



## JERRY LAMB NAMED AS WESTERN REGION DIRECTOR

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Jerry Lamb, Rhea County Extension Director and agriculture agent, will take over his new role as the Region Director for West Tennessee. This new position will put him as the guiding force behind the 32 counties that comprise the Western Region. During his tenure in Rhea County, Jerry has had major impacts on agricultural programming including starting the Master Gardener program, advancing both Master Beef and Master Small Ruminant programming and developing the Rhea County Ag Center. All of us wish Jerry the best of luck as he takes on this new endeavor with his wife Lisa. He will certainly be missed in the UT/TSU Rhea County Extension Office.

Beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>, Thomas Greenlee will be the contact for all agriculture related questions. Thomas will be conducting similar programming to Jerry in the coming months and looks forward to serving Rhea County in the future.

## ADVANCED MASTER BEEF TO BE OFFERED IN JANUARY



Starting on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 an Advanced Master Beef Course will be offered. For those of you who expire during the 2019 TAEP reimbursement cycle, this is your opportunity to re-certify and prepare to receive cost share funds. If you have never been through our Advanced Master Beef program, this is a perfect opportunity for you to learn about all things beef related. Topics for this year's class include: beef quality assurance,

genetics, forage production, reproduction, marketing, economics, herd health and much more! The cost of the class will be \$50.00 for an individual and \$75.00 for a couple. The registration deadline for the new class will be January 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact the Extension office at (423) 775-7807.

## UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE RELEASES A NEW FORAGE CALCULATOR



For those of you who take forage samples, it may be difficult to interpret if the hay you are feeding is high enough quality to maintain your cows over the winter. Thanks to the work of Dr. Jason Smith at the University of Tennessee, a new forage calculator is in place to help us determine how much additional supplementation, if any, is actually needed.

The process is simple. Bring your forage analysis by the office, and Thomas will be glad to help balance your winter feeding ration based on the report of the hay you are feeding. If you haven't tested your forage yet, it's not too late. The Extension office will be glad to assist you in collecting your forage samples and getting them sent in for analysis.

## UT/TSU EXTENSION TO OFFER NEW "LUNCH AND LEARN" MEETINGS

In February of 2019, UT/TSU Extension Rhea County will begin offering a new "Lunch and

Learn" series of meetings. The meetings will occur on the third Wednesday of every month. Each month will include a different topic related to agriculture.

During these free meetings, we encourage you to bring your lunch and come learn about a new topic. From roses to tomatoes, each month will include something new and interesting. The meetings will start at 12:15 and run 30-45 minutes.

For more information, follow our Facebook page and the local paper or you can contact the Extension office after January 1<sup>st</sup>. A schedule with topics and locations will be coming out soon!

### **NEW BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION TO REPRESENT RHEA COUNTY**



On January 14<sup>th</sup>, a charter meeting will be held for a new type of association in Rhea County. For years, beekeepers from Rhea County have been traveling to several other associations across the region. Now, we hope you will join us in the starting of a new club. Come join us for a chili dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the Rhea County Master Gardener Building at the Ag Center and Fairgrounds. We plan to get the foundation built for a club that should be both fun and educational.

This new Association will strive to provide both educational and social opportunities for fellow beekeepers. For more information, contact Diana Pace at (845) 661-5207.

### **RHEA COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN JANUARY**

The Rhea County Cattlemen's Association plans to have an annual meeting in late January. The Executive board will meet at the first of January to finalize a date. The Cattlemen's Association is an excellent opportunity for you to gather with like-minded individuals and discover new and

interesting trends in the beef cattle industry. For more information contact James Housley at (423) 618-4982.

### **VEGETABLE GARDENING 101 TO BE OFFERED**

Vegetable gardens are spread across Rhea County and come in many different sizes, shapes and flavors. In 2019, Rhea County Extension will be offering a new vegetable gardening basics class that will cover topics including site selection, planting basics, soil preparation, and much more. Each of the classes will be 2-3 hours in length and focus on different aspects of the vegetable garden.

The class will be held on the third Friday of each month beginning in February and running through June. The registration fee for this class is \$30.00 and will include all five sessions. For more information, contact the Rhea County Extension office.

