



Hayfield Headlines

UT-TSU Extension, DeKalb County

722 S. Congress Blvd. ♦ Smithville, TN 37166 ♦ 615-597-4945

Agriculture Newsletter

Spring 2017

March is Extension Month

March is Extension Month in Tennessee. Extension is a national educational program supported by USDA through the nation's land-grant universities and administered with funding from state and local governments in Tennessee through offices in each of the state's 95 counties.

County Extension offices across the state are planning various celebrations and commemorations for the state's 107-year-old Extension program. Here in DeKalb County, the UT-TSU Extension office will be hosting a **Meet & Greet for the public on the sidewalk, directly in front of the Extension Office on Friday, March 24 from 11AM-1PM.** The office is located at 722 South Congress Blvd, Smithville in the County Complex. There will be various displays and information about what the Extension program offers as well as free hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks.

An integral part of the land-grant mission, Extension programs are delivered in all 95 counties of the state by subject-matter specialists, county agents and volunteers associated with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) and the Tennessee State University (TSU) College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences.

"UT Extension 'extends' the university's teaching and research missions to deliver research-based information and education to all the state's citizens through youth and adult programs in every county," said Dr. Delton Gerloff, interim dean of UT Extension. Dr. Latif Lighari oversees TSU Extension faculty as associate dean for Extension at TSU.

Tennessee Extension programs can be seen as an excellent investment of public resources. The statewide educational programs in 4-H youth development, agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, and community economic development are estimated to impact the state's economy by more than \$512 million from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. This amounts to a return of investment of \$8.03 for every \$1 in public funds invested in Tennessee Extension.

Please stop by on **March 24 from 11AM-1PM** and meet the staff during this time to find out more about what your local Extension Office has to offer.



Extension Month Meet & Greet

Friday, March 24, 2017

11AM-1PM

Join us for a sidewalk party!

Directly in front of the Extension Office



It's Spring on the Farm

"It is only the farmer who faithfully plants seeds in the Spring, who reaps a harvest in Autumn."

-B.C. Forbes

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News From the "Field"



Johnny Barnes, Extension Agent & County Director

I'm glad to announce that **DeKalb County farmers have been approved to receive \$260,000.00 through the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program (TAEP) in 2017.** These dollars are essential in enhancing agricultural operations and improving efficiency in our county and across the state of Tennessee.

Don't forget to contact me for Master Beef, Soil Samples, Pesticide Recertification or any other agricultural questions you may have. Spring is here, so if you would like for me to visit your farm don't hesitate to contact me. If I do not have the answer, I will use the University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University network we have across the state to ensure that we provide solutions for you.

If I can ever be of any help to you, please come by the office or contact me. I can be reached at 615-597-4945 or by email at jbarnes1@utk.edu.

UT-TSU Extension, DeKalb County

Johnny Barnes

Extension Agent & County Director

722 South Congress Blvd.
(County Complex)

Smithville, TN 37166



Advanced Master Beef Producer Graduation



Smithville Class



Centertown Class

Congratulations to the **107** Advanced Master Beef Producer participants that graduated recently. To find out more about Advanced Master Beef Producer, contact Johnny Barnes at 615-597-4945 or by email at jbarnes1@utk.edu.

State Veterinarian Issues Poultry Health Advisory

Released—March 15, 2017

The state veterinarian for Tennessee is urging all poultry owners to take extra precautions to protect their flocks from illness.

“We are working to protect the poultry population from exposure to avian influenza,” State Veterinarian Dr. Charles Hatcher said. “The best way to protect your birds is to increase your biosecurity measures and particularly, to keep your birds at home for now.”



Dr. Hatcher advises owners of backyard and commercial flocks to avoid transporting or comingling birds. That would include, but is not limited to, avoidance of poultry exhibitions, shows or sales at fairs, festivals, flea markets or auctions.

“We know that wild birds can carry avian influenza and that it is likely naturally circulating in the environment right now,” Dr. Hatcher continued. “We expect this threat to diminish over time as migratory patterns change with consistently warmer weather.”

This advisory is in response to the confirmed detection of H7N9 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) at a commercial poultry premises in Lincoln County, Tenn. on March 4. On March 8, officials confirmed the detection of H7N9 low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) at a commercial poultry premises in Giles County, Tenn. This virus is **not** the same as the China H7N9 virus affecting Asia and is genetically distinct.

