

UT/Williamson County Extension — January Newsletter

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Horticulture Programming and the Williamson County Master Gardeners

UT/TSU Williamson County Extension was proud to host the 10th annual Central Region Landscape Shortcourse (LSC) this month. LSC is a multi-county event dedicated to improving the educational opportunities in Middle Tennessee for green industry professionals.

LSC is filled with research based information provided by horticulture agents, university specialists and green industry professions. Landscape professional and arborists come from across the state. Attendees gain valuable information as well as pesticide and arborist points, all of which are required by the state in order to maintain certification.

This year, the course broke record attendance. The volunteer efforts of **Williamson County Master Gardeners** were an added bonus and helped to make the program a success by assisting speakers, manning registration tables and keeping refreshments stocked.



Master Gardener LSC Volunteers



LSC Participants

Programming this year included topics such as: 'Increasing Efficiency in the Landscape', 'Plant Selections for TN', 'Worker Safety', 'Tree Risk Management', and 'Organic Lawn Care'.

Due to the increasing number of homeowner requests for edible landscapes, an 'Edible Landscape' track was added to the course. Specialist from UT's Soil, Plant and Pest Center presented pertinent information on the current debate regarding 'Neonicotinoids' and Boxwood Blight, an incoming pathogen that could potentially devastate the boxwoods in Tennessee.

Williamson County Horticulture Agent Amy Dismukes spoke about disease in the landscape and what to expect this year. By knowing what's headed our way, green industry professionals can get a jump on controls resulting in increased efficiency and happy clientele.

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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
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Welcome Chelsey!



The 4-H office recently hired Chelsey Smith as a new 4-H agent in Williamson County.

Chelsey grew up in Brentwood, TN and now resides in Columbia. In 2012, she received her Bachelors of Science in Animal Science from the University of Tennessee.

She is a horse owner and has a background in veterinary medicine. Chelsey is very excited to join the Williamson County team and is looking forward to meeting and getting to know you!

Horse Bowl and Hippology

Williamson County 4-H Horse Project members participated in the County Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest on January 9th. All of the participants truly shined and will be moving on to shine even brighter at the Regional Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest in Lebanon.

This talented group has spent months studying hippology - which includes nutrition, anatomy, physiology, veterinary medicine, pasture management and much more.

We are proud to have these outstanding members representing Williamson County and know that they will rock at regionals!



4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology Winners



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4-H Honor Club Welcomes New Members

In December at the 4-H Achievement Banquet, twenty-one 4-H members joined the 4-H Honor Club. Honor Club is open to youth in 6th - 12th grade who have been active in 4-H work. This group meets monthly with a focus on learning to be better leaders and citizens through community service projects and leadership activities.

At the January Honor Club meeting (photo at right), members played a “Speed Dating” game so new and old members could meet and get to know each other. Students talked about their passions, dream jobs, and who they would like to be for the day. This was a fun activity and helped club members grow closer together.

At the meeting, members also discussed plans for service projects this spring including working with a local animal shelter, Veteran’s Home and Ronald McDonald House.



4-H Winter Camps Build New Life Skills and Experiences

Livestock Camp 2016



The New Year rang in the first ever Livestock Camp for Williamson County 4-H. Participants received the opportunity to be exposed to animals in a variety of natures. Experienced professionals taught proper feeding, handling, and management practices to youth and families. Knowledge gained is invaluable in teaching proper agricultural processes.

Horse Camp 2015

Eight-five horse project members participated in the three day/two night Winter Horse Camp.

Members got the opportunity to try new experiences, learn from professionals in the industry, develop new relationships, and build life skills through unique educational challenges. Participation is capped and there continues to be waiting lists each year due to the impact the program has on the youth’s lives.



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FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
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Family and Consumer Science Info



The fce program is starting 2016 with a new theme for the year, "Picture Me in fce". This year the region as well as our local fce are focusing on recruitment. Specifically in Williamson County we are focusing on starting a new fce club in the Grassland area.

Continue to watch for more details as we plan meet and greet type meetings before the actual club will start. If you know of people that might be interested in being involved that live in that part of the county please share their contact information with the FCS agent, Patsy Watkins or our office.



The i-cook pilot program held their final class in December. The class did a mapping exercise to help them discover how the new skills they had learned could have a very far reaching impact.

It was exciting for them to see that a few people making small changes could actually make a large impact for many people. The class also held a cookie swap to celebrate the conclusion of the program.

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.