

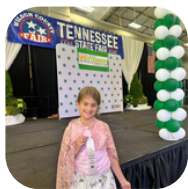
Rutherford County EXTENSION NEWS



September, 2025 | Issue



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STATE FAIR WINNERS



4-HER'S

Lydian Ferguson placed 3rd overall in the Best Wear Category (4th-5th Grade) at the clover collection fashion show during the TN State Fair



Wheeler Hord placed 2nd in the Junior Division at the 4-H State Fair Public Speaking Contest

CANNING COMPETITION



Marilyn Spence

"Tennessee State Fair Blue Ribbon Story" A farmer friend gave Bill a 5 gallon bucket of purple hull peas. Bill who is also a farmer, was kind enough to shell all the peas for me, "a farmer's wife". Now, I believe that is definitely A TRUE BLUE..."BLUE RIBBON".



Tracy Derrick received a Blue 1st place Ribbon for Canned Mixed Vegetables, and 3rd place for Canned Dill Pickle Spears. She is also a Pick TN products producer and vendor at our Farmers Market.

Linda Parker placed 3rd for starfruit marmalade, & Peach Jam
Linda is a an FCE member and Master Gardener. She grew the starfruit and purchased peaches from the Rutherford County Farmers Market at Lane Agri-Park.

Holden Ayer's place 3rd in sliced sweet pickles, category.

"A heartfelt thank you to all Rutherford County participants for your enthusiastic involvement and support."



Your Feedback MATTERS!

Please fill out our Survey By [clicking here](#) or visiting forms.office.com/r/h3DXcv4wvm?origin=lpLink

Your feedback is essential in helping us understand the needs of our community and improve the programs and services we offer. This survey is designed to gather input on three key areas:

- Agriculture
- 4-H Youth Development
- Family and Consumer Sciences

Your responses will help us identify priorities, plan future programming, and better serve you and your community.



OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED SEPT. 1ST



Cannon/Rutherford County

2025 FORAGE FIELD DAY

September 16th at 4pm

Lane Agri-Park -Rear Forage Plots
across from Community Center

315 John R. Rice Blvd. Murfreesboro TN 37129

Topics Included:

- Novel endophyte tall fescue & orchardgrass stockpiling
- Managing cool season perennials in challenging weather
- 2025 Growing season variety results
- No-till drill calibration & fall planting of crimson clover in warm season annuals

RSVP : By calling the office before Sept. 15th to be added to the list 615-898-7710

Not Required but please help us plan for you

If you have questions contact [Rebekah Norman](#).



GARDEN BASICS

for Beginner Gardeners

Learn the basic skills of gardening in this 5 week program hosted by the Rutherford County Master Gardeners. Here are the details.

- Date & Time: Thursday evenings, from 6:00PM - 8:30PM Starting Sept 25th through October 23rd
- Location: Lane Agri Park Complex, 315 John R. Rice Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN
- Cost: \$50 a person, but two people from the same household that would be sharing materials is \$90.
- Registration: [Click here](#)

Turn in your application as soon as possible.

Return completed application and fee to the Rutherford County Extension office, 315 John R. Rice Blvd. Suite 101, Murfreesboro 37129. Checks made payable to Master Gardeners of Rutherford County

4-H OPEN HOUSE

Save the Date September 22nd

Join us from 5:30-7:30pm in the Community Center Building for current 4th-12th grade students to experience what your local 4-H has to offer! Enjoy the opportunity to talk with leaders and 4-H members to understand what each program has to offer and learn about new opportunities.

4-H CLUBS



Sewing
Cooking



Home School
Judging Teams
Teen/Honor Club



Archery
Livestock
Horse



Poultry
Photography



Master Gardeners of Rutherford County

INVITE YOU TO GRAPE HARVEST DAY

Saturday, September 6, 8AM - 11AM

Bring your family and join us at our annual grape harvest at the Lane Agri-Park Vineyard.

We will have Master Gardeners to answer your gardening questions including how to become a Master Gardener, Harvesting Bags for the grapes will be provided.

Please park at the Livestock Barn parking lot, 443 John R. Rice Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN 37129

A trolley will provide transportation to and from the vineyard.

Special thanks to Andy Adams for providing funding for this community event.

More information contact Justin Stefanski jski@utk.edu or 615-898-7710



September is **National Suicide Prevention Month**, a time dedicated to raising awareness, remembering those lost to suicide, and offering support to those who are struggling.

The overall theme of Suicide Prevention Month is that suicide is preventable and everyone can play a role in saving lives. You can offer support by:

- Become aware of the warning signs. These can include talking about feeling hopeless or being a burden, withdrawing from loved ones, expressing rage, or giving away prized possessions.
- Ask and listen. If you are concerned about someone, ask them directly if they are thinking about suicide. Studies show that asking in a caring way can be a relief, not a trigger. Then, listen to them without judgment.
- Offer support and help them connect with resources. Express your concern and let them know that help is available. Don't leave them alone if you believe they are at immediate risk.
- Take advantage of training. Organizations offer workshops and training, such as Mental Health First Aid, to teach people how to help someone in a mental health crisis.
- Join a walk. Organizations like the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention \(AFSP\)](#) host "Out of the Darkness Walks" to raise funds for research and prevention programs.

If you or someone you know needs help:

- Call or text 988 to reach the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline for free, confidential support 24/7.
- Visit the 988 Lifeline website at 988lifeline.org to learn more and get help through their chat service.
- Utilize the Crisis Text Line by texting HOME to 741741 from anywhere in the U.S.
- Visit the websites of suicide prevention organizations like AFSP and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for additional resources.



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE EVENTS

Homeschool Chef Academy

Smyrna Library
400 Enon Springs Rd W, Smyrna, TN 37167

Tuesday, Sept. 9th
@ 2:30PM - 3:30PM

Ages 8+

More info call 615-495-4884



Yoga

Technology Engagement Center
306 Minerva Dr, Murfreesboro, TN 37130



Pre-Teen Yoga
Monday, Sept. 8th
@3pm
Ages 8-11

For more information about yoga call 615-225-8312



Teen Yoga
Wednesday, Sept. 10th
@3pm
Ages 12-16



RUTHERFORD CO. FALL CRAFT MARKET

October 11, 2025 9:30am - 3pm

**COME SUPPORT LOCAL ARTISANS
& SMALL BUSINESSES**

Lane Agri Park

315 John R Rice Blvd - Murfreesboro, TN

Free Parking and Admission

For vendor info contact Barbara Walker at
lbdweets@gmail.com

Follow us on Social Media



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