



Kenton County 4-H Newsletter

JANUARY 2026



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.



REGISTER TODAY



KENTON COUNTY 4-H CAMP

JUNE 1-5, 2026

Forms available at:
kentoncountyextension.org
Or Contact:
lori.clark@uky.edu

Scan Here To Pay



Kenton 4-H Target Sharks

Club Leader: Mike Coyle kentoncty4hsc@gmail.com

Club Coordinator: Heather Phelps, heatherphelps83@gmail.com

Orientation **January 20, 2026**

6:30 p.m.

10990 Marshall Road
Covington, KY 41015

Mandatory Safety Meetings



YOUTH AND ADULT MUST ATTEND ONE SESSION

February 17, 2026 6-8:00 pm

10990 Marshall Road
Covington, KY 41015

or

March 3, 2026 6-8:00 pm

10990 Marshall Road
Covington, KY 41015

READING & RECIPES

Does your 3rd grader not care for reading or maybe just needs a little more enrichment? Join us for **Reading and Recipes**. This 6 week program will allow your 4-H'er to practice reading and learn some cooking skills. This class is for 3rd graders only!

Classes at Marshall Road Location on Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12.

Must commit to all 6 sessions.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Register at:

<https://ReadingandRecipes.4honline.com>.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Readers needed for this class

If you can help, please email:
lori.clark@uky.edu

Kenton County 4-H

WRITING

WORKSHOP



**JAN. 21, 2026; 5-6 PM,
MARSHALL ROAD OFFICE**

 University of
Kentucky®

Poetry, infographics, songwriting,
essays, original monologues - this
contest has something for
everyone.

Participating will enhance your
writing, reading, and personal
communication skills.

Express your creativity and
be recognized for your talent!

Workshop

Wednesday, January 21
from 5-6p, Marshall Road;
if this time is not accessible,
please contact Diane Kelley
dkelley@uky.edu

Snow date: January 22
from 5-6p Marshall Road in
case Kenton County schools
are closed on Jan. 21, 2026.

KENTON CO. 4-H LIVESTOCK CLUB

Education Hours

To participate in competitive events (showing, judging, country ham), 6 Livestock Education Hours are required.

For Kenton Co. Fair showman:

- A parent/guardian must attend one parent session, held at the start of any education hour meeting.
- All 6 hours must be completed by January 19.

Date	Day	Time	Hours	Topic	Location
Jan. 7th	W	6:00-8:00	2	Building Project Night	MR
Jan. 17th	S	9:00-12:00	3	Forsee Southdowns Tour	Owenton, KY
Jan. 19th	M	6:00-8:00	2	Make-up for Dec. 15 snow day	MR

*MR is the Marshall Rd. Office: 10990 Marshall Rd., Covington, KY 41015

Schedule Updates & Weather Notices: Changes will be shared via newsletter and email. In case of inclement weather, cancellations will be announced through email, TeamReach, and social media.

Club Officers

Congratulations to our new club officer team!

President: Anna Beth M.

VP: Easton S.

Secretary: Liam T.

Treasurer: Ella G.

Pledge Leader: Sadie C.

February 12th Paperwork Day

Stop by the Marshall Rd. office between 6:00-8:00 to get your validation paperwork signed, ask any questions you have about livestock validation and additional paperwork, and pick up a KDA Shows and Fairs Calendar for the year.

Country Ham

Curing Day:

Monday, January 19th

12:00 pm, Marshall Rd. Office

If something changes, I'll reach out to participating families.

January 17th Meeting

On January 17th, we're visiting Forsee Southdowns in Owenton to learn about their sheep operation.

Education hours are from 9:00-12:00, then let's plan to meet at Hometown Pizza for lunch!

Please let me know if you plan to attend and need a ride by scanning the QR Code to the right, or send me an email to the address below **by January 10th**.

Register Here



County transportation is available, but limited. Indicate if you need a ride when you register!

