

4-H CALENDAR



WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS
The 4-H Written Communications Contest is a competition for youth ages 9-18 who have a passion for writing. Written pieces need to be turned into the LaRue County Extension Service by March 6, 2026. For more information visit <https://larue.mgcafe.uky.edu/events/written-communications>.

4-H Camp - June 16-19, 2026
Registration now open! Open to LaRue County youth ages 9-14. Forms are available at LaRue County Extension Service or online at <https://larue.mgcafe.uky.edu/events/4-h-camp-2026>. Adult and Teen Leaders are also needed! If you are interested in being an adult or teen leader at camp, call the Extension Office at 270-358-3401.

LARUE COUNTY 4-H SCHOLARSHIP
Scholarship applications

are due April 1, 2026. Applications can be picked up at the LaRue County Extension Service or found online at <https://larue.mgcafe.uky.edu/events/4-h-hager-mcdowell-scholarship>.

POSTER DESIGN CONTEST
Deadline to turn in posters for the contest is Friday, April 10, 2026. Posters will need to be turned into the Extension Office. For the rules visit <https://larue.mgcafe.uky.edu/events/poster-design-contest>.

SHOOTING SPORTS
Thursday, March 5, 6:30 pm at New Haven Gun Club

LIVESTOCK CLUB
Monday, March 9, 6 pm at LaRue County Extension Service

GARDENING CLUB
Tuesday, March 10, 5 pm at LaRue County Extension Service

It's time to plant brambles and blueberries

If you've been thinking about growing small fruit this year, whether for personal use or for sale at a farmers market, now is the time to start scouring nursery catalogs or visit local nurseries.



ADAM THOMAS

Raspberries and blackberries, commonly called brambles, grow well in Kentucky, as do highbush blueberries. With favorable growing conditions and proper care, a raspberry planting may produce for eight to 12 years. Blackberry plants usually live longer than raspberries, because they are better adapted to Kentucky's climate. They both have biennial canes and perennial roots. The roots and crowns live for a number of years and each spring produce a new crop of canes, while the fruit matures on last season's canes.

Deep, fertile soil that is well drained, high in humus and free from hard pans is best for brambles. However, almost any well-drained soil can be modified to grow brambles. Planting brambles on raised beds may help reduce root rot and prolong the life of the planting. Trickle irrigation and mulching will help ensure good plant growth and high yield. When possible, plant brambles on a northern slope or where there is afternoon shade. Such soils are cooler and hold moisture better.

Early spring is also a good time to plant blueberries. Plant along a north-south axis if possible, so sunlight is more uniformly distributed. Recommended planting distances for blueberries are 10-14 feet between rows and 4-6 feet within rows. At this distance, plants will eventually form a shrub row. Some



varieties of blueberries are also easily adapted to container planting for the home gardener who has limited space, but still wants to grow small fruit.

You can purchase blueberry plants as either dormant, bare root plants or as potted plants. Make planting holes several inches larger and deeper than the root system. Research has shown that blueberry plants set in deeper, narrower holes produce more fruit. It is thought that plants with a deeper root system experience less drought stress.

Remember to purchase certified, virus-free stock when possible. Here are a few suggestions that work well in Kentucky soils.

Canby is a June-bearing red raspberry variety

that produces early, large, flavorful fruit. Plants may be a little cold tender. Plants are nearly thornless and are resistant to mosaic virus. It is recommended for home and commercial plantings.

Reveille, an early-season raspberry cultivar with excellent color and quality, produces large fruit. Plants are very winter hardy and tolerate fluctuating spring temperatures. It is too soft for commercial use, but its size and earliness make it excellent for home use or U-pick and roadside sales.

Other suitable red raspberry cultivars for Kentucky include Citadel, Latham, Liberty and Titan.

Among erect and semi-erect thornless blackberry cultivars that work well in Kentucky are

Natchez, Apache, Osage, Ouachita, Triple Crown, Prime-Ark Traveler, Stark and Black Gem. Several of the latter are susceptible to spotted wing fruit fly infestations.

Good cultivars of thorny blackberries are Chickasaw, Kiowa and Prime-Ark 45, the latter of which is susceptible to spotted wing drosophila.

Among blueberries, Duke, Patriot, Bluejay, Bluecrop, Draper, Chandler, Brigitta, Bluegold, Ozarkblue, Nelson, Darrow and Elliott are good bearing cultivars. To ensure good pollination, plant two varieties.

Contact the LaRue County Cooperative Extension Service for information.

The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

MatHawks struggle at state tournament

STAFF REPORT

It was a rough weekend for the LaRue County wrestling team in the KHSAA State Wrestling Championships.

