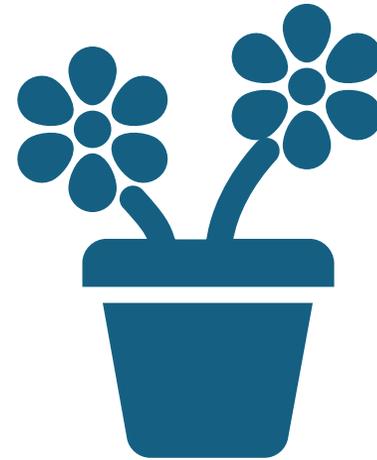


The Year of the Garden

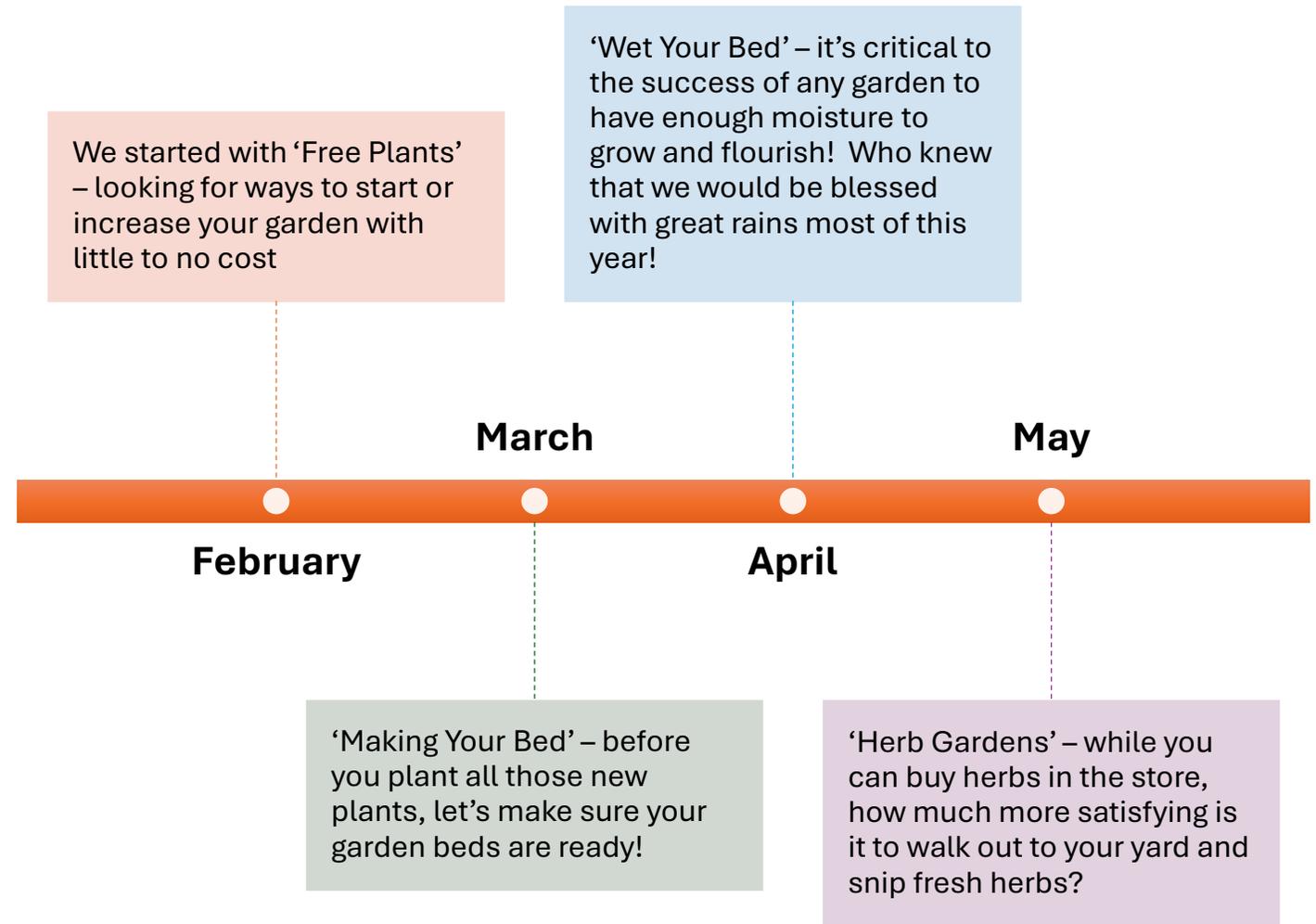
August 2025 - Victory Gardens

