GRAVES COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

June 2025



GRAVES COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE 4200 US HWY 45 MAYFIELD, KY 42066 (270)247-2334 GRAVES.EXT@UKY.EDU

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Agent Notes

June 2025





Happy June!

It was a very wet May and we are happy to see some sun and dry weather finally.

We have a busy summer here at the office and there are plenty of things to get involved in for all ages!

Coming up next week is our county fair and we are looking forward to seeing all of your exhibits. You can find information about the Farm & Garden Exhibits in the following pages. After Extension Night at the Fair on June 10th, the exhibits will move to our office for public viewing so make sure to stop and see how talented our Graves County folks are!

Keep flipping through to see what else is coming up over the next few months. We hope to see you this summer!

Miranda Budelph

Miranda Rudolph Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources Graves County miranda.rudolph@uky.edu | 270.247.2334 | 270.978.7052

Upcoming Events:

- June 10: Drop off Fair Exhibits 9-11am Fairgrounds, Expo 1
- June 13-14: Western Rivers Junior Livestock Expo
- June 21: Farmer's Market Grand Opening 10am
- July 8: Quail & Habitat Management 5:30pm GCEO
- July 25: Florals & Fizz 5:30pm GCEO

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

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Announcements

June 2025

QUAIL AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT: STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE POPULATIONS

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025 5:30 PM GRAVES COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE RSVP: 270-247-2334

Join us as Riley Dollenbacher, Kentucky Fish & Wildlife, explores the ecology of quail species, with a focus on their habitat requirements and the factors influencing population dynamics. This program highlights the challenges facing quail populations, including habitat loss, land-use changes, and predation. Emphasis is placed on effective habitat management practices—such as prescribed burning, native vegetation restoration, and sustainable agricultural integration—that support quail conservation. Attendees will gain practical insights into designing, implementing, and monitoring habitat management strategies that promote long-term viability of quail populations across diverse landscapes.

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R Cooperative Extension Service

Florals & Rizz

Friday, July 25 5:30-8:00 pm Graves County Extension \$30

Come celebrate Kentucky Cut Flower Month with us! Enjoy snacks and a soda bar while Dakota Moore, Kentucky Horticulture Council, teaches about Kentucky flowers and principles of floral design. Each participant will create their own bouquet of 100% Kentucky grown flowers! Class is limited to 20 participants!

K Cooperative Extension Service

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Announcements

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EXTENSION EXHIBITS

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VEGETABLES SORGHUM

HONEY

EGGS

FRUITS

PLANTS

FLOWERS

LOCATION

GRAVES COUNTY

FAIRGROUNDS

June 2025



Cooperative Extension Service

Rules and Regulations:

- All exhibits must be entered between 9:00a.m. and 11:00a.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2024.
- No entries will be accepted after judging starts. 2
- All entries must be removed between 10:00a.m. and 12:00p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2024. 3
- All entries must be grown by the exhibitor. 4
- 5 No more than 2 entries may be made in the same class, by the same exhibitor. Entries will be ranked by quality, condition, display, and description 6

The judge's decisions are final.

Each entry needs to arrive and be presented as described. Entries should be labeled with the class, scientific name, and the variety (ex. 8 Zinnia, Zinnia elegans, Bernays Giant), Field, Seed, & Grain

> Hay/Straw 6. Best Bale Alfalfa Hay (1/4 bale)

7. Best Bale Red Clover Hay (1/4 bale)

10. Best Bale Wheat Straw (1/4 bale)

Fruits & Vegetables

Beans & Peas

24 Pods or 1 Pint Shelled

27. Best Plate of Shelled Beans (any variety)

8. Best Bale Mixed Hay (1/4 bale)

9. Best Bale Grass Hay (1/4 bale)

25. Best Plate of Lima Beans

26. Best Plate of Green Beans

28. Best Plate of Peas (pods)

29. Best Plate of Shelled Peas

30. Best Pint of Shelled Beans

31. Best Pint of Shelled Peas

Grains

1. Best Ouart of Yellow Corn 2 Rest Quart of White Corn 3. Best Ear of Corn (any variety) 4 Rest Quart of Wheat 5. Best Quart of Soybeans

