

Rutherford County EXTENSION NEWS



MAKING CENTS FROM FORAGE DECISIONS:

*Moving from where you are now to where you want to be
in the forage program*

January 27th, Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.

*For those who can, forage plot tour begins at 4:30 to
catch last minutes daylight
Snacks will be served*

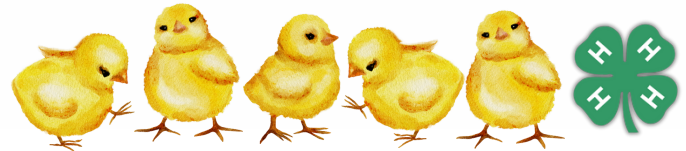
Lane Agri-Park, Auditorium A & B
315 John R. Rice Blvd.

For many of us, we have an idea in our head of where we wish our forage program was. The challenge is determining a path to reach it. For many forage practices, one step does NOT implement the practice. It may take a series of steps which can be daunting. Join us as we learn how to chart a plan to get us where we want to be, one step at a time. Forage plot tour will take place at 4:30; let's take a look at some of the forage possibilities available to us.

Our snacks are sponsored by Corteva and we will also hear from Corteva rep, Maddie Wheeler, concerning the promising new herbicide called NovaGraz. This herbicide can be used on broadleaf weeds without harming white clover or annual lespedeza.

NOTE: This is the first meeting of the Livestock and Forage Series and counts toward Master Beef Producer certification. Please see Winter Livestock and Forages Meeting Information to register

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4-H CHICK CHAIN

The 4-H Chick Chain program allows Rutherford County 4th - 12th graders receive pullet chicks to care for and begin their own flock of chickens. Each participant will receive their chicks the week of March 3, 2025 and will care for them until the Show and Sale on August 2, 2025.

Participants will attend monthly meetings to help raise their chicks. Each participant is required to complete a one-page essay about raising their chicks, complete a record book, and bring back 5 of their birds to the poultry show and sale in August.

25 Chicks for \$75

13 Chicks for \$40

[Click here](#) to purchase your chicks.

If you have questions please contact :
Michael Shirley, 4-H-Volunteer at
boroviewfarm@gmail.com



4-H HORSE CLUB FUN

The Rutherford County 4-H Horse Club had their Holiday Party on December 9th and fun was had by all! We had food, a Christmas Carol Challenge and a Dirty Santa. Club and Hippology/Horse Bowl classes resume in January. If you know a 4th-12th grader who loves to learn about horses--tell them about us! For more information contact tchandl9@utk.edu. We hope you all have a safe, memorable holiday season!

★ VOL STAR OF THE YEAR ★

Volunteers are a vital part of the Extension program. As a volunteer, they are a key component of “bringing the Universities to the people” across all of Tennessee and through a variety of program areas, both youth and adult. Extension volunteer programs include, but are not limited to 4-H Youth Development, Family and Community Leadership, and Master Gardener programs.

Without volunteers, we are simply not able to provide all the educational programming that is necessary to meet the needs of our community. So, volunteer recruitment and retention are our highest priority.

In Extension, we have many volunteers who pour their hearts and soul into what they do when volunteering. There are also those “key” volunteers who rise to the top are the pillars of our volunteer program.

With that, we have chosen 3 individuals (one from each program area) who are the true meaning of an Exemplary Volunteer and we call them our “Vol Star of the Year”.



Agriculture & Natural Resources Audra Prewett



Audra has been a Master Gardener in Rutherford County since 2022. She is the project leader of the demonstration rain garden at Lane Agri-Park, which won a Conservation Promotion Award from the

Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts in June of 2024. The rain garden also won the prestigious “Search for Excellence” award for best teaching site at the 2024 Tennessee Extension Master Gardener state conference, where it was lauded for providing a real world example of a rain garden that can be replicated at home, helping to reduce the negative impacts of land use change. Since moving to Tennessee, Audra has shifted her focus to plant conservation after learning about the globally rare plants native to the Nashville area. Her interest in native plants started as a way to attract birds to her yard, in order to take pictures for her Instagram account, @goodfriendofbirds. Audra now rescues and propagates many native plants, which she donates to the Wild Ones organization and the Murfreesboro Indigenous Plant Project, increasing the availability of local-ecotype plants for gardeners and plant restorations in the Nashville Basin physiographic region.



Family & Consumer Sciences Pam Sites



Pam became a member of the Family and Community Education (FCE) Clubs in 2005. Since then, Pam has been very active. She has held multiple positions on the local club, county, region and state levels.

Through her involvement with FCE, Pam became a certified canning instructor, a Master Food Volunteer, and State level Extension Volunteer, as well as serving on several state strategic teams. Pam is a wonderful advocate for Extension and the programs and services provided to the community. Pam is always willing and eager to help with any program or class. She has been a constant staple in the Rutherford County Extension office. Whether she is assisting with a canning class or helping recruit for FCE, Pam is always positive and insightful. Pam is a true example of being active in the community she lives. She has connected with many people who have influenced her life. Pam has learned that volunteering is a rewarding, educational, and sometimes life changing career.



