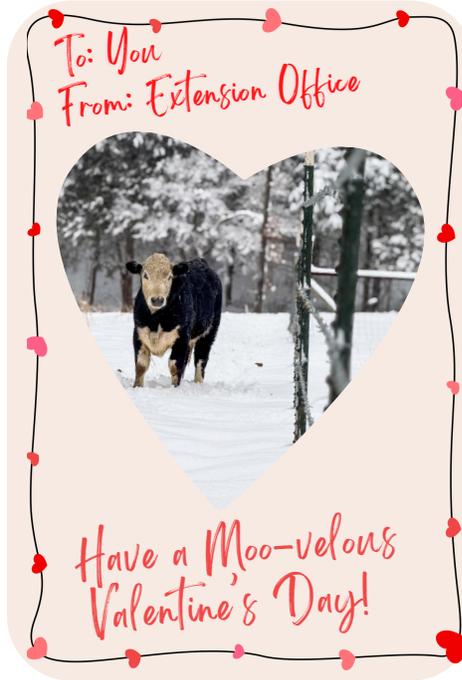




It's WINTER folks! Have you thawed out from the past couple weeks of below freezing temperatures? We sure hope so! In the event that we get more inclement weather please be mindful that our office and or events might be canceled or postponed due to the weather. Please check out our office social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) before the event or activity to make sure we've not have a change in plans.

On February 2nd, "Groundhog Day," we will learn whether or not we will have 6 more weeks of winter or not. Stayed tuned to see if Punxsutawney "Phil" sees his shadow. Do you have a prediction?

Sincerely, *Jessica D. Sibley* *Lara Angel*  
*Laura Angelin* *Matt S*



Inside this issue:

- Livestock Shows Recap
- Save the Date Spring Break 4-H Lego Camp
- Save the Date 4-H Project Achievement Day
- Save the Date 4-H Steam Day
- 4-H Awards
- Senior Spotlight
- 4-H Congress Interest Meeting
- 4-H Poultry Interest Meeting
- "Hands to Larger Service"
- MVLA Meeting
- 4-H Volunteer Management Update
- Spring Plant Sale
- Create a Car Emergency Kit
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- Private Applicator Training Info
- Tri-County Ag Newsletter
- Planning for Warmer Times
- Backyard Birds in the Cold Season
- Winter Slow Cooker Favorites



History in the making...Rabbits! Pictured here are all the rabbit 4-Hers from the Northwest District Livestock Show. 2025 marks the first year that 4-H Rabbits were added to the district show! Pictured here are 4-Hers from DeSoto, Panola, and Yalobusha counties. We are so excited to see the future of this project!

3260 HIGHWAY 51 S. HERNANDO, MS 38632

# SAVE THE DATE SPRING BREAK 4-H LEGO CAMP

MARCH 13-14, 2024

MORE DETAILS WILL BE  
PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE

JUL

SAVE THE DATE

10

NW PROJECT  
ACHIEVEMENT DAY

## 4-H AWARDS *Seniors Apply!*

The Mississippi 4-H Awards Program recognizes Mississippi 4-H members who have excelled in their 4-H endeavors. This application is for the awards gifted through the Mississippi State Extension Center for 4-H Youth Development.

Applications will be reviewed by an unbiased, third party who will rank applications in accordance with the criteria from the gift agreements. Applicants may only receive ONE 4-H award annually. Let us know if you would like an application to apply! Drop us an email to [desoto@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:desoto@ext.msstate.edu).

**Deadline to apply is February 14 to our office. An EXTENSION Agent from our office has to signoff on it & write a recognition letter. PLUS you will need 2 other recognition letters & a transcript! ACT NOW!**

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

GRADUATING  
4-H  
SENIORS!

WE WANT TO FEATURE  
YOU ON OUR FACEBOOK  
PAGE!

Class of  
2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
EMAIL LAURA AT  
[LANGLIN@MSSTATE.EDU](mailto:LANGLIN@MSSTATE.EDU)

## 4-H Congress Interest Meeting

Are you a 4-H senior (ages 14-18 years old)?

4-Hers will stay in Starkville, explore campus and explore the world of 4-H themselves! Youth will also choose 4-H competitions to compete in!



