

**FLOYD COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE**

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# AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

**November 2024**



**Chad Allen**

County Extension Agent for  
Agriculture & Natural Resources



## UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

November 5	Election Day Holiday-Extension Office Closed
November 12	Floyd County Beekeepers Association meeting – Extension Office – 6:00PM
November 19	Will & Heirship Clinic – Extension Office – 1-6:00 PM (Walk-ins are Welcome)
November 21	Farmers Market Meeting– Extension Office– 6:00 PM
November 26	Mountain Cattleman Fall Meeting– Jackson, Ky 5:30 PM
Nov. 28-29	Official Holiday—Thanksgiving EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSED
December 5	Floyd County Beekeepers Association Meeting Extension Office 6:00pm
December 12	County Extension Council & District Board Meetings—Extension Office 5:30pm

*Other programs will be announced at a later time.*

*The UK Cooperative Extension Service-Floyd County and it's staff are here to help. Stop by or contact us for assistance.*

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**REMINDER !!** November 19th is the Will & Heirship Clinic at the Floyd Co. Extension Office. There are still a few spots available for scheduled times. May accept walk-ins if no available times can be scheduled. There is a QR code attached to the flyer. For any questions, contact the Extension Office.

### Cooperative Extension Service

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

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

## What to Do In November & December

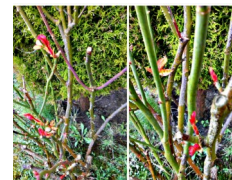
These are a few suggestions that may help you and your plants during this time. I will divide the suggestion into groups, so you can refer to them.

### Herbaceous plants

- \*Geranium, coleus, Impatiens, and other plants do best when stem cuttings are rooted and kept in pots indoors through the winter. Be sure to place pots where they receive plenty of light.
- \*This is a good time to start gathering information on plants for next year's growing season. Knowledge will increase your chances of having a better garden, next year.

### Woody Ornamentals

- \*Place rooted cuttings of woody plants in the cold frame if you have one available. Unless frost threatens, ventilate frames freely to harden young plants in preparation for winter.
- \*Wait until deciduous trees and shrubs begin to drop their leaves before fertilizing them. This signals dormancy when no new growth will be stimulated. Nutrients will be taken up and used by the plants to develop a strong root system.
- \*After a killing frost, long vigorous shoots of roses may be cut back to 18 to 20 inches to prevent loosening of roots and decrease the susceptible to winter injury. Mound the canes with 8 inches of loose, compost-rich soil for winter protection; remember to remove winter damage before new growth in the spring.
- \*Cut away suckers from the base of lilacs, forsythia, serviceberry, crabapples, dogwoods, and crape myrtle.
- \*If rains become scarce, water landscape trees and shrubs thoroughly once every week until the ground freezes.
- \*Inspect trees and shrubs for bagworm capsules and silvery egg masses of tent caterpillars. Remove and destroy them to reduce next year's pest population.



### Lawns



- \*Apply fertilizer with rotary spreader. A soil test could be useful.
- \*Do not retire the lawn mower when the growth of your lawn slows down this fall. If the grass continues to grow, it should be mowed.
- \*Do not allow leaves to accumulate on the lawn. If leaves accumulate on your lawn and become matted down by rain, they may kill the grass. Rake them up regularly, and store in a pile for use as mulch in your garden next summer.

### Fruits

- \*Keep the weeds away from small fruits and trees. It helps the plants in many ways, mainly discouraging rodents.
- \*Examine the soil around the base of the trees for depressions, which can trap water in the root zone. The ideal topography is soil sloping away from the trunk so the water will drain off.
- \*Tree guards may be considered to discourage rabbits. They should be large enough in diameter to allow for growth and 18 inches high. \*Some mulching may be considered to prevent winter damage.



*Continued on page 3....*

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### Indoor plants

- \*Amaryllis bulbs may not bloom if they are in too large a pot. There should be no more than one inch of space on each side of the bulb.
- \*African violets do well when potted in rather small pots. Encourage them to bloom by giving them plenty of light.
- \*Remember cacti go dormant during the winter, so be sure to keep them cool (around 50F) and withhold water until they show signs of growth in spring.
- \*Remember, some indoor plants require more sunlight than others, arrange them accordingly.
- \*Be aware of how temperature and humidity can affect your houseplants.