Jackie Sledge – BCMG

Kathy Turner - BCMG



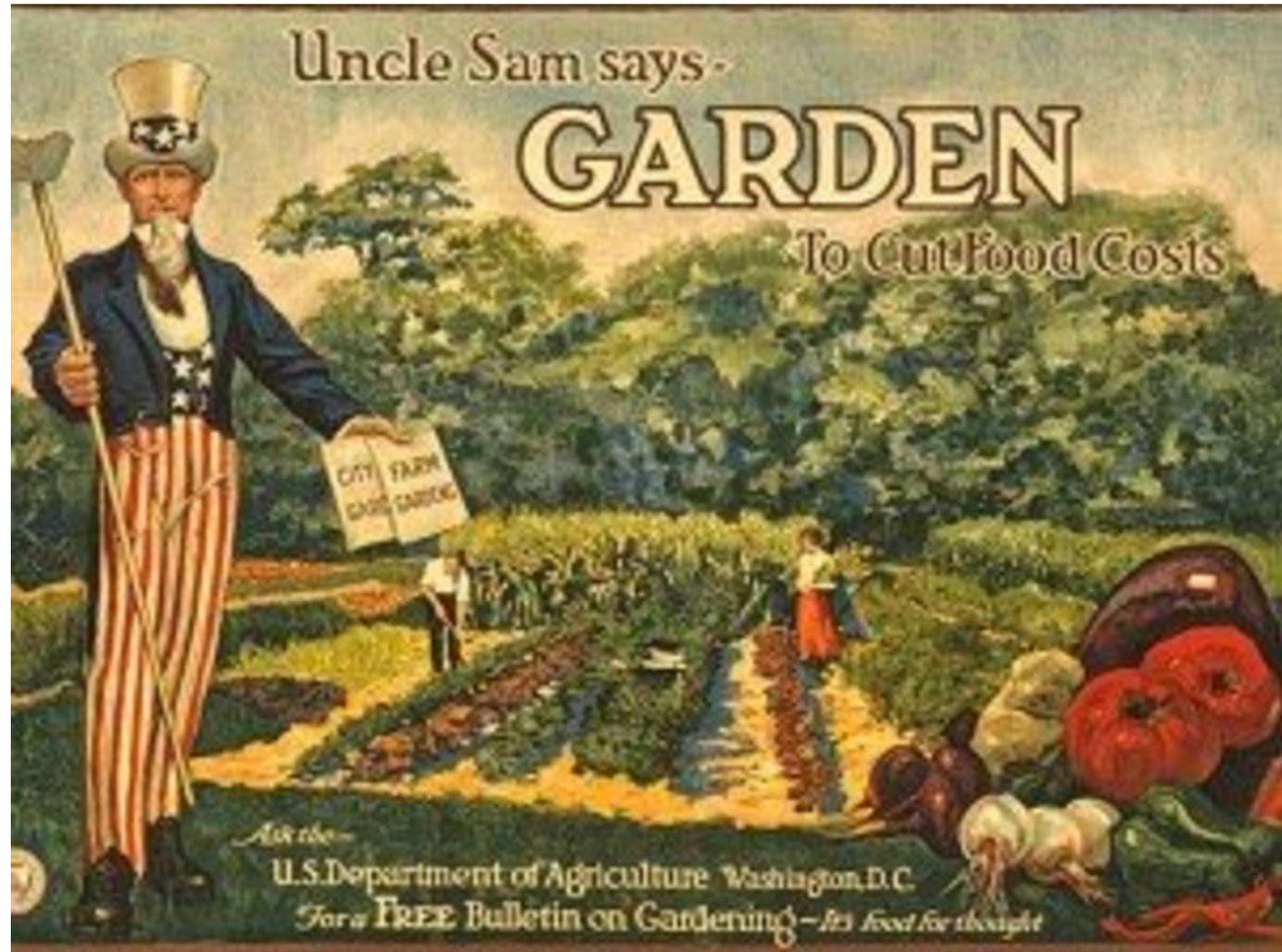
A look back at 2025....



