

UT/TSU Cheatham County

Extension is still here for YOU!!!

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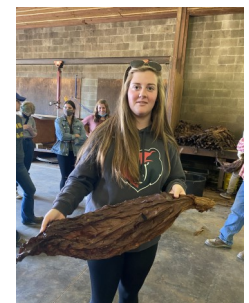
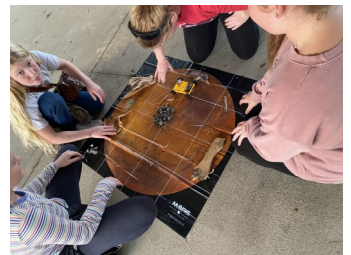
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4-H Youth Development

Face to face programming feels so good. Cheatham County 4-H has returned to face to face programming after taking a required break. Of course all programming follows CDC, UT/TSU and Cheatham County School Board guidelines.

- 4-H clubs have been conducted in all the elementary schools face to face with virtual and hybrid options for all middle schools. During October, youth were enrolled in 4-H and a lesson on communication was presented. A “Virtual Guide to 4-H” has been given to most 4-8 graders in Cheatham County.
- Youth also had the opportunity to participate in a STEM Challenge. To encourage participation in our monthly challenges, the UT/TSU Cheatham County Extension Office is entering participants into a drawing for a 4-H Camp Scholarship.
- Youth Leadership Cheatham County met in both September and October for the Local Tourism and Agriculture tours. COVID has caused each tour to be modified, but quality programming is still being offered.
- Cheatham County 4-H Honor Club met and elected officers, completed a service project of donating food to Cheatham County Animal Control, and participated in the 4-H Science Project- Mars Base Camp.
- Through a grant from Bayer and Tennessee State University, every 4th-8th grade science teacher was provided with a 4-H Science Kit- Mars Base Camp.
- Cheatham County had 6 All Stars initiated- All Stars is the second level of state level recognition for 4-H members.
- Six participants in our 4-H shooting sports program competed in the state BB Shoot.
- The 4-H Mentoring Program held a family fun night and began weekly meetings for 9 mentees and mentors. This program is open to Cheatham Middle School students.



Agriculture

One of the major milestones for our Extension Tobacco Production educational programs is the completion/harvest of the field portion of our Dark Fired Tobacco on-farm variety trial. Local producer, Joey Knight and his crew have worked hard to bring this to fruition. One of the disappointments this year, was the cancellation of our annual Tobacco Patch breakfast/test plot tour event. However, producers in dark tobacco growing regions around the southeast will have the opportunity to review data from the trial at Extension Tobacco growers conferences in the winter (probably virtual). We will strip the crop and collect data in early December.

After the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to our Extension Master Beef Producer Class in March, we were able to resume classes in mid-October. With over 30 producers in the class (some from the Spring and others starting this fall) we are currently conducting a “hybrid” version of the 9 week program where some participants are using the virtual option, while others are meeting in a smaller scale face-to-face setting.



Family & Consumer Sciences

Miles Reidelberger (Cheatham) and Marjorie Norris (Robertson) make up the Extension Health & Wellness Ambassador graduating class. This is the first year the volunteer training program has been offered in Tennessee. The program is based on the Master Gardener Program model of learning in exchange for community service.

Health & Wellness Ambassadors received 40 hours of training in health, nutrition, and physical activity over a five-week period. As part of the program they will give back at least 40 hours of volunteer service to help others live healthier lives. Throughout their training, Ambassadors worked with their county's Family and Consumer Sciences agent to identify community needs and plan a project to address health issues.



Master Gardener

Cheatham County currently has a virtual Master Gardener program going on via zoom. The class consists of 12 classes on various horticulture topics. Current Master Gardeners have logged over \$28,000 worth of time, travel and donations to Cheatham County– even in a pandemic.