### Vegetables

- \*Dead stalks of perennial vegetables, such as asparagus and rhubarb, should be cut to the ground after their tops are killed by frost.



### Other items

- \*Keep the compost heap moist to aid in the decay process. Turn the pile to mix in all late fall additions. Add fertilizer residues from nearly empty bags onto the pile and mix.

\*Additional information on garden topics can be obtained from the Floyd Co. Extension Office.

## Planting Bulbs This Fall

Fall is the time to think about all those flowers we associate with spring: daffodils, crocus, and other easy-to-grow flowering bulbs. If you are not growing any spring-flowering bulbs in your landscape, you are missing out on some easy-to-grow plants that provide early color to your garden.



These bulbs are planted in fall because it corresponds to the end of their natural dormancy. Most of these plants begin root growth in fall, followed by a cool stratification period necessary for proper flower development and then shoot growth in late winter and early spring.



No matter which bulbs you select, remember that the largest bulbs will produce the greatest show next spring. However, smaller bulbs will still produce some flowers, and these may be the best choice for mass planting or naturalizing. Avoid any bulbs that feel lightweight as these may have severely dried during storage.

It is important to plant flowering bulbs at the proper depth, so inquire about plant depth at the nursery or follow the label directions. A light application of bone meal fertilizer at planting is often recommended, though probably not necessary. Most bulbs do not need fertilization until growth emerges in the spring. When you see plants emerging, apply 1 to 2 pounds per 100 square feet of a complete fertilizer (like 10-10-10).

Once flowering occurs, remove the faded blooms, but do not remove the foliage. The leaves produce sugars and other compounds necessary for the bulb to overwinter and bloom again the next spring. Most bulbs will enter dormancy in late spring or early summer and will renew growth, starting with the root system in the fall.

## Types of Firewood

Winter will soon be upon us and some people are thinking about starting a nice warm fire to add a little extra heat. One question that is often asked is “What type of wood should I be using?”. Well, my response would be a good seasoned hardwood. Almost any type of hardwood will do the job; however, having seasoned wood is the most important thing. Well-seasoned wood means the wood is dry. Most wood should be cut, split, stacked, and properly stored for 6 to 12 months before being used. If wet wood is burned, most of the heat is used to dry the wood, thus giving off little heat to the home.



One way to tell if you are purchasing seasoned wood is look for a weathered appearance with gray color and large splits at the ends of the logs.

Most people really want to know what species of hardwood they should be burning. Well, you should be interested in the heat content of some of the species. Heat content is measured by the wood’s density. Species like oaks, hickory, or beech are much denser than softer species like yellow poplar and ash. So, more dense woods will burn longer and give off more heat than less dense woods. However, it is good to have some of the less dense woods because they are good for starting fires.

*For more information about firewood, contact me at the Floyd County Extension Office.*

## Use Horticultural Oils this Winter to Control Spring and Summer Pests

Winter probably does not seem like the right time to eliminate pests that will take advantage of your landscape plants next spring. But we need to remember that many problem pests will spend the winter on or near the plants they want to munch on when the weather turns warmer.

One way to get an early handle on problem pests is to use horticultural oils specially formulated for pest control. Horticultural oils suffocate overwintering pests like scale, aphids, and certain mites.

These oils are used as a more natural substitute for a traditional insecticide. They are an effective chemical control with minimal environmental impact and usually have little effect on beneficial insects and wildlife. Plus, horticultural oils are safe to humans, do not have an objectionable odor and usually are inexpensive compared to many other insecticides.

By using horticultural oils on pests in the overwintering stage, you can avoid a potential outbreak later. This can save time because you might not need treatments in the early spring, or at least need fewer applications.

We do offer some words of caution. Do not apply a horticultural oil during temperature extremes, especially if the temperature is forecast to drop below 40 degrees F the day before or after application. If you wait until later in the year to use a horticultural oil, don’t apply it if the temperature could rise above 90 degrees F. Trees and plants are more sensitive to injury from a horticultural oil under extreme heat or cold.

