




UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION



NEWS & EVENTS

Up Coming Classes & Events

Gardening 101 with Brian Bradford

It's officially spring! That means it's time to start thinking about those summer gardens. Are you a first time planter? Or in need of a refresher? Sign up for our Gardening 101 class **April 7th at 3:30pm**, led by Brian Bradford of UGA Extension - Elbert County! Learn the basics of starting new seeds, including best planting practices, soil conditions, growing conditions, avoiding pests, and more. All ages and experience levels welcome!  **Elbert County Public Library**
Contact the library at (706) 283-5375 to reserve your spot.



Planning a Vegetable Garden 101

Ready to grow your own fresh produce? Our presentation will guide you through the essential steps to create a thriving vegetable garden. From selecting the right location and preparing the soil to choosing the best vegetables for our area and planning your garden layout, this presentation covers everything you need to get started. Whether you're a beginner or looking to improve your gardening skills, Lisa Klein will help guide you as you cultivate a successful and rewarding vegetable garden. This webinar counts towards the Continuing Education requirements for the Master Gardener Extension Volunteers.

Date and time: Apr 8, 2025; 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Online Location

Use the Zoom link provided:

<https://uga.zoom.us/j/94445176409?pwd=etrb4Ga3jNEP4hcjYe74mRVEHwJThF.1#success>
or contact us @ 678-377-4010

2025 Rabies Clinic

Did you know that pet owners in Georgia are required to have their pets vaccinated against rabies? Rabies is a horrible virus which may affect any mammal and is fatal for all animals, potentially humans too! Each year the 4-H Office works with veterinarians to host the Rabies Clinic. The Rabies Clinic will be held across Elbert County on **Saturday, April 26th**. Rabies Clinic Schedule shows the location and times our teams will be available. Add this community event to your calendar!

RABIES CLINIC SCHEDULE

Team #1: Bowman Fire Dept 9:00am - 12:00pm
Deep Creek Fire Dept 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Team #2: Centerville Fire Dept 9:00am - 12:00pm
Rock Branch Fire Dept 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Team #3: Fortsonia Fire Dept 9:00am - 10:45am
Wyche Fire Dept 11:00am - 12:00pm
Longstreet Fire Dept 1:30pm - 2:30pm
Petersburg Fire Dept 2:45pm - 3:30pm

Team #4: Elbert County Farm Bureau
Office at 893 Elbert Street
9:00am - 12:00pm & 1:30pm - 3:30pm



AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

Waking up for Gardens and Preparing for the Summer growing season

Brian Bradford , Elbert County ANR Agent

Preparing your summer vegetable garden in Georgia requires thoughtful planning and timely action. By following guidelines from the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, you can set the stage for a productive and enjoyable gardening season.

- **Site Selection:** Choose a location that receives at least 8 to 10 hours of sunlight daily. Ensure the site has well-drained soil with good texture and is conveniently located near your home and a water source. Avoid areas with a history of persistent weeds like nutsedge and Bermuda grass, as they can be challenging to control.
- **Garden Planning:** Begin by sketching your garden layout on paper. Prioritize planting vegetables that you and your family enjoy, and consider using dwarf or compact varieties to maximize yield in limited spaces. Arrange taller plants on the north or west side of the garden to prevent them from shading shorter crops. Implementing crop rotation by changing plant locations each year helps reduce disease buildup and nutrient depletion. Additionally, plan for pathways between rows to facilitate harvesting and maintenance.
- **Soil Preparation:** Healthy soil is the foundation of a successful garden. Conduct a soil test through your local county extension office to determine nutrient levels and pH balance. Based on the results, amend your soil with the necessary fertilizers or organic matter. Incorporating several inches of compost annually can enhance soil fertility and structure, promoting robust plant growth.
- **Planting Schedule:** In Georgia, the primary planting periods are spring (March to May) and fall (mid-July to September). Spring plantings are typically harvested in June and July, while fall plantings yield crops from October to December. Given Elberton's location in northeast Georgia, adjust your planting dates accordingly, as northern regions may experience later spring frosts and earlier fall frosts compared to central Georgia.
- **Variety Selection:** Opt for vegetable varieties recommended for Georgia's climate and your specific region. The UGA Cooperative Extension provides a Vegetable Planting Chart that lists proven varieties suitable for the state. Experimenting with new varieties on a small scale can also help you identify those best suited to your garden's conditions.

Additional Tips

- **Watering:** Ensure consistent watering, especially during dry spells. Early morning watering reduces evaporation and disease risk.
- **Mulching:** Apply organic mulch, such as straw or wood chips, to retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.
- **Pest and Disease Management:** Regularly inspect plants for signs of pests and diseases. Early detection and intervention are crucial. Utilize integrated pest management strategies and consult local extension resources for guidance.

