Sharing the load
TAEP helps producers invest in their future

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Youth take part in 46th Tennessee Junior Livestock Expo - p. 26
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RIDE TO THE TOP.
Cover Story

8 Sharing the load
Changes and additions to the popular Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program are highlighted in this profile of producers across Tennessee who have benefitted from the cost-share initiative and improved the profitability and efficiency of their agricultural pursuits.

On the cover: With cost-share funding available through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP), Murfreesboro's Glen Hutchinson, left, and son Will added Brock 55,000-bushel grain bins and augers at their 650-acre corn and soybean farm in Coffee County. The Hutchinsons, whose operation encompasses 3,200 acres in four Middle Tennessee counties, have made numerous improvements to their agricultural enterprise through TAEP.

— Photos by Chris Villines

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Passing on a passion for the past

The Anderson County Fair is one of my favorite things to enjoy each summer. I have attended fairs across the state and each one has a different personality, but the Anderson County version is one of the best.

One of the attractions at the fair is the opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors. It’s one of those times that Clinton seems a bit smaller than it actually is because my wife, Tisa, and I run into so many people whom we know. But my favorite attraction is the antique tractor display.

There’s usually a good mix of the machines on display. You can choose your favorite color of paint and as long as it’s red or green you won’t be disappointed. Occasionally, you will find some old Fords or maybe an Allis-Chalmers thrown in for good measure. Periodically throughout the show, enthusiasts line up their vintage workhorses and parade them around the ball field a few times. The distinctive sound of the old “poppin’ John” engines stands out against the sounds of the nearby fairgoers.

Walking across the grassy area near the ball fields where the tractor show is situated, Tisa and I always stop and visit her cousin, Howard Farmer, who is among the overseers of the display of vintage farm machinery.

Howard, who also serves on the fair board, can usually always be found sitting in the shade with a small group of like-minded folks near his beloved tractors. Retired as an educator from the Anderson County School System, he is one of those people who practically everyone knows. The Anderson Farmers Co-op member farms his family’s homeplace in scenic Dutch Valley, raising hay and cattle. And he’s a typical farmer in that he loves his machinery.

Howard, along with his nephew, Chuck Farmer, had four tractors on display at this year’s fair out of a total of 15 at the event. Like many enthusiasts, Howard has a hard time explaining his passion for tractors. It just seems as natural a fit as the faded overalls that he typically wears.

Howard and Chuck have a total of 17 tractors, in a variety of conditions from pristine restored to fresh from the field. Many are tied to the family’s farming history or those of his neighbors. For example, his prized 1949 Farmall H was bought new by his father, Wayne, from the brand’s dealership in Lafollette. His 1954 Farmall M and Chuck’s 1969 Massey Ferguson MultiPower 175 were purchased and used by the late Tom Chadwick, a dairyman who lived up the road from the Farmers. Like many enthusiasts, Howard and Chuck still like to occasionally put the old iron to work — clipping pasture, mowing hay, or plowing.

There are larger displays of antique tractors at tractor pulls and shows throughout the state, but you always find a similar enthusiasm at each of them and, more importantly, a feeling of community.

Tucked among the full-size machines, there are always a few classic lawn tractors on display, too. It’s neat way for someone to get involved in the hobby without spending a lot of money. But the smiling faces show they are having just as much fun as the veteran hobbyist.

Neighbor Jeremiah Dagley, 15, was at the fair this year with a well-used Bolens lawn tractor that he had resurrected. After his years spent as an educator, Howard knows a thing or two about fanning the flames of interest when he sees it, and he did his best to make the youngster feel welcome.

“Jeremiah was a bit shy when he first came in,” says Howard. “But I told him, ‘You’re one of us now.’ I asked him if he wanted to drive that [Farmall] M, and a big smile came across his face. He was real gentle with it.”

“I hollered at him to pull the throttle back on it,” says Chuck with a laugh. “But I guess he didn’t know what that meant.”

Jeremiah has been bitten hard by the antique bug and located what he thought was a strong candidate for restoration on Craigslist. When he went to buy it, the unscrupulous seller told him the tractor had been running that morning. After he got it home, though, he found out the block was busted.

“We’ll help him get it going,” says Howard. “We’ll give him as much help as he wants.”

Snapshots
Haslam tour highlights importance of agriculture

Story and photos by Glen Liford

It’s not every day that the Governor of Tennessee stops in at the Co-op.

But on Friday, July 28, Governor Bill Haslam, Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Jai Templeton, and Tennessee Farm Bureau President Jeff Aiken stopped by Washington Farmers Cooperative in Jonesborough as part of a two-day tour coordinated by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Tennessee Farm Bureau to highlight the diversity and importance of agriculture to our state.

The tour began early that morning at Oak Hill Farm in Gray, where the group kicked off the day with farmers Larry and Brenda Crouch and their son, Jason, as they learned about the Crouch’s diversified farming operation that includes beef cattle, hay, corn, and a greenhouse operation.

Later in the morning, a crowd of 60 to 75 farmers and other customers gathered to hear Haslam speak from the front porch of the Co-op beneath the Washington Farmers Co-op sign.

Farm Bureau’s Aiken, who is also a Washington County farmer, praised Haslam for his commitment to agriculture as he introduced the governor.

“There is a great connection between what we as farmers do and what he does as the governor,” Aiken said. “You all have a passion for producing crops and livestock, and he has a passion for the state of Tennessee. You folks have what I think is the strongest work ethic in the state. He has a great work ethic and works day and night representing our state and serving our citizens in a tireless manner. He has appointed a rural task force to identify problems and help our rural communities and our farmers. I think being here today is just another example of that commitment.”

“If you came here to hear a speech, you’re in the wrong place,” Haslam said as he wel-

(See Haslam, page 6)
Governor Bill Haslam, left, took a few moments after meeting and greeting a crowd of farmers on the front porch of Washington Farmers Co-op in Jonesborough to purchase a Co-op cap from Jacob Priar.

At the end of the day, a post on Haslam’s Facebook page summed up the governor’s experience:

“Today I hit the road with Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation in East TN. We heard from local farmers and agribusiness owners about their experiences and challenges. I knew this going into today, but as I end the day I have even more gratitude for their work and economic impact as our state’s largest industry.”
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TAEP
Farm Investment Project
Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program
The person who first coined the phrase “You have to invest money to make money” could very well have been a farmer. And it’s a sure bet that even he or she would have recognized the benefit in the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP).

TAEP is a cost-share program for Tennessee’s Agricultural community that “allows producers to maximize farm profits, adapt to changing market situations, improve operation safety, increase farm efficiency, and make a positive economic impact in their communities” say Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) officials.

Producers qualify for cost-share levels up to 50 percent of what they invest in approved categories including genetics, livestock equipment, livestock working facility covers, hay storage, livestock feed storage, grain storage, producer diversification, and poultry grower. The exact level of cost-share depends on a number of factors. Since its inception in 2005, the popular TDA program has helped fund more than 46,500 on-the-farm projects.

The TAEP has shared the load of investing in the future of Tennessee agriculture with producers through this initiative with the ultimate goal of improving farming facilities and operations to make the state’s agriculture industry more competitive, say TDA officials.

The new application period for TAEP is October 1-16, 2017. The reimbursement deadline for new livestock equipment is April 1, 2018, which is a month earlier than the 2017 deadline. All other programs will have a deadline of September 1, 2018.

A number of new items have been added to the approved equipment list this year. These include:

• Fly sprayers
• Hay unroller and windrow bale feeder (These innovative products unroll the width of a round bale of hay and position the hay flat along the ground for easier and more efficient feeding. The windrow bale feeder, on the other hand, distributes hay from a round bale into a windrow that allows it to be fed in bunk feeders or on the ground.)
• Clover seeders (This item was added after the application was printed last year, but was included in the reimbursement instructions.)
• Mobile feed bins
• Air blast and mist pasture sprayers (These were ineligible in the past.)
• Overhead loadout bins — minimum of 25-ton capacity

As always, TDA officials encourage applicants to submit their requests early to ensure best chances for approval.

Additional details are available at TDA’s website at: https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/ag-farms-enhancement.

A large number of Co-op customers have relied on TAEP funds to assist with improving their operations. The following are a few examples.

Gary and Donny Montgomery, Decaturville

First Farmers Cooperative members Gary and Donny Montgomery have relied on TAEP cost-share funds to make several important additions to their 130-cow beef operation that also includes around 110 calves and seven bulls. The brothers, who have a logging business in addition to their cattle and hay operation on 400 or so acres near Decaturville, have relied on TAEP funds for the past eight years or so to enhance their operation, adding livestock handling equipment, barns for hay storage, and genetics for their herd.

The Montgomeries worked closely with Jason Hearn, First
The primary livestock handling setup includes a Priefert squeeze chute and a combination of Co-op gates and Priefert panels. The second handling area also includes a similar mix of Co-op gates and Priefert panels set up as an alleyway to catch a group of cattle and direct them into a portable squeeze chute (the portable chute is among items on the Montgomerys’ wish list for the coming year).

