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Wilson County Agricultural Article from Ruth Correll, Agricultural Extension Agent

Simple Steps to Reduce a Tick Encounter

Warm weather means we will probably be spending more time enjoying the great outdoors. But outdoors can mean exposure to insect pests and ticks. Researchers with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture say there are steps you can take to minimize the risk of tick bites and tick-borne infections.

If you’re concerned about ticks when heading outdoors, use insect repellant containing 20 to 30 percent DEET. Follow package instructions and do not apply under clothing or to children under two months of age.

If working regularly in the outdoors, consider also applying permethrin to clothing. Permethrin will last through several washes, but must not be applied to skin — again, be sure to follow package instructions. Wear light-colored clothing and tuck long pants into your socks to help keep ticks off of your skin. Wear close-toed shoes or, even better, boots sprayed with permethrin.

Your best protection against a tick-borne infection, is a careful tick check. Check immediately after being outside and again in the evening while you are undressing. Do thorough checks of your children and pets. If you find an attached tick, simply use tweezers to remove them. Grasp the tick mouthparts as close to the skin as possible and pull the tick straight out using steady pressure. According to information from the Center for Disease Control “definitely avoid folk remedies such as hot matches, nail polish remover, petroleum jelly or other substances — these will not work if the tick is firmly attached.”

It is recommended to wash the area with soap and water, then dry and apply a topical antiseptic. Mark the spot where the tick was removed and record the date on your calendar. Watch during the next two weeks for signs of illness (fever, headache or spreading rash.) Consider keeping ticks that were firmly attached for a week or so, to be able to show to your doctor in the event that you start to become ill. Place the tick in a small container with rubbing alcohol. Contact your physician if you feel you may be developing early symptoms of a tick-borne illness.

Keep in mind that most tick bites in Tennessee will be harmless. So be sure to get outside and enjoy our state’s abundant natural beauty while keeping these sensible precautions in mind. For additional information on ticks and help with identification of ticks, visit www.tickencounter.org

(Source: UT Center for Wildlife Health)

Agricultural Market Summary

Cattle Market Trends
Feeder steers steady to $4 higher, $195.00-$365.00; Feeder heifers $1 to $4 higher, $172.50-$317.50; Slaughter cows steady, $90.00-$117.00; Slaughter bulls $1 to $3 higher, $130.50-$150.00.

**Grain Market Trends**

Corn, soybeans, and wheat were down for the week. **Corn** – Cash price, $3.54-$4.03. July futures closed at $3.63 a bushel, down 6 cents. **Soybeans** – Cash price, $9.59-$10.18. July futures closed at $9.64 a bushel, down 6 cents a bushel. **Wheat** – Cash price, $4.27-$4.46 July futures closed at $4.74 a bushel, down 14 cents.

**TN Sheep and Goat Auction**

**Goats** – Slaughter kids, $155.00-$232.00; Yearling, $153.00-$164.00; Slaughter bucks, $122.00-$153.00; Feeder kids, $175.00-205.00. **Sheep** – Slaughter lambs, $132.00-$212.00; Slaughter ewes, $73.00-$119.00; Slaughter rams. $72.00-$78.00.

For additional information on these and other topics, contact the UT 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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Submitted by:
Ruth Correll
Agricultural Agent
UT/TSU Extension, Wilson County
acorrell@utk.edu