

Extension Impacts on Smith County

Smith County | 2015

We are...

An extension of the University of Tennessee working in Smith County. Our goal is to provide Real Life Solutions in agriculture, family and consumer science and 4-H. We work with youth, families, and land owners to provide education and solve problems.

Reaching Smith County		
Method	Number of methods	Contacts Reached
Meetings/ Demonstrations	348	11,159
Client Visits	437	726
Targeted Mail/Telephone Consultations	3,934	5,072
On-site Visits	178	482
Extension Volunteers		
Volunteer Hours	1,266	
Total Clientele Reached by Volunteers	4,202	

Youth Learn Communication Skills through 4-H

One of the primary purposes of 4-H Youth Development is to help young people develop life skills. One of the most important skills members learn is how to communicate with other people. Whether it's giving a speech or demonstration, writing a résumé, or serving as a teen leader, young people can sharpen their communication skills and be better prepared to enter the workforce through participation in 4-H.

- 293 youth can deal with their nervousness when giving a speech or talk.
- 290 youth report that they have developed confidence to speak in front of groups.
- 285 youth can give an informative speech or presentation.
- 290 youth know how to organize the parts of a speech or presentation.

Real Life Solutions for Livestock and Forage Producers

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, the market value of livestock sold in Smith County was \$11,269,000. Livestock sales represent 60% of the market value of agricultural products sold in Smith County. Beef cattle production is the primary livestock raised in the county with 605 of the 850 farms being beef cattle operations. Furthermore, Smith County is home to over 20,000 acres of forage production.

After several years of hot dry summers, the past couple of years have seen cooler temperatures with more moisture. While this has made crops grow and led to lower feed prices, it brings along its own challenges as increased weed pressure has decreased the quality of many pastures and hay fields. Strong cattle prices have led to more interest in cow calf production. This provides Extension with a unique opportunity to educate producers who are transitioning into livestock production.

In 2015, we held Advanced Master Beef Classes in Carthage and Hartsville in which 110 producers (82 of whom were from Smith County) learned about management practices to increase efficiency and raise profits. Several other production meetings and field days were held which covered topics such as fencing, forage production, and weed control.

- 74 beef producers utilized 82 bulls (through natural service or artificial insemination) with greater genetic potential to produce 1,626 head of calves to increase returns by \$81,300.
- 55 beef producers implemented reproductive management by conducting breeding soundness exams on 30 bulls (\$150,000 increased returns) and pregnancy diagnosis on 1,125 cows/heifers (\$450,000 increased returns).
- 78 beef producers stored 10,441 large, round bales under some type of cover to increase returns by \$62,646.
- 74 producers sprayed 2,921 acres for broadleaf weed control for an increased production valued at \$116,840

Improving our Communities

Building individual and family life skills to make positive impacts in our community is the mission of the Tennessee Extension Family and Consumer Sciences programs. Extension agents and state faculty collaborate to share their expertise and experience in nutrition and food

safety, health, human development and financial management with Smith County residents.

Family Consumer Sciences agents provide education in 5 program areas: Family, Food, Money, Home, and Health. The following is some data that will be used to determine the needs for future FCS programming in Smith County.

- 228 cases of child abuse were investigated in 2015. This contributes to 5.2% of the total reports in Tennessee for 2015.
- There are 1,156 (26%) single parent households.
- 1,086 children (24%) are living in poverty in Smith County.
- 35.5% of Smith County adults (5,019 individuals) are considered to be obese, compared to 32% of Tennessee adults.

Whether it's working with Family and Community Education Clubs to provide community based education, meeting with industry partners, or offering health and nutrition classes, FCS programs aim to make our communities a better, safer place in which to live.

Contact Us

Our office is located at 125 Gordonsville Hwy, Carthage TN. Contact us at 615-735-2900 or at smith.tennessee.edu. You can also "like" our UT Extension-Smith County Facebook page and follow us on Instagram at [UT Extension_Smith County](#).

**EXTENSION OFFICE
SMITH COUNTY**

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