Letcher County Extension

KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UK MARTIN-CATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT SKU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVI

Newsletter

March 2025



EXTENSION EVENTS

How to stay up-to-date?

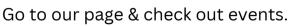
Monthly Newsletter

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Webpage

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webpage at
https://letcher.ca.uky.edu



Letcher County Extension

Email: letcher.Ext@uky.edu

Open Monday-Friday 8 am-4:30pm

478 Extension Dr Whitesburg, Ky 41858

Phone: 606-633-2362

Cooperative Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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PLEASE CALL TO REGISTER FOR EACH PROGRAM 633-2362 (LIMITED SPACES) QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: PROPOSAL TO LIST THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY AS THREATENED UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing protection for one of the nation's most beloved species - the monarch butterfly - under the Endangered Species Act. For more than 50 years, the Endangered Species Act has been an effective catalyst for on-the-ground collaborative conservation, promoting the recovery of wildlife and conserving the habitats upon which they depend. Find answers to your questions on our proposal to list the monarch butterfly as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is announcing a proposal to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species with species specific protections and flexibilities to encourage conservation under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act. The prohibitions and exceptions in the proposed rule affect monarch butterflies only in the contiguous United States, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands (the monarch's historic range).

Our agency is also announcing 4,395 acres (1,778 hectares) of proposed critical habitat in the species' overwintering habitat in Alameda, Marin, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Ventura counties, along coastal California.

The proposal, which appears in the Federal Register on December 12, 2024, opens a 90-day public comment period that ends on March 12, 2025. The proposed rule and supporting documents are available online at regulations.gov under docket number FWS-R3-ES-2024-0137.

With its iconic orange and black markings, the monarch butterfly is one of North America's most recognizable butterfly species. Monarchs are known for their impressive long-distance migration and large clusters they form while overwintering. Their bright coloration serves as a warning to predators that eating them can be toxic.



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Originally native to North America, the monarch butterfly has dispersed to other parts of the world and is now non-migratory and found from the islands in the Pacific Ocean to the western edge of Europe. Despite the expansion, most monarchs continue to live and migrate in North America. North American monarchs are divided into eastern and western migratory populations. In both the eastern and western North American populations, the spring monarch migration represents a massive annual range expansion as they leave their breeding grounds and disperse across the country. The Rocky Mountains divide these two populations, limiting their contact. However, the two populations are not completely isolated from each other and still occasionally interbreed. There are also non-migratory monarchs that remain year-round at the southern end of their breeding range in North America, including in parts of Florida, the Gulf Coast, the southern Atlantic Coast and the southern Pacific Coast.

Eastern North American Monarch: The larger population of monarchs, in both individuals and range, is the eastern North American migratory population. These monarchs are found in 70 percent or more of the North American monarch range. In the fall, they may fly over 2,000 miles (3,000 km) to reach overwintering sites in Mexico. After overwintering, the monarchs fly northward into the southern U.S. in search of milkweed, their host plant, to begin laying eggs.

Western North American Monarch: The western North American migratory monarchs are found west of the Rocky Mountains. These monarchs live in warmer climates and generally migrate every fall 300 to 1,000 miles (about 500 to 1600 km), a much shorter distance than the eastern population. The western North American migratory monarchs overwinter in hundreds of groves (clusters of trees) along the California coast and into northern Baja California, Mexico. In the spring, these monarchs disperse from overwintering grounds traveling through California and the Western U.S. in search of milkweed to lay eggs and begin the breeding season.



Monarch butterfly populations are in peril. Based on scientific information, summarized in our species status assessment, migratory monarchs in North America are declining and have a high probability of extinction in 60 years of 56-74% for the eastern population and 99% for the western population. Our assessment is based on evaluating the following threats: the ongoing impacts from loss and degradation of breeding, migratory, and overwintering habitat; exposure to insecticides; and effects of climate change. We determined that the species meets the definition of threatened under the Endangered Species Act, meaning it is likely to become endangered within all or a significant portion of its range in the foreseeable future.

What can I do to help monarch butterflies and their habitat? You can plant native milkweed and nectar plants.

