



## MONTHLY TIP

To save money on hay, stockpiling forage is a smart way to stretch your grazing season and cut down on how much hay you'll need in the colder months. Start by picking the pasture you want to stockpile and apply up to 150 pounds of urea per acre after a good rain. Keep the animals off that pasture until after the first frost. If there's old growth or weeds, mow the pasture before fertilizing. This will help cool-season grasses grow faster in the fall, giving you more forage. In Tennessee, commonly used cool-season forages like tall fescue and orchardgrass are great choices for stockpiling because they produce forage in the fall and maintain their nutritional value. If your pasture has legumes mixed in, that's even better—legumes add nitrogen to the soil and produce high-quality forage with plenty of protein.

*Dr. Bruno Pedreira  
UT Extension Forage Specialist*



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*“Success is dependent on effort.”*

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Forage-Livestock Quotes and Concepts

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## ARMYWORM ALERT: TIME TO SCOUT YOUR FIELDS!

*Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist*



Armyworms have been reported in several counties this week and may be on the move. Have you spotted any?

Armyworms are voracious eaters, and once you spot the first one, it is crucial to monitor closely. Up to 80 percent of this damage occurs during the last three to five days of larval feeding. Deciding whether to treat for armyworms depends on their development stage and the intended use of the forage. Generally, a population of 3 armyworms per square foot indicates a need for treatment. A list of insecticides is available on pages 60 and 61 of the [2024 Pasture Insect Control Recommendations](#) (PB1768). Let's work together to protect our forages! Check the map as of August 13.

## STOCKPILING TALL FESCUE CONSIDERATIONS

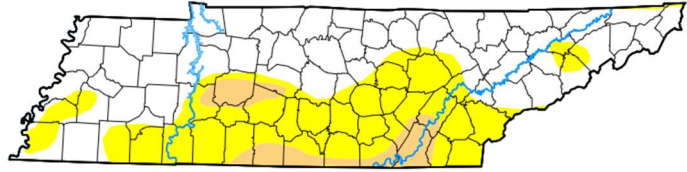
*Dr. Katie Mason, UT Extension Beef Cattle Nutrition Specialist*

One way to reduce feed costs in a cattle operation is to decrease hay feeding days. A method called stockpiling creates a standing hay crop to offset the number of days that hay must be fed during the winter. Tall fescue is especially suited for stockpiling, because you can capitalize on its fall growth and maintain forage quality well into the winter. To stockpile tall fescue, identify a hayfield or pasture that can be closed off from cattle access during late August to early October. After the stockpiling period is over, begin to use the stockpiled forage to feed the herd. It is beneficial to employ a strip grazing technique when utilizing stockpiled tall fescue to improve forage use and reduce waste. Forage yield and quality will vary based on soil fertility and other factors. A recent study in Tennessee and Alabama evaluated yield and quality of stockpiled tall fescue across various farms in the region. Average stockpiled fescue yield was about 3,300 lb dry matter per acre. Stockpiled tall fescue ranged from 15 to 17% crude protein and 68 to 70% total digestible nutrients when sampled from October through February. For dry, pregnant cows being carried through the winter, no energy or protein supplementation would be required given these quality parameters. An economic evaluation of the data illustrated that reducing hay feeding days by providing stockpiled fescue to cattle reduced total winter feed cost per cow.

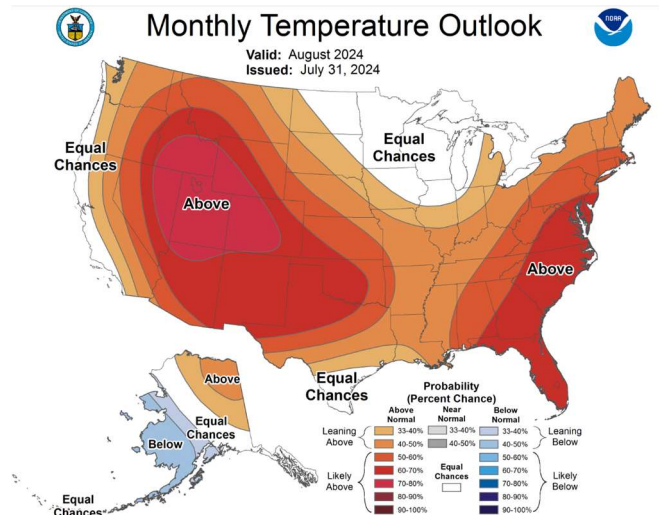
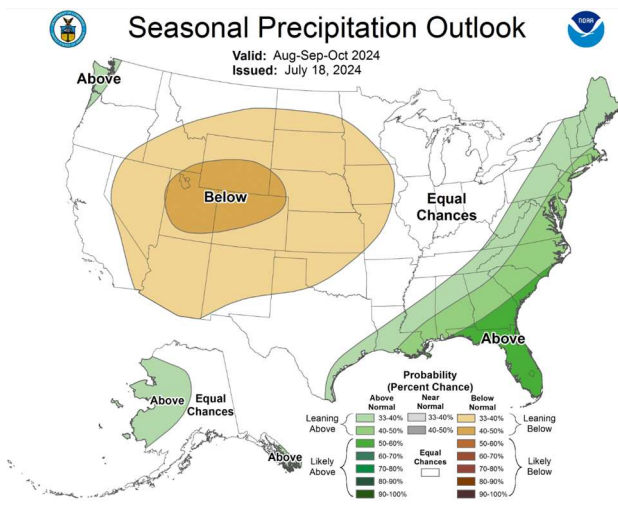
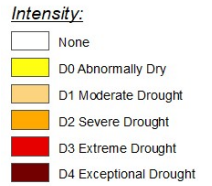
# WEATHER

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist

July was on average, +1.2°F and -0.46” departing from the last 10-y average, which is 77.9°F and 5.12”, respectively. [ncei.noaa.gov](https://www.ncsl.noaa.gov)



For August, TN is looking at higher-than-normal temperatures. Rainfall is expected to be about average in East and Middle TN, but West TN might see less than usual. After a drought-free July, Southern TN is already seeing some dry conditions, with areas rated from D0 (abnormally dry) to D1 (moderate drought). The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is predicting a 70% chance of La Niña forming between August and October, with a 79% chance of it sticking around through the winter of 2024-25. What does this mean for us? La Niña typically brings less rain to the southern U.S., which could slow down fall forage growth. We’ll need to count on getting enough rain in September and October to support good fall forage production. [droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Steak and Potatoes Field Day**  
August 22nd, 2024
- **Live.Stock** - Join us for our live stream  
September 11, 2024 at 2 pm ET

Upcoming events can be found on [UTBEEF.COM](https://UTBEEF.COM)



**Photo of the Month** by Malerie Fancher – Jonah Hillard presenting his Summer Intern experience. Jonah also took home most creative display.

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



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