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MONTHLY TIP



Exciting News!

The Live.Stock Podcast, sponsored by the University of Tennessee Beef and Forage Center, is now streaming on [Spotify!](#) Tune in for deep dives into the latest ideas and innovations within the beef and forage industries.

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Malerie Fancher
Research Specialist
UT Beef and Forage Center



"Beef. It's What's for Dinner."

- National Cattlemen's Beef Association

JULY IS BEEF MONTH IN TENNESSEE

Dr. Katie Mason, UT Extension Beef Cattle Nutrition Specialist

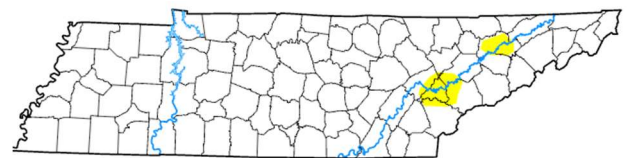
Cattle play a crucial role in the agricultural economy in Tennessee, with beef being the state's second highest-grossing farm commodity. Currently, Tennessee is home to about 1.6 million head of cattle, and it ranks 9th in the nation for total number of cattle farms and 16th in cattle numbers. And of course, beef cattle have the "superpower" of turning forages into high quality protein for humans!

Beef has many essential vitamins and minerals, such as B12 and iron, to support a healthy diet. A 3-ounce serving of beef provides about 25 grams of protein, but the greater concentration of iron and zinc compared to chicken makes it a nutritional powerhouse! Aside from its nutritional benefits, it's just plain tasty! The Tennessee Beef Industry Council provides a wealth of information, like recipes, cooking tips, and stories of local beef producers. You can find out more about preparing juicy steaks and delicious burgers at www.tnbeef.org/recipes. Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, DVM, said it best in a recent article about beef month: "Our cattle producers are the backbone of Tennessee agriculture. The beef industry supplies high-quality, nutrient-rich food, supports jobs, promotes soil conservation, and helps fuel our state's economy. We're proud to celebrate Beef Month and recognize the hard work and dedication of the men and women who make it possible."

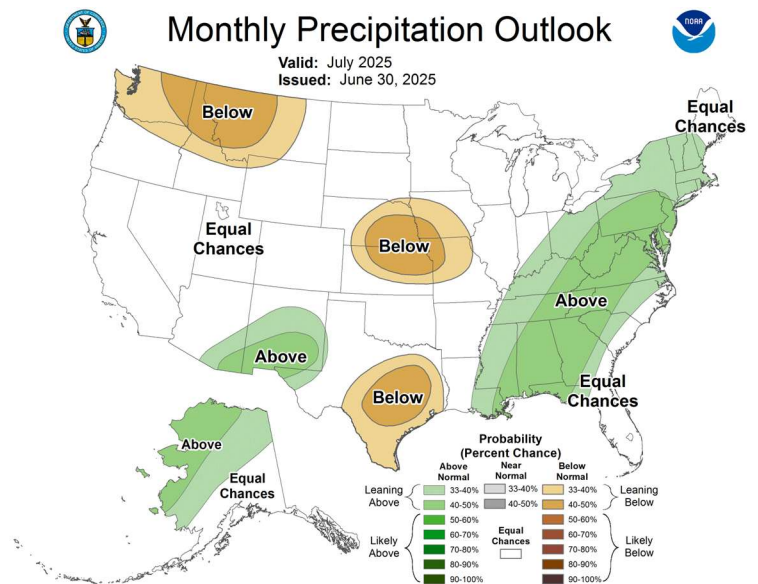
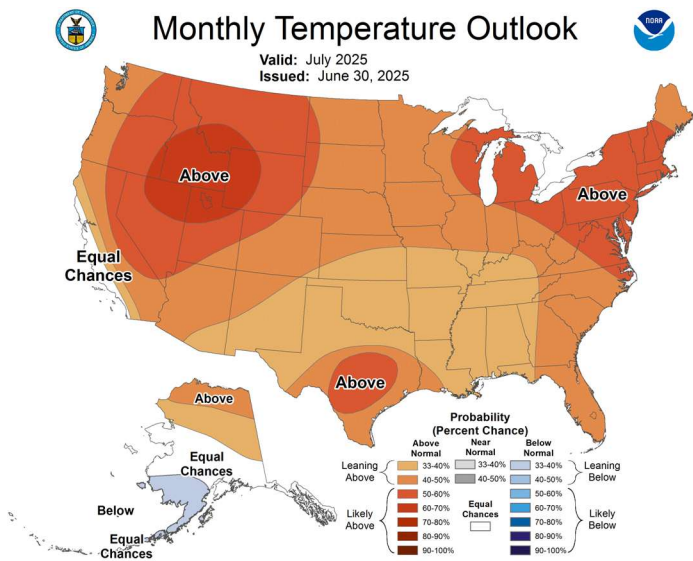
WEATHER

