



Upcoming events from UT/TSU Extension Hamilton County 4-H
Open to all Hamilton County youth in grades 4th-12th!

Join 4-H!

2024 4-H Ag-Ventures



More than 300 youth, including 4th graders from four area schools, visited McDonald Farm on November 7 to learn about agriculture. Students from Calvin Donaldson Elementary, Hixson Elementary, North Hamilton County Elementary, and Soddy Elementary spent the day learning about farm animals, agricultural products grown in Tennessee, and how animal byproducts are a part of our everyday lives. They visited the petting zoo, saw some huge pumpkins, learned how to milk a cow, met the Chick Chain chicks raised by 4-H'ers, and participated in a science/electricity show before riding the Fair rides.



Many thanks to the more than 100 volunteers who made this event possible! Sponsors of Ag-Ventures: Little Debbie Hamilton County Fair, Hamilton County Farm Bureau, Hamilton County Soil and Water

Conservation District, Farm Credit Mid-America, Hamilton County Young Farmers and Ranchers, Oren Wooden's Apple House, UT/TSU Extension – Hamilton County



Coming Up in 4-H!

4-H Vet Science Club
December 12, 6:00

GUEST SPEAKER
PARK RANGER LEIGH GARDNER



At the December 12 meeting, the 4-H Vet Science Club will hear from State Park Ranger Leigh Gardner about the

4-H Honor Club and Citizenship Club

December 10, 5:00

The 4-H Honor Club and Citizenship Club are open to all 5th - 12th grade students. We will work with you to get the points needed to join 4-H Honor Club. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month during the school year.

At the next meeting on Tuesday, December 10, club members will hold their club Christmas party at the Extension Office (6183 Adamson Circle). Pizza will be served at the meeting - call the Extension Office by Tuesday morning at 9 to RSVP for pizza, so we know how much to order. 423-209-8560.

Club members will collect items for local animal Shelters. Please bring plain Turkey/Chicken Baby Food, creamy Peanut Butter (no xylitol), or tuna in water. All donations must be unopened. The club will also make

anatomies of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians focusing on the major organs of the heart, lungs, and brain. She, along with fellow Park Ranger Lukas Barber, will discuss adaptive features of these groups of animals, and how these features benefit their lives.

The 4-H Veterinary Science Club meets 12/12 at 6:00-7:30 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Extension Office (6183 Adamson Circle). This is a club for Hamilton County youth in grades 4th - 12th with an interest in animals and veterinary science careers, and there is no cost.

The club will also hold a short public speaking contest at this meeting, but the public speaking contest is optional. Questions? Contact **4-H Agent Maria Sabin**

dog toys from old t-shirts - please bring clean, old shirts or other clothing items to be made into dog toys.



4-H Gardening Club January 27, 4:30 p.m.

The 4-H Gardening Club is open to grades 4th - 8th with an interest in gardening, insects, and soil science. Each meeting includes gardening and a craft, with activities led by Master Gardeners.

At the January meeting, Gardening club members will learn about garden design and start planning for the spring 4-H garden. Meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at 4:30-6:00 p.m. (with allowances for holidays) at the Extension Office (6183 Adamson Circle). New members are always welcome.



4-H Horse Club January 6, 6:30

The 4-H Horse Club is open to all 4th - 12th grade Hamilton County youth with an interest in horses. Club members are studying and preparing



for the 4-H Hippology and Horse Bowl this month. Note that the focus of this club is on learning about horses, not on horseback riding. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at Saddle Pals Riding Club in Soddy Daisy at 6:30 p.m. For additional information, please contact Volunteer Leader Adam Presley by text (423-595-5409)

Little Debbie Hamilton County Fair

What was the best part of the 2024 Little Debbie Hamilton County Fair? The 4-H'ers, of course! Hamilton County 4-H Club members led horse shows at the Fair, showed off their Chick Chain chickens, demonstrated robotics, and won prizes for the best photos, cookies, agricultural products, and more. It was also a good opportunity for the 4-H'ers to help run the 4-H tent and let Fairgoers know about 4-H!



4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club members showed off their horsemanship by playing soccer during the Fair's afternoon horse show!



Emme Avelis won first place at the Fair for her photo!



Beau Duvall riding his horse during the morning horse show at the Fair.



Darah Moreland's honey won first place!



The 4-H Gear Grinders Robotics Club demonstrated robotics to large audiences at the Fair



The 4-H Tent at the Hamilton County Fair was the place to be!



