



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION



## NEWS & EVENTS

### Up Coming Classes & Events

#### Selecting and Growing Hydrangeas

When you think about gardening in the south, you can't help but think of the romantic hydrangea shrub. But did you know that there are multiple varieties of hydrangeas and that they don't all have the same growing requirements? Don't miss out on these dreamy blooms—let Lisa Klein share with you how to choose the best hydrangeas for your yard and how to care for them.

**Date: July 11, 2024 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Location: Zoom**—follow the link below

<https://uga.zoom.us/j/95758534552?pwd=cnVta1RjYmp1dmxNY3U2V2loZERRZz09>

#### Fruits and Vegetables from Other Cultures

Think beyond the tomato and pepper this year and try growing something NEW from a different culture! The horticultural world has so much to offer beyond our borders, and many of these vegetables and fruits can be enjoyed in your own home garden. From Loofa gourds to Thai ginger, you don't need your passport as Lisa Klein takes you around the multicultural fruit & veggie world in 60 minutes.

**Date: July 25, 2024 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Location: Zoom**—follow the link below

<https://uga.zoom.us/j/95411841498?pwd=T1lSGJnbzd0NWFXVG5BZmxMcE5Xdz09>

### 2024 State 4-H Horse Show

Elbert County 4-H had fourteen students compete in the Georgia 4-H State Horse Show. Lydia Moon was the sole competitor at the State Show in the Gaited-Saddle Seat Division. Chloe Bradford and Kaleigh Heflin competed in the Stock Seat Division, which is more commonly referred to as western pleasure. The Ranch Horse Division is one of the largest divisions of the Georgia 4-H State Horse Show. Chloe Bradford, Kaleigh Heflin and Aiden McCarty competed in the Ranch Horse Division. The Contest Division, or better known as speed events, was the most popular division with Elbert County riders having a total of eleven students participating. Those 4-H'ers are Nate Albertson, Isabella Burton, Ava Dunbrack, Ayden Evans, Natalie Evans, Kaleigh Heflin, Madison Moore, Kennedy Ray, Bailee Seymour, Madison Scoggins and Jalyn White. Madison Scoggins won Grand Champion in Junior Contest Events. Nate Albertson and Lydia Moon were both named Reserve Champions in their respective divisions. Elbert County also competed in, and won, the Herdsman Contest. Kaleigh Heflin, Kennedy Ray and Kimberly Sanders also competed in Educational Contests.



---

# AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

---

## Sustainable Innovations in Poultry Farming: Nurturing Birds and the Environment for the Future Brian Bradford , Elbert County ANR Agent

---

In recent years, poultry farming has undergone a remarkable transformation. Gone are the days of traditional practices that may have had negative environmental impacts. Instead, modern poultry farming embraces sustainable techniques that benefit both birds and our planet.

1. **Resource Efficiency:** Farmers now employ efficient resource management strategies. From optimized feed formulations to water-saving systems, every aspect is fine-tuned for minimal waste and maximum productivity.
2. **Bird Welfare:** The well-being of our feathered friends takes center stage. Comfortable housing, proper ventilation, and disease prevention protocols ensure healthier, happier birds.
3. **Environmental Conservation:** Modern poultry farms actively contribute to environmental preservation. By minimizing pollution, conserving water, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, they play a vital role in safeguarding our ecosystem.

New poultry house construction is a hot topic in Elbert County right now. Here are a few thoughts on the science behind the myth from Dr. Casey Ritz, UGA Professor and Assistant Department Head, Poultry Science. One of the most critical components of a zoning ordinance for poultry farms is the set-back distance required for the location of poultry production houses. Excessive set-back distances from property lines and dwellings have the natural effect of severely restricting or totally eliminating the construction of poultry operations because of the large amounts of land required to comply. Opponents of poultry production will often advocate the most restrictive set-back distances possible to effectively shut down the growth of poultry in an area. They will use uninformed and false accusations regarding environmental, air quality, health, and odor issues as concerns to advance their position. Thus, set-back requirements for poultry houses must be based on facts rather than emotion. Poultry production in Georgia has increased significantly over the years as demand for poultry products has increased. This increase has meant establishing new farms and constructing more production houses.

Commercial poultry production began in north Georgia, and much of the production has been concentrated in that area of the state over the years. North Georgia also contains some of the fastest-growing counties in terms of population increases and urbanization. For more than 60 years, poultry production has not only coexisted with growing populations but has thrived as a business despite urbanization's increasing pressures on agricultural operations. Urban sprawl and the loss of land for agricultural purposes have emphasized the need for carefully designed zoning ordinances to protect farmers and provide a blueprint for long-term community growth and viability.

Even with urban encroachment and development in many north Georgia counties, poultry production has continued to be a significant and valued business. This results from zoning ordinances that have not been excessively restrictive for poultry operators. As an example, some of the top poultry-producing counties (e.g., Gordon, Habersham, Hall, Franklin, Madison, Oconee, etc.) have adopted zoning regulations with set-back distances of 100' to 400' from property lines and 300' to 500' from dwellings. For many years, these set-back distances have allowed farmers to continue in poultry production and provided citizens with reasonable separations from farming activities. More recently, research at the University of Georgia has confirmed that these distances provide enough separation to adequately protect neighbors of poultry operations from air discharges from poultry houses. The greater the set-back distance adopted, the more acreage is required to site poultry houses. For example, a 200' set-back from property lines requires a minimum of 14 acres to site four poultry houses, if the land is perfectly rectangular. Increasing the set-back to 400' increases the requirement to a minimum of 30 acres, while 1000' requires at least 130 acres. Since many plots of land are irregular in shape, property boundaries and topography often necessitate more acreage. In reality, a 200' set-back requires at least 30 to 40 acres to meet site needs for an average four-house operation. A 1000' set-back could require several hundred acres to site four poultry houses for many tracts of land. According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 74 percent of Georgia farms have less than 180 acres. Thus, a 1000' set-back requirement eliminates large numbers of family-owned farms from the poultry production industry.

