

# UT/TSU Cheatham County

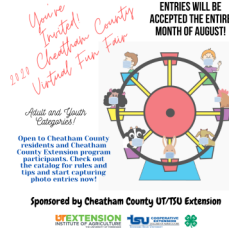
## Extension is still here for YOU!!! August 2020

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During the month of August, typically the Extension Team is gearing up for one week at the Cheatham County Fair. During the week, Extension Agents and Staff work to take in entries, promote livestock and poultry shows and exhibit current and recent programming. This year looked quite different! The Extension Office came together to provide a Virtual Fun Fair. The Virtual Fun Fair allowed members of the county to exhibit their local grown produce, crops, artwork, photography and hand made items. All entries were uploaded into a digital program to be used for judging.



## 4-H Youth Development

Youth Leadership Cheatham County Class of 2020-2021, kicked off the start of the year with the Opening Retreat. Due to COVID-19, the opening retreat looked a little different this year due to social distancing guidelines, but it was very nice to come together as a group. 14 Juniors and Seniors, representing all high schools and homeschool in the county attended the Opening Retreat. Each year the new class comes together to participate in this event that allows students from all over the county the opportunity to get to know each other through various team building activities. Throughout the year, the participants will attend 6 tours that will include local tourism, agriculture, emergency services, county industry, county government and state government. By participating in this program, students have the opportunity to learn about our communities, county and government. The goal of the program is to help students foster the skills and strengths needed to become responsible citizens and leaders.



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## Agriculture

Although most of our major crops have held their own against significant plant disease issues, specialty crop farmers and homeowners have not been so fortunate. Numerous farm and home calls, e-mails, and texts have been utilized to help diagnose/remediate plant disease issues with these folks. One of the major plant diseases to hit our county was Cucurbit Downey Mildew (pumpkins, squash, zucchini, cucumbers, and cantaloupes). After the initial diagnosis, we were the 4th county in the state to be put on a nation-wide watch list for this disease. Farmers and homeowners were advised through Facebook posts and e-mails on how to prevent or minimize crops losses.

Also in August, through a team effort, we produced a Youtube video entitled, “Forage Crabgrass for Summer Grazing”. The educational video includes information, results, and successes from our six-year county demonstration plot at the David Shores farm, on using “forage type” crabgrass species for summer grazing in livestock systems. The video is being utilized by the University of TN Beef and Forage Center and Alabama Cooperative Extension, as a training resource for producers in forage management educational programs.



Commercial Pumpkin Leaf—Cucurbit Downey Mildew

## Family & Consumer Sciences

UT/TSU Extension Family and Consumer Science agents have the privilege to assist families in realizing their American Dream of home ownership. UT Extension partners with the Tennessee Housing Development Agency and eHomeAmerica.org to provide evidence-based, real-time information to assist first time home buyers in the process. Their journey begins by signing up with eHomeamerica.org and taking their on-line, self-paced course where they learn information to guide them every step of the home buying process (selecting a realtor, evaluating lenders, choosing inspections, understanding closing process, etc.) Once an individual completes this course, FCS Agents have the opportunity to work with each client personally as they develop budgets, understand the use of credit and how to protect their identity. We also share tips to help them maintain their greatest investment. Recently, Cheatham County FCS Agent has had the opportunity to assist 8 families in their home buying experience. These families have ranged from newlyweds to single moms to a gentleman nearing retirement and excited to finally have his own home.

