

AG NOTES
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CATTLE HEALTH ALERT

The state veterinarian is announcing detection of *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda in a herd of cattle in Middle Tennessee. *Theileria* is a tickborne parasite that infects red and white blood cells and causes severe anemia in cattle. There is no vaccine to prevent the illness or effective treatment. Once an animal is infected, it is a carrier for life. The affected herd in Maury County showed signs of illness and lethargy, and despite veterinary attention and antibiotic treatments, ultimately some animals died.

Theileria is not a threat to human health. Humans cannot become sick from contact with affected cattle, and consuming meat from affected cattle is safe provided the meat has been cooked to an appropriate temperature. “The Asian longhorned tick is a common vector for this illness,” State Veterinarian Dr. Samantha Beaty said. “Although we have not yet confirmed the presence of ALT in Maury County, we know it’s already taken hold in several other Tennessee counties and will continue to spread. Cattle producers should take steps to protect their herds.”

Producers can minimize risk by keeping cattle out of wooded areas and keeping pastures mowed short, particularly pastures that border woods. Producers should also regularly inspect cattle for ticks, use varying types of acaricides (ear tags, pours, back rubbers, etc.), use a clean needle for every injection, and notify a veterinarian if cattle show signs of lethargy or illness.

In partnership with the University of Tennessee and Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Lab, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture is collecting tick and blood samples from cattle to help identify the presence of the Asian longhorned tick and *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda in Tennessee.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is testing blood samples for *Theileria* for free until July 29, 2022. Results are available to producers upon request. Information gathered will be used to create county-level maps of tick and *Theileria* spread. Farm and ownership information will not be shared with the public.

If you would like to submit tick samples for identification or blood samples for *Theileria* testing, please contact the State Veterinarian’s office at 615-837-5120 or Animal.health@tn.gov for more information. (Released by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.)

NOTE: The issue here is the potential for the parasite spreading throughout the Asian longhorned tick (ALHT) population and that particular population of ticks getting here and growing and spreading in Bedford County. There is a possibility that part of the herd that was diagnosed with this *Theileria* was purchased in another part of Tennessee where the tick population has been identified.

We need to keep up our management of our cattle herd here at a high standard and use the products mentioned above to help protect our animals from ticks in general. We also need to keep up surveillance for ticks and try to identify them in our efforts to keep the ALHT from entering our herds. When buying cattle, know where they came from, observe that they are in good health and free from ticks and such, and it is always good to isolate them before allowing them to enter the herd.

I have more information available. Send me an email and I will be glad to share UT and TDA information. I will also be sending it to those who receive the weekly email newsletter.

There is no mention of this disease in other species.

FARMERS MARKET

Still no word from the vendors about being able to supply the Farmers Market with any volume. We are still contacting our vendors from the past and will try to open soon.

WISDOM

Father's Day is coming up. Mother's Day was a few weeks ago. These days are special to me, especially that my Daddy passed on Father's Day a few years ago. And my Mother followed him just seven weeks later, during the Bedford County Fair that year. They both were very important to us.

Family has always been a priority for us. We talk to our children almost daily, regardless of where they are, and we keep in contact with our grandchildren. They have always known that Meme and Grandee hold them special, and we love to share ourselves with them.

One of my sisters had a birthday last week, and we surprised her with a creek-side party this weekend. A big picnic and wading in the water and just enjoying each other does wonders for all of the generations, us older ones and the younger ones, too. All of our Teague clan was there.

I have an old issue of Progressive Farmer magazine with its Cornerstone section on family. I read all of these quotes from a lot of people and there are some good ones. But there are two I like a lot. Walt Disney said "Life is beautiful. It's about giving. It's about family." Michael J. Fox said "Family is not an important thing. It's everything."

Think about it.