The additions have allowed the cattlemen to have livestock working facilities at three different locations at their farms, so that animals can be conveniently worked without having to move them great distances.

"It’s helped us tremendously," says Gary, who estimates that he saves as much as two days when working the cattle with the new setup. "We have everything arranged now where we don’t have to go far to work the cattle."

The TAEP cost-share aspect has been a plus for the operation, adds Gary.

"If [the TAEP funds] hadn’t been available, I guess we would still be paying for it," he says.

Glen and Will Hutchinson, Murfreesboro

Glen Hutchinson and his son, Will, are row crop farmers who grow corn, wheat, and soybeans, along with a little bit of alfalfa and grass hay, on some 3,200 acres of owned and leased farms throughout Coffee, Grundy, Franklin, and Rutherford counties. The family’s farm home is in Murfreesboro in Rutherford County. Glen is a former director of Rutherford Farmers Cooperative and is also a member of Coffee Farmers Co-op.

The Hutchinsons have used TAEP cost-share funds to help position their farming operation for the future, adding hay barns and Brock 55,000-bushel grain bins and augers at their 650-acre farm in Pelham to allow them to more efficiently manage the storage and marketing of their grain and hay.

"It’s really improved the efficiency of our operation," says Glen as he visits with Ernie Herrod, Rutherford Farmers Cooperative outside salesman, at the Hutchinson’s farm. "What we have been able to do with these bins and barns will be paying off for years. Business is all about efficiency — getting the work done on time and marketing the crop properly. It’s about the little things."

Glen says he is now able to get the crop out of the field at harvest much quicker, avoid long waiting times at grain elevators, and get back to the field to plant cover crops or wheat.

"The additional storage in all aspects — whether it be grain, dry, or liquid — provides us flexibility to work around unpredictable weather," says Will. "We can spread the workload around and keep employees busy year round. That’s a big advantage."

"The grain bins make us more efficient at harvest time," adds Glen. "We can merchandise our grain just like the grain elevators do. It lets us move grain when we aren’t as busy and we have help on the payroll, moving grain in December, January, and February."

The Hutchinsons’ storage capacity is around 400,000 bushels and they hope to have their operation more centrally located in the future as their rented farmland in sprawling Rutherford County is squeezed out, and they rent acreage closer to the Pelham farm, which will decrease transportation time.

"I would really like to be able to store as close to 100 percent of our production as possible," says Will. "We’re not there yet."

With the help of the TAEP funds, the Hutchinsons are well on their way to their desired goals.

"We are very grateful for the program," says Will. "It has really paved the way for us to increase our efficiency, make us more competitive, and solidify our spot in Tennessee agriculture for the future."

Derek McKee, Manchester

Derek McKee of Manchester says his son, Preston, 19, will be the eighth generation of the family to pursue farming as a career. Derek, who works full time as an insurance agent for Coffee County Farm Bureau in addition to his farming pursuits, manages a herd of some 120 head of Angus and Charolais-cross cattle on around 350 acres of farmland in Lascassas in Rutherford County.

Derek, along with his dad, Jim, former manager of Rutherford Farmers Cooperative in Murfreesboro, added barns for storing hay and an elaborate livestock-handling facility over several years through TAEP before Jim became unable to work on the farm due to blindness.

The family’s working facility utilizes W-W and Co-op Super Heavy Duty panels manufactured at the Co-op Metal Fabrication Plant in LaVergne. The McKees use a Priefert Livestock Equipment squeeze chute that they already owned, but the rest was paid for with TAEP cost-share funds. Former Rutherford Farmers Co-op outside salesman Brian Ladd (now manager at Marshall Farmers Co-op) helped to design the site, and the resulting facility is serving the cattle producers well.

Derek hopes to continue to expand the working area, adding multiple smaller pens on each side of the barn with an alleyway through the center. The enhanced facilities have had a dramatic influence on the quality of the cattle raised at the farm, he stresses.

“We try to work our cattle and vaccinate our calves now twice a year," Derek says. "We have about 60 calves that we are about to sell in two weeks."

(SECT TAEP, page 10)
They are real nice. You can see how this setup pays in how they look. They are just better quality. I haven’t had any trouble with pink eye, no blackleg. I think I have only lost one calf. That’s how we justify all this work.”

Dan and Michael Brown, Chuckey

The TAEP funds have allowed the father-and-son team of Dan and Michael Brown to expand their registered Angus operation at Chuckey considerably faster than they would have if the cost-share funds were not available, say the cattlemen, who have about 50 cows and a couple of herd bulls.

The Browns have been taking part in the program since 2006 when Dan, who had recently retired from his career as an electrical designer with a worldwide engineering firm, enrolled in the 14-week Beef Quality Assurance class to learn more about the beef business.

By passing the class, Dan qualified for TAEP funds, and he and Michael have tried to utilize it every year that it was available to them since, upgrading their herd genetics and modernizing their cattle-handling facilities at their 200-acre farm.

As members of Washington Farmers Cooperative in Jonesborough, they worked with Assistant Manager Ben Bowman and TFC hardware specialist Gary Satterfield to design a system that would allow them to work safely and efficiently.

The Browns already had a building and they used an existing cattle working chute to which they added Co-op Metal Fabrication corral panels and gates to fashion a system that would allow even one person alone to work the animals, if necessary.

“We planned it in our minds, talking it through, before we ever put our plans down on paper,” says Dan. “Then we got Ben and Gary out here.”

The Co-op employees looked at what the Browns wanted to do, then suggested the proper pieces to accomplish their goals within their budget.

“They gave us stronger equipment than what I was expecting,” says Dan. “I expected Co-op panels to be thicker tubing like these bull gates. They aren’t as thick, but they’re just as strong. The cattle haven’t hurt them yet.”

“[TAEP] has been a big success in the state of Tennessee for all producers,” says Michael, who serves on the East Tennessee Angus Association board of directors and was recently appointed as a director of the Tennessee Angus Association. “I served on the Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association board for six years and watched the program grow from that standpoint. It’s been a great benefit for all of agriculture, not just the cattle producers.

“In my travels I get to talk with people from other states and they can’t believe we have this type of program in Tennessee. They are all a little jealous of it. From a genetic standpoint, [TAEP] has increased the value of cattle coming out of Tennessee. And from the equipment side, it has allowed producers to upgrade facilities and make it safer for everybody involved in taking care of the stock.”

After Dan and Michael Brown spent considerable time discussing and planning their desired livestock-handling facility, they took their plans on paper to Ben Bowman, Washington Farmers Co-op assistant manager, and Gary Satterfield, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative hardware specialist, who recommended the sturdy, durable heavy-duty gates manufactured at TFC’s Metal Fabrication Plant in LaVergne. The system was paid for using TAEP cost-share funds.

Dan Brown, left, his son, Michael, right, and Michael’s son, Tyler, 10, enjoy working on the family’s farm at Chuckey in Greene County. The Browns have been able to improve their farming facilities through the TAEP cost-share initiative.
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The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture has chosen Dr. Robert Burns as the new dean for UT Extension.

Burns, a native of Walland, Tennessee, holds a Ph.D. in civil engineering, an M.S. in environmental engineering, and a B.S. in agricultural engineering – all from UT. He will manage UT Extension’s statewide educational and outreach program that helps ensure the success of the state’s $4.3 billion agricultural industry.

UT Extension works with local governments to provide educational services regarding agricultural production, natural resource management, and family and consumer sciences. UT Extension also manages Tennessee 4-H, the state’s branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s national youth development and leadership program. With more than 176,000 members and volunteers, Tennessee 4-H is among the nation’s largest 4-H programs.

“I’m excited to welcome Dr. Robert Burns to the leadership team of the UT Institute of Agriculture as the dean for UT Extension,” said Tim Cross, chancellor of the UT Institute of Agriculture. “His knowledge of Tennessee agriculture, his passion for positive youth development, and his commitment to Tennessee families will serve him well in this role. I look forward to working with him as he advances our Extension educational programs.”

Burns had been serving UT Extension for the past seven years, first as assistant then as associate dean, managing agricultural and natural resource and community economic development programs in all 95 counties in the state. His other previous experience includes serving on the faculty of Iowa State University and as a national conservation engineer with USDA-NRCS. He also spent nine years on the faculty of the UTIA. He succeeds Cross, who was promoted to serve as UT’s chancellor for Agriculture in January of this year. Dr. Delton Gerloff, head of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, had served as interim dean of Extension.

“Among Robert’s responsibilities as dean will be to build on the impacts UT Extension has already made, ensure programming continues to be relevant, and to successfully secure the resources needed to achieve excellence,” Cross stated. “He will also work with our other units to ensure a strong collaborative environment for the Institute.”

Burns grew up on a Blount County beef cattle and tobacco farm and first became acquainted with UT Extension when he joined 4-H in the fourth grade. He is excited to begin his new role.

“I have seen and understand the positive impact that Extension educational programs can have on people’s lives, and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve and support our UT Extension staff to help make Tennessee a better place to live, work, and raise a family,” said Burns.