A look back at 2025 Continued....

- **June** – ‘Butterfly and Pollinator Gardens’ – without pollinators, our gardens would suffer! Not to mention the peace and beauty of watching butterflies, birds and other insects buzz their way through our space.
- **July** – ‘Bulb and Cutting Gardens’ – These can be the ‘tried and true’ plants from past generations, plants that are passed from generation to generation.

Dept of
Agriculture
Posters



August 2025 – Victory Gardens

What are they, and why include them in our theme?

- During [World War I](#), a severe food crisis emerged in Europe as agricultural workers were recruited into military service and farms were transformed into battlefields.
- As a result, the burden of feeding millions of starving people fell to the United States.
- In March of 1917—Charles Lathrop Pack organized the National War Garden Commission to encourage Americans to contribute to the war effort by planting, fertilizing, harvesting and storing their own fruits and vegetables so that more food could be exported to our allies.
- Citizens were urged to utilize all idle land that was not already engaged in agricultural production—including school and company grounds, parks, backyards or any available vacant lots.



Kids to Families

Victory Garden's – Who was Involved?



Promoted through posters “Sow the seeds of victory” by planting their own vegetables, the war garden movement was spread by word of mouth through various clubs, associations and chambers of commerce, which actively encouraged participation in the campaign.



Amateur gardeners were provided with instruction pamphlets on how, when and where to sow, and were offered suggestions as to the best crops to plant, along with tips on preventing disease and insect infestations.



Spreading the Word!



Five Hundred Members!!

at season with the Victory Garden Club of Columbus, Ohio. There were 500 members among the employees' Garden Clubs of the N. Y. Central Lines.

Victory Gardens – Success!

The endeavor was so well received that the government turned its attention to distributing canning and drying manuals to help people preserve their surplus crops.

The federal Bureau of Education initiated a U.S. School Garden Army (USSGA) to mobilize children to enlist as “soldiers of the soil.” As a result of these combined efforts, **3 million** new garden plots were planted in 1917 and more than **5.2 million** were cultivated in 1918, which generated an estimated **1.45 million quarts** of canned fruits and vegetables.

Victory Gardens – Again....

