

# Spencer County Agriculture & Horticulture Newsletter



University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service  
Spencer County  
PO Box 368  
Taylorsville KY 40071-0368  
(502) 477-2217  
Fax: (502) 477-1343  
extension.ca.uky.edu

September 2022

As we are heading into fall, I always like to let you know that this is my favorite time of year. The trees are starting to turn colors, the mornings start to get cooler, and the afternoons are warm, not blazing hot.

It reminds me of when we used to cut tobacco on our farm. We'd get that done, then roll into chopping silage for local dairy farms. After that, we'd spend a few week-ends making sorghum.

Those are my memories of fall. I hope you have memories of fall as well that take you back to when you were younger.

As always, feel free to call or email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bryce Roberts,  
Spencer County Extension Agent for  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

## More Information

As always, if you need more information, feel free to **call me** at 477-2217.

You can also **email me** at [broberts@uky.edu](mailto:broberts@uky.edu) or you can **visit my website** to view archived newsletters and news articles. The web address is: [www.spencerextension.com](http://www.spencerextension.com)



## Farmers Market Now Open

The Taylorsville/Spencer County Farmers Market is now open and will be open beginning at 8 a.m. until noon or so on Saturdays. Some of the vendors may stay past noon if there is a crowd. The market will be open every Saturday (rain or shine) until the end of October. It is located at 751 Taylorsville Road next to Fresh Take Market.

There are several vendors selling a wide variety of products, including meats, cheeses, jams, jellies, honey, breads, goat milk soaps and lotions, candles, and other produce. Make sure you support our local producers...they are the ones that are growing what you're buying.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor (small producers are welcome), visit our website and click on Farmers Market for an application. For more information on the market, feel free to contact Sandi Deutsch at 502-252-1400.



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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## **Master Gardener Program**

This article is being provided by Kim Elzy, Spencer County Master Gardener. We are looking to have a Master Gardener class later this fall/early winter.

Before I state some reasons why I believe you should become a Master Gardener, let's start with a history lesson:

The first Master Gardener Program was founded in 1973 by Dr. David Gibby of Washington State University Cooperative Extension Office to meet a high demand for urban horticulture and gardening advise. The trainees in this program were called "Gartenmeister" (Master Gardener) by their trainers. This was the German term used for the highest level of the gardening trade, much like the terminology "Master Plumber" or "Master Electrician" is used for the highest level of those professions.

When recently asked why I wanted to become a Master Gardener, I struggled to answer the question. Was it because gardening was instilled in me at a young age? My grandfather always had a large garden and my grandmother grew the most brilliant tulips I have ever seen. Was it because of my obsessive, never-ending love for plants? I mean all plants. Flowers, vegetables and even the grass beneath my feet.

I'm not sure of the reason, but it was a great decision for me. Could it be a great decision for you? Some of the reasons to become a Master Gardener may include:

Having a love of gardening and a passion to share it with others.

It is my belief that every pitiful plant in the clearance section of the hardware store or nursery should go home with me because I can make it better. Plus, I'm kind of cheap and always looking for a bargain! Another reason is because if I can help someone fix a landscape/plant/vegetable issue they are having, then I am more than happy to share some of my knowledge. Sometimes that is knowledge I have acquired through training, experience or through the help of the Extension Office.

The desire to learn new things and meet new people.

Since I have been active in the Master Gardener Program, I can honestly say that I learn something new every day. It may not always be about plants or vegetables. Many times it is about the heart and soul of the people in Taylorsville. I have made many connections and met a lot of fun, interesting people that may not have been possible if it weren't for this program.

Making a difference in your community.

As a Master Gardener, your time and talents will be focused within Spencer County. The ideas and suggestions you have will be acknowledged. Have you noticed the sweet potato vines in the planters downtown? I thought the planters needed a little sprucing up, so the Main Street Committee gave me the funds and the green light to do it. I don't know what I am going to ask for next, but I would hope that a group of people that are interested in making a difference in our community will come forward and join this program.

In conclusion, it's obvious that the Master Gardener Program needs volunteers to exist. There is an education program that includes 40 hours of instruction on topics such as soil, botany, vegetables, fruits, lawns, water management and diagnosing plant problems. Once the instruction is completed and the exam has been taken, that's where the real fun begins! In order to become a CERTIFIED Master Gardener, there are 40 volunteer hours requested within 12 months and 20 hours during the years thereafter. But this is where you get to make a difference. Maybe it's talking to people at the farmer's market, helping an elementary school child plant seeds in a windowsill garden, or just watering plants downtown. The options are endless and the opportunities are many!

