

AG NOTES
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BEEF MEETING

The Middle Tennessee Beef Producers will hold a meeting this Thursday, June 18, at 6:30. The meeting will be held at the Pleasant Valley Farms outside pavilion. The address is 2395 Highway 64E, Shelbyville. The meal will be sponsored by Bushhog Equipment and Eagleville Equipment. Call to let us know you are coming at 684-5971.

FARMERS MARKET

We made an announcement Friday that the Farmers Market will open on Thursday. We will open the market at 2:30 PM and there are no early sales. The market facility is located at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Grounds on Celebration Drive, next to the big blue water tower.

We have asked the vendors to make special provisions for the safety of our customers, and we are going to ask the customers to take special precautions for the safety of each other and the vendors. Your presence and good health is important to us.

For the short time that our visitors will be there, we will ask each of you to cooperate with us to take steps recommended by the Center for Disease Control, which we are using as our guidelines. With a spike in new cases this week, we will be insistent on this without relaxing our standards.

We will be sharing our process with our visitors as they arrive. We are working on those details and will pass these on during arrival. We remind customers that our goal is to shop the market, make quick purchases, and leave in a short time. Unfortunately, we will not allow visiting or socializing.

We will operate with social distancing, we strongly encourage the use of masks, and customers will not be allowed to touch produce or products until handed to them by the vendors who will be wearing gloves.

CFAP

Here is the link to the information on the CFAP funding for market depressed commodities due to the coronavirus outbreak and related market issues. <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>

I can report that some of the early applicants have received payments as outlined in the information for various parts of the program. Funds are available on a first come basis even though applications will continue into August. I would suggest that applications be submitted as soon as applicants have all of the information needed.

For more information contact the Farm Service Agency by phone. Even though they have had a large turnout for this program they have proceeded along on processing at a fairly fast pace. There is an office locator link in the above information.

WHAT'S THE MARKET?

The market was not very healthy last week. Drs. Andrew Griffith and Aaron Smith, livestock and grain economists with UT Extension, shared these comments. (I may share mine.)

Fed cattle traded \$8 lower compared to last week on a live basis. Prices on a live basis ranged from \$98 to \$108 while dressed prices ranged from \$160 to \$172. The 5-area weighted average prices through Thursday were \$104.84 live, down \$7.84 compared to last week and \$166.65 dressed, down \$12.52 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$113.34 live and \$184.90 dressed. (The futures market for fed cattle for the next several weeks was trading below a dollar. That price is below break-even for owners.)

(As usual, heavy calves are not popular due to the backlog of heavy fed cattle. The lighter calves have been bringing more per pound accordingly, since these calves should come to market after the backlog of heavy fed cattle is worked through.)

