

Rutherford County EXTENSION NEWS



May, 2025 | Issue



Junior 4-H Camp is open to any youth in Rutherford County that are currently in the 4th, 5th or 6th grade. Camp will be June 23rd–27th at William P. Ridley 4-H Center in Columbia.

This five-day resident camp offers excellent youth programming. Activities include ziplining, swimming, shooting sports, group sports and recreation, nature hikes, woodworking, crafts, music and more!

Cost: \$400 (includes all meals, lodging, transportation and T-shirt) Registration is available online, if you need to pay with a check, please call the office at 615-898-7710. Deadline to register is May 31st.

rutherford.tennessee.edu/4-h-camp/

Below you will find a list of camps we have available at this time.

Other Camps

- Jr High Camp (6th–8th grade) May 26th–30th
- Pioneer Camp (7th–9th) July 1st–4th
- Electric Camp (6th–8th) June 24th–27th
- Culinary Camp (6th–8th) July 8th–10th
- Behind the Scenes Camp (9th–12th) June 24th–26th
- Target Smart Camp (5th–9th) May 26th–30th
- Jr High Academic Conference (6th–8th) June 10th–13th

For more information regarding these camps visit our website by clicking this link:

<https://rutherford.tennessee.edu/4-h-camp/>



CALLING ALL ADULT VOLUNTEERS!

- When : June 23–27, 2025
- Where: Ridley 4-H Camp -Columbia, TN
- Cost: FREE for you if you volunteer!
- Looking for Adult Leaders (19 years and older)

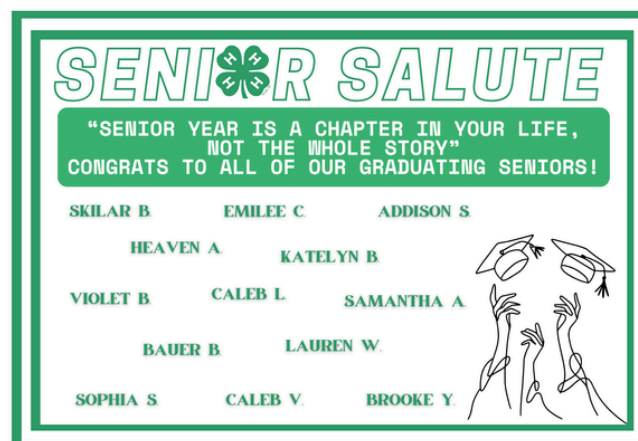
Volunteering for 4-H Camp is a great experience and most of all FUN!



For Questions and info about volunteering, contact: Raquel Victor rvictor@utk.edu or call 615-898-7710.



OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 26TH





Lessons Learned from an Extension Career By: Rebekah Norman

Many of you may already know that Mitchell Mote, one of our own, is retiring effective May 1st. I've known Mitchell for roughly 25 years.

The first few years that I knew Mitchell, I was a client whose child participated in the 4-H Goat Project (new at that time). He was the epitome of an Extension professional--enthusiastic about the work and for the youth in the project. He was a reliable, dependable, and trustworthy source of information and, as the kids saw it, Mitchell was "cool!"



As a parent, I appreciated that you could depend on him to do whatever he had said, when he said he would do it. All that he did, he did with excellence. It's an overused phrase perhaps, but it's a true one: "No one cares about what you know until they know how much you care." Mitchell was and continues to be the epitome of someone who cares about the person first.



Mitchell is one of the primary reasons I became an Extension professional. Seeing him in the role made me see Extension as a noble profession. I saw an Extension agent as one who was proficient in subject matter, one who enjoyed people and was willing to serve them in order to assist them in reaching their goals, and a person that one could trust.

Twenty plus years later, I've had the opportunity to work with Mitchell for the majority of those years. What has he taught me?



1. Be careful about the information you provide. Mitchell takes time to carefully ask questions to make sure he thoroughly understands the client's concern. Then he takes time to research possible solutions—and all this is done before he responds. It's very easy in the heat and pressure of the moment to spout off a generic, quick answer. Mitchell's approach made him highly respected among clientele as a trusted, incredibly knowledgeable source of information.
2. Work hard. He may have a program that runs until 9:30 p.m. but Mitchell is in the office the next morning at 8. Same thing if he has a program on a Saturday!
3. Do what you say. The only way to be trusted, is to be trustworthy. And the more inconvenient "doing what you say" is, the bigger the opportunity to build trust.
4. Be curious. Mitchell is curious which keeps him humble and keeps him learning—both incredibly important for success in Extension—and also makes one particularly endearing to clientele. No one trusts someone who is foolish enough to think they already know it all.
5. Be contagious. Be the kind of person others want to emulate. That's Mitchell.