4-H Youth Development Tammy Morgan



Tammy has been a volunteer leader for the 4-H Beginner Sewing Group, the 4-H Intermediate Sewing Group, and the 4-H Beginner Cooking Group. She has been a very active member of our

4-H family here in Rutherford County as a member of the 4-H Advisory Committee, judge for our county 4-H speech contest, judge for the regional 4-H speech contest, judge for the county 4-H demonstration contest, judge for the regional 4-H demonstration contest, the regional 4-H Fashion Show contest, the State Fair 4-H Fashion Show contest, assistance with our 4-H fundraisers, sewing day camps, cooking day camp, and Adventures in Agriculture Day at our office just to name a few. Tammy is a wonderful advocate for Extension, not only is she involved here in our office but she promotes our programs to the community as a whole. Her passion for Extension is evident in the amount of volunteer time she partakes in, as well as the care and dedication to being a volunteer in general. We know that Tammy is a volunteer we can count on in the community to assist with our programs whenever we need help.

“We would like to congratulate our award winners on their service to Extension. Thank you for your valuable insight and expertise. YOU make this a better community in which to live.”



SEWING CLASSES

Lean to Sew

In these classes you will learn about taking measurements, fabric and yardage needed, how to read a pattern, and will get to choose to sew elastic waist pants or skirt.

Thursdays: January 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
Class Location: 1700 Irby Lane, Murfreesboro
Fee: \$50

ADULT CLASSES 2:30pm-4:30pm

- [Register and pay online by Clicking Here.](#) Limited Space available

HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES 6:00pm-7:30 pm

- [Register and pay online by Clicking Here.](#) Limited Space available

Make a T-Shirt Quilt

Sign up for this 4 session class to make a t-shirt quilt. You will use your t-shirts (12-20 suggested) and materials to create this unique quilt. Each of the 4 Saturdays we will teach new techniques and the next steps and give you time to work on it with our experts. There will be homework to keep the pace of the class moving over the 12 weeks to completion.

Saturdays: January 25th, February 1st, March 1st and March 29th
9 am - Noon

Class Location: Rutherford Co. Extension - Auditorium,
315 John R Rice Blvd Murfreesboro

Fee: \$40

Register and pay online by clicking on the links below:

- [ADULT REGISTRATION](#) - Limited space available
- [HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION](#) - Limited space available

Additional Adult Classes

January 27th at 1:30-4, or 5:30-8 pm, Auditorium,

- **Learn the basics** of sewing on a machine, including threading and winding a bobbin, sewing both a straight line and curve and a number of different stitches. Use your machine or borrow one of ours.
[Pre-registration is required. \\$12 Click here](#)

Monday, February 10th 6-7:30 pm Auditorium,

- **Mending class.** We are going to learn how to prolong the life of our garments by mending. Topics include dealing with holes, split seams, missing or loose fasteners, and ripped pockets. Students will have the opportunity to practice these skills and receive handouts to take home.
[Pre-registration is required. \\$12 Click here](#)

Monday, February 24 at 2-4 or 6-8 pm Auditorium,

- **Zipper Bags class,** We will assemble and sew 3 different types of zipper bags, learn to make these fast easy bags!
[Pre-registration is required. \\$20 Click here](#)

If you have questions please contact Janette Walker @ jwalk143@utk.edu or call the office at 615-898-7710.

LIVESTOCK & FORAGES WINTER MEETING SERIES

Attendance of all sessions provides
Tennessee Master Beef Producer Certification

Meeting Series Information

- **Jan. 27th** - Making Cents from Forage Decisions:
4:30pm - Forage Plot Tour & Weed Discussion for those who can make it
6:00pm - Creating a Forage Plan for Your Operation
Forage, Auditorium, Lane Agri Park, 315 John R. Rice Blvd.
Snacks will be served
- **Feb. 4th** - Discovering your Waypoints: A Guide Map to creating Your Business Plan
6:00pm - ZOOM Session
- **Feb. 11th** - Controlled Breeding Revisited: Why it Pays and How to Transition Painlessly
6:00pm - Community Center Classroom,
Lane Agri Park, 315 John R Rice Blvd.
- **Feb. 18th** - Soil Health: What's Hype and What's Not
6:00pm - ZOOM Session
- **March 1st** - Master Beef Collective Topics
Hands-On Day
9:00am-2:00pm - Livestock Barn
Lane Agri-Park, 315 John R. Rice Blvd.

Topics Covered will include Equipment maintenance, drill & sprayer calibration, BQA, Feeding based on Hay Tests, Weed Tour, etc.

Cost for Master Beef Producer Certification is \$100
Cost for attending March 1st session (without Master Beef certification) is \$25

All other sessions (without Master Beef Producer certification) are free.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

For Sessions with payment [Click here](#)

- Master Beef Certification (all sessions)
- Hands-on March 1st

[To register for individual and Zoom sessions click here](#)

Deadline to register
Tuesday, January 21st.

Questions Contact:

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615-898-7710