

4-H SHELBY CO NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025
EDITION

SAFETY
FIRST!

2025 Safety Day

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day was a blast! This annual event is all about teaching youth how to stay safe in everyday situations—and this year didn't disappoint. The 4-H Agents visited East Side Elementary in Brownsville, where students learned important safety tips about animals, fire, emergencies, bicycles, chemicals, and sun protection. Each participant walked away with a cool t-shirt, a goody bag, and a whole lot of new knowledge. Most importantly, everyone had a great time while learning how to stay safe!



New Leaf 4-H Club

Last month, we held our final New Leaf 4-H Club meeting of the year at the Germantown Community Library. To celebrate the 2024–2025 school year, our members created vibrant poster collages filled with memories from this year's activities. We're so proud of everything they've accomplished and are already counting down the days until the club kicks off again in September! Want to see their creativity in action? Stop by the Germantown Community Library to check out their posters on display!



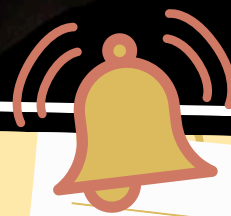


THE HORSE REVIEW!

Kyla Szemplinski, our very own 4-H Agent, is making headlines with not one—but FOUR—articles featured in the May issue of The Horse Review! Her pieces cover a range of important topics, including safe snacks for horses, topline health, performance horse vitality, and horse farm landscaping do's and don'ts.

Kyla also leads the Shelby County 4-H Ghost Riders Club, where youth dive into the world of equine health and safety. Be sure to check out her articles and support the amazing work happening in our local 4-H community!

If you're interested in joining the Horse Club, be sure to reach out to Kyla at kszempli@utk.edu



**Read the
articles here!**



4-H BANQUET

AWARDS

The Shelby County 4-H Awards Banquet was a wonderful success—and a true celebration of the hard work, growth, and achievements of our 4-H youth and volunteers throughout the 2024–2025 program year.

This special evening was all about recognizing the dedication, leadership, and creativity that make our 4-H community shine. From project accomplishments and competition wins to outstanding service and volunteer contributions, every award presented told a story of commitment and passion. We're so proud of everything our members and volunteers have achieved this year—and we can't wait to see what's in store for the next chapter of Shelby County 4-H!



WILDLIFE JUDGING TAKES 1ST PLACE!



Congratulations to the Shelby County Senior High 4-H Wildlife Judging Team—**Evelyn McGee, Kennedy Jefferson, and Philip Day**—for taking 1st place at the Western Region Wildlife Judging Competition! Their knowledge and skills earned them a spot at the State competition, where they'll proudly represent Shelby County this June.

Not sure what Wildlife Judging is? It's a fun and hands-on 4-H contest where youth learn how to identify wildlife species, evaluate habitats, and make real-world conservation decisions. It's perfect for anyone who loves the outdoors, animals, or environmental science. Think you'd be interested? Join us next year and give it a try!

Congratulations, Kelly!!

Please join us in congratulating Kelly Ravlija, on receiving the **George S. Foster Award**—a prestigious honor awarded to only six 4-H professionals statewide each year! This recognition speaks volumes about her commitment, passion, and outstanding service to the 4-H program. Since joining our team, Kelly has gone above and beyond to inspire youth, engage families, and strengthen our community through 4-H.



Whether she's leading a judging team, mentoring junior and teen leaders, organizing service projects, or being an awesome leader at Junior High Camp, she brings heart, energy, and excellence to everything she does. Her impact has been felt across every level of the program, and she continues to be a shining example of what it means to lead with purpose and serve with pride. We are so proud to see her hard work recognized in such a meaningful way, and even more grateful to have her as part of the Shelby County 4-H family.

Congratulations, Kelly and thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and all the ways you make 4-H better every day!

JR CAMP WAS AN ABSOLUTE SUCCESS!



JOIN US AT CAMP!

Junior Master Gardener Camp



Do you have a young green thumb who loves being outside, getting their hands dirty, or asking a million questions about how things grow? Then the **Junior Master Gardener Camp** is the perfect summer adventure!

Designed for youth ages 8–11, this hands-on camp runs June 9–13 from 9 AM to noon and is led by real Memphis Area Master Gardeners who are excited to share their knowledge and love for all things plants and gardening. Campers will dig into fun, interactive activities that teach them how to grow their own gardens, explore plant science, and discover the magic of nature—all while making new friends and memories.



Junior High Camp Line & Design Camp

Join us for Junior High 4-H Camp—where adventure meets teamwork!

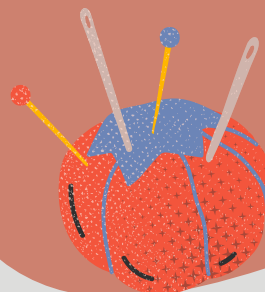
Open to 7th and 8th graders, this action-packed camp is the perfect opportunity to make amazing memories and connections.

Choose your dates: **June 30–July 4 or July 14–18**. With hands-on activities, leadership games, and unforgettable memories, this is one mission you won't want to miss! **Deadline to register is June 9th.**



Calling all young artists and designers! Line and Design Camp is a hands-on, trendsetting camp for youth in grades 6–12, happening July 7–9, 2025, at UT Martin.

Campers will dive into creative sessions like sewing, sculpting, and even a fashion show—all while exploring their individuality, learning new skills, and making lasting friendships. It's the perfect blend of fun, creativity, and connection!



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!



Follow us on Facebook!

@ UT and TSU Extension Shelby County



Our mission to you

The mission of Shelby Co. 4-H Program is to empower youth to form a sense of purpose through research-based education, life skills, and civic engagement to become leaders of today and tomorrow.

-Your Shelby County Team



901-752-1207

Kyla Szemplinski - 4-H Agent

kszempli@utk.edu

Kelly Ravlija - 4-H Agent

krav@utk.edu

Sydney Grayson - 4-H Agent

sydlgra@utk.edu

Tim Roberts - Director of Education

trobert6@utk.edu

Khalaya Cooper - 4-H Administrative Assistant

kcoope53@utk.edu