Williamson County Extension — June Newsletter

Agriculture

Williamson County farmers and producers recently (June 1-7) turned in Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program applications for the upcoming program year. To date, Williamson County has been allocated over 1.5 million dollars by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Every dollar invested has a return rate of $3.85.

This year’s spring has produced numerous obstacles for local producers. Abnormal shortages of rainfall early in spring followed by heavy rainfall in May has made row crop planting and hay harvesting difficult. Possibility of reduced yields will be determined by the “Tennessee” summer. Through Spring of 2015, the Extension office has continued to see a climb in small acre horse farms. As such, additional educational opportunities will be provided to meet this growing need.

**Williamson County Fair** — The 11th annual Williamson County Fair arrives at the Ag Expo Park August 7th-15th. Many new and exciting programs and activities have been planned for this year’s fair. The Extension office continues to be instrumental in providing and implementing educational opportunities to fairgoers.

Horticulture Programming & the Williamson County Master Gardeners Activities

With the help of several master gardeners, a kitchen garden was installed at My Friend’s House, to serve the purpose of educating the teenage male residents on how to plan, implement and maintain a small garden. Two small raised beds were constructed and filled with different varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and herbs. The proceeds of the garden will be utilized in the weekly cooking program provided for the teens in which they learn culinary skills. Two additional community gardens were provided with advisement.

The bi-weekly column provided for the Franklin Homepage, pressed on alternate Sundays, featured information about tomatoes, the recommended growing practices and the insects and disease that accompany them. You can read the article here: http://www.franklinhomepage.com/amy-dismukes-a-homegrown-tradition-cms-20212
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, the Williamson County Master Gardeners Association hosted the 10th annual Junior Master Gardener Camp, held the 1st week of June. The camp brought together a group of 62 incoming 1st through 6th graders interested in horticulture. This year’s theme, ‘One - Two - Tree’, focused on urban forestry and its importance in sustaining the environment. Additionally, Walden’s Puddle livened up the week and brought in a few of the wildlife species that go hand-in-hand.

Agent Amy Dismukes becomes a tree to demonstrated arborist techniques.
June is Dairy Month!

The 2015 Williamson County June Dairy Month Chair is Sydney Lamb from College Grove, TN. Sydney is an active 8th grader within the 4-H Dairy Project. She has showed her dairy cows on a local, region, state, and national level.

She has also been a member of the 3-time state winning Jr. High Dairy Quiz Bowl team. She enjoys learning about dairy cattle through dairy judging and dairy skillathon. As the June Dairy Month Chair she will be promoting the dairy industry and dairy products to the public.

3 Time State Champions!

The Williamson County Dairy Quiz Bowl team was named state champions for the third year in a row for the Jr. High Division. These four individuals Sydney Lamb (top), Kendall Warpool (left), Isaiah Osborne (center), and Jayme Ozburn (right) have been studying endless materials about dairy cows preparing for the contest. After multiple rounds of questions the Williamson County team came out on top for the third year in a row!

Scholarships—This past May the Williamson County 4-H program awarded ten of its top seniors with college scholarships totaling $16,000. Scholarships are awarded based on members career achievements, successes, and participation level. The scholarship program is made possible by the graciousness of local supporters and donors.
Williamson County took 143 campers, teen leaders and adult volunteer leaders to the William P. Ridley 4-H Camp in Columbia June 8-12. Crafts, zip line, rifle range, archery, creek stomping, putt putt, swimming and many more activities were enjoyed by all. The theme for the week was Mindcamp. 4-H’ers learned about Science and Technology by building a catapult and learning about GIS.

4-H Academic Conference

Junior High 4-H Academic Conference recently celebrated its 27th anniversary. The 4-H youth development event for 6th through 8th graders was held June 9-12, 2015, on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Participants received intensive training in their 4-H project areas under the supervision of university scientists and specialists and explored related career opportunities.

The conference provided a variety of rewarding and fun-filled experiences in classroom, outdoor and laboratory settings. Williamson County sent ten delegates; Front L-R—Liam Allen, Shelby Mryncza, Amber Hiscock, Christine McCollum, Emily Gordon. Back L-R—Kendall Warpool, Jayme Ozburn, Harper Biggs, Sydney Lamb, Alexis Minit. The students also did a service project and visited Dollywood.
Summer Intern

UT placed a Family Consumer Science Intern in our office for the summer. Welcome to Lindsey Miller, a senior FCS major from Middle Tennessee State University. Lindsey is a senior with a concentration in child development and will graduate in December. She has been a great asset to our office in the two short weeks that she has been here.

We have been very busy with Cultural Arts day for the fce clubs, the kids’ cooking camp at the Housing Authority, the Living Well with Chronic Conditions class at the Heritage in Brentwood and the co-parenting class for June. All of these events were the first 2 weeks along with the normal things in our office. If you happen to be in our office introduce yourself to her.

Welcome Lindsey!

Cultural Arts

The Cultural Arts Day for fce was a wonderful day with the theme “Sugar and Spice, Let's be Nice.” Carol Birdsong, Director of Communications for Williamson County Schools was the featured speaker and encouraged us to be nice by smiling and complementing people.

There were 81 people in attendance and many wonderful entries in the cultural arts competition. Our ladies are so talented. The clubs collected and donated 680 items to the Davis House for them to use in their work with children.