

# FOOD, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH

All educational chairpeople are expected to work together to integrate their programs of each when possible. The subject area deals with one's health, nutrition, and food. The chairpeople should be aware of the following when planning their program of work.

- Use current information for food preservation and food safety techniques to stretch food dollars
- Provide research-based information on healthy foods and their impacts on health
- Conduct programs that contribute to improving nutrition and health for individuals, families, and communities
- Become more aware of opportunities to serve in our communities that focus on nutrition, physical activity, health, and wellness
- Increase health literacy for chronic diseases prevention by knowing health numbers (e.g., blood pressure, cholesterol), family history, and health screenings schedule (e.g., ovarian cancer screenings)
- Promote the University of Kentucky Ovarian Cancer Research Fund program with increased donations and participants
- Reduce chronic disease prevalence through healthy lifestyle choices

Some programs available at your County Extension Offices include:

- Champion Food Volunteer
- Eating for Health
- Food Preservation
- Food Safety
- Making Healthy Lifestyle Choices
- Taking Ownership of Your Diabetes
- Weight the Reality Series
- The Mind/Body Connection
- Healthy Homemakers

## **KEHA Food, Nutrition and Health Chairperson – 2023-2026**

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# Food, Nutrition, and Health Program of Work 2024-2025

**Title and Theme:** Let No Child or Senior Go Hungry

**Goal:** KEHA members will increase their awareness of how many children and elderly go hungry every day, and how to help them find agencies for assistance.

## Objectives:

- Learn and apply skills to become more involved in the "backpack" program.
- Increase knowledge of the elderly that go hungry and how to help them go to the proper agencies.
- Learn about "My Plate" and "My Plate for Seniors."
- Encourage "Blessing Boxes" to be placed near churches in your county.

## Lessons/Activities

- Learn about "My Plate for Seniors." <https://www.nutritionletter.tufts.edu/healthy-eating/myplate-for-older-adults-eat-right-for-your-age/>
- Learn about "My Plate." The Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025. myplate.gov
  - Learn how to make My Plate work for you.
- Learn how to make easy, low-cost recipes. Make one of these recipes and share with your club.
- Join Bingocize in your county to be physically healthy.
- Join a gym in your area to exercise for better health.
- Look into "Silver Sneakers" programs.
- Encourage your club on all the other clubs to see that Blessing Boxes are all over your county.
  - Directions for building a Blessing Box: <https://www.woodshopdiaries.com/how-to-build-a-blessing-box-community-donation-box/>

## Additional Resources:

- Free Government benefits: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-directory>
- SNAP Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>
- TEFAP The Emergency Food Assistance Program: <https://www.benefits.gov/>
- What not to put in Blessing Boxes or Homeless Bags <https://ofhsoupkitchen.org/>
- Guidelines for filling a Blessing Box - Nourish together <https://www.nourishtogether.org/>  
<https://foodforthe poor.org/>

# **Food, Nutrition, and Health Program of Work 2025-2026**

**Theme:** "Travel Kentucky from Your Kitchen"

**Goal:** For homemakers to learn about different areas of Kentucky

**Objectives:**

- Identify areas of Kentucky and what foods identified with them.
- As a club or county, pick one of the areas and make the food from that area.
- Learn how to safely preserve your foods.
- Continue filling "Blessing Boxes" in your county.

**Lesson/Activities**

- Come to your monthly "Lunch and Learn." If not in your county, discuss with your agent.
- Attend canning and preservation classes.
- Continue placing "Blessing Boxes" in your county.
- Play a matching game with foods and the area in which they are popular.
- To help you find foods and where they were produced: <https://www.thespruceeats.com/> and <https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/>.

# **Food, Nutrition, and Health Program of Work 2026-2027**

**Title and Theme:** Food Culture in other Countries

**Goal:** KEHA members will learn about a country, prepare a dish, and work with others.

**Objectives:**

- Learn about other countries, their foods, and customs.
- Continue filling your Blessing Boxes.
- Continue to raise money for Ovarian Cancer.

**Lessons/Activities:**

- Choose from among six countries: Germany, Ireland, Greece, France, Italy, Mexico, or India.
- Identify common eating patterns and habits. (For example: In England it is improper to leave a spoon in the teacup.)
- After choosing a country, prepare a dish from that country. You may do this as a club or have other clubs join you. We will be coordinating with International.
- The following University of Kentucky publications, including information and recipes, are available at <https://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/publications-list/22> (under Nutrition and Culture):
  - FN-SSB.301 German Inspired Classics
  - FN-SSB.302 Traditions from the Emerald Isle
  - FN-SSB.303 The Foods of Greece
  - FN-SSB.304 The Gastronomy of French Food
  - FN-SSB.305 The Italian Table
  - FN-SSB.306 The Flavors of Mexico
  - FN-SSB.307 The Fusion Cuisine of Spain