Burns began his appointment August 1.
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Tennessee Farmers Co-op, 180 Old Nashville Hwy, LaVergne, TN, 37086, attention Feed Department.
The contest will run from August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018. A total of 1 tractor and 3 creep feeders will be awarded on August 15, 2018. DELIVERIES WILL TAKE PLACE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 15, 2018.

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In both the test plot and the pasture, Farm Science Genetics’ Fria ryegrass continues to produce high-quality, high-quantity results. For years, the cool-season grass has outperformed comparable varieties in university studies, but it’s the product’s on-the-farm success that has gained the attention of Tennessee producers.

“Fria’s reputation as a resilient winter forage has been solidified with researchers,” says Greg Aston, South Central U.S. sales representative for Allied Seed, the company that produces the Farm Science Genetics brand. “But it’s the ryegrass’ performance for the farmers that matters most to us. Most producers I’ve met who have given Fria a try are very pleased with the results.”

One such producer is Stacey Stricklin of Savannah. Five years ago, the maintenance and safety director for Hardin County Schools planted fescue, a cool-season grass, on 125 acres of pasture in an attempt to extend his grazing season.

“No matter how hard I tried, I couldn’t get [the fescue] to grow on 100 of those acres,” says Stacey, who raises 80 brood cows near his Savannah home. “That’s four fields in the bottoms with a creek running through them. The only thing that will grow there is crabgrass. It’s been great for my cattle, but crabgrass dies after the first frost.”

He needed a grass that could grow in his pastures’ wet conditions during the winter months. After two years of frustration with fescue, Stacey, a member of First Farmers Cooperative, turned to his local Co-op for help.

“Logan [Schull, an outside salesman for First Farmers’ Savannah branch], suggested I give Fria ryegrass a try,” says Stacey. “It’s done real good for me ever since. My cows graze on it all winter, and then I cut it for hay, too.”

Even when dry conditions and the volunteer high school football coach’s busy schedule forced him to plant later than he preferred last fall, Stacey says the Fria still performed well.

“I didn’t drill this last year until November, and I got a good stand,” he says. “It did good for hay, too.”

Stacey says that with his hayfields, he fertilized the pastures after removing the cattle in March and averaged just over two bales an acre.

“This year, I want to get more hay to help develop my September/October heifers, so I’m going to take them off in February,” says Stacey, adding his goal for next year is 200 rolls of wrapped hay.

“I’m hoping [this wrapped hay] will give them a lot of the protein they need and will be a big part of what I feed them,” he says. “I think I can sell every heifer that I develop this way.”

Since discovering that Fria will allow his cattle to graze year round on his bottomland acreage, Stacey says he freely shares his ryegrass results with fellow farmers.

“Raising cattle is kind of like coaching football,” says Stacey. “As football coaches, none of us comes up with new plays; we steal from others and tweak it to work for our program. That’s what we do as farmers — we watch what other farmers do. And when they have success, we take what they did and tweak it to be the most beneficial and cost effective for us.”

Lawrence County livestock producer Don Staggs tried Fria ryegrass for the first time last fall, sowing it on 100 of his 600 acres of pasture.

“If I had known I’d have a year like this,” he says, “I
would have sowed three or four times that.”

With the help of son Kevin and grandsons Jake and Jared, Don raises 270 brood cattle on 1,000 acres of owned and rented land in Lawrence County.

“I was impressed with its results,” says Don, “even though I probably planted it later than I should because it was so dry, and I fertilized it too early.”

In two 40-acre pastures where Don sowed the Fria, he placed 50 pregnant cows in the fields as soon as the grasses had a good stand and has left these mamas and their calves on the two pastures well into late summer.

“Those calves are putting on weight just fine with the Fria,” says Don. “Those pastures are probably considered overloaded, but there’s still plenty of grass there.”

With his other Fria acres, Don also cut the pastures for hay following the winter grazing season.

“We cut somewhere between 800 and 1,000 bales this year,” he says. “We had a little extra and ended up selling some.”

The Lawrence Farmers Cooperative customer says he hopes to get the Fria seeds in the ground earlier this year.

“I’m hoping I’ll get even more growth by planting in mid-September and fertilizing in February,” says Don. “If my finances will let me, I’m going to plant 200 to 300 acres of Fria this year. I’m that pleased with its performance.”

Andy Ulmer, agronomist for Gibson and Lawrence Farmers Cooperatives, says positive endorsements like those from Stacey and Don are common among Co-op producers and, with the combination of research data and on-the-farm results, he confidently recommends the product to his customers.

“When Fria first came on the market, it got my attention quickly with its winter hardiness but the quality and quantity really exceeded my expectations,” he says. “Fria has great adaptability to tough situations but also responds well to good management practices. For those who do not have any winter grazing, Fria can help fill the gap. We recommend it for those with weak fescue stands to give fall and winter tonnage and quality as well as those who need a total winter forage supplementation program. We have also had good results in baleage. Whether grazing, cutting for hay, or wrapping, Fria ryegrass will deliver quality results.”

For more information about Fria ryegrass and other cool-season forages from Farm Science Genetics and Allied Seed, visit www.ourcoop.com/productcatalog or talk with the professionals at your local Co-op.
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3-FT. WIDE SECTION
PAINTED CLASSIC RIB ROOFING 29-Gauge
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2-FT. WIDE SECTION
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VERSATILITY. DURABILITY. VALUE.

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It’s MAX-TIGHT HORSE FENCE from HERDSMAN BRAND

What’s the big deal about MAX-TIGHT HORSE FENCING?
ALL OF IT!

- Square knot gives Max-Tight horse fencing extra vertical strength to withstand the impact of large animals.
- Allows flexibility for installation over hilly terrain.
- Class I coated: 5-year warranty.
- Class III coated: 10-year warranty.
New at Co-op

Diamond® Hoof Conditioner
Diamond Hoof Conditioner (#6821107) is a dual-action hoof conditioner. This product provides a barrier against infection and helps maintain a healthy moisture balance in the hoof. Proven to replace natural protein that is worn off during activity. Bottle contains 7.5 fl. oz. and comes with a built-in applicator.

Diamond® Thrush Treatment
Diamond Thrush Treatment (#6821105) “marking” gel formula helps to reduce bacteria and fungi without harming the surrounding tissue and does not run when applied. The gel bonds to the hoof protein to form a barrier between thrush and healthy tissue. The blue color shows where product has been applied, while the flexible tip applicator allows for better placement of treatment.

Diamond® Tool Roll
Diamond Tool Roll (#6821863) is a durable, waterproof tool organizer with eight pockets. The roll features two adjustable side-release buckles and a comfort grip handle. Ideal for travel and storage of Diamond Farrier tools. Note: tools are not included.

Drought Armor Tall Fescue
Drought Armor by Allied Seed is an elite tall fescue blend with the utmost in heat and drought tolerance. This premium blend contains varieties with a slower growth habit and overall shorter plant height that results in fewer clippings. Characteristics include a dark green genetic color, medium-fine leaf texture, and increased resistance to brown patch, Pythium, and rust diseases. An aggressive, high-tillering growth habit results in unsurpassed density and enables the turf to repair itself from physical damage, fill in bare spots, and recover quickly. Drought Armor is the perfect choice for an impressive lawn that stands up to tough conditions. Available in 3-lb. (#80503), 10-lb. (#80506), and 25-lb. (#80504) bags.

Tru-Test WaterWell™ Waterers
Tru-Test WaterWell™ Waterers have a lower profile that enables access for livestock of all sizes. The flotation balls act as a visual water-level cue: If they can be seen from a distance, there is adequate water within. The balls also help to seal the waterer in summer to keep the unit dark and reduce evaporation, virtually eliminating algae growth. Inside, the float is square, providing a greater flat surface area to encourage full water shut off once the desired water level is reached. Available in two sizes: WaterWell 2 (#25296) has a 31-gallon capacity and a 110-herd capacity, and WaterWell 4 (#25297) has a 60-gallon capacity and a 215-herd capacity.
Supplemental nutrition improves quality of deer

These days, buying or leasing recreational land is emphasized more, which allows land management that enhances white-tailed deer populations. An effective way to attract deer and improve their trophy quality is through supplemental nutrition.

Deer graze on trees, shrubs, bushes, briars, and grasses in their home range. Likewise, deer will consume tender vegetation by jumping fences to eat garden plants, and they love easy meals at corn and soybean fields. This is no accident. The tender new plants are often the most nutrient-dense.

Nutrition, health, and genetics are the major limiting factors of body size and trophy status in white-tailed deer. While genetics in wild deer populations are not easy to change, we can provide extra nutrition so deer can express their potential for body size and antler growth and to help assure their overall health.

There are several ways to provide supplemental nutrition to whitetails in your hunting area. Growing specialized forages in food plots is a great way to accomplish this. Planting food plots involves disking, harrowing, and/or cultipacking soil. Following soil-test recommendations to determine soil pH and fertilizer needs is key to establishing a good stand of vegetation.

