

Williamson County Extension — September Newsletter

Agriculture

The 2015 Advanced Master Beef Class kicks off Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:30 pm at the Williamson County Ag Expo Park.

This seven week program teaches beef cattle farmers how to raise the highest quality cattle using humane, environmentally sustainable principles. The class is taught by UT Extension agents and specialists from throughout the state.

Completion of the class certifies each participant and makes them eligible for Tennessee Ag Enhancement.

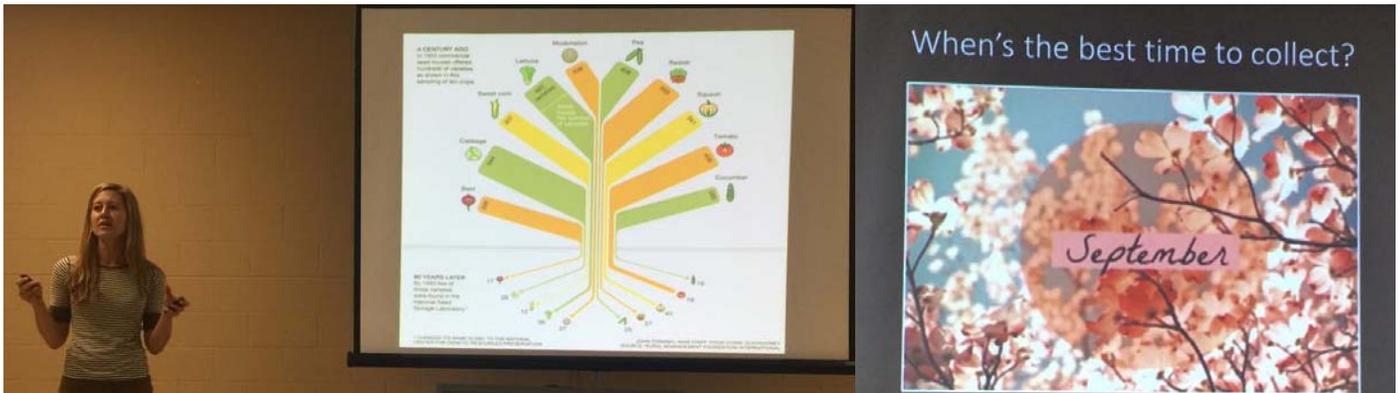
To this date, Williamson County has received nearly 1.5 million dollars in funds to support the local economy. Interested participants can sign up at the door on Tuesday.



Seed Saving Program

With the traditional gardening season coming to an end, additional horticulture related programming requests have been in high demand. County Horticulture Agent, Amy Dismukes, gave multiple programs on 'Seed Saving,' aiming to highlight the new SEED EXCHANGE program at the Williamson County Library.

Additional programming included 'Disease Control in the Vegetable Garden' and 'Winterizing your Landscape'. 'Insects in the Landscape', another educational program in high demand, was offered as a homeowner educational session.



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Horticulture Programming and the Williamson County Master Gardeners

Agent Amy Dismukes was given the honor to participate in a School Garden Training at the Governor's Mansion. This goal of this workshop was to educate teachers in Davidson and surrounding Counties (Williamson) in planning, designing, caring for and utilizing a school garden by increasing strategies to integrate gardens into academics and/or everyday 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, Williamson County Master Gardeners were asked to represent the state program at 'Fruits of the Backyard', a yearly field day held at the Spring Hill Research Center. Programming included talks on cultivars, insect and disease control, etc.

The kitchen garden at My Friend's House has come to a close with plans to continue next year. The garden's purpose is to educate the teenage male residents on how to plan, implement and maintain a small garden. The proceeds of the garden were utilized in the weekly cooking program provided for the teens in which they learn culinary skills. With the assistance of several male Master Gardeners, continued visits are planned in 2016, with various educational topics relating to the garden.

4-H Forestry Teams Place in Regional Competition



Congrats to our Junior and Senior 4-H Forestry Teams for each winning 3rd place in Regional Competition.

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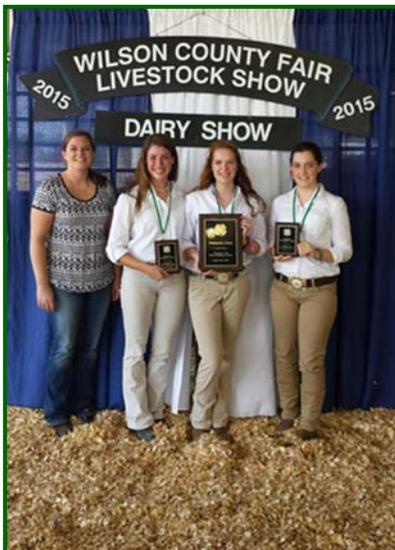


4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
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4-H News and Events

Dairy Judging State Champions



The Williamson County 4-H Senior High Dairy Judging team was named state champions at the state dairy judging competition. The competition was held at the end of August at the Wilson County Fair.