County Transportation Schedule:

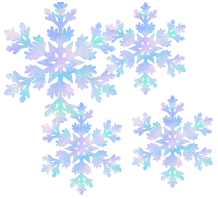
8:00	Depart Kenton Co. Extension Office
9:00	Arrive at Forsee Southdowns
12:00	Drive to Hometown Pizza for lunch
1:00	Depart Owenton
2:00	Arrive back at Extension Office

For more information, or to ask questions, contact Anna Meyers:

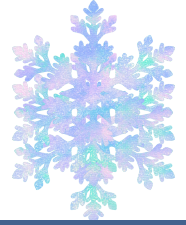
anna.meyers@uky.edu

(859) 356- 3155

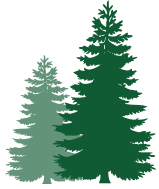
4-H CANCELLATION POLICY



County-wide 4-H sponsored activities are cancelled when Kenton County Schools are closed due to bad weather. Individual club leaders may decide to meet. Call the extension office or your leader if you have questions.



Evergreen Tree Recycling



Help us make mulch for our demonstration gardens! Follow the signs and drop trees off into the fenced area between December 26 and January 7th. (Trees will NOT be accepted after January 7th)!

Attention Animal Science Leaders!

All youth that are participating in a livestock, meats, rabbit, poultry, or horse project should have 6 hours of education approved by the 4-H agent in the county and the certified livestock volunteer. This must be documented on approved extension sign-in sheets and turned into 4-H agents.

Prepare for the Fair

**Classes at
Marshall Road Location
10990 Marshall Rd**

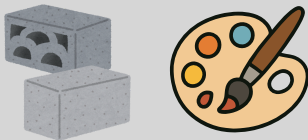
PAVER PAINTING

JANUARY 21, 2026

6:00-8:00 pm

Register:

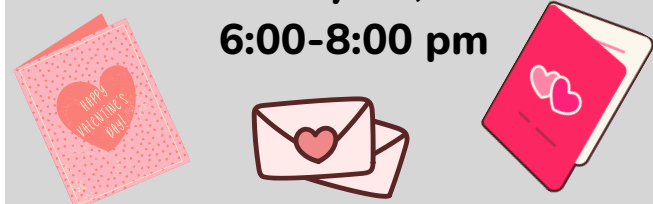
<https://januaryprepareforthefair.4honline.com>



VALENTINE'S CARDS

February 11, 2026

6:00-8:00 pm



2026 Kentucky Agriculture Poster & Essay Contest

Statewide poster and essay winners from each grade, Kindergarten through 12th grade, will be chosen, and an overall digital winner will be selected. Cash prizes will be presented to the winners at the 2026 Poster and Essay Awards Ceremony. Information regarding the ceremony will be released to the winners at a later date. The winning entries will be displayed in the Commissioner's Office in Frankfort, at the 2026 Kentucky State Fair, and on the KDA website.

Entries must be postmarked by Friday, March 20, 2026 and mailed to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, c/o Bethany Mattingly, 111 Corporate Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601. A completed entry form must be taped or glued to the back of each entry. If all information on the entry form is not completed the submission will be disqualified. Submissions can be sent in by individuals and through your child's school. Winners will be notified by Friday, April 17, 2026.

For more information, contact bethany.mattingly@ky.gov or visit the KDA website.



KENTON COUNTY 4-H

LOOPY LITERACY LAB

Ready to have fun with words?

Join us for five awesome sessions where we'll read an exciting chapter book together and learn how to write in cursive—
just like the pros!

Give your child the gift of literacy and handwriting skills in a fun, structured environment! This 5 week session program combines reading a chapter book with learning cursive writing.



Kenton County Extension

10990 Marshall Road
Covington, KY 41015

March 31, April 7, April 14, April 21, April 28
6:00 - 7:30 pm

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT:

- DISCOVER A COOL STORY WITH FRIENDS.
- LEARN FANCY HANDWRITING THAT MAKES YOUR NOTES LOOK AMAZING.
- ENJOY A CREATIVE, HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE EVERY WEEK!



IMPORTANT: YOU'LL NEED TO COME TO ALL CLASSES SO YOU DON'T MISS ANY FUN.

4-H Communication Contest Entry Form

March 26, 2026

Kenton County Extension Office: 10990 Marshall Rd. Covington, 41015

Sign In: 6:00 p.m.

Judging Starts: 6:30 p.m.

