Davidson County
2017 Highlights

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 15,482 hours of volunteer time to projects in the county at a value of approximately $373,735 in 2017 in the areas of administration, community, and teaching.

47 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 $70,500.

Using the Consumer Horticulture Economic Impact Calculator, with the average home value of 52 participants at $339,250, the estimated impact of Extension Consumer Horticulture Programs on home values is estimated at $1,058,460.

With 82 commercial horticulture enterprises served this year, the estimated impact of Extension Commercial Horticulture Programs is estimated at $69,700 based on the Commercial Horticulture Economic Impact Calculator.

4-H Youth Development

- Davidson County 4-H received a National 4-H Council STEM and Healthy Living Grant to conduct STEM and Healthy Living programs to more than 2,000 middle school students.
- Two new 4-H agents have been hired on staff to lead the Davidson County 4-H program. Lindsey Harrison and Andy Lantz have developed curriculum and project group materials in the areas of STEM, Citizen Science, Birding, and Line and Design.
- Davidson County 4-H trained area 4-H agents and Metro School teachers in the 2017 National Youth Science Day curriculum. Over 200 NYSD kits were used by students in Davidson County.

Davidson County 4-H offers programs which help youth develop life skills such as leadership, team building, and responsibility through school club meetings, homeschool & project groups, and summer camp programs.
Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

Tennessee Nutrition & Consumer Education Program (TNCEP)

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 2017, 356 families were enrolled in the 6 session classes with a 86% graduation from the program. Clients served consisted of a diverse cultural audience, including African American, Caucasian, Hispanic, Burmese, Arabic, Kurdish, Somalian & others. TNCEP’s goal is to teach families how to choose and prepare nutritionally adequate diets and help them feel empowered to move toward self-sufficiency.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)

SNAP-Ed conducted multiple nutrition programs reaching over 3,000 adults. Over 50 classes were conducted for youth that addressed childhood obesity issues, such as increasing fruits/vegetables and increasing physical activity. Program participants indicated behavior changes at the following levels…

- 93% of SNAP-Ed adult participants increased vegetable consumption.
- 87% of adult participants said they increased their physical activity to at least 30 minutes a day.
- 72% of youth in afterschool SNAP-Ed program intend to eat less snack foods with added sugar during the next month.

Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)

Extension Agents Mary B. Wakefield & Elizabeth Sanders lead educational programs on Health & Foods, Home & Families, and Money Management. A follow up survey on the “Tennessee Shapes Up” program revealed that after participants went through the program the following continued practice behavior changes occurred:

- 70% improved their blood pressure;
- 59% improved their blood sugar level
- 73% 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

81,398 direct educational contacts were made by Extension professionals at 1,495 group meetings and had 5,523 educational responses to direct mail / telephone inquiries in 2017.

School & Community Gardens

Davidson County Extension provides technical assistance, education, and leadership in community and school gardens. There are 59 school gardens and 36 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.