As with all chemicals, read and follow the label directions. Also, be sure the product is labeled for the plants to which you are applying it.

Thorough spray coverage is key to an effective application because horticultural oils only work by contacting and covering the target pests. For best results, use high-volume sprays combined with proper pruning practices to allow thorough plant penetration of the spray material.

Proper timing is critical for successfully applying these oils. You should apply them before leaves or flowers show signs of breaking dormancy—before bud break. It usually is in late March or early April but might vary by two weeks or more depending on weather conditions. Wait until as close to bud break as possible before applying horticultural oil sprays.

*The source of this article was Rick Durham, UK Horticulture Specialist. For more information on this or related topics, contact me at the UK Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office.*



## Follow These Fire Safety Points for Fireplaces, Wood Burning Stoves



Before heating season, check your fireplace chimney and wood burning stove pipes and chimney for creosote accumulation. Have them cleaned if necessary. Dark, sooty creosote can build up in wood burning stove pipes and chimneys that have not been checked or cleaned in the past year. Creosote deposits are highly flammable. A roaring fire can ignite them, causing a chimney fire that could spread to other areas of your house.

A wood burning stove pipe that produces a dull thud when tapped should be cleaned. Likewise, you need to clean the chimney if the buildup is more than one fourth inch thick.

You can do this job yourself with a steel wire flue brush. However, you might want to hire a professional chimney sweep to clean and inspect the safety of your chimney or stove.

As you bring firewood inside, remember to leave insects outdoors by storing and using firewood to keep these pests out in the cold. Although hibernating insects do no harm, they can annoy you by flying or crawling around the house several days after you bring logs inside.



Remember never to spray firewood with an insecticide. This is an unnecessary and ineffective practice, and it could release harmful vapors when you burn the wood. These tips will help you keep firewood pests outside in the cold.

It is unwise to stack firewood against the side of your home, as this provides a direct, hidden entry for termites and other pests into the building. Shake or knock logs together to dislodge insects clinging to the bark.



Check the bottom of log carriers because insects often crawl into the bottom when logs are brought inside. Bring in only enough firewood to be used immediately or within a few hours. Insects emerge from logs kept indoors an extended period of time. Burn older wood first to reduce the length of time insects can become established in the logs.

Also consider having a chimney cap installed to keep raccoons, squirrels, and other nuisance wildlife from creating problems by using your chimney as a nesting location. Pest or nuisance wildlife control companies and chimney sweeps usually install chimney caps.

Once the chimney and stove are cleaned and inspected and you have brought logs inside, you are ready to build a fire of well seasoned firewood. Remember slow, smoldering fires produce lots of smoke that contributed to creosote buildup. So, build a hot fire to reduce this problem.

*For more safety information, contact me at the U.K. Cooperative Extension Service*

*– Floyd County Office.*

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Equal Opportunity Office, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment,  
University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546,

the UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building,  
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or

US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights,  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

## Bug Proof Your House This Fall

You may have noticed your home being invaded by an assortment of pests this fall, including Asian lady beetles, boxelder bugs, crickets, spiders, and black soldier beetle larvae. These creatures typically visit homes that provide easy entry this time of year, often seeking refuge from changing weather.

Pest proofing your home is the most efficient way to keep these critters out. A swatter, broom or vacuum cleaner and trash container will take care of pests that occasionally wander indoors. It is best to deal with boxelder bugs and lady beetles outside, before they enter your home.

Following these guidelines will help pest proof your home or place of business and some may even help you conserve energy and increase the comfort level this fall and winter.

Install door sweeps or thresholds at the base of all exterior entry doors, paying particular attention to the bottom corners that are a common entry location. Insects and spiders can enter through a gap of one-sixteenth of an inch or less. Get down on the floor and check for light entering under doors; this indicates possible pest entryways.

To close other potential pest entries, apply caulk on the bottom outside edges and sides of door thresholds; fit garage doors with a rubber bottom seal because vinyl doesn't seal well in the winter; and line the bottom track of sliding glass doors with foam weather stripping  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide to seal any gaps.

