

Extension Highlights

July/August 2021

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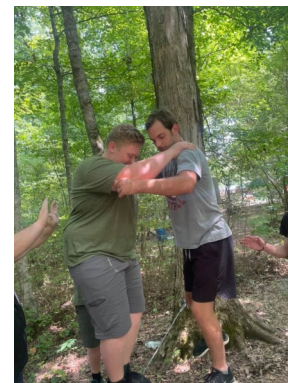
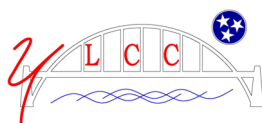
The last two months have been extremely busy for our staff and have provided an abundance of opportunities to conduct Extension educational programs for our local farm families. Besides the typical farm, home, and garden visits, we were able to conduct our annual Hispanic Tobacco Worker Farm Safety training on 14 local tobacco farms. Over 80 Hispanic workers received training and updates on farm safety and COVID-19 prevention, in their native language. One of these groups of workers also helped us harvest our 2021 UT/UK Dark Tobacco Fungicide Treatment Trial. An on-farm field day has been scheduled in October with the grower, where Dr. Andy Bailey and I will discuss results from the trial with local tobacco farmers. Another “highlight” for all of our staff was the annual Cheatham County Fair. Some of our winning hay entries were actually sent to the TN State Fair in Wilson County for competition. Three of our producers won top honors, bringing home 1st place in “alfalfa”, and 2nd and 4th places in the “warm season annual” hay categories. One of our unplanned opportunities came along in late July when the fall army worm decided to attack some of our hay fields, pastures, wildlife food plots, and even homeowners lawns. Through numerous field visits, media announcements, newsletters, and collaborative efforts with local farm supply dealers, we were able to warn growers and minimize damage.



4-H Youth Development

The 2021-2022 class for Youth Leadership Cheatham County held their opening retreat on August 7th at Adventureworks in Kingston Springs. The class is comprised of 19 juniors and seniors in high school representing all three public schools, Pleasant View Christian, and even some homeschooled youth. Youth Leadership Cheatham County began as an idea of the Leadership Cheatham County class of 2001-2002 and officially began in 2006. The purpose of Youth Leadership Cheatham County is to educate students about state and local government functions, local and regional economic developments, issues facing our county, educate on the cultural and historical resources in our county, encourage participation in the community, and foster skills and strengths that are necessary to become responsible citizens and leaders. Participants will participate in a tour each month. The tours include local tourism, agriculture, emergency services, industry, local government, and state government.

Governor Lee signed into law SB0203, a bill which will allow 4-H members to be excused from school/credited present when participating in 4-H activities. This bill, which passed through the House and Senate with unanimous support (which is almost unheard of), was jointly sponsored by Representative Alexander (Washington County) and Senator Haile (Sumner County). This was a historic day for 4-H, and we're so grateful for the legislature and Governor Lee for continued support and commitment to Tennessee 4-H.



Family & Consumer Sciences

Family and Community Education Clubs have been very busy this summer! In July, our group hosted 4-H members for a 3 day Sew Fun camp. Students learned sewing skills as they completed a pillowcase, bag and apron. Many of those in attendance have completed other projects since our camp and several moms report that Santa Clause will be busy delivering personal sewing machines this holiday season.

We celebrated our FCE members for their own accomplishments during our Cultural Arts breakfast. Members displayed their own projects from basket weaving and pottery to beautiful wedding gowns. Items were judged and winners will be invited to our Central Region FCE meeting in September.

Summer wouldn't be complete without a County Fair! Thanks to our FCE members for volunteering hours to exhibit hall, contributing items for display and providing delicious Chili!

