

AG NOTES
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UT/TSU Extension
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TRAINING

Training is required for anyone who will be applying dicamba in 2021. This training is based on updated EPA regulations as of the date of training. There have been changes to the label and then more changes along the way. It is important to hear these changes and as I stated it is required.

There are five sessions. They are on Tuesday, March 23, at 10 AM, 1 PM or 6 PM. The remaining two sessions are on Wednesday, March 24, at 10 AM and 1 PM.

These sessions will last approximately one hour. Cost is \$25, payable to UT Extension. All sessions will be at the Extension Office, 2105 Midland Road, Shelbyville.

MORE TRAINING

Due to the pandemic, we have had to change the way we deliver training. There are good points and some things we would prefer to do differently, but that's the way it is for now.

The good sides are the availability of sessions that can be watched from home in the evening after work and the selection of topics that have been presented by specialists from all over the country. And we can serve hundreds of folks. Some of the larger classes have had nearly 900 participants.

Some of these online classes recorded. I can offer them to interested folks even after the series is over. I have two master beef classes that can be subscribed and these will be able to qualify those who complete them for the higher level of cost-share for the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program. There are new ones in other areas of interest that are being developed that will be delivered in much the same way.

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WHAT'S THE MARKET?

Drs. Andrew Griffith and Aaron Smith, livestock and crops economists with UT Extension, shared the following comments this past Friday.

For finished cattle ready for harvest, the 5-area weighted average prices through Thursday were \$113.59 live, down \$0.17 compared to last week and \$179.31 dressed, down \$0.48 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$109.35 live and \$174.20 dressed.

Based on Tennessee weekly auction market data, the price of steers and heifers was steady to \$5 higher compared to last week with the biggest gains on cattle weighing less than 600 pounds. Harvest cow prices were \$2 to \$5 lower compared to a week ago while bull prices were \$2 to \$4 lower than the previous week.

The number of stocker cattle buyers is increasing as the warm weather has resulted in cool season perennial pastures starting to green and grow. This trend will continue the next several weeks as spring and summer grazing operations look to fill pastures with lightweight cattle that will be efficient on grass and that will be ready for the feedlot in late summer or early fall.

Corn, cotton, soybeans, and wheat were down for the week. Volatility was one of the themes for this week's crop futures markets. Nearby cotton futures had a range of 6.47 cents, soybeans \$0.68, corn \$0.25, and wheat \$0.25. Swings of this magnitude can add stress to an already challenging decision of when to sell production.

Row crop prices have not been the only prices on the move this winter. Input prices have increased substantially. Fertilizer prices are up 8-56% depending on the product, diesel prices are up, and crop insurance premiums are up (higher protection which is good but an added up front cost). Also,

if you rent land on a share agreement, you should be anticipating paying more if yields cooperate and prices remain at current levels, adding more expenses.

In Tennessee, new crop cash corn prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$4.60 to \$5.06. December 2021 corn futures closed at \$4.78, down 3 cents since last Friday. In Tennessee, new crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$12.34 to \$12.98. November 2021 soy-bean futures closed at \$12.43, down 4 cents since last Friday. In Tennessee, new crop wheat cash contracts ranged from \$6.22 to \$6.72. July 2021 wheat futures closed at \$6.38, down 11 cents since last Friday.

THE KIDS

I had a piece about them lately, but I've got to share. Hank is learning so much, the real purpose of Little League. He's playing with older boys and he's having to fill in, but he's developing and Hank knows that it's good for him. He's playing second base, the outfield and he's relief catcher. He's really good on defense, and his bat is coming along.

Ford did something in his game Friday that I've never seen. He was playing second base. He caught a fly ball to make an out number one, tagged the runner coming from first to second and got caught in the run to make out number two, and then tagged the runner returning to second after his run to third got stopped to make out number three and retired the sides. He single-handedly made a triple play! His team the Pirates have a treasure chest as a spirit builder, and he got to take it home for the week, and he got the game ball!

Piper went to a cattle show with her daddy, and he taught how to use the hair blower to dry the bull's hair. And she was all into it. But her main thing was meeting another little girl across the aisle and making friends with her. And after the first meeting, she was with her new friend on and off for two days.

Good lessons in life. Friends, fun, effort, learning, loving each other.