

**AG NOTES**  
**By John Teague**  
**UT/TSU Extension**  
**July 20, 2021**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responding to a significant plant health threat and needs your help. Please check your boxwood plants for the invasive and destructive box tree moth.

During the spring, a number of U.S. nurseries received potentially infested Canadian boxwood plants. This invasive pest feeds on the plants' leaves, and can cause complete defoliation, eventually killing the plant.

Many Tennessee residents have already purchased and planted these boxwoods. If you bought one, you may have infested boxwood on your property. USDA wants to prevent the box tree moth from spreading and establishing itself in the State and beyond.

If you bought a boxwood plant during spring 2021, please inspect it for signs of the moth and report any findings to Bedford County Extension at 684-5971 or the Tennessee Department of Agriculture at <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture.html>

If State or Federal agriculture officials visit your home, please allow them to inspect your boxwood trees and place an insect trap. Box tree moths can produce several generations between June and October, so acting now is essential to prevent this pest from establishing itself in Tennessee.

Again, if you purchased any boxwood plants this year, please check them. I have attached photos of the larvae feeding on leaves and an adult. There are other photos of eggs, pupae and a new adult with a darker color but the same general markings

Let's be on the lookout for these pests.





### **BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR**

It's going on this week. There are rides, food, cattle, sheep, goats, dogs, plants, tractor pulls, horse shows, mules, donkeys, exhibits, entertainment, plenty of parking, a shuttle, prizes, live music and singing, events for the little ones, tournaments, and more!

This is a volunteer-led fair, and many community folks have worked hard to put on the fair. This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> fair in 23 years, and it has been an asset to the community. Come and enjoy yourself and support this community event.

Our Extension staff is heavily involved in this event, and we all spend a lot of time helping with these events. So, if you need us, call the office and leave a message, and we'll get back to you. Or send us an email and we'll check it regularly and make contact back with you.

### **FARMERS MARKET**

Last week the market was one of the biggest ever. We had fourteen vendors and a big turnout of customers. We had corn, tomatoes, squash, zucchini, cucumbers, canned goods done in a commercial kitchen, baked goods, honey, kettle corn, and some recipes with samples from our office. Come on out and visit with our local vendors and help yourself. The market is on Thursday afternoons at 2:30 pm at the pavilion on Celebration Drive next to the big blue water tower.

To clear up a comment left on our Facebook page, there is no fee to park. While we are on the Celebration Grounds, the signs on the gates are for the horse show only. We do not and have never charged for parking. Nor do we charge admission. And we don't charge the vendors to set up. This is a community service coordinated by the UT/TSU Extension staff. Our only rule is no early sales. You are welcome to come and view the market as the vendors set up, but the market opens for business at 2:30 pm.