

AG NOTES
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UT/TSU Extension
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TENNESSEE AG ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The days to apply are here. October 1-7, not before and not after. I have the application packets here for you to study. You can also go online to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's TAEP website to look at the projects available and you may also apply online.
<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/farms/taep.html>

Remember, you must have a current Beef Quality Assurance certification or Dairy Permit at the time of application if you are applying for any of the cattle-related projects. (This is not required for these same projects for small ruminants since there is not a quality assurance training program for those animals. It is a good idea to give vaccinations subcutaneously if possible and only in the neck muscle if need for that route. Calls for shorter needles 16/18 gauge, and I prefer 18 for small animals.)

This is noted in the packets or online. I can do the BQA training here, but we have to get it done during this week. There are not many days left. Contact me and we'll discuss a time to get it done.

Also, the application asks for the Tennessee Producer Number (TPN) and this has been assigned for applicants of prior years. New applicants will have one assigned during the process, so skip that part. For those who can't find this number in your old records, I have access to them and I can look it up during the upcoming week.

I'll be available for calls and emails throughout the week. I do have things on my calendar, but I will return calls as I come and go. Emails are a great way to get messages and replies. Keep in mind that the October 1 and 2 dates are this weekend, so if there is a problem I'll be available to help during the week.

TAEP BULL QUALIFICATIONS FOR FY22-23

This was released last week. The link is above for the online site of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's website under TAEP.

Note that the qualifications now include a breed specific index for maternal or terminal traits, or the standard weaning or yearling EPD (genomic or true NCE with minimum 15% accuracy depending on the cost-share level), plus calving ease EPD with accuracy. Milk and docility minimums are suggested, but not required.

This is different from previous years. Use the chart to help in your selection. If you have questions, I'll try to help.

MASTER BEEF PRODUCER

The fall series for Master Beef Producer will start on October 4. This will qualify folks for the 50% cost-share level. The qualification for Master Beef level is any certification since January 1, 2019. If you have not attended or participated in the MBP program since then, you need to enroll in this class. For those who have not had any MBP training, I will be having a face-to-face basic class this winter.

I have the registration form available so contact me and I send it to you, as well as a list of speakers and topics. If you miss any sessions, they are recorded and can be watched at any time.

This is a really good series. Contact me at 684-5971 if you would like this information and I can email it or send it to you. Once I receive the enrollment form and payment, I can share the link to the registration site and get you into the system. Don't miss this opportunity.

POULTRY ALERT

Here is a reminder of the Avian Influenza outbreak in west Tennessee. It is highly important and I wanted to repeat some of this information.

Due to the outbreak, Dr. Samantha Beaty, our state veterinarian, has issued this statement. "For now, any events where poultry can congregate are prohibited. That includes poultry shows, exhibitions, livestock sales, flea markets, and swap meets." This is a critical time. If you own poultry, it is advisable to keep them up to avoid contact with wild fowl of any kind.

Obviously, our concern here is not only the home flocks but our commercial operations as well. I'm sure that the complex management has issued biosecurity measures to follow. To put it simply, don't visit with each other, don't let others visit, don't let any birds of any kind have contact. Use protective clothing as suggested or directed.

Owners of backyard and commercial poultry flocks are encouraged to closely observe domesticated birds and report a sudden increase in the number of sick birds or bird deaths to the state veterinarian office by calling 615-837-5120 or by calling USDA at 1-866-536-7593. Our Extension office number is 931-684-5971 during hours of 8-4:30. Any other time, call the state or USDA number.

We have a good bit of information on security, and I'll be happy to share that on request. Just give me a call and I'll send it to you. Here is a link to some good biosecurity information located at the UT Animal Science Department website. <https://animalscience.tennessee.edu/avian-influenza/>

MASTER POULTRY PRODUCER

We also have the Master Commercial Poultry Producer series available. This is a virtual library with recorded videos that will qualify poultry operators for TAEP cost-share. I have the registration information available so contact me for the details. By phone or email and I'll discuss it with you.