

**AG NOTES**  
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**MURDER HORNETS**

Here is the story on murder hornets. I've gotten calls about them and here are the facts. Help me share the news on these insects.

The so-called murder hornets were found in Washington state and have been monitored constantly. The news this weekend is that the entomologists were suited up in safety suits and they used a special vacuum to remove the population from a tree nest into canisters. The nest was then inspected to find any immatures and any queens not collected.

These hornets can sting and cause pain. They are aggressive. The biggest concern is the damage that they can cause to honey bees. This is a serious predator, and given the diseases and hive problems that bees have to contend with, an enemy such as this can be devastating. Let's hope that this bee is eliminated in this country. Sadly, I'm not sure how it got here, and the question remains how to eliminate it and how to prevent it from coming in even more.

We don't have them here in Bedford County. But we do have a bee that resembles it and is smaller, but still larger than our honey bees. I get calls about them, and it is called the European hornet. It can be aggressive, and it can be intimidating. But it is not the murder hornet, and it has been here for some time. Avoid them and don't be aggressive with them.

I have always recommended the aerosols for wasps/hornets/bees that can be sprayed from a distance. They are effective as a knock-down and quick kill. The best time is at dark time when they are at the nest. And any user should make sure there is a good exit plan in case they get aggressive.

**CFAP2**

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Phase 2 is now in effect. The specifics for all of the program is available at the website <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap> The details of how each commodity is supported is in this publication. Deadline for applying is December 11, but the funds are readily available and processing is quick.

Of interest in this county, there is support for several of the standard crops, beef, dairy, sheep and hogs. This phase also supports goats under the specialty livestock section. And there are specialty crops, some of which may have been grown here.

For more information go to this website. The Farm Service Agency office in Lewisburg is the office that typically serves this county. Their phone number is 931-359-6268.

**COVID**

We are here at the office. We do control the traffic in and out, and we do observe social distancing. We recommend the use of masks. We take or check our phone calls if we are not in, and we do respond to our emails.

If you have any need for any of our staff, contact us. We're on the job. We have to follow UT policy, and we do try to use common sense in how we handle our facilities and deal with our clients. Let's stay healthy.

## **WISDOM**

We need these quotes for thought. In view of all that is going on, with the pandemic, politics, world issues, weather, sometimes it is hard to smile, let alone a good laugh. We need an uplifting of some kind. This is the Progressive Farmer Cornerstones section, and it's on laughter.

An old Irish proverb says "A good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in the doctor's book." How true! Max Eastman said "Dogs laugh, but they laugh with their tails. What puts man in a higher state of evolution is that he has got his laugh on the right end." But I still love my dogs.

William Davis said "The kind of humor I like is the thing that makes me laugh for five seconds and think for ten minutes." Victor Borge said "Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."

My favorite is what Hugh Sidey said. "Above all else: go out with a sense of humor. It is needed armor. Joy in one's heart and some laughter on one's lips is a sign that the person down deep has a pretty good grasp of life."

Think about it. Look for something positive, instead of dwelling on things negative. We have to deal with negatives, but we can't be consumed by them.