Fruits & Nuts

17. Best Pint of Strawberries 18. Best Pint of Blackberries 19. Best Pint of Raspberries 20. Best Pint of Blueberries 21. Best Plate of 3Apples 22. Best Plate of 3 Plums 23. Best Plate of 3 Pears 24. Best Plate of 3 Misc. Nuts

Root Crops

5 per Plate 43. Best Plate of Potatoes

47. Best Plate of Sweet Potatoes

58. Best Pint Light with Comb

61. Best Pint Sorghum Syrup

59. Best Pint Amber with Comb 60. Best Pint without Comb

45 Best Plate of Radishes

46. Best Plate of Carrots

44. Best Plate of Onions

Honey

48. Best Plate of Head Lettuce 49. Best Plate of Leaf Lettuce 50. Best Plate of Mustard Green

51. Best Plate of Spinach 52. Best Head of Cabbage (one head)

Leaf Crops

3 Bunches/Heads per Plate unless

noted

Tobacco

11. Dark Fired - Best Plant 12. Burley - Best Plant 13. Heavy Brown Leaf (BF) 14. Heavy Dark Leaf (BD) 15. Thin Brown Leaf 16. Best Twist

Fruiting Vegetables 3 per Plate

32. Best Plate of Slicer Tomatoes 33. Best Plate of Cherry Tomatoes 34. Best Plate of Other Color Tomatoes 35. Largest Tomato 36. Best Plate of Sweet Peppers 37. Best Plate of Hot Peppers 38. Best Plate of Bell Peppers 39. Best Plate of Squash 40. Best Plate of Pickling Cucumbers 41 Best Plate of Slicer Cucumbers 42. Best Plate of Okra

Miscellaneous

53. Best Head of Brocolli 54. Best Head of Cauliflower 55. Best Plate of 5 Asparagus Spears 56. Best Herb Display 57. Best Dozen Eggs

TUESDAY, JUNE 10 9:00 - 11:00 AM EXPO 1 1004 KY-121 MAYFIELD, KY 42066

*premium money will be mailed within two weeks

printed rules are available at the Graves County Extension Office or find them online http://graves.ca.uky.edu



Additional Rules for Floral Exhibitors:

62. Zinnia

64. Coleus

ENTRY CHECK IN

1. All exhibits must be fresh and grown by the exhibitor.

- 2. All specimens should be labeled as specifically as possible (Scientific, Common, Varieity/Cultivar).
- 3. Water and containers/display materials are to be supplied by the exhibitor.

FIELD

SEED

GRAIN

Cut Flowers **Floral Arrangments** Single Stem 76. Dahlias 63. Hydrangea 65. Marigold 66. Sunflower 67. Geranium 68. Echinacea (Cone Flower) 69. Rudbeckia (Black-Eye Susan) 70. Monarda (Bee Balm)

- 71. Hybrid Tea Rose 72. Floribunda Rose
- 73. Grandiflora Rose
- 74. Shrub/Landscape Rose 75. Other Cut Flower
- 77. Gladiolas 78. Marigolds 79. Petunias 80, Rose Arrangement 81. Wildflowers 82. Zinnia Arrangement 83. All One Color Arrangement 84. Miniature Design 85. Dried Design 86. Foliage Arrangment

Bulbs, Corms, Tubers

101. Gladiolas 702. Calla Lilly 103. Oriental Lily 104. Allium 105. Daylilly 706. Dahlia

87. African Violet
 Begonia
89. Petunia
90. Geranium
91. Orchid
92. Succulent/Cactus
93. Fern
94. Combination Pot- Flowering
95. Combination Pot- Succulent
96. Combination Pot- Foliage
97. Most Attractive
98. Most Unusual
99. Fairy Garden
100. Bonsai

GRAVES COUNTY EXTENSION PRESENTS

Extension Night at the Fairgrounds



Tuesday, June 10th at the Fairgrounds 5:00 - 7:00pm

See this year's Extension Exhibits in 4-H, Agriculture and Family Consumer Sciences along with the 4-H Poultry and Rabbit Shows!

