



TENNESSEE
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

CLOVER CHRONICLES

SECOND EDITION • JANUARY 2025



AG LITERACY WEEK



During the week of November 16-23, educators, agriculture advocates, and 4-H'ers alike throughout Tennessee set out with the mission of educating youth about agriculture and its importance to all of us. Many classrooms across the Volunteer state were filled with role models and volunteers who engaged children with books focused all on agriculture. This reading campaign was driven by Tennessee's Agriculture Literacy Week, a week dedicated to fostering agricultural literacy and emphasizing agriculture's importance.

- **Matthew Rochford, Jr.Rep**



NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS 2025



The Tennessee 2025 delegation sent 32 4-H'ers to Atlanta from November 28–December 3 for National 4-H Congress. Delegates represented a wide range of project areas, from nutrition and health to poultry and dairy, and joined youth from across the country for a week of leadership, learning, and service. They attended motivational sessions, tried new foods and experiences, and connected with peers nationwide. Service played a major role, with Tennessee 4-H'ers assisting at local schools, organizing books for libraries, and supporting community organizations. Delegates also enjoyed the annual brunch at the Ritz-Carlton. Tennessee was also represented nationally, with John Everett Martin serving on the 2025 Youth Leadership Team and Gabe Harville contributing to the National 4-H Congress Design Team. Delegates returned home energized, inspired, and grateful for the opportunity to grow as leaders and represent Tennessee 4-H with pride.

Madassah Boyle, Sr.Rep



REGIONAL ALL-STAR CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The TN 4-H Eastern Region All-Stars held their 2025 Fall Conference Nov. 21–23 at the Edgewater Hotel in Gatlinburg, celebrating the theme “Y’all Stars: Appalachian Showdown.” The weekend opened with the program’s first college and career fair, featuring more than 20 businesses and colleges, followed by activities, icebreakers, and the annual skit. Saturday centered on service projects, including raking leaves at a local landmark, writing cards for veterans, making crafts for nursing-home residents, assembling blankets for a homeless shelter, and creating earrings for breast cancer patients. The conference ended with a banquet recognizing state project winners, the initiation of new All-Stars, and a closing dance. – **Cole Burchell, Eastern Region Scribe**



The Central Region All-Stars met Nov. 14–16 at the Clyde M. York Center for a fall conference themed “Service Strikes Back,” combining leadership development with community service. Friday began with workshops focused on teamwork and skill-building. Saturday featured leadership sessions and service projects, including making cards for summer campers, writing letters to residents of a local elderly home, and packing donations for the Genesis House. The retreat also included a banquet honoring state project winners, the initiation of new members, and a dance. The conference concluded with officer elections, selecting Matthew Rochford as Chief and Jayden Hesson as Deputy Chief. – **Elijah Hancock, Central Region Scribe**



On November 7–8, the Western Region All-Stars met at Discovery Park of America in Union City for two days of fellowship, fun, and service—the retreat’s first time at this location. The “Night at the Museum” theme shaped activities, including “Museum Mischief: Toy Edition,” where members collected toys for local nonprofits. All-Stars enjoyed a museum-wide scavenger hunt, games, s’mores, a movie, and after-hours museum access. Nearly 30 candidates delivered speeches for the 2025–2026 All-Star Council. The next morning featured breakfast and hands-on stations with reptiles, roller-coaster building, and Lego globes. For the main service project, members set up Christmas lights for the “Let It Glow” showcase and cleaned the park grounds. After lunch, the group held its business meeting and elected the 2025–2026 council, choosing Paige Costello as Chief and Jack Hutson as Deputy Chief. A group photo closed the 2024 Western Region All-Star Fall Retreat. – **Je’Delle Ross, Western Region Scribe**

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK



National 4-H Week was celebrated nationwide October 5–11, bringing together millions of members, volunteers, educators, and alumni to recognize the program's impact. Throughout the week, Tennessee 4-H highlighted stories, achievements, and opportunities for its 150,000 members. The celebration opened with Proclamation Day, emphasizing the wide range of learning offered across all 29 project areas. Spirit Day followed, with members wearing green and 4-H apparel to show statewide pride. Giving Tuesday supported county programs and encouraged community service. We're Grateful Wednesday honored volunteers, educators, families, and partners, while 4-H for Good Thursday showcased the positive influence of service statewide. Then and Now Friday invited members and State Council representatives to reflect on their 4-H journeys. The week concluded with Volunteer Appreciation Saturday, recognizing the essential contributions of volunteers. Tennessee 4-H thanks everyone who participated and looks forward to next year's celebration.

