

UT/Williamson County Extension — July Newsletter

Agriculture

Summer Tips

With the Tennessee Summer upon us, we provide a few tips for keeping your plants and animals in the best shape. When watering grass or plants, it is best to water early in the morning. This will allow the plants to fully soak up the water and prevent fungus growth which can occur with nighttime watering. Young trees will need extra watering as heat stress can set back growth. For livestock and horses, make sure they have a clean, cool water source and shade.

Williamson County Fair

The Williamson County Fair is right around the corner and the Extension office takes a front and center roll in making it happen. In order to make this the best fair possible, we are always looking for volunteers to help achieve success. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us with your interest.

Pilot Study

The Williamson County Extension office has been selected by Dell and Corinith (Prague Co.) to unveil a pilot study and state of the art equipment that will bring adult and youth learning to new heights.

This 3-D technology will allow users get an internal perspective how a multitude of objects and living beings operate and function. The information will be unveiled at the Williamson County Fair.



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WCMGA Horticultural Programming



A Tennessee Extension Master Gardener's mission is to promote environmental stewardship and to educate the general public about horticulture using research based information available through UT Extension.

In meeting this goal, Williamson County Master Gardeners were asked to represent the state program at 'Fruits of the Backyard', a yearly field day held at the Spring Hill Research Center. Programming included talks on cultivars, insect and disease control, etc.

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MASTER GARDENER
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Horticulture Programming and the Williamson County Master Gardeners Activities

Additional horticulture related programming by the County Horticulture Agent, Amy Dismukes, 'Bugs and Thugs of Tennessee' was implemented at the Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association annual conference, held at Otis T. Floyd Research Center in McMinnville.

This yearly event caters to commercial landscape professionals with the goal of increasing knowledge on topics beneficial to the industry. 'Insects in the Landscape', another educational program took place slightly later in the month with an audience of homeowners.

The monthly column provided for the Franklin Homepage, pressed on the second Sunday of each month, featured information about bagworms: identification, recognizing damage and controls/prevention ... a topic of great concern in Williamson County. Bagworms can completely defoliate many tree species, ultimately causing death and the need for removal.



My Friend's House



The kitchen garden at My Friend's House is thriving. The garden's purpose is to educate the teenage male residents on how to plan, implement and maintain a small garden. The proceeds of the garden will be utilized in the weekly cooking program provided for the teens in which they learn culinary skills. With the assistance of several Master Gardeners, continued visits are planned with various educational topic relating to the garden.



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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
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New 4-H Agent



The 4-H office recently hired Mary Beth Antunes as the new 4-H Agent in Williamson County. Long time 4-H Agent Alice Darnell retired June 30.

Mary Beth grew up in Murfreesboro, TN and was an active 4-H member there. She has a Family and Consumer Science degree from MTSU and has worked in Van Buren County as a UT Extension Agent for the last three years with their 4-H and FCS programs.

Mary Beth is very excited to be in Williamson County now! She got married in January and her husband works in Brentwood for State Farm. She is looking forward to getting to know Williamson County better and meeting you!

4-H Cake Auction at the Williamson County Fair

The annual 4-H cake auction will be held at 4:00 on August 8, 2015 at the main stage area of the Williamson County Fair. Come and bid for your favorite baker or your favorite type of cake. Don't miss the opportunity to purchase a delicious cake and support 4-H.



County 4-H Expo at the Fair

Again this year, the county 4-H expo will be held at the Williamson County Fair.

Market Goat Showmanship will begin at 9:30 on August 10, followed by Market Lamb and Market Steer Showmanship.

The Market Goat show begins at noon, followed by the Market Lamb and Market Steer Show.

The Expo auction will begin immediately following the naming of the Grand Champion Steer. Champion and reserve animals will be sold first, followed by steers, lambs, and goats.

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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
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4-H State Beef Expo

2015 Regional & State 4-H Beef Expo was held July 6th-8th in Murfreesboro. Williamson County had over 20 youth exhibiting their commercial heifers, registered heifers, and market steers. These youth were very successful on the regional and state level. Williamson

County had the champion market steer group and heifer group on the state level. These awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication put in by our youth to have high quality livestock.



Champion County Group - Market Steers



Champion County Group – Heifers

Almost Fair Time!



4-H Poultry Show & Sale
August 15, 1 p.m.



4-H Fashion Show
August 15, 4 p.m.

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4-H Family Receives State Honors

Long time 4-H family, the Stewarts, have been selected by Tennessee 4-H to receive the Hale Master 4-H Family Award. The purpose of the award is to give deserved recognition to 4-H families on the county, region, and state levels who have shown consistent leadership ability and exceptional participation in all phases of 4-H club work.

The Stewart family is well deserving of such honors being involved in countless projects of

4-H club work through their children's participation and volunteer work. Currently they volunteer their time through the 4-H Shooting Sports. Their efforts have helped Williamson County become one of the top notch programs within the state.

We are very grateful to have such wonderful volunteers who care so much about the future of the youth in Williamson County!



4-H Electric Camp

Six 4-H'ers from across Williamson County recently attended the state 4-H Electric Camp held at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. They learned about solar energy, electric vehicles, electrical safety and wind power.



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FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
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Family and Consumer Science News

A new Dining with Diabetes class began this month. The class is for diabetics, pre-diabetics and their caregivers. The class meets in the demonstration kitchen at the Williamson County Public Health Department.

UT Extension agent, Patsy Watkins, teaches the class in partnership with the Health Educators from the health department.

This class provides an opportunity for learning and experiencing. The participants are given correct portion sizes of recipes that are demonstrated and prepared for them to try. This provides the opportunity for them to realize that with some planning they can enjoy eating as well as have some of their favorite foods.



A full house for the first Dining with Diabetes class.

Take Charge of Your Diabetes classes will be offered in Fairview starting August 11. These are being offered at night and will be meeting at the health department in Fairview.

Co-parenting class continue to be offered with the next class being July 16.

UT intern Lindsey Miller continues to be a great asset to our office. She is learning many things from floral arranging to cooking skills as she is experiencing all the different things (often unexpected) that tend to happen in the life of extension agents. Lindsey is below at left, assisting the Dining with Diabetes class.



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.