

AG NOTES
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December 13, 2022

FARMING FUNDAMENTALS

With the rise of many new and beginning farmers, we are excited to promote the Farming Fundamentals program offered by the Center of Farm Management! This program targets those who are new to farming and are looking to start a farm business/operation. As an added bonus, this program is also an accepted course for the Beginning Farmer option on the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program application.

This program can be delivered online. The online version can be accessed at any time, giving producers the flexibility to complete it at their own pace. It consists of 8 modules, each lasting roughly 1.5 hours long. Topics covered include: financial statements, taxes, farming foundations, business actions, livestock basics, specialty crops, value added and crops.

I have the information on registration to pass on to those interested. Give me a call at 684-5971 or send me an email to jteague1@utk.edu and I'll be glad to discuss this program and send the registration information.

GRAIN CONFERENCE

The upcoming Middle TN Grain Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31st at the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI), located at 411 B.H. Goethert Pkwy in Tullahoma, TN.

The Middle Tennessee Grain Conference offers some of the most practical insights and real-life solutions to emerging crop production issues, utilizing research and evidence-based data from the University of Tennessee and other land-grant colleges.

This conference is also home to one of the area's largest trade shows, showcasing dozens of industry professionals who are on hand to talk about what's new, efficient, and effective.

The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a welcome from a cast of statewide agricultural leaders including Matt Rearden with Nutrien Ag. Solutions, Carol Reed with TN Corn Promotion Council, and Stefan Maupin with TN Soybean Promotion Council.

Following the welcome, a slate of hand-picked breakout sessions are being offered covering topics such as "Weed Management a Year in Review: Vines in Corn, Grass, & Pigweed Management", "Update on the Latest Nitrogen Stabilizer Research", "Prices, Costs & Profitability: Where are Markets Headed & How Can Risk be Mitigated?", "New Advances in Technology: Utilizing Drones to Apply Pesticides & Micronutrients to Crops", "Farm Succession Planning", and many more.

For registration information, contact me at 684-5971 or send me an email at jteague1@utk.edu and I'll pass it on.

MASTER SMALL RUMINANT

The dates for the upcoming Master Small Ruminant webinar series will begin on February 2nd and continue on February 9, February 16, February 23, March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30, and April 4. The time will be from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm Central Time. Videos of each session will be available for those who may miss a live session. This is done in the convenience of home, and it is live and questions can be submitted. It will be led by

For those who applied for TAEP, we can get you certified for the Master level of funding in time for the equipment deadline. For those who are interested, this will certify you for the next three years as

a Master Small Ruminant Producer. I will have the registration information shortly, so if you are interested in this program, contact me at 684-5971 or by email.

The topics will cover reproduction, health, nutrition marketing, facilities, etc., and will feature guest speakers. I'm a fan of this program due to the wide range of topics, the speakers involved, and the convenience of the programs.

MORE PROGRAMS

I'll be announcing a few other programs shortly. I'll be having a basic master beef producer in-person class, estimated to be in or around February. I expect a spring master beef webinar series to be announced shortly. The master horse webinar will be coming up in the spring also.

Pesticide training will be a big focus this year. Recertification will require more training videos than before, and testing is required for the first time. I'll be doing that in the spring, before planting time.