

Extension Impacts in Smith County

4-H Youth Development



Around 25 head of goats, sheep and beef heifers and steers shown by seven different 4-H exhibitors were part of the Smith County 4-H Livestock Show held on June 8th. We are extremely proud of these 4-H'ers for the time and commitment they put into their livestock projects.



In May, the Smith County Community Club was proud to sponsor signs to welcome residents and visitors to both Carthage and Gordonsville. These signs were the idea of the club to help beautify our county and increase awareness about all the opportunities the club provides. The Community Club is for students in Smith County in grades 7-12. The club meets monthly and concentrates on leadership, citizenship, and community service.



Forty-two excited and eager 4-H'ers departed from Smith County on June 12th to attend Junior Camp at the Clyde M. York 4-H Center in Crossville. Activities campers could participate in included zip lining, swimming, shooting sports, group sports, fishing, kayaking/canoeing, nature hikes, leather craft and woodworking, t-shirt airbrushing, skits, music, and more.

Campers were able to participate in and watch a talent show, Land Olympics, and heard the camp ghost story of "Herman the German." There was also a dance and a movie night complete with popcorn. Several Smith County campers were even recognized with the Camp Spirit award, and Camp Service award. 4-H'ers spent the week trying new things, making new friends, and having fun.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Twenty-five home gardeners attended the “*From my Head ToMaToes*” program at Sutton General Store in April. They learned about insects, diseases, and nutritional disorders which can affect tomato production.



Caleb Phillips, a Gordonsville High School graduate and sophomore at Tennessee Tech, has been interning in our office this summer. Caleb has been busy scouting crops, planting variety tests, pulling forage samples, and even supervising kids at 4-H camp!



What is haylage? How is it Produced? Why should I try it? Over 70 forage producers had these and other questions answered at the “Haylage Field Day” in April. The event included several live demonstrations which allowed attendees to see haylage produced from start to finish.

Beekeepers from 20 counties in all 3 regions of the state visited Smith County for two days in June to participate in the Master Beekeeping Class. The event included lectures from University experts as well as some hands on work in the apiary.



The Smith County office of UT Extension once again partnered with Trousdale County to plant corn and soybean plots for the University of Tennessee County Standard Testing program. Producers will have access to these results along with others across the state to see which varieties perform best in our environment.



We had a barn full of cattle and kids at the Smith County Cattlemen’s Association Open Beef Show. Youth from across the state came to compete in one of the fastest growing shows in the state.

Family and Consumer Sciences



A two day Canning College was held on June 27th and 29th, in which participants learned the basic principles of pressure and water bath canning. Partakers also had a hands on experience with preparing for a water bath canner. Food safety and the science of canning were discussed during this workshop. Every participant took home a canned item made during the workshop, as well as a current UT publication on canning.

Mary presented Farmers' Market Fresh at Smith County Farmers Market July 1st and 8th. Everyone who stopped by the booth received a sample of the recipe for that day and a recipe card to take home. The primary goal of Farmers' Market Fresh is to encourage purchasing of fresh fruits and vegetables at the farmers' markets.



Walk Across Tennessee is an eight week journey "across Tennessee." Smith County had a kickoff event for the teams on July 10th. Walk Across Tennessee is a community program that persuades and motivates people of all ages to make that most important change . . . to get started.



A six weeks Tai Chi workshop was held every Wednesday from March 22nd through April 26th. Individuals learned how to modify their movements based on their ability and how to better manage stress. Participants improved their balance and flexibility throughout the six weeks.