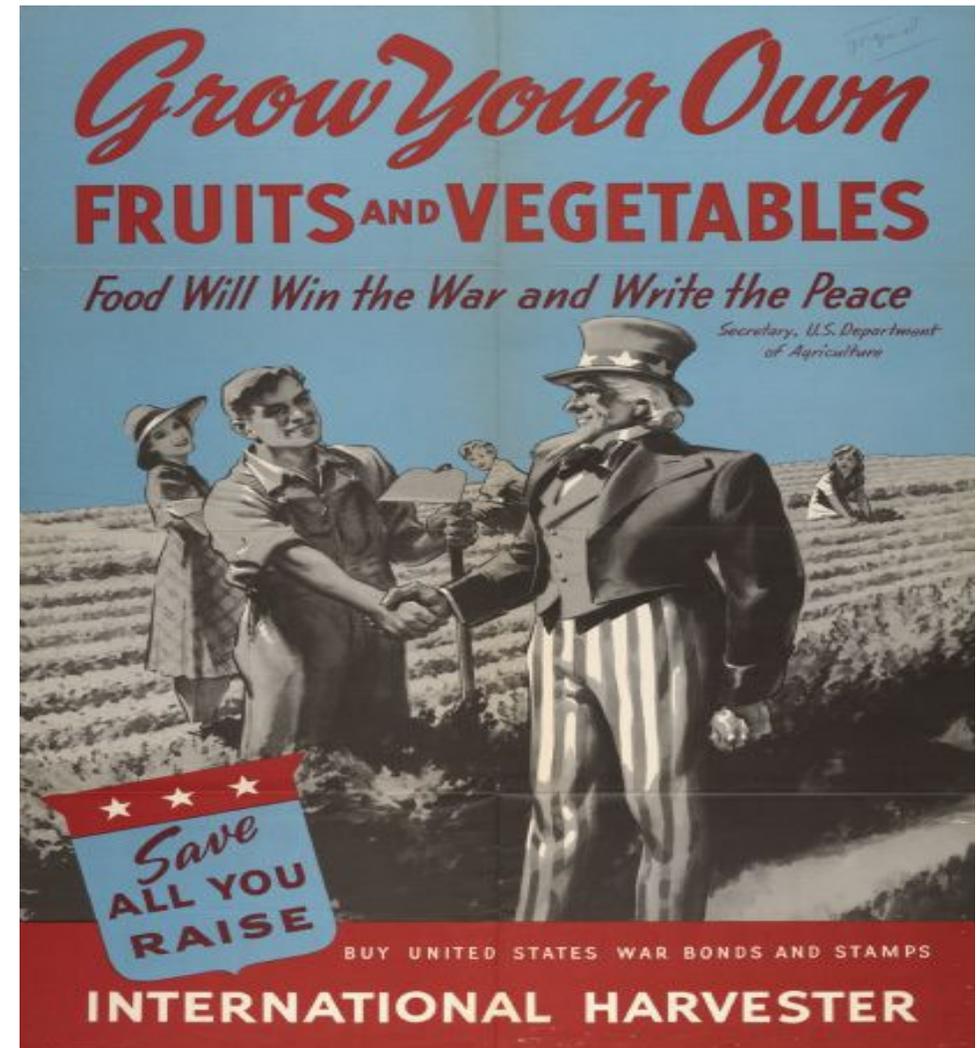
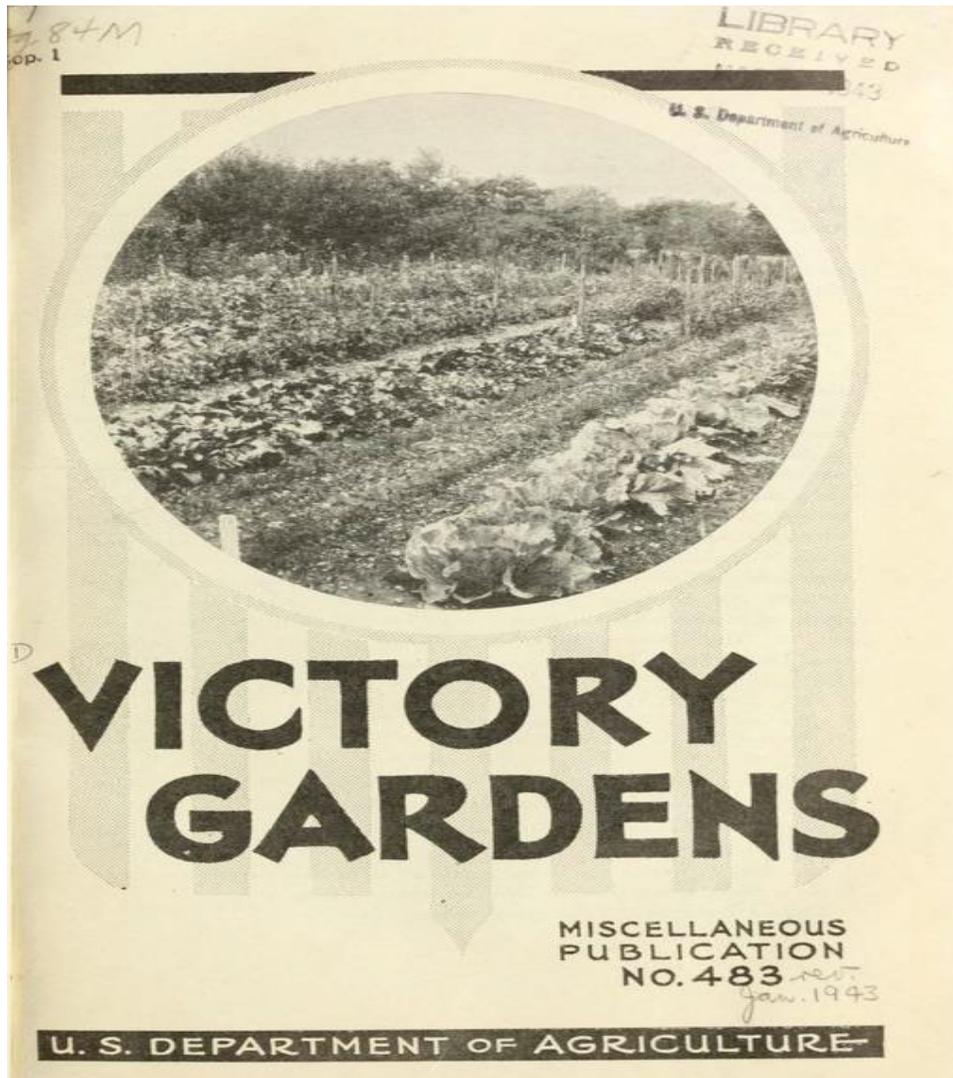
Shortly after the United States was drawn into WWII, victory gardens began to re-emerge. Once again, commercial crops were diverted to the military overseas while transportation was redirected towards moving troops and munitions instead of food.