<h3>Speech Only</h3> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am doing a Speech</p> <p>My Speech Title Is: _____</p>	<h3>Demonstration Only</h3> <p>Demonstration Category: _____ <small>(see back of this paper for categories)</small></p> <p>My Demonstration Title Is: _____</p>
---	---

*Name: _____

*Email: _____

*Address _____ *City _____ *Zip _____

*Phone Number _____ *Cell Number _____

Name of School I attend: _____

Homeroom Teacher's Name _____ Grade _____

*My Birth Date: _____ Phone: _____

Month/Day/Year

**Required Fields*

Please provide us with this optional data so that we may report to our federal partners. Please Check All that Apply:

Ethnicity: ☐ Not Hispanic ☐ Hispanic

Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Residence: ☐ Farm ☐ Town <10K ☐ Town 10K-50K ☐ Suburbs >50K ☐ Cities >50K

Check all that apply: ☐ White ☐ Black ☐ American Indian ☐ Asian ☐ Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Authorization of Use

I, (print full name) _____ (*) hereby grant permission to the University of Kentucky and its affiliates and subsidiaries, including but not limited to the College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Alumni Association, to interview, photograph and/or videotape me, or my minor child, and/or to supervise any others who may do the interview, photography, and/or videotaping and/or to use and/or permit others to use information from the aforementioned interview and/or the aforementioned images in educational and promotional activities for the following without compensation:

University Educational Publications/Videos

University Electronics Publishing (e.g. World Wide Web)

University Promotion/Advertising

Local/regional/national news media (w/permission of the University of Kentucky)

You must return this form to the Extension Office, 10990 Marshall Road,
Covington, KY 41015 or email: alec.fields@uky.edu

Entry Deadline: March 19, 2026

Kentucky 4-H State Communication Contest

Speech and Demonstration Contest Rules and Categories

General Rules

1. This event includes speeches and demonstrations (individual and team).
2. The age of a young person participating in the State Communication Contest is the age they are on January 1 of the program year in which the state contest is held. Age divisions include: Junior: 9-13 years old; Senior: 14-18 years old.
3. Each Area Grouping can send one participant per category.
4. The state standard is that State Communication Contest participants earn a blue ribbon at the Area Grouping level to qualify for the State Communication Contest event.
5. Participants can participate in one speech and one demonstration category per year.
6. State champions may participate only in categories in which they have NOT previously won.
7. It is suggested that the speech or demonstration given by the 4-Her be a new topic from previous years.
8. The contestant will be introduced by name and title by the room host. There will be no penalty if name and subject or title is used during the presentation.
9. A penalty of three points will be subtracted from the participant's total overall score for time errors (under/over time). The time requirement penalty will apply to the state contest, but not necessarily to county or area events. Participants will be eligible for champion placement.
10. The decisions of the judges are FINAL.

Speech Specific Rules

11. Speeches by Senior level 4-H members must be between 5 to 7 minutes long. Speeches by Junior level 4-H members must be between 3 to 5 minutes.
12. Senior level: Because this is an educational learning experience, the Senior 4-Her is expected to choose a topic, research and write their own speech. A participant may have help with practicing the speech. Junior level: The 4-Her may have assistance in writing and preparation based on age level.
13. 4-H members should dress in business attire (such as dress shirt, blouse, slacks, dress pants, skirt, dress). Business attire refers to clothing to be worn in professional settings.
14. No visual aids will be used in speech competitions. Custom costumes* and/or electronic equipment (with the exception of electronic notes, see #15) are considered visual aids. Speakers using visual aids will receive a ribbon but will not be considered for champion placement. *If a 4-Her would not wear the item on a daily basis, then the item is considered a costume item and is not allowed.
15. The use of note cards/electronic notes is optional. Points will not be added or subtracted for the use of notes unless the speaker uses them in a distracting manner. *Electronic devices such as smart phones and tablets may be used in place of notecards for any category, however, laptops are not permitted except in the Digital Media Presentation Demonstration Category.
16. Dramatic readings, dramatic monologues and recitation of poems (as the entire speech) including web-based information will not be accepted. Excessive or distracting body or hand gestures will be counted against participants in the scoring section.

Demonstration Specific Rules

17. Demonstrations should be between 5-15 minutes.
18. Participants can receive assistance while practicing their demonstration, which may involve rehearsing in front of peers, club leaders, and others. However, at the Senior level, 4-H members are expected to showcase their own original work. This includes selecting a topic, conducting research, and writing their own speech or demonstration. While the internet can be used for reference, it should not be relied upon for non-original content.
19. A participant may have help setting up their demonstration but may not have another person helping

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

during the demonstration. Only team demonstrations may have more than one person participating. Assistance from the audience is not permitted.