An Equal Opportunity Organization

K Cooperative Extension Service



Graves County Agriculture & Natural Resources

ENTRY CHECK OUT

FRIDAY, JUNE 13 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

EXHIBITS WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT OUR OFFICE WED-FRI 8AM-4:30PM

Potted Plants

Announcements

June 2025







RAISED BED BLUEBERRY WORKSHOP

June 9th - 4:00-6:30pm EST UK Horticulture Research Farm

Join this free event to learn about a novel blueberry production system that is underutilized in Kentucky: a raised bed system that utilizes soilless substrates for blueberries as an alternative to in-ground production.

Scan the code above to register.

Crops

Corn Diseases Associated with Ponding

Source: Kiersten Wise, UK Extension Plant Pathologist

Recent rains and waterlogged soils have led to localized areas of ponding in emerged corn. Corn that is underwater briefly can recover but may be impacted by several diseases. Two minor diseases, crazy top and Physoderma brown spot may be problematic in areas where corn is underwater for 24-48 hours.

Crazy top is caused by a fungal-like organism called *Sclerophtora macrospora*. This pathogen survives in soil and infects young corn plants when there is excess rain or ponding in the spring. Crazy top symptoms are most often observed at tasseling when distorted and malformed tassels appear in areas that were ponded or saturated (Fig. 1). However, in some fields symptoms may be less diagnostic, and included stunting, tillering, thin, yellow leaves, and barren plants. More on crazy top can be found in the UK publication "Crazy Top of Corn".

Physoderma brown spot is caused by the fungus *Physoderma maydis* which also survives in soil and residue and infects corn plants when plants are ponded or excess water remains in the whorl. The symptoms typically appear in the late vegetative stages through pollination and are characterized by very small chocolate brown or yellow lesions on the leaves and midrib (Fig. 2). The lesions may appear in a banded pattern. The lesions can also be found on the stalk, leaf sheath, or ear husks. Read "Physoderma Brown Spot of Corn" for more information.

Crazy top and Physoderma brown spot rarely need management and are usually only problematic when water covers the whorl of the plant for short periods of time. Improving soil drainage and removing infected plants will reduce the disease risk for subsequent crops. Fungicides are labeled for Physoderma brown spot management, but symptoms are usually not severe enough to warrant preventative fungicide applications.



Figure 1. Classic symptoms of crazy top in corn.



Figure 2. Symptoms of Physoderma brown spot on leaves (Picture courtesy Kiersten Wise).

Timely Tips

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Spring-Calving Cow Herd

• Continue supplying a high magnesium mineral until daytime temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees F.

• Improve or maintain body condition (BCS 5) of cows before breeding season starts. If necessary, increase energy intake even on pasture.

• Bulls should have a breeding soundness evaluation (BSE) well before the breeding season (at least 30 days). Contact your local veterinarian to schedule a BSE for your herd sires. They should also receive their annual booster vaccinations and be dewormed. I often get questions regarding deworming and reduced fertility in bulls. Dr. Phil Prater at MSU and I examined this and found no effect of deworming on bull fertility.

• Schedule spring "turn-out "working in late-April or early-May, i.e. at the end of calving season and before the start of breeding season. Consult with your veterinarian about vaccines and health products for your herd.

"Turn-out" working for the cow herd may include:

- Prebreeding vaccinations
- Deworming Replacing lost identification tags
- Sort cows into breeding groups, if using more than one bull
- Insecticide eartags (best to wait until fly population builds up)

"Turn-out" working of calves may include

- -Vaccinate for IBR-PI3, Clostridial diseases and Pinkeye
 - Dehorn, if needed (can be done with electric dehorner and fly repellent during fly season)
 - Castrate and implant male feeder calves (if not done at birth)
 - Deworm
 - Insecticide eartags

• Consider breeding yearling replacement heifers one heat cycle (about 21 days) earlier than cows for "head-start" calving. Mate to known calving-ease bulls.

• Record identification of all cows and bulls in each breeding group.

• Begin breeding cows no later than mid-May, especially if they are on high endophyte fescue. Cows should be in good condition so that conception occurs prior to periods of extreme heat.

• Consider synchronizing estrus in all cows. Exposing late-calving cows and first-calf heifers to a progestin (MGA feed or CIDR device) for 7 days before bull turn out increases pregnancy rates and shortens the next calving season.

