

Williamson County Agriculture



Williamson County Meets China

County Director Matt Horsman recently travelled to Chengdu, China to present at a conference and to establish new relationships between the United States and China.

China is very interested in partnerships with Williamson County and the potential to learn about our agritourism ventures.

Matt had the opportunity to promote Tennessee beef with the International Affairs director (pictured in Williamson County Cattlemen's hat) and the high quality products Williamson County provides.

Master Horse Series

Monday, January 23rd begins the 8-part series for horse owners. The series is high quality content presented by quality speakers and is for the horse owner of all levels of experience.

Contact the Extension office to register.



Drought

The USDA has recently listed Williamson County as D3 (Extreme Drought Intensity), which qualifies producers for the Livestock Forage Assistance Program.

This is great news for producers as many of them were beginning to feed their winter stocks two months prior to expectation. For questions about the program or help, producers can be directed to call the Extension office or the Franklin FSA office.

Williamson County Extension — December Newsletter

Horticulture Programming and the WCMG's in Williamson County



On January 28th the Williamson County Master Gardener intern classes will commence.

Each year, WCMGs make a huge impact in the consumer sector. Almost 10,000 hours of time was volunteered in 2016 through a myriad of community projects: Carter House Heirloom Fruit and Vegetable Garden, My Friend's House Kitchen Garden, Jr MG Camp, Sensory Garden for the Blind, Walnut Grove Elementary Butterfly Garden, etc.



LSC

Gearing up for 2017, the UT/TSU Williamson County Extension Office is excited to host the 11th annual Landscape Short Course, a two-day multi-county workshop aimed at educating green industry professionals across the state.

The course is expected to max out in attendance both days, with over 200 participants. Most attendees register in order to attain either pesticide or arborist points, both of which are required to maintain certification, however, popularity of the course has grown among homeowners over the past few years and is expected to continue in 2017.



GARDEN TALK SERIES

Horticulture Agent Amy Dismukes will partner again with the Williamson County Public Library in Franklin to offer residents a 3rd annual Garden Talk Series.

The series will consist of educational programming closely mirroring the TEMG program, less the volunteer aspect.

Topics to be covered include: Starting Seeds Indoors, Square Foot Gardening, Vegetable Gardening with Organic Options, Hummingbirds, Herb Gardening (and companions).

Also included: From my Head ... Tomatoes (an all-inclusive look at growing tomatoes in Tennessee), Tennessee Thugs (plant diseases), Tennessee Bugs (insect pests), Pollinator Gardening, Native Plants for Middle TN Landscapes, Composting, Fall Gardening (cool-season vegetable gardening), Urban Trees and Saving Seeds.

Registration will be available through the Franklin Library at http://wcp1tn.org/locations/main_library.



Herb Presentation

Williamson County Extension — December Newsletter

4-H Achievement Banquet

The 60th Annual 4-H Achievement Banquet was held on December 6th. Volunteers, teachers, and alumni were recognized who have helped the Williamson County 4-H Program soar over the last year. 4-H members were recognized for 4-H involvement at the county level and beyond.

Thirty-nine 4-H members were awarded the "Outstanding 4-H member" of the year award for their grade level for participation and excellence in their 4-H project work. 4-H members participate in a wide variety of projects including STEM, Robotics, Livestock, Horse, Line & Design,

Shooting Sports, and Communications. Many other 4-H members were recognized for their Leadership and Citizenship development in the 4-H program.

We also recognized some of our outstanding volunteers, alumni, and teachers without whom we could not provide the quality programs we have to youth. The 60th Annual 4-H Achievement Banquet was a success, we love this opportunity each year to reward and recognize our outstanding youth!



4-H Honor Club



Citizenship, Leadership, and I Dare You Winners



Outstanding 4-H'ers

Williamson County Extension — December Newsletter

4-H Livestock Camp

Twenty-five youth in 4th -12th grades attended the Williamson County 4-H Livestock Camp on November 21st and 22nd.

These youth got hands on experience with beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats and hogs. This camp allows youth the opportunity

to interact with various types of livestock.

They learn how to raise and care for these animals. Topics at the camp included livestock facilities and handling, nutrition, and animal digestive systems.



Williamson County Extension — December Newsletter

4-H Horse Project Adventures



4-H horse project members floated on by in style at the Leipers Fork Christmas Parade on December 10th. 4-Her's and parents worked hard to decorate a wonderful "Christmas Morning" themed float!



It

Williamson County Extension — December Newsletter

Family and Consumer Science

The Living Well with Chronic Conditions course just ended this week. If you or someone you know would benefit from participating in these classes please call our office to find out when we will be offering this course in the New Year.

Being planned for January is a Take Charge of Your Diabetes Class. Hopefully, this class will be held at the Brentwood Library – more information to come later. If you know of anyone with Diabetes, please have them call our office to get more information about these classes.

This is an excellent program for diabetics and their family members. I hope that everyone will have a very happy holiday season.

Remember the two hour food rule in order to keep your food safe. Refrigerate left overs within two hours from the time of serving. Enjoy all the great food within reason and remember portion control. It is better to not gain weight than to have to work so hard to shed those extra pounds after Christmas!



Extension staff members had a “recipe redo” day, creating healthier versions of favorite foods.

Happy Holidays!