

How is it November already?! Hoping everyone is enjoying the cooler fall weather and getting those gardens cleaned up for the year. I'm looking forward to all of our holiday classes coming up over the next two months. Wishing you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Happy Gardening!

Jessica Bessin

Jessica Bessin,
Mercer County Extension Agent for Horticulture



To Rake or Not To Rake?

Is raking leaves in the fall a chore you loathe? You can take it off your list this year, especially if the leaves are piling up on your lawn. If they are falling on a driveway, sadly, you can't get out of that chore unless you want a slippery drive way.

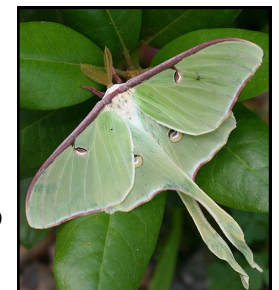
Why leave the leaves? There are actually a couple of benefits to leaving the leaves on your lawn. If you allow trees to do a complete leaf drop on your lawn, you are providing habitat for all sorts of critters through the winter. Butterflies, chipmunks, salamanders, beneficial insects, toads, and even box turtles rely on fallen leaves. The Luna moth caterpillars will wrap their cocoons with fallen leaves to stay cozy through the winter.



Leaving leaves on your lawn will also provide additional nutrients, reducing the amount of fertilizer that you may need to apply in spring. If you are not thrilled about having so many leaves on your yard, run over them with the mower. This will chop them up quickly and will still benefit your lawn.

If you don't mind raking the leaves and want to receive some of the benefits they can make a great addition to your flower beds and garden. They can help suppress weeds, add some extra nutrients, and help protect perennials in colder temperatures. Another option is to compost your leaves. Keep in mind some break down faster than others. Maple leaves tend to break down faster than oak leaves that tend to linger.

The last positive to think about by not bagging those leaves, even when using compostable bags, a lot of them end up in landfills. Raking fewer leaves can help prevent a sore back at the end of the day and be a win for the environment! Finally, I know I will be raking leaves this fall in my own yard, but for entertainment purposes. Both children and pets alike love to jump into a good pile of leaves!



NOTICE

Public Notification of Procedure for Filing a Complaint:

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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).

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Agriculture and Natural Resources
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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification

Sorghum Gingerbread Pear Muffins

1 cup whole-wheat flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

½ teaspoon ground ginger
¼ teaspoon salt
1 egg
½ cup buttermilk

½ cup sorghum syrup
½ cup unsweetened applesauce
1 pear, peeled, cored, and diced

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. **Grease** 12 muffin cups or line with paper liners. In a mixing bowl, **combine** the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, and salt. In a separate bowl, **mix** together the egg, buttermilk, sorghum syrup and applesauce until smooth. **Add** the egg mixture to the flour mixture and **combine** until the batter is just moistened. Gently **fold** in the diced pears. **Fill** the muffin cups with the

mixture. They will be full. **Bake** in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center of a muffin comes out clean, about 20 minutes.

Yield: 12 muffins. Serving size, one muffin.

Nutritional Analysis: 90 calories, 1g fat, 0g saturated fat, 0g trans fat, 15mg cholesterol, 140mg sodium, 20g carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 13g total sugars, 10g added sugars, 2g protein

Butternut and Acorn Squash Soup

1 butternut squash, halved and seeded
1 acorn squash, halved and seeded
1 tablespoon olive oil

½ cup chopped sweet onion
4 cups chicken broth
3 tablespoons peanut butter
½ cup packed brown sugar

½ teaspoon ground black pepper
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
Fresh parsley for garnish

Using a vegetable peeler, **remove** the skin from the butternut and acorn squashes and **cut** into 1-inch cubes. In a large soup pot, **heat** the oil on medium high. **Add** the onion, and **cook** 1 to 2 minutes until it starts to become translucent. **Add** cubed squash, and cook 4 to 5 minutes. **Add** chicken broth, and bring to a boil. **Lower** heat, and **simmer** 30 to 35 minutes, until the squash is fork tender. **Allow** to **cool** slightly, then **blend** until smooth in a food processor or

blender. **Return** mixture to the pot, and **heat** to medium low. **Add** peanut butter, brown sugar, pepper, cinnamon, and nutmeg. **Stir** until well blended. **Garnish** with fresh parsley. **Serve** warm.

Yield: 7, 1-cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 200 calories, 6 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 600 mg sodium, 36 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 14 g sugar, 10 g added sugar, 4 g protein.

Why did the Woolly Bear Worm Cross the Road?

Each fall, it's hard not to notice them—little woolly worms crawling across roads, sidewalks, and paths everywhere. Where are they going? They seem so determined to make it to their destination. In Kentucky, we are most familiar with the banded woolly bear (or worm). Following the pupal stage, the banded woolly bear emerges in its adult form, the Isabella tiger moth. Each woolly worm is scrambling to find a warm nook or cranny in which to overwinter. Unlike other butterflies or moths, the woolly worm spends the winter as a caterpillar, not a pupa or chrysalis. When the weather warms in the spring, the banded woolly worm becomes active again and completes its metamorphosis. The hairs covering their bodies are thought to offer some degree of insulation from cold winter temperatures. Even though they are not a stinging caterpillar, if they accidentally wander into a pair of boots, their hairs can be quite painful if you step on them (speaking from experience).



