Farm Bill Meetings to Aid Row Crop Producers and Landowners with Key Decisions

In early 2015, row-crop producers and landowners will be required to make several interrelated decisions under the 2014 Farm Bill. These decisions will be in place for the next five years, so it is important for producers and landowners to weigh their options carefully.

Three key decisions will need to be made at your local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office:

1) Update payment yields (deadline February 27th) – landowners (or producers designated by the landowner) have a onetime option, on a farm-by-farm and commodity-by-commodity basis, to maintain their existing CC yields or update their yields based on farm yield data from 2008-2012.

2) Base acre reallocation (deadline February 27th) – landowners (or producers designated by the landowner), for each FSA farm, will need to choose to keep their existing base acre allocation or reallocate base acres amongst covered commodities planted from 2009-2012.

3) For each FSA farm, choose a commodity program (deadline March 31st) – Agricultural Risk Coverage-County (ARC-C), Agricultural Risk Coverage-Individual (ARC-I), or Price Loss Coverage (PLC).

Adding additional complexities to these decisions will be producer’s annual choices for crop insurance, which for corn, soybeans, and cotton in Tennessee will need to be made prior to March 15th.

In addition to conventional crop insurance two new insurance options are available for producers: Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) and Stacked Income Protection (STAX). STAX is available for cotton only.

Evaluating the interactions between commodity programs and crop insurance products will be extremely beneficial when developing a well-positioned risk management plan. To obtain additional information on these decisions producers and agri-industry personnel are encouraged to attend one of 13 meetings across Tennessee. These meetings are free and open to anyone.

Times and locations of the meetings can be found online at: http://economics.ag.utk.edu/farmbill.html. Topics will include farm bill programs and decisions specific to row crop production in Tennessee.

Upper Middle Tennessee meeting location and dates are January 8, 9:30 am, Robertson County Fairgrounds, Springfield, TN 37172, and January 20, 9:00 am, Putnam County Extension Office, Cookeville, TN 38501.

Each Tuesday, starting January 20th and concluding March 24th, University of Tennessee Extension will host a weekly 1-hour online webcast starting at 8:30 am CST where
producers and agri-industry can ask questions and obtain information about Farm Bill programs and decisions. The webcast can be accessed at: http://economics.ag.utk.edu/farmbill.html

**Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame Announces New Website**

The *Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame* board is proud to announce the recent unveiling of the new *Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame* website at “wilsoncountyaghalloffame.org.” According to board member Keith Harrison, “this website highlights information on each inductee and serves as a location for additional information about the Hall of Fame and its activities. It is a great place for folks to learn more about Wilson County agricultural history.”

Agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since it was formed in 1799, and those involved in agriculture today remain a valuable and vital part of the community. To recognize their contributions and bring attention to agriculture’s prominent place in our county the *Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame* was organized in 2007. To date 40 people have been inducted.

The 2015 *Wilson County Ag. Hall of Fame* Banquet will be held on Tuesday, April 7, at the James E. Ward Ag. Center to induct four new inductees. For information on tickets, contact Diane Major, 615-444-9584

**Agricultural Market Summary**

**Cattle Market Trends**

Cattle buyers were full speed ahead and looking for cattle. This has been very evident for feeder cattle marketed in load lots. Most market indicators point to prices remaining relatively strong for the foreseeable future. Feeder steers, compared to 3 weeks ago, $6 to $10 higher, $182.00-$370.00; Feeder heifers, compared to 3 weeks ago, $2 to $8 higher, $175.00-$317.50; Slaughter cows, compared to 3 weeks ago, steady to $3 lower, $92.00-$114.00; Slaughter bulls, compared to 3 weeks ago, unevenly steady, $122.00-$137.00.

**Grain Market Trends**

Corn and soybeans, were up; wheat was down for the week. Cash prices for grains: Corn, $3.74-4.26; Soybeans, $10.02-$10.91; Wheat, $5.27-$5.27.

For additional information on these and other topics, contact the UT/TSU Extension Office, 925 East Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087, 615-444-9584 or acorrell@utk.edu. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in all programs. Visit the UT/TSU Extension webpage at http://utextension.tennessee.edu/wilson or look for UT & TSU Extension, Wilson County on Facebook.

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