



Volume 23: October 2025

LIVE STOCK companion



MONTHLY TIP

Join us for TFGC 2025!

The Tennessee Forage and Grassland Council (TFGC) is pleased to invite you to our Annual Meeting on Friday, November 7th, 2025, beginning at 8:30 AM (CT) at the Lane Agri-Park Auditorium.

This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Bronc Finch, Soil Fertility Extension Specialist from the University of Arkansas. Dr. Finch will share valuable insights on "Connecting Soil Health and Soil Fertility in Forage Systems."

Please make sure to pre-register for the annual meeting by using tiny.utk.edu/TFGC. This will help with lunch preparation! You may pay online or when you arrive at the door. Also, in-person registration will be available at the event but send us a quick note to expect your presence!

Email: utbeef@tennessee.edu

Dr. Bruno Pedreira
UT Extension Forage Specialist



BEEF & FORAGE
CENTER

"The farmer has to be an optimist, or he wouldn't still be a farmer."

- Will Rogers

WELCOME TO OUR NEW WEED CONTROL SPECIALIST

Malerie Fancher, Research Specialist

Dr. Hannah Wright-Smith, UT Extension Weed Specialist

The University of Tennessee Department of Plant Sciences and Tennessee

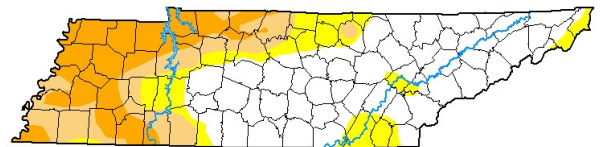


Extension is delighted to welcome Dr. Hannah Wright-Smith onboard as an Assistant Professor and Extension Weed Specialist. Dr. Wright-Smith earned her Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences with an emphasis in Weed science from the University of Georgia. She will be leading the forage and horticultural crop weed control education program. Dr. Wright-Smith is excited to join the Plant Sciences Department and Tennessee Extension faculty and begin her programming. She will be leading the Forage and Horticultural Crop Weed Control Education Program. Join us in giving Dr. Hannah Wright-Smith a warm Tennessee welcome to Knoxville!

WEATHER

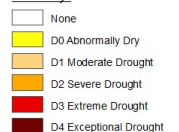
Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist

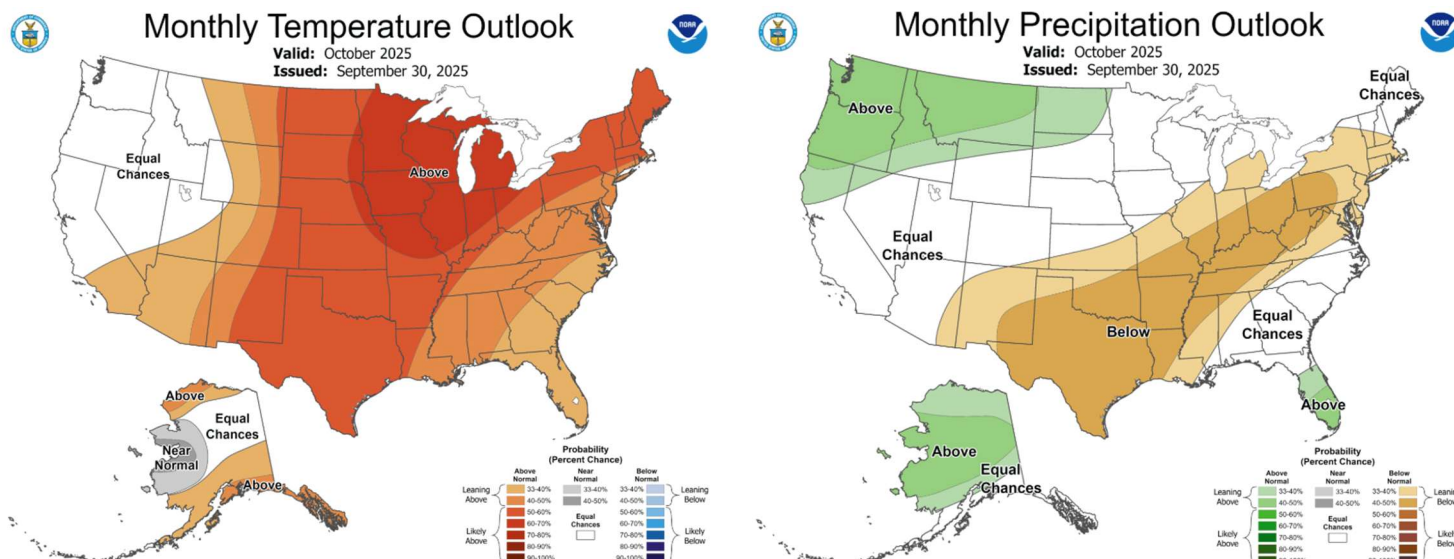
Due to the government shutdown, September 2025 temperature and rainfall data are unavailable. The 10-year averages are 71.6°F and 3.75 inches of precipitation, respectively. ncei.noaa.gov



