March 5, 2014

Dear 4-H Country Ham Project Participant and Parent:

It seems early to be thinking about the fair, but the time has come to start the ham curing process! This letter contains a large amount of information. You should retain this letter as a record of the meetings for this year.

In order to participate in the Country Ham Project, you should review the enclosed rules, complete and sign the contract, and remit the $60 fee. **The completed contract and fee are due to the Extension office by Monday, March 17.** You may pay at the first meeting. Please make checks payable to the Henry County Fair.

As a participant, you must attend at least three of the five planned meetings. Your parents are also welcome to attend. Participants should wear old, clean clothing to the meetings, as working with the hams can damage good clothing.

The following are the planned meeting dates and should be noted on your calendar:

- **Monday, March 17, at 4:30 p.m. – Clifty Farms**
- **Tuesday, April 1, at 4:30 p.m. – Clifty Farms**
- **Tuesday, April 8, at 4:30 p.m. – Clifty Farms**
- **Tuesday, May 27, at 4:30 p.m. – Clifty Farms**
- **Tuesday, July 22, at 4:30 p.m. – Clifty Farms**

  - March 17 – Tour Clifty Farms Ham House and learn about curing process.
  - April 1 – Select, weigh, tag and salt your hams.
  - April 8 – Re-salt and make the final trim of your hams.
  - May 27 – Wash, net and hang hams on ham trees.
  - July 22 – Weigh hams, choose ham for fair competition, and take home second ham. Record books will be reviewed.

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**The University of Tennessee**

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.
In addition, please mark your calendars for these dates.

**Tuesday, July 29, at 6:30 p.m. – Enoch & Commercial Buildings, Henry County Fairgrounds**

**Saturday, August 9, at 1:00 p.m. – Commercial Building, Fairgrounds**

- July 29 – Country Ham Speech Contest, turn in record books
- August 9 – Country Ham Auction

If you have any questions, please contact us at the Extension office at 642-2941, e-mail sfoy@utk.edu, or visit us at 1120 Tyson Avenue in Paris.

Sincerely,

Staci D. Foy
Extension Agent

cc: Vic Adams
    Bobby Milam
    Michael Murphy