

Quarter 1- 2025

DAVIDSON COUNTY EXTENSION UPDATE



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UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension

AGRICULTURE UPDATES

BY: AMY DUNLAP

This quarter Ms. Dunlap hosted the biannual Master Gardener state conference in partnership with Williamson County Master Gardeners. Over two hundred Master Gardeners attended the conference, which focused on highlighting urban food production and volunteer efforts to support. They got to tour Cheekwood, Arrington Vineyards, Ellington Ag, and the Giving Gardens. Workshops were hands-on, including topics like fermentation, flower pressing, and pruning. She also hosted the Welcome Home TN fall horticulture class in October with Shana at TSU. twenty-five people participated in learning about lawn management, landscape design, pest and disease management, and soils. Ms. Dunlap also continued partnership and attended various partner meetings with Metro Nashville Water Services, Wild Ones of Middle Tennessee and Bates Nursery.

BY: DAN HARRELL

This quarter Mr. Harrell was busy maintaining School Gardens at Julia Green, Granbury, Harpeth Valley, JT Moore, St Joseph's, Neelys Bend, Carter Lawrence and Aventura elementary schools. He taught Horticulture and Gardening with inmates at Davidson Co Sheriff's Department. Dan continues to teach participants in the gardening program with Davidson Co Drug Court located on County hospital road. Mr. Harrell also remains active with Davidson County Farm Bureau and surrounding community clubs. Dan continues to serve on the Board of the TN Agriculture Museum and is president of the Middle TN Ag club.

BY: SHANA DELOZIER

This quarter Ms. DeLozier and Amy hosted and taught Welcome Home. Welcome Home is a gardening class for those new to Tennessee and gardening. They had eighteen participants in the course. They got to learn about TN climate and soils, flowering plants, shrubs and trees, and lawns. Many of the participants plan to implement or have already implemented the new information on soil testing, plant selection, and management.

In November, Shana worked on building relationships with metro water and conservation specialist Jessie Hunter. They discussed the needs of Davidson County and ways to collaborate. Shana attends the NRCS and Water and Soil Conservation local workgroup. This workgroup meeting included extension agents, NRCS agents, Water and Soil Conservation specialists, board members, and community members. The goal of this meeting was to discuss the NRCS program needs based on the community needs established by the group. The needs and ideas discussed in this meeting were submitted for approval.

In December, Shana led December's 4-H fun Saturday with the help of Rebecca and Robert Hanning. There were ten 4-H members that got to learn about poultry. The members learned about chicken and egg anatomy. The 4-H members also got to learn about chicken breeds the difference in egg production and the purpose of common breeds. Shana and the Hannings taught the 4-Hers' how to candle eggs and the identifying factors of the different stages of egg development. The youth's also learned about how to float test eggs and how to handle chickens. This was a great introduction to poultry and our upcoming chick chain program.

FCS UPDATES

**BY: BIANCA JOHNSON AND
EBONE' COLCLOUGH**

Ms. Johnson this quarter programmed "Eat Well, Feel Well at Madison Fifty Forward. This senior adult group met for six weeks and has seven graduates. She also continued her youth nutrition groups at Cole Elementary School. The Lunch Club had twelve participants that were in 2nd and 3rd grades. Ms. Johnson also held "MyBaby For Me" at the McGruder Community Center. This new adult group consisted of new and expecting mothers. They learned how to eat smart through the lifecycle and had fifteen participants. She also started a walking group initiative with direct education efforts at "MyBaby For Me" and Madison Fifty Forward.

This quarter Ms. Colclough was actively onboarding four Program Assistants in both the Western and Central Region as well as been providing leadership and training for all PAs.

Melissa Standley has joined our office as the new FCS agent position. Melissa comes from Florida and has a vast knowledge of agriculture and culinary experience. We are excited that she will be working in our office and the great help that she will be.

BY: CHARSLYN GUILYOT

This quarter Ms. Guilyot continued her curriculum: Eating Smart at Home. It was held in person at Meharry Elam Mental Health Center and Southeast Addiction Center. Participants were encouraged to plan, shop, and cook (my Plate) healthier meals for their families and/or self. Additionally, participants who are in facilities where meals are proportionately prepared. In addition, participants are aware to drink more water and/or eat recommended # of daily servings of fruits and vegetables. Participants also learned about protein and eating leaner meats. Ms. Guilyot had one hundred and fifty-seven enrollees with eighty-eight graduating.

BY: ALEXIS TRICE

Ms. Trice this quarter conducted Matching Mind & Body Workshop with addiction recovery center. She attended early career Cohort and joined TEAFCS. She completed her impact statement for 2024 and participated in FCE Leader Lesson Development. She also shadowed and assisted with On My Own Simulation.

BY: ANGELA SETTLES

Ms. Settles remained involved with her programs this quarter. She continued at 4:13 Strong and taught a multi-series class with the men from the North Carolina curriculum Families "Eating Smart, Moving More", where she graduated seven men. She also taught at Knowles Assisted Living. The program consisted of a multi-series class with senior residents from the North Carolina curriculum "Families Eating Smart, Moving More," where she graduated ten seniors. Ms. Settles spoke to some college students at Tennessee State University about incorporating the five food groups in their diet through various recipes they can make. She also attended the Inaugural Community Nutrition Education Conference at The University of Arizona and spoke at one of the sessions about one of her programs "DormDash".

4-H UPDATES

BY: HANNAH DECKER

This quarter Ms. Decker held Forestry, Wildlife, and Soils Fun Saturday event at TSU with 4th-8th graders. There were twenty attendees and two teen volunteers. A forestry professor also volunteered to lead the forestry lesson. This event will hopefully lead to an increased interest in our natural resources judging teams. She also held a Honor Club application day at the Nashville Farmer's Market. Fifteen Honor club members attended and three members completed their applications and are now recognized as TN Honor Club members. All youth that attended were able to continue the process of applying and built relationships with their fellow club members. Ms. Decker continued in school clubs and conducted officer meetings for each club. A total of seventy-eight new officers were installed. Ms. Decker attended and helped facilitate Davidson County's annual Joelton Explore Extension meeting at the Joelton Church of Christ. Fifteen community members were also in attendance and provided feedback on what types of programs are needed in their community. The Davidson County Public Speaking Contest at TSU was held. There were thirty-five youth's at the event from 4th-7th grade. The top two in each grade will advance on to the area contest in January. Ms. Decker also conducted service project for Operation Gratitude. All in-school clubs made thank you cards to send to first responders.