June 10th-13th 8am-Noon each day
Open to 3rd-5th
Lane Agri-Park, 315 John R. Rice Blvd

Attention all young nature enthusiasts! Are you ready to dig in the dirt, plant some seeds, and watch your garden bloom? Our Junior Master Gardener Camp is the perfect place to grow your love for plants and gardening while having an amazing time with new friends!

Grades: 3rd through 5th Cost of Camp: \$75

Camp Highlights:

- **Hands-On Gardening Activities:** Learn how to plant, and care for a variety of plants and flowers.
- **Outdoor Adventures:** Explore the beauty of nature and discover the secrets of the natural world.
- **Fun & Educational Games:** Participate in interactive games and projects designed to teach sustainable gardening.
- **Creative Crafts:** Make garden-themed crafts to take home and showcase your creativity.
- **Expert Gardeners:** Meet experienced gardeners and get tips from the pros!
- **Garden Journal:** Each camper will receive their very own garden journal to document their gardening journey, track plant growth, and capture daily learnings.
- **Snacks Every Day:** Enjoy healthy and delicious snacks to keep your energy up while you work in the garden.
- **Pizza Party on the Last Day:** Celebrate all your hard work with a fun pizza party to wrap up the camp in style!

Why Join?

Develop a green thumb and a passion for the environment
Enjoy fresh air and outdoor fun
Build teamwork and new friendships
Take home a pot you helped create!
Spots are limited, so sign up today and be part of this amazing gardening adventure!

To register, [Click Here](#) for application form.

Hosted by the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County



4-H STATE ARCHERY JAMBOREE RESULTS

We are so proud of all 25 of our 4-H participants and hope this was a growth and learning experience for them! We hope they had fun too!

A few notable high placings (top 20) in the contest were:

- Riley Weaver placed 15th overall in the Junior Division
- Justin Vaughn-placed 2nd overall in the Jr High Division
- Kento Ueta placed 6th overall in the Jr High Division
- Isa Weathersby placed 18th overall in the Jr High Division
- Caleb Vaughn placed 10th overall in the Sr High Division
- Barrett Porter placed 13th overall in the Sr High Division

All participants will receive a 4-H ribbon.

A special THANK YOU to our awesome volunteer coaches who none of this would be possible without their leadership.

- Mr. Jim
- Mr. Nathan
- Ms. Michelle
- Ms. Breonna
- As well as our awesome teen leaders!!!



Talk to One of Our Agents

Thursday, May 15th in-between
8:10am - 9:00am

Call WGNS at 615-893-1450 & we will answer your questions about gardening, landscaping, and other Extension events!



OPENING DAY - MAY 9TH - 7AM TO 1PM

The Rutherford County Farmers' Market is a Producer-Only Farmers Market located in the indoor/open air Community Center at the Lane Agri-Park in Murfreesboro. Our market vendors hail from over a dozen Middle Tennessee counties and sell a wide variety of seasonal: Fruits, Vegetables, Meats, Eggs, Baked, and Canned goods. Flowers, Plants, shrubs and trees. Come meet our vendors on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7am-1pm.



Webinar Dates & Topics

- May 19 - Trade War 2.0: Implications for Agriculture & Forestry
- May 22 - Managing Input Prices & Interest Expense
- May 27 - Pricing Products with Purpose
- May 29 - Understanding Recordkeeping & Farm Taxes

Pre-Recorded Videos Sessions

- Developing Your Business Plan
- Restructuring Current Debt
- Using Budgets to Determine Your Break-Even
- Transition & Management Planning
- And more to come



Eligibility

A combination of 8 live or pre-recorded sessions must be watched to receive certification.

If you have any Questions please contact : Tori Griffin at 615-374-1283, tmarsh21@utk.edu or David Bilderback at 865-200-4545, dbilderb@utk.edu

Follow the link to register today!
tiny.utk.edu/SummerMFM25



FLAVORED VINEGARS CLASS

Join FCS agent, Shay Davis on May 16th from 10am -10:30am at the Lane Agri Park Community Center classroom and learn how to create your own herb infused vinegars at home. Pre-register for this class by go to this link

<https://forms.office.com/r/xSGKBrAhgP>



4-H COUNTY HORSE CLINIC

The Rutherford County 4-H Horse Program held its first County Horse Clinic in conjunction with Adventures in Ag Day! We had a great turnout of members and others from the community who wanted to learn more about Halter, Showmanship, Equitation and Trail classes. Members also shared information about the 4-H Horse Program through the day with visitors for Adventures in Ag Day. We are looking forward to future clinics at the arena at the Ag Extension campus! For more information contact tchandl9@utk.edu.



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Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U. S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment