

UT-TSU Extension-Sullivan County Quarterly News and Events

UT-TSU Sullivan County Extension Clientele:

We are approaching our one-year anniversary of being at the Ron Ramsey Regional Ag Center. We officially moved on May 15, 2017. The address is 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville (1.7 miles north of the airport off Hwy 75). Our telephone number is 423-574-1919.

Phase II of the Ron Ramsey Regional Ag Center will begin this spring. This will involve work on the arena behind our office. The plans are to develop a facility for livestock shows, dog shows, expositions, and other events that may benefit from an indoor exposition space.

Part of phase II includes paving the entrance drive and parking lot around our building. We will also have a courtyard with a flagpole. Sponsors of the Ag Center will be recognized in the courtyard with engraved bricks.

Agriculture, Natural Resources and Community Economic Development

Livestock and Horticulture Tips:

- Consider cinnamon and garlic in your cattle mineral to aid in fly control. A good mineral program is critical for reproduction efficiency.
- Fire blight symptoms can devastate apple and pear trees depending on the severity of the disease each year. The disease symptoms appear in early May as blackened tops of the branches. Control for this disease involves pruning out damage from the prior year in late winter and spraying streptomycin during bloom.
- Bagworms are most susceptible to control during the crawler stage usually from May 15 to early June. Scout your evergreens during this period to achieve the best control. Call our office at 574-1919 for insecticide recommendations.
- For controlling crabgrass and goosegrass, the FIRST APPLICATION of a crabgrass pre-emergent should have been made when forsythia started bloom. The SECOND APPLICATION of the pre-emergent should be made about 8 weeks later, which is around early to mid-May. When crabgrass is present in the lawn, a post-emergent material such as *Drive* can be made to control crabgrass and follow with a pre-emergent application.
- Blackberries and raspberries can easily become infected with cane borers. Symptoms of borers will show up as wilting in the top of the canes. The wilted portion of the cane should be pruned several inches below the affected area. Make sure new plants are clean before introducing to your garden. Remove wild brambles nearby to prevent infection. In addition, keep areas mowed around plantings as insects can inhabit tall grassy areas.

Advanced Master Beef Producer Program



have a light meal. Please RSVP to 574-1919 by Tuesday, April 17. Our May Beef Education Program topic and date will be announced soon.

The next beef education program will be held on Thursday, April 19 at Dwight and Zella Hunigan's Farm on Bondtown Road in Blountville. UT Extension Beef Extension Specialists will demonstrate ultrasound technology to assess pregnancy and carcass quality. We will



Gardening Festival Scheduled

Plan to attend the *Spring Forward Garden Festival* on Saturday, April 21, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at the Ron Ramsey Regional Ag Center. The festival will feature educational programs on raised beds, herbs, ornamentals, and beekeeping. We will also have an "Ask a Master Gardener", local gardening vendors and food. Come to enjoy a great event at the area's new premier event facility. For more information, visit <https://www.springforwardgardenfair.com/>.



4-H Youth Development

4-H Public Speaking

Congratulations to our 4-H members who participated in the Upper Eight Multi-County 4-H Public Speaking Contest at Daniel Boone High School in Washington County on March 15th. These students earned the opportunity to compete with neighboring counties by placing first in their grade division at our county event last December. Each of the youth did an excellent job presenting their prepared speeches with results as follows:

- 4th grade: Jaxson Bolling (Holston) 5th Place,
- 5th grade: Ava Flanary (Holston) 5th Place,
- 6th grade: Presley Phillips (Colonial Heights) 2nd Place,
- 7th grade: Suzanne Amos (Holston) 5th Place;
- 8th grade: Kassandra Jimenez (Homeschool) 3rd Place



Tennessee 4-H Congress

Two senior high members attended 4-H Congress in Nashville from March 18-21. While in our state's capital members participated in educational government sessions to learn more about how legislation is passed, met with our elected officials, enjoyed an afternoon on the General Jackson Showboat and more! This annual trip for 9th and 10th members chosen to attend as delegates is a premier 4-H Citizenship and Leadership event.



4-H Honor Club

Looking for leadership and community involvement!

Search no further. Join 4-H Honor Club!

The Sullivan County 4-H Honor Club provides opportunities for youth to give back to their community. We encourage the youth to take leadership roles and become change agents in their community.

Honor Club is open to youth currently in grades 6-12. The group meets monthly during the academic year, assists with other 4-H events throughout the year, and plans special summer events. Get outside your school or community club and join others from across the county for a fun club that can help you make your best better.

4-H is the Youth Development program for University of Tennessee Extension and Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension. 4-H teaches leadership, citizenship and life skills to youth in grades 4-12. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Tennessee State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

4-H Livestock Project Group

The Livestock group participates in activities related to the beef, sheep, goat and poultry projects. Members recently competed in the UTK Block & Bridle Livestock Judging Contest held in Knoxville on March 3, 2018. While at the livestock judging contest, the youth evaluated beef, sheep, goats and swine and explained their decisions by giving oral reasons.