Utility openings where pipes and wires enter the foundation and siding are common entry points for spiders, ants, yellow jackets, and rodents. You can use caulk, cement, urethane expandable foam, steel wool and copper mesh to plug openings around outdoor faucets, receptacles, gas meters, clothes dryer vents and telephone or cable television wires.



Apply a good-quality silicone or acrylic latex caulk to cracks around windows, doors, fascia boards and other openings. Before you apply the caulk, clean existing caulk, and remove any that is peeling to aid adhesion. Be sure to use a good caulking gun. Desirable features are a back-off trigger to stop caulk when desired, a built-in "slicer" to remove the tip from new caulking tubes, and a nail to puncture the seal within. These guns are available for less than \$10.

To reduce the entry of lady beetles, cluster flies and other overwintering pests, repair gaps and tears in window and door screens. Keep windows closed when adults are emerging to prevent entry. Repairing screens also will keep out flies, gnats, mosquitoes, and midges next summer.

Another way to prevent pest entry is to apply an exterior barrier treatment with insecticides. To gain the most from this effort, apply long-lasting liquid formulations that contain synthetic pyrethroids. These products are available at some hardware, lawn and garden shops.

If you apply the barrier treatment, use a compressed air or hose-end sprayer to treat the base of all exterior doors, garage, crawl space entrances, foundation vents, utility openings and beneath siding. It is also useful to treat the outside perimeter of the foundation with a two- to six-foot wide band along the ground and two to three feet up the foundation wall.

If you prefer not to tackle these pest-proofing activities, contact a professional pest control firm. Many firms are beginning to offer pest-proofing services.

*For more information, contact me at the UK Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office. The sources for this article were Lee Townsend and Mike Potter, UK Entomologists*



## Fall Gardening Cleanup Controls Spring Diseases

You can reduce the risk of some common problems next year by getting rid of leftover plant debris in vegetable, flower, and fruit gardening areas this fall.

Several disease-causing fungi and bacteria spend the winter on plant debris and can cause diseases the following growing season. Proper garden sanitation can combat such diseases as early blight, mildews, gray mold fungus and various root rot and wilt problems.

To combat diseases, remove all plants, except winter vegetables or cover crops, from the garden. It is especially important to completely clean out and destroy all diseased plants in vegetable gardens and fruit plantings. Carefully dig up and remove decomposing roots to keep them from releasing disease-causing microbes into the soil. Also, remove spent blooms and foliage from flower gardens and mummied fruits on are around trees and grapevines.



Garden debris is a wonderful addition to a compost pile. A good pile will heat up and completely decompose the remains in a few years. This process will destroy most disease-causing organisms.

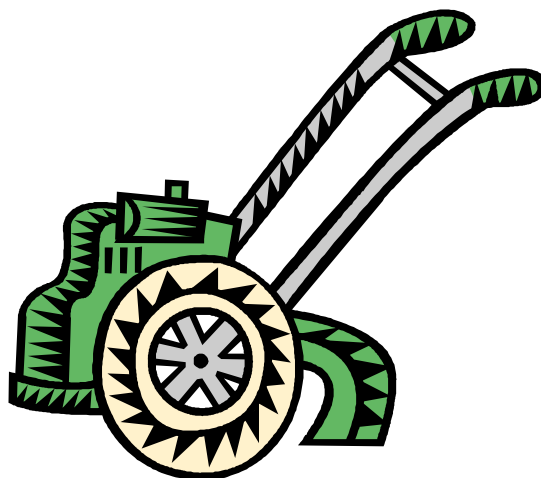
If heat development is not possible in your composting process, dispose of plants infected with root knot nematode or Fusarium and Verticillium wilt diseases. Be sure to put these infected plants where they cannot be recycled into the garden.

Gardeners who decide not to remove old plants should till gardening areas to break dead materials into smaller pieces and then work them into the soil. Plant debris decomposes more rapidly when buried than when left on the soil surface. This reduces populations of disease-causing organisms that could cause problems next year.

Planting a cover crop to maintain and rejuvenate the soil is another way to get your vegetable garden off to a good start next year.

A cover crop will help prevent erosion of enriched topsoil, keep rains from leaching minerals from the soil, prevent compaction and stop growth of weeds that can serve as overwintering sites for insects and diseases. A cover crop also will add organic matter, both from its roots and when tilled into the garden soil.