One of the main reasons that monarchs declined is because of the historical loss of habitat. We define monarch habitat as areas with milkweed and nectar plants. To bring back habitat on the landscape, everyone can help conserve monarch butterflies by planting native milkweed and nectar plants throughout the monarch's range. Monarchs solely depend on milkweed during the egg and caterpillar stage, and adult monarchs frequent flowers for their nectar. Adult monarch butterflies require a diversity of flowers spring through fall to ensure they have food in both their migratory and breeding habitat.

Pollinator gardens that contain native milkweeds and flowers can help many pollinators, including monarchs. There are several examples of how people are already making a positive impact for monarchs and other pollinators by growing native pollinator gardens. You can also learn how to start your own pollinator garden and be sure to remember night pollinators! The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Coastal Program, and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provide technical and/or financial assistance to landowners who would like to create pollinator habitat on their land.

Our agency also works with energy and transportation sectors through the Rights of Way as Habitat Working Group and Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Monarch Butterfly.



It is important to plant native milkweed plants for monarchs, as non-native milkweed plants can harm monarchs, even if well intended. Non-native milkweed plants, like tropical milkweed (Asclepias curassavica) in some areas of the country, can lead to increased spread of a monarch parasite, Ophryocystis elektroscirrha (OE), leading to reduced monarch survival. If you have non-native milkweeds, please cut them back in the fall to mimic native plants and discourage monarchs from breeding during the overwintering period to help reduce spread of OE. Through planting native milkweed and nectar plants, we can help ensure plentiful resources to conserve pollinators, including monarchs.

What's needed to save the monarch and who will save them?

To improve future conditions so that the monarch migratory populations stabilize and grow, we need to (I) achieve a significant increase in the availability of milkweed and nectar plants in monarch breeding and migratory areas; (2) protect and enhance overwintering habitat; (3) avoid and minimize impacts to monarchs and their habitat from insecticides and herbicides; and (4) maintain public support for the conservation of monarch butterflies.

Everyone can play a role in saving the monarch butterfly

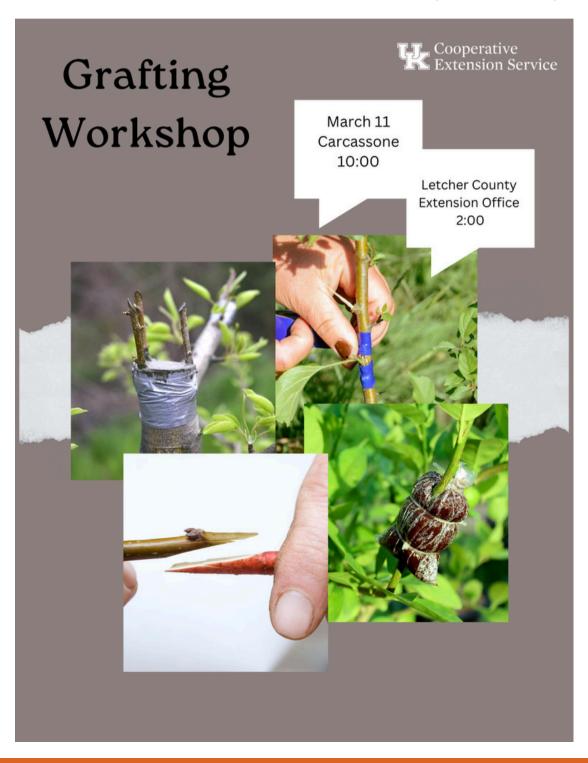
Unlike with some imperiled species, the monarch's general habitat usage and wide distribution mean all people and sectors across the United States can take action to conserve monarch butterflies. Monarch conservation can occur on land ranging in size from quite small to very large, including gardens, parks, grasslands, agricultural areas and more. Monarch conservation needs an approach that encourages and incentivizes landowners to add milkweeds and nectar plants and implement actions to maintain pollinator habitat.

Conserving eastern monarchs

Conservation efforts for the eastern North American monarchs focuses on increasing overwintering monarch populations with a goal of adding more than a billion stems of milkweed on the landscape by 2038, as outlined in the Mid-American Monarch Conservation Strategy. Twenty-nine states have agreed to participate in the strategy, which will also need support from private landowners, agricultural and non-governmental organizations, state and local governments.



