

MARCH 2025

# MCCREARY COUNTY EXTENSION

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



## Backyard Chicken Basics

Have you seen the price of eggs?? Maybe it's time to consider a backyard flock of your own. To have a successful flock producing eggs for your family, you'll want to learn the basics.

- Make sure you check your local city and county ordinances to ensure you're able to have a backyard flock.
- Chickens require daily care. You must feed them, provide clean water and collect eggs every single day.
- Birds get sick and it may be difficult to find a veterinarian to provide care for them.
- Cleanliness and sanitation are critical elements in caring for a small flock. Everyone must wash their hands before and after handling the birds.
- Poop happens. Chickens eat a lot and hens use about 60% of the feed they consume and excrete the other 40% as manure. You must have a plan for that manure.
- The egg season will come to an end. Have a plan for what you will do with hens that stop producing.



## FARMERS MARKET VENDORS NEEDED!

Produce & value-added  
products welcome!

\$40 for entire season  
or  
\$15 each setup  
(Senior & student discounts  
available)

Opening day: May 3rd

Applications available at:  
McCreary County Extension Office  
141 College St.  
Whitley City, KY 42653



- Your birds will need housing that provides shelter from the weather, nest boxes for egg laying and perches for roosting at night. Make sure housing is easy to clean and provides protection from predators.
- You will most likely want to raise your hens from chicks. You can buy them online and have them shipped to your home, but some suppliers have minimum quantities for orders. You may have neighbors or friends who also raise chickens willing to join you in an order. Remember you'll need to provide new chicks with a heat source, such as a lamp, for at least six weeks.

For more information about small flocks, contact Tracie Goodman, McCreary County Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent.



**Tracie Goodman**  
ANR/4-H Extension Agent  
University of Kentucky  
McCreary County Cooperative Extension Service  
141 College St.- P.O. Box 278  
Whitley City, KY 42653  
606-376-2524  
[Tracie.Goodman@uky.edu](mailto:Tracie.Goodman@uky.edu)

## UPCOMING EVENTS MCCREARY CO. EXTENSION

Pruning & Grafting Workshop  
March 6th, 5:30pm  
Scott Christian Care Center  
Oneida, TN

McCreary Fun-Makers Meeting  
March 11th, 4pm

McCreary Cattlemen's Assoc:  
Cattle Marketing  
March 11th, 6pm

Water Bath Canning Workshop  
March 13th, 10am

Indoor Air Quality  
March 17th, 1pm

Get Healthy McCreary Hiking  
Orientation & Campus Trail  
March 26th, 10am

Scott/McCreary Grow Appalachia  
March 27th, 5:30pm  
Scott Christian Care Center  
Oneida, TN

*\*All events located at McCreary County Extension unless stated otherwise.*

Call 606-376-2524 for registration info

Follow us!



# Preparing Your Garden

Garden season is upon us! Get started by preparing your soil. Test moisture by gathering a handful of soil. Squeeze it in your hand and release. If it crumbles, it is ready to be worked. If it stays in a clump shape, it is too wet.

Organic matter is a good addition to your soil. It adds nutrients and loosens heavy soil. It allows sandy soil to hold water better and makes the soil easier to work.

A soil test will determine which nutrients are lacking in your soil and how much fertilizer to apply. Soil testing is FREE through McCreary County Extension for McCreary residents. Contact us at 606-376-2524.



Check out [planeatmove.com](http://planeatmove.com) for garden info & seasonal recipes!



## LOCAL FERTILIZER COST-SHARE

The McCreary County Conservation District is taking applications for a 50/50 Local Cost Share Fertilizer program from Jan 29th - March 24th

### Requirements:

- \*Farm serial number
- \*Up-to-date Ag Water Quality Plan
- \*Current soil test
- \*Must purchase bulk fertilizer

### Application Info:

McCreary County Conservation District  
299 Wilburn K Ross Hwy, Stearns, KY 42647  
606-376-5017

## CATTLEMEN'S CORNER

### SPRING TIMELY TIPS

Have herd bulls evaluated for breeding soundness (10-20% of bulls are questionable or unsatisfactory breeders).

Prevent grass tetany! Provide magnesium in the mineral mix until daytime temperatures are consistently above 60o F.

Do not "rush to grass" although it can be tempting. Keep them consuming dry feed until sufficient grass is available to sustain body condition.



**McCreary County Extension  
positions available!!**

*We're*  
**Hiring!**

**for Nutrition Education Program  
Assistant positions**



**JOIN OUR  
TEAM!**

**MCCREARY COUNTY  
FCS/4-H EXTENSION  
AGENT**

- Paid vacation & sick leave
- Insurance
- Retirement 200% match
- Employee Education Program
- Professional development

*Apply online at*

**[extension.ca.uky.edu/hiring](http://extension.ca.uky.edu/hiring)**



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Food and Environment  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**