



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION



## NEWS & EVENTS

### Horse Quiz Bowl Teams Compete



Congratulations to our Horse Quiz Bowl Teams who competed in the State Contest on Saturday, January 27th! Both teams did well and the “Blue” Team won 3rd! White Team: Chloe Bradford, Colton Bradford, Kaleigh Heflin and Bailey Martinez. Blue Team: Ayden Evans, Natalie Evans, Zola Graves and Saige Martin.

### ServSafe™ Manager Training

#### WE HAVE LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

The next ServSafe™ Manager Training is scheduled for February 22-23, 2024. You must pre-register for the class. The cost of the class is \$150. The cost to re-test is \$70 as long as you have access to a current copy of the Revised 7th Edition ServSafe Manager book with the 2022 FDA Food Code Updates. The class will be held at the Elbert County Extension Office (Paul J Blackwell Learning Center) 373 Campbell Street Elberton, GA 30635. For more information, contact Christa Campbell at (706) 283-2037 or download the registration form from our website at

<https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/elbert.html>

### 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.

#### Ornamentals

- Plant shrubbery and small trees.
- Prune summer-flowering shrubbery.
- Cut back shrubbery and trees.
- Mulch shrubbery.
- Cut back lirioppe to highest mower blade setting.

#### 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.

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# AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

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## Time to Think about Those Summer Weeds is Now Brian Bradford , Elbert County ANR Agent

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January brought us a variety of weather, this month for sure; as the old saying goes, if you don't like the weather in Georgia, give it twenty-four hours, and it might change! During these cold months, our last thought is usually weed control. Although it may still be the cold winter months, now is the time to plan a good weed control program for your yard and garden. We are fast approaching the time of the year when pre-emergent treatments offer a good measure of control. This is a true statement for homeowners and agriculture producers alike. I consulted with the agriculture producers in our county, and now is the time to deal with some hard-to-handle weeds like foxtail and other annual weeds that will cause problems during the warmer months.

One weed that is particularly tough to deal with in turf this time of the year is wild onion and wild garlic. Wild garlic is a cool-season perennial weed with slender, hollow, round leaves. The plant gets its energy from white bulbs (kind of like miniature onions). These bulbs will grow "offset bulb lets." Before you know it, wild garlic can spread everywhere. It can be found in the lawn, garden, athletic fields, or pastures. It has a distinctive garlic odor when crushed or mowed. Wild onion can be seen in the same places as wild garlic. Wild onion does not produce the offset bulblets. There is almost no need to try and pull or dig either of them up. With the garlic, you almost always break off a piece of one of the tiny bulbs, and a new plant will form. It also reproduces by seed, which does not help in controlling it. Because of their bulbs and the fact that wild garlic can reproduce from seeds, you also have to be committed over the long term to control them successfully.

Several pesticides can help you safely and effectively control these two problem weeds. You must use these pesticides as the label says and include them in a three-year program for best results. One of the best products is Image, which has the active ingredient imazaquin. It is labeled for use in established Bermuda, Centipede, St. Augustine, and Zoysia. Other turf grasses, including fescue, can be severely injured by Image. In addition to controlling wild garlic/onions, Image controls annual sedges, yellow and purple nutsedge. Remember, if you use Image, do not apply it when the grass emerges from winter dormancy. Also, do not apply it to newly planted or sprigged turf grasses. Synthetic auxin herbicides are typically the best for wild garlic control in tall fescue lawns. 2,4-D alone or in three-way mixtures can very effectively control wild garlic.

These herbicides are safe in warm-season grasses during active growth but should not be applied during the spring green-up. Metsulfuron effectively controls a vast number of broadleaf weeds and wild garlic. Metsulfuron can be applied to tolerant warm-season turf grasses, including Bermuda grass, Centipede grass, St. Augustine, and Zoysia grass. Two popular metsulfuron products are Manor and Blade. However, applications may temporarily inhibit the green-up of Centipede grass and other species during the spring transition. Metsulfuron should not be used in lawns with desirable Bahia grass populations. Woody ornamentals should not be planted in treated areas within one year following the metsulfuron application. As with any pesticide product, be sure that you follow the label directions carefully and be safe. Other herbicides can help. Each situation is different, and recommendations can be adjusted to fit your lawn more appropriately.