Join us to learn more! **March 4, 2025 at 5:30 pm**  
at the DeSoto County Extension Office

## 4-H Poultry Chain Interest Meeting

February 25, 2025

DeSoto County Extension Office 6:00 pm

Keep a record book as your birds grow for approximately 20 weeks and then show your birds on the county level or at the MS State Fair this fall.

After showing, you can either keep or sell your birds!

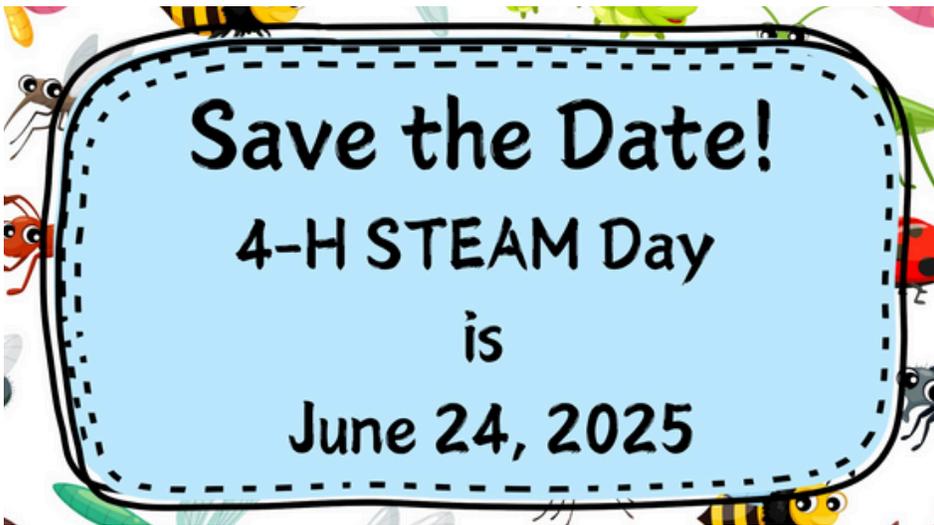
Join us to learn more!



# I pledge...“My Hands to Larger to Service”

Part of the 4-H Pledge is pledge your hands to larger service. This means to do an act of service to someone else. In January the Lucky Leaders 4-H Club did just that! They created 195 handmade Valentine’s Day cards for veterans at the Veteran Affairs' Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee and the residents at Great Oaks Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Byhalia, MS. Show your “service” and “love” this month by doing a service project too! Check out ideas below for how you can put your hands to larger service.

- Donate books to a “Little Library” or food to a “Little Food Pantry”
- Feed wild birds on Feb. 3rd because it’s National Feed the Birds Day!
- Create a goodie basket for 1st responders
- Collect coats you no longer use and donate to local charity to help families in need.
- Make paper snowflakes or hearts for a nursing home or a shut-in to brighten their day.
- Call a neighbor and check-in on them.
- Volunteer to walk dogs at an animal shelter.
- Help with chores for someone unable to (clean gutters, rack leaves, shovel snow, change light bulbs, etc.)



## MVLA Meeting

Registration is now open for the Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association's (MVLA) Annual Leadership Conference to be held at Mississippi State University on Feb 21-22, 2025. Contact us for more information and to register. Cost: \$100 first time attendees or \$130 for returning volunteers.



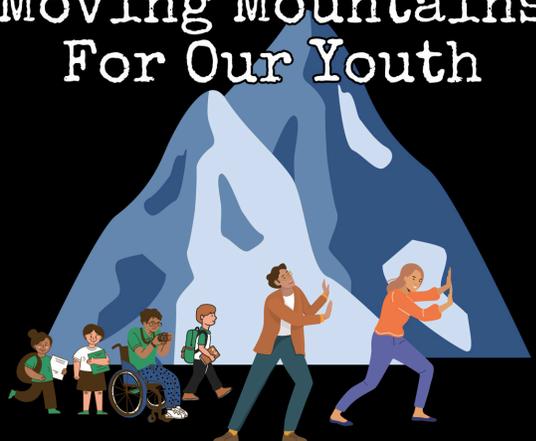
**WE'RE MOVING!**

To a new, on-line  
**4-H Volunteer Management System.**  
Starting *February 12, 2025*, 4-H Volunteers will receive notification emails from @ideal-logic and the MSU Office of Compliance asking them to update their background checks and watch the Minor Protection video *if* they are out of date. We appreciate your patience as we work to transition our volunteers and staff to this new system.

