Return Recycling Program -September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 PM, Mercer County Recycling Center

#### Pressure Rinsing

- 1)Remove cover from container. Empty the pesticide into the spray tank and let the container drain for 30 seconds.
- 2)Continue holding the container upside down over the sprayer tank opening so rinsate will run into the sprayer tank.
- 3)Insert the pressure-rinse nozzle by puncturing through the bottom of the pesticide container.
- 4)Rinse for length of time recommended by the manufacturer, generally 30 seconds or more.



#### Triple Rinsing

- 1)Remove cover from container. Empty the pesticide into the spray tank and let the container drain for 30 seconds.
- 2)Fill the container 10% to 20% full of water or rinse solution.
- 3)Secure the cover on the container.
- 4)Swirl the container to rinse all inside surfaces.
- 5)Remove cover from the container. Add the rinsate from the container to sprayer tank and let drain for 30 seconds or more.
- 6)Repeat steps 2 through 5 two more times.
- 7)Puncture container.



**Mercer County Public Library**

Lunch & Learn

# Bees 101

September 12 at 12:00pm




MERCER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mercer County Public Library  
109 W Lexington St—Harrodsburg, KY 40330




We will cover basic beekeeping! Bring your lunch! The library will provide beverages and something sweet. Presented by Jessica Bessin, Extension Agent for Horticulture.



Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club

September 30 at 6:30pm

Kenny Holbrook from Kentucky State University will join us sharing his research on pesticides, viruses, and diseases in KY beehives.



Mercer County Extension Office  
1007 Lexington Road—Harrodsburg, KY 40330  
859-734-4378

### Mark Those Calendars!!

- Honey Bees 101-September 12th, Mercer County Public Library 12:00 PM**
- Mercer County Ag Field Day-September 12th**  
See insert for more details.
- Monarch Butterflies-September 19th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM & 5:00 PM**
- Fort Harrod Garden Club-September 25th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM**
- Mercer County Horticulture Council Meeting-September 30th, Mercer County Extension Office 5:00 PM**
- Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club-September 30th, Mercer County Extension Office 6:30 PM**  
See insert for more details. Make sure to check out the Fort Harrod Beekeeping Facebook page for all the latest updates and announcements!
- Harvest, Home, & Table Fair-October 4th, Mercer County Extension Office 8:00 AM—4:30 PM**  
See insert for more details.
- Seed Saving-Mercer County Public Library, October 10th 12:00 PM**
- Growing Garlic-October 24th, Mercer County Extension 5:00 PM**  
More info to follow in Octobers newsletter.




Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club



**Thursday, September 12**

**Goodlett Farms**

**510 McAfee Lane, Harrodsburg**

**5:00 PM**—Registration begins

**5:00 PM**—Visit Vendor Area

**5:30 PM**—Program and Tour begin

**Free sponsored meal prepared by  
Mercer County Cattlemen’s Association**

*\*Rain Date – September 19<sup>th</sup>*

**SPEAKERS**

**Small Farm Grant Opportunities**  
*Joni Nelson, KSU Extension Associate*

**Raising Hope**  
*Dr. Cheryl Witt, UK Ag Extension Specialist Senior*

**Tractor Safety**  
*Dale Dobson, KDA Safety Administrator*

**Soybean Diseases**  
*Dr. Carl Bradley, UK Extension Plant Pathologist*

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**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**



*We invite all farmers (full, part time & hobby), agriculture businesses, and anyone with an interest in agricultural production to come out and take part in this educational field day.*

***This will meet the CAIP educational requirement.***

*Enjoy some shade, cool drinks, & good food for all. In addition, several agricultural businesses will have displays in the vendor area.*

**For more information, contact:**

Mercer County Farm Bureau  
859-734-4341

Mercer Co Conservation District  
859-734-4326 ext 3

Mercer Co Extension Service  
859-734-4378

**RSVP**

Please call 859-734-4378 to register by September 10<sup>th</sup>. It is important that we know how many are planning to attend. **THANK YOU!**

**Field Day Sponsors**

Mercer County Farm Bureau Federation  
Mercer County Conservation District  
Mercer County Cooperative Extension Service  
Central KY Ag Credit  
Farm Credit Mid-America



Join us in celebrating the new season and showcase all of your favorite things about Fall! This event is similar to Floral Hall during Fair week except everything is Fall themed! See the back side of this flyer for information on entries! Blue, Red and White ribbons will be given out in each category and the Grand Champion from each category will win a themed prize with a value of \$50.00! No age limitations to participate- open to everyone in the family!



**Check In: Thursday, October 3rd 1PM-3PM**  
**Viewing: Friday, October 4th 8AM-4:30PM**  
**Check Out: Monday, October 7th 9AM-3PM**



**All activities will take place at the Mercer County Extension Office.**  
**1007 Lexington Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330**

**Questions? Call us at 859-734-4378**



**ITEM TAGS WILL BE AVAILABLE THE DAY OF CHECK IN. JUST COME WITH YOUR ITEMS READY DAY OF. THERE IS NO ADMISSION FEE FOR VIEWING, PLEASE BRING THE FAMILY AND VIEW THE COMMUNITIES CREATIONS.**

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# Harvest, Home, and Table Fair

# Catalog

## CULINARY

- BREADS
- COOKIES
- CANDY
- PIES

## QUILT

- DOOR OR WALL HANGING
- FALL THEMED QUILT

## CANNING

- PIE FILLING
- SOUPS
- MEATS
- FRUIT BUTTER
- FRUIT PRESERVES

## FLOWER AND PLANT

- FRESH FLORAL ARRANGEMENT
- DRIED FLORAL ARRANGEMENT
- FAKE FLORAL ARRANGEMENT

## SEWING

- COSTUME
- FALL APPAREL
- KITCHEN ACCESSORIES (APRON, BOWL COZY, POT HOLDER, ECT)

## KNIT/CROCHET

- SWEATER/SHAWL/WRAP
- HATS
- AFGHANS
- MITTENS
- SOCKS

## HOME CRAFT AND FURNISHINGS

- DECORATED PUMPKIN (ANYTHING OTHER THAN CARVED)
- CARVED PUMPKIN
- DECORATED GOURD
- HANDMADE CARD
- DECORATIVE SWAG
- HOOKED ITEM
- WREATH
- CENTER PIECE FOR TABLE OR MANTLE

ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE FALL THEMED. THIS INCLUDES FALL COLORS, FLAVORS, SEASON APPROPRIATE PRODUCE (canning) AND FLOWERS



# SHAKER VILLAGE

# Fall HARVEST FESTIVAL

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TO ASSIST WITH MERCER COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BOOTH

INCLUDES WORKING FUN INTERACTIVE GAME STATIONS  
VOLUNTEERS WILL RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION TO FESTIVAL

**September 28-29, 2024**  
**Shaker Village**  
Festival will run from 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Volunteer times are 3 hours

For more information or to volunteer  
<https://bit.ly/Extensionharvest24>

Mercer County Cooperative Extension - 859-734-4378

