Senior Bull Test Sale

The 2013-14 University of Tennessee Senior Bull Test, located at the Middle Tennessee Research and Education Center, has completed the 84 day gain test. The 101 bulls finished the gain test at a rate of 4.31 pounds per day. Sixty-nine of these bulls passed all the rigorous requirements to be eligible for the public sale to be held at the MTREC on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 12:00 Noon. The high-gaining bull of the entire test was an Angus consigned by Williams Angus of Gray, TN. This SS Incentive 9117 sired bull finished the test at a rate of 5.79 pounds per day. He had an adjusted 365 day weight of 1398 pounds and a frame score of 5.2. The second high-gaining bull was consigned by Baird Angus of Bluff City with a gain of 5.63 pounds per day and an adjusted yearling weight of 1386 pounds. Third and fourth honors went to Harrison Farms Angus of Christiana and Grassy Valley Farms Angus of Greeneville, respectively.

Breeds that are to be sold are Angus, Hereford, Gelbvieh Balancers and Hybrid and SimmAngus. Tele-video sites where bids can be taken for the sale will be held at the Knoxville Livestock Center in Mascot and the University of Tennessee 4-H Camp in Greeneville.

East TN Grain & Soybean Conference

The production of row crops in East Tennessee has increased over the past few years. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, corn acreage planted is up 19,000 acres from 2007 to 2012, and soybean acreage planted increased 16,000 acres in the East Tennessee agricultural district. The East Tennessee Grain and Soybean Conference will focus on improving production in East Tennessee. Topics for the program will include: weed control, variety testing program, diseases control, crop outlook, crop insurance and production practices.

This outstanding production program will be held at UT Extension Eastern Region office located at 1801 Downtown West Boulevard, Knoxville, TN. The conference will begin at 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2014.

The registration fee of $10.00 includes a light breakfast, lunch and a grain conference hat. For a brochure or registration information, you can contact your local county UT Extension office or call 865) 577-9963. Space will be limited, so please pre-register.

Middle TN Grain Conference

The 9th Annual Middle Tennessee Grain Conference, set for Thursday, January 30 at Coffee County’s Fairgrounds in Manchester, offers farmer insight to a number of emerging corn, soybean and wheat production concerns.

The conference is scheduled to get underway with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. Registration is $20 at the door or farmers can pre-register for $10 by Monday, January 27 through their local UT/TSU Extension office. Registration fees include the program and materials, refreshments, lunch, a copy of the conference proceedings and a grain conference cap.

Following the keynote address, a private pesticide applicator training will be conducted to allow current certified applicators to renew their certification until October 21, 2017. All pesticide certifications private and commercial will expire October 21, 2014. The cost of the training is $15 per private or commercial applicant, commercial applicators will receive two
recertification points for attending the training.

**Advanced Master Beef Producer**

Rhea County Extension will be offering the NEW Advanced Master Beef Producer class beginning February 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ag Center and Fairgrounds in Evensville. **Pre-registration is required by February 7.** The cost is $150, however, if you have a Premise ID and are BQA certified, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture will give a $100 scholarship, reducing your cost to $50.00. The Advanced Master Beef Producer class will fulfill the new Tennessee Ag Enhancement requirements. Producers who took the Master Beef Producer class between 2004-2007 must complete Advanced Master Beef by 2015 in order to continue to receive 50% cost share. Refer to the schedule below for your specific requirements on when your certification expires. **EVERYONE WILL HAVE TO TAKE ADVANCED MASTER BEEF BY 2017** in order to continue to receive 50% cost share. Producers who have not previously taken the Master Beef Producer class in the past can take the Advanced Master Beef Producer class. Beginning on May 1, 2015 all certificates will expire three years after issuance. For more information, contact the UT Extension office at 775-7807.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Master Beef Course Completed</th>
<th>Master Beef Course is Good Through</th>
<th>Advanced Master Beef Certification Required by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-2007</td>
<td>May 1, 2015</td>
<td>December 1, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2011</td>
<td>May 1, 2016</td>
<td>December 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2014</td>
<td>May 1, 2017</td>
<td>December 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BQA Certification**

Check your BQA cards to see if your card has expired. BQA certification will now be good for 3 years and will still be required if you are applying for TAEP funds. The Rhea County Extension office will be offering a BQA class on Monday, February 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ag Center and Fairgrounds in Evensville. **Pre-registration is required.** BQA fees have increased to $40 for non-Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association members. The cost for TCA members is $20. **Please RSVP by calling the Rhea County Extension office at 775-7807 by Friday, February 7.**

**Bovine Trichomoniasis Found in TN**

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has issued a warning of several cases of Trichomoniasis in cattle in Tennessee. Dr. Lew Strickland, UT Extension Veterinarian has written a fact sheet (see enclosed sheet) detailing information about Trichomoniasis. The key point to remember is that prevention is the only cure. Test all bulls before they are exposed to your cow herd.

**Agricultural Pesticide Waste Collection Program**

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has begun a program to safely remove pesticides that are no longer usable or needed. TDA will pick up and dispose of any unusable pesticides at NO COST to the farmer. If you have pesticides that need to be collected, contact Rich Strickland at (615) 837-5523.

**Mid-South Stocker Conference**

The Mid-South Stocker Conference is scheduled for February 18-19, 2014 at Paris Landing State Park and Conference Center in Buchanan, TN. The cost is $110 per person or $150 per couple. For more information or to register, visit www.midsouthstockerconference.org.

Sincerely,

Jerry Lamb
Extension Director