

# FEBRUARY

## RUTHERFORD COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER



### What we do

Tennessee 4-H encourages diverse groups of youth to develop their unique skills and talents to their fullest potential. 4-H helps youth prepare for success in the workforce and to be leaders in civic engagement.

Young people participate in 4-H through clubs, special interest groups, after-school programs, camps, and many other activities. "Learning by doing" through hands-on activities and community involvement empowers 4-H'ers to develop and strengthen life skills. Opportunities for 4th-12th grade students.

### Upcoming Events

2026 FEBRUARY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

**Reminder: If Rutherford Co. Schools are closed for inclement weather, we will not have afterschool or evening 4-H programs that day. Please stay safe!**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Yoga in the Community Center, pre-registration required
- 5<sup>th</sup> Homeschool club 4th-12th grade, 3:45-4:30 pm CCC
- 5<sup>th</sup> Teen club open to 6-12th graders, 5:30 pm CCC
- 6<sup>th</sup> Hippology & Horse Bowl, 4 pm CCC
- 9<sup>th</sup> Livestock Club meeting AND Horse Club Meeting
- 10<sup>th</sup> Poultry Club meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup> Hippology & Horse Bowl, 4 pm CCC
- 20<sup>th</sup> Hippology & Horse Bowl, 4 pm CCC
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Horse Judging, CCC 6 pm CCC
- 24<sup>th</sup> High School Life Skills Class 5:30 pm pre-registration required.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Hippology & Horse Bowl, 4 pm CCC

CCC= Community Center Classroom, 315 John R Rice Blvd. Murfreesboro.  
Come Learn Something New with 4-H!

### Coming up soon:

March 21 Rutherford County Horse Show  
March 21 Sewing with Raquel

**This month In School Clubs:  
Students are doing a demonstration.**



### CONTACTS

#### Agents

**Anna Gafford**  
annlgaff@utk.edu

**Raquel Victor**  
rvictor@utk.edu

**Janette Walker**  
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**Aliyah Young**  
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#### Program Assistant

**Tammy Chandler**  
tchandl9@utk.edu

### CLUBS

Sewing  
Cooking  
Archery  
Horse Club  
Judging Teams  
Teen Club/ Honor Club  
Photography Group  
Poultry  
Livestock  
Homeschool  
Yoga  
Nutrition

### OFFICE

**Rutherford County  
Extension Office Phone**  
615-898-7710

Website  
[rutherford.tennessee.edu](http://rutherford.tennessee.edu)

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### The Rutherford County 4-H Horse Program Members competed in the Central Region Hippology/Horse Bowl competition Jan. 17th

Senior Team, 1st Place Overall in the Hippology  
Contest

Bethany Lancaster, 2nd place Individual  
Kennedy Frank, 7th place Individual  
Pearl Moore  
Arabella Smart

Pierce Lancaster, Alternate  
Julie Simpson, Alternate

Junior High Team, 17th Place Overall in the  
Hippology Contest

Abigail Orozco  
Lauren Thompson  
Ella Willoughby

Junior Team, 4th Place Overall in Hippology

Lyla Parker, 3rd place Individual  
Abigail Oeser  
Valerie Rozuk

The Senior and Junior teams qualified for the  
State Hippology Competition and will be  
headed there in February.

Congratulations to all the members for their  
hard work and effort!

Teams are coached by Tammy Chandler. For  
more information, contact: [tchandler9@utk.edu](mailto:tchandler9@utk.edu).



### It's cornbread time in Tennessee!

We invite your 4-Hers (grades 4-6) to  
submit a recipe for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual  
National Cornbread Festival 4-H Cook-  
Off, sponsored by Lodge Cast Iron! Our  
competition is open to 4-H students  
nationwide. We encourage your students  
to get creative in the kitchen when  
developing their recipes. The judges will  
be looking for complex recipes and  
dishes that encompass a variety of  
flavors.

Recipe submissions must be received via  
mail or email by Feb. 27. The top ten  
recipes will be announced in early  
March. Those students selected will  
compete live at the National Cornbread  
Festival on Sunday, April 26, 2026, in  
South Pittsburg, TN.

Rules and registration form can be found  
at our web site, under deadlines.



