

'News You Can Use' From the Extension Office



UGA Cooperative Extension Service in Hall County



Hall Farmers Market Opens May 13th

Imagine a picnic table filled with platters of food made with fresh produce grown in Georgia. It would be an endless smorgasbord of delicious delicacies fit for a king. At that table, folks would agree, Georgians know how to roll out the red carpet with good wholesome food and fine southern hospitality.



Buyers and sellers are welcome at the Hall County Farmers Market starting Friday May 13th.

Hall County Extension Service provides information and assistance in the areas of:

- Agriculture, Horticulture, and the Environment
- 4-H and Youth Development
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Radon Education

A wide range of commodities are grown right here in Northeast Georgia, including: apples, beans, bell peppers, blueberries, peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, grapes, greens, melons, okra, onions, peaches, peas, pecans, pumpkins, snapbeans, strawberries, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes.

While some of these products are sold via wholesale and retail outlets, the Hall County Farmers Market provides local residents a direct line to locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. Created in 1973, the Hall County Farmers Market is open every Tuesday and Friday from 6:00 a.m. until all produce is sold. The Market is located on the corner of E. Crescent Drive and Jesse Jewel Parkway, near I-985 Exit 24.

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While the Farmers Market features many of the traditional veggie favorites, you can also find a nice selection of potted plants, cut flowers, shrubs, and some great jams & jellies. And new this year, the Market will be open the 1st Saturday of June, July, and August.

For more information on the Hall County Farmers Market, please call the Extension office at (770)535-8293.

4-H Spring Yard & Craft Sale—Saturday, May 7th

The 4-H Exchange Club will host its annual Spring Yard and Craft Sale on Saturday, May 7, 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Hall County Farmers Market. The market is usually *PACKED* with all kinds of household goods, clothing and wonderful crafts. If you are interested in renting a space, call the 4-H office. Spaces rent for \$15.00 covered and \$10.00 uncovered. Please come and **SHOP!**



www.hallcounty4hclub.org





The only way to know how much radon is seeping into your home is to test.

*Think radon
isn't a problem
in Georgia?
Think again.*

NE Georgia Homes May Have High Radon Levels

Think radon isn't a problem in Georgia? Think again. One in five Hall County homes tested through the University of Georgia College of Family & Consumer Science's have radon levels above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) action level of 4 pCi/l. An additional one in four had levels between 2 and 3.9 pCi/l. Similar results have been reported in other north and northeast Georgia counties. This invisible, odorless and tasteless radioactive gas comes from the natural decay of uranium in rock and soil and is unsafe at any level. Radon causes irreversible damage to lungs that can lead to lung cancer.

In fact, U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona warned the American public about the risks of breathing indoor radon by issuing a national health advisory in January 2005. The advisory urges Americans to prevent this dangerous radioactive gas from seeping into their homes and building up to dangerous levels. In his press release, Dr. Carmona stated that exposure to indoor radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and breathing it over prolonged periods poses a significant health risk to families all over the county.

Often called a silent killer, breathing radon contaminated air causes no immediate health symptoms. Breathing radon permanently damages lungs and can lead to lung cancer. More than 22,000 Americans die of radon-related lung cancer every year. If you also smoke, your risk of lung cancer is much higher.

The only way to know how much radon is seeping into your home is to test. Simple test kits can reveal the amount of radon in any building. Those with high levels can be fixed with well-established, affordable venting techniques. Test your home for radon every two years, and retest any time you move, make structural changes to your home, or occupy a previously unused level of a house. If you have a radon level of 4 pCi/L or more, take steps to remedy the problem as soon as possible.

Protect your family, test your home today. Free home radon test kits are being distributed to area homeowners at University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Offices in many counties. In Hall County, come by the Hall County Extension office at 734 E. Crescent Drive, Suite 300, Gainesville, GA 30501 to pick up a kit to test your home.

For more information, contact Ginger Bennett, Extension Radon Educator, bennettg@uga.edu.

North Georgia Turfgrass Field Day set for May 25th

If you work in the commercial 'Green' industry, you're likely extremely busy this time of year. Green industry businesses include landscape and turf maintenance, landscape installation, athletic field construction, and plant production.

