

2021

Extension Impacts

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UT & TSU Cheatham County Extension

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As a result of Cheatham County Extension programming in 2021 our team reported:

13,686 contacts through in-person/virtual educational meetings

2,439 contacts through farm, home or onsite visits

***36,706 personal contacts with clientele (mail, e-mail, and telephone) ***

336,008 contacts through social media and newspaper

***Master Gardeners and other volunteers gave 4632 hours of service to our community valued at \$104,424.00**

Family & Consumer Sciences

- 4-H Mentor Grant was renewed in 2021 for a benefit of \$20,000. We have 33 students currently participating in this program with four active mentors. Students meet twice per month for educational opportunities (cooking, robotics, cultural arts and career exploration). Families are invited to attend a bi-monthly Fun Night with topics such as communication, team work, etc. This program will continue through the spring of 2022.
- Strengthening Families program was started in the fall of 2021. This is a twelve-week program. Our first group of 5 families graduated in December. As a result, one child was returned to her mom from Foster Care; one child showed much improvement in confidence and increased her school attendance record. Three families received assistance for housing, employment and mental health resources. A second series of classes will begin in January with an emphasis on teens.
- Walk Across TN was held for the second year in Cheatham County. We had 156 participants walking a total of 34,132 miles. This represents \$234,000 in health cost savings based on current research that individuals who are active spend \$1500 less a year on health care expenses.
- First Time Home Buyers course was completed by 25 individuals. THDA provided \$5,021,075 in loans to First Time Home Buyers in Cheatham County in 2020. This also generated an additional \$4,000 in program funding for local Family and Consumer Sciences programs.
- Extension Explores Home Food Preservation was our answer to non-face-to-face education. Central Region FCS Agents presented 8 months of on-line Food Preservation topics. A total of 191 individuals registered for the course with a total of 216,596 contacts being made throughout the Central Region.
- Cancer Survivor Alliance was established in 2021 with 2 Town Halls and a Dinner and Discussion evening scheduled. 112 Cancer Survivors and their caregivers received valuable resources and timely information to assist in navigating their cancer prognosis.
- Family and Community Education Clubs volunteered a total of 24,886 hours for an economic benefit of \$153,680 to Cheatham County.



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4-H & Youth Development

- All traditional camping opportunities were canceled due to COVID. Ridley 4-H Center coordinated the traveling road show. We offered this opportunity at an extremely reduced cost (thanks to our donors) to make this event more affordable. In addition to the traveling road show, Create! Construct! Code! Camp! was offered face to face. Virtual camping opportunities were offered as well – including Yoga, Walk Across Cheatham County, Healthy Snacks, Blue Bird Houses, Crafts, Tie Dye, and Salsa Gardening.
- 4-H members attended Pioneer Camp and Electric Camp offered at both the regional and state level.
- 4-H members assisted with Christmas Anonymous and made Christmas Cards for local nursing homes.
- 15 Juniors and Seniors graduated from Youth Leadership Cheatham County, 1 received a \$1,000 scholarship to attend college.
- The 2021 Chick Chain Auction raised over \$1,500 for our local 4-H Program.



4-H enrollment was back to pre-pandemic numbers beginning in October. All but one elementary school and all middle schools have regularly scheduled meetings, with 56 clubs being met monthly.



Agriculture & Horticulture

- 34 producers who completed the TN Master Beef Producer program indicated by survey that the educational program will help them improve profits by a combined \$141,644.
- 60 plus livestock producers were assisted with forage testing for winter feed supplementation needs. One producer alone saved over \$3,000 during a 4 month period by using forage tests.
- 93 Hispanic Farm laborers gained a better understanding and preparation of basic farm safety in their native language.
- Agents prompt in-field and greenhouse diagnosis of plant diseases prevented 17 farmers an estimated \$82,000 in crop losses.
- 95 homeowners were assisted with soil analysis of their lawns and gardens. And, received detailed instruction on following soil fertility recommendations.
- With the help of Cheatham County Master Gardeners we distributed over 900 tree seedlings during our March Extension Month activities.

