



UT/TSU Extension—Blount County
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Office Hours M-F 8am-5pm (closed from 12-1 daily)



4-H Agents
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Blount County 4-H March Newsletter

4-H Achievement Activity

An opportunity for fun, showcasing of member project work, awards and recognition is in store for those participating at the April 30th Achievement Night event. The location is the Saint Paul Lutheran Church at 429 Sandy Springs Rd. Maryville. Call Ms. Berger or Mr. McMillion by the 5th of April to register your demonstration or interactive table top exhibit. In addition to the demonstrations (4th & 5th graders) and interactive exhibits (6th, 7th & 8th graders), there will be a photography contest and baking contest open to all grades 4-12. Be a part of the experience. Check this newsletter for more details.

4-H Clover Bowl Championships

The County 4-H Clover Bowl Championships will be conducted on April 16 at the 4-H Office with registration at 4:30 p.m. and games starting at 5:30. Again this year, the contest will be a single elimination contest until the finals. Winning teams advance until the semi-finals. The final four teams play for 1st—4th place. Local teams advancing to the county contest will enter a digital seeding round to see who plays who in the first games at the county contest. County participants must be registered by April 5 so further instructions may be shared. Team information may be emailed to Amy Berger at aberger2@utk.edu or to James McMillion at jmcmilli@utk.edu. Each team member will receive an email with instruction for seeding round game after team information is confirmed. Practice/study questions can be found at the Clover Bowl website. Go here to find them: <https://eastern.tennessee.edu/4-h-clover-bowl/>

"NEW" YARN & FABRIC CLUB 2024 "NEW"

The **Yarn & Fabric Club 2024** will be led by volunteer Cheryl Lehman. The club is starting up Thursday April 18 and is only open to the first 10 participants. The group will meet weekly for 6 weeks and learn the basics of crocheting. Participants will either make a pot holder, a neck scarf and/or a baby blanket. Please visit our UT/TSU web page for the entry form/application. So everyone has a chance to apply, *it will not open until Thursday, March 28* and close as soon as all spots are taken. Names will be added to the waiting list until spots are confirmed with monies collected. There is a **\$15 fee for members which includes a one of a kind t-shirt and snacks**. Get your application here: <https://blount.tennessee.edu/>



Upcoming Dates For More information on any programs, visit our website:

<https://blount.tennessee.edu/>

- Mar 7 Horse Group Meeting 6:30 p.m. at the Blount County Library
- Mar 8 Bee Essay Due Date
- Mar 11-15 County Spring Break
- Mar 10-13 State 4-H Congress, Murfreesboro/Nashville
- Mar 18 Academic Conf Applications & Jr High Portfolios due in County
- Mar 18 Honor Club meeting 4-H Office 5 p.m.
- Mar 20 All Star Conf Deadline for Registration
- Mar 23 Friend of 4-H Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast @ AHS 7:30-10:30
- Mar 25 Wildlife Judging Practice 4:30 (**Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**) 4-H Office
- Mar 28 Livestock Judging Contest Knoxville
- Mar 29 4-H Office Holiday Closing
- Apr 5 Region Horse Judging Contest Roane State CC
- April 5 Reg for County Achievement night and Clover Bowl contest.
- Apr 8 Honor Club Initiation 5 p.m. @ 4-H Office
- Apr 16 County Clover Bowl Championships 4:30 p.m. at 4H Office
- Apr 18 Yarn & Fabric Club meeting 4:30 the 4-H Office
- Apr 19-20 Knoxville Spring Cattle Show (KSJCE) Appalachian Fairgrounds
- Apr 30 County 4H Achievement Night 5 p.m. @ St Paul Lutheran Church



Just for Kicks and Giggles:

Someone said, "Nothing rhymes with orange." I said, "No, it doesn't."

2024 June Dairy Chairperson Search & Poster Contest

The 4-H Dairy Poster Theme for 2024 is **"May the Dairy Be With You."** There are two formats for entering the contest: physical poster (½ sheet of posterboard) or computer-designed (virtually).

POSTER CONTEST RULES **1.** Poster size is 14 x 22 inches. **2.** Current theme must be prominent part of poster. There will be one winner per county. **3.** On the back of your poster add: • Your name, address, school and T-shirt size. **4. Deadline** April 22. Winning poster will be submitted for state judging. **5. Awards** County Award • T-shirt / State Award (1st Place - \$550, 2nd Place - \$300 & 3rd Place - \$200).

June Dairy Month Chairperson selection: It's time to start thinking about the National Dairy Month Promotion Contest sponsored by The Dairy Alliance. This contest provides a 4-H club member the opportunities to build skills in project areas such as communications, leadership, health/fitness, dairy foods and food/nutrition. Our Chairperson is encouraged to think outside of the box and to utilize social media, video, photos, cooking demos and/or virtual interviews with newspapers, radio stations and other groups. Make it fun! A virtual or traditional scrapbook may be entered. All will be judged together using the same rubric. If you think this sounds like you and will be fun, submit your name to the 4-H Office and let's get started. We must have applications by April 22. First preference is given to high school students, then Jr. High members.