– Cole Burchell, All-Star Deputy Chief

STATE FALL JUDGING COMPETITION



On October 4, 4-H'ers from across Tennessee gathered at the University of Tennessee for State Fall Judging Day, competing in contests such as Family Consumer Sciences, Consumer Decision-Making, and Rail-A-Thon. Several teams earned spots at national events: Lincoln County won Family Consumer Sciences, and Knox County placed first in Consumer Decision-Making, with both advancing to national contests in San Antonio this January. Madison County, the CDM runner-up, will also compete in the Quiz Bowl, while Williamson County won Poultry Judging and advanced to the North American International Livestock Exposition. The day ended with the return of the banquet and awards ceremony. Congratulations to all participants and best of luck to the teams heading to nationals.

– Hadassah Boyle, Sr.Rep



NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Congratulations to these hard-working 4-H'ers for their success on the national level:

Dairy Judging

State Winners: Macon County

World Dairy Expo – Madison, Wisconsin

Team Members: Collin Morgan, Jayden Hesson, Ian Johnson, and Jessa Spears

State Runner-Ups: Lincoln County

North American International Livestock Exposition – Louisville, Kentucky

Team Members: Katie Elliott, Lane Burnum, and Kailyn Osterhaus



Livestock Judging

State Winners: Unicoi County

North American International Livestock Exposition – Louisville, Kentucky

Team Members: Ellie Hensley, Cannon Wilhoit, and Emma Hummer

State Runner-Ups: Clay County

Penn State Contest – Pennsylvania

Team Members: Faith Burks, Kendall Hamilton, Erin Meadows, and Mikarah Mason



Livestock Skillathon

Tennessee State Skillathon Team

North American International Livestock Exposition – Louisville, Kentucky

Team Members: Shelby Thames, Seth Troglin, Caleb Limpert, Abby Rippy, and Clay Pitcock

Livestock Quizbowl

State Winners: Lincoln County

North American International Livestock Exposition – Louisville, Kentucky

Team Members: Katie Elliott, Makai Traylor, Wyatt Tanner, and Kaylin Osterhaus



Meats Judging

State Winners: Macon County

National Meat Judging Contest – Kansas State University

Team Members: Jayden Hesson, Ian Johnson, Paige Shrum, and Jessa Spears

Poultry Judging

State Winners: Williamson County

North American International Livestock Exposition – Louisville, Kentucky

Team Members: McKenzie Page, Mary Elizabeth King, Laura Kennedy, and Asa Israel



Wildlife Judging

State Winners: Knox County

National 4-H WHEP Judging Champions

Team Members: Micah Shaw, Gabe Harville, Kaden Reed, and Jed Griffith

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS CONT...

Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup

Hippology Team – 7th Overall

Team Members (Sumner County): Abby Rippy, Laila Russell, Manning Miller, and Annie Sanborn

Horse Judging Team – 3rd Overall

Team Members: Piper Allen (High Individual Overall), Kaylee Rocha, Jordan Davis, and Abigail Whicker

Team Presentation – 2nd Overall

Team Members: John Everett Martin and Savannah Hanson

Public Speaking – 4th Overall

Team Member: Palli Doyle

- Jayden Hesson, All-Star Scribe



TENNESSEE FARMER'S CO-OP AUCTION



On November 30th, Tennessee 4-H State Council members had the opportunity to attend the Tennessee Farmers Cooperative Auction Barn. During this event, Tennessee Farmers Co-op raised over \$60,000 through the Auction Barn and more than \$200,000 from the 4-H/FFA Case Knife sales to directly support 4-H and FFA programs across the state. Tennessee 4-H is beyond thankful for the continued support of the Tennessee Farmers Cooperative as they invest in the next generation of agriculture leaders! - **Hailey Butler, All-Star Chief**

4-H MEMEBER HIGHLIGHT

JOHN EVERETT MARTIN AND SAVANNAH HANSON: JOURNEY TO NAILE



This year, John Everett Martin from Hancock County and I, Savannah Hanson from Bledsoe County, teamed up to compete in the Tennessee 4-H Equine Communications Contest team demonstration at the State 4-H Horse Show in June. Our presentation, “It’s What’s Inside That Counts – Internal Parasites,” combined our passion for equine science with our love for public speaking. Winning the state contest opened the door to incredible opportunities. Our first national competition was in October at the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio, where we competed against teams from across the country and placed first out of eight teams. In November, we traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, to compete at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup during NAILE, earning second place among fourteen teams. Representing Tennessee 4-H at the national level was an honor and an unforgettable experience. I highly encourage any 4-H’er with a passion for horses and public speaking to participate in the Tennessee 4-H Equine Communications Contest!

FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING



On December 7th, the 104th Tennessee Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held in Franklin, Tennessee. State Council members represented Tennessee 4-H at the 4-H trade show booth and had the opportunity to meet with various attendees, exhibitors, and agriculture leaders while recognizing the importance of agriculture in Tennessee. Additionally, State Council members had the privilege of watching the Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet finals. Tennessee 4-H is very blessed to have a partner like the Tennessee Farm Bureau as they continue to be the “Voice of Agriculture” for today’s youth.

- Hailey Butler, All-Star Chief



HOW DOES TENNESSEE 4-H STATE COUNCIL WORK

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Tennessee 4-H State Council is made up of several committees, each working behind the scenes to plan events, create resources, and support 4-H members across the state. These committees allow Council members to focus on specific areas and collaborate to strengthen Tennessee 4-H.

Below is an overview of each committee and the members who serve on them.

Roundup Workshops Committee

The Roundup Workshops Committee plans and organizes the educational workshops offered during Tennessee 4-H Roundup. These workshops give 4-H members, All-Star members, delegates, and competitors the opportunity to participate in sessions based on their interests or project areas. Each year, the committee works to introduce new topics and secure presenters to lead engaging workshops during Roundup.

Committee Members:

Ben Jackson, Junior Representative; Khiya Porter, Rep at Large; Harrison Crenshaw, Congress Governor

Roundup Pageant Committee

The Roundup Pageant Committee is responsible for planning the opening night ceremony of Tennessee 4-H Roundup. The pageant is designed to reflect the annual Tennessee 4-H theme and serves as an exciting kickoff to the week, helping build energy and enthusiasm among participants.

Committee Members:

Cassandra Sanchez, Sr. Rep; Kaylin Osterhaus, Congress Speaker of the Senate

Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee manages Tennessee 4-H State Council's social media platforms. This committee works to promote events, highlight Council activities, and share 4-H opportunities across the state through creative and engaging content.

Committee Members:

Greta Anglin, Junior Representative; Calli Alonso, Jr. Rep; Summer-Grace Kelly, Jr. Rep

Retention and Engagement Committee

The Retention and Engagement Committee focuses on developing ideas to keep 4-H members involved and excited about Tennessee 4-H. This includes brainstorming activities, camps, and engagement opportunities. The committee is also creating a presentation that State Council members can use when visiting Honor Clubs and local 4-H clubs to share updates on Council initiatives and statewide opportunities.

Committee Members:

John Hancock, Secretary; Noah Ham, Jr. Rep; Calleigh Phillips, Jr. Rep; Jadian Keith, Sr. Rep

Clover Chronicle Committee

The Clover Chronicle Committee oversees the official State Council newspaper. While the committee existed previously, this year marks the first publication cycle of the Clover Chronicle. Issues are released quarterly and provide updates on recent events, Council projects, and what State Council members have been working on across the state.

Committee Members:

Hadassah Boyle, Sr. Rep; Matthew Rochford, Jr. Rep; Hailey Butler, All-Star Chief; Jayden Hesson, All-Star Scribe;
Cole Burchell, All-Star Deputy Chief

Website Completion Committee

The Website Completion Committee is a new committee focused on finalizing and improving the Tennessee 4-H website. Members are working to reorganize content, improve usability, and develop ideas that make the website easier to navigate and more useful for 4-H members and families.

Committee Members:

Catherine Gibson, Sr. Rep; Bella Kate Finchum, Jr. Rep; Tarik Veasley, Rep at Large

Council Expectations Committee

The Council Expectations Committee is responsible for creating videos and written materials that explain what it means to serve on Tennessee 4-H State Council. These resources outline responsibilities, expectations, and common experiences of Council members. The goal is to help 4-H members who are considering running for Council better understand the role. These materials will be shared on the new website and through social media.

Committee Members:

Ann Thomas Lowery, Vice President; Mehak Patel, Speaker of the House

Together, these committees play a critical role in ensuring the Tennessee 4-H State Council continues to support and serve 4-H members across the state. Through event planning, communication, outreach, and resource development, committee members work collaboratively to strengthen statewide programs, and create meaningful opportunities for youth involvement, leadership development, and personal growth within Tennessee 4-H.

- Hadassah Boyle, Sr.Rep

MEET YOUR EDITORS



COLE BURCHELL
ALL-STAR
DEPUTY CHIEF



HADASSAH BOYLE
SR. REP



HAILEY BUTLER
ALL-STAR
CHIEF



MATTHEW ROCHFORD
JR. REP



JAYDEN HESSON
ALL-STAR
SCRIBE

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * STATE COUNCIL SPRING RETREAT AND ALUMNI AND FRIENDS MEETING
- * TENNESSEE 4-H CONGRESS
- * AMERICAN FARM BUREAU CONVENTION
- * 2026 AG DAY ON THE HILL
- * FCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP & CONFERENCE

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