

# Rutherford County

## FROM THE GROUND UP



January 16, 2024

### If you love the outdoors, now is a great time to gain new skills to practice in the 2024 growing season

“Do what you can, with what you’ve got, where you are.” If you search for this quote, you will find it widely attributed to Theodore Roosevelt. However, Mr. Roosevelt credited the quote to a Squire Bill Widener of Widener’s Valley, VA.



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Regardless of where it originated, the quote is good advice. For those of us who enjoy working outside, these winter months can cause some restlessness. The short days and long nights hamper outdoor activities, but we can use the time to gain new skills to use in the 2024 growing season. Your local Extension office has ample opportunities for you to learn new concepts and skills during a time of year when outdoor activities may be limited! What can you do?

For Livestock Producers, the 2024 Livestock and Forage Winter Meeting Series begins January 29th. This training consists of four online sessions and one day-long, face to face, hands-on session. You can sign up for one session or all of them and for those needing Master Beef Producer certification, this is your training.

The 2024 Middle Tennessee Grain Conference will be held January 30th. This important conference will prepare grain growers for the 2024 growing season by providing information on 2024 Growing Season outlook, weed management, profitability keys, soil testing, grain marketing and more!

There are options for home gardeners as well. The Lawn and Landscape Weed Science class on February 20th will cover weed types, identification tools, and control strategies for lawns and landscapes. Moles, Voles, and Armadillos session will be held February 27th and will cover life cycles, habits, damage recognition and control options for the three most common critters responsible for digging and damaging lawns.

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The Vegetable Garden Boot Camp is a multi-session training which begins March 7. This training is planned with new gardeners in mind and is an opportunity for new gardeners to develop their skills through classroom instruction and hands-on experience. Participants will actually prepare and plant a vegetable garden on site during their course!

If bees are your thing, the Rutherford County Beekeeper's Club will teach a beginning beekeepers class on March 14-16th.

One of the most common questions fielded in our office is, "Why did my plant die?" We have a class for this! This class, held April 20th will cover common causes of plant death, how to recognize signs and symptoms of disease, insect, and environmental related plant decline. Integrated pest management strategies will be explained for prevention and control.

For more information or to register for any or all of these learning opportunities, please call your local Rutherford County UT/TSU Extension office at 615-898-7710 or visit our website at [rutherford.tennessee.edu](http://rutherford.tennessee.edu).