The October forecast calls for warmer and drier than usual conditions across Tennessee. The western region is expected to experience the highest temperatures and lowest rainfall. Stockpiling fescue has been a challenge in many counties due to limited soil moisture. Although overall drought conditions have improved compared to last month, about 48% of the state remains in some stage of drought. droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Intensity:





UT BULL TEST: DRIVING GENETIC PROGRESS FOR TENNESSEE CATTLE PRODUCERS

Dr. Andrew P. Griffith, Aisling G. Hagan MS, Dr. Karen L. DeLong, Dr. Christopher N. Boyer, Dr. Charley Martinez, and Susan Schexnayder

Genomic testing has been used extensively in cattle seedstock operations and commercial heifer retention to select specific traits and to predict animal performance for several years. Thus, genomic testing has been beneficial in mating decisions and female retention decisions. In addition to these uses, genomic testing can be used on feeder cattle to predict feedlot performance and carcass merit. Thus, we conducted research to examine whether feedlots are willing to pay for cattle based on genetic test results. A survey of feedlot operators was conducted in 2021 and 2022. The examined genetic test provides a weighted score of an animal's predicted hot carcass weight (45%), ribeye area (10%), marbling (15%), tenderness (5%), fat thickness (10%), residual feed intake (10%), and calving ease direct (5%) and is scored on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the best. Feedlot operators were asked to provide their willingness to pay for feeder cattle without a genetic test and then the price of the same pen of cattle scoring 4.5, 5.5, or 6.5. Feedlot operators were not willing to pay a different price for cattle with a score of 4.5, but they were willing to pay 2.7% (\$4.06/cwt) and 4.6% (\$6.92/cwt) more for cattle scoring 5.5 and 6.5, respectively. Thus, if cattle are expected to perform better than average in the feedlot then there is value in marketing them with genomic information.

For more information, please read the full article:

Hagan, A.G., K.L. DeLong, A.P. Griffith, C.N. Boyer, C. Martinez, K.L. Jensen, and S.M. Schexnayder. 2025. "Feedlot Willingness to Pay for Genomic Tested Feeder Cattle." *Journal of Extension*, 63(3): 1-9.

<https://open.clemson.edu/joe/vol63/iss3/7>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Northeast Tennessee Beef Expo**
October 17th at 8 AM – 3 PM CT
- **Live Stock** - Join us for our broadcast
November 12th at 2 PM ET
- **Tennessee Forage and Grassland Council Annual Meeting**
November 7th at 8:30 AM CT

Details can be found on UTBEEF.COM



Photo of the Month by Dr. Bruno Pedreira:

Although Hurricane Helene brought devastating affects to the Eastern part of our state, our team has been dedicated to the pursuit of informed decision-making for recovering producers.

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

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