

The Lafayette Homestead



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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Welcome to Issue 3

The Lafayette Homestead newsletter will strive to provide a variety of information relevant to the small holder. Some of the articles may be stand alone, while some may be part of a larger series. If there are any particular topics anyone would like addressed in the future, feel free to contact our office and we will try to work them in. Thank you for your support!

Amanda Greer

Cooperative Extension Agent – Agriculture

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Weeder Geese

Geese used to be used as a weed control option because they will eat weeds without harming some cultivated plants. They were most frequently used in strawberries, corn, cotton, some truck crops, orchards, ornamentals, and vineyards. Geese are fond of grass. They were used in the early season when grass and weeds first appeared. If used in fruit crops they were removed before the fruit ripened so they did not eat it. In corn, they were placed after the last cultivation because they would eat young corn seedlings. In crops, 2-4 geese per acre were sufficient in spring. More were required when plantings are in beds or if vegetation was heavy or thick. The breeds used were usually white Chinese or Africans. There was also an old heritage line known as the cotton patch goose that is now listed as an endangered breed.

Best results were obtained by placing 6-8 week old goslings in the area in which they were to work and providing them shade and a water source in the area. High fences were not needed. Poultry netting around 24-30 inches in height was generally sufficient in areas where fencing was desired. They were fed a light amount of feed grain at night but not so much that they wouldn't feed on the forage. Amount of supplemental feed, growing pellets, or grain depended on the amount of wild forage available to them.

Insecticides are harmful to geese so they would be removed from the field if insecticides were necessary. Length of time varies depending upon the insecticide used. Always read your chemical label.

Sometimes after being used for weeding, the geese were brought in from the field and fattened up to be butchered or sold for butcher.

Fall Poultry Reminders

1. Inspect your watering systems and make sure all pipes are insulated against freezing. Repair leaky waterers. Make sure you have a way to keep waterers from freezing in the winter months.
2. Although it is good to have a nice insulated chicken coop, be sure there is adequate ventilation. Inspect your lighting and/or heating and make sure it is safe and in order.
3. If you think your flock needs worming, do so now before winter stress.
4. Rats and mice may try to infiltrate your chicken yard and coop during the fall and winter. Check for holes and places where they may enter. Control with appropriate methods as needed.
5. Practice biosecurity around your flock. Protect them from respiratory diseases which are prevalent fall and winter.
6. Check and make sure there is plenty of bedding material before winter hits.



Plan Ahead: Black Walnuts for home use

Although you can forage the woods for black walnuts, consider growing these at home.

You can start your walnut tree from native seed, consider planting trees of improved varieties. Improved varieties can begin bearing nuts as quickly as 2-3 years, while native trees may take up to 10 years.

Improved varieties also have thinner shells than the natives.

Plant them in early spring on fertile, well-drained soil or here in the south, you may plant them even in the fall or winter. Oftentimes fall planted trees of any kind do well in our area. They do not do well on bottomland or clay. For the best possible nut production, plant two or more varieties. Black walnuts will bear heavier crops every other year. They should be spaced at least 60 ft apart. For trees up to 7 ft tall, dig your hole 2 ft deep and 3 ft wide. Plant the tree the same depth as it was in the pot. Spread out the roots best you can and refill with topsoil. Water in.

Provide sufficient moisture and nutrients. They do not like saturated soil so do not overwater. Apply fertilizer according to soil test. An average rule of thumb is to apply ½ lb of 10-10-10 for each year of tree age. Do not however apply fertilizer right after planting to avoid root damage.

Control insects and disease. One of the main diseases of walnut can be walnut anthracnose. Some varieties are more resistant than others. Keep a 4 ft area around the tree free off weeds. Commonly found insects in walnut can be the culculio, husk maggot, walnut caterpillar, and webworm. Keep a watch for tree pests and apply appropriate control methods as needed according to label instructions.



