**Northwest Tennessee Cattleman’s Association**

Starting August 27th, Weakley, Obion, and Gibson County will be working towards developing a multi-county cattleman’s association called “Northwest Tennessee Cattleman’s Association”. It is our goal to bring local producers together to fellowship by sharing ideas and suggestions for your beef operations. In order to begin, we are networking with Gibson County Cattleman’s to assist in the transition and development of this organization. For the next couple of months, all four counties (Weakley, Obion, Dyer, and Gibson) will be meeting together in a central location to discuss topics concerning Tennessee Beef production.

The first meeting will be August 27, 2015 at 6:30pm at the Yorkville Community Center building located at 116 TN-77, Newbern, TN. Dr. Andrew Griffith from the University of Tennessee will be discussing marketing fall calves and the overall market outlook. Dr. Griffith will pinpoint key topics and ideas to better assist in the selling or retaining ownership of your animals. Marketing your livestock is just another key step to be profitable in this industry. No meeting is complete without a dinner and Gibson County Cattleman’s will be providing a delicious meal to fully welcome us to the meeting.

RSVP for the August 27th meeting by contacting the Extension Office at 364-3164. You may also call for questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you August 27th.

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**January 16, 2016**

Northwest TN Cattleman’s Field Day

Vendors, food, and demonstrations.

All beef producers are invited!!

Photo taken by: Loren Stinson

Image taken at Benwoody Farms
SPICY PORTUGUESE BEEF STEAK KABOBS

Ingredients:
1-1/2 pounds boneless beef top sirloin steak, cut 1-1/4 inches thick
1 large red bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces

Seasoning:
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 teaspoons hot pepper sauce
1 clove garlic, minced 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper

Instructions:
2. Place kabobs on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 8 to 10 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 9 to 11 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning once. Season with salt.

Go Paperless
If you would like to receive your Ag Newsletter electronically, please let us know by calling (731) 364-3164 or email lstinso2@utk.edu.
If you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please notify us by calling the number above.

The Tennessee CattleWomen's Association (TNCW) is proudly supported by the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association. This group is for women in the state of Tennessee who are or want to be a part of the cattle business...whether it's through raising cattle, promoting beef or educating youth.

Mission statement: To promote the beef industry through advocacy and education; also to develop agriculture leadership in this generation and future generations to come.

How to become a member: The cost to become a member of TNCW is $20 per year. If you are a student, the cost is $10 per year. Join by calling the TCA office: (615) 896-2333
Meats Judging Contest
Youth in grades 5-11 as of January 1, 2015 are eligible to compete. We hold several practices throughout the summer to prepare for the contest in August. Youth will be identifying various cuts of meat from beef, lamb and pork. The meats will be identified by pictures at the regional contest. This contest teaches determination, team-work, problem solving and communication skills. If you are interested in attending a practice, check out the Facebook page and website for dates and details or call the office and ask for Ms. Loren Stinson.

Livestock Judging Contest
Youth in grades 5-11 as of January 1, 2015 are eligible to compete. Participants will be utilizing problem-solving skills along with visual and communication skills to properly identify the highest quality animals in a class of four. Youth will be working with cattle, sheep, goats and hogs.

Weakley County 4-H will work with youth throughout the summer to prepare them for their November contest. More information, contact the Weakley County Extension Office at 364-3164.

2015 State Beef Expo

The Tennessee Cattlemen's Association and their industry partners coordinated over $21,000 to be paid to deserving youth that participated in the 2015 Jr. Beef Expo July 7-8 in Murfreesboro. TCA donated over $10,000 to support premiums for youth that won or were runner’s up in their respective classes and for the first time this year sponsored $3,000 in premiums for Skillathon and Showmanship participants. This money will be mailed to the youth in the coming weeks. TCA coordinated with sponsors such as Yearwood Equipment in Fayetteville, Mid South Livestock Market in Lebanon, H and R Equipment, Tri Greene Equipment and Farm Credit Mid America to purchase the three top steers and donate the beef to Second Harvest Food Bank. $11,000 had been earmarked for purchasing these steers. If you or your business are interested in helping to sponsor additional funds to purchase more steers to be donated to Second Harvest please contact the Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association at 615-896-2333.
One of the great things about being a specialist with The University of Tennessee is it provides the opportunity to help producers in their operations. I feel very blessed to have a job in which I present research-based recommendations to producers to help their profitability. But if you have very listened to one of my presentations, you may have realized that we have more recommendations than you can actually have time to accomplish. And not just time, but if you start adding up the cost of all our recommendations, nobody can spend your money like I can. It is all a matter of prioritizing which recommendations will help solve the biggest problems found in your operations. If we look at some of the basic recommendations UT Extension has for forage producers, the following are some of the most dependable recommendations to help a producer’s bottom line.

**Soil testing** – This may be one of the most recommended practices we have. Taking a soil test to determine the fertility status of the soil is the basic recommendation that needs to be followed by any crop producer. If you are depending on forage to provide the feed needed by livestock, then the growth is dependent on having the proper pH and adequate phosphate and potash. If pH is low, or one of the nutrients is limiting, then growth will be reduced. Fertilizing without a soil test is basically just assuming you are putting the correct level of nutrients out. And assuming can cause problems.

**Forage testing** – The average livestock producer in the southeast is going to need to feed hay during the winter. We normally will not have enough forage growth to support grazing throughout this period. The protein and energy content of the hay is dependent on the stage of maturity at harvest. How do you know if the hay has enough to meet the needs of your herd? Test your hay to find out. The UT Soil, Plant and Pest Center will help you determine if you need supplementation.

**Stockpiling tall fescue** – One of the largest expenses in a cattle operation is the cost of feeding a cow during the winter. The bulk of this expense is the cost of producing, harvesting and feeding hay. Every day we can graze instead of feeding hay will result in a cheaper daily feed cost for a cow herd. One of our best methods to increase winter grazing is by stockpiling tall fescue. Stockpiling is simply setting aside a portion of tall fescue pastures and allowing the growth to accumulate for grazing during winter. Nitrogen does not have to be applied for stockpiling to be successful, but it will increase the amount of forage produced during the fall growing season.

**Feeding hay correctly** – There are several methods to feed hay. Rolled out on ground or in rings are two common methods. Almost any method of feeding hay can be successful if done correctly. However, if done incorrectly, hay waste during feeding can be dramatic. It isn’t unusual to have 25 to 30% feeding loss. The main thing that influences the feeding loss is how much hay is put out at one time. The more hay put out, the more that will be wasted. This is particularly true if you are feeding hay rolled out on the ground. If you have to put out more than one day’s worth at a time, it will be important to feed in a ring, which will reduce feeding loss.

Dr. Gary Bates, Professor and Director,
UT Beef and Forage Center