

AG NOTES
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FARMERS MARKET

It was hot, but it was good.! We had eleven vendors last week for the opening of the market for the season. There was corn, squash, beans, peas, leafy vegetables, potatoes, tomatoes, mushrooms (that's right, we have a vendor with mushrooms!), and eggs.

Our vendors are all from the area, and all of our stuff is locally grown or baked. We'll be open each Thursday afternoon, with sales starting at 2:30 pm. The market is located at the Celebration Grounds in Shelbyville next to the big blue water tower.

Come see us.

BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR

There will be a lot going on at the Bedford County Fair. We will actually be setting up this week. We'll take in entries into the exhibit categories on Sunday, July 17, from 1-5 pm. We have fair catalogues at the office with the various departments available to enter. And there is a full schedule of events in the fair book, so come by and pick one up.

The shows are packed. The dairy show is Monday, July 18, and starts at 5 pm. The 4-H Chick Chain pullets will be judged on Monday during the day and awards will be announced at 5:30 pm, and the pullets will be sold at 6 pm. Most will be laying eggs by then.

The official opening ceremony is at 6 pm, and the youth competition will begin at 7:30. This is a fun event for the young competitors. The free entertainment will feature Billy and Mary Tarkington, and they start at 7:30.

Tuesday at the fair will feature the beef cattle shoe at 6 pm, and a change for this year is that all of the beef cattle will be there on that day. In the past, this show was split with some on Tuesday and some on Thursday. There will be a pageant at 7 pm and a hat contest at 7:30. Check the fair book for details on these events.

Wednesday is a busy day at the fair. It's senior citizen's day, youth day, entry day for the large poultry and rabbit show, a fund dog show, a cornhole tournament, and a faith/patriotic music fest with area choirs. Again, check the fair book for details.

Thursday is the day for our special needs friends to visit during the day. Then at 6 pm, the smoker trucks and tractors will have their pulling contest. Also, there is a crowing contest for both real roosters and humans. This is a new event, and it's sure to be hilarious. The cloggers will perform at 7 pm, the junior mule skinnners will be a 7:30, and karaoke is at 8 pm.

Friday the sheep show is at 6 pm, the mini pull is at 7, the entertainment will feature Double Shot 7 pm, the pleasure horse show is at 7 pm, and more entertainment from Justin Williams at 8 pm.

Saturday the miniature donkeys will show at 9:30 am, the antique tractors will pull at 1 pm, the goats will show at 3 pm, the poultry and rabbit awards will be passed out at 6:30 pm. Jaysen Gold is the entertainment at 7 pm, the mules will show at 7 pm, and Phil Valdez and band is the featured entertainment for the evening at 8:30 pm.

What about the carnival rides? They will be in operation starting at 6 pm on Tuesday and every day through Friday, and then they'll open at 3 pm on Saturday.

Food is available from a large number of vendors. And it is a good selection of stuff. You can find all kinds of good food to eat.

This is a good time to celebrate, so come on out to the Bedford County Fair. I'll be there.

NITRATES

There have been some questions about nitrate toxicity in some of our stressed forages. I'm sharing some info from some of the universities on the matter. From North Dakota: Nitrate toxicity is a potential issue for livestock consuming small-grain forages (wheat, oats, rye, triticale and barley), brassicas, millet, sorghum and sudangrass, and standing corn or corn used for hay. Although nitrates typically are not an issue on rangelands, pastures with nitrate-accumulating weeds such as kochia, lambsquarters, pigweed, quackgrass and thistle also may be a problem. Nitrate toxicity is most commonly a problem in ruminants, with cattle more susceptible than sheep.

What do we do about it? I'm not so concerned if no manure or fertilizers were applied. But regardless, I can screen it to determine the presence. Here is the simple process: Random selection, cut at the ground, 20 stems, split the first joint, test em all.

Call me at 684-5971 to discuss it, or send me an email to jteague1@utk.edu Remember, I'll be busy with the fair for the next two weeks, but I'll get back to you.