4-H Club members Joel Seo and Liam McDonald helped out at the 4-H Tent during the Hamilton County Fair



Alex Ervin with one of his 4-H Chick Chain chickens, which were on display at the Fair in the 4-H poultry tent.

Fall 4-H All-Star Conference



The 2024 4-H All-Star Fall Conference was held November 22-24 at the Edgewater Hotel in Gatlinburg. Hamilton County 4-H'ers Noah Ham, Nevaeh Lane, and Heidi Provence were among the teens attending. Noah was a new All-Star initiate.

Comments from 4-H All Star Nevaeh Lane: I was given the incredible opportunity to go to the All Star Fall Conference. Not only did I meet new people but we were also randomly assigned groups in a scavenger hunt which was an excellent way to get to interact and work with fellow 4-H'ers from the Eastern Region. We also got to participate in community service projects, games, and ice breakers. We got tickets to mini golf, bumpers cars, and laser tag. My favorite part would have to be being able to participate in the initiation ceremony and the banquet.

4-H Volunteer Leader Sandy Flippo attended as an adult leader. Her comments about the Conference:

I recently volunteered at the 4-H All Star Conference. It was truly an amazing experience especially seeing how well all of the 4-H'ers worked together and had fun. The banquet was a very elegant event followed by an exciting sock hop dance. I thought this was an excellent opportunity for 4-H'ers to get out of their comfort zones and interact with new people and make friends. It was wonderful to watch so many new Initiates join 4-H All Stars.

The spring All Star Conference is open to 9th – 12th graders and will be held April 11-13, 2025. Find out more about the 4-H All-Stars by visiting the [Eastern Region All-Stars webpage](#) or by calling the Extension office (423-209-8560) or emailing Nancy Rucker (nrucker@tennessee.edu).

4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors

John Wood is a Tennessee 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Ambassador for the state and Hamilton County 4-H. He has attended trainings and meetings that focus on various topics related to a healthy lifestyle.



Well, it is that time of year again. Winter and its holidays have returned, gracing us with snow-white scenery, high spirits, pleasant tunes, and opportunities to see beloved family members. However, the “snow-white scenery” is accompanied by characteristic cold temperatures and slippery ice (yikes!) to scare us back inside as usual. While there are many things to appreciate about the latest month of the year, there are plenty of things that all of us can do to live well and truly enjoy this brumal month.

Family is returning to visit, and you want experiences that will warmly rest in your mind, along with those sugar plums. Instead of sitting around, watching Christmas specials of years past, why not take time to appreciate the holiday decor with a bit of walking? A certain little partridge told me about the Chattanooga Zoo, Ruby Falls, Tennessee Aquarium, and the Collegedale Commons donning their festive lights in time for the season! If it is too chilly outside, try simple calisthenics with your family and friends. Although cheesy, keeping yourself and others fit is the best long-term gift that you can give.

Cooking can be a great activity, especially with loved ones, but it can feel nerve-racking and quite demanding with all the added pressure of the

gathering. Consider changing your shared holiday meal into a holiday potluck! Your invited company can cook and bake their own dishes ahead of time, allowing for individual kitchens without conflict-inducing foot traffic. This could be a chance to demonstrate an underappreciated culinary creation in your own family's history and prevent a failed dish from upsetting the cook of your household too horribly.

I write this as an outsider's reminder that most holidays can be stressful, but we shouldn't let our time together be spoiled by the small nothings of our everyday; instead, let us get lost in those old stories, be captivated by the wintry happenings, and feel the warmth from both the delectable courses we are served and the people around us that are served alongside us.

Wishing you all marvelous holidays,
John Wood

Tractor Supply Company (TSC) Paper Clover Campaign now open through December 15!





Paper Clover

Nov. 29 – Dec. 15

Funds support 4-H camp,
scholarships & leadership activities.

TSC TRACTOR
SUPPLY CO.





4-H Mane Attraction Club members at the Soddy Daisy Tractor Supply Company encouraging customers to support 4-H.

The TSC Paper Clover campaign is a great way to support 4-H and help fund scholarships for youth to attend 4-H camp. Please buy a paper clover or two next time you check out at your local Tractor Supply Company store through December 15. Thank you for supporting 4-H!

[Find out more about TSC Paper Clover](#)

More 4-H Opportunities!



2024 state winning digital poster by Hamilton County's Edith Provence

4-H Art Poster Contest

Calling all young artists! Enter the 2025 4-H Art Poster contest! Deadline for 4-H Art Posters (posterboard if you do not have a club, digital for all 4-H youth) is January 27, 2025, 4 p.m. For contest details and photos of last year's state winners, [visit the state 4-H website](#). Email digital entries to HamiltonCounty4H@tennessee.edu.

