

AG NOTES
By John Teague
UT/TSU Extension
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FARMERS MARKET

We are open on Thursday afternoons now. Sales start at 2:30 pm. Last week we had thirteen vendors, and others have called about coming as well. The vegetables are in with relatively good supply and quality.

Come by the pavilion at the Celebration Grounds next to the big blue water tower.

WEBINAR

Here is an opportunity to view a discussion of the new disease found in a Tennessee cattle herd. This one is carried by the Asian Longhorn tick, an invasive exotic pest first found in the United States in 2017. Since then, it has spread to 17 states ranging from the South all the way up through the East Coast. The tick is extremely mobile, spreading to new locations by attaching to people, birds, pets and wild animals, however, it can survive for up to a year in the environment without attaching to a host. Because it is smaller than a sesame seed, it is also difficult to detect. The tick is extremely aggressive and can cause stress and severe blood loss in cattle.

The tick also carries diseases such as bovine Theileriosis, a disease that causes anemia, failure to grow (ill-thrift), persistent infection, reproductive problems, and in some cases, death. There is currently no approved treatment against *Theileria orientalis*, leaving cattle at risk

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association is hosting a two-day webinar August 23-24 discussing this tick and this disease and it is open for interested parties.

I can share the free link if you will send me an email to jteague1@utk.edu

NEW COLLEGE CREDIT

In a unique agreement between the University of Tennessee Herbert College of Agriculture and UT Extension, which oversees the statewide Tennessee 4-H Program, senior level 4-H students can now apply for college credit in 10 project areas. The currently approved projects represent coursework in the Department of Animal Science or the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications.

"I am more than thrilled to be able to announce this new collaboration between our Herbert College of Agriculture and UT Extension, said Carrie Castille, senior vice chancellor and senior vice president of the UT Institute of Agriculture. "I believe this is the first time that the dedication and in-depth knowledge of our 4-H'ers has been recognized on the college level. As a 4-H'er in my youth, I can tell you that every acknowledgment is valued as students launch their academic careers."

"Of course, the students must reach certain benchmarks within each project," says Ashley Stokes, dean of UT Extension. "We are working to add to the number of projects for which students can receive credit, but we must ensure the academic integrity of each college course and ensure that the 4-H project objectives and accomplishments line up with the college course requirements. Our faculty and specialists have worked collaboratively to make this innovative program possible."

Stokes expects the college credits to be available beginning Fall Semester 2022. We don't have the details just yet, but we expect them anytime. We'll announce them when we know more.

FARM MANAGEMENT

Times are tough on the farms right now. I know, I pay for feed and expenses like everybody else. And the weather has caused havoc on crops and forages, and I strongly suspect conception and pregnancy rates. I've had a call about heat-induced calf losses, crop pollination failures, and toxic drought-stressed forages.

The UT Extension Center of Farm Management will be holding free zoom sessions on farm management in the wake of drought conditions and difficult economic times. The dates and times are on August 9th and 11th @ 6:00pm CST/7:00pm EST.

The goal of the general sessions as well as the library of recorded videos is to discuss "what to do" or "what are my options" rather than "what is happening currently."

For example, on the topic of inflation, we want to discuss how to navigate rising inflation, not how inflation has increased over time. Our producers realize what is going on; that is why they are having questions and wanting to know what to do.

The library of videos will continue to be updated as deemed necessary and a resource for producers to access any time. A few questions and topics that will be available as recorded videos are inflation and living expenses, financial difficulty, culling strategies, impacts of rising interest rates, pricing and quality of corn silage and bean hay, tax implication and lender relationships, crop insurance, and marketing strategies for drought affected crops.

During these times, we know it is impossible to provide a solution that fits everyone's individual situation, but it is our goal with this series to provide them with resources and information that can allow them to make informed decisions as they sort through this uncertainty.

I will be glad to share the free registration link if you will send me an email to jteague1@utk.edu

THE KIDS

The kids were here last week for a trip to the fair. Ford joined Hank on some of the bigger rides this time, and Piper rode some new things that she was tall enough to ride this year. The laughs and giggles were constant! The boys helped me with my fair duties, and Piper had a good time having them around.

This week is special to the boys. They are at UT in Knoxville at baseball camp with the UT coaches and players! They are in baseball heaven!

I may have to go watch their games later in the week. I feel a road trip coming on!