Successfully growing a cover crop requires proper crop selection, correct timing, and good management techniques. You will reap the benefits of cover crops in future vegetable harvests.



*For more information, consult "Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky" (ID-128) and "Home Composting: A Guide to Managing Organic Wastes" (HO-75). These publications and other gardening materials are available from me at U.K. Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office.*

## Turkey Talk

It is that time of year when talk turns to turkeys. Technically, there is only one breed of turkey, with several varieties, although many people incorrectly refer to these varieties as breeds.

Turkeys are raised only for meat. They are not raised for egg production, as with chickens, ducks, and quail. As a result, turkeys do not produce very many eggs.

The most common type of commercial turkey raised in the United States is the Broad-Breasted White. It has a larger breast than the other varieties of turkeys. The term heritage turkeys refer to naturally mating turkey breeds native to the Americas. These varieties date back to early Colonial times. They are Beltsville Small White, Bourbon Red, Jersey Buff, Narragansett, Royal Palm, Slate, Standard Bronze and White Holland. Heritage turkeys grow at a much slower rate than Broad-Breasted Whites.



The result is a smaller bird but one with a more balanced dark-to-white meat ratio; a more intense, sometimes gamey flavor; and a thicker layer of fat surrounding the breast. A young male turkey is called a Jake and a young female is called a Jenny, while a baby turkey is a poult. Older females are called hens and older males are called toms. Adult males are sometimes called gobblers. Turkeys have brightly colored growths on their throat called caruncles and a flap of skin that hangs over their beak called a snood. They also have a wattle, which is a flap of skin under the beak. You will see all these things turn bright red when a tom is upset or courting a female.

As turkeys get older it is easier to tell the toms from the hens. Toms are typically larger overall than hens and have larger snoods and caruncles than the females. There are two species of turkeys, both native to the Americas: The North American (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and the Ocellated (*Meleagris ocellata*) turkey. The North American wild turkey is the species from which all domesticated varieties of turkeys originated. The Ocellated turkey, sometimes called the Mexican turkey, is native to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.

Raising wild turkeys is illegal in some states, including Kentucky. The prohibition includes domestic strains of wild birds. The law is meant to protect native populations. The wild turkey was first domesticated by the Aztecs. Turkeys provided a source of protein and the feathers were used for decorative purposes. Very little genetic selection was used with these early domesticated turkeys. The explorers took these turkeys back to Europe with them. After some early genetic selection in Europe, these turkeys were re-introduced into America with the first settlers. While the initial genetic selection of domesticated wild turkeys occurred in Europe, the different varieties were developed in the United States, with the possible exception of the White Holland.

Many options are available for those interested in starting a small flock of turkeys. If fast growth and good feed efficiency are important, the commercial strains of turkey are your best option. The Midget White, a smaller version of the Broad-Breasted White, is well suited for small farms.

If you are looking at raising heritage turkeys, there are several varieties to choose from. The Bourbon Red was developed in Kentucky and is suitable for small flocks.

*For more information about turkeys or other poultry, contact me at the UK Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office.*



## Lift and Store Tender Perennials

Many perennials that grow during the summer will not overwinter well under Kentucky conditions. Among some of the more popular of these are cannas, gladiolus, tuberous begonia, dahlia, and caladium. If the winter is unseasonably mild, some of these may overwinter, especially cannas and gladiolus. However, if the winter is harsh, you can expect damage to most if not all these plants.

To over-winter these perennials, they must be lifted from the soil and stored in a dry, non-freezing location. Wait to dig until a hard frost has killed most of the foliage but dig before the ground is frozen. Under most conditions, early November would be an excellent time to dig. Use a shovel or garden fork to dig well below the underground bulb or root, digging too shallow may injure the plant and invite rot and decay during storage. Once lifted from the ground, shake off as much soil as possible but do not wash it off. It is important that the bulb or root stay as dry as possible. Trim off excess foliage to about 1 to 2 inches above where the plant was growing in soil but otherwise leave the bulbs or roots intact as much as possible. It will be best to wait until spring to divide these structures. Allow these structures to dry for about a week before storage.