Mary Claire Crabtree, Hannah Gordon, Ashley Haylett, and Collin Stanley (not pictured) represented Williamson county in the contest. The dairy judging contest consists of evaluating dairy cattle based on their structure and milking ability. The participants compare four cattle and rank them best to worst. Once they have placed the classes they must justify their placings by preparing a set of reasons to give to the judge.

All the team members ranked in the top 10 of the contest and won the overall team competition. The Williamson County team did a great job and will move on the national contest in Madison, WI at the end of September. Wish them luck as they represent Tennessee!

4-H Horse Project

The 2015 Williamson County 4-H Horse project begins its new year on Monday, September 21st at 6:30 pm at the Ag Park.

The project year is again packed with numerous activities that will excite any person that enjoys horses. The horse project is open to all youth whether they own a horse or not. There is not a fee to join the project and participation is based on the participant's schedule. To join, please come to the meeting Monday night.

4-H Project Groups

4-H Project Groups are for 4-H'ers who would like to learn more about a specific subject. Project groups meet once a month in the evenings. These groups focus on learning and service projects in one area of interest.

Rabbit Rangers—The 4-H Rabbit Rangers teaches about health & nutrition, nail trimming, cage building, breed identification, and more.

Line and Design— This project combines interest in clothing, fashion, interior design and crafts. Youth will learn basic sewing and crafting skills. Each month youth make and complete a project to take home.

Livestock Lovers— Participants learn how to provide proper care for their sheep, beef and dairy cattle, swine, and goats. Members will have hands on learning for raising, feeding, and showing livestock. It is not required to own livestock.

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4-H members win over \$7,000 to O'More College of Design!

Nine Williamson County 4-H members competed on September 14th in the Regional 4-H Fashion Show. The girls won the opportunity to compete at the regional level during our Fashion Show at the Williamson County Fair in August. By participating in the Fashion Show, the 4-H members learn consumer skills, shopping with a budget, and modeling presentation skills.

This year, the Regional Fashion Show partnered with O'More College of Design to offer scholarships to O'More to the winners. We are pleased to announce the results of the Williamson County participants in the Regional Fashion Show, our students won over \$7,000 total in scholarship money to O'More!

Taylor Vail entered 3 categories— She won 2nd place in accessory, and a scholarship to O'More's Summer Studio Classes, She won 2nd in formal wear, and a \$2,000 scholarship to O'More College. A lovely formal gown she purchased won 2nd and a \$2,000 scholarship to O'More College.

Kelsey Dillon entered 2 categories— She placed 3rd in accessory. A stunning black velvet formal dress she made placed 3rd winning her a \$1,000 scholarship to O'More College of Design.

Julianna Tramell entered the Best Wear category with a dress she purchased and placed 2nd winning a \$2,000 scholarship to O'More.

Entering the beginning sewing category we had Lauren Stockdale who received participation and Rebekah Jones who placed 2nd.

In the School Wear category 4-H'ers, Lucy Williamson and Sara Naughton receiving participation. Lauren Coin placed 3rd. In Best Wear, Lauren Stockdale received participation and Leah Kennedy placed 3rd.

We are so proud of these outstanding 4-H members and their accomplishments! We look forward to hearing about their experiences at O'More College of Design in Franklin in the future. For more information about 4-H Fashion events and the Line and Design project group, contact Mary Beth Antunes at mlee60@utk.edu.



Pictures L-R Julianna, Rebekah, and Taylor.

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FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
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Family & Consumer Science News

The month began with the Back to School Bash held in Fairview and Franklin. This event provided backpacks filled with school supplies for families in need. Extension provided a booth at both events where we played the plinko game with families using the questions to teach them about fruits and vegetables.

Between the two events there were about 1,200 families served. Intern Lindsey Miller was a great help. We had to say goodbye to her August 7 as her 10- week internship came to an end. She did an excellent job and was a great asset to our office. She has returned to MTSU to finish her college career. Good luck Lindsey!



Back to School Bash Photos



Take Charge of Your Diabetes class started in the middle of August and continues through September. This particular class was held in Fairview at the Williamson County Health Department. Class has been a great success with 11 participants. The participants have been eager to learn and very engaged with the material and with each other.

We are piloting an 8 session program called i-cook 4-H. There are 5 homeschool families participating. Each family involved has one parent and one 9 or 10-year old child participating. They are learning cooking skills, meal planning, family communication skills, how to use/create recipes and technology skills. The family consumer science agent and the 4-H agent are working together to provide this opportunity for the families.



Headstart also had a parent screening day where many agencies, including Extension, were able to provide education and information about the services they offer. Free health screenings were offered for the children. This provided an opportunity for us to interact with many of the Hispanic families in our community.