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MARCH 24TH @ NOON





PLEASE CALL & REGISTER 633-2362 LIMITED SPACES 478 EXTENSION DR WHITESBURG, KY MARCH 26TH @ NOON

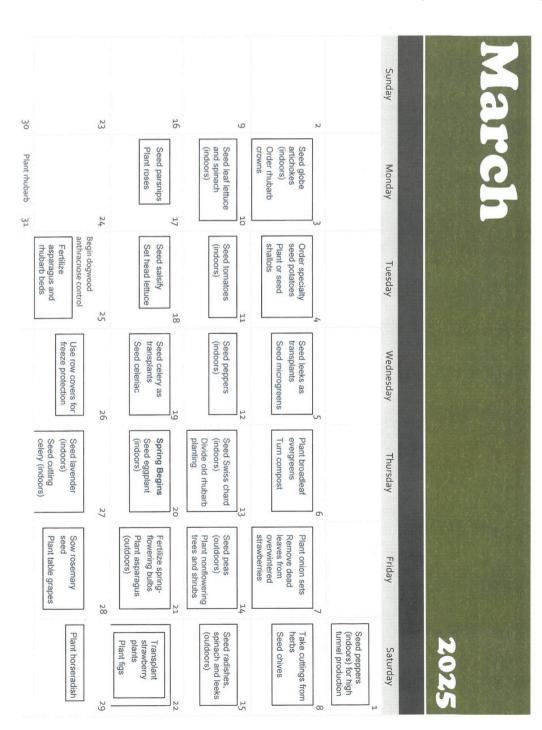


PLEASE CALL TO REGISTER FOR EACH PROGRAM 633-2362 (LIMITED SPACES)











Cooperativ	ve
Cooperative Extension	Service

2025 Plant Order Form	Letcher County	
2025 Flame Order Form	Cooperative Extension	
Purchaser Information:		
Name:	478 Extension Dr	
Address:	Po Box 784	
City, State, Postal Code:	Whitesburg, Ky 41858	
Telephone:	606-633-2362	

Quantity	Item	Unit Price	Total
bundles	Strawberries (Allstar) (June bearing—larger berry)	\$7 (bundle of 25)	
bundles	Strawberries (Earliglow) (June bearing—smaller, sweeter berry)	\$7 (bundle of 25)	
	Blackberries (Natchez)	\$5 each	
	Blueberries (Duke) (two varieties needed for pollination)	\$9 each	-
3	Blueberries (Chandler) (two varieties needed for pollination)	\$9 each	
	Raspberries (Prelude) - bare root	\$5 each	
	Jewel Black Raspberries	\$5 each	
	Asparagus (Millennium)	\$1 each	
bundles	Onion plants (Candy)	\$5 (bundle of 60)	
	KY Sales tax of 6% is included in prices.	Total Due	

Pre-payment is required by Friday, March 7, for all plant orders. Make checks payable to: Letcher County Ag

Payment Information:	DI .
Receipt number:	Plants the
Paid: YES NO Date:	post
Entered in spreadsheet: YES - By:	

are expected to ship from the nursery during first full week of April. We will send you a card and/or email to let you know when the plants will be available for pickup.

Cooperative **Extension Service**

Email:

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

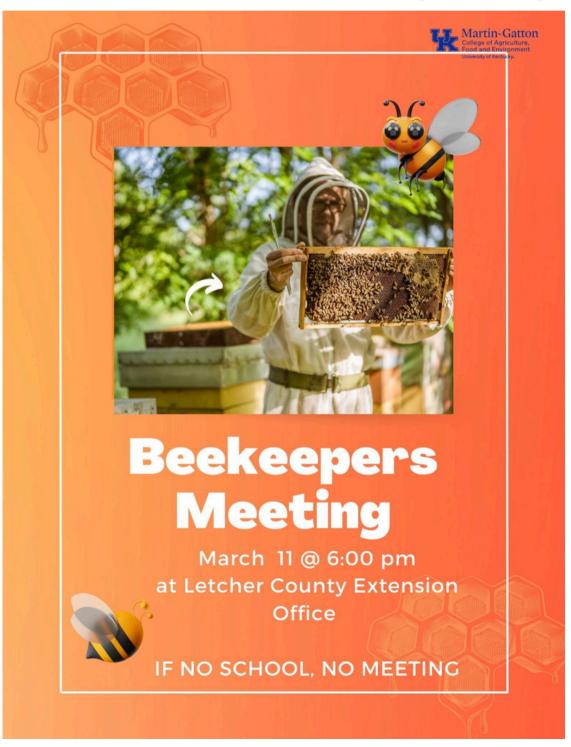
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Letcher County







AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

Shad Baker Ag & Natural Resources Agent

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



Family and Consumer Sciences







FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER





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Nanette Banks
Family and Consumer Sciences

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Plate It Up

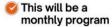
Ky Proud Cooking Class

March 6 @ noon

► Kentucky Proud Products

Recipes: prepare them for tasting









Phone Number 606-633-2362







FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER





Nanette Banks
Family and Consumer Sciences















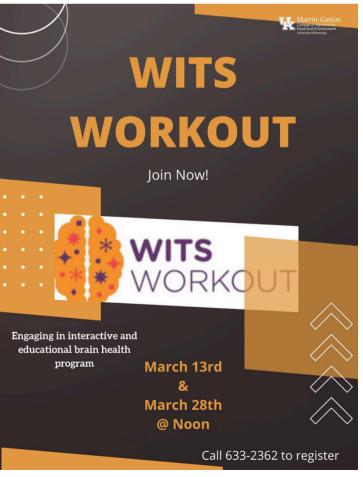


Nanette Banks
Family and Consumer Sciences

















Nanette Banks
Family and Consumer Sciences

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Bluegrass Dementia Care provides comprehensive care coordination to improve the quality of life for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

Bluegrass Dementia Care provides:

- A comprehensive assessment by a Nurse Practitioner
- A Care Navigator for personalized care and support
- Person-centered care planning
- Ongoing monitoring, care coordination, and medication management
- Referrals to community-based services and caregiver support groups
- Caregiver education, skills training, and dementia diagnosis information
- Coordination of respite care
- 24/7 support

Bluegrass Dementia Care criteria:

- Diagnosis of mild, moderate, or severe dementia
- Enrollment in both Medicare Parts A & B, with Medicare as the primary payer

Bluegrass Care Navigators is participating in The Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience Model (GUIDE) and Bluegrass Dementia Care is provided through that program.

Exclusions include enrollment in Medicare Advantage or other Medicare health plans, Medicare hospice benefit, long-term nursing home residency, alignment with another GUIDE Model Participant, and non-residency in the Bluegrass Dementia Care service area.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP:

bgcarenav.org/dementia-care | 877.439.0262



Expert. Connected. Care.









