

Extension Highlights

March/April 2022

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4-H Youth Development

Youth Leadership Cheatham County concluded the 2021-2022 year with their State Government tour. Participants met with Representative Mary Littleton, Senator Kerry Roberts, Lieutenant Governor, Randy McNally, Secretary of State, Tre Hargett, Speaker of the House, Cameron Sexton and a representative from Tennessee Board of Regents. Our speakers shared details of their duties and allowed plenty of time to tackle questions our group had for them. Participants were then given a guided tour of the capital from Senator Kerry Roberts. As a part of our State Government tour, we also discussed some of Nashville's history by touring the Ryman Auditorium. Each year, Youth Leadership Cheatham County awards one graduating senior with a \$1000 scholarship. This year, Anthony Lain, received the college scholarship. He plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

On April 18, Cheatham County hosted a Countywide Egg Drop Challenge. In January 4-H Club meetings, 4-H members were tasked to make a device that would protect an egg from a 6-foot drop with materials they were given. Teachers then recruited 4 person teams to participate in the county contest. Students had to supply all materials themselves. The device teams created for the county contest had to withstand a 6 foot drop, and if not cracked, a 12 foot drop. We had 6 teams participate in the competition and winners received cash prizes.

Cheatham County 4-H and Harpeth High School FFA in partnership with Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt hosted a Mock ATV Crash on April 23, 2022 at Harpeth High School during the Harpeth FFA Annual Car Show. With assistance from Kingston Springs Fire Department, Cheatham County EMS, and Anita DeFrancesca, students were able to act out a mock ATV crash which showed the audience the consequences of unsafe riding. In the last data obtained, Tennessee ranks 7th in the nation in ATV related fatalities. It is also one of the highest admitted traumas at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

Through this partnership, which is sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund and Polaris Foundation, our team has shared ATV Safety awareness throughout the county. Our Core Leadership group has shared the dangers of unsafe riding with youth and promoted an online ATV Safety course provided by the ATV Safety Institute.



Agriculture

Our entire staff kicked off a very busy spring for 2022. During our March 2022 Extension Month, with the tremendous help of our Master Gardeners, we bundled over 600 tree seedlings to give out through our partnership with the TN Environmental Council. In addition, we provided reduced priced soil sampling to 30+ families. Also, our Spring 2022 TN Master Beef Producer Class finished their 12 week course. The class was conducted in “hybrid” fashion, with some producers attending via Zoom and others “face-to-face”. 17 producers attended and graduated from the program where they received updates on, herd health, soil/forage management, marketing, beef genetics, beef cattle nutrition, food safety at the producer level, beef cattle reproduction, and other timely topics. Our 4-H livestock judging also fared well at the Central Region contest, where Taylor Binkley received top honors as the highest placing individual in the Jr. Division. To round our April activities, the Cheatham County Cattlemen’s Association recognized 7 college Scholarship recipients (2 unable attend) at our 13th Annual College Scholarship Benefit Dinner/Auction, with over 200 supporters attending the event. Each recipient also received a congressional coin from Congressman Mark Green.



Family & Consumer Sciences

Graduation is in the air! Four individuals completed our Cancer: Thriving and Surviving program. This is a six-week program focusing on providing support and resources to cancer survivors and their caregivers. The group found this workshop to be very valuable as a means to meet other survivors and to learn they are not alone. They found it most valuable to be in Cheatham County as many available resources are located in Nashville or Clarksville.

Our Strengthening Families participants also graduated Monday night. We celebrated a total of five families who completed the 12 -week course. Parents found this course to be very valuable and would attend another series of lessons. They reported feeling more confident, using more positive reinforcement, conducting weekly family meetings, and spending increased individual time with each child. They have experienced changed behaviors with their children especially with their willingness to participate in family responsibilities. One mom reported how valuable the information had been to helping establish family unity in a blended marriage. Her step children actually requested their mother adopt the same practices of calendars and family meetings.

UT Extension Awareness month trickled into April as well. Our FCS agent had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. as a state association representative to the Public Issues and Leadership Development Conference. Participants learned more about the national extension initiatives and how to be strong advocates. Participants concluded their stay in D.C. with a visit on “The Hill” promoting extension agriculture and family and consumer science topics to our Senators and State Representatives.

