

Rutherford County EXTENSION NEWS



August, 2026 | Issue



DEMENTIA, A CRUEL THIEF

Join FCS Agent Shay Davis and guest speaker [Lee Ann Hyatt, RN, BSN](#), of We Remember You, for an informative three-part series on dementia and caregiving. Participants will gain a better understanding of dementia disease processes, the changes that occur in loved ones living with dementia, and the challenges faced by family caregivers. The series also explores ways communities can support caregivers and encourage self-care.

Lane Agri Park Community Center Classroom
315 John R. Rice Blvd.

Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Program Schedule - 10am -12pm

- August 27: Dementia Disease Processes
- September 3: Changes in a Loved One
- September 17: The Family Caregiver

Register by going to this link

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/3U24NnsGJA?origin=lprLink>

This educational series is designed to provide knowledge, support, and practical resources for anyone caring for or supporting a loved one with dementia.



ANNUAL GRAPE HARVEST DAY

Saturday, August 29, 2026 8AM - 11AM

Join us for our Annual Grape Harvest at the Lane Agri Park Vineyard!

Come lend a hand as we harvest this year's grape crop and enjoy a fun day at the vineyard. Harvest bags will be provided, and our Rutherford County Master Gardeners will be on-site to answer your gardening questions and share information about the Master Gardener Program.

This is a FREE event and everyone is welcome!

No registration is required.

Parking: Please park in the Livestock Barn parking lot.

For questions, please contact Baileigh Snow at bsnow6@utk.edu or call the Extension Office at 615-898-7710.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Congratulations, Misty Layne-Watkins!

Misty Layne-Watkins Receives THDA Top Producer Award



Congratulations to Misty Layne-Watkins on being recognized with the Tennessee Housing Development Agency's (THDA) Top Producer Award.

This prestigious honor reflects her dedication to expanding homeownership opportunities and helping individuals and families achieve their dream of owning a home. Through her commitment to homebuyer education, Misty empowers prospective homeowners with the knowledge and resources needed to navigate the homebuying process confidently and build a strong foundation for long-term success. Her efforts not only help people purchase homes but also support them in becoming informed, financially responsible, and successful homeowners for years to come.



2026 TENNESSEE STATE FAIR HAY & FIELD CROP CONTEST

Entries are now open for the 2026 Tennessee State Fair Hay & Field Crop Contest, and we encourage Rutherford County producers to participate!

Eligible entries include hay (square and round bales), field corn, soybeans, tobacco, cotton, and wheat. This year also features a Patriotic Photo Contest with the theme, "Grown in the USA: Feeding America for the Last 250 Years." To be eligible, you have to include one of the crops that enter the Hay and Field Crops contest. It can be anything from tractors cutting hay while flying an American Flag to Round Bales with Red, White, and Blue net wrap. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Important Dates

- August 9 – Please contact me if you plan to enter. Since all entries must be submitted through the online entry system, I'll need your information by August 9 to complete your registration.
- August 10 – Please have all field crop entries to the Rutherford County UT Extension Office by this date.
- Hay entries may be dropped off at the Extension Office before the deadline, and earlier drop-offs are appreciated.

The Rutherford County UT Extension Office has hay and corn entry bags available. If you need assistance collecting samples or preparing your entries, I'd be happy to come to your farm and help. My goal is to make the process as simple as possible and help Rutherford County have a strong showing at this year's State Fair.

If you're interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Megan Cartee mcartee@utk.edu or call UT-TSU Rutherford County Extension Office



4-H HORSE PROGRAM SHOWS THROUGH SUMMER!



The Rutherford County 4-H Horse Program has had an amazing summer! We started off the summer with the Central Region Show at the Miller Coliseum in Murfreesboro the last few days of May. Members worked hard and several received ribbons for their efforts in their classes!

June came in with the heat and the first Equine Science Day Camp! (Thankfully, we were in air conditioning!). The members did a deep dive into the Equine Digestive System and learned about enzymes, organs, muscles, and manure. Fun was had by all!

June also brought the 4-H State Horse Show at the Celebration Grounds in Shelbyville, TN. Members showed in Ranch, Hunter, Gaited and Speed divisions and several members received ribbons in their classes. Friends came to cheer each other throughout the show and true 4-H character was displayed through sportsmanship, kindness, and encouragement. We are truly proud of our Rutherford County 4-H Horse members, not only for their efforts in the arena, but also for their character and kindness to others!

We took a short break, and now we are ready to jump in again with Hippology, Horse Bowl, Horse Club and Horse Judging Practices! Everything 4-H Horse happens on Thursdays in the Livestock Barn at the Lane Agri Park! If you are a 4th-12th grade horse lover who wants to learn everything you can about horses—come join us! Contact tchandl9@utk.edu for more information. We'd love to see you there!

IMPORTANT!

Office Closure Announcement

Our office will be closed on August 18th and 19th. We will reopen and resume normal business hours on August 20th. Thank you for your understanding.



GARDEN BASICS II - FALL 2026

Learn the basic skills of gardening in this 4 week program hosted by the Rutherford County Master Gardeners. Here are the details.

- Date & Time: September 10th - October 8th, Thursday evenings, from 6:30PM - 8:00PM
- Location: Lane Agri Park Complex, Community Center Classroom- 315 John R. Rice Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN
- Cost: \$50 a person
- Registration: [Click Here](#)

If you have questions contact Baileigh Snow bsnow6@utk.edu.



HEALTHY MADE EASY

4-part Nutrition Series

Join us for a four-part nutrition series focused on saving money and preparing healthy meals at home. Participants will learn smart grocery shopping tips, enjoy easy recipe demonstrations, sample nutritious foods, and receive giveaways at each session.

Dates: **Time: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

1. August 25
2. September 8
3. September 22
4. October 6

Location: Lane Agri-Park Auditorium, 315 John R. Rice Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN

Cost: \$20 per person for all four sessions
Register: tiny.utk.edu/FCS.AGSTORE

Contact: Brittany Satinover
Email: bsatino1@utk.edu
Phone: 615-898-7710

4-H OPEN HOUSE

Save the Date September 17th

Join us from 5:30-7:30pm 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



Judging Teams
Teen/Honor Club
Yoga



Archery
Livestock
Horse



Photography
Home School
Poultry



Become a
MASTER GARDENER!

Master Gardeners are volunteers who love plants, share knowledge, and make a difference in our community.

APPLICATIONS OPEN

 *Opens*
AUGUST 1ST

 *Closes*
SEPTEMBER 30TH

TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION, PLEASE EMAIL:
bsnow6@utk.edu

GROW. LEARN. SERVE. TOGETHER.