There is a lot of folklore surrounding the banded woolly worm, particularly related to its supposed power to predict upcoming winter weather. The typical banded woolly worm has sections of black hairs at each end, and a section of orange-brown hairs in the center. Legend says that the more black on a banded woolly worm, the more severe the winter will be. Research has shown repeatedly that the colors of hairs of woolly worms have no bearing on weather the following winter. Larvae hatched from the same clutch of eggs reared under one set of environmental conditions will show a range of hair thickness and colorations, from fully orange to fully black. Despite the scientific evidence that discredits any super weather predicting power of the woolly worm, people are very passionate about their woolly worms. There are even festivals dedicated to the woolly bear worm, even one right here in Kentucky. Each year Beattyville, KY celebrates the woolly worm with woolly worm races, parade, and more!



Isabella moth a

Think Local For Thanksgiving

Even though it is starting to get cooler out, there is still plenty of local produce available for purchase for your Thanksgiving dinner table. Through the month of November, a variety of greens are available; Winter squash, sweet potatoes, broccoli, a variety of root crops, and apples. If you are not a veggie lover, consider reaching out to one of our many farmers who sell turkeys, pork, chicken, or beef. Don't forget about all the value added products as well, jams/jellies, honey, sorghum, chutney, pie fillings, and more. Visit the KY Proud website: <https://www.kyproud.com> to find a local producer near you!



Extension Community Meeting

November 12

11:30am—1:00pm

Join us to share your input on programs over the next five years! Lunch will be provided. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!



RSVP to 859-734-4378 or by scanning QR code.

Mercer County Extension Office

Holiday Plant Care

November 14

10:00am

Join as we learn about holiday cactus, amaryllis, poinsettias and more of your favorite holiday plants. First 20 to sign up will receive a holiday plant to take home.



Call 859-734-4378 to RSVP



Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

Mark Those Calendars!!

Election Day-November 5th, Extension Office is Closed

Extension Community Meeting— November 12th, Mercer County Extension Office 11:30 AM -1:00 PM

Holiday Plant Care-November 14th, Mercer County Extension Office 10:00 AM

America's Recycles Day (Shred Truck)— November 15th, Mercer County Extension Office 1:00-4:00 PM

Harrodsburg Tree Board Meeting— November 18th, Mercer County Extension Office 5:00 PM

Fort Harrod Beekeeping Club-November 18th, 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!

Mercer County Farmers Market End of Season Meeting— November 22nd, Mercer Co. Extension Office 6:30 PM

Thanksgiving-Mercer County Extension Office is closed November 28th & 29th

Holiday Day of Fun!-December 12th, Mercer County Extension Office



See insert for more details.

Mercer County Extension Holiday Open House-Mercer County Extension Office, December 17th 4:00 PM-7:00 PM

Save The Date

Mercer County Cooperative Extension

Open House

December 7 from 4:00—6:30pm

Please join us to learn more about your local extension office and check out the available programs we have to offer. Appetizers and refreshments will be provided. Family-friendly event, all ages welcome.



Take your picture with Santa!

Mercer County
Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330



Fort Harrod
BeeKeeping Club

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner
November 18 at 6:30pm

Join us for our annual dinner meeting! Families are invited and the club is providing chicken. Members please bring the sides.
*Note this is the second to last Monday of the month.



Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330



MERCER COUNTY 4-H
YOUTH AGRICULTURAL
INVESTMENT
PROGRAM (YAIP)

- Applicants must be 9 years old & enrolled in elementary, middle or high school (includes home-schooled)
- Investment areas eligible:
 - Ag Diversification
 - Animal Production
 - Forage & Grain Improvement
 - Showmanship
 - Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE)
 - Country Ham Projects
- Cost-share on a 50/50 basis
- Eligible up to \$1,500. per program year
- Youth must complete educational components
- Money for on-farm investments available

APPLICATION PERIOD
NOVEMBER 1- DECEMBER 1, 2024

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM:
Mercer County Extension Service
1007 Lexington Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

bit.ly/yaipinformation

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call 859-734-4378

Dana Anderson dana.anderson@uky.edu
Linda McClanahan linda.mcclanahan@uky.edu

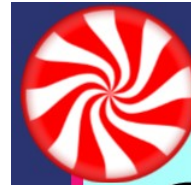


America Recycles Day

Friday, November 15
1:00-4:00pm

In observance of America Recycles Day, Mercer County Extension Office will have "The Shred Truck" available for free to you!
Bring your old documents & sensitive papers to be recycled! Paper only. No electronics, paint, etc. Staples do not have to be removed but please take off any paper clips.

1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330



Mercer County Extension Office

Day Of Holiday Fun

• • • December 12

10:00 am

Wool Felted Christmas Ornament
Easy Appetizers on a Budget



2:00 pm

Fresh Green Wreaths
Festive Finger Foods



6:00 pm

Bourbon Ball Demonstration



Spots are VERY limited!
RSVP to 859-734-4378



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