4-H Chick Chain

Members from Sullivan, Washington and Unicoi counties recently received chicks in late March through the 4-H Chick Chain, a program in the 4-H Poultry project. Members will care for their birds through the spring and summer with a goal of returning five of their best pullets for a show and sale at the Appalachian Fairgrounds on August 4th. At this event, awards will be given based on the judging of each participant's pen of birds and the poultry will be auctioned to the public. This year's birds are a Rhode Island Red, a dual-purpose bird that will lay a large brown egg. Come out August 4th to purchase some quality poultry and support youth in the 4-H Chick Chain program.



4-H Livestock Show Entry Info

The animal science projects offer opportunities to teach youth about not only their animal, but also decision making, goal setting, record keeping, financial management, and many other skills.

Anyone interested in showing Beef Heifers or Sheep at the regional and state levels this summer will need to have their animals registered with the 4-H Extension Agents. All animals for these events should be in the care and ownership of the exhibitor by no later than May 20, 2017.

Regional 4-H Beef and Sheep Expo-Knoxville, TN Valley Fairgrounds: June 26-28

State Sheep Expo-Cookeville: July 5-7

State Beef Expo-Murfreesboro: July 12-13

Contact Walter to register or with questions about the livestock projects.

Also the annual Tri-Cities 4-H Goat Show is scheduled for Saturday, August 4th at the Appalachian Fairgrounds. Have a youth and a goat? Let us know. We'll be glad to help explain show opportunities.



4-H Beef Project

Bristol Junior Steer and Heifer Show

The 74th annual Bristol Show is scheduled for May 9th at the Washington County, VA fairgrounds in Abingdon. The show will begin at approximately 9:00 am. The event will include classes for finished steers, registered and commercial heifers and showmanship, as well as, a beef skill-a-thon, record book contest, college scholarships and beef carcass awards. This show is a terminal show for the steers, meaning the animals are harvested following this show.

If you have an interest in purchasing beef, contact Walter at the Extension Office to be added to our potential beef buyer's list. We encourage you to attend this event to support our beef project members, and learn more about how beef is produced.



4-H Silver Spurs Horse Project Group

The Silver Spurs 4-H Horse Club meets generally on the 1st Saturday of each month. For more information, please call 423-574-1964 or email ljones83@utk.edu.

Silver Spurs 4-H Horse Club Meeting Schedule

April 16—Horse Judging practice on Mondays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

May 5—Barn visit TBD (weather permitting) or Extension Office



4-H Horse Bowl & Hippology

The Horse Bowl is a quiz bowl type event with question sets made from the Horse Industry Handbook. Teams of four members compete in tournament format against members from other counties. The competition is divided into three divisions by grades, Junior 4-5, Jr. High 6-8 and Senior 9-12.

The Hippology (study of horses) contest is also a team-of-four contest with the same divisions as Horse Bowl. Each team is tested in three ways: a written test, identification section and horse judging.

Eleven members participated in the Eastern Region contests in January with both a Junior High and Senior team advancing to the state contests in February. Some highlights included the Senior High team finishing 4th in State Horse Bowl and 11th grader, Morgan Short, placing as 5th high individual in the Senior Hippology State Contest.

4-H Clover Bowl

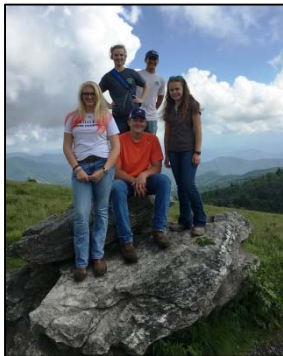
4-H Clover Bowl is a team quiz bowl type contest in which teams of four youth compete to test their knowledge related to 4-H, Tennessee, Agriculture, Government, Science, and Life Skills. These knowledge areas reinforce many of the science, social studies, math and language concepts students study in school curriculum. In addition, the activity encourages building relationships, teamwork, positive self-esteem, communication and the development of other important life skills. Divisions are offered for grades 4-8. The Sullivan County 4-H Clover Bowl will be held April 23-24, 2018 at the Northeast State Center for the Performing Arts in Blountville. Winning teams will advance to the Eastern Region Contest held at the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus on May 16, 2018.



Pictured is:

2016-2017 Holston Middle 6th grade team- ER Clover Bowl Reserve Champions

4-H Wildlife Judging



Do you enjoy the outdoors? Why not join a 4-H Wildlife Judging team for a fun trip to Knoxville on May 17, 2018 to compete in the Eastern Region 4-H Wildlife Judging Contest. Teams of four members in two divisions (grades 6-8 or 9-12) will compete to share their knowledge of wildlife species and habitat management. Contact Walter to learn more or to join a team. We hope to organize practice sessions and would like to know of your interest. Are you an adult who enjoys wildlife? Consider sharing your knowledge with area youth as a judging team coach.

Pictured: *(left) 2016 Sullivan County 4-H Wildlife Judging Team at State Contest at Roan Mtn.*

Support 4-H. Donate today!

