ADVENTURES IN AGRICULTURE
April 11th 10am–2pm

Are you as strong as a farmer?
Can you milk a cow?
What does it take to grow the food you eat?

Find out all this and more at Adventures in Agriculture Day at Lane Agri-Park on April 11th.

Hosted by members and partners of the Rutherford County Agricultural Community; the day will have activities and interactive exhibits for all ages.

Rutherford Extension will be hosting “Extension Month Celebration”; a time to learn more about the activities and services available at Lane Agri-Park. Sign up for door prize drawings at the Extension Table.

Adults and children both will have the opportunity to learn heritage skills, such as butter making, spinning yarn and animal care. Live farm animals, food displays, gardening information and trolley rides will complete the day.

Parents can get gardening advice from Master Gardeners while they visit the Demonstration Garden, Orchard and Vineyards.

Admission is free to this annual event, but if you’d like to donate canned food to benefit the Rutherford County Food Bank you can help the community and have a great day at the same time.

Since 1975, the Rutherford County Farmers Market has provided an outlet for local farmers to sell fresh, home-grown produce and food products to our community.

Ours is the only locally grown and produced market in the county. This means that the people you meet at the market have raised and harvested the crops, collected the eggs and honey, baked the bread and raised the cattle.

It also means that the food you purchase will be seasonal. You won’t find watermelons in May or blueberries in October but what is in season will often have been picked within 24 hours or less of reaching you at the Market tables!

For your convenience, the token system will be back this year and Rover will be making regular stops.

See page 4 for a list of upcoming Market Classes.

Fresh! Local! Fun!
Follow the market on Facebook
@ Rutherford County Farmers Market
Extension Agents Amy Willis, Carla Bush, Misty Layne-Watkins and Walter Dirl presented a one day, information packed, workshop to the entire Junior class of Siegel High School on March 27, 2015.

In partnership with Rutherford Works /Chamber of Commerce, this day long event was designed to help students think seriously about the steps they will need to take after high school to be successful in college and/or on a job.

The day was divided into two sections:

First was the “On My Own” financial literacy simulation. This Extension program gives students the chance to experience the future in a fun and exciting way. After exploring career interests students received a monthly salary for their chosen career, a family scenario, and assets. Then “real-life” got thrown at them! Taxes, savings, purchasing necessities, raising families and unexpected costs were added to teach them that life doesn’t always go as planned, but you need to be prepared for it anyway.

The second part of the event was introducing them to the Tennessee Promise (two years of tuition free education at a community or technical college) and how to make the best decisions in choosing a career. Job interviewing help and actual interaction with Rutherford County business leaders helped them hear first hand what qualities and skills employers are looking for.

92% of the students surveyed said that the program helped them better understand how their occupation and family choices can affect their future lifestyles.

“On My Own” financial simulation is taught in schools throughout Rutherford County and at the RC Juvenile Detention Center.
Rutherford County Farmers’ Market

Educational Classes

These free classes are offered to the public on a variety of interests and topics. No pre-registration needed (unless noted). Classes are held in the Community Center classroom and will begin at 9:00 am and last about one hour. Suggest you get there early as seating is limited. Classes are taught by Extension Staff, Guest Speakers, and Certified Master Gardeners (CMG’s)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date /Presenter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 8th</td>
<td>Grow Your Own Cornbread</td>
<td>Enjoy growing grain corn in your garden &amp; converting it to meal for cornbread &amp; grits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12th</td>
<td>Local Treasures : Middle TN Native Plants</td>
<td>Use environmentally responsible &amp; wildlife friendly native plants as valuable additions to your home landscape.</td>
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<td>May 15th</td>
<td>Mushroom Gardening</td>
<td>Learn to grow your own bed of mushrooms at home.</td>
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<td>May 19th</td>
<td>Music for Everyone</td>
<td>Learn how to use music to feel better, exercise your brain and decrease stress.</td>
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<td>May 22nd</td>
<td>Deciphering Food Nutritional Labels</td>
<td>Confused by all of the info on food packaging these days? We'll help you decode and make the best choices for your family.</td>
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<td>May 26th</td>
<td>Seasonal Eating: Egg Cookery</td>
<td>Get your EGGuication and learn more about the amazing versatile EGG.</td>
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<td>May 29th</td>
<td>All Brown Patches Are Not Brown Patch</td>
<td>Discussion of common lawn problems and what to do about them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2nd</td>
<td>Gardening Apps for your Smart Phone</td>
<td>Review of useful apps that may aid in the Identification and treatment of common residential plant problems.</td>
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<td>June 5th</td>
<td>Raised Bed Gardening</td>
<td>We'll discuss the many benefits, various types, and raised bed construction methods, as well as site requirements and plant suggestions.</td>
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4th Annual Plant & Seed Swap  May 2  9am—2pm

