

AG NOTES
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UT/TSU Extension
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FARMERS MARKET

The market will be open this week as usual. Come see the vendors at the pavilion next to the big blue water tower at the Celebration Grounds on Thursday afternoon at 2:30 pm.

AG ENHANCEMENT

The Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP) was established to provide cost share dollars to agricultural producers for the purpose of making long-term investments in Tennessee farms and communities. Participation allows producers to maximize farm profits, adapt to changing market situations, improve operation safety, increase farm efficiency, and make a positive economic impact in their communities.

The annual application period is October 1-7, 2022. New application materials are now available here at the Extension office at 2105 Midland Road. Please note Hay Storage and Hay Equipment rotate each program year, and Hay Storage will be offered in 2022-2023.

Approval notifications are scheduled to be mailed mid-December. Program purchases can be made starting October 1, 2022 and must be completed by the program's final reimbursement request deadline. Participants are encouraged to make purchases and submit reimbursement requests in a timely manner to avoid processing delays at deadline time. Payments are based upon expenses for eligible program items.

Programs include Dairy Solutions, Herd Health, Genetics, Row Crop Solutions, Hay Storage, Livestock Equipment, Livestock Solutions, Permanent Working Structures, Poultry Grower, and Producer Diversification. All of these programs are described in the TAEP packets or online at the TAEP website.

BLOAT AND SLOBBERS

I received an email about some hay that had been fed to a horse and the horse developed excessive slobbers. The hay had also been fed to some goats and they bloated. The hay grower had sold some hay to a sheep grower, and they had concerns about mycotoxins. Everybody was beginning to panic a bit. But there were other facts that we needed to know.

Here are more of the facts. The hay was orchardgrass and red clover. No one said anything about any mold or bad smelling hay. It also turns out that the goats had been ill and were not in the best condition to begin with.

First fact is that a lot of hay growers add red clover to the mix to help feed nitrogen to the grasses and to also add protein to the forages when fed to ruminant livestock. Red clover does cause excessive slobbers in horses and it is not recommended to feed horses such a mix. I've never heard that this causes colic in horses, but the slobbers are enough reason to not give it to horses. This is a normal reaction, but not one of extreme concern.

For ruminant livestock such as cattle, sheep and goats, such hay with the red clover can be fed in moderation and is a good feed. The problem for bloat exists due to the sudden change in the gut microbial populations that break down the clovers for the benefit of the animal, and this leads to a build-up of gases in the digestive tract. Coupled with the goats existing condition, this red clover was a case of too much of a good thing all at once.

The sheep that was fed this same hay did not react unfavorably, but the caution of the grower to the complaints caused the shepherd to stop feeding it. After checking with two ruminant nutritionists

about the mycotoxin concern they both agreed that this was probably not the issue since not mention of mold or off-smell.

My recommendation was to feed the hay with some caution but not panic.

WISDOM

Recently I got a call from our youngest child about a dog. All in our family have them, and we have had some really special ones along the way. A few of them are or were so special I'll never forget them. Bear, Millie, Rose, Kiwi, Sandy, Precious, Snowball, Booger to name a few. And there are others in the present as well.

Here are some quotes out of an old Progressive Farmer Cornerstones section. George Carlin said "What do dogs do on their day off? Can't lie around, that's their job!" Will Rogers said "If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."

Louis Sabin said "No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich." Robert Wagner said "A dog will teach you unconditional love. If you can have that in your life, things won't be too bad."

Gilda Radner said "I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me, they are the role model for being alive."

We've got two that are very elderly. One of them is having some real problems. So, these sayings are pretty meaningful to us right now.