**TAEP Cost Share Notifications**

TAEP Cost Share notifications are on their way. Currently, letters of acceptance are being printed and mailed out. You should know whether or not you have been accepted and for which products by mid-September. If you do not hear anything from them by October 1st, contact TAEP.

The 2015 SE Hay Contest presented by Massey Ferguson has seven categories for entries. This diversity allows for a fairer comparison of the entries and makes the Contest open to a broader range of participants. The seven categories and their respective sponsors are listed below.

1. Warm Season Perennial Grass Hay (e.g., Bermuda grass, Bahia grass, etc.)
2. Alfalfa Hay
3. Perennial Peanut Hay
4. Cool Season Perennial Grass Hay (e.g. tall fescue, orchard grass, etc.)
5. Mixed, Annual Grass or Other Hay (e.g., clover/fescue, clover/rye grass, etc.)
6. Grass Baleage (high moisture grass forage ensiled in wrapped bales)
7. Legume Baleage (high moisture legume or grass/legume ensiled in wrapped bales)

The deadline for entry into the SE Hay Contest is 5 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2015. More information about the Contest, including the rules and entry forms, is available at [bit.ly/SEHayContest2015](http://bit.ly/SEHayContest2015).

Sponsorships will provide cash awards to the top 3 places in each category, including $125 for 1st prize, $75 for 2nd prize, and $50 for 3rd prize.

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January 16, 2016
Advancing Beef Field Day
Vendors, food, and demonstrations. All beef producers are invited!!

Photo taken by: Loren Stinson
Image taken at Benwoody Farms
**GREEK SEASONED T-BONE STEAKS WITH CUCUMBER AND TOMATO SALAD**

**Ingredients:**
- 2 beef T-Bone or Porterhouse Steaks, cut 1 inch thick (about 1 pound each)
- 1 medium lemon
- 1 tablespoon Greek seasoning
- 1 medium cucumber, cut lengthwise in half, then crosswise into thin slices (about 2 cups)
- 2 cups halved grape tomatoes
- 1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
- Salt and pepper

**Instructions:**
1. Grate peel and squeeze 1 tablespoon juice from lemon. Combine Greek seasoning and lemon peel. Reserve 2 teaspoons mixture for salad. Press remaining mixture evenly onto beef steaks.
2. Place steaks on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 11 to 16 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 15 to 19 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally.
3. Meanwhile, combine reserved 2 teaspoons seasoning mixture, lemon juice, cucumber, tomatoes and cheese in medium bowl, stirring to combine. Season with salt and pepper, as desired.
4. Remove bones; carve steaks into slices. Season with salt, as desired. Serve beef with cucumber and tomato salad.
5. Test Kitchen Tips
6. To broil, place steaks on rack in broiler pan so surface of beef is 3 to 4 inches from heat. Broil 15 to 20 minutes for medium rare to medium doneness, turning once.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September
9/15 - Fall Forage Field Day
   Middle TN Research and Education Center, Spring Hill
9/18 - Weakley County BQA Certification
   Farm Bureau Meeting Room in Dresden
9/25 - Ankony Annual Production Sale - Clarkesville, GA

October
10/4-10 - National 4-H Week
10/22 - Ag in the Foothills Field Day - Walland, TN
10/24 - Miller Brangus Bull Sale - Waynesboro, TN
10/24 - Tanner Farms Female and Bull Sale - Shuqualak, MS
10/26 - Hill-Vue Farm Angus & Polled Hereford Production Sale - Blairsville, GA
10/30-31 - Oak Farm Brangus & Genetic Partners Registered Female and Bull Sale - Newman, GA

November
11/6 - SETN Heifer Sale - Athens Stockyards
11/7 - Burns Farms Bull & Commercial Female Sale - Pikeville, TN
11/14-20 - North American Livestock Expo - Louisville, KY
11/15-21 - TN AG Literacy Week
11/21 - Timberland’s Cattle’s Black Angus & Sim-Angus Bull Sale - Vernon, AL

January
1/16 - Advancing Beef Field Day - Martin, TN

February
2/4-6 - TCA Convention & Trade Show - Murfreesboro, TN
We a k l e y  
County  
Extension  

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WE ARE HEADING TO STATE!!!!

After hours, days, weeks, and months of practice, Weakley County youth competed in the Meats Judging Contest at the Western Region Office in Jackson Saturday, August 29, 2015. We traveled with 2 Senior High and 1 Junior High Teams including Douglas Brown, Jordan Bell, Alison Davis, Jacob Davis, Kendal Penick, Jon Roland, Shelley Rowlett, Weston Rowlett, Hayley Shumake, and Kari Beth Woods.

Results are as followed:

Junior High Team Members — Jacob Davis, Douglas Brown, and Weston Rowlett
   Placed 2nd in the Region

Senior High B Team Members — Kendal Penick, Jonathon Roland, and Hayley Shumake
   Placed 5th in the Region

Senior High A Team Members — Alison Davis, Shelley Rowlett, Kari Beth Woods, and Jordan Bell
   Placed 1st in the Region and will be heading to the state contest in June 2016!!
   Alison Davis was the overall Senior High Meats judging individuals

FARM BUREAU 4-H DONATIONS

Weakley County 4-H would like to send out a huge thank you to Farm Bureau of Tennessee for donating 40 caps to all county programs in the state. If you would like to own a limited addition Farm Bureau 4-H Hat, we are asking for a minimum of $10 donation.