State and federal officials continue to monitor and test poultry located in the areas immediately surrounding the two affected premises.

Neither LPAI nor HPAI pose a risk to the food supply. No affected animals entered the food chain. Furthermore, the Tennessee Department of Health confirms that the risk of a human becoming ill with avian influenza during poultry illness incidents is very low.

Owners of commercial and backyard poultry flocks are encouraged to closely observe their birds. Report a sudden increase in sick birds or bird deaths to the state veterinarian’s office at 615- 837-5120 and/or USDA at 1-866-536-7593. Prevent contact with wild birds. Practice good [biosecurity](#) with your poultry. Enroll in the [National Poultry Improvement Plan](#). Follow Tennessee’s [avian influenza updates](#) and access resources for producers and consumers.

The state veterinarian and staff are focused on animal health and disease prevention. Each year, the [Kord Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory](#) tests approximately 22,000 samples from poultry for avian influenza. Since March 3, the lab has tested more than 1,500 samples. See more at: <http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/news/49257#sthash.Vv3faAWR.dpuf>

Cost-Share Available for Spring Seeding of Annual Forages



As a result of the drought of 2016, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) is providing cost-share on seeding pasture and hay fields in DeKalb County through the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. TDA will cost share at 75% on seed costs and drill rental, or \$30 per acre, whichever is less. This cost share opportunity is only available for the spring of calendar year 2017, and consistent with planting date recommendations, and subject to funds availability. Please stop by the Smithville NRCS office at the USDA Service Center, 647 Bright Hill Road, for more information and to complete your application.

2017 Field Day Schedule

- Beef Heifer Development School-May 4, Lewisburg, Center-contact Johnny Barnes for more info.
- Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods – May 20, Forest Resources AgResearch Center – Oak Ridge Forest
- Fruits of the Backyard – June 13, Middle Tennessee AgResearch Center (Spring Hill)
- Tobacco, Beef & More – June 22, Highland Rim AgResearch Center (Springfield)
- TN Basic Master Beekeeper Course—June 29-30, Gordonsville, contact Johnny Barnes for info.
- Summer Celebration – July 13, West Tennessee AgResearch Center (Jackson)
- Steak and Potatoes – August 1, Plateau AgResearch Center (Crossville)
- Cotton Tour – September 6, West Tennessee AgResearch Center (Jackson)
- Turf and Ornamental – September 7, East Tennessee AgResearch Center – Plant Sciences Unit (Knoxville)
- Forest Research Overview Gathering – September 14, Forest Resources AgResearch Center – Cumberland Forest (Oliver Springs)
- Ag in the Foothills – October 6, East Tennessee AgResearch Center – Blount Unit (Louisville)
- Northeast Tennessee Beef Expo – October 12, AgResearch Center at Greeneville
- Organic Crops Field Tour – October 26, East TN AgResearch Center – Organic Crops Unit (Knoxville)

Beef & Forage Tips for Spring

Considerations for ALL Cattle

- Repair fences, equipment and handling facilities.
- Plan new working facilities, if needed
- Continue supplemental feeding as needed
- Don't start fly control until population builds up.
- Consider vaccinating for pinkeye.

Forages

- Complete renovations by March 15.
- Smooth and reseed hay feeding areas and heavy traffic areas.
- Control competition from grasses with young clover plants by grazing or mowing as needed.
- Prepare for spring seeding of alfalfa.
- If growth permits, begin grazing.
- Plan and implement grazing system and rotation.
- Complete seeding of alfalfa.

- Determine need for supplemental summer forages such as millet or Sudan grass.
- Prepare for start of hay harvest.
- Prepare fencing, and water for grazing season and begin grazing early pastures.
- Plant corn for silage and warm-season grasses if weather permits.
- Assess opportunity for weed control using recommended herbicides (always read and follow label recommendations)
- Start hay harvest to ensure adequate quality.
- Seed warm-season annuals for supplemental forage as needed.
- Seed warm-season perennial grasses.
- Clip seed heads to prevent seed head formation on fescue and to control weeds as needed. Consider herbicide options.
- Rotate pastures as needed

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

