



OCT-DEC
2025

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DAVIDSON COUNTY EXTENSION HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture and Naturals Resources in Action

Community and school garden programming in October and November shifted toward fall crop production, taking advantage of cooler temperatures to keep students actively engaged outdoors. Schools saw strong success with sweet peas, kale, leafy greens, and even late-season peppers and squash. Several community gardens also used small greenhouses and hoop houses to extend the growing season and maintain production into cooler weather.

In the world of farming, in 2025, fifty participants completed a Master Educational Series covering farming basics, farm business and finance, small ruminants, cattle, farm health and wellness, poultry, and horses. Additionally, 182 Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP) projects were funded in Davidson County, representing \$661,461 in paid projects.

In December, the annual Master Gardener Celebration and Graduation marked the close of the year, recognizing interns who completed the program and the volunteers who supported its work throughout the year. Nearly the entire intern class earned certification after a full year of training and service, contributing to more than 7,000 hours of outreach across Davidson County. Through camps, clubs, and public education efforts, Master Gardeners connected youth and residents with practical horticulture knowledge, with continued community interest in container gardening and native plants.



Growing Leaders Through 4-H

Fall is the time for Communications to shine in 4-H. Across 52 in-school 4-H clubs, and several community-based clubs, members elected officers. These elected members serving as President, Vice President, and Secretary get firsthand experience in what being a leader is all about. By learning and practicing parliamentary procedure, club members get a sense of the democratic process as they “learn by doing.” The big project throughout the fall is the Public Speaking Contest. Over 250 youth participated in this contest at the club level in November, with over 40 presenting at the county level in December. Opportunities to bring winning speeches beyond the county have continued in 2026, with 8 youth taking their speeches to the Sub-Regional Public Speaking Contest!

In December, a Fun Saturday 4-H program focused on dogs and companion animals brought youth together for hands-on learning. Participants met service dogs in training through Retrieving Independence and learned about the techniques used by trainers and volunteers. The program concluded with a service project in which youth created training tugs used by the dogs to open doors and complete daily tasks.

Supporting Healthy Living in Family and Consumer Sciences

A seven-week enhanced EFNEP and Nourish Recovery pilot was delivered through community recovery partnerships, focusing on the connection between nutrition and overall well-being. Participants built practical life skills through hands-on cooking, meal planning, and wellness activities, and received certificates and resources upon completion.

Dining with Diabetes was offered at Chippington Towers, providing participants with practical education on diabetes, carbohydrates, and sodium. The program included diabetes-friendly recipe tastings and incentives, and supported both individuals managing diabetes and those seeking to prevent or better understand the condition.



**FEB. - MARCH
2026**

DAVIDSON COUNTY EXTENSION UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Master Gardener intern classes
Tuesday mornings 9-11am at Davidson County Extension Office (Contact: Amy Dunlap)
- Vegetable Container Gardening Class
– Feb. 6th at 2pm at Thompson Lane Library (Contact: Amy Dunlap)
- Boards & Bites: Charcuterie 101 –
February 11th from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm at Green Door Gourmet (Contacts: Shana Delozier-Los, Alexis Trice, Melissa Standley)
- Middle Tennessee Ag Club meets monthly on the Third Wednesday of each month. Begins at 11:30am at 5201 Marchant Drive for lunch and a presentation (Contact: Dan Harrell)

Family & Consumer Sciences

- Dining with Diabetes at Gernert Studio Apts. February 10th, 17th, and 24th at 1:00 PM (Contact: Alexis Trice)
- Senior Nutrition Class at the Senior Renaissance Center April 21st from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM (Contact: Alexis Trice)

4H Youth Development

- Regional Public Speaking Contest (1 Davidson Co. High School speaker presenting) February 7th at Cumberland University (Contact: Andy Lantz)
- TN 4-H Congress (2 Davidson Co. delegates attending) in Murfreesboro Nashville State Capitol from March 7-11 (Contact: Andy Lantz)
- 4-H Chick Chain & Poultry Club Meeting – February 12th from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm via Zoom (Contact: Shana Delozier-Los)
- 4-H Companion Animal Club Meeting – February 26th from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm via Zoom ((Contact: Shana Delozier-Los)
- 4-H Horse Club - February 2nd & 16th from 5:30 – 7:00 pm via Zoom and February 23rd from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Davidson County Extension Office (Contact: Shana Delozier-Los)