

# UT/Williamson County Extension — July Newsletter

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## Williamson County Fair

It's fair time! With the fair a little less than a month away, the Extension office is gearing up for another great year.

Each year the Extension office plays a pivotal role in the implementation as well as management of the activities and sections of the fair. Whether it is a contest, exhibition, program, or activity section, we are always looking for new and innovative ideas to make the Williamson County Fair the best possible experience for the fairgoer.

I encourage you to stop by and take in a night at the fair. You won't regret it. Besides, this is a great opportunity to get a locally raised meat product or a prize winning cake or pie! See you soon!



Children's Barnyard



4-H Fashion Show



4-H Cake Auction

### 4-H Events at the Fair - More Details Inside



4-H Cake & Pie Auction-Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>-4:00 pm

Expo Livestock Auction-Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>-6:30 pm

4-H Poultry Auction-Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>-1:00 pm



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## July 2016 Horticulture Programming in Williamson County

July kicked off the summer with a definite steam ... homeowner horticulture requests continue to climb in numbers. Heat and humidity tend to bring about the bugs and thugs that inhabit (and damage) our gardens and landscapes. With the steady stream of requests, the month of June was a very busy time for the UT/TSU Williamson County Extension and the Williamson County Master Gardeners.



Master Gardeners (MGs) in Williamson County had the unique opportunity to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> advanced Tennessee Extension Master Gardener (TEMG) training held at the Central Region in Nashville. MGs are regarded as knowledgeable in the world of horticulture and therefore it is very important to stay updated on current events and issues. As a requirement of annual certification, MGs must earn 8 CEUs (continued education units) in addition to volunteering. Agent Amy Dismukes (pictured above) lectured about utilizing visual symptoms and signs to diagnose in the landscape. Often, if you know the plant and are able to recognize the damage, it's very easy to pinpoint the issue.

on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Fall Vegetable Gardening' is the next topic of discussion, scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> of July at 1:30 pm, and will be presented by Sadira Ebert, a Williamson County Extension Master gardener and certified 'square foot' gardener. For more information on how you can attend these free gardening classes, please consult the Williamson County Public Library website.

### Tomato UPDATE

This spring's weather - dry and cool - was perfect for the successful reproduction and development of the western flower thrips, an insect that can cause damage in the landscape with its rasping/scratching type mouthpart.

Thrips also have another nasty habit, they transmit *Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV)*. TSWV can infect over 1000 plant species but is a major issue when we talk about tomatoes.

Infected plants exhibit bronzing of the upper sides of young leaves, which develop into distinct, necrotic (dead) spots. Leaves may cup downward and tip dieback may occur. Fruits do not mature as desired, making them undesirable. Ripe fruits develop circular blotches with concentric rings; green fruits may show slightly raised areas with faint, concentric zones (see photo).

Resistant varieties are available and recommended in 2017, should we see similar spring weather patterns.



The garden series at the Franklin WCPL continues to be a success, with only three more programs remaining. With September being prime time to collect and save seed, 'Seed Savers UNITE!' will close out the series



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## Treat Yourself to Sweets for 4-H!



Did you know you can take home one of the amazing blue ribbon cakes or pies from the 4-H Baked Goods Contest at the Fair? Come to the Main Stage at 4:00 pm, Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> for the 4-H Cake Auction!



All the made from scratch cakes and pies entered into the contest will be auctioned and the proceeds will go to Williamson County 4-H Programs. We hope you will join us for this tasty event where you can have your cake and eat it too, just bring your check book!

Any youth who have completed 4-12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to enter the Baked Goods Contest. All baked items are to be delivered between 8:30-9:30 am.

At 9:30 the entries will be judged for the best of the best. For more contest or auction information check out page 100 of the Fair Catalog or email Mary Beth Antunes at [mlee60@utk.edu](mailto:mlee60@utk.edu).

## Sew Much Summer Fun



The 4-H Line & Design girls have been busy this summer! The group met for a two-day summer workshop to learn how to use a pattern, make a garment, and learn new advanced sewing skills.

Seven girls attended the workshop and they all made a basic skirt with an elastic waist using a pattern. Each girl also made a second project of their choice after completing their skirt, some made a vest, shorts, or even another skirt.

These girls have some impressive skills and love sewing! Come check out their handiwork at the Fair, many of them plan to enter their skirts and outfits in the 4-H Fashion Show at the Williamson County Fair on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm on the main stage.

## 4-H Poultry Show and Sale

The 4-H pullet show and sale will be held on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Pullets will be in place by 10 a.m. for viewing, with the show and sale at 1:00 p.m.

The 4-H'ers will be selling a group of five pullets. Proceeds help purchase chicks for the next years' project. Contact the office if you are interested in purchasing a group of pullets!