With the introduction of food rationing in the United States in the spring of 1942, Americans had an even greater incentive to grow their own fruits and vegetables in whichever locations they could find: small flower boxes, apartment rooftops, backyards or deserted lots of any size.



Amid protests from the Department of Agriculture, Eleanor Roosevelt even planted a victory garden on the White House lawn.



Lots of Awareness and Guidance!

Victory Gardens – Sound Familiar?

- Some of the most popular produce grown included beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, tomatoes, turnips, squash and Swiss chard.
- Through the distribution of several million government-sponsored pamphlets, fledgling farmers were advised to maximize their garden's productivity by practicing succession planting and were encouraged to record the germination rates of seeds, along with any diseases or insects they may have encountered, in order to minimize waste and improve their garden's output the following year.



Seed Catalogs

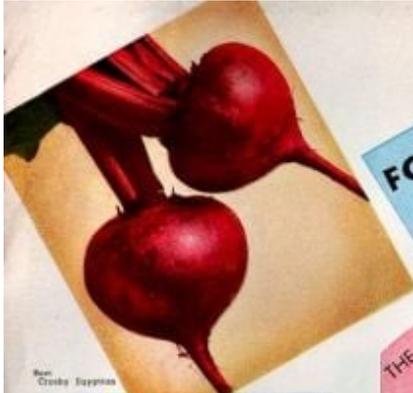
FOR BETTER VICTORY GARDENS IN 1944

Plant Germain's *Vitamin-Rich* QUALITY *Protective Foods Vegetable Seeds* SINCE 1871

THE WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATOR'S GOAL IS TWENTY-TWO MILLION GARDENS IN 1944

If you have any garden space available — no matter how small — do your bit in growing food for freedom. In these times of difficult marketing, vegetables provide a dependable source of "Protective Foods" containing needed vitamins.

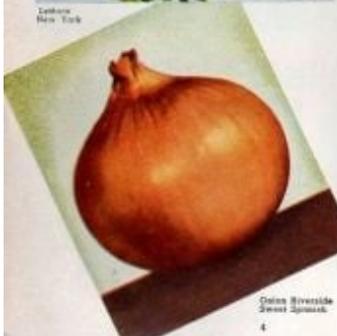
Eight Delicious
So sure to plant these 8 nutritious varieties — a grand start for a successful Victory Vegetable Garden!



