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DAVIDSON COUNTY EXTENSION

# HIGHLIGHTS

JAN - MARCH  
2026

## Agriculture and Naturals Resources in Action



Photo: Master Gardener Intern Class

Producers in Davidson County are heading into planting season facing some tough conditions, as extreme drought continues to impact the area. Rainfall is well below normal, making this one of the driest years on record so far. Extension agents are continuing to monitor conditions and support producers through crop and weather reporting, while also sharing recovery resources for those affected by Winter Storm Fern. Educational programming is ongoing, including an upcoming small ruminant workshop focused on helping producers with smaller acreages explore goat and sheep production.

Horticulture work this quarter has centered around seasonal practices like fruit tree pruning, with many clients already seeing improvements in tree health and production. Community garden partnerships continue to be a strong area of impact, including work with the Davidson County Sheriff's Office supporting inmate education and food donations, as well as efforts with the DC4 recovery program and the Hermitage Community Garden to expand growing spaces and increase production. Support from the Davidson County Farm Bureau has helped provide resources to keep these projects growing.

In commercial horticulture, the annual Landscape Short Course brought in around 200 attendees for two days of training and networking. The Master Gardener Intern Program is also moving forward, with 35 interns actively working through the program and preparing to serve in the community.

## Growing Leaders Through 4-H

As the school year begins to wind down, Davidson County 4-H clubs are wrapping up a busy spring and giving youth the chance to celebrate their accomplishments. More than 200 youth participated in the Poster Art Contest in January, and around 175 shared demonstrations in March, building confidence while teaching others new skills. Fifteen county poster winners are now on display in the office and online, and demonstrators brought creativity and strong presentations to the county contest in April



Photo: 4H Congress

At the state level, Davidson County was represented at the 79th Tennessee 4-H Congress by two Honor Club delegates, Jewell and Miles. During the event, they gained hands-on experience with the legislative process by participating in mock sessions, electing officers, and connecting with state leaders. They returned with valuable insight and experiences to share with their fellow 4-H members.

Specialty clubs focused on wildlife, horses, and poultry have also stayed active this spring. Horse club members prepared for regional competition by studying horse judging and competing at Middle Tennessee State University, where participants placed well among a large field of contestants. The Chick Chain Project has also returned for a second year, with youth raising multiple breeds of chicks while learning about poultry care, production, and related careers through monthly club meetings and hands-on experience.



Photo: Master Gardener Intern Class

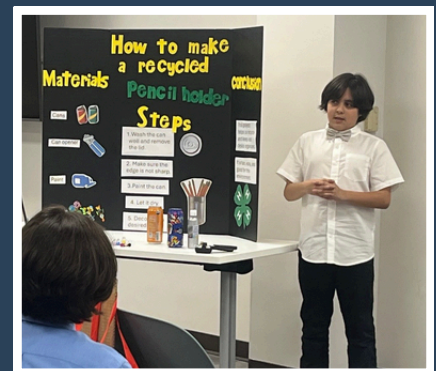


Photo: 4H Demonstration Contest



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## Upcoming Programs

- **Area 1 Project Achievement Day**
  - May 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Wilson County Fairgrounds, Lebanon, TN
  - Contact: Andy Lantz
- **Central Region 4-H Wildlife Contest**
  - May 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Cheatham Dam, Ashland City, TN
  - Contact: Andy Lantz
- **Chick Chain and Poultry Club**
  - May 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Zoom
  - Contact: Shana Delozier-Los
- **Jr. 4-H Camp**
  - June 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Ridley 4-H Center, Columbia, TN
  - Contact: Andy Lantz
- **Davidson County Extension Summer Day Camp**
  - June 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>
  - TSU Farm, Nashville, TN
  - Contact: Andy Lantz
- **Canning Class**
  - May 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Nashville Farmers Market, Nashville, TN.
  - Contact: Melissa Standley
- **Fresh Plate**
  - July 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Bell Center, Nashville, TN.
  - Contact: Melissa Standley
- **Middle TN Ag Club**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday monthly
  - UT Soil, Plant, Pest Center, Nashville, TN.
  - Contact: Dan Harrell
- **Sustainable Food Production**
  - Tuesdays in May
  - Zoom
  - Contact: Amy Dunlap

## Supporting Healthy Living in Family and Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Sciences programming stayed active this quarter, with a strong focus on nutrition, food safety, and overall wellness. In January, an ACES program with Mending Hearts explored how early life experiences impact brain development and long-term health. Dining with Diabetes was offered at multiple locations, reaching participants through hands-on lessons covering topics like carbohydrates, sodium, and disease management, along with recipe tastings and practical tools they can use at home. Nutrition education also extended to youth through a partnership with Woodmont Hills Church of Christ, where participants learned about healthy food choices and prepared simple recipes like smoothies.



*Photo: Dining with Diabetes*



*Photo: Boards & Bites Charcuterie Class*

Community engagement through EFNEP programming added another layer of impact this quarter. At Napier Elementary's Family Literacy Night, families connected with nutrition education through hands-on activities, including healthy recipe ideas and food samples. Caregivers and youth were introduced to practical resources like "Eating Smart" curriculum materials and take-home recipes, while also connecting with community partners and support services available to them.

Partnerships continue to be a key part of FCS outreach. Programs were delivered in collaboration with organizations including the Senior Renaissance Center, CenterWell Bellevue, the Mary Parrish Center, and the Salvation Army, covering topics such as meal planning, food safety, and stress management. A joint charcuterie class with the agriculture program at Green Door Gourmet brought together food safety and food preparation in a hands-on setting, giving participants a chance to apply what they learned in a practical way. Overall, FCS efforts this quarter focused on meeting people where they are and providing realistic, practical tools they can use in daily life, while continuing to build strong community relationships across Davidson County.