If you are interested in participating in the Master Gardener Program class or have any questions, please contact Bryce Roberts at the Spencer County Extension Office at 502-477-2217 or broberts@uky.edu.

## **New or Beginning Producer Series**

The Spencer County Extension Service, along with the Bullitt County Extension Service, will be hosting a multi-session series for those that may be new to agriculture, horticulture, or other ventures related to agriculture. There is no age or experience limit for this series.

Each session will focus on some different topics, but the unique aspect of this will be that the participants will choose the topics after the first session.

The first session will take place on Thursday, September 15, at the Spencer Co. Extension Office. The program will begin at 6 p.m.

The first session will deal with setting and achieving the goals that you want to set for your venture. Dr. Steve Isaacs, UK Ag Economist, will be the guest speaker and he will give his insights on how and why we need to set realistic goals.

The other session dates will be:

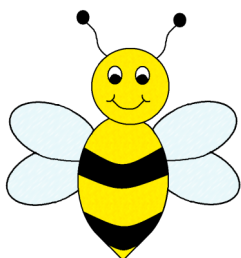
October 20 or 27, Bullitt Co. Extension  
November 17, Spencer Co. Extension

We will gather topic ideas at the first meeting and will most likely add future dates as we need to.

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**  
Please call or email Bryce Roberts to register. Contact information is on the first page.

## **Beekeepers Association Meetings**

Just a quick reminder that the Spencer Co. Beekeepers Association holds monthly meetings at our office on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. They begin at 6:30 p.m. If you are not a member and would like to join, the application is available on our website. Go to [spencerextension.com](http://spencerextension.com), then click on Ag and Natural Resources, then Beekeepers. We can also mail out a copy to you if you wish. Just let us know if you would like one mailed to you.



## **Soil Sample Now**

As we are moving into fall, now is the best time to sample your fields, gardens, or lawns to see what type and how much fertilizer you need to make the soil as productive as possible. For each sample you want to submit, we need at least one pint (sandwich bag) of dry soil 4-8 inches below the soil surface. Please put your name and sample ID (north lawn, hayfield 2, etc.) on each bag.

Bring those in now so that you can get the results more quickly and in some cases go ahead and apply the fertilizer now so that the soil will be ready for your yard or crops.

This is a free service provided by the Spencer Co. Conservation District. Thanks to them for sponsoring the soil sampling program.

Our office is open normal business hours, but you have the option to drop off your samples anytime you like.

As you pull into our parking lot, please go to the right to the back of our building. You will then see our pavilion and on the pavilion, you will see a blue tub to the right of the double doors. Inside the tub, you will find some paperwork that you will need to fill out so that we can properly test your soil. Place the paperwork and samples back into the tub.

I'll review the results and mail them back to you in 2-3 weeks.

## **YAIP Applications Available**

The Spencer Co. Conservation District is taking applications for the Youth Agriculture Incentive Program.

Applications are being accepted through Sept 9, at 3:30 p.m. at the Spencer Co. Conservation District.

Applications and information available at their office or online at [www.spencerccd.com/yaip-youth-program.html](http://www.spencerccd.com/yaip-youth-program.html)



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Confetti Chicken Quesadillas

**1** small green bell pepper, seeded and diced  
**1** small red bell pepper, seeded and diced  
**1 tablespoon** hot pepper, minced (optional)

**1 pound** skinless, boneless chicken breast, diced  
**1 (1 ounce)** packet fajita seasoning mix  
**1 tablespoon** olive oil

**10 (10 inch)** whole-wheat tortillas  
**1 (8 ounce)** package reduced fat cheddar cheese, shredded

**Preheat** the broiler and prepare baking sheet with non-stick spray. **Toss** the diced chicken with the fajita seasoning and place on the baking sheet. **Spread** chopped peppers on baking sheet. **Place** under the broiler and broil until the chicken pieces are thoroughly cooked and no longer pink in the center, about 10 minutes. **Brush** skillet with oil and heat to medium. **Place** one tortilla in skillet. **Layer** half of tortilla with approximately one-third cup chicken

and pepper mixture. **Sprinkle** with 3 tablespoons cheddar cheese. **Fold** over and flip tortilla to crisp other side. Repeat until all quesadillas have been prepared. **Cut** each quesadilla into wedges and serve with salsa, if desired.

**Yield:** 10 servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 270 calories, 10 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 40 mg cholesterol, 880 mg sodium, 2 g sugar, 23 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 19 g protein



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.