For those professionals who work in the areas of commercial and/or residential turf maintenance or athletic field management, the North Georgia Turfgrass Field Day is just for you. The Turf Field Day is set for Wednesday, May 25th at Allen Creek Soccer Complex in Gainesville.

The Turf Field Day is coordinated by the Hall County Extension Service and sponsored by Lawson Equipment, Piedmont Tractor, Sod Atlanta, Dow AgroSciences, Florida Outdoor Equipment, and the North Georgia Landscape & Turf Association.

The cost to attend is \$15.00 per person. NGLTA and MALTA members can attend at the discounted rate of \$10.00 per person.

For more information, please call the Extension office at (770)535-8293.



Clint Waltz, UGA Turf Specialist, talks to participants at 2004 Turf Field Day.

4-H News & Activities

In honor of National Volunteer Week, April 17-23, Hall County 4-H will host an early evening picnic for 4-H volunteers and their families. We are thrilled to have over 75 active 4-H volunteers we work with. Thank you for everything you do!

The 4-H Horse Club will have its annual Spring "FUN" Horse Show on April 30th at the Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center. Anyone interested in participating should contact the 4-H office.

Junior 4-H'ers will spend a fun and exciting day at Camp Wahsega on May 27th. The trip will be offered to our current 6, 7 and 8th grade 4-H'ers.

Our engines really get running as we prepare for Cloverleaf Summer Camp. Parents of camps are required to attend the parent meeting June 2, 6:00 p.m. at the Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center. There will be an overnight chaperone training session on the 7th and we go to camp June 13-17 at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

4-H'ers will have the opportunity to submit an application and audition for Clovers and Company. "Clovers" is a statewide, top-notch, 4-H Performing Arts group. There have singers, dancers, musicians and a stage and lighting crew. The group plays at the Capitol, the Georgia National Fair and for State 4-H events.

State 4-H Council is held June 25 & 26 at Rock Eagle 4-H Center for high school students. This is a leadership and citizenship weekend that is always a favorite with the 4-H'ers.

March 19th is declared Georgia Master Gardener Day

Over the past 25 years, more than 3,500 people across the state have worked for the University of Georgia and never received a paycheck. As graduates of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Master Gardener Program, they all volunteered their time to assist county Extension Service agents.

In the fall of 1979, Georgia's Master Gardener program began in the Metro-Atlanta area. The Extension Service offices in DeKalb and Fulton counties organized and conducted the first Georgia Master Gardener training program. The first class graduated 140 Master Gardener volunteers.

Master Gardener graduates are trained by County Extension Agents, UGA Specialists, and other local horticultural experts. While participants gain knowledge they can use in their own landscapes and gardens, the real success of the program is the work and dedication of the volunteers.

In 2004, Master Gardeners in Georgia volunteered more than 150,000 hours of their time. Hall County Master Gardeners contributed over 7,000 hours of volunteer service in 2004, valued at over \$100,000.

The Hall County Extension Service has trained over 100 volunteers through its Master Gardener Program since the program began in the mid-1990's. Hall County volunteers educate the public through 'Ask a Master Gardener' plant clinics, Lunch & Learn Gardening Series at the Hall County Library, Gainesville Garden Expo, and other workshops and seminars.

For their many contributions to the State of Georgia, Saturday, March 19th was declared Georgia Master Gardener Day.



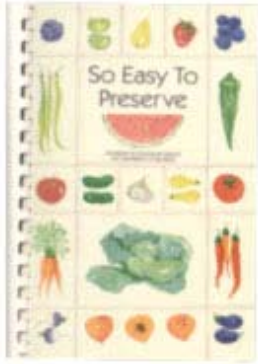
Celebrating 100 Years of
Georgia 4-H

*Currently, 4-H
has over 75 active
volunteers.*

*Thanks for all you
do for Hall County
4-H!!!*



'Ask a Master Gardener' clinics are held at
many local nurseries and garden centers.



So Easy to Preserve book contains information on canning, pickling, jams and jellies, freezing, and drying. The cost is only \$15.00.



Food Preservation Resources

The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service is recognized as **THE** resource for up to date food preservation methods and recipes. You have hundreds of resources right at your fingertips in Hall county.