Bring your divided / potted up plants to share and swap on a 1-1 basis for new plants to try. There will be bulbs, seeds, houseplants (sometimes even shrubs and trees...it all depends on what it brought in to “trade”!) If you have extra plants to share—we appreciate it & you will be helping new gardeners get started.

If you don’t have plants to swap bring canned foods to be donated to the Journey Home Community Café.

A few requests! It gets REALLY busy at the start of the swap. We can move you thru the check-in line & get you out into the swapping area faster if you will take care of a few things at home....

Everything needs to be labeled with plant name (or description) & care instructions (shade/sun; growth habits—whatever you know about the plant.)

Please have all plants divided and in containers or bags (please don’t bring clumps of plants that need to be separated) Seeds & bulbs should be bagged in reasonable amounts for sharing.

Don’t bring plants that “are taking over” - usually considered invasive plants.

Demonstrations—Guest Speakers—Silent Auction— Gardening Book Sale

For more information about this event visit mastergardeners-rc.org or visit & like us on FaceBook
2015 Advanced Master Beef and Master Beef Trainings Conducted

In Rutherford County, January through March is known for Master Beef and Advanced Master Beef season. Why this time of year? Because both programs require seven to eight weeks of training, with each session being approximately three hours. The first quarter of the year is also associated with short days and long nights which means farm activities for the most part, cease around 5:00 p.m.—so it is a great time of year for producers to come in and learn a new skill set!

This year, 20 producers took the Master Beef Producer Training, and 37 producers participated in Advanced Master Beef. Graduates of the programs receive a certificate, farm sign, and hat and qualify for increased cost share with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture: Agriculture Enhancement Program.

Advanced Master Beef Producer participants improved their understanding of important topics and planned on changing their operations accordingly with a producer-reported expected economic impact of $297,000. Master Beef Producer participants included experienced beef cattle producers as well as folks who were anticipating entering the cattle business. Their comments included:

“...This is a great course! You have an awesome set of instructors. Very valuable and more importantly, practical information that is easy to apply for any size herd. Course material was beneficial for cattlemen new to the business as well as long-time cattlemen.”

“Great info—herd health, marketing, nutrition, genetics, reproduction—all topics were informative.”

“Great program—I picked up many good ideas and programs to start.” Master Beef participants reported an expected economic impact of $63,000.

4-H County Demonstration & Interactive Exhibit Contest Date rescheduled to April 27th

This contest is open to any 4th thru 12th grade 4-H’er who have participated in the classroom speech or demonstration contest. Contest check in will be 6:00pm, the contests will begin at 6:30pm. If you haven’t already, call 615-898-7710 to register.

Time to get your soil tested!!

Don’t waste time, effort and money on applying the wrong soil amendments to your lawn or garden. Why have a soil test done? Less fertilizer and amendment cost/waste, healthier lawns, fewer weeds, improved vegetable yields and flowers!

Submitting a soil sample is simple.

Collect small portions of soil from approximately 10 random locations that represent the average soil in the area to be tested.

Samples should be collected at a depth of about 6 inches. (No rocks, roots or plant parts, please) Mix the small portions together. If the soil is wet, allow it to dry naturally.

Bring enough of the resulting mixture to fill a quart baggie to the extension office.

There is a fee to cover the cost of the testing, the cost depends on which test you are having done. You will get your results back by mail or email.

All events will be held at
Rutherford County Extension Lane Agri-Park
315 John R. Rice Blvd.
Murfreesboro TN 37129
unless otherwise noted.
PH: 615-898-7710
Visit our website for more information
http://rutherford.tennessee.edu
TO REGISTER FOR EVENTS AND CLASSES CALL
615-898-7710 unless otherwise noted
Rutherford County Extension News is published monthly and distributed by email.
Questions and /or comments may be directed to llindqu1@utk.edu

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
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