Food plots are flexible as to forage type and time of year. Seed blends for fall and winter food plots consist of wheat, rye, oats, clovers, and specific brassicas. Spring and summer food plots utilize clovers, corn, and soybeans. These mature at different times, providing a consistent source of supplemental nutrition. Clover, chicory, and alfalfa are perennial plots that do not require yearly reseeding.

While food plots can be custom-tailored to provide nutrients when native forages may be lacking, it is best to provide them throughout the year. This keeps deer frequenting your hunting area and provides needed nutrients for all stages of their life cycle. Whitetails will, after just a few days, leave the areas you’ve labored to bring them to if there’s no growing forage.

Using a commercial deer feed and a purchased or homemade feeding station is another viable option. There are several feeds available to provide protein, energy, vitamins, and minerals in a convenient form. Pelleted or extruded (cooked) are very palatable to white-tailed deer. A portable feeder also adds flexibility by allowing feeding stations to be moved as seasons change or whitetail travel patterns vary. Manufactured feed blocks are useful in remote areas, on land where you don’t have feeders, or in places you may only visit during hunting season. These blocks contain most of the same nutrients as deer feed and can last for several days or weeks.

A mineral mixture consisting of salt, calcium, phosphorus, vitamins, and trace minerals should be the cornerstone of your program. These minerals act as an attractant and provide nutrients that maximize body size and antler growth. Minerals affect weight, reproduction, health, and antler growth.

Food plot seed mixtures, feeds, blocks, and minerals are available at Co-op from big names such as The Whitetail Institute, Mossy Oak Biologic, and Buck Forage as well as products manufactured by Tennessee Farmers Cooperative. For more information, visit your local Co-op.

Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth

- Natural product
- OMRI Listed for Organic Use
- 10.5lb. Bag, 4lb. Bag, 2lb. Bag, and 8oz. bottle
- Powder duster included in bags
- 8 oz. soft easy-to-squeeze bottle reaches into cracks and crevices
- Mix in animal feed for Horses, Cows, Chickens, Dogs, Cats, and many more animals

Not All Diatomaceous Earth Is The Same!

OMRI Listed
Since 1922
Harvest is an exciting and exhausting time, the culmination of a season of hard work. However, the rush to harvest can also yield tragic outcomes.

Each year, dozens of farm workers are killed and hundreds are injured in accidents involving power lines and electrical equipment.

Things get very busy this time of year on the farm, and it is all too easy to forget the danger that may be just overhead.

Review with all workers the farm activities that take place around power lines. Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance. Keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines – above, below, and to the side – a 360-degree rule.

Take the time to lower grain augers before moving them, even if it’s only a few feet. Also use extreme caution when raising booms or buckets on equipment.

Farm workers should take these precautions to ensure a safer harvest season:

- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.
- As with any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles, or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- Don’t use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside bins. Know where and how to shut off the power in an emergency.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- Operators of farm equipment or vehicles must also know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line: Stay on the equipment, warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not get off the equipment until the utility crew says it is safe to do so.
- If the power line is energized and you step outside, high-voltage could flow through your body. Stay inside the vehicle unless there’s fire or imminent risk of fire.
- Never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment.
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Your cattle’s health is in your hands. Help stop clostridial diseases with Ultrabac® 7 and help protect them against common viral respiratory and reproductive diseases with CattleMaster® GOLD. Stop by your local Farmers Co-op and stomp out disease.

For every dose of CattleMaster® GOLD FP® 5 purchased, receive a dose of Ultrabac® 7 for free*. Terms and conditions apply.

Any cow. Any calf. Any time.

CattleMaster® Gold is backed by the Fetal Protection Guarantee®.

The Zoetis 100% BVD Pre-Free Guarantee and the IBR Abortion Guarantee will be administered through Zoetis VMIPS (Veterinary Medical Information and Product Support) at 800-766-5268. Proof of purchase is required. Calves born to BVD Pre-positive cows or heifers do not qualify for the guarantee. This guarantee does not apply to, and Zoetis shall not be liable for, any (x) damages caused as a result of the improper handling, misuse or abuse of the vaccines that are the subject of this guarantee, or the willful misconduct or negligence of any third party, or (y) any indirect, punitive, special, incidental or consequential damages. Zoetis reserves the right to modify or cancel the terms and conditions of this guarantee.

*Minimum purchase quantity: 10 doses of CattleMaster® GOLD FP® 5. Offer valid 9/1/17 - 10/31/17 at participating Farmers Co-op locations while supplies last.
George Marks died at his home on July 31 surrounded by his family after a year-long battle with leukemia.

He was a leader of Montgomery Farmers Co-op and was elected as a director of Tennessee Farmers Cooperative for a seven-year term in 1981, serving as chairman of the board in 1988.

He operated a dairy and grew corn, beans, wheat, and tobacco on his Century Farm in the Hickory Point Community.

“If there was ever a man born to be a farmer, it was George, as he was a man of the earth and loved farming,” wrote his family in his obituary.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Aug. 3 at Excell Baptist Church in Clarksville.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah Heflin Marks; his son, Benjamin Patch Marks; daughters, Joy Groves Shepard (Jimmy) and Jill Groves Arney (Dustin); grandchildren, Drew Shepard and Sophia Milom; brother, Albert Marks (Annette); nephew, Hunter Marks; and niece, Ruth Marks Hoffman.

Marks' son, John, who was also a farmer, died in 1997.

Marks graduated from Clarksville High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Tennessee.

Marks was a respected member of the agricultural community serving in leadership roles for a number of organizations. He served 48 years on the Board of the Burley Stabilization Corporation, including 30 as the organization's president. He was also a board member of Montgomery County Farm Bureau for many years and a committee member of the Farm Service Agency. He also served two terms with the County Planning Commission.

Marks was a member of Excell Baptist Church and a charter member of the Blue Wing Hunting Club.
In his professional life, the late Tom McCutcheon became part of the state’s agricultural history as the father of Tennessee No-Till. In his spare time, the first superintendent of Milan’s field experiment station turned his attention to preserving history. “He didn’t hunt, fish, or go to the lake; he collected antique farm equipment,” says Dr. Blake Brown, current director of the Milan facility, now known as the University of Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center. “That’s what he loved. Every weekend, he’d scour the countryside for items once used by the region’s early settlers.”

In the mid-1980s, after decades of collecting, Tom decided to ensure his stored treasures would serve a larger purpose. With the help of a few friends, including local newspaper editor Bob Parkins, Tom formulated a plan to preserve his legacy — the West Tennessee Agricultural Museum. Unfortunately, Tom was diagnosed with colon cancer and passed away early in the association’s fundraising process, but his friends continued to work toward his vision.

By 1987, the group had secured enough monies to make Tom’s dream a reality, appropriately erecting the 16,000-square-foot, two-story building on the AgResearch Center grounds. “Rumor has it that volunteers cleaned out several chicken houses across the county,” says Blake, “all filled to the brim with Tom’s treasures, each item carefully numbered and catalogued by the collector.”

Museum workers organized the thousands of antique farming and rural lifestyle artifacts — including wrenches, plows, axes, a cider mill and press, pulleys, a printing press, and antique tractors — into categories representing various aspects of country life in the region during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Each category of items is displayed within or near a life-like scene created with replicas of vintage structures, intricately detailed wall murals, and mannequins. The hundreds of farming implements are displayed with a realistic farming scene complete with a farmer on an antique tractor and a horse pulling a plow, while a blacksmith hammers iron on an anvil inside his shop with more farming tools hanging on surrounding walls.

In another display, visitors can glance inside a country kitchen equipped with a wood-burning stove and cast-iron skillets surrounded by dozens of antique household items. Another features a general
Blake added his own personal touch with a wildlife scene that features preserved indigenous animals of West Tennessee. “Every time I come in here, I see something new,” he says. “I tell people often I’ve been in here a thousand times and every time I see something I’ve never seen before.”

With nearly 15,000 artifacts on display, the museum is one of the largest agricultural collections in the nation. Most were collected by Tom, but some of the items have been donated or are on loan, including a 130-year-old wedding dress, a gun collection dating back to the Civil War, and a furnished log cabin — the boyhood home of former Tennessee Governor Gordon Brown ing — which stands next to the museum.

“I think Tom McCutcheon would be proud of what we have done with it,” says Blake. “His goal was to preserve early West Tennessee’s heritage, and I think we are doing a good job.”

The museum is open to visitors Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on weekends and holidays. Admission is free and guided tours are available. The museum is handicap accessible. Reservations are required for school and other large groups. For more information, visit the museum’s website, http://milan.tennessee.edu/museum or the West Tennessee Agricultural Museum Facebook page.

**TRAVEL BACK IN TIME ON OCT. 21 AT MILAN’S FALL FOLKLORE JAMBOREE**

Make plans now to attend the Fall Folklore Jamboree on Saturday, Oct. 21. Held on the grounds of the University of Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Milan, the one-day festival will feature more than 130 folk artists demonstrating traditional farming, cooking, and home life skills.