One of the historically significant aspects of poultry production has been the opportunity for small farmers to participate in a viable agricultural enterprise. When agricultural land is shrinking, and the acreage requirements for many agricultural commodities are increasing, it is important to protect family farms. No scientific basis exists to support excessive set-back requirements for poultry houses, and Georgia poultry farmers have shown for more than 60 years have coexisted with neighbors while making significant economic contributions to the community.

As we navigate these decisions, it's very important that we take in all aspects of the situation and go to a decision that will benefit the farmers of our county as well as the residents. Elbert County is playing a vital role in not only our nation's food supply and food security but also the worldwide supply of food. As always, if you need to reach us, we are available at the Elbert County Extension Office (706) 283 2037 or email [brian.bradford@uga.edu](mailto:brian.bradford@uga.edu).

---

## FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

---

### **Beat the heat with flavored water** **Christa Campbell, Elbert County FACS Agent**

---

As the heat rises staying hydrated is important, but sometimes water taste can get boring. The solution is adding a little fruit flavor and excitement to your water glass!

The possibilities are endless – any combination of fruit, veggies, and herbs – can get you drinking water and staying hydrated. Here are a few favorites to get you started. Just add water and ice!

- Berry, mint: any berry and torn mint leaves. We like Strawberry, Orange, and mint.
- Fruit, berry: any fruit sliced or cubed and 1/2 cup berries. We like Peach Blueberry flavored water!
- Watermelon, basil: small chunks of watermelon & torn basil leaves
- Watermelon, lime: add a pinch of salt, if desired. Voilà, enjoy Watermelon Agua Fresca!
- Citrus, jalapeno: thin slices of your favorite orange, lemon, or lime and thin slices of a seeded jalapeno
- Cucumber, lime (or lemon): thin slices of all
- Cinnamon stick, apple – add a splash of apple cider vinegar to make it tangy.

Try fresh, frozen, or canned fruit (in its own water). Adding fresh mint, basil, or rosemary from the garden adds to the flavor.

We know drinking plenty of water is important. Staying hydrated boosts energy, curbs hunger, protects joints and organs, and helps our bodies stay cool in the summer heat.

Written by Laurel Sanville, MS, RDN, LD | Edited by Taylor Newman, Ph.D. Candidate



# 4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## State 4-H Council

State 4-H Council, a Georgia 4-H core program, is the constitutional meeting of the Georgia 4-H Council and includes the election of Georgia 4-H state officers. This annual meeting hosts multiple events, competitions, and training throughout the weekend for youth and adults. Attending from Elbert County were: Josue Bravo, Bethany Burden, Stephanie Espinosa, Ayden Evans, Gracie Kidd, Makayla McKnight, Jalyn White and Latayron Williams. All served as voting delegates and participated in the Iron Clover Competition while there.

In addition to the constitutional meeting, Georgia 4-H hosts competitions for State Congress in all the food lab and performing arts projects. Josue Bravo competed in the Festive Foods for Health Project and prepared a chicken enchilada dish for judges who are expert chefs. In this project, 4-H'ers explore areas of foods and nutrition including food planning and preparation with an emphasis in party, international and ethnic foods. Stephanie Espinosa competed in the Performing Arts – General Project, performing a flag routine to the song Detroit Rock. Latayron Williams competed in the Performing Arts – Vocal Project, singing “Waving Through a Window.” These three 4-H'ers will join other students from Elbert County and around the state at Georgia 4-H State Congress in Atlanta later this summer.

Gracie Kidd was selected as an exhibitor for the “Share Fair” during State Congress. She created a project concentrating on hydration of the body and shared information about the “Drink Water” campaign. Gracie was also recognized during an assembly for completing her requirements for the 2023-2024 Georgia 4-H Healthy Living Ambassador. State Council also welcomes the Georgia 4-H Master Club for their annual Banquet. Annabelle Kidd, a 2023 Master 4-H'er, attended and was recognized during the banquet.



*If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact the Elbert County Extension office at 706-283-2037 or [uge1105@uga.edu](mailto:uge1105@uga.edu) at least three weeks prior to the program date.*

## CONTACT US

### Christa Campbell

County Extension Coordinator and County Extension Agent, FACS  
[christaa@uga.edu](mailto:christaa@uga.edu) | 706-283-2037

### Brian Bradford

County Extension Agent, ANR | [brian.bradford@uga.edu](mailto:brian.bradford@uga.edu) | 706-283-2037

### Lauren Dye

County Extension Agent, 4-H | [imdye@uga.edu](mailto:imdye@uga.edu) | 706-283-2037

### Sophie Walsky

County Extension 4-H Program Educator | [emiko.walsky@uga.edu](mailto:emiko.walsky@uga.edu) | 706-283-2037

### Trisha Willis

County Extension Administrative Assistant | [trisha.willis@uga.edu](mailto:trisha.willis@uga.edu) | 706-283-2037

### Elbert County Extension

373 Campbell Street  
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