

AG NOTES
By John Teague
UT/TSU Extension
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PROGRAM REMINDERS

There are some very good online programs coming after the first of the year. Registrations are open now so I'm going to keep reminding farmers of the opportunities.

FARMING FUNDAMENTALS

Dr. Charley Martinez has announced the Farming Fundamentals series is launched and open for registration. The link to the website is below and there is the description of the series.

<https://arec.tennessee.edu/extension/farming-fundamentals/> The link to the registration site is on the website.

This series is in a different format. There are five videos that are required and four that are optional to pick out three. This series was designed by the Ag Economics Department to help beginning farmers.

Topics include Financial Statements, Taxes, Farming Foundations, Business Actions, Livestock Basics, Specialty Crops, Value Added, and Crops. This series is available to help beginning farmers meet the requirements for the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program. The cost is \$100 for the series. Details are on the website and the registration site.

MASTER FARM MANAGER

A new version of the manager series is now ready for registration. The Master Farm Manager Course will utilize a hybrid method, with both prerecorded videos and live Zoom webinars. Eight sessions must be completed to receive a certificate.

There are five live sessions and three recorded sessions. This series is very popular, and there are new additions to the topics. Dates, speakers, registration information and costs are given on the website <https://arec.tennessee.edu/extension/manage/tennessee-master-farm-manager/>

Deadline is January 15 for mail-in and January 25 for online. This series will qualify for 50% reimbursement with Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program for several projects listed on the flyer.

MASTER HORSE

Based on the positive response from participants and agents to the last TMHP, we are planning another state coordinated hybrid program that will run from January - March 2022. The program will contain the following contents: 12 virtual sessions from 7-8:30pm on Thursdays from January 13-March 31, 2022, one admission to the Horse Management Field Day (held regionally), one TMHP manual (main manual plus additional supplements), one forage or soil test, Google Classroom access from January - June 2022, and certificate and TMHP promotional items upon completion.

The early bird registration cost is \$165 and is open now until December 31, 2021. Late registration costs \$190 and will run from January 1-January 14, 2022. Registration is open to individuals 15 years of age or over.

A schedule, additional details, and the online registration link can be found at <https://uthorse.tennessee.edu/tennessee-master-horse-program/> or in the Programs tab at UTHorse.com.

LANDSCAPING COURSE

The 2022 Landscape Short Course will be held January 11th and 12th @ the Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane, Suite 200 Franklin, TN 37064. We will also be offering a virtual option for those who cannot attend in person.

Fee for the class will be \$100 for virtual attendees (via Zoom) and \$125 for those planning to attend in-person. Lunch and snacks will be provided both days for those joining on site. Registration and more information: <https://williamson.tennessee.edu/landscape-short-course/> Pesticide points will be awarded in Categories 2 (January 11 only), 3, 10 and 12.

BARNs AND BIRTHs

I've always been comfortable in a barn. I milked when I was three, and it was love for animals from that point. My Teague grandparents taught me about animals. Precious memories.

It's the most fascinating thing to me, the whole process of livestock reproduction, genetics, feeding, caring, etc. My college education is in animal husbandry. I never wanted to do anything else but raise livestock.

My family knows that it is one thing that I enjoy a lot. Some of my most peaceful times have been at the barn. Observing a quiet birth, watching a baby nurse, listening to the animals eat and watching for them to chew their cud. It's what I do.

I wasn't born in a barn, but I heard about somebody who was. He was arguably the most influential person in the history of the world and still is at the center of focus, some for and some against. He lived for a time with animals such as a donkey and sheep and goats. His first visitors were farmers. Some kings were the last ones. Goes to show you who ranks in importance, the ones who feed others!

For some of us, it's a peaceful time. For the rest of the world, maybe not so much. A busy time, sometimes too busy, but there's some real peace in the middle of it all. I can go to the barn and at least for a time, I can get real peace.

Our Extension staff wishes you a peaceful time. Listen for it, look for it, live it, enjoy it.