



MONTHLY TIP

The past few weeks have made it challenging to find a 3-4-day window to harvest, tedder, rake, and bale high-quality hay. As a result, some hay was harvested later than planned, leading to more stems than leaves, higher fiber and lower protein contents. Therefore, it is crucial to determine the quality of the hay produced.

To assess the quality, take samples from 8 to 10 bales in each hayfield using an auger or a hay probe. Place the forage samples in a Ziplock bag and bring them to your local extension office. They will assist you in filling out the necessary forms and will send the samples for analysis.

Knowing what's in your bales allows you to fine-tune the amount of supplement needed to meet your animals' nutritional requirements or accurately price your hay.

Dr. Bruno Pedreira
UT Extension Forage Specialist



“Join us in celebrating the 10th Annual National Forage Week- June 16-22, 2024!”

UT BELL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION PROGRAM: CLASS OF 2024

Dr. Saulo Zoca, UT Extension Beef Cattle Reproductive Specialist

The UT Bull Development and Evaluation Program has been going through some changes that I would like to highlight in this issue. To start out, we have moved our page to the UTBEEF.COM website. With that, test dates have also been moved, so bull nominations are due on June 28th, with animals being delivered at MTREC – Spring Hill on July 9th, 2024. This will allow younger bulls to participate in hopes of creating a more uniform group of animals for performance comparison. Another big change occurring in this year's Bull Test is that our sale will be on December 12th, 2024, instead of January. Lastly, in 2025, the Bull Test will move from MTREC – Spring Hill to MTREC – Lewisburg, where bulls will be developed in 5 pastures, each with 15 acres. The success of this program is dependent on its consignors and the quality of animals that have been brought in for several years. If you are interested in participating in this year's Bull Test or if you have any questions, feel free to contact Dr. Saulo Zoca. We look forward to the start of this year's Bull Test and to seeing the quality of participating animals!

THE 17 DAY LONGHORNED TICK BLITZ – JUNE 10-27

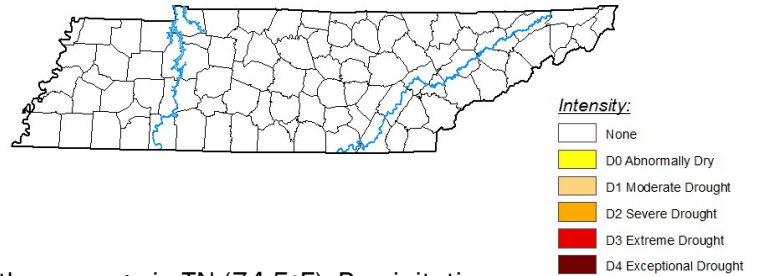
Dr. Rebecca Trout-Fryxell, Associate Professor of Entomology and Plant Pathology

In collaboration with USDA APHIS, we are co-leading a national longhorned tick blitz. Our goal is to determine where these ticks are currently reported (fewer than 5 specimens) and established (6 or more specimens or two+ life stages) to better understand its dispersal across the country. To meet this goal, we are asking for help with sample collection and preparation. Knowing that YOU encounter many ticks through work-related responsibilities, we are asking you to collect and send us your ticks. For each collection, we request that each collector provide the following information: date, state, county, and method of collection (from a cow, yourself, your dog, the environment). Thanks to a grant from the UTIA Genomics Center of Agriculture, we will be screening Tennessee collected longhorned ticks for *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda. Please sign up for more information: <https://forms.gle/2VkxmQ7k3jBPRkj1A>

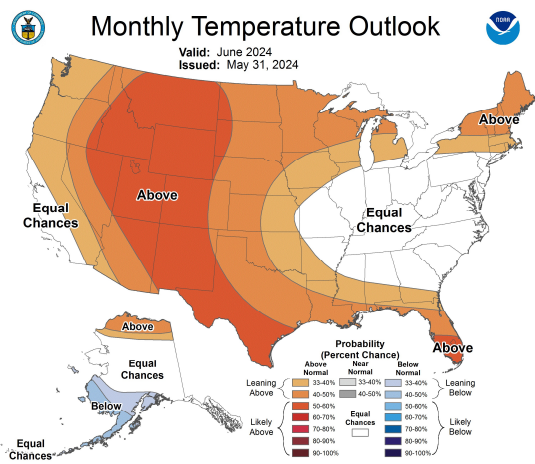
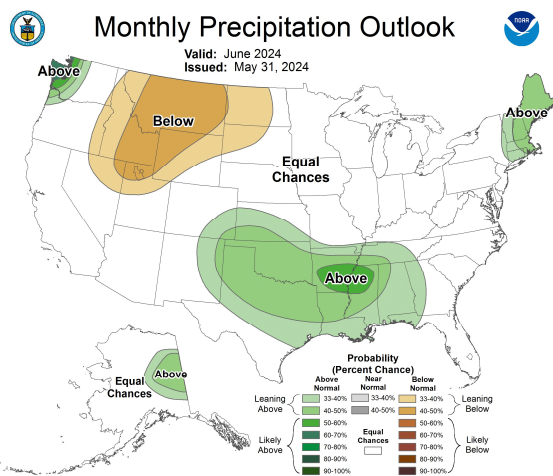
WEATHER

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist

May was a month with higher average temperature and precipitation for the state of Tennessee. On average, +1.92°F and +3.44” departing from the last 10-y average, which is 67.5°F and 4.57”, respectively. ncei.noaa.gov



For June, temperatures are expected to be towards the average in TN (74.5°F). Precipitation should be leaning toward above average in Middle and West TN, but farmers in the East should be expecting average rainfall. Since we started this column in December 2023, this is the first time no drought has been reported in the state (June 4), as a result of the above-average rainfall in May. This was good for the pastures, but a challenge for hay producers that may have harvested lower-quality hay due to the more mature forage. As June goes on, we expect to keep up with good moisture. droughtmonitor.unl.edu



UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Live Stock](#) - Join us for our live stream July 10, 2024 at 2 pm ET
- [Pasture Renovation 101](#) June 20, 2024 online – 6 PM CT/7 PM ET
- [Tobacco, Beef, and More Field Day](#) June 27, 2024 in Springfield, TN – 8 AM CT

These events can be found on UTBEEF.COM



Photo of the Month by Malerie Fancher – 2024 4-H Academic Conference Beef Group learning more about the importance of forages for beef cattle.

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

UTBEEF.COM

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