The Sullivan County 4-H Youth Development program offers many educational opportunities for youth in grades 4-12. Many of these opportunities would not be possible without the support of caring donors both here in our county and across the state. Any donations, no matter the amount, are appreciated and really do make a difference in the lives of our area youth. Feel free to contact us to learn about specific programs that you may have an interest in supporting or other ways to support 4-H. An upcoming event in need of support would include summer camps.

Summer 4-H Camps: Help sponsor a child to attend summer 4-H camp. Youth grow in knowledge, social skills, confidence and more as they take part in a fun week at the Clyde Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville, TN. Activities include swimming, canoeing, shooting sports, arts/crafts, project sessions, team challenges, flag ceremonies and much, much more!

Support 4-H at Tractor Supply Company

Show your support for 4-H from Wednesday, April 11 through Sunday, April 22 by visiting our local Tractor Supply Company (TSC) Stores (Kingsport & Piney Flats) and purchasing a 4-H Paper Clover.

Proceeds from Paper Clover sales help benefit our local 4-H programs.

Tell friends, family, everyone you know to go to TSC and help support 4-H through the Paper Clover promotion.



4-H Junior Camp: June 25-29, 2018

Save
the
Date!



2018 Summer Fun with 4-H!

The 4-H Youth Development Program offers many educational and fun summer camps for youth from grades 4-12. Examples of these include:

- Multi-County Achievement Day is scheduled for April 26 in Hancock County.
- Project Celebration Day, a day camp, will be May 31 at the Appalachian Fairgrounds.
- Junior 4-H Camp (4-6th grades) June 25-29 at the Clyde Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville, TN.
- Junior High Camp (6-8th grades) July 9-13 at the Clyde Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville, TN.

More information on camping opportunities can be found at either:

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/Sullivan/Pages/4-H-Youth.aspx>

<https://4h.tennessee.edu/Pages/summercamps.aspx>

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/clydeaustin4hcenter/Pages/default.aspx>

Appalachian Fair 4-H Entries

The 2018 Appalachian Fair is scheduled for August 20-25.



There are numerous opportunities for 4-Hers to be involved at the fair. Some of these will be Biscuit Baking Teams, Educational Exhibits, Fair Entries in 4-H Department and Livestock Shows. Don't miss this great annual event and all the fun 4-H activities.

Contact the Extension Office for information on fair events and watch the Fair website for entry information this summer at <http://www.appalachianfair.com>.

Remember items must be entered by July 15 to exhibit in the fair.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Keep Your Spring Cleaning Healthy

“Green cleaning, which is cleaning with products that use only natural substances, is really the best household habit to adopt. Green cleaning products avoid the release of chemicals and additives into your home, avoiding any unnecessary health risks,” says Bonnie Hinds, an expert with the UT Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Many commercial products rely on chemical compounds to achieve what green cleaners can do just as effectively. Ingredients such as vinegar, baking soda, borax, cornstarch, lemons, salt, and olive oil are all naturally occurring substances that kill bacteria, remove dirt and grime, and keep your home safe.



“Using these products not only means your home is safer, but it means more money in your pocket. Commercial cleaners are more expensive

and do not last as long as these green recipes,” continues Hinds. UT Extension has been involved in sharing green cleaning recipes since 2014 as part of the Healthy Homes Partnership, but these recipes never get old. With these recipes and more, Tennessee households across the state continue to discover and enjoy the benefits of green cleaning.

All-Purpose Cleaner

2 tablespoons borax

¼ cup vinegar

2 cups hot water

Mix ingredients in a spray bottle or bucket. Apply and wipe clean.

Upcoming Programs and Events:

April 14: East TN Nursery Plant Auction at Sycamore Shoals State Park
April 19: Beef Education Meeting, Bondtown Road
April 21: Spring Forward Garden Festival, Ramsey Ag Center
April 21: Sullivan County Soil Conversation Plant Sale at Earhart Campground
April 23: Sullivan County 4-H Clover Bowl, Northeast State Center for Performing Arts
April 24: Sullivan County 4-H Clover Bowl, Northeast State Center for Performing Arts
April 26: Multi-County 4-H Achievement Day, Hancock County
May 3: Beef Education Meeting: *Fly Control in Beef Cattle*, Ramsey Ag Center
May 5: Sullivan County Cattlemen's Association Fundraiser Auction, Ramsey Ag Center
May 9: Bristol Junior Steer & Heifer Show, Washington County VA. Fairgrounds
May 17: 4-H Wildlife Judging, Knoxville, TN.
May 31: 4-H Project Celebration, Appalachian Fairgrounds
June 25-29: 4-H Junior Camp, Greeneville, TN.
July 9-13: 4-H Junior High Camp, Greeneville, TN.

Please call our office at 423-574-1919 for further information on any of the above events.

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UT Extension provides a gateway to the University of Tennessee as the outreach unit of the Institute of Agriculture. With an office in every Tennessee county, UT Extension delivers education programs and research-based information to citizens throughout the state. In cooperation with Tennessee State University, UT Extension works from farmers, families, youth and communities to improve lives by addressing problems and issues at the local, state and national levels.

Real. Life. Solutions.



Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.