

AG NOTES
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September 1, 2020

FARMERS MARKET

The market is one of the best in memory. We have a good number of vendors, and they have worked hard to have a wide selection of produce and other products this year. I think the quality is top end this year, in addition to the supply.

We have the market on Thursday afternoons at 2:30 pm, with no early sales. The vendors stay to about 4:00 or so. The market site is the Farmers Market Pavilion next to the big blue water tower at the Celebration Grounds. And speaking of the Celebration, we are having the market this week during the horse show. Our schedule does not interfere with the show so we are in business as usual.

See you there at the market.

BEEF MEETING

The Middle Tennessee Beef Producers will be meeting at the Bedford County Ag Center on Thursday, September 3, at 6:30 pm. There will be a speaker on cattle minerals and supplements, and there will be a sponsored meal.

Please contact the Extension office at 684-5971 to make reservations for the meal. Or email me at jteague1@utk.edu

AG ENHANCEMENT

I don't have the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program application booklets yet, but I should have them by the end of the week. The application period will be October 1-7. This is a change from the previous program years by having only one week this time.

There have been several changes to old projects, and there are a couple of new ones. Livestock solutions is one that will be good to look at.

Hay storage barns are back in for this year, and hay equipment will be out. The plan is to alternate these two projects every other year going forward.

There are some reductions of the caps on about all of the projects this year as compared to previous years. But the amounts are still helpful.

I will let readers know when the booklets are available or when the online version is ready at the Tennessee Department of Agriculture website.

USDA PROGRAMS

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers and ranchers that the deadline to apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) is Sept. 11, 2020. This program provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19.

There were some changes from the original version to include all sheep for those operations that raise lambs. There were also some specialty crops added, but very few of them are raised in our part of the world on a large commercial basis.

This CFAP program has been an important aid to our farmers, with nearly \$2 million dollars paid directly to our county to help offset loss of value of crops and livestock caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to interruptions in marketing.

PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION

This is the last call for anyone who holds a pesticide private applicator certification with Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). Those certifications will expire on September 30.

I am having some recertification meetings for trainings that are required. I sent out a letter to those identified by TDA as farmers with this certification.

If you are a Bedford County farmer with a private applicator card and have not called me to sign up for the training, you need to call me this week for dates and times available.

WISDOM

Not many people remember fall harvests like my generation. We used to have fall festivals or harvest festivals in the communities and schools to celebrate the end of the growing season and the gathering of the crops. I remember schools gathering cotton from the sides of the roads in one of the counties I worked in to raise money for supplies and extracurricular activities.

Harvest is the payday for farmers and their families who have worked hard all year to plant, cultivate and take in the final products for sale to have income, or store for animals and the family to eat on during the next year's food comes in. It's a time of reflection, that's why Thanksgiving is during the season.

The September issue of Progressive Farmer has some good quotes in the Cornerstones section on harvesting. Some of these are metaphors on life in general, though. Thought-provoking ideas.

David Bly said "Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted." Benjamin Franklin said "If you would reap praise, you must sow the Seeds, gentle Words and useful Deeds." Robert Louis Stevenson said "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." William Blake said "The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest."

Ella Wheeler Wilcox said "With every deed you are sowing a seed, though the harvest you may not see." Cicero said "The harvest of old age is the recollection and abundance of blessing previously secured." Jeff Olson said "You plant, then you cultivate, and finally you harvest. Plant, cultivate, harvest. In today's world, everyone wants to go directly from plant to harvest."

Think about it.