

December 13th, 2019

Matthew Deist—ANR/4-H Agent
 423.942.2656 or mdeist@utk.edu



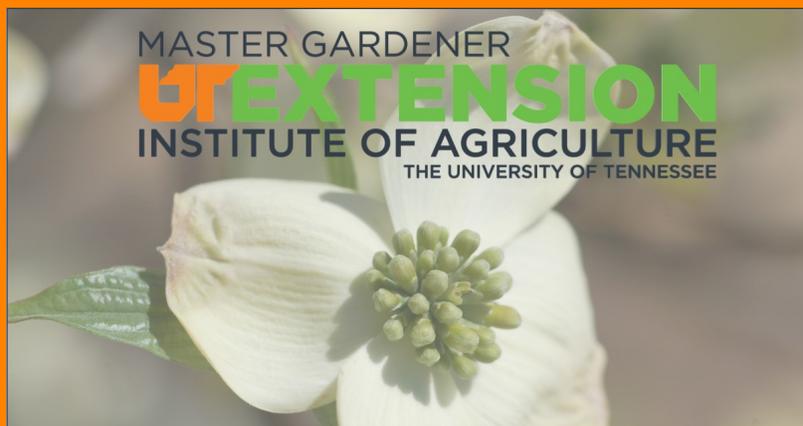
Agricultural Literacy Week Readings

It may have passed under your radar, but Ag. Literacy Week was November 17th - 23rd this year. Designed as a time to read to youth about an agricultural topic, this unique program gives them a chance to hear real facts and ask questions about an often misunderstood industry. This year, four 4-Hers in Marion County along with their Extension Agent (me) visited all four elementary schools to talk about beef cattle. Fitted with props and equipment including ear tagging equipment, a calf nursing bottle, bolus gun, lasso, and more, we spoke to nearly 100 youth about one of Tennessee's top commodities. The elementary school students pictured above were full of questions such as "What do cows eat?", "What's a steer?", and "Where does chocolate milk come from?". Our own Maddie Ashburn and I answered every question asked as descriptively and appropriately as possible.



2020 Master Beef Dates

Though still being finalized, the 2020 Sequatchie Valley Master Beef Producer Program has the first two meetings set. The first will be Jan. 23rd with the TCA's Executive Vice President Charles Hord. He will present on the topic of plant-based meat and give an industry update here at the UT-TSU Extension Office in Jasper starting at 5:30 p.m. The second meeting will be held February 13th in Dunlap on Farm Taxes and Record Keeping with UT Farm Management Specialist Alan Galloway.



Master Gardener Program - January 2020

This program has been a long time coming (back). Aimed at providing enhanced horticultural knowledge to local residents, the UT Master Gardener Program is also a volunteer training program; perhaps more so. With the help of certified Master Gardener, Mrs. Deborah Tucker, we will be teaming up to offer the program starting Jan. 27th. The next 14 Tuesdays will cover one topic per day with guest speakers, food, and fellowship. A few of the topics include basic botany, storm water mgmt., and organic gardening. Applications are due no later than Dec. 30th, an open house is scheduled from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Dec. 16th here at the Extension office, and all the info can be found here: <https://tiny.utk.edu/MarionMGs>.



Large Animal / Livestock Veterinarian Listing

You may not be aware of this listing on the TDA's website. It will soon be updated to include two local vets, Elliot & Pickett. Here's the link: <https://tiny.utk.edu/TDA-LargeAnimalVets>.

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.