Middle TN Hay & Forage Day set for April 21, 2015

The 2nd annual Middle Tennessee Hay and Forage Day set for Tuesday, April 21 at Jimmy Herndon’s farm in Smithville offers farmers insight to a number of pasture, hay, and beef cattle production concerns.

The field day is scheduled to get underway with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the program starting at 9:00 a.m. There is no registration fee for the event, and a sponsored lunch will be provided. The Herndon farm is located at 371 Herndon Lane in Smithville.

The list of programs include a pasture weed control demonstration showing use of common pasture herbicides with speaker Dr. Neil Rhodes. Dr. Rhodes is a Weed Management Specialist with UT Extension. Several herbicides were sprayed in March to show effects on common pasture weeds, such as buttercup, dock, and thistle. Participants at the field day will get to view the effects of the demonstration plots.

“Bull Selection, Critical to Optimizing Performance” will be the topic presented by Mr. Kevin Thompson. Mr. Thompson is the Director of the Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center in Spring Hill, where the University of Tennessee houses its bull test station.

Other topics on the program include: Hay Storage & Feeding, Boomless Sprayer Calibration, and Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Program update. The list of speakers include UT Extension Agents Mr. Larry Moorehead & Mr. Chris Hicks, and Mr. Mark Powell, the state wide TAEP director.

The field day is a multi-county program of Cannon, DeKalb, and Warren County UT Extension offices. This program, like all UT Extension programs, is open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or veteran status.

Upcoming Grant Writing Workshop: Farmers’ Market and Local Food

DeKalb County will host an upcoming workshop to increase the number and quality of applications to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Farmers’ Market and Local Foods Promotion Program. The workshop is set for Wednesday, April 22 at the DeKalb County Complex auditorium at 722 South Congress Blvd in Smithville. The workshop is 10:00 am to 3:00 pm with lunch provided. The overall aim is to increase the number and quality of applications to FMLFPP, from Tennessee, and help more people in our state to build health, wealth, and connectivity through local food initiatives. The workshop is open to everyone. This workshop is especially applicable to: State and Local Government, County Economic Development Councils, Food Policy Councils, Farmers’ Market Associations, Farm-to-Table/Fork/Other Organizations, Minority Farmer Associations, Veterans, Food Service/Nutrition Professionals, and Producer Associations.

Upcoming Events

Cumberland Beef Day - March 26 (8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) Sparta

DeKalb County Cattlemen’s Association Meeting & Meal - March 27 (6:00 p.m.) DeKalb Co. Complex

Middle TN Hay & Forage Day - April 21 (9:00 a.m.) Jimmy Herndon’s Farm

Local Foods Grant Writing Workshop - April 22 (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) DeKalb Co. Complex Auditorium