

Ag Column  
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## UT-TSU Extension Sullivan County to Hold Open House

Join us for a light lunch on Thursday, March 17, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We are celebrating “Extension” during the month of March in Tennessee. We will be highlighting the educational programs we offer to Sullivan County citizens. We are excited about this event and hope you will join us.

In Sullivan County, we offer informal programming from both the University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University. We are your local connection or classroom for informal education. We focus on improving the lives of Sullivan County residents through research-based information and 4-H Youth Development programs.

Extension started with the Smith Lever Act of 1914. This law charged land grant universities with educating the public. In those early years, the focus was growing corn and canning tomatoes. The early UT and TSU Extension Agents decided if they could teach youth to grow better corn or can better tomatoes than their parents, the parents would adopt new methods. This approach served early Extension very well.

Our traditional programming has evolved with opportunities such as the Advanced Master Beef Producer Program, the Master Gardener Program, Beef Quality Assurance, food safety and our Co-Parenting classes. We also teach classes on pruning and grafting trees as well as managing diabetes.

Many youth are involved in traditional programming such as livestock, poultry, horses and sewing, but we also offer energy, robotics, GIS, wildlife, leadership, citizenship, and many other opportunities. Kids enjoy many camps and conferences for both younger and older youth. Following the 4<sup>th</sup> grade year, you can attend 4-H camp in Greeneville. Older 4-H members can even go to 4-H Congress in Nashville where they learn about state government.

We hope you will come to our “Open House”. We are located at 3258 Hwy 126 in Blountville. If you haven’t heard about UT-TSU Extension, you are missing out on a valuable resource. The University of Tennessee Extension offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.