

AG NOTES
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August 4, 2020

FARMERS MARKET

If last week was any indication, this week's market will be good. We had eleven vendors and all of them had a good variety of vegetables and baked goods. Production is good, the quality is good, the variety is good, and the turn out is good.

The market is at the Farmers Market Pavilion next to the big blue water tower at the Celebration Grounds on Celebration Drive. We are open Thursdays at 2:30 pm, with no early sales. The vendors are there until the crowd stops coming or they sell out.

4-H CHICKEN SALE

Every year we have 4-Hers interested in poultry to sign up for 4-H chicks that we purchase from one of the top hatcheries in the country who produces the ISA Brown line of brown egg layers. These are very popular and are good layers. These young people will bring in a portion of their birds for a show and awards. We also sell a part of the birds to help pay for the birds for the next year. The 4-Hers will keep the majority of the birds for their own flocks and to sell eggs.

We have a sale this Thursday evening at the Ag Center on 2119 Midland Road. The sale will be at 6:00 pm after the birds are judged and awards are passed out. The 4-Hers will be there to help with the sale.

If you are looking for young hens, this is a good opportunity. These birds are at 22 weeks of age and many are laying already. Come to the auction and help support these 4-Hers.

POND WEEDS

I've been getting some calls and emails about pond weeds. It's that time of the year. There are several kinds of weeds and these can affect the recreation aspect of fishing in a pond or as the water source for livestock.

We have a very good publication on pond management, and we also have a good section on pond weed control in the Tennessee Weed Manual. I'll be happy to send anyone the links to these two publications. Just send me an email at jteague1@utk.edu and I'll reply with the links. Or if you prefer, give me a call at 931-684-5971 and we'll discuss it.

As any other weed control treatment, it is important to identify the weed in order to be able to select the proper control product, to determine the proper way to treat the problem, and any restrictions that might apply. You can send me pictures to help identify the weeds, and I have access to the Distance Diagnostic Lab for help. Send your smart phone pictures to the email address above.

SEEDS

I mentioned the unsolicited mystery seeds that several local folks have received in the mail. We now have a new reporting method that takes about one minute online to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. I'll be glad to share that with anyone who has received the seeds. The main thing at this point is not open the packets, do not plant any of these seeds, report them on the website at TDA and we assume that disposal recommendations will be coming later.

This is an important issue, and the main thing here is that we do not allow an invasive weed species to be introduced into our country. This issue is nationwide and all fifty state agriculture departments have issued warnings until these seeds have been identified.

WISDOM

This month's issue of Progressive Farmer's Cornerstones quotes is full of insight into courage. That one's easy to talk about but hard to do. Here are some good ones. Some are long, and some are really short but to the point.

John Wayne said "Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway." William Shakespeare said "Cowards die many times before their death." Robert Frost said "The best way out is always through." Robert Ingersoll said "The greatest test of courage on the earth is to bear defeat without losing heart."

The longest one but one of the bests ones is from Eleanor Roosevelt. In part she said "you may think at the impossibility and you go through the tortures of the damned, once you have met it and lived through it you find that forever after you are freer than you ever were before. If you can live through that you can live through anything." And I have a short one that I like. "You can't live scared."

Good advice for the times we're in.

THE KIDS

I haven't discussed the kids lately. But I'm happy to report that the boys survived online schooling, thought they did miss their friends. Interaction is more important than we think sometimes. It's not about them playing with someone, it's about healthy feelings about themselves and their surroundings.

Hank is back to playing baseball some, though not as much as he (and I) would like. He's catching and he's good at it. His baseball camps have been fun and training for him, and he loves it.

Ford is going to baseball camps too, loving it, and he's good at hitting. And he's fast. Now when he's in the field, he's bored a little, but then he's only seven.

Piper had her dance recital this past weekend. At three years old, she was the tiniest person there, but did she put on a show?! She moved her feet and her hands and arms and her head a lot, and mostly with the music at times! She had a ball and we did too! Most of our clan came to watch her, and we made a big weekend out of it.

Nothing like 'em!