

**AG NOTES**  
**By John Teague**  
**UT/TSU Extension**  
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**PROGRAMS**

I'll be sharing and reminding folks about the programs that are starting up. These are really good opportunities and I want everyone to have a chance to get enrolled in these really good webinars. I support them and will be enrolled in some of them as we go through them.

**MASTER HORSE OWNER**

Dr. Jennie Ivey has announced the 2023 version of Tennessee Master Horse Program (TMHP). It is a good series on topics important to horse owners. There will be guest horse specialists from over the country in addition to Dr. Ivey.

The schedule begins January 12 with a session on responsible horse ownership. On January 19 the session is on pasture management. This will be a good one. January 26 and February 2 will focus on nutrition. Dr. Ivey's specialty is forage based nutrition and this is a great discussion. February 9's session will cover economics and waste management.

Diseases and emergencies will be discussed on February 16. The February 23 session will be on parasites and dental care. March 2 session will focus on hoof care. March 9 session's focus is equine liability and insurance, and the last session on March 16 will be hot topics and graduation.

Early bird registration is \$165 and ends on December 31, 2022, and late registration runs from January 1-14, 2023 and costs \$195. Registration for the state TMHP includes access to all 10 webinars and the google classroom, a PDF of the TMHP Manual, a TMHP sign, a boot towel, and certificate upon completion, and one forage or soil test. Register today at [tiny.utk.edu/2023tmhp](https://tiny.utk.edu/2023tmhp)

Participants will also be registered for the Horse Management Field Day in our region at the Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center in Spring Hill. (More information on the field days will be sent in a separate email).

For questions, contact Dr. Ivey at [jzivey@utk.edu](mailto:jzivey@utk.edu) or contact me at 648-5971 or at [jteague1@utk.edu](mailto:jteague1@utk.edu)

**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](mailto:jteague1@utk.edu) and I'll be glad to discuss this program and send the registration information.

## **MASTER SMALL RUMINANT**

The dates for the upcoming Master Small Ruminant webinar series will begin on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **BORN IN A BARN**

I've shared this before. I still mean it and I feel strongly about it. Agriculture is important and its roots go back before anything else. I'll share it again.

I wasn't born in a barn, but I heard about somebody who was. He was arguably the most influential person in the history of the world and still is at the center of focus for many, some for and some against. He lived for a time with animals such as a donkey and sheep. His first visitors were farmers.

I've always been comfortable in a barn. I milked when I was three, and it was love for animals from that point. My Teague grandparents taught me about animals. Precious memories. It's the most fascinating thing to me, the whole process of livestock reproduction, genetics, feeding, caring, etc. My college education is in animal husbandry. My careers have been focused on agriculture. I never wanted to do anything else.

My most peaceful times have been at the barn. Observing a quiet birth, listening to them eat, watching a baby nurse, watching for them to chew their cud. It's what I do. I've always felt that you could learn a lot about character at the barn. I know some folks who hated it, and they couldn't wait to leave it, and that's ok for them, but it's my thing.

It's a peaceful time. A busy time, but there's some real peace. Listen for it, look for it, live it. After what we've been through and going through as a human race, we need it.

## **SCHEDULE**

As a branch of the University of Tennessee, we will be on their holiday schedule. We will be open the rest of this week, but we will be closed the week of December 26 through January 2. We'll check phone messages and emails, so if it can't wait, leave us a message.