

AG NOTES
By John Teague
UT/TSU Extension
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FESCUE MEETING

I have said before that we don't farm forage grasses like we do row crops. We tend not to pay attention to soil fertility, growth phases, harvest techniques, grazing management, weed control, and such. There is going to be a fescue workshop that anyone interested in growing better pastures might want to attend. The details are below.

The Alliance for Grassland Renewal was formed in 2012 by partners from the university, government, industry (including producers, seed companies, testing labs) and nonprofit groups. The goal of the non-profit Alliance is to work together in replacing toxic tall fescue grass with a tall fescue that hosts a nontoxic endophyte, sometimes called a "novel" endophyte.

The Alliance provides educational schools to assist producers with successfully converting Kentucky 31 tall fescue to novel endophyte varieties. Schools begin with understanding fescue toxicosis, then walk producers through the conversion process. Conversion topics include establishment practices, fertility needs, smother crops, weed control, stand maintenance, and variety selection with pasture walks to observe different novel endophyte varieties.

Education is a combination of University, NRCS, Agribusiness and Producers presentations to give participant the opportunity to get answers to questions from a variety of perspectives and information sources.

The Tennessee workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 18, at the Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center at 1000 Main Entrance Drive, Spring Hill. Pre-registration is required. For more information go to our UT Bedford County website, use the links [TN Flyer and Schedule \(PDF\)](#) or [TN Online Registration](#) or contact me at 684-5971 or jteague1@utk.edu

SHEEP AND GOATS

I will be helping teach a Master Small Ruminant school in April. The original Master Goat Producer series has been revamped to a new Small Ruminant school with goats and sheep both included.

We discuss marketing, management, reproduction, forages, nutrition, animal health, economics, selection, carcass merit, facilities and other topics that will serve both sheep and goat producers. We will have industry speakers as well.

The dates are April 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 and 30. These dates are Tuesdays and Thursdays, times will be 6-9 pm each night. The meetings will be held at the Rutherford County Extension Office complex at 315 John Rice Boulevard, Murfreesboro.

Pre-registration is required by April 7. Forms are posted on our UT Extension Bedford website at <https://extension.tennessee.edu/bedford/Pages/default.aspx> You may contact me at 684-5971 or jteague1@utk.edu to discuss the class.

PESTICIDE RENEWALS

All current Private Applicator certifications will expire 6/30/2020. I just received the list of Bedford County private applicators from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture last week and I'm working on recertification dates to get everyone recertified on time.

There has been some confusion about the training that one of the chemical companies provided. While this training satisfied the dicamba component, it did not satisfy the recertification requirement.

At this point, I will be having the sessions in April on 2-3 dates with a morning and evening session and let applicators sign up for one session. I'll announce the dates shortly.

I will be having dicamba training for those farmers who have not had the dicamba training.

THE KIDS

I made a whirlwind trip to help get the boys to ball practice and games this past weekend. Mom and dad ran in a marathon Saturday morning and we played ball while they ran. Both boys had good practices, with good hits and good gloves at their positions. Hank was the catcher again, and he is good. Ford is getting stronger at throwing and his hitting and base running is good. They both got pats on the backs for their work Saturday morning.

Piper came to the barn Sunday evening to see triplet baby goats, and she couldn't get enough petting and hugging and loving every minute of it. She is an animal lover. You should see the love she gives the new litter of puppies her Jack Russells are raising!