

**AG NOTES**  
**By John Teague**  
**UT/TSU Extension**  
**January 7, 2020**

**MEETINGS**

The Middle Tennessee Beef Producers Association will meet on Thursday, January 9, at 6:30 pm at the Bedford County Ag Center. The sponsored meal will be followed by an educational session on beef cattle minerals, which are so important to health functions and reproduction efficiency. There will be news shared from the Extension office and a short business session for the association.

This group meets the first Thursday of the odd months, except for when a holiday forces a change. Dues are \$20 for the year. Anybody interested in beef cattle are welcome to come. Funds raised by the group are used to fund college scholarships for area youth majoring in agriculture.

Please call the Extension office at 684-5971 to make reservations.

**ADVANCED BEEF SCHOOL**

I mentioned before about my Master Beef schools that is coming up in January and February. These schools have been extremely popular and I already have folks signing up.

The Advanced Master Beef school is set for January 20, 21, and 23. The meetings will be held here at the office at 2105 Midland Road. We will meet 6-9 pm each evening.

These sessions are designed for those who have had the basic series of Master Beef Producer previously. This is not mandatory but it is recommended. This Advanced series will qualify or requalify participants of the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program for higher cost-share.

For those who completed the Basic series or another Advanced series before January 1, 2016, recertification is a requirement for the Master level of cost-share under TAEP. Master Beef Producers certified after that date from either series are currently eligible for the 50% level of cost share.

Topics for this series include those that are timely and deal with subjects above the basic level. Subjects already included are embryonic mortality, heifer development and grass renovation.

Preregistration is required and forms are available at the office or the website below.

**BASIC BEEF SCHOOL**

The Basic Master Beef Producer series is designed for those who want to learn basics in beef production. The classes cover reproduction, genetics, nutrition, animal health, forage production, environmental issues, behavior and facilities, carcass merit, management, marketing, and food safety. Over 500 Bedford County beef producers have completed the course over the past 15 years and it has been rated highly by all.

This school is designed for those who have not had any Master Beef Producer school training. Many participants have herds of small to large numbers or don't own any but are thinking of starting a cattle operation. This class also qualifies applicants of the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program for a higher cost-share in the various projects.

The dates for the 2020 basic program are February 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, and 27. These meetings start at 6 pm and end at 9 pm each night. The sessions will be held at the Extension office.

Pre-registration is required and the forms are available at the office at 2105 Midland Road or online at <https://extension.tennessee.edu/Bedford/Pages/Livestock-and-Forages.aspx>

## **HORSE SCHOOL**

I'll mention our horse school again, also. The 2020 Master Horse Owner Program is scheduled for January 21, 27, 28, February 3, 4, 10, and 11. Sessions will be from 6 to 9 pm each evening. I am cooperating with the Rutherford County Extension staff and holding the sessions at the Murfreesboro office at 315 John Rice Boulevard. Preregistration is now open and forms are available at the office or the website above.

For more information on any of these schools, contact me at 684-5971 or email me at [jteague1@ut.edu](mailto:jteague1@ut.edu)

## **BULLS**

This is a reminder that the 2020 UT Bull Test Sale consignments that finished the feed test at the Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center in Spring Hill will sell at auction on Friday, January 10. The sale will start at 11:00 am, CST.

I have a couple of catalogs at the office and it is also available online at <https://ag.tennessee.edu/AnimalScience/ExtBull/2020BullTestCatalog.pdf>

The bulls' videos are online at YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNXP12SwUle2GXchtT9oCnCKp0q2Y2HFJ>

For more information on the bull sale, and information on bulls that were cataloged but are now out of the sale, as well as foot scores for soundness evaluations, you can contact me at 684-5971 or [jteague1@utk.edu](mailto:jteague1@utk.edu)

## **TCA MEETING**

That stands for Tennessee Cattlemen Association Convention. This will be held at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro this coming weekend, starting Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>. The details for registration and the schedule are at their website at <https://www.tncattle.org/>

There are several good presentations planned, and Governor Bill Lee, a cattleman himself, will be a feature. The trade show is the largest in this part of the country and always a good display.

This is great event for anyone interested in the beef cattle business.

## **BUSY**

As you have just read, it's going to be busy around here. The schedule is full of schools and meetings and events, and I've not mentioned March yet! But I'm looking forward to it.