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, Director of the Beef & Forage Center

June temperature was 0.98°F above, and rainfall was 1.6 inches below the 10-year average of 74.6°F, with 4.28 inches of precipitation, respectively. ncei.noaa.gov



July is shaping up to be warmer and wetter than usual across Tennessee, with higher chances of rain on the eastern side of the state. Most hayfields were cut late this year, but thankfully, the summer hasn't been dry at all, hopefully setting us up for a great fall season. Soil moisture is holding up well in most of Tennessee. However, parts of Loudon, Blount, Roane, Knox, Monroe, Grainger, and Hamblen counties are currently classified as D0 (Abnormally Dry). droughtmonitor.unl.edu



MANAGING BROOMSEDGE IN COOL-SEASON FORAGES

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, Director of the Beef & Forage Center

Broomsedge is a warm-season perennial grass increasingly seen in pastures and hayfields in Tennessee. While not a sign of bad luck, its presence is a clear indicator of poor soil fertility, especially low pH, phosphorus, and potassium, and weak forage stands due to overgrazing or improper mowing. Broomsedge thrives in acidic, nutrient-depleted soils and outcompetes desirable cool-season grasses like tall fescue and orchardgrass when they are stressed. Since there are no selective herbicides that target broomsedge without harming forages, an integrated, multi-year approach is needed.

- 1. Start with Soil Fertility:** The most important step is taking a soil test and correcting pH and nutrient deficiencies. Apply lime to raise soil pH above 6.0 and fertilize as needed. A vigorous stand of tall fescue can eventually outcompete broomsedge with consistent fertilization over 3–5 years.
- 2. Maintain Adequate Stubble Height:** Avoid grazing or mowing below 3–4 inches to protect the plant's energy reserves and promote regrowth. Strong regrowth helps the forage stand compete more effectively against weeds.
- 3. Strategic Mowing:** Mow broomsedge during summer while tall fescue is dormant. Timely mowing (around July and August) reduces seed production and weakens the broomsedge.
- 4. Reseed If Needed:** If less than 50% of the desirable forage remains, consider full renovation with herbicide and fall reseeding. For moderate infestations, overseeding can help thicken the stand.
- 5. Use a Weed Wiper:** When broomsedge stands taller than the forage, a rope wick applicator can be used to apply herbicide selectively, minimizing damage to the pasture.

With proper pasture management, broomsedge infestations can be significantly reduced, restoring productivity to pastures over time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Live Stock** - Join us for our broadcast
- August 13 at 2 PM ET
- **Hurricane Helene Flood Recovery Initiative Field Day**
- August 20 at 9 AM ET – 3 PM ET
- **Steak and Potatoes Field Day**
- August 21 at 8 AM CT

Details can be found on UTBEEF.COM



Photo of the Month by Brie McLerran:

Farm visits are a vital part of the Extension system. Through hands-on learning, Dr. Pedreira provides future researchers and Extension educators with real-world, on-farm experiences that help them develop sustainable solutions.

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

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