NEWS & EVENTS

North GA Apple Grower's Meeting
Feb 17, 2020 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Fruit production is different each year and this year's meeting will provide educational information from several specialists around the Southeast. The specialists will discuss apple diseases, a horticulture update, apple orchard insect pests, orchard weed control and will provide an update on FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act-produce safety rule). In addition to the education, pesticide license credits have been applied for to issue credits to those with a pesticide license. The meeting is open to the public.

Additional Information
Pre-Registration Not Necessary,
Plenty of Free Parking
Cost: No Cost
Location
Gilmer County Library
Downstairs Community Room
268 Calvin Jackson Drive
Ellijay, GA 30540

Child Care Training
February 22, 2020
9:00am—1:00pm
Elbert County Extension Office
(Old Beaverdam School—1088 Ruckersville Rd)
Topics: Handling Stress Through Play & Child Abuse Refresher

Northeast Georgia Soybean Production Meeting
Friday, February 7, 2020
Time: 11 - 2 PM
Bowman Community Center
209 E. Railroad St. Bowman, GA

Speakers: UGA Specialists on Agronomy, Insects, and Diseases

1 Hour Private/Commercial Pesticide Credit Available
Lunch Provided
Must Register by Wednesday Feb. 5th
Call (706) 283-2037
Sponsors
Asgrow/Bayer Crop Science-Will Duffie

So Easy To Preserve
The University of Georgia is pleased to announce a 6th Edition of its popular cookbook, So Easy to Preserve. Chapters in the 388-page book include Preserving Food, Canning, Pickled Products, Sweet Spreads and Syrups, Freezing and Drying. So Easy to Preserve cookbooks are $18 each and make wonderful gifts, come by the office to purchase one.

Elbert County Extension Newsletter  February 2020
The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make $56,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

**Items You Need to Bring with You If You Make an Appointment with a VITA/TCE Site for Tax Assistance**

- Proof of identification – Picture ID
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter for you, your spouse and dependents
- Proof of foreign status, if applying for an ITIN
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-Misc from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year’s federal and state returns if available
- Proof of bank account routing numbers and account numbers for Direct Deposit, such as a blank check
- Total paid to your daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security Number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number) if appropriate

*Note: You will have two appointments to get your taxes done.*

- The first appointment will be to complete the necessary paperwork and drop off all needed tax documents
- The second appointment will be to review your completed taxes.
  - To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.
Available 2020 dates and times to make an appointment to drop off tax materials for preparation are below:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>9:00am-4:00pm</td>
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<td>February 6</td>
<td>9:00am-12:00pm</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>9:00am-4:00pm</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>1:00pm-4:00pm</td>
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<td>February 27</td>
<td>9am-12pm &amp; 2pm-5pm</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
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<td>March 31</td>
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Note: Other days and times might be available, call to inquire.

The University of Georgia is committed to the principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

February Garden Tips

Fruits and Nuts
- Prune apples, blackberries, plums, pears, peaches, grapes and muscadines.
- Fertilize pecans with zinc.
- Replenish mulch on strawberries.
- Spray fruit trees with lime-sulphur before bloom for disease control.
- Plant fruit trees.

Houseplants
- Liquid-fertilize monthly.
- Turn houseplants weekly to allow full coverage by sun.

Turf
- To prevent summer weeds, apply pre-emergence herbicides
- Spray for winter weeds with approved herbicides

Flowers
- Prune hybrid tea roses.
- Spray roses for disease.
- Plant new rose bushes and hardy annuals such as baby’s breath, pansies & petunias.

Vegetables
- Plant seed boxes. Peppers and eggplants will take 8 weeks to grow from seed to transplant size, while tomatoes will take 6 weeks. When the seedlings form their third set of true leaves, transplant them to individual containers.
- Prepare land for planting—winter and early spring plantings belong on a ridge (raised bed) for better drainage and earlier soil warm-up.
- Make early plantings of your choice from the following: beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onions, English peas, Irish potatoes, radishes, spinach and turnips.
- If nematodes were a problem last year, make plans to plant a less-susceptible crop in the infected area.
- Use “starter” fertilizer around transplanted crops.
- Seed herbs for April planting.

Ornamentals
- Plant shrubbery and small trees.
- Prune summer-flowering shrubbery.
- Cut back shrubbery and trees.
- Mulch shrubbery.
- Cut back liriope to highest mower blade setting.
**Young Riders Horse Club**
If you like horses, make plans to join the Young Riders Horse Club! This afterschool club will meet once a month at the 4-H Center to study all things horses! The 4-H Van will pick up interested students. You do NOT have to own or ride a horse to participate! **Meeting dates: February 3th**

**Poultry Judging**
*February 4th & 18th | Afterschool til 5:00pm*
Elbert County 4-H is delighted to offer a Poultry Judging Team this year! No experience necessary! Come learn how to evaluate egg quality, carcass quality and live birds! This is a great skill that you can put to practice every time you go to the grocery store!

**Strawberry Fundraiser**
Support Elbert County 4-H by purchasing fresh strawberries. Orders are due by February 14th. Contact your favorite 4-H student or come by the office to help our local 4-H programs.

**The 2020 Beekeeping Essay Contest is now open!**
The annual Beekeeping Essay Contest is an exciting opportunity for student to test their writing abilities and learn something new about Honey Bees and their importance in the environment. Students who enter will have a chance to win a State Prize and the 1st place winner will then move on to the national competition. This competition is open to all "active club members" per national contest rules. The deadline for submitting an essay is March 18th at 5 p.m.

**Please see The Elbert County 4-H Flash Newsletter on our website for more 4-H activities and news.**
**Upcoming Activities include**
- **Livestock Judging**
- **Horse Judging/ Hippolody**
**Dates and times to be announced.**

**CONTACT US**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title/Department</th>
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**Elbert County Extension**
1088 Ruckersville Rd.
Elberton, GA 30635

**Phone:** 706-283-2037  
**Fax:** 706-283-2038

**Office Hours:**
Monday - Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm
Closed 12:00pm-1:00pm

Visit our website at: [www.ugaextension.org/elbert](http://www.ugaextension.org/elbert)

**Follow us on Facebook!**
UGA Extension - Elbert County  
Elbert County 4-H