**THANK YOU**



## 4-H Volunteers Moving Mountains For Our Youth



**MVLA**  
Mississippi Volunteer Leaders Association



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY**  
EXTENSION

# 4-H Livestock Shows

On January 4, 2024, DeSoto and Tate 4-Hers teamed up to host a county livestock show. Then 4-Hers also participated in the Northwest District Livestock Show in Batesville, MS between January 16-18, 2025. Congratulations to all of our DeSoto County 4-Hers!

**Beef Cattle:** Cheyenne Ricker, Easton Ricker, Weston Ricker, Maggie Lindsey, Grayson Hadley, Carly Robinson, and Hannah Powell

**Dairy Goats:** Evie Bemis, Hazel Bemis, Jayden Simpson, Zandrew Gomes, Michael Simpson, Lilly Bemis, Sidney Simpson, Nathan Bula, Addilyn Gomes, Dusti Cox-Osborne, Jasidy Gomes, Willow Cox-Osborne, Anthony Bula, Hannah Powell, Londyn Simpson, Robert Cox-Osborne

**Rabbits:** Evie Bemis, Hazel Bemis, Jan Schaafsma, Zandrew Gomes, Lillian Bemis, Fenix Schaafsma, Addilyn Gomes, Willow Cox-Osborne, Jasidy Gomes, and Dusti Cox-Osborne





# Multi-County Row Crop Meeting

Tunica, Desoto, Coahoma, Tate, and Quitman County

## February 10, 2025 @ 10:30 AM



**LOCATION:**  
Mid-South Ag Equipment, Inc  
4028 Josephine Rd  
Tunica, MS 38676.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE**  
**FEBRUARY 6, 2025**

Lunch will be provided  
Panel discussion including:  
Dr. Brian Pieralisi  
Dr. Tom Allen  
Dr. Erik Larson

Register by calling the Tunica County, Extension Office at 662-363-2911.



SAVE

**PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING**



**17 APRIL 2025**  
**9:00 AM**

THE

DATE

**3260 HWY 51 SOUTH,**  
Hernando, MS 38632  
662-469-8480




## Master Gardener Face-to-Face Trainings

**WHEN: MARCH 11TH, 2025 TO APRIL 10TH, 2025 TUESDAY AND THURSDAYS 8:00AM TO 12:00PM**

**WHERE: DESOTO COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE 3260 HWY 51S HERNANDO, MS**

**COST: \$125 PER PERSON**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ACCOMMODATIONS CALL 662-469-8480**

*Tri-County Ag E - Newsletter*

Sign up Today!



CLICK HERE!

SCAN ME

Join our Agriculture Newsletter that will be delivered to your email monthly!

## Create a Car EMERGENCY KIT



You never know when a disaster will strike. Having an emergency kit in your home & car with essential items is the first step to surviving such an event. Last month we covered "home" emergencies now let's talk about your "car". You don't want to be stranded on the side of the highway during the winter storm!

- Jumper Cables or Battery Jump Starter
- Full tank of fuel (it's a good idea to keep your tank full during the winter because you never know when you might get stranded).
- Flashlight
- Sand or Kitty Litter (to help gain traction in snow)
- Small Shovel
- Roadside Flares
- Flat Tire Inflation Canister
- Warm Clothes
- Blankets
- Ice Scraper
- Bottled Water
- Shelf Stable Snacks

# W-I-N-T-E-R Favorites

Slow Cook



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY...  
EXTENSION

Whenever you say, “Slow Cooker” people immediately think about winter home cooked meals and a “crock pot”. Slow cookers are an amazing powerful small kitchen appliance wonderful for any home kitchen. They were patented on January 23, 1940, in the middle of World War II, but their history dates back further than that! The slow cooker was the solution to preparing family meals without turning on the oven during the summer heat.

Early in the 19th century in the Jewish neighborhoods, families would prepare for the Sabbath by placing meat, beans, and vegetables in a crock on Fridays before nightfall. They would take their food to the town bakeries to “slow cook” their food in the bakeries still hot ovens overnight as the ovens cooled down from the day.

In the 1970s, the first slow cooker business “Naxon Beanery” was sold to Rival Manufacturing, and it became known as the “Crock Pot”. They advertised and re-branded the slow cooker to be “Perfect for Working Women”. The rest is history, and the appliance is a staple in kitchens across America. From dump meals to home cooked comfort foods, to family favorites the slow cooker has been feeding families WINTER favorites year-round. This WINTER grab your slow cooker and put it to work. Check out the recipe on the right to add to your menu this month.

