Mission Statement:

The Agricultural Extension Service provides a gateway to the University of Tennessee as the outreach unit of the Institute of Agriculture. It is a statewide educational organization, funded by federal, state and local governments, that brings research-based information about Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H Urban Youth Development, and Community Resource Development to the people of Davidson County. Extension’s mission is to help citizens improve their lives and solve problems. The Agricultural Extension Service is a joint effort of Davidson County, The University of Tennessee, and Tennessee State University.
Agriculture / Horticulture

The Davidson County Master Gardeners returned 11,000 hours of volunteer time to projects in the county at a value of approximately $242,000 in 2016 in the areas of administration, community, and training.

38 homeowners saved an average of $1,500 each after Extension Agent determined that the health of a specific tree did not require its removal. An estimated savings of $57,000.

Using the Consumer Horticulture Economic Impact Calculator, with the average home value of 52 participants at $183,000.00, the estimated impact of Extension Consumer Horticulture Programs on home values is estimated at $570,960.

With 67 commercial horticulture enterprises served this year, the estimated impact of Extension Commercial Horticulture Programs is estimated at $56,950 based on the Commercial Horticulture Economic Impact Calculator.

4-H Youth Development

Davidson County 4-H received a National 4-H Council STEM Grant to conduct Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programs for the junior high audience. At the conclusion to the 14 hours of in class STEM programming was a STEM camp at the Clyde York 4-H Center, which included seventy-six 4-H members, three teen leaders, five teachers and one vice principal.

Twenty-one 4-H members attended Junior 4-H Camp at the William P. Ridley 4-H Center. 4-H members develop life skills such as leadership, team building, and responsibility during the week long camp.
**Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)**

Educators teach nutrition classes for families with limited resources. Participants learn to read nutrition labels, watch sodium and sugar intake, plan meals, budget food resources, and use food safety precautions. In 2016, **331** families were enrolled in the 6 session classes with a **87%** graduation from the program. Clients served consisted of a diverse cultural audience, including African American, Caucasian, Hispanic, Burmese, Arabic, Kurdish, Somali & others, at times requiring translators.

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**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)**

“Media Smart Youth Nutrition” program participants indicated behavior changes at the following levels…

- **87%** demonstrated a knowledge regarding food safety and safe practices on keeping themselves and their families safe.
- **60%** said they will know ask their caregivers to buy/provide their favorite fruits and vegetables.
- **87%** agreed to the statement, “Being active is fun and good for me”

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**Tennessee Nutrition & Consumer Education Program (TNCEP)**

TNCEP is a nutrition education program for Tennessee families who are eligible for SNAP benefits. The goal of TNCEP is to teach families how to choose and prepare nutritionally adequate diets and help them feel empowered to move toward self-sufficiency. Currently, the main focus audience is to target the Hispanic community in Davidson Co.

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**Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)**

A follow up survey on “Tennessee Shapes Up” program revealed that after participants went through the program the following continued practice behavior changes occurred:

- **86%** continued the continued behavior change of eating more whole grain
- **78%** of the participants decreased their consumption of high-sugar foods
- **61%** of the participants continued the practice behavior change of engaging in physical activity for at least 30 minutes for five or more days during most weeks
Cost-Benefit Analysis
For every $1 in public funds invested in UT Extension programs, an estimated $9.81 is returned to the people of Tennessee.

Davidson County Participation
70,166 direct educational contacts were made by Extension professionals at 1,013 group meetings and had 5,169 educational responses to direct mail / telephone inquiries in 2016.

School & Community Gardens
Davidson County Extension provides technical assistance, education, and leadership in community and school gardens. There are 58 school gardens and 39 community gardens. This is one of the largest concentrations of school & community gardens in the nation.

Extension Agents partnered with the Davidson County Sheriff’s Department Correctional Development Center to provide the Inmate Horticulture program, which provides employable skills in horticulture / lawn care for post incarceration.

Community Economic Development
- Extension Agents work with the Davidson County Council of Community Clubs. Cane Ridge, Little Creek, Oglesby, Scottsboro, and Whites Creek clubs meet regularly to improve the quality of life in their communities.
- Extension Agents assist with the overseeing and conducting of the Tennessee State Fair.