

AG NOTES
By John Teague
UT/TSU Extension
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FARMERS MARKET

The market had 13 vendors for the second week with more coming. Quality produce is available in pretty good supply. The market is on Thursday afternoons with sales starting at 2:30 pm. The market is located at the pavilion next to the big blue water tower at the Celebration Grounds in Shelbyville.

BEDFORD COUNTY FAIR

The fair started yesterday, but there is a whole lot more coming up. Here is the schedule for the rest of the week.

Tuesday at the fair will feature the beef cattle show 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.

TAEP REMINDER

Final Reimbursement Deadline for FY22 Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program (TAEP) is August 1st. If you have a pending project reimbursement request, please make sure you send the request for reimbursement by a confirmed mailing postmarked before August 1 or hand deliver to the TAEP Office at TN Department of Ag or upload to the TAEP Account Portal asap. Emailing, faxing, or texting reimbursement requests are not allowed.

CROP COMMENTS

Dr. Aaron Smith, crop analyst with UT Extension's Ag Economics Department, shared these comments.

On July 12, the U.S. Drought Monitor indicated 64% of Tennessee was abnormally dry, including 39% in moderate drought and 3% in severe drought. West Tennessee has been the hardest hit region in the state.

Many crop producers will have some tough decisions to make moving forward. A couple of questions to consider are: what is the base level of protection that is provided by your crop insurance policy? what is invested in the crop and what will be needed to bring the crop to market? what are my current production estimates? and how much production is currently priced?

Communication with your crop insurance agent during a drought is essential. Before any decision is finalized, a discussion with your crop insurance agent should occur to avoid voiding potential indemnity payments due to non-compliance with crop insurance policy provisions.

Knowing the revenue guarantee and yield that will result in indemnity payments for each insured unit is critical. For example, for corn, \$5.90 (projected price) x 175 (APH) x 75% provides a revenue guarantee of \$774/acre.

The December futures contract is currently \$5.96 meaning, at current prices, the yield trigger (the yield where indemnity payments would commence) would be 130 bu/acre. This base level crop insurance protection should be considered when evaluating current and future market-based transactions.

(We are starting to get some rain, but is it enough? Will it continue? What about outside influences in the market? Farmers live with so much uncertainty. See below. JKT)

CROP DAMAGE

I've attached a photo of corn that shows the damage done by the hot and dry weather to corn. These ears were given to me by a local farmer. When temperatures hit the highs that we have seen, coupled with dry conditions that we have seen, the pollination is interrupted and the kernels that were pollinated will not have enough moisture to fill out.

The ear on the left is somewhat normal but small, the second one is not completely filled out, the third one is not fully pollinated, and the one on the right is almost completely not pollinated, with only eleven kernels showing. All are in the dent stage, and maturity is fast approaching.

The crop is full of this damage. Hard to make a living this way.