BEET
083 **CROSBY EGYPTIAN**—50 to 55 days! The finest home garden variety for all purposes. Tops medium. Root flattened and globe shaped; flesh dark red, zoned with lighter color. **Pkt. 10c; ea. 30c; 1/4 lb. \$1.00; 1 lb. \$3.00.**



LETTUCE
344 **NEW YORK No. 12** (Dr. Los Angeles Market)—An improved type, early, and sure bearing. It of fine appearance, excellent quality and has a large percentage of perfect heads. **Pkt. 10c; ea. 30c; 1/4 lb. \$1.00; 1 lb. \$3.00.**



ONION
520 **RIVERSIDE SWEET SPANISH**—This popular variety is of excellent flavor, being very red and sweet. Bulbs are large, globe shaped, yellowish brown. Recommended both for home and market use. **Pkt. 10c; ea. \$1.25.**



MUSKMELON
401 **HALES BEST**—105 days! The earliest of the Salmon Flashed melons. Of fine appearance and uniformly fine quality. Melons are almost round, about 6 1/2 inches long and 5 1/2 inches in diameter, heavily netted. Small seed cavity provides a thick, pink flesh. **Pkt. 10c; ea. 25c; 1/4 lb. 85c; 1 lb. \$2.50.**



PEPPER
573 **CALIFORNIA WONDER**—122 days! The best large fruited pepper, very smooth. Meat thick, tender, and of finest flavor. It is fast replacing other varieties. Peppers are about 5 inches in length and 4 in. width, being blocky in shape. Rich and glossy green. **Pkt. 10c; ea. 35c; 1/4 lb. \$2.05; 1 lb. \$8.50.**



BEAN
037 **KENTUCKY WONDER**—45 days! The leading pole bean for home gardens, market gardens and canner. Early, vigorous, of good climbing habit. Pods very large, 8 to 10 inches, bright green, round and fleshy. Seed long, oval, of a dull brown color. **Pkt. 5c; 1/4 lb. 25c; 1 lb. 45c; 10 lb. \$4.00.**



CARROT
156 **DANVERS HALF LONG**—75 days! Very popular variety for market garden and home garden purposes. Roots deep orange, 6 to 7 in. long, 1 1/4 in. wide, tapered and blunt at end. **Pkt. 10c; ea. 30c; 1/4 lb. \$1.75.**

CORN
232 **GOLDEN GIANT**—87 days! An early, heavy producer of fine quality, stalks 7 ft. tall. Cans 7 1/2 in. long, yellow, 12 to 16 rows. **Pkt. 5c; 1/4 lb. 25c; 1 lb. 45c; 10 lb. \$4.00.**

Victory Garden's – Success, Again!

Throughout both world wars, the Victory Garden campaign served as a successful means of boosting morale, expressing patriotism, safeguarding against food shortages on the home front and easing the burden on the commercial farmers working arduously to feed troops and civilians overseas.

In 1942, roughly **15 million families** planted victory gardens; by 1944, an estimated **20 million victory gardens** produced roughly **8 million tons of food**—which was the equivalent of more than ***40 percent of all the fresh fruits and vegetables*** consumed in the United States.

Ralph - Army & Velma – Rosie Riveter



Irvin – Army & Lucile - WAC



Victory Gardens - Yesterday to Present Day

- Victory Gardens have evolved into a new form, reflecting the changing landscape of gardening practices. While the term “Victory Garden” may not be as commonly used, the spirit of these gardens lives on in various community gardens, urban gardening initiatives, and home vegetable plots across the globe.
 - Victory Gardens, in their current form, play a vital role in fostering community engagement and promoting sustainability. These gardens serve as hubs for social interaction, knowledge sharing, and environmental stewardship, bringing people together around a shared love for gardening.
 - I think it’s safe to say, ‘Victory Gardens’ are here to stay!
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Big Country Master Gardener Association

- ▶ *Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University system, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts Cooperating.*
- ▶ *Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the program should contact the County Extension Office at least one week prior to the program or event to request mobility, hearing, visual or other assistance.*
- ▶



Big Country