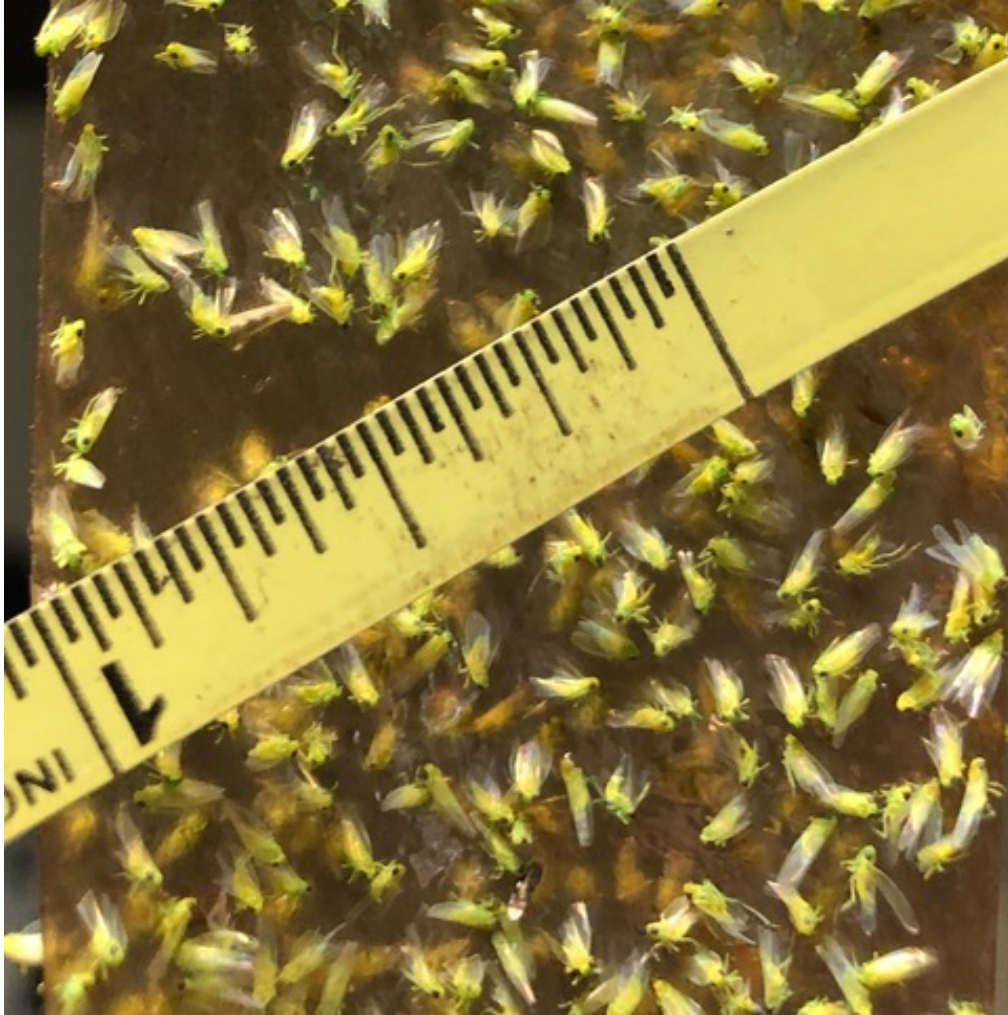
Corn, cotton, and wheat were down; and soybeans were mixed for the week. The USDA released updated supply and demand numbers on Thursday. Overall the report provided only moderate changes compared to May's report and was slightly bearish for corn and cotton and slightly bullish for soybeans. Projected planted acres and yields for corn, cotton, and soybeans were left unchanged from the May WASDE and will be updated following the Acreage Report scheduled to be released at the end of June.

July 2020 corn futures closed at \$3.30, down 1 cent since last Friday. For the week, July 2020 corn futures traded between \$3.24 and \$3.34. In Tennessee, new crop cash corn contracts ranged from \$3.16 to \$3.48. September 2020 corn futures closed at \$3.34, down 1 cent since last Friday.

July 2020 soybean futures closed at \$8.71, up 4 cents since last Friday. For the week, July 2020 soybean futures traded between \$8.56 and \$8.73. In Tennessee, new crop soybean cash contracts ranged from \$8.50 to \$9.00. November 2020 soybean futures closed at \$8.79, unchanged since last Friday.

In Tennessee, June/July 2020 cash contracts ranged from \$4.81 to \$5.32. July 2020 wheat futures closed at \$5.02, down 13 cents since last Friday. July 2020 wheat futures traded between \$4.95 and \$5.17 this week. (There is a lot of concern and negative comment on the quality of wheat and the losses brought on by the late freeze just as the wheat kernels were beginning to develop in the seed head. The wheat that did survive is low in quality.)

WHAT IS THIS?



Some tiny bugs with big eyes and an eerie appearance were swarming heavily in some areas. It turns out to be a potato leafhopper. The strange thing is they came in on some heavy winds in large masses. The attached photo shows how small they are. A good wind could overpower them easily. Actually, that is how many of our strange things in agriculture happen. Luckily, these are fairly diminishing in number in front of a family graduation event that is planned.