So Easy to Preserve Book: The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service publishes a 344 page book with over 150 tested recipes along with step by step instructions and in-depth information for both the new and experienced food preserver. Topics covered include canning, pickling, jelly and jams, freezing and drying. The cost of this book is only \$15 and includes shipping by UPS. To receive an order form please call my office at 770-535-8290.

Food Preservation/Nutrition Classes and Exhibits at the Hall County Farmer's Market.
FREE Dates: May 13, 27, June 10, July 22, August 12 and September 23 from 8:00-8:30 a.m. For more information call our office.

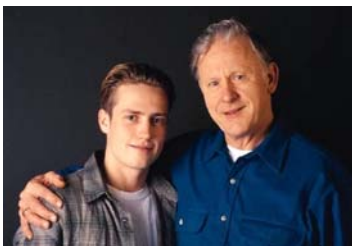
Free Dial Gauge Pressure Canner testing. Dial gauge canners should be tested for accuracy each year prior to the canning season. You may bring your canner lid to the Farmers Market on the dates listed above after 8:30 a.m. or call my office to make an appointment.

Food Preservation Update. Find out the latest recommendations for canning, freezing, drying, jams, jellies and pickles. Whether you are a beginner or long-time food preserver this class will provide you with a wide variety of resources for this garden season and year round. **Program:** May 16 from 10-12 p.m. at the Hall County Extension Office, cost \$3.00, you must pre-register by calling our office.

Online National Center for Home Food Preservation www.uga.edu/nchfp is your source for current research-based recommendations for most methods of home food preservation. The Center was established with funding from the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (CSREES-USDA) to address food safety concerns for those who practice and teach home food preservation and processing methods.



Is your teenager's life worth two hours of your time?



The PRIDE program addresses driver attitude, knowledge and behavior of both the parent and new teen driver.

P.R.I.D.E. (Parents Reducing Incidents of Driver Error) is a **FREE**, two-hour course designed to help parents and their new teen drivers, ages 14-16, learn what they need to do during the 40 hours of supervised practice driving time (20 hours of supervised practice driving time is required if the teen successfully completes driver's education) required by Georgia law.

Rather than a technical hands-on driver training course, this program addresses driver attitude, knowledge and behavior of both the parent and new teen driver. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in this class please call the Extension office. We will offer a daytime and evening session this summer.

Landscape & Garden Tips

Fertilize warm season grasses directly after green-up.

Apply post emergent weed controls now to combat summer annual weeds. It is much easier to control them when they are young than to wait until they mature.

Lobelia (*Lobelia pendula*) is a great annual for hanging baskets or container gardens with its stems that trail about 8 inches. The ‘Cascade’ series is especially vibrant in colors of pink, white, lilac, maroon, violet, and blue. Most flowers have a white eye.

If you are looking for plants that flower each year, require little care, and are rarely bothered by pests or disease, try some of these perennials: coneflower, bleeding heart, coralbell, daylily, geum, hosta, bergenia, and veronica.

Thin peaches to 4 to 6 inches apart for large, high-quality fruit.

Continue spray program on fruit trees to protect the developing crop. The rainy season we are experiencing may encourage disease problems on fruit trees such as peaches.

Keep fruit trees well mulched to provide even moisture and protection from lawn mowers and string trimmers.

Successful eggplant development is dependent on a span of temperatures (80 to 90 degrees F) and plenty of water. Water well when the plants are young. Water at least two times a week when temperatures are high and there is no rain.

Extend your corn harvest by planting successive crops when the previous crop has three to four leaves, or plant early, mid-, and late-maturing varieties all at the same time.

Bright-red and deep-red salvias are good for concentrated color in full sun. Use the lighter or pastel shades of salvia in partial shade.

Impatiens are the most satisfactory annual for use in shady areas. Begonias, coleus, ageratum, salvia, and vinca prefer light shade (5 to 6 hours of sunlight.)

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ServSafe® Training Program

The Hall County Extension Service in cooperation with the Hall and White County Health Departments will be offering a Manager level food safety ServSafe course on May 24 and 25. ServSafe is recognized by more federal, state and local health jurisdictions than any other food safety training program in the United States.

This food safety training features the FDA Food Code updates, the most current regulations, best practices and science-based information. ServSafe manager training is required for many school systems, restaurants and child and elder care centers and hospitals. For more information or an application call our office.



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