

# Ag News & Views



RHEA COUNTY  
**UT EXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



A Newsletter for Friends of UT/TSU Extension-Rhea County

January 2018

## WELCOME TO 2018!

Welcome to the New Year! From all of us at the Rhea County Extension Office, we hope you had a great holiday season! We are looking forward to a great new year in 2018.

## COLD WEATHER PREPARATIONS

With cold weather on us, livestock management becomes even more crucial. Supplemental sources of energy may become necessary in lactating animals to maintain body condition scores along with ensuring the proper amount of forage is available. Hay resources need to be monitored closely.

Feeding hay during the winter offers its own set of challenges. Mud becomes an issue in high traffic areas and can become an issue to cows calving during this time of year. Moving hay feeders or creating heavy use areas can minimize mud and keep calves from becoming trapped or losing core body heat.

During these cold dreary days is a great time to evaluate your pasture renovation strategies and determine what if anything needs to be done to improve them for summer and fall grazing. Pulling soil tests now may also allow you to get results in a more timely manner and be better prepared for spring fertilizer applications.

## ADVANCED MASTER BEEF PRODUCER STARTING SOON



The 2018 Rhea County Advanced Master Beef course will begin in just a few short weeks. If your certification runs out this year, you should have gotten a letter from our office. If you have not signed up yet, there is still time! The deadline for registration is January

19<sup>th</sup>. The fee for this course is \$50 and classes will be held on Thursday nights from February 1—March 29 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Classes will be held at the Rhea County Ag Center and Fairgrounds. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Extension Office.

## TAEP APPROVALS AND DEADLINES



If you applied for the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program, you should have received a letter during the month of December stating your approval status. For those applying for livestock equipment, the reimbursement instructions were also mailed in December. For all other program areas, the reimbursement instructions are slated to be mailed sometime this month.

The reimbursement deadlines for this year's program is April 1<sup>st</sup> for livestock equipment and September 1<sup>st</sup> for all other categories. Please note that you must follow all instructions in the packet for reimbursement. If you have questions or need assistance in applying for reimbursement, please feel free to call Rhea County Extension Office at 775-7807.

## UT BULL SALE COMING UP

If you have been approved for genetics on Ag Enhancement or may just be looking for a new herd sire, the UT Bull Test Station will hold it's annual senior bull test sale on January 18<sup>th</sup> in Spring Hill, Tennessee. This year's sale will include Angus, Charolais, Hereford, Simmental and Simangus genetics. You can purchase the bulls on-site through the auction on sale day or through tele-video location at the University of Tennessee Animal Science Building on campus in

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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.

Knoxville. The auction will start at 12 noon (CST) and lunch will be provided at the test station. For a list of bulls to sale and more information, you may contact the Rhea County Extension Office or use the following link: <https://ag.tennessee.edu/AnimalScience/Pages/BullTestProgram.aspx>.

## DICAMBA USE REQUIREMENTS



The TN Department of Agriculture is taking measures to mitigate the risk of drift of herbicides containing dicamba. In accordance with new rules filed with the Secretary of State:

- Anyone applying dicamba products must be certified as a private applicator or licensed as a pest control operator in the category of Agricultural Pest Control (AGE) and is required to keep records for such applications.
- The use of older formulations of dicamba products for the remainder of this agricultural growing season is prohibited.
- To minimize the potential for off-target movement of the product due to temperature inversion, dicamba may only be applied from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the respective time zone for the location of application.
- Applying dicamba over the top of cotton after first bloom is prohibited.

This action is in response to primarily farmer to farmer complaints currently under investigation by TDA of suspected dicamba related damage on cropland. These measures are based on the recommendations of UT Extension and only apply to dicamba products purchased and used for agricultural purposes. The rules are effective immediately through October 1.

"Our approach will offer protection to those who stand to be negatively impacted by off-target movement of dicamba while also allowing those farmers who have invested in products designed for their crops to continue to use the appropriate herbicides responsibly," Agriculture Commissioner Jai Templeton said.

Dicamba is a broad-spectrum herbicide. Products containing dicamba have been used for household

and commercial weed control for decades.

State and federal laws mandate applicators strictly follow label directions and consider the weather and potential for temperature inversions when applying any herbicide. Any suspected misapplication should be reported immediately to TDA at 1-800-628-2631 or 615-837-5148. The department will take appropriate enforcement action for any misapplication, including but not limited to suspension or revocation of a certificate and state penalties up to \$1,500 per violation, in addition to federal penalties and possible criminal prosecution.

To assist producers and others who have questions, TDA has developed a dicamba resource webpage with links to educational information, a complete listing of approved dicamba products and the new rules at:

[www.tn.gov/agriculture/article/ag-businesses-dicamba-resources](http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/article/ag-businesses-dicamba-resources)

## SMALL ORCHARD SHORT COURSE TO BE OFFERED

One of the growing interests for consumers is locally sourced fruits and vegetables. Often consumers look to farmer's markets and other local producers for a source of food. One area of high interest has been for more information in the area of orchard production. The Small Orchard

Short Course will run three Saturdays in April (7, 14 and 21) and cover information such as variety selection, management plans, financial considerations, marketing strategies and a grafting workshop. The course will be conducted at the Rhea County Ag Center in Evensville. For more information you can contact the Extension Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Greenlee".

Thomas Greenlee  
Extension Agent I



# Want to Know More?

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