



The Messenger

Newsletter of the Eastern Region Family and Community Education

Website: Eastern.Tennessee.edu, then Click on Family and Consumer Science

Facebook: Eastern Region FCE

A note from your Eastern President: Marti Agler

TAFCE Eastern Region has every right to be proud of our regional events and meetings. They are well-planned and executed thanks to the hosting counties who step forward to welcome members to their home turf. A case in point is the recent Spring Event held in Roane County. Roane County FCE Council President Madge Johnson, along with her Council and Agent/Advisor Lisa McMahan presented an example of how it should be done; many thanks and hats off to Roane County FCE.

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed Leadership Day in Fentress County. Given the cooperation from the members and Agent/Advisor Sarah King, we know it will be as well handled as was the Spring Event.

Our Nominating Committee will be looking for candidates for the 2026-27 year including President-Elect, Vice President of Programs, and Secretary. Please cooperate with their requests for assistance. We need you to step forward to help keep Eastern Region the best of FCE! Job descriptions can be found in the Bylaws and Spending Policy in the Planner on the Eastern Region website.

Please remember to collect any unused vases you might have for our use at the FCE Day at the TVA Fair on September 9. With the help of Random Acts of Flowers we will be recycling both flowers and vases to create pretty arrangements for shut-ins, hospitalized folks, and those in nursing facilities. If you have garden flowers or flowers left from an event just prior to that date, we certainly need those as well.

When I look at all the CVU's accumulated, events held, community service projects carried out, I am in awe of the level of involvement of FCE members in the Eastern Region. You are truly amazing people! So proud to have been

elected to coordinate your efforts. Thank you for the confidence you have displayed in our Board!

A word from Cultural Arts- Tammy Halliburton **AND WE ARE OFF!**

Eat, Sleep, Craft, Repeat

I have received several counties entries into the Cultural Arts competition. It may be stiff this year. I am looking forward to seeing all the amazing items at the Fall Conference in Sullivan County.

Just a few things to remember.

1. The Cultural Art's tag needs to stay on the item **filled** out. The item must stay on the article from county, region, and state.
2. The description needs to be more then (for example) quilt in that category. Chose a color, pattern, etc. to describe all entries.
3. We will be missing you if you send your entries with a friend.
4. If you have taken any craft classes, I hope you will enter the item. Always remember the more the merrier.
5. Most of all, let's have fun.

Anyone thinking about being Cultural Arts Chair next year is more than welcome to help me take in the items at the Fall Conference to get a feel for the position. Serving on the Eastern Region Board is a wonderful experience. I have met a lot of beautiful women over the years and gained knowledge in some many areas like what goes into making a conference, conduct meetings, and of course thinking creatively.

See you at Leadership Day in Fentress County or Fall Conference in Sullivan County.

A word from Eastern Region Secretary- Gloria Fisher

Hi, I am Gloria Fisher and I will serve the Eastern Region FCE as interim secretary until the term expires on December 31, 2025. President Marti Agler presented my name to the ERFCE board at it's last meeting.

I have served in many capacities in the workplace and in community service. I have been a member of FCE for 22 years and have held club, county and state board positions.

Looking forward to meeting you at Leadership Day (June 23) being held at Fentress County Extension Office. Your board has planned a great day for you following the theme 'Moving on Up in FCE'. Its goal is to help you better lead your club and county into the future of FCE.

A word from Sevier County FCE Council President: Marti Agler

Sevier County Farm Days

Farm Days, a joint effort of the UT Extension Sevier County Office and the Sevier County Public School System serve to introduce the fourth-grade students in the county to the various industries which bring the food they eat to their tables. For many years Sevier County FCE Council has supplied the administrative help needed to put this sort of activity together and 2025 is no exception.

We helped 995 students and teachers who learned about the importance of proper soil and earthworms; bees; chickens and eggs; and other farm-related activities. And, of course, the highlight of enjoying an ice cream sandwich topped the day.



Midway Club, Sevier County FCE members Judy Pat Williams (l) and Frances Seagle (r)
at the welcome sign to the 2025 Farm Days.

A word from President Advisor- Cindy Mishtal

I want to give a shout out and a big thank you to Ella Parker for teaching my diamond dot art class at our Spring Event in Roane County. I was truly

disappointed that I had to miss seeing all of you.