### **TIME TO FEED SOYBEANS?**



Low prices and adverse harvest conditions often drive us toward alternative options that – if nothing else – are perceived to add value to a crop. As the 2018 soybean crop is no exception to this, many operations that produce soybeans and also raise or feed beef cattle will undoubtedly consider feeding them. If this is true for your operation, make sure you first put pencil to paper.

Due to their nutrient density, low prices often give way to the perception that soybeans may be an economical source of supplemental energy and protein for beef cattle. While this may be true on occasion, under very limited circumstances, prices rarely dip low enough to make them the most economical option. For illustrative purposes, I'll use shelled corn and dried distiller's grains as references for comparison, as they are generally two of the most economical sources of supplemental energy and protein, respectively. In this scenario, I'll also set a price for shelled corn at

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\$3.75 per bushel, and price for dried distiller's grains at \$155.00 per ton.

Under these conditions, soybeans would need to be valued at less than \$5.34 per bushel to justify their use as the more economical source of supplemental energy for the cowherd, and less than \$5.50 per bushel for growing and finishing cattle. Similarly, soybeans would need to be valued at less than \$5.86 per bushel to justify their use as an economical alternative to dried distiller's grains as a source of supplemental protein for the cowherd or growing and finishing cattle. Due to their calculated nutrient costs, at prices above these thresholds, the most economical option would be to sell the beans, buy the corn and/or distiller's, and come out ahead by keeping the change.

And while these thresholds almost always differ across producers, and fluctuate on a regular basis, calculating nutrient cost, or cost per unit of nutrient, is a means by which these comparisons can be made, and thus the most economical option can be discovered. UT's supplemental feedstuff value calculator (W373) is a free Excel-based tool that can be used to make these comparisons, and is available through the UT Beef and Forage Center at [www.UTBeef.com](http://www.UTBeef.com).

For the scenarios in which price does justify feeding soybeans as the most economical source of supplemental protein and/or energy, keep the following rules of thumb in mind:

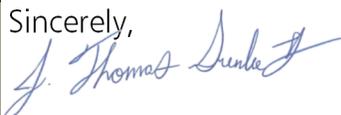
- Raw soybeans contain anti-nutritive factors. Heat applied during the roasting process destroys them, which is one reason why they are generally roasted as an initial step during processing. Cattle with a fully functional rumen can detoxify a large portion of these anti-nutritive factors, and thus can handle raw soybeans supplemented at low levels.
- Suckling calves do not have a fully functional rumen, and therefore cannot detoxify these anti-nutritive factors. This makes them toxic to the animal. Because of this, never feed raw soybeans to calves that have not been weaned and consuming feed other than milk for a considerable period of time.
- One of the anti-nutritive factors contained in raw soybeans interferes with the ability of cattle to detoxify urea, making supplemental urea toxic,

regardless of the animal's age. Because of this, supplemental sources of non-protein nitrogen, such as urea or poultry litter, should never be fed to cattle that are also being supplemented with raw soybeans. Keep in mind that many commercial tubs and liquid feeds contain some amount of urea, unless the product is labelled as "all-natural." Always verify that other supplemental feeds do not contain added non-protein nitrogen before feeding soybeans. This information can generally be found in the "guaranteed analysis" section of a feed tag or product label. And if in doubt, consult with the manufacturer.

- Raw soybeans contain a considerable amount of oil. If the bean has become fractured, this exposes the oil to air, providing the opportunity for it to oxidize and become rancid. If raw soybeans are going to be ground prior to feeding, do so immediately prior to addition to the ration. Avoid grinding and storing beans for a considerable period of time prior to feeding.
- While the oil in soybeans provides a source of supplemental fat that is quite energy dense, high levels of dietary fat can limit digestibility of other portions of the animal's ration, and can cause digestive upset. Always consult with your nutritionist or Extension agent in order to determine the appropriate level of supplementation or optimal dietary inclusion rate.
- Adverse harvest conditions can allow for the development of mycotoxins in soybeans. Because of this, it is recommended to screen beans for mycotoxins prior to feeding – particularly those that were late-harvested, or underwent environmental stressors or adverse conditions during the growing or harvest season

Dr. Jason Smith, Assistant Professor,  
UT Beef Cattle Extension Specialist

Sincerely,



Thomas Greenlee  
Extension Agent I

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