Upcoming events/notifications:

4-H Fall Festival- 4-H Center @ Ferndale, AR October 29

Complete Beekeeping Short Course @ Texarkana- November 7, 14, & 21 2016

Complete Beekeeping Short Course @ DeQueen - October 9, 16 & 23 2017

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your (insert appropriate office) as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

Looking for a food project for the off-season – See the attached fact sheet on growing Shiitake Mushrooms!



PROTECT YOURSELF **BEFORE** A WINTER STORM

Plan now to be able to stay where you are when a storm hits. If you are not at home when the storm starts, you may need to stay where you are until the roads are safe. This means having basic supplies of food and water in several locations, including your workplace, vehicle, and, if possible, other places where you and members of your household regularly spend time (e.g., house of worship, community center, and school).

ASSEMBLING EMERGENCY SUPPLIES You may be without power and heat for several days. Have a family discussion; think through what three days without power, water, or heat would feel like. Gather the basic supplies your family would need if grocery stores and other services are unavailable; if power, water, and gas is interrupted; or if you cannot leave your home. Be sure to review your emergency supplies every fall. Basic emergency supplies should include the following, most of which you probably already have in your home.

***WATER** – Ensure you have at least 1 gallon of water per person per day for at least 3 days. (Store a longer than 3-day supply of water, if possible). An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of fluid daily. Individual needs vary depending on age, gender, health, level of activity, food choices, and climate. You may also need stored water for food preparation.

***FOOD** – Store at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food for members of your household, including pets. Consider special dietary needs (e.g., infant formula). Include a non-electric can opener for canned food

***FLASHLIGHT, RADIO, and CELL PHONE CHARGER** – You will need to be able to charge these items without electricity. Your flashlight and radio should be either hand-cranked or battery-powered, and stored with extra batteries. Your cell phone charger should be hand-crank, solar, or able to be charged from a car outlet.

***MEDICAL** – Include first aid kit, prescription and non-prescription/over-the-counter medications, and medical supplies.

***SANITATION** – Pack supplies for sanitation, such as hand sanitizer, towelettes, paper products, diapers, and plastic bags, for use when water resources are limited.

*ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY – Include battery backup power for power-dependent mobility devices, oxygen, and other assistive technology needs.


*EXTRA CLOTHING, BLANKETS, and SLEEPING BAGS – Dress in layers to keep warm if you lose power. Ensure you have enough clothing, hats, mittens, and blankets or sleeping bags for everyone in the house.

*ITEMS FOR SNOW AND ICE – Stock up on rock salt to melt ice on walkways or sand or kitty litter to improve traction and snow shovels or other snow removal equipment.

*WOOD – Store a supply of dry, seasoned wood if you have a working fireplace or wood-burning stove with a safe flue or vent. It is important to consider the unique needs of your family, including access and functional needs, and the needs of children and pets. You may need to include: extra water; special food, such as infant formula or pet food; and supplies or equipment, such as diapers, glasses, or medical equipment.

For more information see the complete PDF on Planning For Winter Storms available at:

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1408633655071-32caae446efef4ab2f4fccdb55f725c/PrepareAthon_WINTER%20STORMS_HTG_FINAL_508.pdf

 **Fall Tip: If you use an alternative heating source or woodburning stove, now is the time to get it cleaned and checked. Make sure to get a professional to clean your chimney before first winter's use.**



Food Planning:

Foods That Require No Cooking

“I’m hungry.” But what do you do when there’s no power for cooking? You may be surprised at the variety of foods that can be prepared even if there is no gas or electricity for cooking. Here’s a list of foods that require no cooking.

