

AG NOTES
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FARMERS MARKET

The market has been really good. We've had fifteen to sixteen vendors every week so far. The selection is really good for vegetables, baked goods, honey, country eggs, jams and jellies, and some canned foods that are done in a commercial kitchen. We even have had popcorn that folks stand in line for.

Come see the market and visit with the vendors on Thursday afternoons at the pavilion next to the big blue water tower at the Celebration Grounds. We start the market at 2:30 pm with no early sales.

WHAT'S THE MARKET?

Drs. Andrew Griffith, UT Extension livestock economist, shared these comments on the markets for last week. If I have any I'll make mine in brackets.

Fed cattle traded mainly steady compared to last week on a live basis. Prices on a live basis were primarily \$122 to \$123 while dressed prices were mostly \$199 to \$201. The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$122.84 live, down \$0.85 compared to last week and \$200.16 dressed, up \$1.98 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$104.49 live and \$168.06 dressed.

Based on Tennessee weekly auction market data, steer and heifer prices were steady to \$3 lower compared to a week ago. Harvest cow prices were steady to \$3 lower while harvest bull prices were steady to \$1 lower compared to the previous week.

Feeder cattle producers in the South have been rapidly marketing cattle, which is helping to re-load feedlot pens in cattle feeding country. Several more head are expected to be traded in the next four to six weeks. (This will be before the seasonal heavy run of spring calves sold in the fall sales and the pressure toward lower prices.)

Corn, cotton, soybeans, and wheat were up for the week. On August 12, the USDA released updated yield estimates for corn, soybeans, cotton, and wheat. The survey-based estimates for the U.S. (Tennessee) were 174.6 bu/acre (173 bu/acre) for corn, 51.8 bu/acre (74 bu/acre) for wheat, 50 bu/acre (49 bu/acre) for soybeans, and 794 lb/acre (1,031 lb/acre) for upland cotton. Compared to last year, U.S. corn production was estimated up 4% at 14.8 billion bushels, soybean production up 5% at 4.34 billion bushels, and cotton production up 18% at 17.3 million bales. Winter wheat production was estimated down 3% from the July forecast at 1.32 billion bushels.

Overall markets reacted positively to the Crop Production and WASDE reports. December corn was up 14 cents for the day, November soybeans up 1 cent, September wheat up 26 ½ cents, and December cotton up 2.10 cents. Looking forward, markets will now focus on end-of-growing season and harvest weather, South American planting, and export sales, particularly to China.

FORESTRY FIELD DAY

The Tennessee Forestry Association is holding a field day at the Van Ayers Family Farm at 2785 Hwy 41A and the intersection of Normandy Road. The field day will be this Saturday, August 21, from 9am to 1 pm. This event is sponsored by the Duck River and Elk River Watersheds Initiative.

Topics will include white oak management, marketing timber, niche markets and cost share programs. This meeting is free but registration is requested by August 19 to allow for enough food for

lunch. Call 615-883-3832 to register. Those registered will be eligible for chainsaw door prizes. Families are invited to attend with activities planned for the younger ones.

This should be a good meeting to those who have forest lands or those who would like to know more about timber management.

UPDATED

We've got a new and good update to a publication that's been around for some time, but this was reworked and released this past June. It is the new version of Disease and Insect Control in Home Fruit Plantings, Publication 1622. This one includes pictures to go along with the treatment timing.

I get a lot of calls about apples, pears and peaches. This publication includes apples and pears, peaches, plums and cherries, grapes, strawberries, blueberries, blackberries and raspberries. The booklet has been rewritten and updated on recommendations for treatments by a really top team of entomologists, plant pathology specialists, and production specialists at UT that I highly recommend. The link to the publication is <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1622.pdf>

Contact me at 684-5971 or by email at jteague1@utk.edu for help in getting a copy if you have trouble in getting this publication.

WISDOM

Most folks know I am an advocate for farmers and agriculture. I'll always be on the side of farmers and agriculture. If you eat, you're involved in agriculture. For that, you have to thank a farmer. And I don't apologize for my stand for farmers.

Here are some good quotes on farmers from the Progressive Farmer magazine's Cornerstone section in the summer issue. This one is full. Here are some good ones.

Andy Warhol said "I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own." Thomas Jefferson said "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness."

Will Rogers said "The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer." George Washington said "Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man." Booker T. Washington said "No race can prosper until it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem."

Masanobu Fukuoka said "The ultimate goal is not the growing of crops, but the perfection of human beings." Daniel Webster said "When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization."

Think about it.