Also, a big thank you Eastern Region Board, Lisa McMahan and Roane County FCE for planning and offering to host and doing an amazing job of it. I have heard many positive comments, and I am so proud to be part of such a wonderful group.

I am planning on attending the Leadership Day on Monday, June 23rd in Fentress County. I am looking forward to participate in the “E” of FCE!

A word from the VP of Public Policy -Ella Parker

Thank you for all the work you have done to offer Volunteer services to your communities. As of June 15th, I have received 92,500 CVUs from the Eastern Region, showing an increase over last year. However, 3 Counties have not submitted their CVUs . If all Counties participated, we could significantly increase our total hours and possibly surpass the Western or Central Regions.

Please record your hours for anything you do for someone else, (that you do not get paid for and are not in your family) I bet you would be surprised at how many you would have. Let me encourage you to get involved. Every little bit counts, and together we can achieve incredible results. Remember, it's not just about the numbers, and it is not bragging, it's about the impact we have on our communities and the lives we touch, and also the amount of financial support we give to our local Extension Services.

Let's be the NUMBER 1 Region next year.

A word from Action Chair- Barbara Mills

Our charity for the 2025 “Spring into FCE”, which was held in Roane County, was the Roane County United Way Teachers’ Supply Closet. We collected \$400.00 for the Teachers Supply Closet. Thank you to everyone who made a donation. The charity provides school supplies for the schools throughout Roane County. Also, Environmental Awards were presented. Sevier County Midway Club was awarded first place. The second place award went to Hamblen County.

The Leadership Day Conference will be held in Fentress County. Our charity for “Moving on up in FCE” will be the Avalon Center of Fentress County which assists victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Thank you to all TAFCE Eastern Region members for your support of our designated charities.

A word from our State Conference Chair- Leslie Sharpe

It has been a busy time diligently searching for a suitable place for the Eastern Region TAFCE to host the TAFCE State 2026 Conference. I learned very quickly that there is no place perfect for what is needed. However, that being said, one must focus on the positive points and to find avenues to overcome things that are not exactly the way we want them to be.

It takes a large number of rooms in a conference center to meet the needs of classes and functions that we are accustomed to enjoying at our conferences. This narrows our choices considerably. A hotel has been located and now will be reviewed by the venue committee from TAFCE.

We have a lot of work ahead of us if we want to make this a conference to remember!! Anyone who would like to help is encouraged to do so. Even little things are so important.

I would like to thank everyone who entered a "theme" for the conference. I am sure it was a difficult choice for the committee to choose three from such great ideas. Whatever theme is chosen by the TAFCE Board, we need to fully support it and work together to make it a great success. As members, your advice and help will be essential.

I am honored to serve as your Chair.

A word from McMinn County- Leslye Beria

Hello. This has been a very busy Spring for our clubs. With summer here it will get even busier. Our families and friends taking trips, basking in the sun, spending time with children and grandchildren. And we are doing what we can for FCE.

In April, we had our Cultural Arts and it was most fun. We have so many creative people in our county. We are looking forward to our 1st and 2nd place winners taking their crafts to Fall Conference in September.

Our ladies went to the Spring Into FCE Conference in Kingston, TN on April 29 which was much fun with crafts, lunch, how to spread FCE, fellowship, and more. Several members spent many, many hours making coffee filter flowers for the table decorations.

Many of our ladies went to Monroe County's 50's Luncheon on May 13 at the Grain Bin Commodities in Sweetwater. We had lunch, prizes, a basket auction, swag bags, and more fellowship. We even had a Twist contest. Please pray for the Grain Bin. There was a tornado through there May 31 and they did get a little damage but no one was hurt.

We are going to Leadership Day in Fentress County next week which we are looking forward to.

Our Claxton Club has been busy making and delivering 23 handmade crocheted animals to the Child Advocacy Center, 15 animals to Foster Village, and 10 handmade dog and cat beds to Island Pet Rescue.

In July we will have our Picnic County Council Meeting with our Fashion Revue. This meeting is with our husbands also.

It will be a busy summer for all of us here and we look forward to warm weather, sunshine, fellowship, and fun. Enjoy your summer serving others in any way you can!