Attendees can see a blacksmith in action, watch mules plow a field, sample fresh apple cider and old-fashioned kettle corn made right on the grounds, and shop for unique items like homemade soaps, candles, and brooms.

Visitors can also enjoy riding in a horse-drawn wagon, picking and ginning their own cotton, and taking a tractor ride around the Research Center grounds. Plus, award-winning gospel and bluegrass bands will perform throughout the day.

Other refreshments will include grilled tenderloin, barbecue, hamburgers, hot dogs, and nachos. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is $5 for adults and $2 for children ages 3-12. Parking is free.

For more information about the Jamboree, call 731-686-7362 or e-mail recatmilan@utk.edu.
Got Bed Bugs?

1. **DRYER**
   - Stop bed bugs and dry linens, pillows & furniture covers at high heat for at least 30 min.

2. **VACUUM**
   - Vacuum all bedding surfaces, floors & surrounding areas.

3. **SPRAY**
   - Spray mattresses & box springs on all sides.

4. **COVER**
   - Use encasement covers to seal mattresses and box springs.

5. **KILL EGGS**
   - Spray all surfaces of furniture, upholstery & luggage with Harris EGG KILL or BUGB-16A.

6. **POWDER**
   - Pet-friendly powder into cracks & crevices.

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With three times the life and almost four times the strength of typical low tensile fencing, your Stay-Tuff Fixed Knot fence will stand strong for generations. High tensile wire, a solid vertical stay wire, and a tight Fixed Knot provide exceptional strength and allow you to use far fewer posts, saving time and money. And our superior wire coatings ensure this fence will stand the test of time. You owe it to yourself and your family to invest in a Stay-Tuff Fence.

To learn more about this great fence, contact us at 1-888-223-6322

STAY-TUFF
STAY STRONG.
STAY TIGHT.
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Story and photos by Allison Parker

In July, nearly 400 youth from across Tennessee gathered at the 46th annual Tennessee Junior Livestock Exposition to display their hard work and compete for honors. For many 4-Hers and FFA members, the prestigious event provides fond memories of their showing experience. The passion and drive for success were evident by the intense competition at this year’s Expo, where youngsters exhibited their prized beef cattle and show lambs in a variety of categories with other Tennessee 4-H and FFA members.

The Expo sheep show was held July 6-8 at Hyder Burks Agricultural Pavilion on the campus of Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. Some 174 youth exhibited 620 breeding ewes and market lambs at the show. Judges Brent Jennings of North Carolina and Ben Williamson of Kansas kicked off the competition with the Registered Ewe show and some showmanship classes where the judging focused on the skill of the exhibitors rather than the animal. The continuation of showmanship, the Commercial Ewe show, the Market Lamb show, and the skillathon competition were held on Friday and Saturday.

The following week, July 12-14, the Beef Exposition attracted 240 exhibitors and 395 head of cattle to the Tennessee Livestock Center on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. The steer show kicked off the Beef Expo, with the showmanship classes for all ages. The skillathon, where students test their knowledge of beef cattle, was held on July 14 followed by the Commercial Heifer Show. The judges for the event were husband and wife team Kyle and Gretchen Rozeboom of Wisconsin. The event drew to a close on Friday with the Registered Heifer Show and the Supreme Heifer Drive.

As the largest annual event staged by the University of Tennessee Extension Service, the Junior Livestock Expo provides a place for students to be recognized for a wide variety of talents. The animal projects, Extension officials emphasize, are among the most effective programs to help youth develop important life skills.

“At Expo, youth have the opportunity to not only show their animals and participate in showmanship, but also show what they’ve learned through the educational proponent we call skillathon,” says Dr. Dwight Loveday, 4-H youth development specialist.

Tennessee Farmers Cooperative played a key role in sponsoring the event. TFC gave a belt buckle and...
Co-op jacket to exhibitors of the grand champions of the Market Steer Show and Market Lamb Show, and provided an additional monetary reward if those champions were given Co-op feed as part of the animal’s nutrition plan.

**Market Steer Show**

This year’s market steer grand champion weighed in at 1,345 pounds and was exhibited by McMinn County’s Samantha Roberts.

Reserve Champion honors went to Murray Perkins of Henry County. Other top finishers in the Market Steer Show were the entries of Chelsey Harvey, Claiborne, third; Kaylee Rowlett, Gibson, fourth; Kendra Cornelius, McMinn, fifth; and Eli Mundy, Claiborne, sixth.

Earning division champion honors in the steer show, listed with their counties, were:
- **Prospect Steer- Carson Turner, Cumberland, champion, class winner; Jacob Wade, Bedford, reserve, class winner.**
- **Division I- Cassidy Holshott, Williamson, champion, class winner; Breyer Bow, Cumberland, reserve champion.** Other class winner: Clayton Johnson, Gibson.
- **Division II- Kendra Cornelius, McMinn, champion, class winner; Chelsey Harvey, Claiborne, reserve champion.** Other class winner: Lexi Stout, Cumberland.
- **Division III- Murray Perkins, Henry, champion, class winner; Kaylee Rowlett, Gibson, reserve champion, class winner.**
- **Division IV- Samantha Roberts, McMinn, champion, class winner; Chelsey Harvey, Claiborne, reserve champion.** Other class winner: Ashley Emery, Meigs.

The County Group of Five award went to Claiborne.

**Dairy Steer Show**

Holstein Division- Sam Lamb, Williamson, grand champion, class winner; Sydney Lamb, Williamson, reserve champion, class winner. Other class winner: Abhye Moore, Cannon.

Jersey Division- Montana Wright, Rutherford, grand champion, class winner; Sam Lamb, Williamson, reserve champion.

Milking Shorthorn division-Mason Allen, Williamson, grand champion.

The Champion Dairy Steer weighed in at 1,366 pounds and was shown by Sam Lamb of Williamson County. Reserve champion was Sydney Lamb of Williamson County.

**Registered Heifer Show**

The Registered Heifer Show featured eight breed classes.
- **Angus- Alli Perry, Lincoln, champion, and reserve champion; Nate Santini, Lawerence, champion bred-by-exhibitor; Sophia Santini, reserve champion bred-by-exhibitor.** Other class winners: Dustin Pittcock, McMinn; Cason Turner, Cumberland; Kennedy Selby, White; Summer Jo Beeler, Union; Kylie Cornelius, McMinn; Kendra Cornelius, McMinn.
- **Charolais- Alyssa Meier, Anderson, champion; Colette Turner, Smith, reserve champion; Haley Brael, Sumner, champion bred-by-exhibitor.** Other class winners: Alexandria Dies, Wilson; Brant Turner, Smith; Maddie Rippy, Sumner.
- **Hereford/Polled Hereford- Morgan Riley, Williamson, champion, class winner; Sorrell Martin, Lincoln, reserve champion, class winner; Sorrell Martin, Lincoln, champion bred-by-exhibitor, class winner.** Other class winners: Russ Woolfolk, Madison; Erin Rushing, Henderson; Sarah Beth Callicott, Hickman; John Thomas Woolfolk, Madison; Grady Giffey, Putnam; Kyra White, Macon.
- **Shorthorn- Aaron Lay, Monroe, champion, class winner; Kaylee Rowlett, Gibson, reserve champion, class winner; Jana Owen, Lincoln, champion bred-by-exhibitor.** Other class winners: Brett Asbury, Claiborne; Samantha Roberts, McMinn; Michael Chilton, Hickman; Eli Mundy, Claiborne; Murray Perkins, Henry; Allison Stoglin, White.
- **Shorthorn Plus- Hallie Dillard, Smith, champion, champion bred-by-exhibitor, class winner; Aaron Lay, Monroe, reserve champion, class winner; Haylee Ferguson, Rutherford, reserve champion bred-by-exhibitor, class winner.**
- **Simmental- Morgan Lehnert, Lawrence, champion, class winner; Jason Conger, Wilson, reserve champion, class winner.** Other class winners: Sydney Brady, Bradley; Parker Saum, McNairy; Chance Finnel, Bradley; Katie Whitted, Meigs; Madison Blevins, Washington.

**Commercial Heifer Show**

Heifers that do not have registration papers are shown in the commercial heifer show. Lawrence County’s Morgan Lehnert exhibited the grand champion.
Expo (continued from page 27)

champion and Wilson County’s Jason Conger the reserve. Morgan was also champion bred-by-exhibitor, and little brother Cole was named reserve champion bred-by-exhibitor. Class winners were Alvin Brandon, Rutherford; Clay Owen, Lincoln; Kayrs Wilson, Cumberland; Chance Bow, Cumberland; Alexandria Dies, Wilson; Tyler Cook, Robertson; Chole Dill, Cannon; Kendall Martin, Lincoln.

The County Group winner was Lincoln County. The Supreme Champion Heifers winners were Alyssa Meier, Anderson, Charolais; Alli Perry, Lincoln, Angus; Samantha Roberts, McMinn, Percentage Simmental; Morgan Riley, Williamson, Herford; Aaron Lay, Monroe, Shorthorn.