If slow cooking isn’t your jam and you need more advice and help navigating this appliance join Lara Angel on February 4th at the Olive Branch library at 10:00 to discuss “Slow Cookers” in more detail.

## Slow-Cooked Chicken and Salsa

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup dried black beans
- 1.5 pounds boneless skinless chicken, cut into serving-size pieces
- 1 (16 ounce) jar black bean salsa
- 1 (16 ounce) jar corn salsa
- 1 cup uncooked brown rice
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese or Mexican cheese
- 1 avocado, sliced, for garnish
- 1/2 package corn chips for garnish

### Directions:

1. Soak the beans in water to cover in a bowl for 8-10 hours, drain.
2. Combine beans, chicken, black bean salsa, corn salsa, brown rice and 2 cups water in a slow cooker. Cook on High for 4 hours or on Low for 8-10 hours, adding water if needed near the end of the cooking process.
3. To serve, place 1 1/2 cups of the chicken mixture on individual serving plates or the entire amount on a serving platter. Top with sour cream and cheese. Garnish with the avocado and corn chips.

**Note:** You may substitute two 15-ounce cans of black beans for the dried beans to eliminate the soaking time. Use the liquid in the black beans for added moisture. Frozen chicken tenders can be used but thaw them before placing them in slow cooker. Green salsa may also be used or look for a combination of corn and black bean salsa. One cup of frozen corn kernels may be also added.

**Serves:** 6

# Planning for Warmer Times

There is not a lot of chores to be done in the garden, at least not the ones I enjoy doing, this time of year. However, this is a great time to start planning for your upcoming warm season crops, and it also appears the seed companies feel the same way. Seed catalogs and emails have been going out and it seems I get a new one almost daily. Considering that it takes about 8 weeks for many vegetables to be ready to transplant, now is a good time to order seed and replace any old equipment so you'll be ready come mid-February. Here are some things you can do to make sure your ready to go!

- Flip through the catalogs or online stores and see what is available. Popular seeds and varieties are going to be the first to sell out in the spring. Keep in mind your garden size and what you will use, but don't be afraid to try out a couple new varieties.
- Look through any seedling trays and cells that you have from last year. Now is a good time to order any needed replacements online.
- Make sure your grow lights work. You may need to buy new lights if you're going to increase the number of seedlings you start this year. It only takes a few days of low light conditions for seedlings to become leggy and difficult to deal with.



## SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 12, 2025  
9:00 am - 12:00 PM

DeSoto County Extension Office: Hwy 51 South, Hernando, MS 38632

Annual Bedding Plants  
Perennials  
Vegetables

Hanging Baskets  
House Plants  
Trees



Creating a winter habitat and providing food for migrating birds in your backyard can be a rewarding endeavor for both you and the birds. To attract and support these seasonal visitors, start by offering a variety of bird feeders filled with seeds high in fat and protein. Sunflower seeds, suet, and peanuts are great for energy during cold months. Additionally, consider planting berry-producing shrubs, like holly or winterberry, which provides natural food sources. To create a welcoming habitat, ensure there is adequate shelter from harsh weather; this can be achieved by maintaining evergreen trees or dense shrubs. Furthermore, providing a water source is crucial, as natural water supplies can freeze; consider using a heated birdbath to offer fresh water. By creating this inviting environment, you'll not only aid migrating birds in their journey, but also enjoy the beauty and activity of these avian visitors throughout the winter months.

# February

# 2025

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

January  
26

27

28

29

30

31

1

February

<<<<<<Dixie National Junior Round-Up>>>>>

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Slow Cooker  
Winter  
Favorites OB  
Library

<<<<<<Dixie National Junior Round-Up>>>>>

Shooting  
Sports  
Registration  
Deadline  
Dining with  
Diabetes

SS Equipment  
Check



9

10

11

12

13

14

15

4-H Sewing



SS Practice



16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Master Urban  
Homesteader



Lucky Leaders 4-H  
Club

SS Practice



23

24

25

26

27

28

 4-H Poultry Chain  
Interest Meeting



4-H Cooking  
Kit Pickup



Western  
Heritage  
Practice