Dyer County | 2009

We provide education…
that produces solutions to societal, economic and environmental issues. We teach Tennesseans in the places they live, work and play through hundreds of programs. Our efforts are based on local needs, research and a commitment to improve the quality of life.

Helping Row Crop Farmers
Our programs encourage farmers to select the top-yielding varieties of corn, cotton, grain sorghum, soybeans and wheat to improve yields. Our programs in these 5 major crops resulted in a combined economic impact of $87.5 million to Dyer County.

- 537 corn producers used data provided by UT publications to make changes in their production practices.
- 231 cotton producers improved their income by following UT recommended practices for crop production.
- 974 soybean producers reported harvesting higher soybean yields and/or better quality crops using UT trial results.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
IPM programs in the five county area of Dyer, Gibson, Obion, Lake, Weakley and Lauderdale help educate producers about pest management.

- There were 550,883 acres of cotton, corn, soybeans, wheat and grain sorghum monitored for pest problems by the private sector using IPM principles.
- Dyer County soybean IPM programs showed producers that 44% of monitored fields required lime and 44% were low in phosphorous and potassium.

Helping Homeowners & Beautifying the Community
Extension programs in consumer horticulture included diagnosis of plant diseases and the Master Gardener program. Results included:

- 18 consumers applied fewer fertilizers and pesticides due to a better understanding of landscape best management practices.
• 66 consumers learned about plant selection and proper planting to save money and time in the landscape.
• 38 Master Gardeners gained knowledge and confidence in insects, diseases, soils and turfgrass management.

CRD Special Summer Feeding Program
• $125,000 Grant provided to Dyer County local economy for this seven week program.
• During the 2009 program, 10,818 breakfasts and 32,355 lunches were served to kids.
• Approximately 90% of youth attending program gained pride and appreciation for their local community.
• 50 summer jobs were created adding to the Dyer County economy.
• 80% of participating youth developed respect for their fellow friends and neighbors.

Developing Young People
4-H helps young people to be better citizens while preparing for a demanding and fast-changing workplace. Dyer County has 1,500 youth enrolled in 62 4-H clubs. Because of their 4-H experience:
• 58 youth report considering risks of their choices.
• 116 youth now work to achieve their goals.
• 62 youth now achieve goals they set for themselves.

Fighting Obesity
Tennesseans suffer alarming rates of diabetes, arthritis and high blood pressure – all diseases linked to excess body fat and sedentary lifestyles. Extension is working to reverse this trend.
• 627 participants collectively walked 60,172 miles in the 8 week Walk Across Tennessee Program. 93% reduced stress, 77% improved sleep, 76% increased their exercise routine, 26 stopped smoking.
• 60 worksite participants lost 352 pounds (an average of 5.87 lbs. per person) in a 12 week monitored fitness program.
• 408 children participated in a 4 week fitness program reflecting an average increase in weekly fitness activities from 1.18 hour/week to 3.4 hours/week.

Helping Families in the Money Crunch
Families are struggling monthly to make ends meet. UT is working to provide increased financial literacy in the community. Youth, family, small group and bankruptcy education are among the ways families have learned to make ends meet.
• 711 of 747 (95%) increased understanding of credit reports and scoring.
• 87 families completed written money goals, a written monthly spending plan and written savings plan.
• 526 (100%) of families trained identified ways to reduce spending.
• 113 of 238 participants began or increased savings an average of $11 per month amounting to $14,916 in increased consumer savings.

Contact Us
Our office is located at 151 Everett Avenue in Dyersburg. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Contact us at 731-286-7821 or at any of the below e-mail addresses.

Tim Campbell, Ext. Agent & County Director
Adult Agriculture
tcampbe6@utk.edu

Beth Bell, Ext. Agent
Adult Family & Consumer Science
bbell3@utk.edu

Hayden E. “Gene” Miles
Area Ext. Specialist – IPM
hmiles1@utk.edu

William Taylor, Ext. Agent
Community Resource Development
wtaylor6@utk.edu

Calvin Elder, Ext. Agent
4-H & Adult Agriculture
celder@utk.edu

Becky Willis, Ext. Agent
4-H Youth Development
rwillis8@utk.edu