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## Williamson County 4-H Livestock Expo

The 2016 Williamson County Jr. Livestock Expo will be on Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup> during the Williamson County Fair. The youth of Williamson County do a tremendous job producing high quality livestock through the 4-H club's junior livestock program. They work hard and put in lots of hours producing a wholesome food product for our community. Youth involved in livestock programs develop strong work ethics; learn responsibility, teamwork, and leadership! These are life-skills that will help them be successful adults.

The Jr. Livestock Expo serves as an opportunity for the youth within the county to show off their hard work and receive financial rewards in return. The Jr. Livestock Expo is a show and sale of market steers, market lambs, and market goats. With over 45 youth exhibitors you will be amazed by the high quality livestock! The youth will then auction off their animals that evening during our Jr. Livestock Expo Sale. Livestock

proceeds are often combined with scholarships to finance a major portion of their college expenses. This is a great way to teach youth hard works pays off!

We hope that you can join us for a portion of our Jr. Livestock Expo beginning at 5:30 p.m., Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Matt Horsman, Larry Darnell, or Julie Giles for further information. We looking forward to seeing you there!



## State Beef Expo



The 2016 Regional & State 4-H Beef Expo was held in July in Murfreesboro. Williamson County had over 20 youth exhibiting their commercial heifers, registered heifers, and market steers.

These youth were very successful at the regional and state level. Williamson County had the champion market steer group on the state level. Tyler Haley brought home the title of Tennessee Reserve Grand Champion Steer. Other

exhibitors were awarded for their knowledge of the beef industry through the skillathon contest. Multiple 4-H members ranked in the top five in the state!

These awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication put in by our youth to have high quality livestock.



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## Local Cultural Arts

"Picture Me Healthier in Local" was the theme of the Williamson County Cultural Arts Day for 85 Family and Community Education (fce) club members and guests. The keynote speaker, Jennings Reagan, Director of Community Relations for the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness, shared information about Healthier Tennessee, small steps to living healthier, and led participants in a rousing, interactive Go Noodle classroom exercise via video.



Lunch was provided by Miss Daisy's Kitchen (Grassland Foodland Market) and entertainment was brought to us by the Senior A+ Twirlers of Williamson County. This is a group of twirlers from high school and college days who continue to twirl their batons for physical exercise and enjoyment, for themselves and others.



Cultural arts created by the fce members included handwoven baskets, chairs and stools, crochet, paintings, photography, pottery, quilts,

and more. Viewer's Choice was awarded to the crocheted baby sweater and hood made by Phylis Sanford from the Friendly Neighbors Club in Nolensville. A fashion show was held during lunch, featuring sewn clothing and best fashion purchases.



Evelyn Hilton (above right), currently serving as the Vice President for Programs for the Williamson fce County Council was announced as the Williamson County "Best of the Best". The "Best of the Best" award recognizes and honors the outstanding members of the Family and Community Education Clubs who have given over and beyond the norm in the performance of duties as a volunteer, through unselfish acts for the betterment of their community.

The community service project that the clubs chose to participate in this year was to bring non-perishable foods for the Grace Works Fuel Bag program. Together the ladies collected 515 pounds of food to donate to GraceWorks.

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## Family and Consumer Science

During the month of May the fce club members participated in Walk Across Tennessee. The goal was to collectively walk at least 500 miles, the distance from Memphis to Bristol.

Club members, divided into 13 teams of 4 and walked a total of 3078.47 miles. The top five teams were awarded certificates of completion with prizes for the top two teams.



Hippy Chicks walking group

Fce clubs meet once a month in 9 different locations across the county. If anyone is interested in more information regarding fce clubs, please contact Patsy Watkins in our office at 615-790-5721 or [pwatkin2@utk.edu](mailto:pwatkin2@utk.edu).

Personal Financial Training for Teachers was held in Williamson County on June 28 and 29. This two day training is for teachers that will be or hope to be teaching personal finance in the high schools this fall.

This training is open to all middle Tennessee teachers and is taught by Family and Consumer Science agents from Davidson, Montgomery and Williamson County. There were 20 teachers in attendance.



A Food Preservation class was held in June with 38 attendees from the Allenbrooke CSA.

This class was a joint effort between agents from Williamson and Maury County as the Allenbrooke farm is located in both counties.

This class was a huge success and is the start of more classes to be offered in the future. Participants learned about various forms of food preservation and how to make sure that their preserved food is safe.

### Baking Workshop



County FCS and 4-H agents teamed up to offer a baking workshop for 4-H members. Bakers prepared quick breads, yeast breads and cookies.

Students practiced their baking skills in preparation for entering items in the county fair. The workshop was very successful and a second one is already planned.