

## UT/Williamson County Extension — May Newsletter

### 2015 Beef Spring Field Day

UT Extension and the Williamson County Cattlemen's Association hosted the second annual Beef Spring Field Day on Saturday,



April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Vaden family farm. Farmers learned about the most up-to-date scientific information regarding wholesome and safe beef cattle production using environmentally sustainable and welfare conscious methods. To this date, over 400 applicants and 1.5 million dollars have been allocated by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to agriculture production in Williamson County. Sponsors of the event included: Tennessee Livestock Producers, TDA, Ag Crimes Unit, Williamson Farmer's COOP, and Hatcher's Dairy.

### Williamson County Master Gardeners Activities

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 held another successful annual "Plant Sale & Garden Expo", this year with an additional educational component. The expo not only highlighted Williamson County Master Gardeners but also included displays concentrating on Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H. Both the Wildlife and Forestry Judging teams were present with award winning displays. The expo also included an extensive diagnostics booth staffed by UT/TSU Horticulture Extension Agents Amy Dismukes and David Cook.

Master Gardeners in Williamson County will host the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Junior Master Gardener Camps this June, geared for incoming 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders interested in horticulture. The innovative theme of '1-2-Tree' will benefit the participants in not only garden related topics but also urban forestry. It appears as though it will be another successful year, with all eligible camp spots filled!



## Williamson County Extension — May Newsletter



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
**UTEXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



### 4-H Project Achievement Day



Williamson County shined at the Central Region Area 1 Project Achievement Day. This event is for 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> graders to present a presentation within their 4-H project. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders prepare a 3-5 minute demonstration, showing and telling how to do something within their project. 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> graders put together and interactive exhibit. An interactive exhibit is a 1-2 minute informative speech along with a display board to share information over a subject related to their project. Williamson County had over 45 participants within the demonstration and interactive exhibit contest. Of the 45 most all of them finished in the top 3 within their project. Williamson County also had numerous winners and finalists for the Central Region Jr. High Portfolios. The portfolio highlights a 4-H member's activities within their project. Our 4-H program has a bright future ahead with such high quality youth!

### 2015 Williamson County 4-H Horse Show

107 Williamson County Horse Project members and 145 horses participated in the county horse show on May 1-3 at the Williamson County Ag Park.



The county horse show is roughly 2/3 the size of the regional event which encompasses 31 counties. There is no better venue in the Southern Region than the Ag Expo Park.

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### 4-H Ham Club

The 4-H Ham Club is off to a fast start! Under the guidance of ham guru Ernie Greer, they have selected, salted, and trimmed, and are now smoking their hams. They will show their hams at this years County Fair.

  
**Upcoming Event — Williamson County  
Fair August 7—15, 2015. Get your entries  
ready!**  


### 4-H Honor Club

4-H Honor Club members enjoyed a beautiful weekend retreat at Deer Run Camp and Conference Center in April. Officers planned and facilitated awesome teamwork games and leadership workshops. Everyone participated in either the low ropes course or the high ropes course, which definitely teach trust and teamwork!

There were also crafts, volleyball, wall climbing and rappelling, a hayride, campfire, s'mores, great meals, and a variety of games. Almost 30 teens were involved and great fellowship was enjoyed by all!



## Williamson County Extension — March Newsletter

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES  
**UT EXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

### FCE News

The fce groups are busy preparing for the annual Cultural Arts Day which is June 9, 2015 at the Ag Expo Park. Carol Birdsong, director of communications for Williamson County Schools will be the guest speaker. This year's theme is Sugar and Spice, Let's be Nice.

Porcelain Post is printed and distributed each month by the Family Consumer Science agent to be displayed in the restrooms at the Williamson County Public Library and the restrooms in the lobby of the Ag Expo Park and the Extension office. This publication provides educational information in a form that can be read and retained in a brief time. The theme for May is sun safety. Please remember the 5 'S to be safe in the Sun. Slip on a shirt. Slop on sunscreen. Slap on a wide brimmed hat. Slide on quality sunglasses. Seek shade from the sun.



Agent Patsy Watkins prepares fruit and veggie Kabobs for the Pre-K class at Johnson Elementary. The students were finishing a nutrition lesson on healthy eating and taking care of their bodies.

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.

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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
**4-H EXTENSION**  
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### Livestock Project:

4-H Livestock members are gearing up for a very active spring, summer, and fall which culminate at the Williamson County Fair. Over 60 members will be participating in a beef, sheep, or goat project.

These programs teach youth to be stewards for agriculture and their community. Sixty-eight individuals have signed up for the Chick Chain program which provides 12 or 25 chicks to participants, free of charge. Members have also begun preparations for livestock judging, which builds on the life skill's decision making and responsibility.

**4-H Honor Club** — 4-H offers many opportunities in leadership and citizenship. Through the 4-H Honor Club, members in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades highlight their community service hours in order to be initiated in this group. This year Williamson County initiated 29 new 4-H Honor club members, making us have the most initiates in the state. These members meet every other month planning service projects for the community. With over 85 current Honor Club member we have many hands that give back to our community!



### Creativity Reigns

Students who crave creative outlets find opportunities in 4-H. Monthly club meetings take place for basic sewing and for "line and design" which includes sewing and crafts. Six teen leaders and three volunteer adults prepare projects and teach young people the skills needed to complete creative designs in each of these 4-H project groups. Currently there are 18 members enjoying working on projects including infinity scarves, knitted boot cuffs, stitched bookmarks, accordion scrapbooks, aprons, simple skirts, and more. As projects are completed, smiles break out! Friendships are being made while skills are being honed.

**Community Service** — The Fairview 4-H Community Club made Valentine Cards and visited Maple Village, a retired apartment complex for seniors in Fairview. The club will be cooking dinner at The Ronald McDonald house late March.