
The Other Side of the Fence by Steve Harris



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July 11, 2018

QuickBooks Record Keeping Class coming up July 19 & 20

UT-TSU Extension – Coffee County will be hosting financial record keeping training class for nurseries and small businesses. The record keeping software taught at the seminar will be QuickBooks Premier 2017. This is also an opportunity for people to learn about QuickBooks Pro, since both of these software programs are similar. Dallas Manning, our UT Extension, Area Specialist Farm Management will be teaching this class.

The training session will be held at the UT-TSU Extension Office-Coffee County on July 19th and 20th. The time of the training will be 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the first day and finish about noon on the second day. The cost of the training session will be \$50.00 per company (for one representative) and an additional \$25 for each additional participant. This program, like all UT-TSU Extension programs, is open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or veteran status.

This workshop fulfills a Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program (TAEP) educational requirement in the following Producer Diversification sectors: Agritourism, Fruits and Vegetables and Value-Added. For additional information regarding educational programs for TAEP requirements, please contact Clay Dunivan at the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 615-837-5348. For further information or a reservation for this class contact UT-TSU Extension Office-Coffee County at (931) 723-5141.

Control Summer Weeds

During the summer months weeds can grow uncontrollably in pastures unless dealt with properly. Gary Bates, our professor and director of the University of Tennessee Beef and Forage Center, lends some advice on how to effectively deal with those relentless summer weeds.

According to Bates, "Part of the problem with summer weeds is that they can take over because the tall fescue is slumping. This offers very little competition to keep the weeds from dwarfing everything else in the field."

There are a variety of different weed management techniques that can be used. Many producers use the clipping technique. The clipping technique utilizes timely mowing to stay ahead of those pesky summer weeds. Bates says while this technique does yield results, if the technique isn't applied at the right time the benefits of this method will be greatly reduced. "If you apply this technique too late the plants have had time to produce seed for next year's weed crop," says Bates.

While clipping is harder to execute time wise, spraying herbicides is an easy way to stay on top of summer weed production. Bates says that when using herbicides such as Grazon Next for horsenettle or 2,4-D for spiny pigweed or ragweed, it is important to apply those herbicides at the right time. Bates also suggests spraying when weeds are 6 inches tall or less. Once the weeds get larger your ability to control the growth of the weeds will get harder.

Another issue to think about when it comes to summer weeds is that the seeds can germinate most of the summer. You may have sprayed your pasture once and killed the weeds, but once it rains on that field there is the potential of having more weed germination seed.

In areas where pastures are dominated by annual weeds such as spiny pigweed and ragweed, Bates suggests spraying at least twice to get season-long control. Bates says to check on your pastures regularly and evaluate those pastures to determine if you need to apply more herbicides to that pasture.