

AG NOTES
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MASTER CLASSES

The UT Animal Science Department has announced its Master Small Ruminant Producer series for the Spring of 2022. This looks to be a really good lineup of topics and speakers.

Quality assurance, health management, reproduction, genetics, lamb and kid management, nutrition, marketing, forage management, carcass characteristics, and parasite management are all covered in these sessions.

The speakers are experts in these areas, and the information is valuable to those who are new to the small ruminant area and for those who have been involved for a long time. There is something for everyone who wants to learn.

The webinars run on each Thursday from February 10 to April 7, with one final session on Tuesday April 12. The time for these ten sessions is 5:30 til 7:00 pm each evening. The cost covers class materials and certificate of completion and inclusion in the Master Producer database.

For more information and the details for registering, contact me at 931-684-5971 or email me at jteague1@utk.edu.

ANOTHER CLASS

The Animal Science Department also announced the Spring 2022 Master Beef Producers series. These ten sessions will cover pertinent topics for beef producers. Speakers from across the country are featured.

The webinars will be at 11:00 am to 12:00 noon for one hour each, with recordings for those that miss them. Dates are February 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, March 1, 3, 8, and 10. Cost will include class materials and certificate of completion and inclusion in the Master Producer database.

Again, for details and to register, contact me.

HORSE SESSION

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture is planning an in-person field days focused on horse management. Presentations and hands-on educational materials will be of interest for equine owners of all experience levels.

Presentations will be provided by faculty from UT's Department of Animal Science, UT Extension and the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. The topics this year will focus on estimating body weight, forage analysis and evaluation, and how to properly fit tack and equipment. Trending topics in the equine industry will also be discussed with a Q and A session.

The date for Middle Tennessee is Tuesday, February 15, at 5 p.m. CST at the Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center, 1000 Main Entrance Drive, Spring Hill.

The event will include dinner and is open to the public. All ages are welcome to attend. University COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed. Pre-registration is open until February 6, 2022, and is \$5 per person, which includes dinner. Additional information and registration can be found online at tiny.utk.edu/2022hmfd or you can contact me. Late and on-site registration is permitted for \$10 per person.

Events will be held indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. Indoor locations will be used in the event of inclement weather.

STATE VET

Here is a shortened message from Dr. Samantha Beatty, Tennessee State Veterinarian, for poultry owners concerning the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza in North and South Carolina in wild ducks. While that's a distance away, this disease can be anywhere in a short time with wild fowl. It is greatly important here with the many home flocks as we have, and the large commercial operations that are in our area. We all need to follow her advice in her message below.

"I would like to bring your awareness to an announcement by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in a wild duck in South Carolina.

Poultry owners are encouraged to visit [USDA APHIS | Defend The Flock Program](#) for resources on ways to enhance biosecurity. There are also resources to aid in awareness of concerning signs symptoms that poultry owners will want to be aware of and how to report suspicious signs.

I would like to emphasize the importance of biosecurity. Backyard poultry are typically housed in a fashion that allows for more exposure to wild birds. Please take an opportunity to review biosecurity resources on the [Defend the Flock](#) link.

If you have questions about improving biosecurity, please contact us at 615-837-5120 and we will discuss principles and if you need further assistance, can put you in touch with one of our field staff or your local UT Extension Agent. The best defense against this disease is a good offense!

If owners have instances of large numbers of birds experiencing high morbidity and mortality and/or symptoms consistent with Avian Influenza, please contact the state veterinarian's office at 615-837-51290 for guidance and testing assistance."