• Choose best pastures for grazing during the breeding season. Select those with the best stand of clover and the lowest level of the fescue endophyte, if known. Keep these pastures vegetative by grazing or clipping. High quality pastures are important for a successful breeding season.

Beef

Timely Tips Cont...

- If using artificial insemination:
 - Use an experienced inseminator.

- Make positive identification of cows and semen used. This will permit accurate records on date bred, return to heat, calving date and sire.

- Good handling facilities and gentle working of the cows are essential.

- Choose AI sires that will meet your goals and resist the temptation to get your cows bigger. Using sires with higher accuracy EPDs will reduce risk.

• Observe breeding pastures often to see if bulls are working. Records cows' heat dates and then check 18-21 days later, for return to heat.

Fall-Calving Herd

• Contact your veterinarian and pregnancy diagnose the cow herd. If a large animal veterinarian is not available in your area, consider taking blood samples for pregnancy diagnosis. Remove open cows at weaning time.

• Plan marketing program for calves. Consider various options, such as maintaining ownership and backgrounding in a grazing program, or precondition and sell in a CPH-45 feeder calf sale.

• Initiate fly control for the cows when fly population builds up.

• Calves may be weaned anytime now but you can take advantage of the spring grass by leaving them on the cow a while or weaning and grazing.

Stockers

• Keep calves on good pasture and rotate pastures rapidly during periods of lush growth. Manage to keep pastures vegetative for best performance.

- Provide mineral mix with an ionophore.
- Implant as needed.
- Control internal and external parasites.

General

• Harvest hay. Work around the weather and cut early before plants become too mature. Harvesting forage early is the key to nutritional quality. Replenish your hay supply!

- Rotate pastures as needed to keep them vegetative.
- Clip pastures to prevent seedhead formation on fescue and to control weeds.
- Seed warm season grasses this month



June 2025

Horticulture

Container Gardening Can Turn Small Spaces Into Great Gardens Source: Rick Durham, Department of Horticulture Professor

Container gardening turns even the smallest balcony or stoop into a pocket-sized farm. If you rent an apartment, battle heavy clay soil, or just prefer vegetables closer to the kitchen door, planting in pots lets you sidestep many headaches that come with traditional plots. The method also works for those with limited mobility as containers can sit on a sturdy table or a rolling platform, bringing those veggies up where bending and kneeling are not required.

Pots let you match each crop to its favorite microclimate. A lettuce tub can chill in afternoon shade, while an eggplant basks beside a sun-soaked brick wall that stores extra heat. Moving crops from ground to container now and then even plays a role in crop rotation; shifting soil out of the disease cycle keeps problems such as wilt or root rot from getting a foothold.

Almost any vegetable will grow this way, yet leafy greens, herbs, bush beans, peppers, and cherry tomatoes shine. Plant breeders have created compact "patio" versions that load fruit on short stems. One large pot can hold a cherry tomato, another supports a dwarf pepper, and a shallow tray brims with spinach. Remember that every plant sharing a container must enjoy the same amount of sunlight and moisture, or one partner will suffer.

The container itself matters less than drainage, volume, and weight. Clay and wooden pots breathe, so roots rarely drown, though you'll water more often on hot days. Plastic, metal, or glazed ceramic hang onto moisture longer, which is handy during vacations but demands restraint with the hose. No matter the material, drill or punch several quarter-inch holes near the bottom and raise the base on bricks or pot feet so extra water can escape. Dark, pint-sized pots heat up fast; keep them out of relentless sun unless you're growing chilies that adore warm roots.

Fill your vessel with fresh soilless mix, not ground soil. The bagged blend of peat or coir, vermiculite, and compost stays light, resists compaction, and comes free of weeds. Moisten it the day before planting; dry peat sloughs off water at first, so give it time to drink. Mix a slow-release fertilizer into the top few inches or plan to feed weekly with a half-strength liquid fertilizer once seedlings sport their second set of leaves. Tall or vining crops need backup from the start. Slide a tomato cage, bamboo stakes, or a small trellis into place at planting so roots remain undisturbed later. On a windy balcony, lash cages to the railing or slip the container inside a larger, heavier planter for ballast.

Horticulture

Container Gardening Cont...

