

Cooperative Extension Service
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## Muits Shive

## Kristi Shive

Warren County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences

## Cooperative Extension Service

[^0]February/March 2023 (ob)


## MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT



## MAMMOTH CAVE AREA: FAMILY \& CONSUMER SCIENCES

## February is National Wise Health-Care Consumer Month

Americans spend more time researching car purchases and new appliances than they do choosing doctors and health plans, according to the American Institute for Preventive Medicine. February is National Wise Health-Care Consumer Month. There is no better time to take control of your health by becoming an informed health-care consumer. Use this month to make sure you understand your options, know how to communicate with your care providers, and can make educated decisions about your health.


Here are five tips to help you become a wiser health-care consumer:

- Choose your health-care provider: Take your time choosing the right health-care providers for you and your family. It is important to do the research, ask questions, and establish a primary care provider. Be sure to keep a list of your family's health-care providers and medications.
- Understand your coverage plan: Whether you get your medical insurance coverage through Medicare/Medicaid, your employer, or another source, make sure you understand your health-care plan and who is in your network. This will save you time and money in the future.
- Get annual screenings and checkups: The most common diseases are preventable. Do not ignore symptoms. Be sure to eat well, move your body, and keep up with your yearly checkups, screenings, and immunizations.
- Prepare for appointments: Before an appointment, write a list of questions you have for your health-care provider, and take it with you. Do not hesitate to clarify or ask questions if something is unclear to you. Similarly, bring a list of any medications you take and your dosage.
- Ask about generic medications: Generic medications can be more affordable and just as effective. Always consult your medical provider if a generic option is appropriate for you.

[^1]Source: Natalie Jones, MPH, Family Health Extension Specialist

## Health Literacy: Asking Questions

Health Literacy is our ability to read, understand, and act on health information. An important part of the process of increasing our health literacy is communicating with our health-care team.

Sometimes it can be hard to understand what a member of your health-care team is saying, so it is important to ask questions. Below are some examples of questions that you can ask your health-
 care team. These examples might help you think of more specific questions based on your individual health needs.

Questions to ask your doctor or pharmacist about a medication:

- What is the name and how do you spell the name of the medication?
- What is the cost and is there a generic or less expensive alternative?
- What exactly is the medication for?
- How long should I take the medication and when can I stop taking it?
- What are the side effects and when should I tell someone if I experience side effects?
- Should I stop taking other medications I am taking? For how long?

Questions to ask about a diagnosis (when a provider looks at symptoms and identifies a condition):

- What is the name and how do you spell the name of my disease or condition?
- What is my prognosis (outlook for the future)?
- What are the treatment options?
- What are the risks and benefits of treatment options?
- What are the expected results and when will I see them?
- What is the expected cost?
- How soon should I decide and what happens if I choose no treatment at all?
- What do you recommend?

It's normal to feel uncomfortable asking questions. One tip that might help you feel more comfortable is to make the very FIRST question you ask: "Is it okay to ask questions?" That might help break the ice - for you and the medical professional.

Source: University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Health Literacy for the Win


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|     February 3 Jack \& Jill <br> Debbie Hayes February 5 Hays    <br> Betty Masers February 5 Eastside    <br> Jo Jean Scott February 12 Jack \& Jill    <br> Peggy Gorrell February 14 Woodburn    <br> Carole Baum February 15 MTL    <br> Beverly Wells February 19 Woodburn    <br> Dorothy Hale February 26 Cross Country    <br> Irene Sheehan February 27 Jack \& Jill    <br> Sheila McNary March 2 Oakview    <br> Cathy Wallen March 5 Oakland    <br> Gail Balance March 5 Hays    <br> Eileen Capps March 5 Sandhill    <br> Ernestine Grimes March 8 Oakland    <br> Brenda Herrington March 13 Stitchers    <br> Shirley Belcher March 17 Sandhill    <br> Dorene Thomas March 21 Jack \& Jill    <br> Barbara Hayes March 29 Cross Country    <br> Judy Hatcher      |  |  |  |

## Reminder:

Please be sure to turn in your club's lesson ballot asap!

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## Upcoming Dates

February $29^{\text {th }}$<br>10:00 AM Leader Lesson "Time Well Spent"

March 7th
10:30/11:00 AM Homemaker International Day *See front for details

March 28th<br>10:00 AM Leader Lesson "Green Cleaning"

April 18th
10:00 AM Warren County Homemaker Advisory Council WCEO

- May 7-9

KEHA State Meeting at Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green KY

## february promises

I like February for the Hints that winter is going away. He seems to whisper in my ear That soon the birds will sing and play! He tells me to get ready For warmer days are on the way.
$\qquad$ C
by Lenore Hetrick


## Blueberry French Toast Bake

$1 / 4$ cup whole wheat flour
$1 / 4$ cup all-purpose flour
$11 / 2$ cups skim milk
1 tablespoon sugar
$1 / 2$ teaspoon vanilla $1 / 4$ teaspoon salt

3 eggs
6 egg whites
1 loaf (12 ounces) French bread, cut into 1 inch cubes
3 ounces fat free cream cheese, cut into $1 / 2$ inch cubes

1 cup fresh blueberries
$1 / 2$ cup chopped almonds
Honey, if desired

Generously grease a $13 \times 9 \times 2$-inch baking dish. Beat flours, milk, sugar, vanilla, salt, eggs and egg whites in a large mixing bowl with a hand mixer until smooth. Stir in bread cubes until they are coated. Pour bread mixture into baking dish. Top evenly with cream cheese, blueberries and almonds. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour, but no longer than 24
hours. Heat oven to 400 degrees $F$. Uncover and bake 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Sprinkle with honey, if desired.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings
Nutritional Analysis: 420 calories, 6 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 70 mg cholesterol, 860 mg sodium, 69 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 9 g sugar.

SEASON: Mid-June through July
NUTRITION FACTS: One half cup of blueberries has 40 calories and provides 22 percent of the Daily Value of fiber. Blueberries are rich in vitamin $C$ and do not contain any fat or sodium.

SELECTION: Blueberries should be plump and firm and have a deep blue-black skin. They should also have a silvery sheen, which is referred to as bloom.

STORAGE: Cover and refrigerate blueberries for up to 14 days. Wash them just before using.

PREPARATION: Blueberries can be served fresh or used in cooking. Cooking blueberries in batter may cause their color to turn greenish-blue, but change in color does not affect flavor.

PRESERVING: To freeze: Place blueberries, unwashed and completely dry, in a single layer on a cookie sheet in the freezer. Once the berries are frozen, transfer them to plastic freezer bags or freezer containers.

## KENTUCKY BLUEBERRIES

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

COOPERATIVE
March 2015
Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. For more information, contact your county's Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or visit www.uky.ag/fcs

EXTENSION SERVICE
UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

## Valentine's Day Color by Number



Join us for Farm \& Home
with Kristi Shive \& Joanna Coles

- WBKO

WBKO Channel 13-1 Monday - Friday between 5:15 a.m. - 5:30 a.m.

Be sure to like
"Living Well in Warren County" on Facebook 5 to keep with all the homemaker events!

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[^0]:    Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development Community and Economic Development

[^1]:    References
    htfps://wowwesthealth arg/how-fo-became-a-wise-henithcare-conswmerl
    https/www.cchwyo.org/news/2020/february/10-ways-you-can-be-a-wise-healthcare-constumer/