The MatHawks qualified 10 for the state meet at the Kentucky Horse Park's Alltech Arena in Lexington this past weekend.

Lucas Durham went 3-2 at 175 pounds, Jamarion Sanders went 2-2 at 106, Jude

Fortier was 2-2 at 113, Noah Foley finished 2-2 at 132, Joseph Kresel finished 2-2 at 144, Anthony Merino finished 2-2 at heavyweight, Liam Ditto went 1-2 at 120, Domanic Patterson was 1-2 at 165, Jace Detre was 1-2 at 215 and Gabriel Ditto was 0-2 at 138.

LaRue County finished in a four-way tie for 20th place, scoring 38.5 points. The MatHawks tied with Central Hardin, Corbin and St. Xavier.

4-H Deadlines on March 6

MISTY WILMOTH
LARUE COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT FOR 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Several 4-H deadlines are

approaching this week on Friday, March 6. These include: 4-H Written Communications Contest entry deadline, 4-H Camp Teen Leader and Teen Leader in Training application deadline, 4-H Camp Scholarship Application deadline, and the 4-H Little Caesar's Fundraiser deadline to submit orders.

All 4-H members ages 9 to 18 are encouraged to pick a category in the Written Communications Contest and submit an entry. There are lots of options to choose from with nine categories. Two of the categories are new this year. Members can choose from: poetry, songwriting, original monologue, press release, public service announcement, essay on what 4-H means to me, infographic, and the two new categories of flyer and podcast. Submission requirements and rules for each category are available from the Extension Office and on the website at <https://larue.mgcafe.uky.edu/events/written-communications>.

Teens who wish to still attend 4-H Camp are asked to step up and serve

as a Teen Leader or Teen Leader in Training. Once a teen is in high school, they can apply for these leadership roles. Teen Leaders will be 16 to 18 year olds during 4-H Camp. Teen Leaders in Training would be 14 or 15 year olds. Applications are available at the Extension Office and online at <https://larue.mgcafe.uky.edu/events/4-h-summer-camp-2026>.

Families with children who wish to attend 4-H Camp may apply for a camp scholarship. A short scholarship application form may be picked up from the Extension Office and is also located online at <https://larue.mgcafe.uky.edu/events/4-h-summer-camp-2026>. The application deadline is March 6th. Sponsors are needed to support the camp scholarships. If you have an interest in sponsoring a child for 4-H Camp, the cost is \$225 per child and checks may be made to LaRue County 4-H and mailed to P.O. Box 210, Hodgenville, KY 42748 or dropped off directly at the Extension Office located at 807 Old Elizabethtown Road in Hodgenville.

4-H currently has a Little Caesars fundraiser in progress. Pizza kits are nice to have in the freezer to use whenever needed. Each kit makes three large pizzas or three

loaves of the Crazy Bread or Italian Cheese Bread, or Cinnamon Crazy Bread. Five different cookie dough options are also available and include enough dough to make thirty cookies. The deadline for members to submit orders to the Extension Office is Friday, March 6. The top seller will win \$50 cash and every seller who sells ten or more kits will be in a drawing for \$25. Orders can be placed online at <https://fundraising.little-caesars.com/products?c=5>. Use the Fundraiser ID: 52255. Orders will be delivered the week of March 23rd. Exact delivery date and time will be publicized once it is available. Community members who would like to purchase pizza kits or cookie dough may order online and pick up directly at the Extension Office. When the online order asks for the seller's name, just list "LaRue County 4-H".

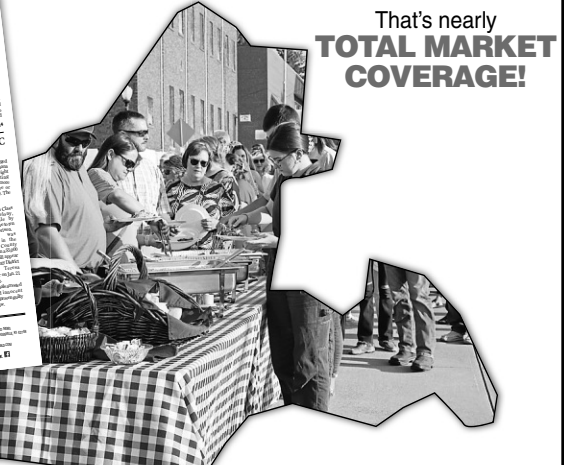
If you have questions about 4-H, please contact 4-H Agent, Misty Wilmoth at 270 358-3401 or by e-mail to mwilmoth@uky.edu. Follow LaRue County 4-H on Facebook for the latest information about programs and activities. Also, visit the website at <https://larue.mgcafe.uky.edu/4h-youth-development>.

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On Wednesday, March 18th



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