

UT/Williamson County Extension — May Newsletter

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Agriculture



In the news recently was the ceasing of horse boarding operations at Green Pasture's Farm in Brentwood. Over 250 horses had to find new homes.

Similar stories have happened over the past few years and more will come in the future with development. However, these horses are not leaving the county, but merely changing locations. Owners are typically looking at one of three situations: boarding at an already crowded existing farm, current farm owners converting their farm to incorporate horse

boarding as a business, or small acreage landowners building the infrastructure to accommodate horses on their land.

The final two options involve financial and environmental information investigation to assess the feasibility of each practice. The third option also involves education about horse ownership. To meet the needs of the changing landscape, Extension is developing programming strategies to meet the needs of Williamson County citizens.

Garden Talk Series Continues

May is a busy month in Williamson County! With many more programs to go, the Garden Talk series at the Franklin Location of the Williamson County Public Library is continuing to make strides.

The Thugs, Slugs and Bugs of Tennessee Tomatoes was a huge draw for the tomato enthusiasts with over 50 participants. As always ... if there's an interest, we're there!



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Horticulture Programming in Williamson County

Garden Talk (pictured on front page) is a 15-week program, scheduled for various Mondays (1 to 3 pm) through the end of September that focuses on horticulture related topics and best management practices for the homeowner landscape.

You may view the Garden Talk series schedule on the UT/TSU Williamson County Extension website by accessing the consumer tab on the horticulture page at <https://williamson.tennessee.edu>.

Admission is free to the public however registration is required. You may register for any of the programs within the series by accessing the WCPL website at http://wcpltn.org/services/seed_exchange or by calling 615-595-1243.

Ask an
expert

Horticulture agent, Amy Dismukes, will be manning an 'Ask the Expert' booth once a month throughout the year at the Franklin Farmer's Market.

'Ask the Expert' was created to address the overwhelming demand of plant diagnostic and identification questions that come into the Williamson County Extension office in addition to 'putting a face to the name' of Extension in Williamson County.

Our next scheduled 'Ask the Expert' booth is June 17th and will be themed around landscape insects of middle TN ... but of course, all questions are welcome! Please keep an eye on the Franklin Farmer's Market calendar and bring a sample for ID when you see 'Ask the Expert' on the FFM weekly market newsletter.

The 1st Williamson County Master Gardeners Association Garden Fair was also a huge success, with over 1,000 attendees.

This year, the fair was held at The Factory, in conjunction with the Franklin Farmer's Market and The Factory, with plans for continued annual events.



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4-H Fashion Workshop

Do you have a child who loves fashion, keeps up with the latest trends, or enjoys sewing?! If you answered YES! to any of these, they should join us for **4-H Focus on Fashion Workshop Thurs, June 22, 2017 from 6-8:00 pm.**

Youth will learn about style, color, the latest fashions, accessories, modeling techniques, and shopping tips. The workshop includes a tour of Macy's at the Cool Springs Galleria and modeling practice. At the workshop, youth will be prepared for two cool fashion shows! Both shows will be held at the Williamson County Fair on Saturday, August 12, 2017. Open to youth in grades 4-12.

For the Fun with Fashion show, participants pull together a fashion outfit. Scenarios will be distributed at the workshop for each category

including active sportswear, school wear, and best wear. They need to shop wisely to fit the scenario and the budget. The Clover Collection is for those 4-H members who sew their own garments.



4-H County Horse Show



4-H horse project members competed in the annual horse show this past weekend. Winners will advance to state and regional competition.



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Family and Consumer Science Info

The TNCEP Coalition completed our 3-month Tasty Days program in the Franklin Special School District. This program involved the students tasting a sample of a vegetable and a fruit. If the students tried the sample they received a sticker that said “I’m a taste tester.”

Each month a newsletter was sent home to the parents with tips and recipes using the fruit and vegetable the child had tasted that day. At the completion of the last tasting day, an evaluation was sent to the parents.

Twenty percent of the parents completed the evaluation and the response was very positive. Eighty-six percent of the parents found the newsletter to be helpful, 95% of the children enjoyed the tasting program, and 99% of the parents were glad that their children were getting to taste fruits and vegetables at school.

Ten percent of the parents said that their children already consumed lots of fruits and vegetables. Forty-six percent of the parents said that their children ate more vegetables because of the program and 54% children ate more fruit because of the program.

The children were excited when they saw us in the cafeteria and were eager to experience new fruits and vegetables. Just one example was that we had the students taste a plum and a dried plum (aka prune). It was so fun to watch them as many had never eaten either.

FCS Agent will be one of the general session speakers for the fcs retreat in Cookeville on May 31. She will be sharing about her involvement in the Poultry project with families in Rwanda.



4-H and FCS will be offering two baking workshops for 4-8th graders this summer. The first workshop will be on June 20th from 9-12, the second workshop will be July 27th from 1-4:00 .

Both workshops will be at our office. The first workshop will focus on baking breads and the second workshop will focus on baking sweets. The cost for each workshop is \$20.00 or \$35.00 if you attend both. Please call our office to register or for more information. Space is limited to 15 students for each workshop.

We will be getting a FCS intern at the end of May. She is an MTSU student and is an international student. We will be sharing more next month.