

To: Lawrence County Producers

From:

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Lawrence County Extension Director

RE: Winter Newsletter

## **Master Farm Manager Class Scheduled**

A Master Farm Manager Class will be offered this January for Lawrence County Producers. The class will be held on 3 consecutive Wednesdays beginning January 14 and ending January 28. These classes will be from 9am-- 2pm each day and the locations of the classes will rotate between Lawrenceburg, Pulaski and Columbia. The Master Farm Manager Program focuses on utilizing solid business principles and resources on the farm.

Unlike commodity specific Master's programs like Beef, Row Crop, Commercial Poultry, Small Ruminant and Dairy, the Master Farm Manager Program delves into the business part of operating a farm. The class will cover topics ranging from Developing a Business Plan to Farm Transition Planning to Tax Planning to Record Keeping to Regulatory Issues to Market Outlooks. We have secured a host of excellent speakers that include UT Extension Specialist, Industry Experts and Legal Experts.

One of the added benefits of attending the Master Farm Manager Class and gaining the Master Farm Manager Certification is the TAEP 50% benefit for all commodities. In other words, a producer that has both beef cattle and row crops can use the MFM Certification to apply for either of the TAEP beef grants, row crop grants or any of the commodity specific grants. Master's certifications issued in 2022 or after are good for the present 2025-2026 TAEP year. Master's Certifications prior to 2022 are expired. The cost of the Master Farm Manager Class is \$125. Attached is a flyer with more details. A direct link to register and pay on-line --

[https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=2867&SINGLESTORE=tru](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=2867&SINGLESTORE=tru)

## **Other Master's Options**

### **Master Beef Producer (Beef Cattle TAEP Grants)**

1. Virtual Class Option --- Contact the Lawrence County Extension Office to register or for more information.
2. Fall In Person Class on Sept. 21 & 22

### **Master Farm Family Health & Wellness (Good for all TAEP Grants)**

1. Virtual with live webinars & pre-recorded classes --- Go to the web-site to register or for more details. --- <https://fcs.tennessee.edu/mffhw/>

### **Master Small Ruminant Producer (Good for Small Ruminant TAEP Grants)**

1. Virtual Class Option --- Thursdays beginning February 5th --- April 9th from 5:30-7pm. Go to the web-site to register or for more details. --- [UT Small Ruminants | Department of Animal Science](#)

### **Master Horse Owner (Good for Horse TAEP Grants)**

1. Virtual Class Option --- Thursdays beginning Jan. 8th --- March 26th in the evenings. Go to the web-site for more details. --- [Tennessee Master Horse Program | UT Horse](#)

**Master Commercial Poultry Producer (Commercial Poultry TAEP Grants)** --- Contact the Lawrence County Extension Office to register or for more information.

1. Virtual Option --- Go to the web-site for more details. --- [Master Commercial Poultry Producer Program | Master Commercial Poultry Producer Program](#)

**Master Row Crop Producer (Row Crop TAEP Grants)** --- Contact the Lawrence County Extension Office to register or for more information.

1. Virtual Option --- Go to the web-site for more details. --- [Tennessee Master Row Crop Producer | Tennessee Master Row Crop Producer](#)

### **Master Forage Producer (Beef, Small Ruminant, Hay & Horse TAEP Grants)**

1. Virtual Option --- Go to the web-site to register or for more details. --- [Tennessee Master Forage Program | UT Beef & Forage Center](#) \*\*\*\* We are working to plan for Lawrence County to host a spring Forage Field Day that can be used for some of the class requirements.

**Contact the Extension Office with any questions about any of the master's options**

### **Farming Fundamentals (Good for the Beginning Farmer Options)**

1. Virtual Option --- Go to the web-site to register or for more details. --- [Farming Fundamentals | UT Center of Farm Management](#)

## **Private Applicator Recertification Process**

The process for renewing your Private Applicator Certification has changed slightly from previous years. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture now requires that certified producers attain 3 continuing education points for another 3 year certification. TDA along with UT Extension Specialist are hoping to have these training materials ready for Extension Agents to begin scheduling meetings after the first of the year. To assist producers needing these 3 points I will be scheduling meetings in February and early March that will provide these needed trainings. Current cards are good until June 30, 2026.

## Row Crop Update

The UT Extension Row Crop 2025 Variety Trails are now summarized and available to view at the [utcrops.com](http://utcrops.com) website. ---- [Home](#)

The South Central Extension will be planning a winter Row Crop Meeting in late January or February with speakers on timely subjects. We will also have points available for Master Row Crop, Private Applicator and Commercial Applicator. There is still no official word on Dicamba for 2026. We hope to know soon and if the label is granted, we will be scheduling trainings along side the Private Applicator Trainings after the first of the year.

## BROOD COW'S NEW YEAR WISHES

The following New Year's wishes were presented to a local cow-calf producer by a brood cow representative of his herd. These New Year's wishes would probably be similar to those of most cows in Tennessee herds.

1. Improve pasture production and management that will allow us to graze more. This would make me happier and more profitable for you. We were made to convert grass into feeder cattle.
2. Harvest hay at the appropriate stage so we can get the needed protein and energy to perform profitably. This would also lower your cost of winter feeding. Store it in a barn. TAEP can help with the cost of building a hay barn.
3. Keep 30 percent clover in the fescue pasture to reduce the effects of the fungus. Both we and our calves will perform better. Poor quality feed offers little in nutrition and is more difficult to digest.
4. Maintain a good set of working facilities so we won't get hurt and your children can watch you work me and my herd mates and our offspring without wondering what are the words you keep yelling. Your wife might also be more willing to help. The TAEP Livestock Equipment provides awesome cost shares on some facilities that cause us less stress.
5. Keep us in "good" body condition and supplement when needed. As you know, we don't perform well when we are "too thin" and it is not profitable for you to keep us "too fat".
6. Develop a controlled, short calving season. We don't need to spend a lot of time with the bull. Sixty days, the most 90 days, are long enough for us.
7. Carry out a good health program that includes vaccinations for both respiratory and reproductive diseases. A healthy cow herd means more profit for you. Apply for the TAEP Herd Health to help with the cost.
8. Check on us during calving to ensure that we make it "okay" and my calf is born with few problems, survives and does well.
9. Process (castrate, implant and ear tag) our male calves at birth so that they can get off to a good start and make you more money. Doing this as they get older will cause a set back in their performance.

10. Mate us to a bull that allows us to produce a high quality feeder calf that we can be proud of and will be profitable for you. Apply for TAEP Genetics, it's could save you \$3,000.

11. Before you purchase a new herd bull, consider what kind of genetics are needed to get the preceding wish done. Look at the herd's performance and make a breeding plan. We don't want to be mated with just any old bull.

12. Control flies so that we can graze without being constantly irritated, our calves can perform well and neither of us develop eye problems.

13. Take better care of our daughters that you are planning for replacements. They should be fed and cared for better than us mature cows to be profitable.

15. Market our calves with their other buddies on the farm and those from neighboring farms. I have heard that "lonesome calves sell for less". You will also enjoy it better when you receive a larger check. Our wishes are basic for successful cow-calf operations and will help us be more profitable for you.  
Happy New Year.

Lawrence County Extension Holiday Schedule:

Closed December 22-26 & January 1-2.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!