A word from Monroe County- Tammye Miller

48 ladies attended a 50's Themed on May 13th at Grain Bin Commodities in Sweetwater Tn. Monroe County hosted the event and invited Ladies from McMinn, Roane, Bradley, Blount and Sevier. Two FCE Advisors/Agents attended, Rebecca Layman from Monroe, Sarah Kite from McMinn. We have lots of door prizes, Parade of Prizes, Swag Bags full of handmade items, Prize for the most Best Costume and a Twist Contest. Leslye Beria from McMinn won the Twist contest and won a gift card from Grain Bins Commodities. The best Costume was won by Nita Moser dressed as a popcorn vendor and she received a gift card from Grain Bins Commodities. For our lunch we had a choice of Vegetarian Spaghetti or Chicken Spaghetti, with green beans, garlic bread Tea and for dessert we had Hot Fudge Cake. We had live entertainment performed by The Right Mix they sang 50's music they were great. The tables were decorated like a record with a sundae in the middle that was given as door prizes. Blaina Best from Monroe County tourism attended and video the day's event. We all had a great time and raised money for our agents and for the Monroe County FCE.

Members of Callie Cobb FCE of Monroe County have been busy the last couple of months. We hosted a 50's themed luncheon where we raised money for Agent and for the County FCE club



Had a parade of prizes at our picnic where our significant others attended with great food and lots of prizes. The money raised will help a Senior 4-Her attend State Congress that is held in Nashville every year.



We served Supper to Celebrate Recovery where we made the food and served it to them.



We supplied food and other articles of need to two Blessings Boxes in Tellico Plains and one in Madisonville.



We toured the new Monroe County Animal Shelter and provided toys, food, towels, bleach and other needs to the shelter.



We set up a booth at the Community Center in Tellico Plains to promote FCE and to give out information about our clubs that meet in Monroe County to try and increase membership.



We sponsored the Lady Bug Garden at Exceptional Ed Class a day out. They went to MiMi's Jungle Gym to learn about exercise, then out to lunch to learn about healthy choices, and the Dominion Senior Living to learn about giving to others.



Cocke County FCE Council President Honored

Bettye Carver, President of Cocke County FCE was honored by the Cocke County Chamber of Commerce as the 2025 Leading Lady of Cocke County.

Bettye met her husband of more than 57 years at Tennessee Tech. After his active duty in the Navy they returned to his home in Cosby and began farming. While her husband was away fulfilling his Navy Reserve duties, Bettye managed the farm of +1,000 animals and their two children.

Bettye was instrumental in establishing the Cocke County FCE and served as President for 37 years. In addition, she served for several years as the Executive Director of the United Way of Cocke County. She also served as the administrative assistant to the Cocke County executive/county mayor for 12 years. Bettye helped form Keep Cocke Beautiful in 1998 and has served on the board since; she served 25 years on the Cocke County Literacy Council; as chair of the Cocke County Health Council for 13 years and still serves on the board; she served on the board of the Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority for 25 years; she serves as Farm Bureau Board President; President of the Ladies Group at Laurel Springs Christian Church and prepares the church bulletin.

These are only a partial list of the many ways Bettye Carver has and still exemplifies the very best of educating her family and community to serve the world. Well done, Bettye and Congratulations. You are truly a Leading Lady and not just in Cocke County.