By adhering to these practices and leveraging resources from the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, you can cultivate a thriving summer vegetable garden that provides fresh, nutritious produce throughout the season to enjoy. If we can be of any help or for more information on any of these subjects, please feel free to contact us at the Elbert County Extension office at 706-283-2037 or uge1105@uga.edu. Happy Gardening!



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Saving For The Holidays...Starting NOW!
Christa Campbell, Elbert County FACS Agent

April is Financial Literacy Month. It has been a few months since the winter holiday season ended. Have you finished paying off the credit card bills? If you are still working to pay them off, you are not alone. A 2015 Federal Reserve study found that the average credit card balance for households with credit cards was more than \$9,000. Americans dish out an overwhelming amount of money on gifts every year. There is nothing wrong with trying to find that perfect gift for someone important in your life, but holiday spending habits may be counter-productive. Spending more than normal during the holidays and putting most of the extra costs on credit cards means months of debt payments.

Credit cards are convenient, especially when you pay the balance in full every month. If not, paying for those gifts and the monthly finance charges may take months or even years. Credit card interest rates are high, and more likely to increase than go down in the coming months. So how can you, as a consumer, get ahead of this yearly rut? The answer is simple. To avoid paying off credit card bills for months after the holiday season is over, start saving now. With plenty of time before the holidays roll around again, this is the perfect time to start. The longer you have to save, the better.

Save something every month starting early in the year. If you wait until October to start saving for the holidays, you have waited too long. The more you can save, the better, but saving even a small amount each month makes a difference. To save for the holidays, you may need to do without something you want now. It is not easy. Many dread having to save, or prefer the instant gratification that comes with spending. The good news is that saving gets easier with practice.

To get started, analyze your weekly spending. See what you can do to cut unnecessary expenses. Small changes can free up extra money for your savings fund. Reducing your spending by a dollar a day gives you an extra \$30 a month. Skip the \$5 cup of coffee every morning and brew your own at home. Pack a lunch instead of eating out to save even more.

Where do you want your savings to go? Do you want to put it in a piggy bank or a real bank? A savings account keeps your money safe, may earn interest, and reduces the temptation of dipping into your savings. Shop around for a savings account with the best interest rate and lowest fees. An account with an APY of 1% or higher is typically a pretty good pick.

Consider an online savings account. Online savings accounts typically offer higher interest rates, but many consumers avoid them because they perceive online banks as risky. Online accounts are insured by the FDIC just like any brick-and-mortar bank account. A quick online search will give you plenty of options to choose from.

Going to the bank to deposit your weekly or monthly savings into your account is an extra step and another potential obstacle to saving. Automating the process, when possible, is a much better option. Most financial institutions allow you to automatically transfer a set amount of money from your checking into your savings account. You can set up the transfers as frequently as you would like, on a specific date each month or day of the week. Automatic transfer is very convenient. You never have to think about saving. Set the date of the transfer on your payday and the money goes into savings before you are tempted to spend it.

After several months, your holiday fund will start to add up. When the holidays roll around again, use your money in savings instead of your credit card for gift buying. Avoiding the yearly cycle of credit card debt and hefty interest payments will free up more money for you to save. Make this the year you streamline your savings and beat the holiday debt cycle. For more information on managing your finances or saving money, contact Christa Campbell at (706)283-2037 or via e-mail christaa@uga.edu.

4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Junior/Senior District Project Achievement

Twenty-eight Elbert County 4-H'ers competed at District Project Achievement in March. Students must complete a portfolio in their project area and then prepare a demonstration to compete in this essential Georgia 4-H event. Portfolios are similar to a resume or record book. They comprise 40% of the total score for Junior competitors (7th and 8th graders), and 50% of the Senior score (9th-12th graders). The remaining 60% of the Junior score comes from an 8-10 minute presentation on a specific topic within their project area – delivered to judges, along with spectators and fellow competitors. A 10-12 minute demonstration makes up the additional 50% of a Senior 4-H score.

Elbert County 4-H had a very successful weekend. In addition to the individual accomplishments of the students, the County Program was recognized with three awards: Most Winners, Most First Place Winners and Highest Percentage of First Place Winners. Josue Bravo and Julianna Walsky were also recognized at the Senior Banquet.



4-H is a **community** of **young people** **across America** who are learning **leadership, citizenship** and **life skills**.

\$4 for 4-H

We are only 4 days away from \$4 for 4-H! Join us on Friday for an online giving day to support Elbert County 4-H. Go to the following link (www.georgia4h.org/four) on April 4th and help to turn Elbert County Green on the Georgia map!



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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 5:00pm

Closed 12:00pm-1:00pm

Visit our website at:

www.ugaextension.org/elbert

Follow us on Facebook!

UGA Extension - Elbert County
Elbert County 4-H

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