Breakfast

- Fruit or canned juice
- Ready-to-eat cereals or breakfast bars
- Breads or crackers with jams, jellies, margarine, peanut butter, cheese, or cheese spreads
- Milk (canned, evaporated or reconstituted powdered milk, which may also be used in coffee or tea)*
- Instant coffee, tea, or cocoa (if tap water is hot enough)

Lunch or Supper

- Processed cheese or cheese spreads*
- Canned vegetables*
- Peanut butter
- Canned meats, fish, poultry*
- Canned beans (baked beans, kidney beans, garbanzo beans, etc.)*
- Raw vegetables, such as carrots, celery, etc.
- Fruits (canned or fresh)
- Bread, crackers, cookies
- Canned puddings*

Snacks

Fruits (fresh, canned, dried), milk,* juices, cheeses,* ready-to-eat cereals, nuts and seeds, fruit leathers, crackers, cookies, raw vegetables, raisins, hard candy, granola bars, beef jerky

* These foods must be refrigerated after opening. You will have to eat it all in one sitting.

via North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service



Rural living has its share of wildlife encounters. When you or your dog has had a run in with a skunk, the odor can persist. Here are some options to try:

Homemade Solution

If a person or pet is sprayed, take action quickly to remove the odor. If spray enters the eyes causing irritation or temporary blindness, first flush the eyes with cold water. Then apply the following homemade remedy, which was first reported by chemist Paul Krebaum of Lisle, Illinois, for use on pets.

- One quart of fresh, 3 percent hydrogen peroxide solution (use fresh, old hydrogen peroxide turns into water)
- ¼ cup of baking soda (bicarbonate of soda)
- 1 or 2 teaspoons of liquid dishwashing soap that is known for its degreasing qualities, or liquid laundry soap

The first two ingredients form an alkaline peroxide that chemically changes the musk into sulfonic acid, an odorless chemical. The soap breaks down the oily skunk essence and makes it more susceptible to the chemicals. The mixture must be used after mixing and cannot be stored. Although the chemicals in this formula are harmless, be cautious and keep away from the eyes, nose and mouth of people and pets. Do not use on clothing – it may discolor the fabric. Always mix this solution in a large, open container. Do not put in a closed container or store because it may explode. The mixture will bubble because of the chemical interaction. Use the entire mixture while it is still bubbling. Wear rubber gloves, apply the solution, work it into a lather and leave it on for 5 minutes or longer until the bubbling ceases. Make sure to remove jewelry, as skin may be sensitive to the chemical reaction with metal. When washing a dog, wash the body first and then the head to keep the dog from shaking off the mixture. If odor still remains, repeat two or three times. Then treat with normal shampoo. Do not use heat, such as a hair dryer, as this can cause the remaining skunk oil to set in on hair, fur or skin. People can take a shower between treatments to further remove the odor.

Clothing Treatments

Clothing can be soaked in a weak solution of chlorine bleach (10 percent bleach, 90 percent water), ammonia or vinegar then washed in a strong soap, a heavy-duty laundry detergent or borax. Note that these products may lead to staining or discoloration, so check the label on your clothing. Test cleansers first on an inconspicuous portion of the fabric before applying to the entire item. Use cleaning fluids and household chlorine bleach in separate steps – not together. (Chlorine bleach mixed with other liquids or airborne with other chemicals may result in toxic fumes.) Customers report using Neutrolem Alpha® on washable items at a rate of one ounce per two gallons of warm water. Air-drying clothing for an extended length of time will eventually remove the odor. For clothing that cannot be washed or dry-cleaned, hang items outdoors in fresh air. The odor will decrease over time. If clothing has been heavily sprayed, the best option may be to discard or burn it, because the fabric will hold the odor a long time.

(Neutrolem Alpha® masks skunk odor with a “minty” smell. It can be used directly on surfaces or as an air deodorizer by suspending napkins dipped in Neutrolem Alpha®. This product has toxic and irritating properties, so use caution. Use in well-ventilated areas, and wear chemically resistant gloves when mixing the solution in warm water. Read and follow label directions. Use only freshly made solution, and dispose of the leftover product. Store in a cool, dark environment to prevent fire hazards. Neutrolem Alpha® can be ordered from online stores or at the Pocatello Supply Depot (U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services) in Idaho (208-236-6920).)

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