

LIVE STOCK

MONTHLY TIP

Poison Hemlock (Conium maculatum) is a dangerous weed that's poisonous to cattle. If animals eat it whether fresh in the pasture or dried in hay — it can make them very sick or even kill them. The poison stays in the plant even after it's been cut, dried, and stored, so hay with hemlock in it is still a risk.

One of the big problems with poison hemlock is that it looks a lot like Queen Anne's lace (Daucus carota), a harmless wildflower. Both have white, umbrella-shaped flower heads. But poison hemlock has purple spots on its hollow stems, and it can grow up to 8 feet tall with many branches. It usually shows up in late spring.

If you find poison hemlock in your hayfield or pasture, don't bale or feed hay from that area, even if it's been dried it's still toxic.

To control it, spray with 18– 20 ounces of DuraCor herbicide. You'll get the best results if you spray early in the bloom stage, before the plant goes to seed.

Dr. Bruno Pedreira UT Extension Forage Specialist



"Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."

- Thomas Jefferson

USDA SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM RECIPROCAL VISIT RECAP Malerie Fancher, Research Specialist, UT Beef and Forage Center

In 2024, Dr. Bruno Pedreira, alongside staff within the UT beef and Forage Center, had the opportunity to host and mentor two faculty from Algeria as scientific exchange fellows for ten weeks. During those ten weeks, both exchange fellows were involved in a variety of different experiences, including forage analysis using Near-Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy, greenhouse trial experimentation using Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria, and interactions with producers and stakeholders during several UT Extension programs, field days, and outreach events. In May, five UTIA faculty and staff participated in reciprocal visits to Algeria and Morocco. Reciprocal visits are a crucial part of the USDA Scientific Exchange Program to better understand what scientific advancements can be contributed to international collaboration. While in Algeria and Morocco, workshops were conducted to learn more about INRAA and



INRA research programs. The UTIA team also spoke about their respective programs to a variety of faculty and staff at each research institute. In all, this trip was a vital component of the Scientific Exchange Program to gain a better understanding of how each fellow can not only have a better impact on their own research programs but positively impact producer knowledge and efficiency through scientific findings.

D2 Severe Drought

D3 Extreme Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

WEATHER

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist

May temperature was 0.9°F below, and rainfall was 2.01 inches above the 10-year average of 67.4°F, with 4.94 inches of precipitation, respectively. <u>ncei.noaa.gov</u>



It's looking like June will stay warmer and wetter than usual across Tennessee, with the western part of the state getting the most rain. All the moisture has made it tough to get hay up, but on the bright side,

pastures are about as green as we've seen in a while. Hay quality's taking a hit as most fields were cut late, past the boot stage, with a lot of seed heads showing. On the upside, soil moisture is in good shape. There's no drought reported in any county across the state. <u>droughtmonitor.unl.edu</u>



UT BULL TEST: DRIVING GENETIC PROGRESS FOR TENNESSEE CATTLE PRODUCERS

Dr. Saulo Zoca, Assistant Professor, UT Extension Beef Cattle Reproduction Specialist The University of Tennessee Bull Development and Evaluation Program, widely known as the UT Bull Test, offers seedstock producers a respected platform to develop and showcase high-quality bulls backed by science and performance data. Held at the Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Lewisburg, the program evaluates bulls for growth, structural soundness, fertility, and carcass merit. Through a standardized development period and the use of genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (EPDs), the UT Bull Test gives both consignors and buyers confidence in a bull's potential to improve herd productivity and profitability. Bulls must meet strict health, age, and weight requirements to gualify, and only the highest-guality animals are selected for the final sale. Each bull undergoes a breeding soundness exam and ultrasound carcass evaluation, equipping buyers with the tools to make informed, data-driven decisions. The UT Bull Test continues to serve as a reliable source of information for commercial producers seeking genetically superior sires. Consignors benefit from a structured environment that highlights their breeding programs and adds credibility to their genetics. The nomination deadline for the 2025 test is June 23, 2025 and the sale will take place on December 11, 2025. Space is limited to 80 bulls, and early nomination is encouraged to allow time for eligibility review and planning. For producers looking to invest in performance-tested bulls or market their top prospects, the UT Bull Test remains a trusted resource for advancing Tennessee cattle operations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Live.Stock Join us for our broadcast
 July 9 at 2 PM ET
- <u>Tobacco, Beef, and More Field Day</u>
 June 26 at 8 AM–3 PM CT
- <u>Tennessee 4-H State Beef Exposition</u>
 July 10-12

Details can found on UTBEEF.COM



Photo of the Month by Dr. Bruno Pedreira: Hurricane Helene came with devastating effects, but we are fortunate establish trials in affected hayfields to learn more about changing production systems.

This and other useful information can be found at your local UT Extension office or on UTBEEF.COM

TBEEF & FORAGE CENTER

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