February 2026

4-H Happenings

Dairy Month Poster Contest

Hey 4-H'ers! Celebrate **National June Dairy Month** by creating an awesome poster and showing off your creativity! Submit your poster at your 4-H meeting on _____.

Rules:

- ✓ **Poster size:** 14" x 22" (half a sheet of poster board)
- ✓ **Theme:** Make sure your poster clearly shows **"Milk's Got Game"**
- ✓ **Who can enter:** Individual youth, Grades 4–12
- ✓ **Orientation:** Horizontal or vertical
- ✓ No copyrighted or trademarked images
- ✓ **3D elements:** less than **1 inch** above poster
- ✓ **No glitter**
- ✓ **Back of poster:** Include your **name, school, grade, teacher, address, age, and t-shirt size**

⚠ Posters not following the rules **won't be eligible** for the county contest.

How It Works:

- Each classroom submits **one poster** to the county contest
- **Top 5 posters** displayed at **Smoky Mountain Farmer's Co-op** in June
- **1st place** county poster goes to the **state contest**

Prizes:

- County awards sponsored by **Smoky Mountain Farmer's Co-op**
- State awards: **1st: $550, 2nd: $300, 3rd: $200**

Pro Tips for a Winning Poster:

- Keep your theme **clear and fun**
- Use **bright, bold colors**
- Make it **eye-catching** and easy to read from across the room

Piggy Bank County Contest - Cast your vote NOW!

Vote for your favorite piggy bank and help your classmates win!

Who Can Vote?

- Students, teachers, parents, friends – **EVERYONE**!
- Vote **once per grade level**
- Look at all photos before choosing your favorite

Public Voting Links:

4th grade - https://tiny.utk.edu/4thGradePiggyBanksHamblen
5th grade - https://tiny.utk.edu/5thGradePiggyBanksHamblen
Middle school - https://tiny.utk.edu/MiddleSchoolPiggyBanksHamblen

Hamblen County Students – Vote Through Your School

4th Grade - https://forms.gle/cfH7dTzhq6NSKu3fA
5th Grade - https://forms.gle/L2wQ3MiFZdFbjiRK9
Middle School - https://forms.gle/cepRibc6h4bWKGpaA

- Remember: **one vote per grade level**

Deadline:
Voting Ends February 28, 2026!

Fun Tips

Look closely at each piggy bank
Think about creativity, color, and design
Make your vote count for your favorite!

Need to reach 4-H?

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Join a 4-H Judging Team!

Do you like animals, agriculture, or the outdoors? Tennessee 4-H judging teams are a fun way to learn, compete, and build skills like decision-making and confidence—while working as a team!

Upcoming Judging Opportunities:

Livestock Judging — March 26
Evaluate beef, swine, sheep, and goats based on structure, muscle, and overall quality.

Horse Judging — April 2
Judge halter and performance classes while learning about horse conformation and movement.

Wildlife Judging — May 15
Test your knowledge of wildlife species, habitats, and conservation practices.

Judging teams are a great way to:

- Learn new skills
- Meet new friends
- Build confidence
- Prepare for future leadership opportunities

Interested? Talk with your local **4-H agent** to learn how to get involved!

Jr. High Academic Conference

Ready to learn, explore, and have FUN? The **Tennessee 4-H Junior High Academic Conference** is an exciting, hands-on experience for 4-H members in **grades 6–8** who want to try something new and dig deeper into their interests! Spend several days on the **University of Tennessee Knoxville campus**, learning from university experts, making new friends from across the state, and experiencing college life.

Participants jump into **project-based classes and activities**, build confidence, and discover new skills. **Only select project areas are available**, so don't wait!

Application Deadline: March 30
Details & application info:
https://4h.tennessee.edu/academic-conference/

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn, grow, and experience college life with Tennessee 4-H!

Congratulations to Our County Public Speaking Winners!

We are so proud of all of our participants in the Hamblen County Public Speaking Contest! Special congratulations to our top winners who will be representing our county at the **Sub-Regional Contest on February 23**. Good luck — we know you'll do an amazing job sharing your voice and ideas!

Fundraising for Summer Camps

Informational Meeting • February 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Families interested in **fundraising opportunities** to help cover the cost of **summer 4-H camps** are invited to attend an informational meeting on **February 26 at 6:00 p.m at the 4-H Office.**

This meeting will explain how fundraising works, what fundraisers are planned, and how funds raised may be applied toward **any summer 4-H camp that has not already been paid in full**.

Sign Up for Fundraising Information
Google Form:
https://tiny.utk.edu/4Hcampfundraising
All families interested in fundraising are asked to complete this form, even if you plan to attend the meeting.
*This form is for fundraising information only and does **NOT** register your child for camp.*

Summer 4-H Camp Information & Registration
Scan the **QR code** or visit:
https://hamblen.tennessee.edu/summer-activities/
This website includes **camp descriptions, dates, grade levels, and instructions on how to register for camp**.
Camp registration is completed separately through the website and is not connected to the fundraising sign-up form.