### Chick Chain

This program allows Rutherford Co.  
4th-12<sup>th</sup> graders to receive pullet chicks  
to care for and begin their own flock of  
chickens. Participants will attend  
monthly meetings to help raise their  
chicks. Each participant will receive the  
chicks the week of April 13 and will  
care for them until the Show and Sale  
on September 19, 2026.

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 Show and Sale.

Red Star Chicks: 25 for \$100 or 12 for  
\$50. Contact [annlgaff@utk.edu](mailto:annlgaff@utk.edu)

### Congratulations

Central Region  
Area 4 winners of the  
Public Speaking Contest  
Aadya 1<sup>st</sup> Place in 5<sup>th</sup>  
Grade (I)  
Angel 1<sup>st</sup> Place in 8<sup>th</sup>  
Grade (r)



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Rutherford County 4-H members exhibited their project animals at the Central Region Swine Show held Jan. 7-8.

### Breeding Gilt Show

Berkshire Class 02- Leighton Wakefield 4<sup>th</sup> place and Ty Hall 6<sup>th</sup> place

Duroc Class 01- Holden Shuler 7<sup>th</sup>

Duroc Class 02- Molli Schlick 5th, Benjamin Sledge 6th, Addie Vernon 7th

Tamworth Class 02- Holden Shuler 4th

### Market Hog Show

Spotted Class 03 (250 lbs - 272 lbs)- Ashlee Zack 1st

Crossbred Class 06 (258 lbs - 262 lbs)- Tristen Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> and Baylee Davis 3rd

Crossbred Class 07 (263 lbs - 269 lbs)- Holden Shuler 3rd

Purebred Prospect Class 01 (0 lbs - 196 lbs)- William Dickson 1st

Purebred Prospect Class 02 (197 lbs - 211 lbs)- Leighton Wakefield 3rd

Commercial Prospect Class 01B (0 lbs - 195 lbs)- John Blandford 3<sup>rd</sup> and Jared Costa 6th

Commercial Prospect Class 04 (207 lbs - 213 lbs)- Gage Bergstresser 1<sup>st</sup> and Kasen Miller 4th

### Skillathon

Junior High- Holden Shuler 12th

Senior Level 2- Baylee Davis 17<sup>th</sup> and Ashlee Zack 25th

## Sewing Day Camp

Registration opens February 1st open to students 4th-8<sup>th</sup> grade no experience necessary! Sewing Day Camp will be March 21 from 9am-2pm, we will create 2 projects start to finish and gain confidence using a sewing machine. This camp will be held in the Extension Auditorium, and pre-registration is required to participate.

### Bird Hunting Field Day & Gun Dog College

will be held Feb 28 from 1-4:30 pm at 5601 Christiana Hoovers Gap Road in Christiana. Youth and adults must register by emailing RC@utk.edu Attendance is Free. This event is co-sponsored by University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and Bowman Kennels. Questions call 865-974-0636.

## High School Juniors and Seniors

TSU has a 4 week fully funded residential summer Range Research Experience. Deadline to apply Feb. 28 Ideal for those interested in Agriculture, Environmental Science, Natural Resources Management, and STEM careers. Participants conduct hands-on research, explore fields sites, and present their work at a final research symposium under the guidance of TSU AG faculty. Email jwalk143@utk.edu for the promotional flyer with application link.

**A.I. In Ag Camp** for those interested in flying drones, working with robotics, programming smart devices, and how AI is used in Ag. The UT Dept. of Biosystems Engineering and Tennessee 4-H have a 4-week program, that has you home for every weekend, limited to 10 students. Visit [4h.tennessee.edu/ai-in-ag-camp](http://4h.tennessee.edu/ai-in-ag-camp) for more details..

## 4-H is looking for host families for Inbound Exchange Students.

**Host Family Requirements:** You must have a child of the same gender who is within 4 years of the hosted youth.

Families without children of the appropriate age may host an adult chaperone. No special activities need to be planned since these youth want to experience American culture, make new friends, and improve their English by staying with your family. You don't need to be involved with 4-H to host. For more information Visit:

<http://www.states4hexchange.org> Email: [exchange@states4h.org](mailto:exchange@states4h.org) Call: 1-800-407-3314

