

Rutherford County EXTENSION NEWS



Celebrating Extension Month

Follow any road in Tennessee and you'll meet people whose lives have been shaped by Extension's educational programs.

Across all 95 counties, the University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University deliver trusted, research-based information to youth and adults — right in the communities where they live and work.

We provide learning opportunities for Tennesseans of every age, from 4-H youth development programs for 4th–12th graders to a wide range of adult classes that support healthier homes, stronger families, and more productive farms and gardens. Our outreach includes:

- Youth camps, leadership development, and 4-H programs
- First-Time Homebuyer Education
- Nutrition and Food Safety
- Life Planning and Financial Education
- Lawn Care and Gardening Classes
- Master Beef and Agricultural Training
- Plant & Pest Diagnostics
- And so much more to help strengthen communities and enhance everyday life.

UT-TSU Extension is committed to delivering practical, research-based knowledge straight to YOU — wherever you live, work, and grow.

March, 2026 | Issue

CLICK ON PICTURE TO VIEW CALENDAR



Annual ADVENTURES IN AGRICULTURE

Explore agriculture's impact on your life!

Mark your Calendars!!!

Saturday, April 11th
10am to 2pm
Lane Agri-Park Complex,
315 John R. Rice Blvd. Murfreesboro
FREE Admission



Join us for Games, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Fun and more.





VEGETABLE GARDENING 101

Learn to Grow Your Own Fresh, Healthy Vegetables!

Join us for a three-part educational lecture series covering the essentials of successful vegetable gardening. Whether you're a beginner or looking to sharpen your skills, this series will equip you with the knowledge you need to grow with confidence.

Dates: March 4, March 11, & March 18 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: Lane Agri-Park Community Center Classroom
315 John R. Rice Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Cost: \$30.00

Save your seat—spaces are limited!

Register & Pay Here: tiny.utk.edu/Vegetable.101

For Questions or more information contact Baileigh Snow @ bsnow6@utk.edu or call 615-898-7710.



4-H YOGA FOR KIDS

This class is beginner friendly for grades 4th through 12th. It will inspire kids to develop calmness, focus, and physical fitness. Classes will be on Tuesdays from 5pm to 6pm in the Community Center Building at the Lane Agri Park, 315 John R Rice Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

Sign up for one or all!

\$5 Fee for each class/Mats are Provided

Class dates below:

- March 3rd
- April 14th
- May 12th

[Register and pay by clicking here](#). Spots are limited

If you have questions please contact Aliyah Young at 615-898-7710 or email aiyoung@utk.edu



UPCOMING ADULT SEWING CLASSES - LEARN, MEND & CREATE!

We're excited to offer a new series of hands-on sewing classes designed to build your confidence, spark creativity, and help you tackle everyday clothing challenges. Whether you're brand new to sewing or looking to strengthen your skills, these workshops are a perfect fit!

All classes will be held at the Lane Agri Park – Auditorium
315 John R. Rice Blvd., Murfreesboro

Monday, March 9 - Mending Class

5:30 - 7:30pm Fee: \$12

Are you tired of dealing with holes in your favorite clothes, split seams, pocket tears, or missing buttons? Join us for a practical mending workshop where you'll learn simple, effective techniques to bring new life to your garments. Give your clothes a second chance instead of tossing them out!

Pay and register here: tiny.utk.edu/5Ry3l

Tuesday, April 7 - Learn to Sew Class

New to sewing or need a refresher? This beginner-friendly class is the perfect place to start! Bring your own machine or borrow one of ours. By the end of class, you'll complete a small pillow showcasing all your new skills!

Choose Your Session:

- 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM
- 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Fee: \$25

Class Size: Limited – Register early!

Pay and register here: tiny.utk.edu/5Ry3l

Monday, April 27 - Hemming Class

Are uneven or bulky hems giving you trouble? Take the confusion out of hemming with this hands-on workshop.

Discover the techniques to create polished, professional-looking hems every time.

Choose Your Session:

- 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Fee: \$12

Class Size: Limited – Register early!

Pay and register here: tiny.utk.edu/5Ry3l

For questions, contact Janette Walker at jwalk143@utk.edu or call 615-898-7710.

NATIVE PLANTS & CEDAR GLADES SERIES

Sign up today to learn about the amazing world of native plants and the cedar glade biome. The series will consist of three in-class sessions and three field hikes to local natural area.



Topics covered will include:

- Native Plants of Middle Tennessee
- Landscaping with native plants to support & attract pollinators & wildlife
- The cedar glade biome

Cost : \$35

In-Class Trainings will be April 1st, 8th & 15th from 6pm-8pm at Lane Agri-Park Complex - Community Center bldg. 315 John R. Rice Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

Field Hikes are April 17th, 24th & May 1st from 9am-noon.