Details on the Art Poster contest



Tennessee 4-H Congress is Coming Up March 9-12.

Registration due to the County office in January!

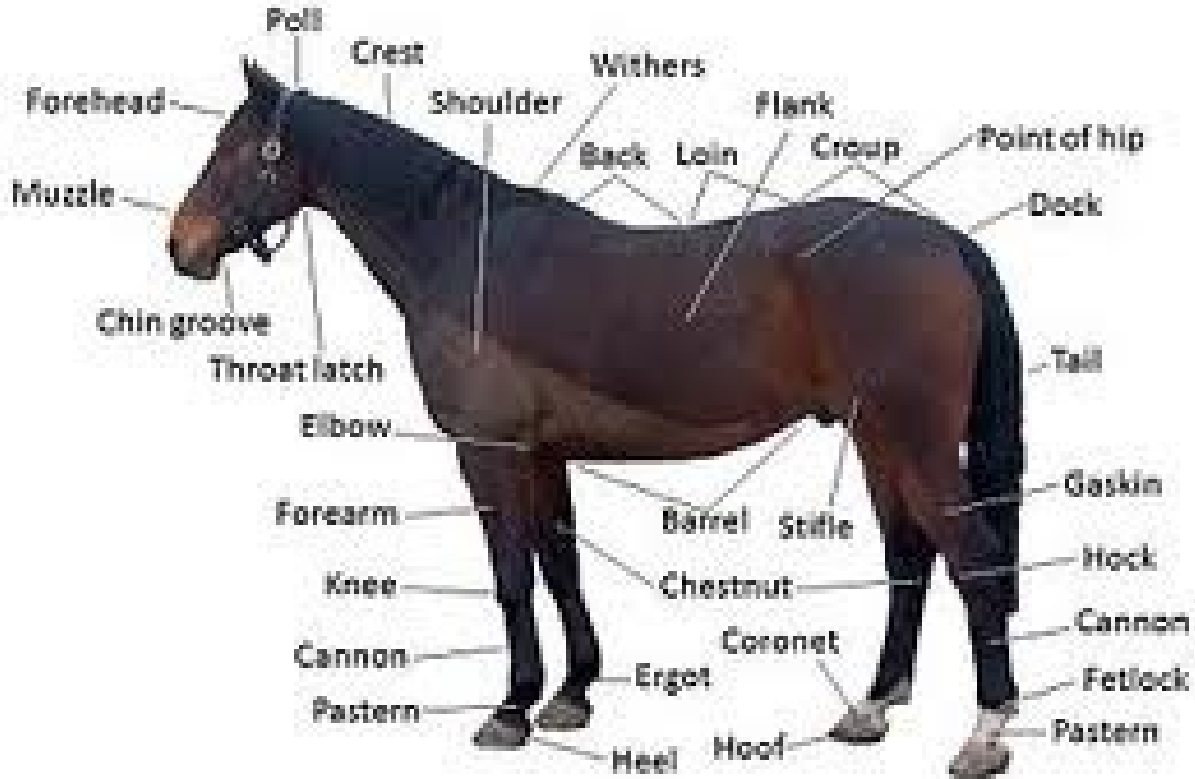
The 2025 Tennessee 4-H Congress will be held in Nashville and Murfreesboro, March 9-12, 2025. This is the premier leadership and citizenship program for 9th and 10th graders. Those selected to attend must complete an online program on how state government works and attend the 4-H Congress Readiness Day, February 17th. If you are interested in attending, contact Nancy Rucker now or by January 15th 423-209-8560. There are limited spaces for this event



4-H Chick Chain - Coming up!

It is time to register for the 2025 Chick Chain. If you want to get 12 baby chicks, raise them, learn about poultry judging, and show your birds at the Hamilton County Fair then this animal science project is for you. The birds should arrive in the spring. If interested, call the Extension office and get on the interest list, 423-209-8560. The 2025 price will be posted on the website soon, and we will email out the registration form to those on the interest list. Deadline to register for Chick Chain is February 18, 2025.





4-H Horse Bowl & Hippology Contest January 18

The 2025 4-H Horse Bowl/Hippology Contest is January 18 at UTK. Find out more about the subject at the [4-H state Horse page](#). The region contest is open to 4th through 12th grade youth. To participate in this contest, contact 4-H Agent and County Extension Director Nancy Rucker for more information 423-209-8560.

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Find out more about 4-H in Tennessee: 4H.Tennessee.edu