Nanette Banks
Family and Consumer Sciences













FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER



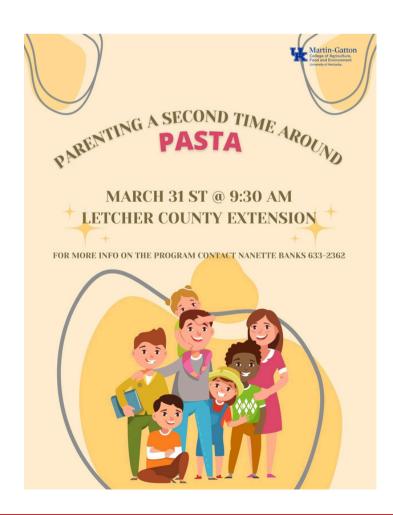


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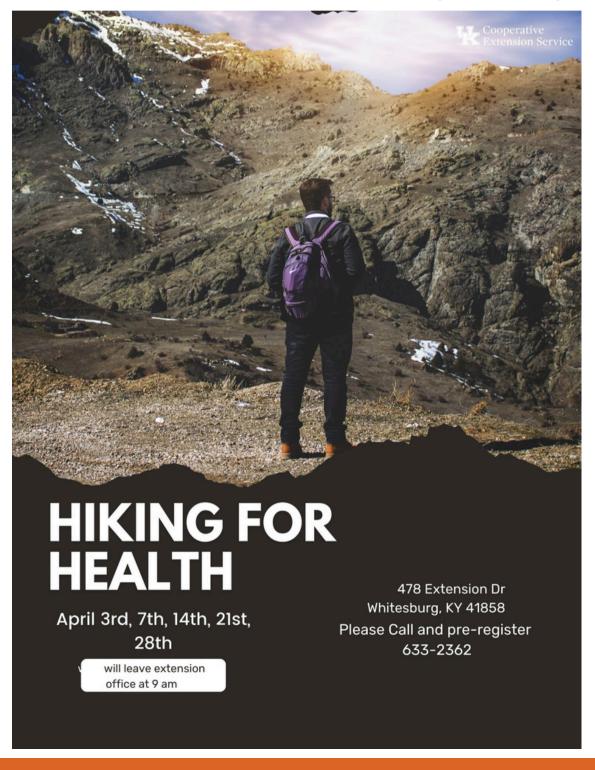


Ag & Natural Resources Agent

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



Family and Consumer Sciences











Nanette Banks
Family and Consumer Sciences

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Survive & Thrive Disaster Preparedness Series

April Topic:

Spring Weather Preparation

Register for one of these events by calling the Extesnion Office where you wish to attend:

Knott County: 606-785-5329 Letcher County: 606-633-2362 Lee County: 606-464-2759 Lee County

April 9th @ 10 AM

Letcher County

April 10th @10 AM

Knott County

April 11th @10 AM

Cooperative Extension Service

Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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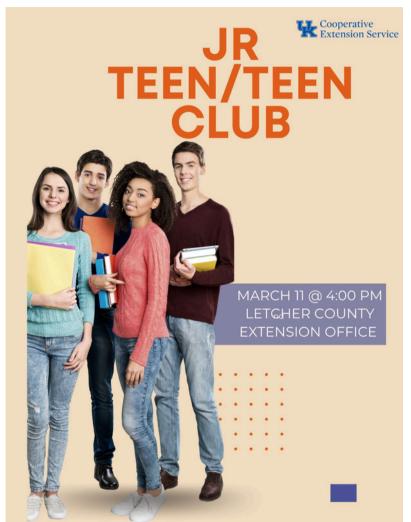
HEAD - Problem solving: ability to sort out complex problems.

HEART - Emotional development: developing good attitudes toward work and learning; developing acceptance and appreciation of other people.

HANDS - Skills development: ability to do, skill in doing and habit of doing.

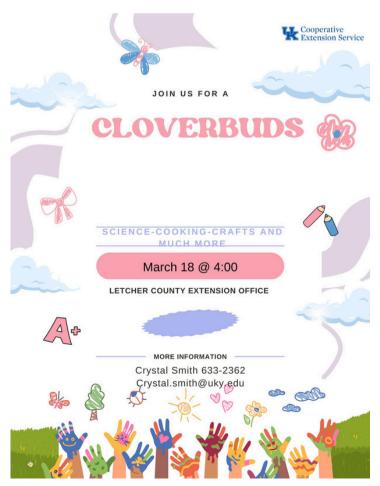
HEALTH - Physical development: understanding and appreciating a growing and changing body.

Crystal Smith 4-H Youth Development

















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developing acceptance and appreciation of other people.

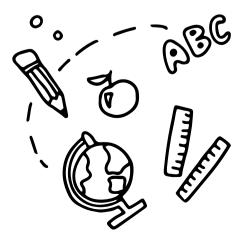
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Crystal Smith 4-H Youth Development **Disc**



















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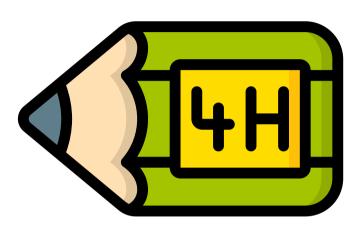
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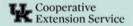
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DID YOU KNOW?

4-H is addressing the gap by preparing our young people with the skills they need to succeed and harness their untapped talents to solve today's and tomorrow's challenges.

#amplifyky4h





4-H



NEWSLETTER

Crystal Smith
4-H Youth Development

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Letcher County Extension 478 Extension Dr Po Box 784 Whitesburg, Ky 41858

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Agents will make the public aware of the complaint procedure by placing the following statement in their newsletter at least once per year.

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