Register and Pay by going to this link tiny.utk.edu/2026NativePlants

For questions, please contact Justin Stefanski, jski@utk.edu

Agventurers

— Toddler Class —
at the Rutherford County Farmers Market

Join Us This Spring at the Rutherford County Farmers Market!

We'll be meeting most Friday at 10:00 AM throughout the spring.

March 6th, 13th April 3rd, 10th, & 17th

This FREE class is geared toward children ages 1-6, and no registration is required.

Come learn about agriculture, explore the market, and let your kids meet their local farmers while grocery shopping!

We can't wait to see you there!

(615) 785-0862

RCFM@rutherfordcountyttn.gov



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! ADULTS AND TEENS!



- When : June 8-12, 2026
- Where: Ridley 4-H Camp -Columbia, TN
- Cost: FREE for you if you volunteer!
- Looking for Adult volunteers must be 19 years and older
- Looking For Teen Leaders (currently in 9th-12th grades)
- If you are looking for community service hours or leadership experience, this is for you!

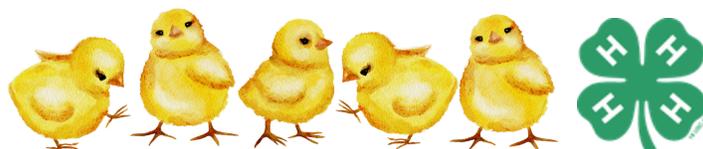
Click on link below for the online application for anyone wanting to apply to be a teen leader or adult volunteer for 4-H Junior camp:

Adult Volunteer: tiny.utk.edu/VM7zr

Teen Leader: tiny.utk.edu/Ruge2

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

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



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 April 13, 2026 and will care for them until the Show and Sale on September 19, 2026.

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 3 of their birds to the poultry show and sale in September.

25 Chicks for \$100

12 Chicks for \$50

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

If you have questions please contact :
Anna Gafford, 4-H-Agent annlgaff@utk.edu

Master Gardeners of Rutherford County



2026 SPRING EQUINOX WORKSHOP

Celebrate the Season • Learn New Skills • Grow with Us

Saturday, April 18th from 9am-12:30pm
Lane Agri Park - Auditorium

315 John R. Rice Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Join us for the 2026 Spring Equinox Workshop, hosted by the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County!

This hands-on mini-session event is perfect for gardeners of all levels who want to expand their skills and welcome the new growing season with fresh inspiration.

Mini-Sessions Include:

- Soil Blocking Basics – Start seeds the sustainable way
- Cultivating Dahlias – Tips for planting, growing, and enjoying beautiful blooms
- Converting Turf to Garden Beds – Transform lawn into flourishing garden space

Cost: \$10.00 - Advance payment only

Register & Pay Here:

<https://tiny.utk.edu/MG.Equinox.Workshop>

All sales are final. No refunds.

Please note: No children under age 12.

Questions? More information?

Email: mastergardeners.rc@gmail.com



Our Annual vendor meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17th at 8am in the Auditorium at Lane Agri Park, 315 John R. Rice Blvd. M'boro Vendor paperwork is available [online](#). Any questions about being a vendor please contact the office 615-898-7710.

STATE 4-H HIPPOLOGY COMPETITION RESULTS!



We are proud of our teams for their hard work and outstanding performance at the State 4-H Hippology Contest!

Team Awards

- Senior Team – 5th Place
- Junior Team – 6th Place

Individual Awards

- Bethany Lancaster – 9th Place Senior Individual
- Lyla Parker – 4th Place Junior Individual

Team Members

Senior Team: Bethany Lancaster, Kennedy Frank, Arabella Smart, and Pearl Moore

Junior Team: Lyla Parker, Abigail Oeser, and Valerie Rozuk

Congratulations to all team members! We are so proud of your dedication, teamwork, and representation of our program!



MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL PLANT SWAP

Saturday, April 25th-9am to 11am

Lane Agri Park Community Center

315 John R. Rice Blvd, Murfreesboro

Come swap your favorite plants, discover new varieties, and enjoy a day of gardening camaraderie. Whether you're a seasoned horticulturist or just starting your plant journey, this is an event you won't want to miss. Please bring healthy, pest-free, and labeled plants rooted in soil.

Notes

- Bring One, Take One
- Bring Ten, Take Ten
- No Invasive Plants Accepted
- <https://www.tnipc.org/invasive-plants/>



Please bring plants that would excite you to take home.

