ABOUT NEW FARMER ACADEMY

The Southeast Tennessee New Farmer Academy is a 7-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 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 West 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 several of the sessions will be held at the **Bledsoe County Extension Office - 3150 Main St, Ste 100 Pikeville, TN, United States, Tennessee 37367** where we will complete the classroom training component of the program. All workshops will begin on their date at various farms or agriculture operations throughout southeastern Tennessee and surrounding counties in Tennessee. Participants should expect to experience a variety of southeastern 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

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SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE NEW FARMER ACADEMY

"DEVELOPING SUCCESSFUL SMALL FARM ENTERPRISES"

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Agriculture

EDUCATIONAL TOPICS:

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Registration will take place through the TSU College of Agriculture Campus. The $200.00 fee will cover materials, lunches and snacks for all 7 workshop dates.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 20, 2026.

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.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Business Plans & Farming Economics
2. Livestock Production
3. Pasture Management & Weed Control
4. Hemp Production
5. Vegetable & Fruit Crop Production
6. Farm Equipment & Drone Use in Agriculture
7. Marketing your Products
8. Agri-tourism
9. Bees, Cattle, Goats and MORE!

WORKSHOP DATES:

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

- MARCH 20, 2026
- APRIL 17, 2026
- MAY 15, 2026
- JUNE 26, 2026
- JULY 17, 2026
- AUGUST 21, 2026
- SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

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