

Ag Column
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UT-TSU Extension Sullivan County Celebrates "Extension Programs" in TN

We are celebrating "Extension" during the month of March in Tennessee. We will be highlighting the educational programs we offer to Sullivan County citizens. Our goal is to highlight UT-TSU Extension Sullivan County and the many educational programs we offer. 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.

We have been in our new location since May 15, 2017. The office is located at 140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville, TN (1.7 miles north of the airport toward Blountville) at the Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center. Our telephone is 423-574-1919. Be sure to check out our Facebook page and our website at sullivan.tennessee.edu.

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, Dining with Diabetes and our Co-Parenting classes. We teach classes on pruning and grafting trees. We offer green industry professionals opportunities for pesticide recertification points through programs like our Celebrating Trees: Right Tree, Right Place program.

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 4th 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'll come by for a visit soon. 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.