



# LIVE STOCK companion

Volume 6: May 2024

## MONTHLY TIP

In the heart of the tall fescue belt, bringing in a few acres of warm-season grasses can be a game changer for forage-based livestock producers. May is the month to seed our warm-season forages, such as:

- Crabgrass- May 1 to July 1, 3-5 lbs/acre
- Sudangrass and hybrids- April 20 to June 15, 30 lbs/acre drilled or 45 lbs/acre broadcast
- Bermudagrass- May 1 to July 1, 5-8 lbs/acre
- Teff- May 1 to June 15, 6-8 lbs/acre

To ensure a successful establishment, check the drill calibration for seeding rates and seed depth.

*Dr. Bruno Pedreira*  
UT Extension Forage Specialist



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*“When nature speaks, it pays to listen!”*

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Forage-Livestock Quotes & Concepts

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## MILK AND MEAT SUPPLY REMAINS SAFE

*Dr. Lew Strickland, UT Extension Livestock Veterinarian*

During the last weeks of April, USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy herds in multiple states. The situation continues to evolve and the USDA, along with state and federal partners, are sharing information as it becomes available. There are concerns that food products are infected with HPAI; however, the milk supply remains safe. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not currently have concerns about the safety and availability of pasteurized milk products nationwide. Because milk products are pasteurized before entering the market, there are no concerns about the safety of the commercial milk supply. Pasteurization has continuously been proven to inactivate bacteria and viruses, like influenza, in milk. The USDA is confident in the safety of the meat supply. As always, consumers are encouraged to properly handle raw meats and to cook to a safe internal temperature.

## THE BIF ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

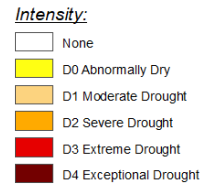
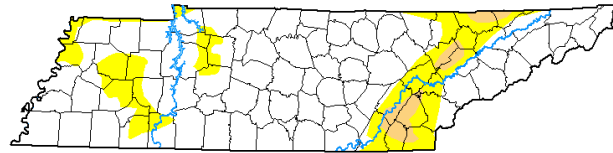
*Dr. Troy Rowan, UT Extension Beef Cattle Genetic Specialist*

Tennessee is hosting the Beef Improvement Federation’s (BIF) Annual Symposium in Knoxville from June 10-13. BIF is an organization made up of producers, breed associations, researchers, and extension personnel that focuses on using genetics to improve the beef industry. This year, our symposium’s theme is, “Breeding a More Efficient and Adapted Cow.” As the industry has focused much effort on improving feedlot and end product traits, we know that maternal quality and efficiency remain the major driver of profitability in cow-calf operations, especially in the Southeast and Fescue Belt. Our speakers will provide perspectives on the genetics of cow efficiency, adaptability, longevity, and productivity. The event kicks off with a “Young Producer Symposium” on Monday June 10th that will explore the less genetics-focused parts of seedstock production. Tuesday and Wednesday feature morning general sessions, and afternoon breakouts that allow attendees to choose more applied or technical sessions based on their interests. In addition to the scientific program, the symposium provides numerous opportunities to engage with other producers and members of industry. Finally, Thursday concludes the event with an optional tour of East Tennessee beef operations. You can find more information including the full schedule, hotel blocks, and registration at: [2024 Beef Improvement Federation Symposium](#).

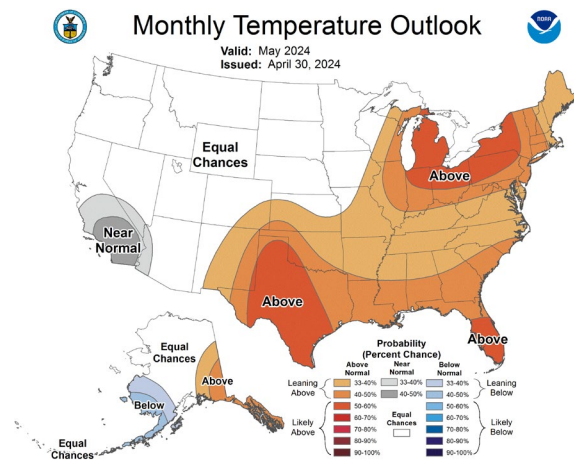
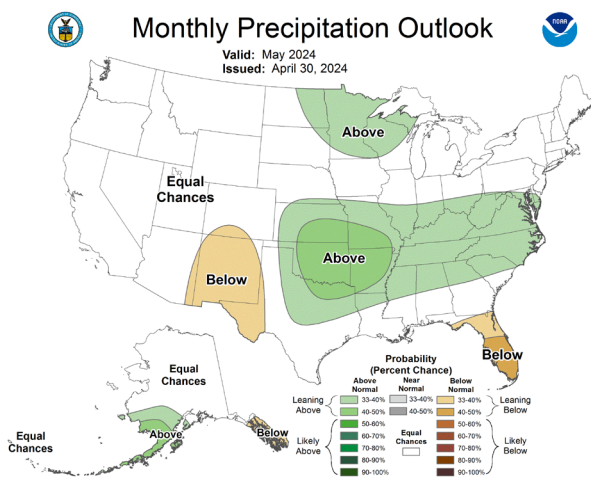
# WEATHER

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist

In April, the average temperature and precipitation for the state of Tennessee were +2.48°F and -1.00” departing from the last 10-year average, which is 58.2°F and 5.05”, respectively. [ncei.noaa.gov](http://ncei.noaa.gov)



For May, temperatures and precipitation are leaning towards above average in the entire state of TN. Drought monitor (May 7) is highlighting a few counties in abnormally dry (D0) and moderate drought (D1). However, the second week of May has been registering above-average rainfall in most of the state. Luckily, May will keep going with good moisture, as our pastures and hayfields are reaching the spring production peak. That is the first time since last summer that the monthly drought outlook is predicting no drought for the state of TN. [droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Live.Stock](#) - Join us for our live stream June 12th, 2024 at 2 pm ET
- [2024 Beef Improvement Federation Symposium](#) June 10-13, 2024 in Knoxville, TN



Photo of the Month by Bruno Pedreira at the Southeast TN Beef Summit in McMinn Co., Athens, TN.

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

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