

Topics Covered

- Business Plans
- Farm Management
- Marketing
- Regulations
- Fruit & Vegetable Crops
- Agri-Tourism
- Pasture Management
- Small Scale Production
- and more!

Helpful links:

- knox.tennessee.edu
- tnstate.edu/extension/nfa.aspx
- tnstate.edu/extension/publication_index.aspx
- tn.gov/agriculture.html
- eastern.tennessee.edu
- knoxgardenalliance.org



For more information, please contact:

UT-TSU Extension – Knox County
400 W Main St.
Suite 560
Knoxville, TN 37902
865-215-2340

Think. Work. Serve.

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Knox Area New Farmer Academy 2026



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EXTENSION
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

KNOX COUNTY
UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

What is the Tennessee State University New Farmer Academy?

The Knox Area New Farmer Academy is a six month certificate program designed for those with an interest 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 the concepts, providing the information, and facilitating the hands-on experience needed to build solid, viable, and successful agricultural businesses.



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.

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.

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 Information

- March 20, 2026
- April 10, 2026
- May 8, 2026
- June 12, 2026
- July 10, 2026
- August 14, 2026

Workshop times will be 9am-5pm EST

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.

Registration

- **Fee:** \$200.00 per person (includes textbook, materials, and lunches)
- **Registration deadline:** March 6, 2026
- **To register:** Contact the Knox County Extension office at 865-215-2340
- **Class will be limited to 40**