Positions to be filled for the 2026-27 FCE Term

TAFCE

- President
- Vice President of Public Policy
- Treasurer

TAFCE EASTERN REGION

- President-elect
- Vice President of Programs
- Secretary

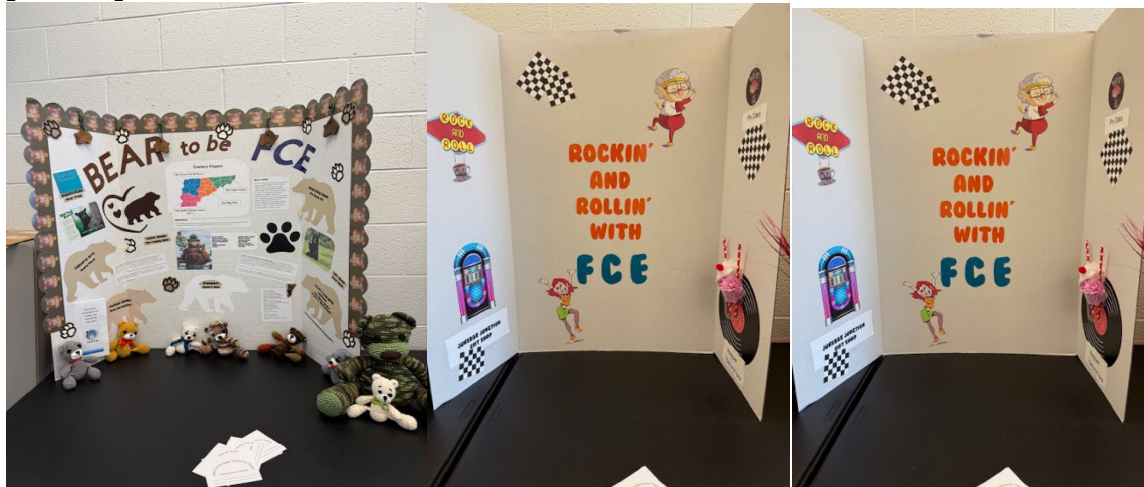
Nomination forms for Regional and/or State Officers can be found in the 2025 Planner on the Eastern Region Website. Nominations are due by August 1 and will be voted on at the Annual Meetings at State Conference in November.

2026 TAFCE State Conference Theme Contest

A committee of one agent/advisor with no county entry, two regional advisors, and one representative of the TVA Fair Exhibits chose the following three themes (in no particular order) to advance to the TAFCE Board for final choice:

- “Bear to Be FCE”, McMinn County
- “Rock & Roll with FCE”, Cumberland County
- “FCE is Moving Mountains One County at a Time”, Monroe County
-

The choice is scheduled for the August TAFCE Board Meeting and rests entirely with them. We will advise as soon as we have that decision. Any of them would be great, as a matter of fact, any of those entered in the contest would have worked just fine! Thanks to all those counties/clubs who participated! So creative!



A word from Pat Malbrough

To all County Presidents and Treasurers- In the next month, please be on the lookout for an email from me with all the information you need to know about 2026 dues. Great news! Dues in 2026 went down to \$8.00!! The State Treasurer is attempting to unify the way each county reports and therefore each region reports. There will be new forms and new guidelines to follow. Once you receive this information, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. The deadline, as always, for getting monies and forms to me will be October 1st, so we have time. I hope everyone has a fabulous, safe summer and see you at Fall Conference in September.

Regional 4-H Scholarship Recipient

The Eastern Region is pleased to announce Kasidy Cates as the recipient of the 2025 4-H Scholarship. Kasidy is a residence of Cosby in Sevier County, an active 4-Her and home schooler with a GPA of 3.92. She intends to attend Walters State Community College, in fact has already completed 5 classes there while still in high school, and then transfer to East Tennessee State to complete a Bachelor of Arts in English. She is an All Star in 4-H, in the 4-H Honors Club, placed first place in both Speech and Fashion and Design Fashion Show. She is a dedicated writer of poetry and prose and has had pieces published in both academic and non-academic publications. Kasidy is interning with East Tennessee Artscapes and is involved in volunteer work with the Kiwanis Club in Newport and the Youth Group of the Newport UMC.

Congratulations to this impressive young lady, TAFCE Eastern Region is proud and happy to help you further your education!

Service Project at FCE Day at the TVA Fair

Reminder: Check all your cupboards for *vases* you no longer need to donate to our service project with Random Acts of Flowers at FCE Day at the TVA Fair Tuesday, September 9. You can bring them that day or deliver earlier to any Regional Board member!

Second: If you have suitable *garden flowers* OR are having an event that will result in *“left-over” flowers*, we need these as well. Again, advise any Regional Board member!

What a gratifying thing, to recycle flowers to those who probably receive none!!



GOAT BIG, BLOSSOM BRIGHT

SEPT 9TH | 10 AM EST

3301 E MAGNOLIA AVE, KNOXVILLE
IN THE JACOBS BUILDING

CONTACT YOUR COUNTY AGENT
FOR MORE INFORMATION



Real. Life. Solutions.™

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development,
family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
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and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

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TAFCE Mission Statement

To strengthen the home and community by improving the quality of life of
individuals and families through continuing education, leadership
development, and community service