4-H County Poultry Project (Chick Chain) Update:

Blount County 4-H Chick Chain birds arrive in March. Participants will meet monthly to learn about their project animals and demonstrate best practices and proper care for their birds. If any other 4-H members wishes to participate in the monthly meetings, they may do so by contacting Mr. McMillion at the 4-H office. There will be a show and sale in August and a poultry judging activity at the Knoxville fair in September.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**"Happy are those who dare
courageously to defend what they
love."
~ Ovid**

Next County Wide Service Project

We are asking each 4-H Member to commit 20 "Random Act of Kindness" during the next month. Here are some suggestions: 1. Pay it Backward: buy something for the person behind you in line. 2. Compliment the first three people you talk to tomorrow. 3. Send a positive text message to five different people before 3pm. 4. Post inspirational sticky notes around your neighborhood, school, etc. 5. Tell someone they dropped a dollar (even though they didn't). Then give them a dollar. 6. Donate old towels or blankets to an animal shelter. 7. Say hi to the person next to you in the hall or on the elevator. 8. Surprise a neighbor with freshly baked treats! 9. Let someone who only has a few items go in front of you in line. 10. Leave a gas gift card at a gas pump. 11. Throw a party to celebrate someone just for being an awesome person. 12. Leave quarters at the laundromat. 13. Leave unused coupons next to corresponding products in the store. 14. Look and act gracious. 15. Smile at five strangers.

Camps/Conferences Dates for Your Calendars!

Spring All Star Conference (9th-12th grades)

April 12-14, 2024

Target Smart Camp

May 27-31, 2024

Fashion and Design Conference

June 3-7

Blount County 4-H Grilling Day Camp

June 4-7, 2024

Quilt of Many Colors Quilt Camp

June 4-7, 2024

Junior 4-H Camp (4th-6th grades)

June 10-14, 2024

Junior High Academic Conference (6th-8th grades)

June 11-14, 2024

Junior High Electric Camp (6th-8th grades)

June 24-27, 2024

Junior High Camp

July 8-12, 2024

State 4-H Roundup (9th-12th grades)

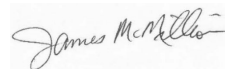
July 15-19, 2024 (Qualify to Attend)



Amy Berger



Ronnie Cowan



James McMillion

Beekeeping Essay Contest

The Beekeeping Essay Contest allows 4-H'ers to use their writing and research skills in developing an essay on a beekeeping-related topic. Cash awards are available to winners on the national, state and county levels.

All essays from Blount County 4-H members are to be submitted to james@tennessee.edu. The submission deadline is **March 8, 2024**.

The 2024 Topic: ***Varietal Honeys***



National Awards

(sponsored by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees):

First place: \$750.00

Second place: \$500.00

Third place: \$250.00

For this essay, a 4-H student should answer these questions:

What makes a varietal honey?

What are some unique varieties?

How are some of the valuable varieties confirmed to be authentic (e.g., Manuka honey UMF and MGO)?

What are some culturally or economically important varieties and why are they important?

Google for more information about the [4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition](#).

2024 Rules

1. Contest is open to **active** 4-H club members only. 4-H'ers who have previously placed first, second, or third **at the national level** are not eligible; other state winners are eligible to re-enter. Failure to meet any one rule will disqualify entry.
2. Write on the designated subject only.
3. All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a "sources" or "bibliography" list.
4. On a separate page, please include a brief biographical statement of the writer including mailing address, email address and phone number.
5. Essay must encompass the designated topic in 750 to 1,000 words. Word count does not include sources, works cited or the writer's biographical statement.
6. Essay must be typewritten or computer-generated on single-sided pages and formatted following standard manuscript format using double-spaced type and 12pt font in legible font face.
7. Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research, 40%; (b) accuracy, 30%; (c) creativity, 10%; (d) conciseness, 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic, 10%.

Essayists **should not** submit essays directly to The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. office. Send to james@tennessee.edu.

All entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essay will be returned.

Good luck and enter the contest!!!!

Photographers – Shoot Away & Show Us Your Stuff

Select up to 5 photos that you have taken since August 2023. Put your digital photos into a PowerPoint, Google Slides or other mobile app with each file labeled with category and short caption. Each photo should have the following requested information before submitting.



