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# The Other Side of the Fence by Steve Harris



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## B.Q.A. Certification Trainings – September 25, October 1& 2

We will conduct Beef Quality Assurance certification training sessions on Tuesday, September 25 at 9:30 a.m., Monday, October 1 at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday, October 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the at the UT-TSU Extension Office located in the Coffee Administrative Plaza. These classes will give cattle producers the opportunity to become B.Q.A certified or recertified. If your card has expired or will expire by October 2018, you will need to get re-certified. If you attend one of these classes and pay the fee, you will get a B.Q.A. card that does not expire until Nov. 1, 2021.

Remember, you must have a B.Q.A certification that has not expired in order apply for cost share funds for livestock equipment, livestock working facility cover, livestock solutions or genetic improvement through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program.

The cost is \$20 for Tennessee Cattlemen's Association members and \$40 for non-members. Producers can get B.Q. A. certification, become Coffee/Grundy County and Tennessee Cattlemen's Association members for \$60. Checks should be made to the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association. Please call our office UT/TSU Extension Office – Coffee County at 723-5141 the day prior to the class reserve your seat.

### Master Small Ruminant Producer Program in Spring Hill

A Master Small Ruminant (Sheep & Goats) Producer program will be held at the University of Tennessee's Institute of Agriculture's Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center on October 10-12 in Spring Hill. The program is an excellent learning opportunity for sheep and goat producers with informational sessions on small ruminant production, management and marketing.

The program will feature a combination of classroom teaching and hands-on learning experiences. At the conclusion of the 3-day course, producers will receive their Master Producer Certification and will be eligible to qualify for a 50 percent cost share from the Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Program.

"This program is an opportunity to identify all the facets of small ruminant management for producers from the novice to the experienced," says Troy Dugger, program coordinator with UTIA's Center for Profitable Agriculture. "Plus, it provides a chance to interact with fellow producers who may be facing similar circumstances and challenges."

The cost to attend the Master Small Ruminant Producer program is \$100. This includes the certification, educational materials, meals and a Faffa Malan Chart (FAMANCHA). A FAMANCHA is a diagnostic tool to help sheep and goat producers identify parasite infection in their herds. A producer may attend with a non-certifying guest (such as a spouse or child) for a cost of \$125.

Registration and fees are due Friday, October 5. You may download the registration form at [middle.tennessee.edu](http://middle.tennessee.edu), or pick one up at your local UT Extension office. More information can be found online, or by contacting Matt Webb at 931-359-1929 or at [dwebb15@utk.edu](mailto:dwebb15@utk.edu).

The Master Small Ruminant Producer program is designed to continue the original Master Meat Goat Producer program. Any sheep or goat producer is welcome to attend, even those who did not attend the original Master Meat Goat Producer training sessions. If you have further questions, call our local UT-TSU Extension Office – Coffee County at 931-723-5141.