Check moisture by sticking a finger two knuckles deep; water only when the mix feels dry. Soak until you see water run from the holes, then empty saucers so roots don't sit in a swamp. During blistering weather, move pots to temporary shade or cluster them together where foliage casts mutual cover.

When lettuce bolts or beans finish, pull the spent plants, toss the used mix onto a compost heap or garden bed, scrub the container with a 10% bleach solution, and start planning the next round. With a small stash of pots, fresh mix, and a bit of attention, you'll harvest salads, salsas, and stir-fry ingredients right outside the back door—no backyard required.

Contact your local Graves County Extension office for more information on creating great container gardens.



Weather Notes

June 2025



Spring Tornado Safety

By Christine Aiena - National Weather Service, Wilmington, Ohio



Did you know that the United States experiences more tornadoes annually than any other country in the world? On average, 1,200 tornadoes occur each year in the United States. Additionally, tornadoes can occur and have been reported in all 50 states!

Most tornadoes have damage paths under one mile in length and wind speeds less than 100 MPH, however, sometimes tornadoes do become large and especially violent, with wind speeds approaching 200 MPH and damage paths tens of miles. The Tri-State tornado in March of 1925 holds the record not only for longest path (roughly 243 miles), but also for most deaths, with 695 fatalities. This tornado moved through Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana producing extreme damage.

Springtime is typically considered "peak tornado season." And while the majority of tornadoes are reported between 3PM and 10PM, it is important to remember that tornadoes can occur at any time of year, and any time of the day, daytime or night! Nighttime tornadoes are particularly dangerous, as they are difficult to see and most people are sleeping.

What can you do to plan for a tornado in your area? How can you stay safe?

Before a Tornado:

- Talk about severe weather and tornadoes with your family. Develop and practice a family emergency plan that includes a predetermined place to take shelter during a tornado (basements are the best option, followed by interior rooms with no windows) as well as a location to meet after a disaster, if your family happens to get separated. Don't forget pets!
- When a Tornado Watch is issued, practice your emergency plan and check your safety supplies.
- Increase your situational awareness by monitoring the weather, including listening to a NOAA Weather Radio.
- Learn the signs of a tornado: a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud, debris falling, large hail, or a loud roar like a freight train.
- Flying debris can pose a great danger during tornadoes, so store protective coverings like helmets, sleeping bags, or thick blankets in or near your shelter space.
- If you are in a mobile/manufactured home: GET OUT! Go to a neighbor's house, underground shelter, or a nearby permanent structure. Most tornadoes can destroy even tied-down mobile/manufactured homes.

During a Tornado:

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- If a Tornado Warning is issued for your area or you see a tornado, get to your safe space immediately!!! If you have a bicycle helmet, put it on to protect your head and neck.
 - In a building with a basement: Avoid windows and try to get under some type of sturdy object, like a heavy table or workbench. Bathtubs can also offer partial protection. Cover yourself with a thick blanket, sleeping bag, or mattress. Crouch as low to the floor as possible, facing down. Know where heavy objects typically

Weather Notes

rest on the floor above you (refrigerators, dressers, etc) as these may fall through a weakened floor and crush you.

- In a building without a basement: Avoid windows, go to the lowest floor available, and get into a small interior room (like a bathroom or closet), under a stairwell, or an interior hallway. Cover yourself with a thick blanket, sleeping bag, or mattress to protect yourself against fall or flying debris.
- In a vehicle: Vehicles can be easily tossed and destroyed, so the best course of action is to either leave the vehicle for a sturdy shelter or, if the tornado is still distant, drive out of the tornado's path. However, if you're in a traffic jam and/or the tornado is bearing down on you at close range, park your vehicle on the side of the road, keep your seatbelt on, put your head down below the windshield and cover your head with a blanket, coat, or cushion. If you can safely get to an area notably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your vehicle and lie in that area. AVOID going under bridges or overpasses.
- In the open outdoors or in a buggy: Find the lowest ground possible, then lie flat and facedown in that area, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees, cars, or other large objects as possible.