Supreme Champion bred-by exhibitor heifers were Hallie Dillard, Smith, Shorthorn Plus; Sorell Martin, Lincoln, Hereford.

Beef Showmanship
Numerous talented, hard-working youth participated in the showmanship competition as well. Placing first in beef showmanship were John Thomas Woolfolk, Madison, Senior Level II; Kaylee Rowlett, Gibson, Level I; Kendra Cornelius, McMinn, Junior High; Maggie Lamon, Giles, Junior; Sarah Lay, Monroe, Explorer.

Market Lamb Show
In Expo’s highly competitive Market Lamb Show, the grand champion was a 154-pound AOB (Any Other Breed) Meat shown by seventh grader Parker Saum of McNairy County. Parker says that showing is truly a family affair.

“My brother, Grant, tried to win Expo for around 10 years,” said Parker. “It means so much to have won it with all his help and guidance.”

Parker and his family are customers at the Selmer Stockdale’s where they purchase feed for their lambs. His winning show lamb was raised on the Saum family farm in Ramer. The lamb “came out of one of our best ewes and really stuck out to me from the beginning.”

Market Lamb Divisional Winners

AOB Wool- Paige Pearse, Cumberland, champion, champion Tennessee-bred, class winner.

AOB Hair- Alison Nunley, Grundy, champion, champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; Blake Walker, Bledsoe, reserve champion, reserve champion Tennessee-bred. Other class winner: Brianna Smith, Bradley.

Crossbred Black Face- James Johnson, Campbell, champion, champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; KeyLe Rhea, Warren, reserve champion, reserve champion Tennessee-bred, class winner. Other class winners: Hunter Webb, Hawkins; Cooper Belcher, Trousdale.

Crossbred White Face- Sydney Lamb, Williamson, champion, champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; Sam Lamb, Williamson, reserve champion, reserve champion Tennessee-bred.

Hampshire- Gordon Moncier, Hawkins, champion, champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; Garrett Franklin, Clay, reserve champion, reserve champion Tennessee-bred, class winner. Other class winners: Laura Goodrich, Anderson; Bristol Brown, Anderson.

Shropshire- Murray Perkins, Henry, champion, champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; Cora Key, Clay, reserve champion Tennessee-bred. Other class winner: Gordon Moncier, Hawkins.

Southdown- Hunter Webb, Hawkins, champion, class winner; Madisyn Harris, Loudon, reserve champion; Bristol Brown, Anderson, champion Tennessee-bred; Daniel Kinney, Loudon, reserve champion Tennessee-bred.

Supreme Champion Market Lamb and Tennessee-bred was Parker Saum, McNairy, with his AOB Meat Lamb. Gordon Moncier followed making his Hampshire lamb the Reserve Champion Market Lamb and Tennessee-bred. The other top five included Garrett Franklin, Clay, Hampshire; James Johnson, Campbell, Blackface Cross lamb; KeyLe Rhea, Warren, Blackface Cross lamb. The County Group was won by Bradley County.

Registered Ewe Show
Dorset Division- Gordon Moncier, Hawkins, champion, class winner; Emily Ellison, Cocke, reserve champion, champion and reserve champion Tennessee-bred, class winner. Other class winners: Hunter Webb, Hawkins; Cooper Belcher, Trousdale.

Dorset Advantage- Parker Saum, McNairy, champion, class winner; Jacey Moncier, Hawkins, reserve champion, class winner; Garren Hamby, Williamson, champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; Emily Ellison, Cocke, reserve champion Tennessee-bred.

Hampshire- Luci Allen, Macon, champion and champion Tennessee-bred, reserve champion and reserve champion Tennessee-bred. Other class winners: Bristol Brown, Anderson; Taylor Young, Bedford.

Katahdin- Kathrine Pardon, Lincoln, champion and reserve champion Tennessee-bred; Brooke Young, Bedford, reserve champion; Faith Womack, Cannon, class winner.

Polypay- Ladonna Tanner, Wilson, champion and champion Tennessee-bred, reserve champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; Cody Warren, Wilson, reserve champion.

Shropshire- Luci Allen, Macon, champion and champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; Taylor Young, Bedford, reserve champion and reserve champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; Noah Collins, Hamblen, class winner.

Southdown- Brock Trew, Polk, champion and champion Tennessee-bred, reserve champion, class winner; Madison Harris, Loudon, reserve champi-
pion Tennessee-bred class winner. Other class winners: Bristol Brown, Anderson; Andy Davis, Hawkins.

Suffolk- Bauer Burch, Rutherford, champion, class winner; Brooke Hyleman, Hamblen, reserve champion, class winner. Other class winners: Courtney Dickens, Smith; Cooper Belcher, Trousdale.

AOB Meats- Grace Powell, Wilson, champion, class winner; Anna Powell, Wilson, reserve champion, class winner; Abby Foust, Anderson, champion Tennessee-bred.

AOB Wool- Eion Cannon, Loudon, champion, reserve champion, champion Tennessee-bred, class winner. Other class winners: Blake Walker, Bledsoe; Alison Nunley, Grundy.

The Supreme bred-by-exhibitor ewe went to Luci Allen of Macon County with her Hampshire ewe. The Reserve Champion Supreme bred-by-exhibitor ewe went to Brock Trew of Polk County with his Southdown ewe.

The Champion bred-by-exhibitor flock went to Taylor Young of Bedford County with her Shropshire flock. The Reserve Champion bred-by-exhibitor flock went to Brock Trew of Polk County with his Southdown flock.

Commercial Ewe Show
White Face Lamb Ewe Division- Luke Lay, Monroe, champion, class winner; Parker Saum, McNairy, reserve champion, class winner; Garren Hamby, Williamson, champion Tennessee-bred; Ben Davis, Hawkins, reserve champion Tennessee-bred.

White Face Yearling Ewe Division- Sydney Lamb, Williamson, champion, class winner; Eion Cannon, Loudon, reserve champion, champion Tennessee-bred.

Black Face Lamb Ewe Division- Eli Mundy, Campbell, champion, class winner; Luci Allen, Macon, reserve champion, class winner; Parker Saum, McNairy, champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; Coy Armour, Meigs, reserve champion Tennessee-bred. Other class winners: Iris Samulski, Knox; Savannah Jones, Union; Gordon Moncier, Hawkins; Karley Warner, White; Cora Key, Clay.

Black Face Yearling Ewe Division- Parker Saum, McNairy, champion, champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; Justin McCollum, Williamson, reserve champion, class winner; Karley Warner, reserve champion Tennessee-bred; Emily Nave, Rutherford, class winner.

Hair Cross Lamb Ewe Division- Ethan Carmley, Monroe, champion, champion Tennessee-bred, class winner; Blake Walker, Bledsoe, reserve champion, class winner; Maddie Reavis, Lincoln, reserve champion Tennessee-bred, class winner.

Hair Cross Yearling Ewe Division- Alison Nunley, Grundy, champion, class winner; Brooke Hyleman, Hamblen, reserve champion, champion Tennessee-bred.

The Champion Commercial Ewe, representing the black face lamb ewes, weighed in at 155 pounds and was shown by Campbell County seventh grader Eli Mundy. The Reserve Champion Commercial Ewe honors went to Macon County's Luci Allen with her black face cross ewe lamb.

The Champion Tennessee-Bred Commercial Ewe was Parker Saum from McNairy County with his 125-pound black face ewe lamb. The Reserve Champion Tennessee-Bred Commercial Ewe honors went to Meigs County's Coy Amour with his black face ewe lamb.

The Champion Commercial Ewe County Group was Campbell County.

Sheep Showmanship

Team Showmanship
Team showmanship is designed to allow students to reach their maximum showmanship skills by having a partner to help to keep the animals in their prime during the duration of the class. There were three classes that participated. Class I winners included Ben Davis and Andy Davis, first; Luci Allen and Gordon Moncier, second. Class II winners included Parker Saum and Murray Perkins, first; Micah Collins and Noah Collins, second. Class III winners included Taylor Young and Brooke Young, first; Eli Mundy and Luke Lay, second.

Premier Exhibitors
Premier Exhibitor designations are given to Expo participants who place in showmanship, skillathon, and the show for a total of 300 points. First place winners were:

Market Steers- Senior Level II: Samantha Roberts, McMinn; Senior Level I: Murray Perkins, Henry; Junior High: Kendra Cornelius, McMinn; Junior: Gage Latham, McMinn; Explorer: Mailey Nicholls, Williamson.

Commercial Heifers- Senior Level II: Wyatt Haley, Williamson; Senior Level I: Chance Bow, Cumberland; Junior High: Kendra Sellers, Knox; Junior: Maggie Lamon, Giles; Explorer: Mary Carter Shirley, White.


Breeding Ewe- Senior II: Emily Ellison, Cocke; Senior Level I: Taylor Young, Bedford; Junior High: Wesley Trew, Polk; Junior: Mallory Cope, Hawkins; Explorer: Daniel Kinney, Loudon.