ALL PROCEEDS STAY WITH WEAKLEY 4-H. You may pick up your VERY OWN hat at the Extension Office.
## September Farmers Almanac

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>September 2015</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>September 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Begin logging</td>
<td>21, 22, 23</td>
<td>Harvest aboveground crops</td>
<td>21, 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breed animals</td>
<td>16, 17, 18</td>
<td>Harvest belowground crops</td>
<td>2, 3, 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can, pickle, or make sauerkraut</td>
<td>7, 8</td>
<td>Plant aboveground crops</td>
<td>16, 17, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castrate animals</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Plant belowground crops</td>
<td>7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut hay</td>
<td>1, 28, 29</td>
<td>Prune to discourage growth</td>
<td>9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroy pests and weeds</td>
<td>1, 28, 29</td>
<td>Prune to encourage growth</td>
<td>19, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End projects</td>
<td>11, 12</td>
<td>Set posts or pour concrete</td>
<td>21, 22, 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Go camping</td>
<td>19, 20</td>
<td>Slaughter livestock</td>
<td>16, 17, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graft or pollinate</td>
<td>7, 8</td>
<td>Wean animals or children, Potty train</td>
<td>3, 7, 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quote of the Month:**

*Agriculture is our wisest pursuit because it will, in the end, contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness.*

— Thomas Jefferson

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"Surely not all men are rotten, yer always braggin' on yer horse, an' he's a boy!"

"An' if yew'll notice..... he's also a gelding."
By the time this article is published the July Cattle Inventory report will have been released by USDA. The numbers most people have their eyes on are heifer retention and change in cattle inventory. (Maybe there will be more on that topic in the September article.) Profitability is the economic driver for heifer retention and changes in inventory. However, forage availability is the primary production factor impacting heifer retention and cattle inventory. Thus, it appears this is an appropriate time to discuss hay production, May 1 hay stocks, fall forage availability and how they will play into the cattle markets the next several months.

The May 1 hay stock number provides information concerning how producers fared through the winter as it relates to feeding hay and the hay base prior to the current production year. National hay stocks as of May 1 were 24.5 million tons which is 27.9 percent higher than the previous year. Stocks in 2015 are the highest hay stocks have been on a national level since 2005 when stocks were 27.8 million tons. The figure accompanying this article shows the percent change in hay stocks for each state. Tennessee hay stocks were 630,000 tons as of May 1, 2015 which was the same as the previous year. May 1, 2015 hay stocks in Tennessee were greater than the ten, twenty and thirty year average. It is also important to emphasize the significant increase in hay stocks in the Southern and Northern Plains which are known for cow-calf production and stocker cattle production.

Based on the June Acreage Report released the last day of June, USDA forecast total hay acreage harvested in 2015 to be 56.5 million acres which is 553,000 acres fewer than the previous year. Total hay production in 2014 totaled 139.8 million tons which was 3.6 percent higher than 2013 hay production. Similarly, Tennessee harvested hay acreage appears to be on the decline. USDA has forecast Tennessee harvested hay acreage in 2015 to decline 2.6 percent from 2014 to 1.72 million acres. If the forecast turns out to be correct then it will be the fewest acres harvested for hay in the state since 1994. Total hay production in Tennessee in 2014 was 3.89 million tons which was a 12.1 percent decline from 2013.

The question remains, what will total hay production be in 2015 and how will it compare to 2014 production? Many parts of the country have received ample rainfall through the spring and summer to this point to promote forage growth and produce hay. However, the same rains promoting forage production have either delayed hay harvest or resulted in hay being rained on. It appears there will be pretty strong hay production numbers, but the hay may be of a lower quality than is normally harvested.

Not to be overlooked is stockpiling forage. In the near future, many producers will be applying nitrogen to pastures to stockpile forages for fall and winter grazing. Additionally, some producers will be planting small grains for grazing. Fall weather conditions will be integral in determining the quantity of forage stockpiled and thus the number of grazing days available to the cattle herd.

So, what does this mean for the cattle industry? To this point and nationally speaking, it appears there will be ample forage supplies supporting producers’ desire to expand the cattle herd. Any signs of drought or degradation of forage conditions could hamper cattle industry expansion. However, current conditions bode well all across the nation and should support feeder cattle prices in Tennessee.

It is likely producers in states such as Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri will continue expanding their cattle herds at a torrid pace which should support prices for high quality heifers. It is evident the cattle herd continues to expand with federally inspected heifer slaughter down 9.3 percent through June compared to one year ago and beef cow slaughter down 17.3 percent over the same time period. The pull on high quality heifers to enter the breeding herd will continue to support the feeder cattle market as feedlot operators will continue searching for cattle to fill pen space.

Dr. Andrew Griffith, Assistant Professor, UT Livestock Marketing and Commodities