



UT/TSU Extension—Blount County
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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 8th Achievement Night event. The location is the Blount County 4-H Office Complex at 1219 McArthur Rd. Maryville. Call Ms. Berger or Mr. McMillion by the 4th of April to register your demonstration, interactive table top exhibit, baking and/or photo entries. 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 22 at the 4-H Office Complex with registration at 5:00 p.m. Again this year, the contest will be a single elimination contest until the 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 4 so further instructions may be shared. Team information may be emailed to Amy Berger at aberger2@utk.edu or to James McMillion at james@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/>

4-H Horse Club Update

The Blount County 4-H Horse Club has shown hard work and dedication over several months to prepare for the 4-H Hippology and Horse Bowl Contests. These are educational contests related to the horse industry—hippology means the study of the horse.

The Hippology Contest includes a written exam, identification, horse judging, and other components. The Horse Bowl Contest uses buzzers and teams are asked questions. At the Regional Contest in January, The Junior Team earned 4th place in both Hippology and Horse Bowl, one of the Junior High Teams earned 5th place in Hippology and 4th place in Horse Bowl, the other Junior High Team earned 1st place in Hippology, and the Senior Team earned 1st place in Hippology and 3rd place in Horse Bowl. Numerous individuals earned top 10 placings in their divisions. Each team earned a spot to compete at the State Contest where the Junior Team earned 6th place in Hippology, the Junior High Team earned 4th place in Hippology, and the Senior team earned 2nd place in Hippology and 3rd place in Horse Bowl. There were also several top 10 individual placings. The Senior Team has earned a spot to compete at the Southern Regional Contest in July—best of luck to them! Our 4-H Horse Club is a wonderful and hard working group! If you would like to learn more about this club, please email Amy Berger at aberger2@utk.edu



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

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

- Mar 6 Horse Group Meeting 6:30 p.m. at the Blount County Library
- Mar 9-12 State 4-H Congress, Murfreesboro/Nashville
- Mar 10 Bee Essay Due Date
- Mar 10-14 County Spring Break
- Mar 11 Portfolio Wrkshp 4:30 by ZOOM—contact Mr. McMillion for link
- Mar 17 Honor Club meeting 4-H Office 5 p.m.
- Mar 20 Livestock Judging Contest Knoxville
- Mar 21 4-H All Star Conference Deadline
- Mar 25 Poultry Chick Chain Birds Arrive 9am-4:30pm
- Mar 28 Academic Conf Applications & Portfolios due in County
- Mar 29 Friend of 4-H Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast @ AHS 7:30-10:30
- Apr 3 Region Horse Judging Contest Roane State
- April 4 Reg for County Achievement night and Clover Bowl contest.
- Apr 8 County 4H Achievement Night 5 p.m. @ 4-H Office Complex
- April 11-13 4-H All Star Conference Greeneville Clyde Austin 4-H Center
- Apr 18 Holiday Closing - Good Friday the 4-H Office Closed
- Apr 21 Honor Club Initiation 5 p.m. @ 4-H Office
- Apr 22 County Clover Bowl Championships 5:00 p.m. at 4H Office

PLEDGE:
I Pledge-
My HEAD to clearer thinking,
My HEART to greater loyalty,
My HANDS to larger service, and
My HEALTH to better living
For my club, my community,
my country, my world

MOTTO:
"To make the Best Better"

Just for Kicks and Giggles:

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

2025 June Dairy Chairperson Search & Poster Contest

The 4-H Dairy Poster Theme for 2025 is "Dairy Defenders" Saving the world one glass at a time. 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 21. 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 21. 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 March 25. 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 possible 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 the 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 11-13, 2025

Target Smart Camp

May 26-30, 2025

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

June 2-6, 2025

Fashion and Design Conference

June 3-5, 2025

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

June 10-13, 2025

State Electric Camp (6th-8th grades)

June 24-27, 2025

ER Quilt Camp

June 24-26, 2025

Junior High Camp

July 7-11, 2025

Destination Design Conference (9th -12th grades)

July 15-17, 2025

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

July 21-25, 2025 (Qualify to Attend)

Amy Berger

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@utk.edu. The submission deadline is **March 10, 2025**.

The 2025 Topic: **The Importance of Youth in Beekeeping: How 4-H Members Can Make a Difference!**

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:

- 1) Why youth is important in beekeeping?
- 2) How can 4-H members make a difference?
- 3) How can more young people get involved in beekeeping?
- 4) What are your future plans as a beekeeper?
- 5) What is a major contribution a young beekeeper has brought to the industry?

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

2025 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@utk.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 2025. 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.



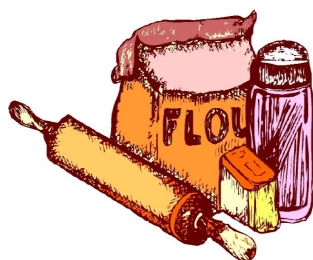
RULES:

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 24-25 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 4**.

Bakers – Fire Up Your Ovens & Cook

You may submit only one entry per category. The 2025 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 11-13 at the Clyde Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville.

Registration Deadline in is at **NOON** on Friday March 21, 2025!

A Tentative Schedule, Conference Brochure and Application is found here:

<https://blount.tennessee.edu/camps-conferences-outdoors-activities-and-events/>

Below is the Cost breakdown:

Full Conference (Active Members)	\$165
Full Conference (New Initiates) [includes All Star Pin]	\$172
Saturday Only (Active Members)	\$100
Saturday Only (New Initiates) [includes All Star Pin]	\$107
Initiation Only	\$7
Adult Volunteers	\$0

- Payment is due in the county office at Registration.

Academic Conference 2025
Please read the instructions carefully.

WHO may attend?

4-H Members in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade may attend and become a UT student and study with professors in various areas of study.

Below is the process for submitting an Academic Application.

All applicants must be registered in the Blount County 4-H office by March 25.

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

An Application includes:

* The actual Application—Link Here: <https://blount.tennessee.edu/camps-conferences-outdoors-activities-and-events/>

* 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

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

