

AG NOTES
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FARMERS MARKET

It was one of the biggest I can remember! Fifteen vendors, a great variety, and lots of customers. And our office featured in-season vegetables and had recipes and samples for the tasting.

The market's open Thursday afternoons at 2:30 pm til whenever. It's at the Pavilion on Celebration Drive next to the big blue water tower at the Celebration Grounds.

Come see us.

ARMYWORMS

Dr. Gary Bates, forage specialist with UT Extension, sent out this message Friday and I wanted to share this with our farmers.

"As I'm sure most of you are already aware, fall army worms are being reported over large parts of the state. Here is a link to the insect control guide. Look on page 61 for the pasture/hay recommendations for army worms."

<https://utbeef.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/127/2021/03/PB1768.pdf>

Also, Dr. Scott Stewart, director for the West Tennessee Education and Research Center and an entomologist by training, sent along some treatment recommendations for pastures and soybeans. His comments: "The fall armyworm flight is several weeks early, second, larval infestations have been unusually high, and third, for whatever reason, control with pyrethroid insecticides has been unusually poor (ranging from sometimes acceptable to a complete failure).

So far, West Tennessee appears worst affected, but this will probably change as the armyworms continue their 'march'. It almost goes without saying that bermudagrass pastures are at high risk. It's not every field, but some double-cropped soybean fields are heavily infested, and it's even worse where volunteer wheat or other grasses were present that attracted the moths.

Even bermudagrass lawns are being infested, and homeowners and landscapers need to be especially alert on newly sodded or seeded lawns (fall armyworms really love the tender new growth). What little sorghum that is out there, including sorghum Sudangrass, is also at risk. Options are more limited for homeowners trying to control armyworms in their lawns, refer to the following article from Mississippi State University, <http://extension.msstate.edu/publications/control-insect-pests-and-around-the-home-lawn>."

I'll be glad to share with anyone, just give me a call at 684-5971 or email me at jteague1@utk.edu. There are several options and too much to put here, but I'll be glad to send them on request.

Armyworms can show up literally in a matter of hours and devour a hay field or soybeans or many other crops in a relatively short time. When they are anywhere in the state, they can pop up anywhere and we've had them here in the past. Be on the lookout. I've attached a photo for identification.



Figure 3. Fall armyworm adult moth.

PASTURE/HAY

It's coming the recommended time (late August through September) to do the fall seeding of cool-season grasses. Dr. Bates, mentioned above, provided a link to the variety trial results. If you are considering seeding any of these species for hay or pasture, take a look at these.

<https://utbeef.tennessee.edu/forages-tennessee-variety-trials/>

GRAPE HARVEST

Ever wonder what to do with grapes? Here is an interesting opportunity. Rachel Painter, a co-worker in Rutherford County, has a grape harvest scheduled and she shared this as an invitation to take part.

“Please help me promote our upcoming Grape Harvest Day at the Rutherford County Extension office on August 28th from 7 am – 11 am (it gets hot in August in TN, so we start early!). Grape Harvest Day is always a fun way to get our community involved in harvesting the grapes in the vineyard at Lane Agripark, 315 John Rice Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN.

Participants can pick a lug of grapes (about the volume of a 5-gallon bucket) to take home a one-gallon jug of juice. We will have a hay ride to the vineyard from the barn building parking lot. Participants pick the grapes and then return to the pavilion area to see the entire process of destemming and pressing the juice.”

To take home juice, you must bring your own clean one-gallon container as containers will not be provided. Put this on your calendar. Please contact Rachel with any questions at rpainter@utk.edu or call the Rutherford County Extension office at 615-898-7710.