



MONTHLY TIP

The ongoing drought has created challenges for us, especially when it comes to winter feed. Many producers have started feeding hay earlier than usual, and stockpiled fescue may not have accumulated enough growth to meet the winter needs. Take time now to check your hay inventory and compare it to what your herd will need in the months ahead.

If your inventory falls short, begin sourcing additional hay or alternative feed options as soon as possible. Prices may rise as supplies shrink, so acting early is key. You might also consider rationing strategies, such as mixing hay with supplements or utilizing crop residues, to stretch your feed supply.

Planning ahead will save you headaches later and keep your livestock in good shape this winter. Don't wait—look at your hay supply today!

*Dr. Bruno Pedreira
UT Extension Forage Specialist*



“Go the extra mile, it’s never crowded”

- Unknown

MONETIZING CARBON

Dr. Aaron Smith – Professor, UT Extension Agriculture Economist

There has been a lot of discussion regarding how, and if, producers can get paid for carbon or practices that are considered carbon friendly. A lot of the conversation has targeted row crop producers and practices like no-till and cover crops. However, livestock and forage producers could potentially play an important role in carbon markets. There are three general pathways to monetizing carbon or carbon friendly practices. 1) Carbon offsets – carbon is quantified, verified, and registered, then credits equal to one metric ton of CO2 equivalent are sold or used to “offset” carbon emissions for large companies or carbon emitters. 2) Carbon insets are a strategy where a company actively reduces the carbon footprint within its supply chain by implementing carbon friendly initiatives. These still require measuring and validating carbon sequestration or beneficial carbon practices; however, this may also include payments to producers based on a beneficial practice rather than CO2 equivalents. 3) Market based incentives– differentiating a product or commodity to extract a price premium relative to other production methods that produce the product or commodity. The three pathways contain variations and may overlap in some capacity, and there is tremendous variation in details, terms, and conditions based on the program provider.

TENNESSEE MASTER FORAGE PRODUCER PROGRAM LAUNCH

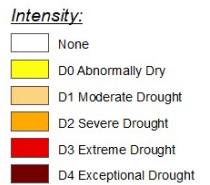
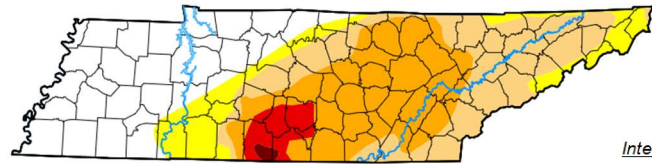
Dr. Bruno Pedreira – UT Extension Forage Specialist, Director of the Beef and Forage Center

I’m happy to announce the “Master Forage Program”, an in-depth exploration of forage-livestock systems, focusing on soil-plant-animal interactions and practices to enhance productivity, sustainability, and profitability. Participants will learn foundational principles and advanced techniques, guided by guest lectures from leading experts who share insights into innovative practices from Tennessee and beyond. Topics include soil health, ecosystem services, forage quality, grazing management, weed control, nitrogen alternatives, and silvopasture systems, among others. Participants can choose between two options. The 100% Online Option includes 12 hours of asynchronous modules, completed within one year, with access to Q&A features and monthly virtual meetings. The hybrid option includes 9 hours of online modules plus an in-person farm visit led by Dr. Bruno Pedreira during the spring or fall Forage Tour, featuring hands-on activities like pasture walks and demonstrations across the state. The program fee is \$100 (non-refundable), and certification is valid for three years, qualifying participants for the Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Program (TAEP) cost-share. Program information and registration will be available in January 2025.

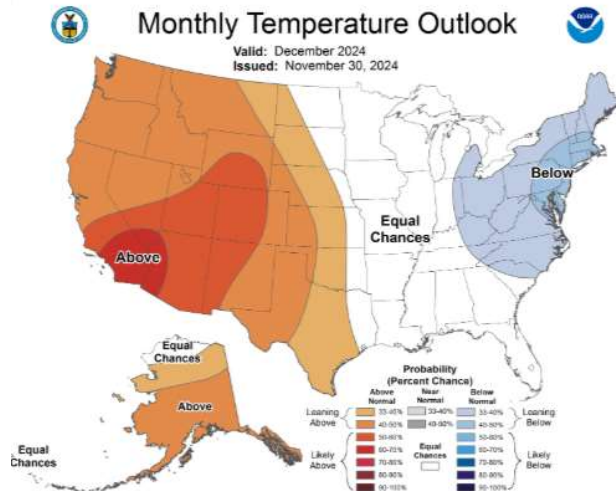
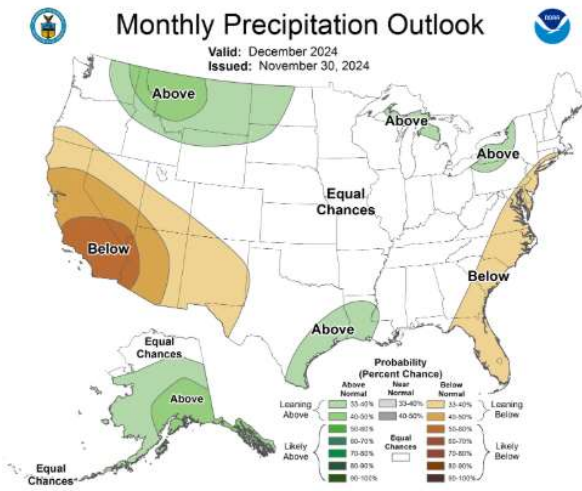
WEATHER

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist

November temperatures averaged 6°F higher, and rainfall was 0.12 inches above the 10-year average of 48.9°F and 3.5 inches. ncei.noaa.gov



December's average rainfall over the last 10 years was 5.6 inches, and the current forecast shows equal chances of precipitation. The temperature outlook for December suggests West and Middle Tennessee will have average temperatures, while East Tennessee is expected to see below-average temperatures. What concerns me most right now is the drought monitor. Currently, 65% of Tennessee is experiencing some level of drought (D0-D4), with 29% in severe (D2) to exceptional drought (D4). Giles and Lincoln counties, which have been in extreme drought (D3) since October, now have areas classified as exceptional drought (D4). Additionally, Moore, Bedford, Marshall, and Maury counties have remained in extreme drought (D3) since October droughtmonitor.unl.edu



UPCOMING EVENTS

- [UT Performance Tested Bull Sale](#)
December 12, 2024 at 12 PM CT
- [Live.Stock](#) - Join us for our broadcast on January 8, 2025 at 2 PM ET

These events can be found on UTBEEF.COM



Photo of the Month by Malerie Fancher: The Beef and Forage Center's most recent farm visit led us to Holston River Bison. During our visit, we met George, the American Bison.

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

UTBEEF.COM

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admission without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, and parental status