20. Team demonstrations are permitted at the state level. They will follow the same rules and regulations of the single participant demonstrations. Two 4-H members will comprise a team. Each person must have a significant speaking and presentation portion. Team demonstrations will be placed in a Junior Category or a Senior Category regardless of topic. All team members must be in the same age category.
21. Weapons of any sort cannot be brought into the building or on the grounds of school or university property. This includes firearms, bullets, bows and arrows. Mockups, models, and charts must be used instead. Models cannot look like an actual gun, bow, or other firearm.
22. The use of computers and presentation equipment is only permitted in the Digital Media Presentation Demonstration Category. The use of computers or presentation equipment is not allowed in any other category. *Electronic devices such as smart phones and tablets may be used in place of notecards for any category; however, laptops are not permitted.
23. Demonstrations must have a posterboard or tri-fold poster as aids during their demonstration with the exception of the Digital Media Presentation Demonstration Category.
24. Videos may not be used during presentations in any category with the exception of the Digital Media Presentation Demonstration Category
25. NO LIVE ANIMALS of any size are permitted.
26. Youth may participate in the individual demonstrations or choose to participate in the team demonstration category. They may NOT do both.

*Notes for State Contest:

- If judges for the same 4-H member are not within 20 points of one another's score, judges must meet and discuss scores.

If there is a tie in a category and the judges are not able to come to a consensus, the room host will determine the winner for that category.

Speech Categories

9-Year-Old
10-Year-Old
11-Year-Old
12-Year-Old
13-Year-Old
14-Year-Old
15-Year-Old
16-Year-Old
17–18-Year-Old

Demonstration Categories

Junior (9-13) and Senior (14-18) -Category selection should be based on the primary purpose of the demonstration. It is suggested that demonstrations that do not clearly fit into one category be modified to include information and material relative to the selected category.

CORE: AGRICULTURE

Agriculture – to include information on agriculture business and economics, aquaculture, permaculture, horticulture, and plant and soil sciences (e.g. crops, agronomy, gardening).

Animal Science – to include information on selection, care and feeding of animals, financial records, operations, and animal products for small or large animals. This also includes companion animals. (Demonstrations on horses or horse related topics can be included in this category; however, it does not qualify the participant for the State Horse Contests as this is a different event).

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



CORE: EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Visual Arts – to include drawing, painting, mixed media, decoupage, candle making, macramé, scrap booking, embroidery, quilting, silk screen, batik, block print, corn-shuck flowers, ceramics, jewelry making and similar topics. This category also includes demonstrations related to photography such as picture taking, composition, framing or scrapbooking.

Performing Arts – all demonstrations related to the performing arts including theatre, dance, musical instruments, and musical performance.

CORE: FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Clothing & Textiles – to include construction, techniques, wardrobe selection and planning (color, design accessories, appropriate dress for various occasions) selection, use or care of clothing related equipment, care of clothing, posture as it relates to fit, fibers, fabrics, and textile related topics.

Family & Consumer Sciences – to include information on childcare, consumer and financial education, family life, and home environment. **THIS CATEGORY EXCLUDES CLOTHING & TEXTILES AND FOODS. THESE ARE SEPARATE CATEGORIES.**

Foods – to include preparation skills and creativity in using foods for meals and snacks (including breads). Please submit a copy of the recipe on the day of the event.

CORE: HEALTH

Health – to include information on physical activity, bullying, substance abuse, personal development, and safety.

CORE: LEADERSHIP

Team Demonstrations – any demonstration (regardless of topic) conducted by two (2) 4-H members of the same age category (i.e. either juniors or both seniors). Each participant must have a significant speaking AND presentation role in the demonstration. Youth may participate in either the individual demonstrations OR the team demonstration category. They may NOT do both.

CORE: NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Resources – includes Entomology, Environment, Geology, Forestry, Soils, Water and Wildlife. This category can include science-fair type experiments related to these topics.

Shooting Sports – includes proper care and cleaning of equipment, safety, sighting alignment and shooting techniques, selecting equipment and ammunition. Weapons of any sort cannot be brought into the building or on the grounds of school or university property. This includes firearms, bullets, bows and arrows. Mockups, models, and charts must be used instead. Models cannot look like an actual gun, bow or other firearm.