Once the underground structures are cleaned, they should be placed in a container for storage. The container should not be airtight, a box or open plastic container will work well. The bulbs/roots should be placed in the container with some sort of dry packing material. Suitable packing material would include sand, peat moss, vermiculite, shredded newspaper, straw, Styrofoam pellets, etc. Be aware that some of these materials may be attractive to rodents. Completely cover the overwintering structures and place the container in a cool, non-freezing area, preferably 40-45F. Inspect the plants every few weeks and discard any that are showing signs of rot or decay. Replanting can occur in early May and the structures can be divided by cutting or breaking apart at that time.

*For more information on the care of perennials, contact me at the  
U.K. Cooperative Extension Service – Floyd County Office.*



 Cooperative  
Extension Service

## Fuel & Supply Energy with Floyd County Cooperative Extension Service

The Floyd County Extension Office is taking up donations for those affected by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina to help fuel generators and supply energy.

### New Extension Cords

- 50 foot
- 100 foot



### New Gas Cans

- Any Size



**Donations will be accepted between now and November 1st.**

*Once all donations are received items will be delivered to those in need between the dates of November 6-8, 2024.*

**You may drop donations off at:**

Floyd County Extension Office  
3490 KY Route 321  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 886-2668

**Office Hours Monday-Friday:**

8:00am-12:00pm  
1:00-4:30pm

Cooperative  
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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.



# Mountain Cattlemen's Association Fall Meeting

**NOVEMBER 26, 2024  
5:30 PM**

*Distinguished Speakers:*

*Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler*

*Dr. Jimmy Henning*

**DINNER PROVIDED**

**MUST REGISTER**

*Topics:*

*Finishing Beef Cattle*

*East KY Hay Contest Results Ceremony*

**[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/MOUNTAIN-CATTELEMENS-ASSOCIATION-FALL-MEETING-TICKETS-1037862614017?AFF=ODDTDCREATOR](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mountain-cattlemens-association-fall-meeting-tickets-1037862614017?aff=ODDTDCREATOR)**

**OR CALL 606-666-8812**

## **Location**

**Robinson Center for Appalachian  
Resource Sustainability**



**130 Robinson Road  
Jackson, KY 41301**



Scan  
to  
register

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**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR PROPERTY WHEN YOU PASS?  
DON'T LET IT FALL INTO HEIRSHIP!  
COME WRITE YOUR WILL!**

# **WILL & HEIRSHIP CLINIC [FREE]**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19// 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

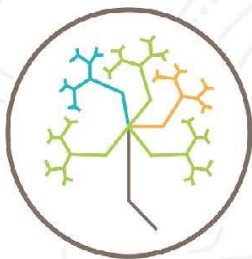
**LOCATION: FLOYD COUNTY COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION OFFICE 3490 KY-321 PRESTONSBURG, KY**

**Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network (LiKEN)** has partnered with the **Floyd County Cooperative Extension Office** to offer a **FREE will-writing clinic and information session in Prestonsburg, KY**. Come sit down with a lawyer and prepare your will and learn about heirs' property! Scan the QR code on the reverse side of this flyer to save a time slot for yourself!

## **WHAT TO EXPECT**

Participants will have the opportunity to sit down with a lawyer to write or revise their will for absolutely no cost. Come prepared to discuss all of your assets and what should be done with your belongings when you pass away. Bring your ID and a current will if you have one.

This event will also feature a recurring presentation on property in heirship, or "**heirs' property**," and a **FREE legal services** program we are offering to heirs' property owners. Heirs' property is land that is inherited by multiple family member and owned collectively but without a "clear title." Not having a clear title limits what you can do with a property and makes it vulnerable to being taken by real estate developers and investors. LiKEN is offering a free program to help heirs' property owners acquire a clear title to their family-owned land.



## **CONTACT**

**Kevin Slovinsky**

**Director of Land and Revenues**

**LiKEN's Land & Revenues Program**

**Email: [kslovinsky@likenknowledge.org](mailto:kslovinsky@likenknowledge.org)**

**(859) 279-2152**

Scan for registration and more info!



[linktr.ee/AppalachianHeirsProperty](http://linktr.ee/AppalachianHeirsProperty)



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