



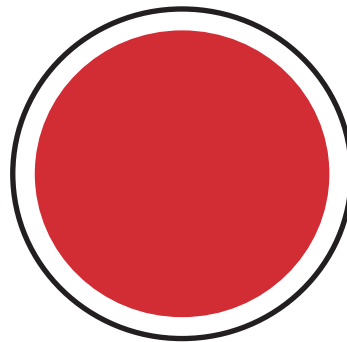
ABOUT NEW FARMER ACADEMY

The Knox County Tennessee New Farmer Academy is a 6-month certificate program designed for those interested in becoming agricultural entrepreneurs. Ideal candidates for this program include those who are new to agriculture, those who wish to transition into agriculture from another field, such as military service or private sector work, or those who are looking for a post-retirement opportunity.

The program focuses on teaching concepts, providing information, and facilitating the hands-on experience and connections needed to build a solid, viable and successful agricultural business. Our goal is to provide research-based information paired with time-honored practices and real-world examples to introduce you to Agriculture in Central Tennessee. The Tennessee New Farmer Academy is a TEAP approved program. Credit is given for certificates issued after 2018.



< LEARN MORE



DIRECTIONS

The first and other sessions of the Academy will be held at the **UT/TSU Extension Office 400 West Main Ave., City-County Building, Suite 560, Knoxville, TN 37902**. Classes will meet in both indoor and outdoor locations around middle Tennessee. Participants should expect to experience a variety of middle Tennessee weather conditions throughout the course and transportation will be on your own.

CONNECT WITH US

Learn more about the New Farmer Academy at the TSU College of Agriculture

Rylan Thompson
TSU Cooperative Extension Agent

P: 865-215-2340
E: cthomp55@tnstate.edu
www.tnstate.edu/agriculture



KNOX COUNTY NEW FARMER ACADEMY

**“DEVELOPING SUCCESSFUL SMALL
FARM ENTERPRISES”**



 **TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY**
College of Agriculture

EDUCATIONAL TOPICS:

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

The fee for the class is \$200.00 per person, which includes the textbook, materials, and lunches. The registration deadline is March 21, 2025. To register, contact Rylan Thompson at cthomp55@tnstate.edu or call 865-215-2340. The class will be limited to 40 participants.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 20, 2026.

TOPICS COVERED

- 1 Business Plans & Farming Economics
- 2 Farm Management
- 3 Marketing
- 4 Regulations and Regulators
- 5 Vegetable & Fruit Crop Production
- 6 Pasture Management
- 7 Small Scale Production
- 8 Agri-tourism
- 9 & More!

TOPIC 1:

FARM BUSINESS & MARKETING BASICS:

Over multiple sessions, you will learn to identify the appropriate enterprise for you and your farm, how to start your business, and how to navigate the regulatory issues of the agricultural world. Additionally, you'll learn about some of the most effective marketing strategies, business management skills, and how to apply for grants and other types of assistance programs available to new farmers.

TOPIC 2:

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PRACTICES:

A portion of each session will be dedicated to helping you establish and/or maintain productive and efficient operations. We will cover topics like soil health, livestock production, fruit and vegetable production, beekeeping, irrigation strategies, organic production, and greenhouse management.

TOPIC 3:

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE:

In addition to classroom instruction, the New Farmer Academy provides hands-on experiential sessions on topics including drip irrigation, plasticulture, fencing installation and repair, sprayer calibration, and equipment operation/safety.

WORKSHOP DATES:

Workshop times are: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Eastern Time)

MARCH 20, 2026

APRIL 10, 2026

MAY 8, 2026

JUNE 12, 2026

JULY 10, 2026

AUGUST 14, 2026

All workshops will begin on their date at various farms or agriculture operations throughout Knox County and surrounding counties in Tennessee where we will complete the classroom training component of the program. We will venture from there to multiple locations around our area to experience more east TN agriculture.

Classes will meet in both indoor and outdoor locations around Knox County, TN. Participants should expect to experience a variety of East Tennessee weather conditions throughout the course and transportation will be on your own.