After a Tornado:

- Remain calm, alert, and keep your family together while waiting for instructions from authorities.
- Render what aid you can to anyone that is injured.
- Watch your step! Broken nails, glass, and other sharp objects may be on the ground.
- Do not enter heavily damaged homes or buildings, as they may not be structurally sound.
- Do not use matches or lighters, as there might be leaking natural gas pipes or fuel tanks nearby.



An interior room left standing in Miami County, OH after an EF3 tornado. Image courtesy from a National Weather Service Damage Survey.

Recipes

June 2025



Red Potato Salad

6 medium red potatoes cut into 1½ inch pieces 4 cups fresh green beans cut into 1½ inch pieces 1 small red onion, chopped

 Wash vegetables in warm water.
 Boil potatoes until tender and drain.
 Boil green beans until tender crisp and drain.
 Place the potatoes and green beans in a bowl.
 Add chopped red onions, peppers and tomatoes.

 In a small bowl, mix mayonnaise, red wine vinegar and chopped 1 red bell pepper, chopped 1 yellow bell pepper, chopped 1 cup chopped cherry tomatoes

oregano. 7. Add to potato mixture and mix lightly. 8. Season with salt and pepper. Mix well. Serve cold.

Yield: 16, 1/2 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 140 calories, 1.5 g fat, 0 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 35 mg sodium, 26 g carbohydrate, 6 g fiber, 3 g sugar, 5 g protein.

1/4 cup mayonnaise 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar 2 teaspoons fresh oregano Salt and pepper

> Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.



Kentucky Potatoes

Graves County Agriculture & Natural Resources

SEASON: Late June-October.

NUTRITION FACTS: Potatoes are a good source of vitamins B and C, potassium, and complex carbohydrates. They do not contain fat, cholesterol, or sodium. There is only 70 calories in a ½ cup serving of cooked potato. Most nutrients are located just below the skin, so avoid peeling when possible.

SELECTION: Select firm potatoes free from wrinkles, green spots, or bruises. New potatoes are immature potatoes of any variety. They are creamy, thin-skinned, and small enough to serve whole. New potatoes are best in dishes that call for boiled potatoes as they will hold their shape. For baking, frying, and mashing, choose drier varieties. washed and scrubbed before cooking. Any sprouts or eyes should be cut out. Common methods of preparation include boiling, baking, microwaving,

mashing, frying and grilling.

STORAGE: Potatoes should be kept in a cool,

dark, well ventilated place. Do not store in the

PREPARATION: Potatoes should be thoroughly

POTATOES

refrigerator.

Kentucky Proud Project County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences University of Kentucky, Dietatics and Human Nutrition students March 2013

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Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

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Recipes

June 2025



University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service







This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was partially funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP.



This work is supported by the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



Game-Stuffed Peppers

- 6 medium bell peppers
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced, or 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound ground venison, elk, or beef
- 1 tablespoon salt-free herb blend
- 1 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 15-ounce can no-salt-
- added tomato sauce
- 1 cup cooked rice
- 4 ounces Monterey Jack Cheese, shredded
- 1. Wash hands with warm water and soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds, especially after handling raw meat.
- 2. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

- **3.** Gently scrub peppers with a clean vegetable brush under cool running water.
- 4. Cut off curved top of pepper. Remove stem only and throw away. Dice remaining part of pepper top.
- 5. Scoop out and discard seeds and pith from bottom part of each pepper. Preheat a 12-inch cast iron skillet over medium heat.
- 6. Add olive oil to the skillet. Sauté the diced pepper and onion for 3 to 5 minutes, until they begin to soften. Add ground venison, garlic, salt-free herb blend, pepper, and oregano. Cook 3 to 5 minutes longer. Stir often.
- 7. Add the tomato sauce and rice to the skillet. Stir to combine.

- Fill peppers with rice and meat mixture. Top with shredded cheese.
- **9.** Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, or until peppers are soft and cheese is melted.
- **10.** Serve immediately. Store leftovers in the refrigerator within 2 hours.
- Yield: 6 servings Serving Size: 1 stuffed pepper
- Nutrition facts per serving: 280 calories; 9g total fat; 3.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 75mg cholesterol; 380mg sodium; 25g carbohydrate; 4g dietary fiber; 9g total sugars; 0g added sugar; 26g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 15% Daily Value of calcium; 30% daily value of iron; 6% Daily Value of potassium.