

# UT/Williamson County Extension — November Newsletter

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## Agriculture News



The 2015 Advanced Master Beef Producer program concluded in November with the graduation of 35 producers. Upon graduation of the 7 week course, producers become eligible for Tennessee Ag Enhancement which is used to improve the quality of production and encourage environment sustainability.

### Beef and Crop Report

Williamson County and Tennessee as a state concluded the third year in row of above average crop production. Unseasonably cool summer temperatures with timely rains favored increased yields.

Corn production decreased slightly from 2014, but was still up in regards to historical trends and soybean production was near its peak. Unfortunately, crop prices have decreased dramatically over the past two years with a bleak outlook for future due to overseas production and stockpiles.

Beef market prices have also fallen sharply since summer's all time highs. As the markets are back loaded, producers will look to increase cow herd numbers. Short term outlooks look to see a slight decline in market prices with prices leveling off in Spring.



The Extension office is currently hosting a 9 week program regarding equine production. Sessions are being held on Wednesday evenings and involve classes held at various farm and equine related businesses throughout Williamson County. The topics cover a wide range of equine management areas.

### Master Gardener

In collaboration with the Franklin Public Library, Agent Amy Dismukes will offer a 16-session garden program beginning in February and running to August, 2016. Registration will be available via the WCPL website.

Agent is also developing a Williamson County Master Gardener Speakers Bureau to fill program requests. By training Master Gardeners to teach, the potential reachable audience could be unlimited.

Master Gardeners will continue with ongoing projects, already reaching a large component of Williamson County residents and visitors.

Continued education by master gardeners and Agent will introduce new residents to current practices and plants for Middle Tennessee and focus intently on environmental stewardship with the goal of minimizing the effects of misguided control applications in the environment, etc.

Agent Amy Dismukes hosted a USDA-APHIS Advisory Update regarding the newly confirmed and/or quarantined counties.



# Williamson County Extension — November Newsletter



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



## Agriculture Night with the Nashville Predators



Williamson County Livestock Project members got to be a part of the Nashville Predators Agriculture Night at Bridgestone Arena.

4-Her's and their families brought in farm animals such as sheep, goats, dairy cattle, beef cattle and a calf to promote animal agriculture.

These animals were displayed right outside the Nissan entrance of Bridgestone arena! Many Predators fans were shocked to see farm animals on the plaza! 4-Her's answered questions about the purpose of the animals and about our 4-H program.



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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
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## Training Leaders for the Future



In November a 4-H Officer Training was held for the 4-H Community Clubs and Project Clubs. Twelve officers from the Franklin Community Club, Horse, Livestock, Honor Club and Eagle Home-school attended the hands-on training lead by Agents Julie Giles and Mary Beth Antunes. The Officers learned how to lead meetings with Parliamentary Procedure, how to be good mentors and leaders, and planned the club year.

We have some outstanding youth leaders in 4-H and we continue to strive to offer them opportunities to grow as leaders.

## 4-H Public Speaking

During the month of November over sixteen hundred 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade 4-H'ers prepared and presented a 2-3 minute speech using one of the nine character traits as their topic. Many of them used perseverance as their topic and talked about how Rosa Parks, Benjamin Franklin, Martin Luther King and other famous people used courage to overcome a big obstacle in their life. Some talked about respecting others, how to be a good citizen or what it means to be a trustworthy person. We heard the words respect, responsibility, perseverance, car-

ing, courage, citizenship, trustworthiness, cooperation and fairness a lot in November. The blue ribbon speakers have been invited to participate in the county public speaking contest on January 30<sup>th</sup>.



# Williamson County Extension — November Newsletter

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

## Family and Consumer Science Info



The Great Pumpkin was the title of the program presented to all the fce clubs by FCS agent during the month of October. The ladies learned about all the history, nutritional value and various uses for pumpkins and other winter squashes. Pumpkin and winter squashes are a great addition to our holiday meals.

Also, early November has been busy as FCS agent Patsy Watkins welcomed a new grandson, Colin James Morgan. Colin lives with his parents and big brother Rex in Buford, Georgia.



A team of 5 extension staff members recently completed the Walk Across Tennessee challenge.

Walk Across TN is an eight week, team driven challenge designed to help participants become more accountable for physical activity. The plan is for the team to collaboratively walk the distance (500 miles) across the state in 8 weeks.

Miles each week were recorded and sent to the University of TN. The "G.R.I.T.S." team recorded over 990 miles in the eight weeks

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.