

Williamson County Extension — February Newsletter

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Webinars for Pasture and Land Owners



Whether you own a horse pasture or a residential lawn, the fescue grasses are going to soon be covered in color. Unfortunately, the color is coming from troublesome weeds. This past fall's drought was very straining on cool season forages and has provided ample opportunity for spring time weeds to thrive. A

series of webinars for pasture and lawn owners will cover ways to handle the weeds, decisions to make this spring, and how to prep for the fall. Check in shortly at the Extension website <https://extension.tennessee.edu/williamson> for the upcoming schedule.

February 2017 Horticulture Programming in Williamson County



Horticulture Agent Amy Dismukes kicked off the 2017 Garden Talk series at the Franklin location of the Williamson County Public Library this month with 'Starting Seeds Indoors ... to get a jump on the season'.

The informative program included an exchange of knowledge about how, why, and when we sow seeds early/indoors and a "hands on" activity in which participants were able to make their own seeding pots, choose from a variety of seeds and properly plant a seed (or two) to take home.

Garden Talk is a 15-week program, scheduled for various Mondays, 1 to 3 p.m., through the end of September. It focuses on horticulture related topics and best management practices for the homeowner landscape.

Upcoming programs include: an all-inclusive Fruit Workshop featuring Dr. David Lockwood, the University of Tennessee Fruit & Nut Specialist. The workshop will take place at Carter House Heirloom Fruit Orchard, an ongoing WCMGA project.

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4-H Public Speaking Contest

The competition was fierce as over 200 4-H members participated in the 2017 Williamson County 4-H Public Speaking Contest sponsored by Williamson County Farm Bureau. The contest was held in January at Franklin High School and was open to 4-H members from grades 4- 12.

This contest helps teach youth life skills that are beneficial for a lifetime in their personal and professional lives. Developing self-confidence and effective public speaking skills are two

goals of the Williamson County 4-H public speaking program. Over 70 4-H members received ribbons, with 3 members moving on to compete in the Senior High Public Speaking Contest in Lebanon.

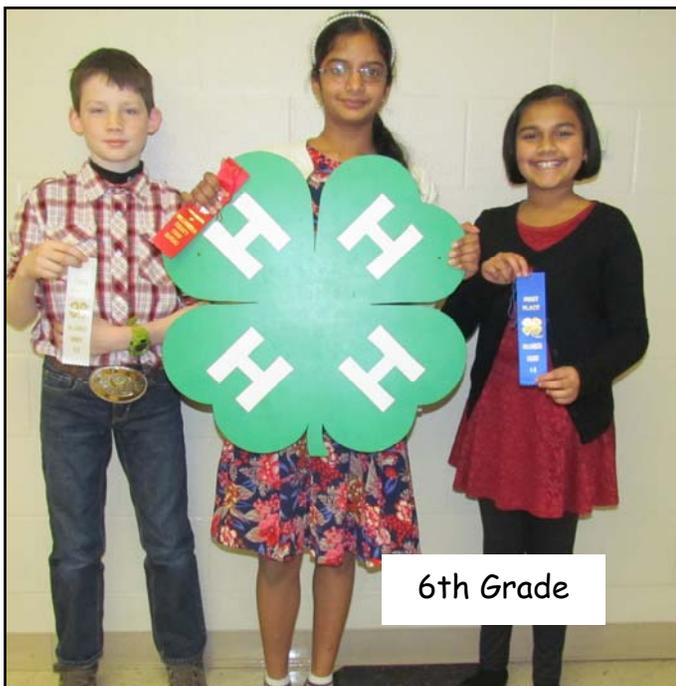
The top students in 4th-8th will go on to compete at an area-wide contest against nine other Middle Tennessee counties later in February. Congratulations to all the Williamson County Students who participated in the 4-H Public Speaking Contest!"



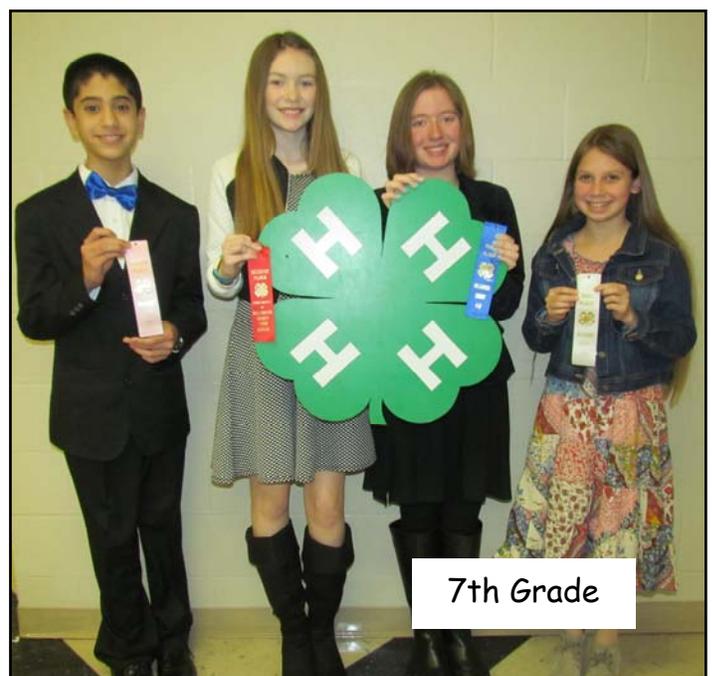
4th Grade



5th Grade



6th Grade



7th Grade

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Poster Contest!

January was the 4-H Poster contest. This fun contest helps youth go through the process of thinking of a slogan to advertise 4-H, create a design, and then make their design come to life on a piece of poster board.

The contest helps students practice non-verbal communication skills and allows them to explore their creative side! These students below are from the Eagle Homeschool 4-H club showing off their posters.



4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology Teams



County Hippology



Regional Hippology



Regional Hippology

The Williamson County 4-H Horse Hippology and Horse Bowl Teams are riding high!

After a fun filled County Hippology and Horse Bowl contest our teams moved on to the Central Regional contest where 4 teams qualified to move on to the State Hippology and Horse Bowl Contest.

The contest will be held February 24th and 25th in Knoxville. Good luck teams!

UT/Williamson County Extension — February Newsletter

FCS Agent Visits Rwanda

FCS agent Patsy Watkins just returned from a nine day trip to Rwanda. She is part of a UTIA International Programs team that is partnering with USAID and Africa Sustainable Agriculture Project Foundation smallholder chicken program!

Patsy is the Family Consumer Science representative that will be working on the nutrition piece for families. The team visited some existing chicken farms while they were in the country.



Rwandan children in the village posing for their picture.



Rwandan chickens



Team visiting an egg farm and making plans

TNCEP News

One of the TNCEP projects for the second semester of the school year is Tasty Days. This project consists of all the students at Franklin and Liberty Elementary being given the opportunity to taste a vegetable and a fruit each month.

If they try it they get a cute sticker to wear that says *I Tried It!* A newsletter goes home in each student's backpack telling the parent about what their child tasted and giving them other ideas of how to encourage the eating of fruits and vegetables.

The first tasting was held at Franklin Elementary and also included Head Start. Broccoli and kiwi were the items available for tasting. Most of the students at least tried the fruit or vegetable.

There were several TNCEP coalition volunteers who came out to help make this event possible. This program will continue each month through April. TNCEP stands for *Tennessee Nutrition Consumer Education Program*. This program provides nutrition education to limited resource individuals and their families who are eligible for SNAP (*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*) benefits.