Market Lamb- Senior Level II: Cora Key, Clay; Senior Level I: Madisyn Harris, Loudon; Junior High: John Buryl Neely, Rutherford; Junior: KeyLe Rhea, Warren; Explorer: Hunter Webb, Hawkins.

Skillathon
This contest gives students a chance to test their knowledge of their livestock species. First place winners were:

Beef: Senior Level II: Kendall Martin, Lincoln; Senior Level I: Sorrell Martin, Lincoln; Junior High: Haylee Ferguson, Rutherford; Junior: Jonas Pals, Bradley; Explorer: Caroline Garrell, Marshall.

Sheep- Senior Level II: Cora Key, Clay; Senior Level I: Kaitlin Taylor, Wilson; Junior High: John Buryl Neely, Rutherford; Junior: Brayan Lawson, Hawkins; Explorer: Hunter Webb, Hawkins.
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Growing up, when I would struggle with the dreaded childhood question of “What do I want to be when I grow up,” I would always lean on my mom for advice. When all else failed, I could always count on her to tell me, “Find a job that you enjoy and that you’re passionate about and you will never work a day in your life.”

After my first year of college, I decided it was time for my first “big girl” job. When I first began looking for an internship for this summer, I found myself on the Tennessee Farmers Cooperative website. Here I read that “Co-op offers qualified students the opportunity to participate in 12-week internships at TFC or member cooperatives,” so I reached out to Mr. Paul Binkley, who was listed on the website as the contact if interested. Little did I know that sending him my resume would change the course of my summer and career path forever.

After a week of emailing with Mr. Binkley, I was amazed that the Co-op offers opportunities for students to learn that helps give college students the experience they need before graduating and entering the work force. Having both the options to intern at both the local store level and at TFC headquarters truly allows students to understand how the cooperative system works and what it can do for the employees and members all over the state. Whether that means learning to work the store front counter, sorting products in the warehouse, or maybe even being trained to operate new machinery, it is valuable experience.

Being an intern at Tennessee Farmers Cooperative in the Communications and Marketing Department has given me the opportunity to channel my true passion—sharing the good news of agriculture. Agriculture has always been an important part of my life, and the Tennessean Cooperator and its writers are just as passionate about this industry as I am. Over the course of the summer, I have been able to shadow two of the magazine’s writers, Assistant Editor Chris Villines and Communication Specialist Sarah Geyer on a half-dozen stories.

One of those opportunities included the August “Every Farmer Has A Story” feature. Ms. Geyer and I were up bright and early to drive to Savannah to meet the First Farmers Cooperative staff and travel to Mr. Ron Robertson’s farm. We spent the rest of the morning seated at his kitchen table as he told us everything that had taken him to the place in life he was at now. It was amazing to me that for someone who couldn’t understand why we would ever want to write about him, he had such an interesting story. He had received a master’s degree, traveled the world, and somehow he managed to farm while he raised a family and had a full-time job a few hours from his family farm. In my books, this man was the closest thing to Superman since Clark Kent himself, yet he didn’t feel like his story was worth telling. After a few hours of listening, we headed out to one of his favorite spots to test my photography skills. Being able to visit with farmers like Robertson who are the untold stories of Tennessee agriculture has been what has truly made my experience far better than I could have asked for.

Experiences don’t stop with the magazine. I have been inside
more Co-ops than I can count on two hands; I learned how to make goat cheese; visited the West Tennessee Agriculture Museum; learned how to film and create a professional quality video; toured Tennessee’s Department of Agriculture and Tennessee Farm Bureau headquarters; wrote about the MTSU Creamery, June Dairy Month, and the Tennessee Livestock Expos; helped take photos for the Cooperator and Stockdale’s; and ate at almost every Mexican restaurant in West Tennessee; just to name a few highlights. But most of all, I learned so much from the departmental staff. Designer, writer, or anyone in between, their willingness to help me learn by challenging me with new tasks has kept me excited to come into work. The people here at TFC are the reason that the expression “You learn something new every day” is the only way I describe this summer to family and friends.

Most recently, I traveled to West Tennessee to learn more about what our interns in the store were getting into this summer. Grant McEwen is one of the 21 interns who have been working at local Co-ops across our state. Grant was born and raised in Trenton, the county seat of Gibson County, where he graduated from Peabody High School. While in school, he was a member of the Tennessee High School Rodeo Association which is how he became interested in agriculture. Grant is beginning his junior year at the University of Tennessee at Martin where he is majoring in Farm and Ranch Management. Grant began working for Gibson Farmers Cooperative during the summer of 2016, which is how he heard about the internship program. Although the majority of Grant’s time this summer has been spent in the warehouse at the Trenton location, he has also spent time at the Milan store and learned how to scout cotton and take tissue samples for farmers.

“Because I grew up around here, when at the store everybody knows everybody,” Grant says. “This internship has helped me be more helpful to the people in my community.” The opportunities that I and other college-aged students receive from this internship program will help mold and shape our futures for the better. The employees working with the interns understand that our ultimate goal is to gain experience that cannot be gathered in the classroom, and they truly work to make sure that happens.

No matter what I end up doing down the road in life, my time as a Co-op system internship will be something that I will look back on with fond memories and a smile.

Thank you, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, for giving me a summer full of experiences, not just a job.

The 2017-2018 State 4-H Council members include, seated left to right, Senior Representative Hence Duncan, Autumn Trainum, Danny Lawson, President Grant Hitchcock, Vice President Aaron Lay, and Senior Representatives Jacob Wade and C.J. Bryson. Back row left to right: State All Star Scribe Shaylyn Melhorn, State All Star Deputy Chief Shelby Maingard, State All Star Chief Emily Nave, Representative at Large Nelani Colletti, Santana Bingham, Caroline Brooks, Junior Representatives Emily Pennington, Olivia Chapman-Miller, Will Dalton, Carson Stover, Billee Lassiter, Governor Sorrell Martin, Speaker of the Senate John Ryan Scarlett, and Speaker of the House Joshua Wade.

This summer marked the 94th annual Tennessee 4-H Roundup and All Star Conference. On July 24-28, students from across the state gathered on the campus of The University of Tennessee at Martin to receive recognition for their outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments, give back by participating in service projects, and learn more about their state university, and career opportunities offered by the University of Tennessee. This year’s theme was “Made from Scratch” where students uncovered just a small amount of Tennessee 4-H’s rich history and discussed the impact that 4-Hers can have in their home counties.
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While some may associate oats as a good food source for farm animals, we know it’s a healthy and delicious snack for us, too! This whole grain, commonly referred to as a “super food,” has been cultivated for 2,000 years in regions throughout the world and has served as an American favorite for more than a century.

Whether it’s “old-fashioned,” “quick,” or “instant,” this nutrient-rich, gluten-free food is a great source of important vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants, and can lower blood cholesterol when consumed regularly. The versatility of oats is present in popular foods such as oatmeal raisin cookies, granola bars, or the classic breakfast favorite, a steaming bowl of freshly cooked oatmeal. Whether you want something savory or sweet, oats find a way to satisfy any craving.

As our Cooperator readers capably demonstrate, oats can be used in a variety of ways. One example is Oatmeal Pancakes from Wanda Phillips of Jacksboro, our “Cook-of-the-Month” for September.

Enjoy!

---

**Oatmeal Pancakes**

**What you will need:**
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup quick cooking oats
- ¼ cup buttermilk
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons oil
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 egg

**Directions:**

Beat all ingredients with a hand beater until smooth; for thinner pancakes stir in 2 to 4 tablespoons of additional milk. Grease a heated griddle (to see if the griddle is hot enough, sprinkle with a few drops of water to see if bubbles splatter around.) For each pancake, pour about ¼ cup of batter onto hot griddle. Cook until pancakes are puffed and dry around edges, turn and cook other side until golden brown. Serve with apple sauce or fruit of your choice.

---

**Oatmeal/Chocolate Chip Cookies**

2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
1 stick margarine
½ cup white sugar
½ cup brown sugar
1 large egg
1 cup applesauce
1 cup rolled oats
½ cup raisins
½ to 1 cup chocolate chips
¼ cup nuts, optional

Heat oven to 375º. Sift together flour, soda, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg, set aside. In a large bowl, mix together butter, sugars, and beat until fluffy. Add egg, applesauce, and sifted ingredients. Beat until blended using spatula to push
What’s Cookin’?

Oatmeal Pie
½ cup sugar
1 stick margarine
2 eggs
½ cup dark corn syrup
½ cup oatmeal, uncooked
1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream together sugar and margarine. Add eggs and beat well. Stir in syrup, oatmeal, and vanilla. Pour mixture into an unbaked 9-inch pie shell. Place on a cookie sheet and bake at 325º about 40 minutes. (Serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.)

Kathryn Miller
Sevierville
Sevier Farmers Cooperative

Banana Oatmeal Bread
½ cup uncooked quick-cooking oats
¼ cup buttermilk
½ cup solid shortening
½ cup granulated sugar
2 eggs
3 ripe bananas, mashed
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt

Combine oats and buttermilk; set aside. Cream shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in bananas and oat mixture. Blend flour, baking powder, and salt; stir into banana mixture. Spoon batter into a greased 9x5x3-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350º for 1 hour and 10 minutes or until done.

