

Extension Highlights

January/February 2023

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Agriculture

30 Cheatham County tobacco growers attended our annual Tobacco Grower's Dinner Conference at Tommy Winters Farm. Dr. Andy Bailey, UT/UK Dark Tobacco Specialist and Extension Director, Ronnie Barron conducted an educational program on disease control updates, cost-saving measures for the 2023 crop, and updates on research plots conducted in the county.

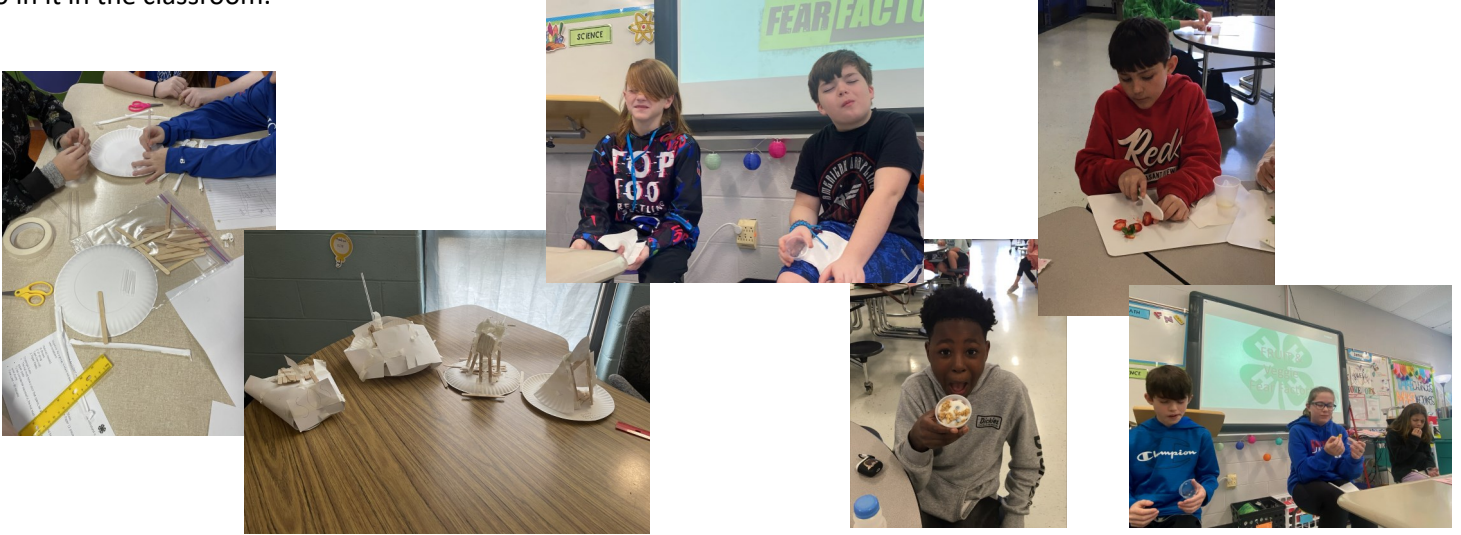
The following week, UT Extension Agents and Specialists from around our region worked together to carry out the 2023 TN-KY Tobacco Expo at the Robertson County Fairgrounds in Springfield, TN. Nearly 200 producers attended the trade show and educational programs. Educational sessions we conducted by UT and UK Tobacco Specialists on Tobacco Agronomics and Pathology. Representatives from GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) Connections, conducted the annual training on farm labor management. 75 of the producers also attended Private Pesticide Applicator training, which was conducted by local Extension Agents.

For a number of years, we have discussed the possibility of starting a 4-H Country Ham project and that project finally began in January with the help of one of our local 4-H volunteers. Ten 4-H Club members worked together to trim and process their own country hams. Each of the youth learned about process of curing and smoking the hams and are exited about exhibiting them in our county fair this fall.



4-H Youth Development

Cheatham County 4-H conducted STEM challenges throughout the month of January in our 4-H Club meetings. Students were challenged to help “Gilligan Wilson” build a structure that would protect him from weather and animals using items given to them in a bag. The structure then had to survive Hurricane Revlon. (A hairdryer on high) Students dug deep to get creative with these structures and most 4-H clubs saw a high survival rate. In February, Cheatham County 4-H members participated in a nutrition lesson. 4th graders made healthy pizzas with English muffins and compared nutrition facts of fruits and candy. 5th grade club officers participated in Fruit and Veggie Fear Factor. For this lesson, 4-H members blindly tried dried plantains, grape tomatoes, raspberries, pomegranate, prunes, and radishes. 6th graders made their very own fruit and yogurt parfaits in the classroom utilizing vanilla yogurt, strawberries, blueberries, and granola. Using Curious Chef knives, students prepped their parfaits and cut fruit to go in it in the classroom.



Youth Leadership Cheatham County participated in the County Industry Tour on January 10. Youth Leadership participants toured Caymas Boats, Bison Countertops, and Gate Precast. The afternoon was spent discussing the banking industry and small business ownership. We also had guest speakers from Economic and Community Development and the Chamber of Commerce, that discussed the roles they play with businesses and opportunities in the county. On February 7, Youth Leadership Cheatham County participated in County Government tour. This day highlights our elected and appointed officials and participants get a better understanding of what resources are available in our county. The students also attended a County Commission during February.

