



UT/TSU Extension—Blount County  
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4-H Agents

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# Blount County 4-H

## February 2026 Newsletter

### 4-H Achievement Night

Plan to meet and deliver your demonstrations or interactive exhibits for our annual Achievement event in March. Yes, we are hosting our county achievement event this year in March. We will conduct the event at the Extension complex at 1219 McArthur Rd on Thursday, **March 12, 5:00 p.m.** If you present a video at your club contest, you may present the same or a different one at the county contest. There will be a Table Top Exhibit division for middle school members. We also have plans for both a baking and photography contest opened to any 4-H member. Read and follow the guidelines below for submissions. RSVP by **March 6** your intentions of participation (i.e. demonstration only - demonstration and photo - etc.

#### Photographers – Shoot Away & Show Us Your Stuff

Select up to 5 photos that you have taken in the past year. Put your digital photos into a PowerPoint or Google Slides file and label each slide with the requested information below 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: People; Buildings; Landscapes; Animals and 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 during the 25-26 school year.
5. All pictures must be submitted digitally with a title/caption.
6. The 4-H member should add a slide for their name, school/club and grade to identify their exhibit.
7. Send bundled files to [james@utk.edu](mailto:james@utk.edu) by March 6. Late entries cannot be accepted!!!!!!

#### Bakers – Fire Up Your Ovens & Cook

You may submit one entry per category. Categories are Loaf Breads, Pies, Cakes/ Muffins, Cornbread, Biscuits, Brownies/Cookies. “No-Bake Items” are not and will not be allowed.

#### Entry procedure:

Muffins, biscuits, brownies, and cookies- bring three on a paper plate in a plastic baggie.

Cakes, loaf breads and pan breads- bring the whole item. (Do Not Cut Them).

Bring your RECIPE and it must show that you used/mixed 3 or more ingredients.

### 4-H Clover Bowl Championships

The 4-H Clover Bowl Championships will be conducted using a single elimination contest to select county champion teams in grades 4-8. There will be a seeding test used and each local team participating at the county level will be tested to determine their seed. The final four teams will vie for top placings.

Club teachers may put together a team or allow members to form teams. Name your team and submit it to the 4-H Office by **April 2**. Email team info to [aberger2@utk.edu](mailto:aberger2@utk.edu) or to [james@utk.edu](mailto:james@utk.edu). You will receive an email after your team information is confirmed and a test will be sent to each team member to be completed within a 7 day period. Based on responses answered (correct or incorrect), your team will receive a team ranking. Top teams play bottom seeded teams and middles play each other to start the tourney.

Members may study using questions found on the Clover Bowl website. Go here: <https://eastern.tennessee.edu/4-h-clover-bowl/>. Scroll down the page and click on your grade for sample questions. The county Clover Bowl contest date is slated for **April 14 at 5:00 p.m.** at the Blount County 4-H office.

February 2026

### Upcoming Dates

For More information on any programs, visit our website: <https://blount.tennessee.edu/>

- ❖ Feb 5 Sewing Club @ 4H Office 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Feb 7 Sr High ER Public Speaking contest 12:30 p.m.
- ❖ Feb 7 4-H Horse Judging Clinic - contact aberger2@utk.edu for details
- ❖ Feb 9 Poultry Project Group @ 4H Office 4:30 p.m.
- ❖ Feb 12 Sewing Club @ 4H Office 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Feb 12 Horse Group Meeting 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- ❖ Feb 16 Congress Readiness Day 12:30 p.m.
- ❖ Feb 19 Sewing Club @ 4H Office 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Feb 19 Deadline for Farm Bureau Essay Contest
- ❖ Feb 23 Big 9 Public Speaking 3:30 p.m.
- ❖ Feb 26 Sewing Club @ 4H Office 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Feb 27 Cornbread Cook-off Application Deadline via email
- ❖ Mar 5 Horse Group Meeting 6:30 p.m. @ BC Library
- ❖ Mar 5 Sewing Club @ 4H Office 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Mar 6 RSVP deadline for Achievement Night including photo & baking contests
- ❖ Mar 7-11 State 4-H Congress, Nashville
- ❖ Mar 9 Bee Essay Deadline
- ❖ Mar 12 Sewing Club @ 4H Office 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Mar 12 County Achievement Night @ 4H Office 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ Mar 14 Tribute to the Wild Turkey 1:30
- ❖ Mar 15 Deadline for Farm Bureau Digital Contest
- ❖ Mar 16-23 County School Spring Break
- ❖ Mar 16 4H Poultry Project Group @ 4H Office 4:30 p.m.
- ❖ Mar 19 Sewing Club @ 4H Office 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Mar 19 Congress Delegates make Kiwanis presentation
- ❖ Mar 20-22 Spring All Star Conference in Greeneville
- ❖ Mar 23 Deadline for Academic Conference Applications
- ❖ Mar 23 Honor Club meeting 4:45 p.m. @ 4H office
- ❖ Mar 23 Deadline for Angler Camp
- ❖ Mar 26 ER Livestock Judging
- ❖ Mar 31 ER Big 9 Achievement Day 12:30 p.m.