RULES:

1. Each 4-H member may enter 1 photo per category up to 5 photos in the county contest.
2. The categories are: 1) People; 2) Buildings; 3) Landscapes; 4) Animals and 5) Trick.
3. Either black and white or color photos may be entered but no more than 5 in total.
4. All photos must have been taken by the 4-H member in the 23-24 school year.
5. All pictures must be submitted digitally **with a title/caption**.
6. The 4-H member should add a slide with their name, school/club and grade to identify their exhibit.
7. Send PowerPoint, Google Slides or other files to james@utk.edu by **April 5**.

Bakers – Fire Up Your Ovens & Cook

You may submit only one entry per category. The 2024 categories are

1) Loaf Breads, 2) Pies, 3) Cakes/Muffins, 4) Cornbread/Muffins, 5) Biscuits, 6) Brownies and 7) Cookies.



Entry procedure:

1. Bring muffins, biscuits, brownies, and cookies - three on a paper plate in a plastic baggie.
2. Bring cakes, loaf breads, pies and pan breads (cornbread) - bring the whole item uncut.
3. Bring a **RECIPE** per entry - it must show that you mixed 3 or more ingredients, cooking temperature and baking time.
4. All baked items become the property of the baking committee. Dishes will be returned.

All Star Conference Location, Cost and Deadlines:

The conference will be held Friday through Sunday, April 12-14 at the Clyde Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville.

Registration Deadline in is at **NOON** on Wednesday March 20, 2024!

A Tentative Schedule of the weekend is listed in the Conference Brochure. Go to our web page for a copy.

Below is the Cost breakdown:

Full Conference (Active Members)	\$145
Full Conference (New Initiates) [includes All Star Pin]	\$152
Cost for Saturday and Sunday (Active members)	\$125
Cost for Saturday and Sunday (New Initiates)	\$132
Saturday Only (Active Members)	\$90
Saturday Only (New Initiates) [includes All Star Pin]	\$97
Initiation Only	\$7

- Payment is due in the county office at Registration.

Academic Conference 2024

Please read the instructions carefully.

Below is the process for submitting an Academic Application.

All applicants must be registered in the Blount County 4-H office by March 18.

Please understand, viewing late entries is not guaranteed and they may be rejected.

4-H members may submit Applications in the following Project Areas only:

- Beef
- Communications/Public Speaking
- Computers & Technology
- Creative Arts & Design
- Dairy Foods
- Food Science
- Garden and Home Horticulture
- Horse
- Outdoor Recreation/Shooting Sports
- Sheep
- Veterinary Science
- Citizenship
- Companion Animal
- Consumer Education
- Dairy Cattle
- Entrepreneurship
- Forestry/Wildlife/Fisheries
- Goat
- Nutrition/Health/Fitness
- Poultry
- Swine

An Application includes:

* The actual Application—Link Here: <https://blount.tennessee.edu/>

* A completed [Section A form](#) in the project submitted (unless Citizenship)

* A completed [Section C form](#) (Only if application is submitted in Citizenship)

- please scan everything into a PDF file (we can do this at the 4-H office if you cannot)
- PDF files should be named in the following manner: *BlountCounty.YourFirstName.Project*
- If you have more than one application choices:
 - You will need to submit an ADDITIONAL application in each additional project.
 - You may use the same application but will need a Section A to match the second project unless it is Citizenship. Then you will need a Section C.
- Send to me at james@tennessee.edu

4-H Exchange Program with Japan

Hosting Details	Host Family Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• June 26, 2024 through July 21, 2024 (Costa Rica)• July 21, 22, 23 2024 through August 16, 17, 18 2024 * (Japan, Korea, Taiwan)<small>* Exact dates dependent on your state. Please check with your state's Coordinator for details.</small>• Host a youth aged 12-18 (majority are 12-14) or an adult chaperone• Youth have a range of English language abilities, so host families should be prepared to communicate imaginatively• This is a voluntary program; no stipends will be provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You must have a child of the same gender who is within 3 years of the hosted youth (children aged 9+ are eligible to host)• Families without children of the appropriate age may host an adult chaperone• No special activities need to be planned since these youth want to experience American culture, make new friends, and improve their English by staying with your family

For more information, visit <https://www.states4hexchange.org/state-contacts/> to find contact information for your local State Coordinator



BLOUNT CO. 4-H



WILDLIFE

Judging

The Details:

Grades 4 through 12 are encouraged to join
Participation is free
Practice Location: 1219 McArthur Road
Maryville, TN 37804
Time: 4:30PM-5:45PM

Practice Dates:

March 25th
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
May 6th

Participants will learn about wildlife biology and habitat:

- Wildlife identification by sound, fur/feathers, track & scent
- Wildlife Professionals
- Competition
- Team Work

Regional Contest:

May 10th 12:00-5:00pm
901 S. Illinois Ave. Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Transportation must be provided by parent or guardian

For More Info:

Ronnie Cowan
rcowan2@utk.edu
(865) 982-6430

