



# LIVE STOCK

## companion

Volume 25: December 2025

### MONTHLY TIP

As we begin feeding hay this winter, it's important to think strategically about where bales or hay-feeding devices are placed. Hay feeding always results in some waste, so consider where you want those nutrients to be redistributed in the pasture. Moving rings or placing bales in different areas helps prevent nutrient buildup in one spot and promotes more uniform soil fertility.

While losses are unavoidable, our goal is to minimize them because hay is expensive. Unrolling hay can spread nutrients well but may increase waste to as much as 40%. Using well-designed hay-feeding devices can reduce losses to 5–10%, improving efficiency while still making good use of the nutrients that do fall to the ground.

There is always debate about the benefits of unrolling hay. If that's your goal, focus on bare or weedy spots—using it as a targeted way to help recover poor areas.

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



**BEEF & FORAGE  
CENTER**

“May your holidays be filled with abundant blessings and a bountiful future.”

- Anonymous

### THE 2025 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TESTED BULL SALE

*Dr. Saulo Zoca, Assistant Professor, UT Extension Beef Cattle Reproduction Specialist*

The 2025 Annual Performance Tested Bull Sale will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Lewisburg, TN at 12 PM CST. The sale features over 60 lots of Performance Tested Bulls, including Angus, Red Angus, Hereford, SimAngus, and Simmental Bulls. Bidding can either be done in person at the Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, or by Video Auction at [LiveAuctions.tv](https://LiveAuctions.tv).

For more information, please visit [tiny.utk.edu/bulltest](https://tiny.utk.edu/bulltest),



### WEATHER

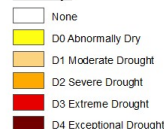
*Dr. Bruno Pedreira, Director of the Beef & Forage Center*

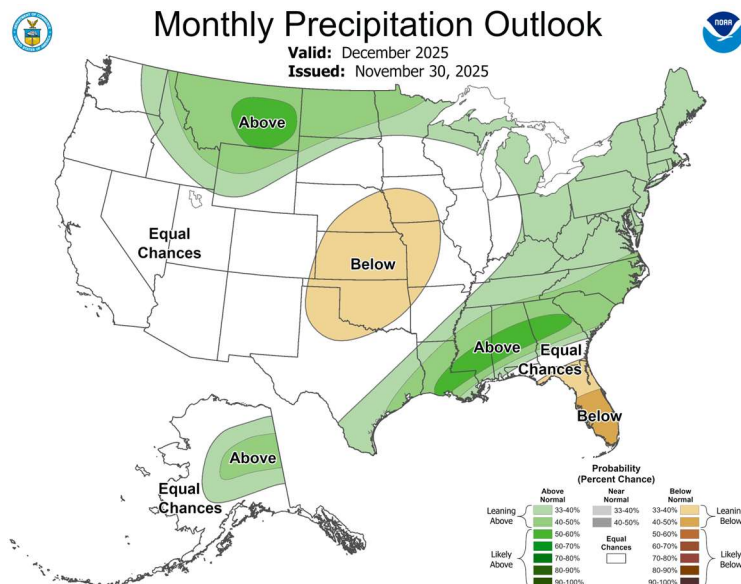
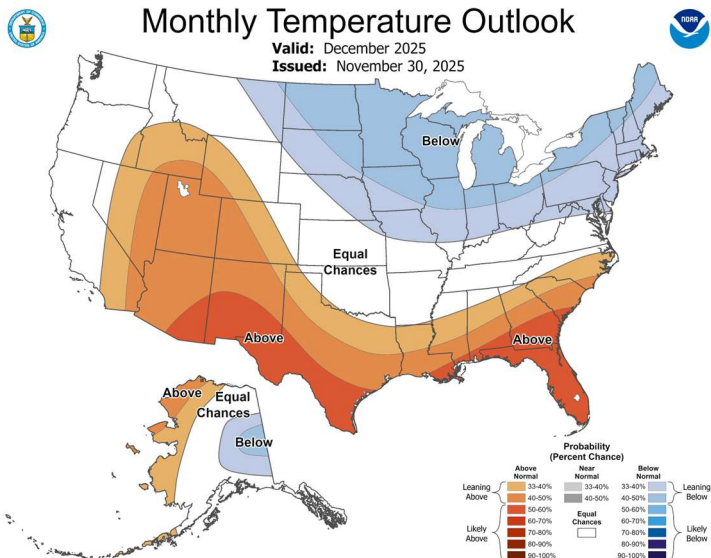
November precipitation totaled 2.6 inches, which is 0.84 inches below the 10-year average. The average temperature was 51.1 °F, just slightly above the 10-year average of 49.7 °F. [ncei.noaa.gov](https://ncei.noaa.gov)



Drought conditions are not a major concern for most counties. However, about 18% of the state is experiencing some level of drought, which is a 7% increase from October ([droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)). November's rainfall benefited most regions, allowing stockpiled fescue pastures to grow well. For example, forage samples from stockpiled pastures in Clay County showed about 3,200 pounds of dry matter per acre accumulated from early September to mid-November. Production varied from 2,300 to 3,600 pounds per acre, depending on nitrogen fertilization. The December outlook suggests normal temperatures across Tennessee with a tendency toward above-average precipitation.

#### Intensity:





## NOVAGRAZ: A NEW PASTURE HERBICIDE

Dr. Hannah Wright-Smith, UT Extension Weed Specialist



Novagraz, which you may know by its former name as ProClova, is a new herbicide from Corteva that can be used to kill broadleaf weeds in pastures without killing white clover or annual lespedeza. This herbicide is a good option for those with mixed pastures needing to control buttercup, plantain, or thistles and data has shown that control of some weeds, like buckhorn plantain, is improved with NovaGraz compared to 2,4-D alone. NovaGraz can also be used in the

summer to manage weeds like pigweed and tall ironweed. It is crucial to note that NovaGraz is **NOT** safe for other clovers such as Red, Crimson, Persian, Alsike, and Burclover. I've also heard several mentions the word "safe" in reference to NovaGraz and clover, and I want to stress that "safe" doesn't necessarily mean unharmed. NovaGraz will initially cause lodging and leaf yellowing in white clover, but plants will survive and typically recover within 4-6 weeks.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Live.Stock** - Join us for our broadcast  
- January 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM ET
- **AFGC 2026 Annual Conference**  
- January 12-14<sup>th</sup>, Asheville, NC.

Details can be found on [UTBEEF.COM](http://UTBEEF.COM)



**Photo of the Month** by Dr. Bruno Pedreira:

Recently, The UT Beef and Forage Center Forage Testing Laboratory had visitors from the Federal University of Mato Grosso, Brazil.

This and other useful information can be found at your local UT/TSU Extension office or on [UTBEEF.COM](http://UTBEEF.COM)

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