### 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:

The girl that lives in the middle of the tennis court is named Annette.

## 2026 4-H June Dairy Contests

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the Poster waters. We introduce yet another two-fold Poster and Chairman Contest. The **2026 4-H June Dairy Contests** has two parts.

**Part one** is the Poster contest itself, where the theme is "Milk's Got Game". We want you to tell us what Milk's Got Game means to you! Is it fueling you up for football? Is it driving your dance practice? Is it gearing up your gaming? Show us how you do dairy! You may make a virtual or traditional poster, but only one or the other.

First place will receive \$550 with an additional \$150 awarded to the county coffers. Check the rules for total guidelines and your poster is due at your March club meeting or in the 4-H office by April 1, 2026. Visit here for more info: <https://blount.tennessee.edu/4-h-youth-development/>

**Part two** is serving as the county's June's Dairy Month Chairperson. It starts with your submission of a chairperson application, due by April 1, 2026. The Chairperson utilizes a variety of resources to promote the dairy industry throughout the month of June. They will be provided a t-shirt, a hat, and promotional materials to use within the county. Then by July 10, 2026, they submit a scrapbook, either virtually or by mailing a physical copy, that highlights the work performed as the Dairy Month Chairperson. The scrapbook is required to be considered as a winner.

Awards:

Best Use of Theme (\$250),

Best Use of Media (\$250),

Division Winner (\$500 with \$200 to the winning county).

## 2026 4-H Poster and Art Contest Results

Congratulations go to Ashlyn Hutchins, 5th grade; Charlotte Hurst, 5th grade and Annelysse Hall, 8th grade. Their 4-H posters were selected to represent Blount County in the Eastern Region contest. Annelysse's poster was also selected to be exhibited at the Tennessee State Fair this Fall in Lebanon. Good luck to these three individuals. Visit here to view posters: <https://blount.tennessee.edu/4-h-youth-development/>.

Honorable mention accolades go to:

Cooper Bolton, Ellie Denton, Lyla Green, Cade Silkwood all 4th graders;

Sophia Dershem, Tempi Duhn, and Gage Taylor all 5th graders.

## 2026 Cornbread Cook-Off

This contest is open to all 4-H members, grades 4-6. Recipes MUST include at least one cup of corn meal or one package of corn meal mix and be cooked using Lodge Cast Iron. Judging will be based on creativity, as well as flavor, texture, and appearance. Entries must be received by Friday, February 27, 2026. Full details and contest rules can be found here: <https://blount.tennessee.edu/4-h-youth-development/>

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**The best day to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best day to plant a tree is TODAY!**  
~ Wise Wisdom

## 2026 4-H Academic Conference

Tennessee Junior High Academic Conference brings together 4-H members from across the state of Tennessee. The conference provides academic training related to the 4-H members' project areas, offers opportunities for career exploration in agriculture and family and consumer sciences, and allows 4-H members to meet other members with similar interests. There are 21 project areas, where 4-H'ers attend workshops and seminars to deepen their knowledge in their particular area of interest. The 4-H'ers also visit the Herbert College of Agriculture, the UT Gardens, and Neyland Stadium while exploring the University of Tennessee's campus. To end the week, the 4-H'ers kick back at Main Event for bowling, arcade games, laser tag, and pool party. If you wish to be the next victim of such fun, complete an application and see if you get the job! Ask Ms. Berger or Mr. McMillion for an application.



