Advanced Master Beef/Master Beef Producers Classes in Wilson County to Begin October 5

The Master Beef Program focuses on issues facing the beef industry. Topics include nutrition, forage production, health, genetics, reproduction, marketing, management, cattle handling techniques, and others. The Master Beef Program is sponsored by the University of Tennessee Extension. An upcoming class is planned to begin October 5. Pre-registration is required. Classes will be held at the James E. Ward Ag. Center, Lebanon, TN.

The Master Beef Program is open to any Tennessee cow-calf producer who is interested in improving his or her knowledge of beef production and marketing. The program was developed to provide information to help producers improve their profitability as well as position the state’s beef industry to be more competitive with that of other states. Successful competition of this program qualifies the person as a Master producer.

The cost of the program is $160.00. Scholarships are available to help defray the cost. The $100 scholarships are being provided by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture through the Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Fund and are available only to those who complete the program and receive certification. Qualification for the scholarship include having a current Beef Quality Assurance certification and having a Premise ID.

For additional information or to sign-up for the program, please call Ruth Correll, UT Extension Agent, 444-9584, or you may visit the UT Extension office at 925 E. Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN. You may check the UT Extension, Wilson County website as well: utextension.tennessee.edu/Wilson.

Crepe Myrtle Aphid and Asian Wooly Hackberry Aphids

Aphids can produce copious amounts of sticky honeydew. The tiny droplets fall on leaves and anything below such as bedding plants, outdoor decks, furniture, toys, sidewalks, driveways and automobiles. Sooty mold fungi will grow on the sugary substrate and over time turn leaves, bark and the aforementioned items black. Leaves are not killed but their ability to produce carbohydrate through photosynthesis is greatly reduced.

Aphid populations vary from year to year and they are hard to predict. The weather is one major factor and the availability of predators and parasitoids is another. For whatever combination of factors, this year seems to be a good one for aphids.

Crepe myrtle aphids are usually not something that I see much in Tennessee. The Asian multicolored lady beetle, syrphid fly larvae, and parasitoid wasps (cause aphid mummies) normally keep
crepe myrtle and many other aphid populations in check. Recently, we have received several reports of heavy infestations where leaves are black with sooty mold.

Asian woolly hackberry aphid populations also seem to be building in this area. They only occur on hackberry and sugarberry. Since these are common landscape and forest trees in Tennessee, the Asian woolly hackberry aphid has become a major nuisance pest. Populations had been building since 2001 until a couple years ago when they tended to crash in many areas. They appear to be have spiked up again. It is probably too late to control either of these aphids this year.

Next spring, drench around the base of hackberry, sugarberry or crape myrtle with imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Insect Control). This systemic insecticide will move up into the plant and to the leaves. It should provide season-long control and may possibly give some level of control through the following spring. On a smaller plant such as crape myrtle that can be easily sprayed, imidacloprid plus beta cyfluthrin (Bayer Advanced Rose & Flower Insect Killer) is a good choice. (Adapted from Dr. Frank A. Hale)

Agricultural Market Summary

Cattle Market Trends
Cattle markets are following a more seasonal pattern this fall as calf prices are softening and will likely continue to do so through the next few months. Feeder steers $2 to $4 lower, $170.00-$300.00; Feeder heifers $3 to $5 lower, $147.50-$267.50; Slaughter cows $2 to $5 lower, $81.00-$102.50; Slaughter bulls steady, $121.00-$145.00.

Grain Market Trends

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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