For more information on lawn weed control, agricultural weed control, and pesticide information, contact the Elbert County Extension office at 706 283 2037.

# FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

## Free Appointments for filing Taxes are Available Christa Campbell, Elbert County FACS Agent

Have you ever heard the saying “there is nothing in life free”? However, this is not true in all situations. Some people may not realize it, but you can file your taxes for free.

Based on data from the IRS, many taxpayers who claim the earned income tax credit (EITC) pay someone to prepare their tax returns. In 2013, The National Consumer Law Center estimated that taxpayers claiming the EITC paid about \$2.3 billion per year to get their taxes prepared and receive their refund fast. VITA is a free program that allows you to get your taxes prepared and filed for free. The program is coordinated locally by volunteers from one or more community-based organizations. Volunteers are certified by the IRS and must pass annual exams to prepare tax returns, and all tax returns go through a quality review process before being submitted to the IRS. VITA volunteer tax preparers are trained and certified by the IRS to prepare many types of tax returns, including those claiming the EITC and additional child tax credit (CTC).

The Elbert County Extension office will offer VITA tax preparation from February 1 – April 1, 2024. For more information or to schedule a free appointment to complete your taxes, please call Christa Campbell, your local county Extension agent, at (706) 283-2037.

February 7, 2024	February 8, 2024	February 14, 2024	February 15, 2024	February 19, 2024
February 21, 2024	February 22, 2023	February 23, 2024	February 26, 2024	February 28, 2024
February 29, 2024	March 4, 2024	March 7, 2024	March 8, 2024	March 18, 2024
March 20, 2024	March 25, 2024	March 27, 2024	April 4, 2024	

### Items You Need to Bring with You if you Make an Appointment

- 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 necessary paperwork.
- 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.



# 4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## “Earthies” Science Club

6TH GRADE ONLY. If you love earth science, then this activity is for you! Join us after school in the Clover Room as we expand on our knowledge of earth science in fun, engaging activities. We will meet again on **Thursday, February 8th**. A ride must pick you up at 5:00pm at the ECMS auditorium and you must be a 6th grade student to attend.

## ELEVATE Afterschool Club

Spend your afternoon with us learning a variety of topics, completing projects, and enjoying fun activities! You are sure to love this engaging and interactive time in the 4-H Clover Room (ECMS auditorium lobby) and BEYOND! Meetings are held monthly afterschool until 5:00pm. The next meeting is **Monday, February 26th**.

## Trash or Treasure: Valentine Edition

Is it trash or is it treasure? As Valentine’s Day approaches, Elbert County 4-H is partnering with Keep Elbert County Beautiful to collect candy wrappers again! They are a treasure instead of trash! All students who turn in candy wrappers will earn Clover Points. You don’t have to trash those candy wrappers and doom them to an eternity in a landfill—or, even worse, in our oceans. Collect them and turn them in! Wrappers only—no boxes, sticks or aluminum. Can we collect more than we did for

Halloween?!?



## Modified Trap Shotgun Team

Students at Elbert County Middle School and Elbert County Comprehensive High School (6th-12th Grades Only) are eligible to shoot on the Modified Trap Shotgun Team with Elbert County 4-H. Practices are held on Sunday afternoons. Students who want to participate and did not attend the Orientation Meeting should contact Ms. Lauren to get the information.

## Young Riders Horse Club

If you like horses, make plans to join the Young Riders Horse Club! This month we will meet during Winter Break for more fun! You do NOT have to own or ride a Horse to participate in this Club! Meet the Clover Room at the ECMS (auditorium lobby), from **1:00pm until 5:00pm on Tuesday, February 20th**.

## State 4-H Horse Show Intent to Show Forms

The Georgia 4-H State Horse Show will be held at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, this summer June 4th —June 8th. In order to enter the show, 4-H’ers MUST submit an “Intent to Show Form” to the 4-H Office by Wednesday, March 13th. You must own or lease the horse by March 1, 2024. If you own or lease a horse and would like to compete this summer, please let Ms. Lauren know so she can get you the Intent to Show Form.



## CONTACT US

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### Elbert County Extension

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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](http://www.ugaextension.org/elbert)

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