



MONTHLY TIP

Anywhere there is moist, wet abrasive environmental conditions; there is a problem with foot rot. The incidence of foot rot varies according to the weather, season of the year, grazing periods. Close detail to environmental conditions and feeding a well-balanced dietary program nutrition are key in prevention. Consult with your veterinarian or Extension agent on a prevention program for your farm.

Dr. Lew Strickland
UT Extension Livestock Veterinarian

Check out the publication:
[Livestock Health: Foot Rot-
Prevention and Treatment](#)



“Grazing animals are forage harvesting experts.”

Forage Quotes & Concepts

FORAGE MANAGEMENT

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist

After taking soil samples, as discussed in last month’s Live.Stock Companion, a fertilization program can be built. The first parameter to be assessed is soil pH, to understand more about the soil’s chemical environment, followed by evaluating soil P and K. To increase soil pH, lime should be applied as soon as possible as it takes months to a year to react in the soil. P and K fertilizers, particularly with cool-season forages, can be applied once a year in the spring or fall. Although, P and K fertilizers prices tend to be lower in the fall. Nitrogen, on the other hand, must be applied strategically, precisely timed just before forage plants enter their growth phase. Usually, nitrogen will be applied preceding forage growth in late February-March for spring and September for fall harvests or stockpiling. Strategic fertilization, tailored to timing and rates, significantly enhances forage yield and quality, ensuring a profitable outcome.

CATTLE NUTRITION

Dr. Katie Mason, UT Extension Beef Cattle Nutrition Specialist

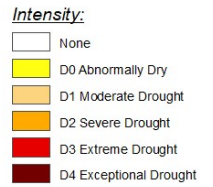
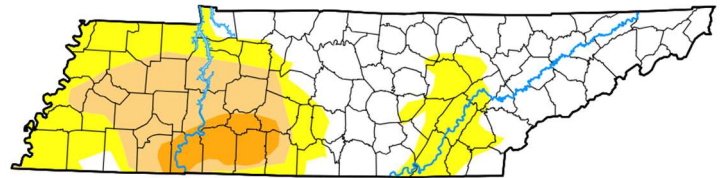
What is the body condition of your herd?

In the winter, low or moderate quality hay without proper supplementation may have caused cows to drop body condition, especially given the cold snap and week of snow and ice. For cows that are close to calving or have just calved, we want to see a BCS of about 5 or 6. This allows them to have plenty of energy stored in the form of fat to pull from while lactating. If cattle have been “roughed” through the winter, you may want to provide supplemental energy to meet their needs. Body condition score at calving has an impact on the post-partum interval, meaning if BCS is too low, post-partum interval is longer, and it takes cattle longer to breed back. This results in extended calving seasons the following year. First-calf heifers especially need extra nutritional support during this time because they are still growing while lactating.

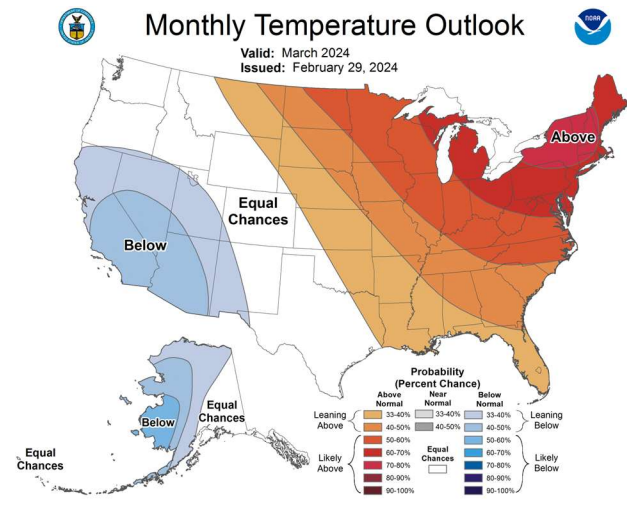
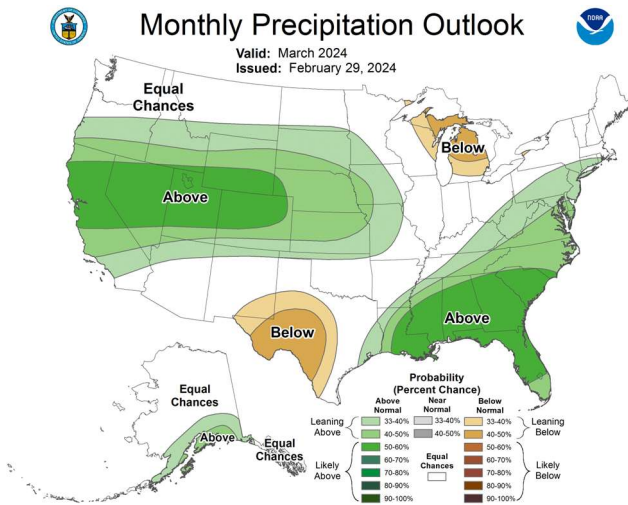
WEATHER

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist

In February, the average temperature and precipitation for the state of Tennessee were +4.5°F and -2.41” departing from the last 10-y average, which is 43.2°F and 6.55”, respectively. ncei.noaa.gov



For March, temperatures and precipitation are leaning towards above average in all TN, although the northwest counties are expecting average precipitation. Drought monitor (March 14) is showing some improvement for Middle and East TN, although is still highlighting most of the West TN from abnormally (D0) to severe (D2) drought. A few counties in the Southeast region are also still in D0. The monthly drought outlook is still predicting that "drought remains, but improves" to "drought removal likely" for March in West TN. droughtmonitor.unl.edu



UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Live.Stock](#)- Join us for our live stream April 10th, 2024 at 2 pm ET
- [Southeast Tennessee Beef Summit](#)- April 26th, 2024 at 8 am ET



Photo of the Month - taken by Derrick Corbin spraying 2-4D for broadleaf weed control on the Annual Ryegrass Variety Trial, UTIA Plateau AgResearch and Education Center, Crossville, TN.

This and other useful information can be found at your local UT Extension office, or on our website.

UTBEEF.COM

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