CORE: SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Science, Engineering and Technology – to include information on ATV safety, aerospace/rocketry, biotechnology, bicycle, energy, GPS/GIS, robotics, general science, and computer sciences [may NOT use computer projection equipment in place of posters]. This category can include science-fair type experiments related to these topics.

Digital Media Presentation – must include a hands-on demonstration with the use of presentation software (i.e. PowerPoint, Prezi) regardless of topic. Slides are used in lieu of poster boards. Please bring the presentation on media that can be transferred to another computer (i.e. portable drive).

Revised September 2024.

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 Livestock Judging 5:30 pm Marshall Road	6	7 Livestock Ed Hours 6:00 pm Marshall Road	8 Reading & Recipes 6:00 pm Marshall Road	9	10
11	12 Kentucky Wildlife Series 6:00 pm Marshall Road	13 Curious Cloverbuds 5:30 pm Marshall Road	14	15 Reading & Recipes 6:00 pm Marshall Road	16	17 Livestock Ed Hours To Be Announced Marshall Road
18	19 County Ham Curing To Be Announced Marshall Road	20 Shooting Sports Orientation 6:30 pm Marshall Road	21 Prepare for the Fair Paver Painting 5:00 pm Marshall Road	22 Shining Stars; 1 pm Kenton Lands Livestock Ed Hours; 6 pm Marshall Road Reading & Recipes; 6 pm Marshall Road Ryland & Twenhofel	23	24
25	26 Livestock Judging 5:30 pm Marshall Road 4-H Council 7:00 pm Marshall Road	27 River Ridge & Scott High School	28 River Ridge	29 Reading & Recipes 6:00 pm Marshall Road Ryland	30	31 

SAVE THE DATE

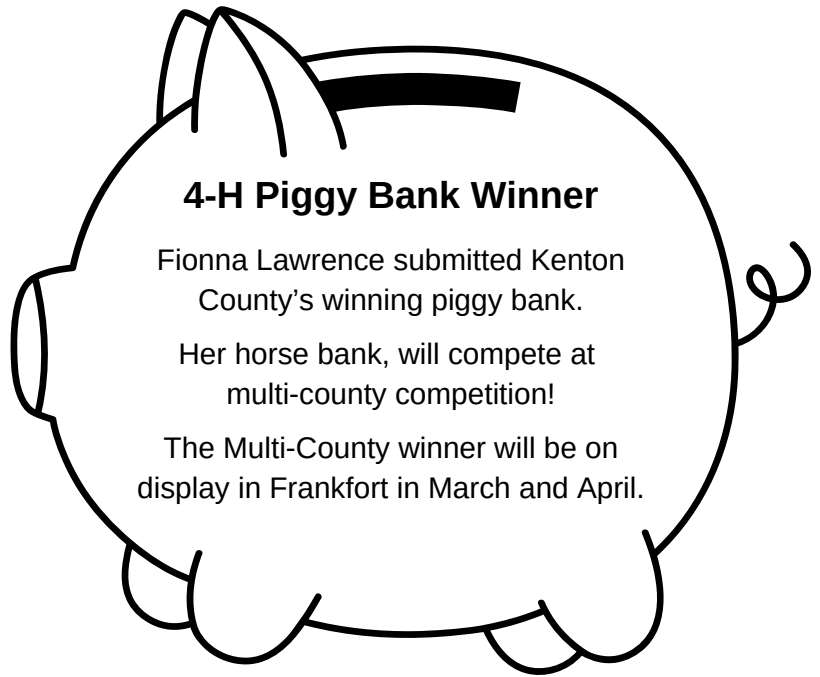
March 26, 2026 Communication Event
Registration 6pm, Start 6:30pm
Marshall Road

IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER????

Starting on February 1, 2026 only those that
completed the online registration for 4-H will
receive our newsletter.
Don't delay - register now!



Scan here to
register!



Sincerely,
County Extension Agents
4-H Youth Development Education - Kenton County

Lori Clark
Lori Clark
lori.clark@uky.edu

Anna Meyers
Anna Meyers
anna.meyers@uky.edu

Diane Kelley
Diane Kelley
diane.kelley@uky.edu

4-H Youth Development Assistants

Vanessa Sturgill
vanessa.sturgill@uky.edu

Haley Flack
haley.flack@uky.edu

Mary Cannon, Secretary
mary.cannon@uky.edu



Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.