Youth in Weakley County have been raising and working with the animals all summer to prepare them for the BIG county show and sale. Animals will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Youth will retain ownership of animals for future shows and events. ALL proceeds donated from the auction will be given directly back to the youth in the show ring.

Buyers are Welcome to attend BOTH the Show and Sale!!! There will be a meal provided for the buyers and showman between the show and sale.

If you are interested in a donation to this auction, contact Ms. Loren Stinson or Mr. Bob Shumake at the Weakley County Extension Office for more details.

Where: Nashville, TN
Main Campus AREC
1521 Ed Temple Blvd.
When: July 30, 2015
Time: 7:30am—2pm
Admission: FREE
Topics Include:
* Beekeeping
* Fencing Demonstration
* Tennessee Department of Agriculture TAEP
* Organic Vegetable Production
* Pesticide Recertification
* Land Trust for Tennessee
**GARDEN HERB STRIP STEAK**

**Ingredients:**

- 2 beef Strip Steaks boneless, cut 1 inch thick
- Salt

**Seasoning:**

- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh oregano
- 2 teaspoons freshly grated lemon peel
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

**Instructions:**

1. Combine Seasoning ingredients in small bowl; reserve 2 teaspoons for garnish. Press remaining seasoning evenly onto beef steaks.
2. Place steaks on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 11 to 14 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 11 to 15 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally.
3. Carve steaks into slices. Sprinkle with reserved seasoning and salt, as desired.

---

**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.
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.

Skill-a-thon Contest

Do you know the proper injection location for cattle? Or what disease might cause ring spots on an animals’ hide? The skill-a-thon contest will hit breeds, diseases, meat cuts, management practices, and nutrition for cattle, sheep, goats and hogs. The contest is designed to test youth’s knowledge of their livestock and to teach them new techniques.

Do I have to own livestock in order to participate? No. Youth that are interested in learning about the different species are more than welcome to attend the practices.

Contest will be held at the Weakley County Junior Livestock Show and Sale on Tuesday August 4, 2015.
As this summer has shown, forage production from cool-season pasture and hay fields across the state can be dramatically affected by drought. Pastures that consist of cool-season grasses like tall fescue and orchardgrass have been severely overgrazed, and many may have lost some significant stand. Even though it is too late to do much about it this year, now is a good time to plan for next year. Start thinking about planting a few acres of grass that will provide production during the summer. These grasses are generically called ‘warm-season grasses.’

Most of these grasses developed in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world, and have several characteristics that give them an advantage over cool-season grasses during the summer. Warm-season grasses can produce energy through photosynthesis faster, which allows them to use more of the sunlight that fall on their leaves. They use water more efficiently, plus they have deeper root systems than cool-season grasses. Another characteristic that helps warm-season grasses is that their optimum temperature is about 90 F, while cool-season grasses perform best at about 70 F. All of these factors work together to make warm-season grasses more productive during the summer.

Bermudagrass - perennial grass that grows and spreads by above ground stems known as stolons. Good hay or grazing forage. Very tolerant of close, continuous grazing. There are several different varieties of bermudagrass. Some varieties can be planted from seed, while others do not produce viable seed and have to be planted by planting live, vegetative material from another stand. Cold tolerance needs to be a major consideration when selecting a variety. Winter-kill can cause severe stand loss in bermudagrass. Hybrid bermudagrasses are highly responsive to fertilizer, and can produce high quality forage if harvested at early stage of maturity. Should be harvested every 4 weeks.

Warm-season perennial bunch grasses - include big bluestem, little bluestem, indiangrass, eastern gamagrass and switchgrass. The forages produce high quality forage early in the season, but forage quality drops rapidly as plants mature, just as with any of the other warm-season grasses. Seedling vigor is very low in these species, so weed competition can be a problem with establishment. It can be expected to require two years to establish a stand. Rotational grazing is essential for maintaining stands of these plants. Plants should not be grazed below 8 inches. If grazed too close, plants will be weakened and stands will thin. Because of their sensitivity to close grazing or clipping, these plants are easier to use for hay, but can be utilized with grazing cattle.

Red River Crabgrass - annual grass that was selected for higher yield from native crabgrass populations in Oklahoma. Research in Oklahoma indicates yield and animal performance are both excellent on this forage. Experience in Tennessee indicates that it can make an excellent pasture for stocker animals during the summer. Because it is an annual, allowing plants to produce seed for the next year’s stand is necessary. No information is available to determine how successful natural reseeding of Red River crabgrass will be due to the abundance of native crabgrass seed in Tennessee.

Sorghum x sudangrass hybrid and pearl millet – both of these are annual grasses. They are relatively tall growing grasses that can be quite productive with timely summer rains. Sorghum x sudangrass hybrids can tolerate a cooler soil temperature, so they can be planted earlier than pearl millet. Sorghum x sudangrass hybrids can tolerate a cooler soil temperature, so they can be planted earlier than pearl millet. When there is a potential for even a light frost, do not graze a sorghum x sudangrass hybrid. Only cut it for hay, which will allow time for the prussic acid to break down.

Will they work for you? Warm-season grasses have the potential to provide forage when tall fescue pastures are not being productive. However, the growing season is shorter with these plants compared to tall fescue, and there is considerably more risk with them. If you decide to try one, be reasonable in the amount of land and resources you commit. Tall fescue should remain the primary forage on the farm. A good rule of thumb is to have 70 percent of your acreage in cool-season grasses like tall fescue. Thirty percent can be sown to a warm-season grass. Your goal should be to provide grazing during late June through early September.

Most producers should think about planting a portion of their acreage to some type of warm-season forage. Although they do not eliminate all of the problems associated with drought, they will help minimize some of the forage production problems we may face in the future.

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

P.O. Box 168
Dresden, TN 38225
Phone: 731-364-3164
Loren Stinson
lstinson2@utk.edu
Jeff Lannom
jlannom1@utk.edu
Bob Shumake
rshumak2@utk.edu
Weakley.tennessee.edu