

**AG NOTES**  
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**A SURPRISE**

I got a neat picture sent to me the other day, and I had it confirmed by our entomologist. This picture had several cicadas that were found on a vine in a four-foot square area.

These insects emerge in groups called broods, except for stragglers, or exceptions to the normal time frame. Some are 13-year broods, and others are 17-year broods. And to complicate it just a bit, there are different broods across the land, meaning we are not all on the same year time table.

Our publication SP 341F provides some good information. These critters look ugly, and I remember as a youngster in east Tennessee seeing the shed skins on trees and thinking how dangerous they appeared. But they are not dangerous feeders. They can cause twig damage due to depositing eggs in slits they make in young growth, and this may or may not be extensive. With stragglers, there are not many of them. But when the main brood comes out, it could be widespread.

The periodical cicada, *Magicalicada* species, has the longest developmental period of any insect in North America. There is probably no insect that attracts as much attention in eastern North America as does the periodical cicada. Their sudden springtime emergence, filling the air with their high-pitched, shrill-sounding songs, excites much curiosity.

Two races of the periodical cicada exist. One race has a life cycle of 13 years and is common in the southeastern United States. The other race has a life cycle of 17 years and is generally more northern in distribution.

Due to Tennessee's location, both the 13- year and 17-year cicadas occur in the state. Although periodical cicadas have a 13- or 17-year cycle, there are various populations, called broods, that emerge at different 13- or 17- year intervals. Fifteen broods have been described by scientists and are designated by Roman numerals.

Since we have stragglers in what appears to be limited numbers, we will probably be spared the loud noise and damage for now.



## **CFAP**

This is an acronym. So many agencies use them and it's like another language that only they understand. I have to look them up to remember what they mean. I usually don't use them, preferring to use some other abbreviated way to say the title.

This stands for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. This is an initiative by the United States Department of Agriculture to support farmers affected by low process due to the bottleneck of livestock and crop processing caused by sick workers who had to be off from work.

These work closures and slow-downs caused a backup of animal products, dairy products, crop products and byproducts, and these backups caused an undue drop in demand for a normal supply. Market prices plummeted, and farms are facing bankruptcies and financial damage in large numbers. All of this happened despite empty food cases in grocery stores and record high prices for any food items from these sources.

Farmers can apply for assistance from the CFAP funds appropriated by Congress for the express purpose of supporting our food supply and those who produce it. Farm Service Agency is the entity that will take applications and provide the details for farmers who qualify. The main offices that serve Bedford County are in Lewisburg, Murfreesboro, Manchester, and Fayetteville. We used to have one of the largest and most active, but our office here was closed and cases deferred to other sites.

These offices are making appointments by phone only. No walk-ins are allowed due to virus protection. Call the office of your choice and discuss the program with their staff. This program is to help farmers that have been negatively affected by negative markets and I encourage our farmers to consider it for your operation. Funds may be limited due to demand for help.

These staffs will be overwhelmed due to the number of farmers, both livestock and crop growers, so be patient with them and they'll be patient with you.

Think about it.

## **FACE MASKS**

We had two high turn-outs for the drive-by face masks distributions at our office to assist the Bedford County Health Department in getting these masks out to the population. We've helped get nearly 800 out so far. These are masks provided by the Governor's initiative to help with virus protection.

We'll be doing this again. We'll let you know when we get it scheduled on Facebook, our website UT Extension Bedford County, and by email blasts.

## **FARMERS MARKET**

It is still a bit early for us to open the market with enough vendors and an ample supply. We are evaluating this weekly and we'll make our announcements by social media, the website and newspaper.

## **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

We have groups that we send email notes to concerning a wide range of topics. In an attempt to reach as many people as we can concerning agriculture and family and consumer science issues, please send us your email address to be included in a group email by subject matter for newsletter-like blasts of information. Whitney Danhof and I are building these groups to be able to send out timely bits of information to as many clients as we can.

We will not be sending undue amounts of emails nor sharing your email addresses with anyone. We receive huge amounts of emails ourselves and appreciate the burden of having to go through a long list of them constantly, it seems. And we do not share these email addresses with anyone. This is strictly to help us serve you in a timely and cost-efficient way.

Just simply send either of us an email requesting that you be added to an appropriate group list, and preferably let us know what your interest is. Whitney can be reached at [wdanhof1@utk.edu](mailto:wdanhof1@utk.edu)  
And I can be reached at [jteague1@utk.edu](mailto:jteague1@utk.edu)