## Some Camps/Conferences for Your Calendars!

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

March 20-22, 2026

Angler Camp (6th-8th grade)

April 17-18, 2026

Target Smart Camp (5th-9th grade)

May 25-29, 2026

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

June 1-5, 2026

Fashion and Design Conference (6th-12th grade)

June 1-4, 2026

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

June 9-12, 2026

ER Culinary Camp (6th-12th grade)

June 16-18, 2026

Quilt Camp (6th-12th grade)

June 23-25, 2026

State Electric Camp (6th-8th grade)

June 23-26, 2026

Destination Design (9th-12th grade)

June 29-July 2, 2026

Junior High Camp (6th-8th grade)

July 6-10, 2026

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

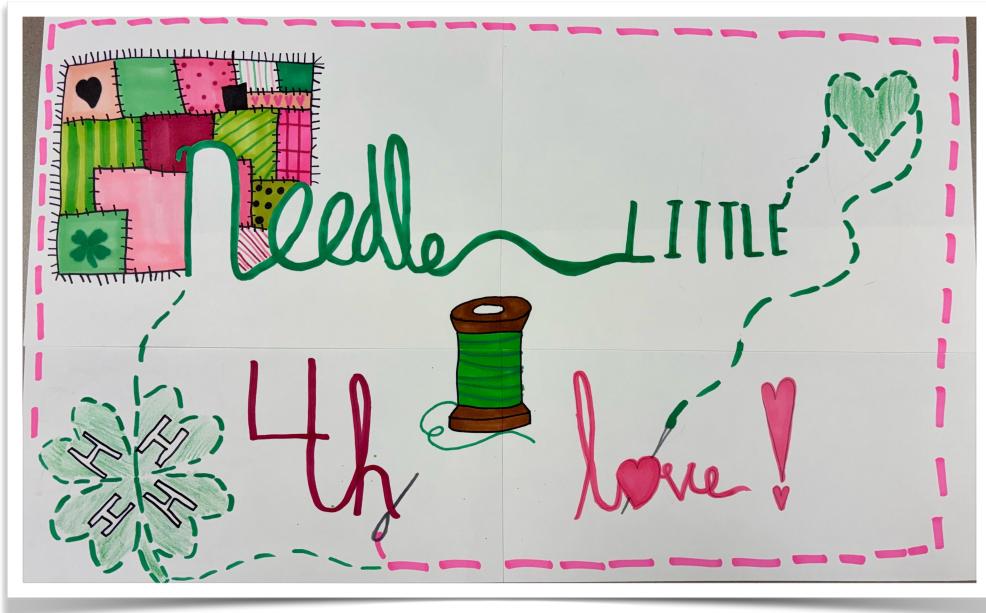
July 20-24, 2026 (Qualify to Attend)

Amy Berger

James McMillion

# Blount County 4H

## Sewing Club News



My name is Charlotte and I've been a sewing club member for over a year. I began with little to no experience in sewing. So far I have completed six projects. Such as a dragon plushie, embroidery, appliquéd, macrame, bookmarks for Meals On Wheels - service project, and knitting. My favorite project was knitting. I enjoy sewing club because I am learning things that other kids might not. I get to be taught by people with a lot of sewing experience and I have so much fun!



Dragon Plushie



Embroidery



Appliquéd



Knitting

# Blount County 4-H Partnership Programs

## Tribute to the Wild Turkey

An educational program for hunters and land stewards.

<https://blount.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/181/2026/02/Wild-Turkey.pdf>



## Blount County Soil & Water Conservation District - Tree Sale

Pick a tree, shrub or bush to enhance your property!

And check out the service project ideas for 4H clubs.

[https://blount.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/181/2026/02/Blount-SWCD\\_Tree\\_Shrub\\_Sale\\_Flyer.pdf](https://blount.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/181/2026/02/Blount-SWCD_Tree_Shrub_Sale_Flyer.pdf)



## Blount County Soil & Water Conservation District – Grazing Conf.

4-H members may attend free of charge – contact James.

[james@utk.edu](mailto:james@utk.edu)

<https://blount.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/181/2026/02/2026-GfP-Flyer-FINAL-2.0-1.pdf>



## Blount County Farm Bureau Women

These women are dedicated to promoting agriculture, strengthening our community, and providing education and outreach for families in Blount County.

In addition to this conference, check out the 2026 Digital Design Contest (Photo)

<https://blount.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/181/2026/02/26-FB-Digital-Design.pdf>

and the “Why is Agriculture Important?” essay contest.

<https://blount.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/181/2026/02/26-FB-Essay.pdf>



<https://blount.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/181/2026/02/BCFBwomen-Feb.png>

Blount County 4-H partners with many organizations outside the University of Tennessee. Check them out to see what is happening.