

**AG NOTES**  
By John Teague  
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**FARMERS MARKET**

We're still going strong. Had seven vendors last week, and the produce is good quality. Okra is in big, and now we have sweet potatoes, along with tomatoes and other stuff. We see a switch to fall cool season vegetables coming in.

We are at the Farmers Market Pavilion next to the big blue water tower at the Celebration Grounds. We are on Thursday afternoons at 2:30. Come out and support your local farmers.

**AG ENHANCEMENT**

This popular program for farmers who need cost-sharing funds to make major capital purchases have the first week of October 1-7 to apply. Application packets are now available here at the office at 2105 Midland Road in Shelbyville, and the information and link to apply is also on the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's website.

Standard cost-share is 35% for most projects. There is a 50% level for farmers who have completed various Master Producer Trainings as noted in the packets.

If you have questions on eligibility and project requirements, the details are in the packets or the website. I'll be glad to answer questions after you have read the materials at 931-684-5971 or by email at [jteague1@utk.edu](mailto:jteague1@utk.edu)

There's not much time left. Some of the projects require a valid Beef Quality Assurance certification. I have that training here at the office by appointment. Look at what you intend to apply for and determine the pre-application requirements.

**NEW WAYS**

The new Master Beef Producer Program for 2020-2021 has been announced, and a new Master Farm Manager was rolled out last week. Both of these are online this fall. Each program has its own schedule, and both are offered starting in October. Both of these will provide for 50% cost-share under the Ag Enhancement Program.

Pre-registration is required. Forms with instructions and fees are available. Contact me for more details at the above addresses.

**BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE**

The new way to do this training is online. It is available now. I have the links and the information. The Tennessee Cattlemen Association is the sponsor and the group that certifies the training. This is a good option. Contact me about the details.

**FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

This is a new version of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program announced today. It is referred to as CFAP2. This is for eligible livestock that were affected by market disruption throughout the year.

This funding is in addition to the payments that were made before. The new enrollment period is September 21 through December 11, 2020. Those who received funds earlier are eligible to apply for this program.

For more information, contact Farm Service Agency. The office that serves Bedford County is in Lewisburg, and the number is 931-359-6268. They are operating under USDA and CDC rules and request that clients call first to discuss the program and have forms sent for completion.

### **THE KIDS**

We spent some time last week with the boys. They have started a fall little league program, after the spring/summer one was canceled. They missed it, but this new program is good for 'em. They are enjoying the fun and reaction with others. There is so much more to sports than athletics.

Ford rotated between first base and shortstop. He can catch, throw and hit. And he's fast! His little squad won base running races at the end of practice twice, and he was the anchor runner and passed up his competition to win!

Hank's team got rained out, but he's on target. He got two hits in his last tournament, and he scored both times. He fielded some outfield hits and got the hitters out, and twice he kept the other team from going ahead in the scoring. They lost the championship game, but they still got rings, just like the pros! The kids were so proud of them, and so was I!

The boys are learning a lot of valuable lessons, in addition to their school and homework. They are at school in person two days, and at a school tutoring program three days. These kids are learning in ways that we adults have never had to cope with. It's tough, but they'll make it.

Piper is growing up on us. She's still a tiny thing and three years old, but she's got big people ways! The things she notices, the things she knows, the things she says, all are amazing. I get a kick out of her every time I see her. It makes every day a good day!

I'm blessed to be able to interact with the kids, whether it's a phone call or in person. And they know who Grandee is and that's important to them and to me. My legacy.

### **A MILESTONE**

According to my counting, this is Ag Notes 1,000. I started writing this column the first week of July, 2001. That's 19 years and three months. Not sure if Leap Years made any difference, but who's counting? I've never missed a week since. It's been a challenge at times, but I've always made it.

I have had so many people express positive comments on this article many times over the years. They spoke to me at the store, at church, at a ball game or where ever, and I appreciate it so much.

So, I'll keep on writing Ag Notes for a while longer.