

AG NOTES
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GRAIN CONFERENCE

This is a reminder for row crop farmers about the Middle Tennessee Grain Conference which will be held Tuesday, February 1, at the UT Space Institute at Tullahoma. The conference will open for check-in at 7:30 am, and the sessions will begin at 8:30. The address is 411 B. H. Goethert Parkway, Tullahoma.

The doors open at 7:30 a.m. for check-in and the sessions will start at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided at 12:15.

The opening session will begin with an update on the Master Row Crop Producer program, a discussion on the Wine and Spirits industry and the spent by-products, a Tennessee Corn Producers Board update, and the same from the Tennessee Soybean Council.

Other topics to be presented include carbon credits, controlling diseases and mycotoxins in corn, the economics of storage bins versus bags, and grass and vine control in corn. Dicamba-resistant pigweed management in soybeans will be discussed. Farm transition planning and will be presented.

Corn and soybean fertility research and resources will be covered, as well as implementation of nutrient loss reduction strategy. Fertilizer market updates and futuristic farming technology will be discussed.

The registration fee for the grain conference is \$10, and can be paid at the Bedford County Extension office at 2105 Midland road. Registration can be paid at the door as well. However, please call the extension office at 684-5971 and let us know if you are attending to help with the meal planning.

Dicamba and Parquat recertification will be held on site. The \$25 fee for this training will be collected at the conference site.

CONCERNS

Here is another reminder of a free program to address issues with fertilizer prices. It's free, and it's tonight.

Farmers have been hit with fertilizer prices that have tripled since last year. This is a big topic of conversation with them on what to do in the face of making crop decisions, whether the crop a row crop or pasture or hay.

There will be a free webinar featuring four UT specialists that are well-versed in this dilemma and are coming together with information that can be of help. Dr. Shawn Hawkins is an expert in animal waste management and land application of animal waste.

Dr. Lori Duncan is trained in precision fertilizer application and works on sustainable production cropping systems. She is also the coordinator of the master row crop program.

Dr. Aaron Smith is a well-known crop economist, and he is concerned with the dollars and cents involved and trying to help make sense of it all. He has a farm background himself and is widely appreciated for his comments.

Dr. Neal Eash is a soil health expert and is well-versed in soil management. He has good information to share on this topic.

The webinar is tonight, January 25 from 6-8 pm CST. Registration is required so that you can have access online. The link to register can be found at tiny.utk.edu/fertilizer, or if you have trouble, contact me by email at jteague1@utk.edu and I can forward you the exact link to the registration page.

This will be a good meeting to address a very serious issue. I encourage farmers to tune in.

SEVERAL MASTER MEETINGS

I have information on several of the Master Producer sessions getting started in a short time. The Farm Manager, the Master Small Ruminant, the Master Beef Producer, Master Row Crop, Master Backyard Poultry, Master Commercial Poultry, all of these are coming up shortly. Some of them have defined their dates, times, fees, and registration sites. Others are getting set up and still others are loading up their sessions on their sites.

If you have a specific request for information, send me an email to jteague1@utk.edu and I'll get back with you. The Small Ruminant is one that is coming up shortly but having some difficulty in getting a registration process completed, but I think it's going to be ready by midweek, I hope.

I'm also making plans to have an in-person basic beef producer meeting. I'll announce those plans when they are complete.

GARDENING

I recently put together a list of vegetable garden publications that we have available. This is a list of titles and links that are found in the Residential and Consumer Horticulture section in our UT Publication catalogue. There are thirty-two on this list.

I'll be happy to share this to anyone interested, so send me an email and I'll be glad to send these to you.