Margie Gunn
McEwen
Humphreys Farmers Cooperative

Oatmeal Cake
1 cup oatmeal
1¼ cups boiling water
½ cup brown sugar
½ cup butter
1 cup white sugar
2 eggs
1½ cups flour
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon nutmeg

Vanilla

Pour boiling water over oatmeal. Let stand at room temperature. Cream the butter and sugar well. Add eggs and beat well after each addition. Sift flour with soda and spices. Add oatmeal, then flour mixture. Add vanilla. Bake for 25 minutes at 350º. Remove from oven and spread with topping.

Topping:
1 stick butter or margarine, melted
1 cup nuts, chopped
1 cup brown sugar
2 egg yolks
1 cup coconut

Return to the oven for a few minutes to cook the frosting. Watch closely.

Sally Newkirk
Knox and Sevier Farmers Cooperatives

Zucchini Oatmeal Muffins
2½ cups all-purpose flour
½ cup sugar
1 cup chopped nuts
½ cup uncooked oats
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
4 eggs
2 cups shredded zucchini
½ cup oil

Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl. Beat the eggs and add to the dry mixture, along with the zucchini and oil. Blend well. Pour into prepared muffin tins and bake in a preheated 400º oven for 20 to 25 minutes. Makes 2 dozen muffins. These muffins freeze well.

Doris Smithson Temple
Greeneville
Washington Farmers Cooperative

Golden Crispy Cereal
4 cups rolled oats
2 cups raw wheat germ
2 cups hulled sunflower seeds
1 cup coconut
¼ cup brown sugar, packed
¼ cup cooking oil
¼ cup water
2 tablespoons vanilla

Combine all ingredients; mix well. Spread on cookie sheets.

Bake at 350º for 1 hour or until crisp. Stir frequently. Cool and store in tightly covered containers. Yield: 10 cups.

Margaret Miller
McKenzie
Carroll Farmers Cooperative

Chewy Granola Bars
2 (10 ounce) bags mini marshmallows
1 cup butter
¼ cup oil
2 tablespoons honey
½ cup peanut butter
6 cups quick oats
6 cups rice crispies
1 cup coconut flakes
½ cup M&M minis
½ cup chocolate chip minis

Melt first five ingredients together, then stir in next three ingredients. Spread mix into a 13x18-inch bar pan. Sprinkle chocolates on top and press down firmly. Cool, cut, and enjoy. These freeze well.

Ada Farmwald
Monticello, Ky.
Lake Cumberland Farmers Cooperative

Facebook exclusive!
We receive so many great recipes each month, we can’t print them all! But visit us on Facebook for more recipes available only to fans of our page. Visit www.facebook.com/TennesseeFarmersCooperative and click on “Notes” to get the recipes.

‘Christmas memories’ for December

Few memories are more precious than those we have of the Christmases we’ve celebrated through the years with family and friends. And, of course, festive food is a centerpiece of those cherished recollections. Collectively, our Co-op “family” here in Tennessee sees no doubt has quite a stash of treasured tried-and-true holiday recipes.

If you have favorite Christmas recipes for holiday food — from snacks and appetizers to party and main course dishes (including meats, vegetables, casseroles) as well as breads, drinks, and those scrumptious desserts — send them along to us. The person submitting the recipe judged best will be named “Cook-of-the-Month” for the December Cooperator and receive $10. Others sending recipes chosen for publication will receive $5, and each winner will also receive a special “What’s Cookin’?” certificate.

Friday, Sept. 29, is the deadline for your Christmas recipes.

Don’t forget: Only recipes with complete, easy-to-follow instructions will be considered for publication. Several recipes are disqualified each month because they do not contain all the information needed to prepare the dishes successfully. Recipes featured in “What’s Cookin’?” are not independently tested, so we must depend on the accuracy of the cooks sending them. Always use safe food-handling, preparation, and cooking procedures.

Send entries to: Recipes, Tennessee Cooperator, P.O. Box 3003, LaVergne, TN 37086. You can submit more than one recipe in the same envelope. You can also e-mail them to: pcampbell@ourcoop.com. Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, and the Co-op with which you do business. Recipes that appear in the “What’s Cookin’?” column will also be published on our website at www.ourcoop.com.
looking out on a muggy, overcast summer afternoon at a group of cattle grazing on thick pasture, Tim Barnhill and wife Regina have an expression of contentment on their faces.

This is home, some 450 acres in the quiet Craigfield community in western Williamson County near Fairview.

“All the land we work here is part of the original Barnhill place that dates back to the 1850s,” says Tim, who along with Regina shares ownership of the farm with his brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Teresa Barnhill.

“And it’s all continuous; we don’t have to go traveling around to find hay to cut because everything is right here. That’s worth a lot.”

Tim was raised on this farm and received a helping hand of life and agriculture lessons from his father and grandfather, the late Palmer and Leechie Barnhill, respectively.

“I started helping them out as far back as I can remember,” recalls Tim, a 1976 graduate of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. “Grand-daddy ran the show. We had a couple of acres of tobacco, a dozen or so sows, 15 ewes, and we milked 15 Jersey cows by hand. As a child, I drove the tractor as the grownups picked up hay.”

He and Regina, who grew up on a Rutherford County dairy farm, returned to Craigfield in 2001 after their banking careers took them to various locations across the state. In this idyllic setting, the Barnhills run a 110-head commercial herd.

Rex Sanderlin barned a 110-head commercial herd.

Regina was actually the first of the pair to take the plunge into full-time farming, retiring in 2004 after a 35-year career with Union Planters Bank (now Regions Bank) and Farm Credit.

“Having grown up on a farm, I knew what I was getting myself into,” says Regina, whose parents, Hyland and Gladys Alsup, operated a dairy in Walter Hill.

“For me, it was going back to what I needed to be doing all along. I didn’t need to be in an office — I needed to be on a farm.”

Tim, meanwhile, fit in after-hours farm work while serving as president of Tennessee Bank & Trust in Franklin, the last stop in a professional journey that took them to various locations.

“Gentle, docile, and of good temperament” — that is how Tim describes the Hereford-cross brood cow herd he runs. Barnhill and wife Regina have 50 to 75 steers and heifers each year through their involvement with the Tennessee Livestock Producers Alliance Sale.

“We’ve been marketing with Tennessee Livestock Producers for several years and have been real pleased with the program,” says Tim, who is on the advisory board for the sale. “It’s more work, and you have to follow their protocol, but it pays off.”

On average, we’ve been getting around 10 to 15 cents more per pound across the board.”

Regina says she and Tim primarily look for cattle that are “gentle, docile, and of good temperament” as they add to their commercial herd.

“Tim and I are doing all the work so we need cows that are easy to handle,” she says. “If we get one that acts out, we cull it.”

Regina’s combination of agricultural and business savvy was noticed by the membership of the Barnhills’ local Co-op, Williamson Farmers Cooperative, where she and Tim are both members, and in 2010 she earned the distinction of becoming that Co-op’s first female director.

“It’s been a really good experience for me,” says Regina, who will complete her first term in April next year. “I feel like I’ve probably gotten more out of it than I’ve given because I’ve learned so much about how the Co-op system works. One of our biggest decisions was finding a new manager after Larry Dale’s retirement, and we’re very pleased with how Randy Stubblefield has worked out.”

Co-op was also a career possibility for Tim says, who says he explored the idea while a student at MTSU.

“My first experience with Co-op was to go interview [former TFC General Manager] J. Franklin Nix for an assignment I had with my cooperative class,” he recalls. “He was so personable and could talk to you about anything. It left an impression on me. I looked into entering the Co-op training program but wound up choosing the opportunity at Farm Credit, which was called Production Credit Association at the time.”

As fate would have it, that decision led to his meeting Regina and building a family that includes two daughters: Michelle (Alley), a dental hygienist in Cookeville and Jennifer (Butler), a nurse practitioner in Lenoir City. Each have two children — sons Trenton and Seth for Michelle and husband Chris and daughters Cora and Emily for Jennifer and husband Ernie — that are a constant joy for their proud grandparents.

“They love to come to the farm,” Tim says. “Trenton, who just turned 11, was riding the tractor with me while I was rolling hay the other day and wanted to drive. I told him it was more than just sitting and turning the steering wheel. He told me, ‘Pops, you’d be amazed at what I know about rolling hay. I’ve been watching you and watching videos about it on YouTube.’”

“My how farming has evolved!”
Every Farmer Has A Story

Regina and Tim’s relationship began when the two both worked for Farm Credit (then Production Credit Association) in Murfreesboro. After marrying in 1981, they relocated to Memphis and launched separate long-term banking careers. Thirty years later, in 2011, the two joined together in the workplace again, this time on the family farm where Tim was raised. The Barnhills tend to 110 commercial brood cows and hay on 450 acres in the Craigfield community where Williamson and Hickman Counties converge.
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