

**AG NOTES**  
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**UT/TSU Extension**  
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**FARMERS MARKET**

We still have a small number of vendors to come to the market on Thursday afternoons. The market is at 2:30 or so at the pavilion next to the big blue water tower at the Celebration Grounds.

The number of vendors depends on their availability of produce and goods. It is hard to predict who will come and what they will have. The market has normally gone into October.

With the dry weather and the heat for the year, it has been very hard on these farmers. We appreciate your support and come by to see if they can continue to come out.

**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 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/>

**TENNESSEE AG ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

The days to apply are coming. 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.

Remember, you must have a current Beef Quality Assurance certification 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 in the next week. There are not many days left. Contact me and we'll discuss a time to get it done.

## **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 for the fall series and a list of the speakers and topics. 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.

## **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 for that. Contact me for the details.

## **THE KIDS**

Well, it's been a little while since I mentioned the kids. By the way, have I told you about my grandkids? They are absolutely grand, to say the least!

Hank and Ford are still playing baseball, both on travel teams. They are getting a good lesson in being humbled, but they are both learning skills, patience and sportsmanship.

They seem to have good days and not-so-good days on the field, and when you couple that with 10-12 other boys that are on and off, it is sometimes hard to win a game. But they are trying, and they still like to play.

Hank is trying middle school football, too. He's on a special team, playing safety on the punting team. He's having a good time learning the game and playing, even though his uniform doesn't get much dirt on it!

As for school, they are studying hard (most of the time) and grades are good (most of the time) (when they take their time to read the instructions). I wouldn't expect anything else out of two active boys!

Now as for Piper, she is in kindergarten, and she love it! She goes at everything wide open! Does her projects, is learning a bunch, and everything about it. She treasures her teachers, friends and classmates.

Piper loves going to the barn. This weekend she had to show me her two heifers, Delilah and Violet. She had to feed them while I was with her. They let her pet them on the head, so I feel like we're going to see her leading them around the barn with a halter and maybe show them someday in the coming year (I know she has led one of them already).

She is also really fond of her ponies and riding lessons on Veto. She is good at helping me feed the goats, and she is a kitten and dog wrangler! Wears Meme and me out just keeping up with her!

Kids, nothing better on the planet! Love 'em!