



## MONTHLY TIP

### Summer Forages

As June goes by, pay attention to your pastures. The weather is still not helping TN pastures, but if you have warm-season forages, that's a great time to pay attention to them.

There is not much we can do to keep cool-season forages such as tall fescue and orchardgrass growing during the summertime. As the name indicates, they are cool-season forages and won't grow much during the hot, dry summer.

For that reason, June, July, and August can be challenging for livestock producers. For years, we have seen native crabgrass show up in our pastures, as nature shows us that warm-season forages are well adapted to these conditions. If we listen to nature, we should consider more than tall fescue; we should consider dedicating some acres to warm-season forages. I'm not suggesting native crabgrass that spontaneously grows in our TN pastures, but rather improved crabgrass, sudex, sorghum, bermuda, etc. Assess your acres, and consider warm-season grasses for your summer pasture!

Dr. Bruno Pedreira  
Director of the Beef & Forage Center



*"Make hay while the sun shines."*

- English Proverb

## NEW WORLD SCREWORM DETECTION IN THE UNITED STATES

*Dr. Becky Trout Fryxell, Professor, Medical and Veterinary Entomologist*

New World screwworm (NWS), also known as primary screwworm, is a parasitic fly that poses a serious threat to animal health, including livestock, wildlife, and companion animals. NWS larvae (maggots) feed on living tissue, making infestations far more destructive than those caused by other maggots that commonly feed on dead or decaying tissue. Earlier this month, the first locally acquired NWS case was detected and reported in a Texas calf. (1) Calf inspection led to prompt NWS detection. (2) Detection with reporting led to a national response, which included: treating infested animals, prompt fly prevention of susceptible animals, epidemiological response to learn more about the history of the case, additional surveillance and testing to determine the severity of the case, and releasing of sterile flies via aerial dispersal and ground release within a buffer zone and on potential infested premises. To learn more about the unified government response to NWS review the USDA Response Playbook: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/nws-response-playbook.pdf> Inspection, detection, and reporting will lead to response. This is a good thing. Ignoring an infestation will create a larger, more difficult to control problem that impacts animal health and welfare. Like rats, bed bugs, lice, fleas, and roaches; NWS are pests. We need to know where they are so we can detect them and stop them. Good fly control alone is not enough to prevent NWS in cattle herds. Producers remain the first line of defense through regular inspections, prompt wound care, responsible animal sourcing, and rapid reporting of suspicious cases. Tennessee producers need to start reviewing their animal health procedures to minimize summer wounds in animals and begin inspecting animals for wounds and potential infestations. Best practices for evaluating animals for NWS can be found here:

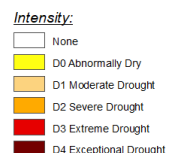
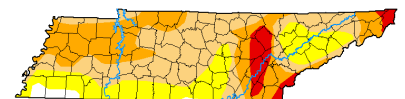
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/nws-best-practices-evaluation-animals.pdf>.

For more information, visit: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/screwworm>.

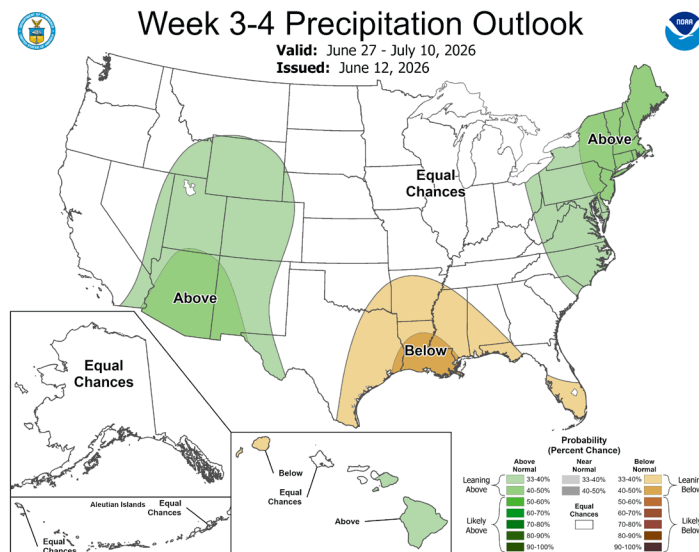
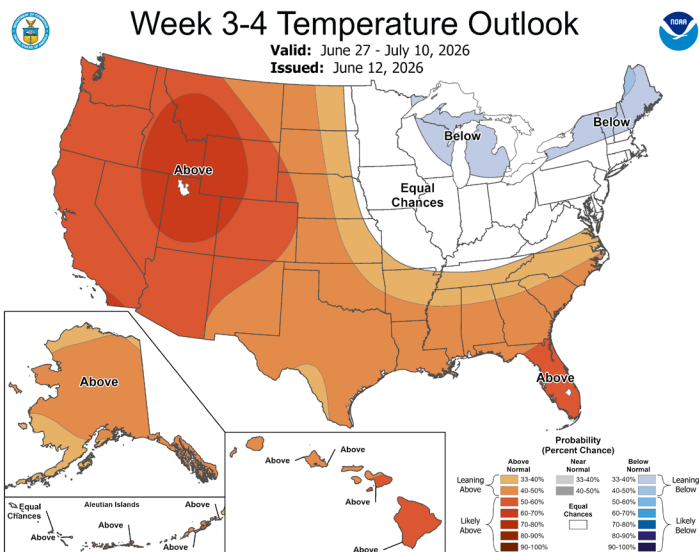
## WEATHER UPDATE

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

May's average temperature was 66.6°F, about 0.67°F below the 10-year average. Total precipitation for the month was 5.10 inches, 0.16 inches above normal ([ncei.noaa.gov](http://ncei.noaa.gov)).



This was the first month in the last few months with above-average rainfall. Although some rain has been recorded across the state, as of June 9, about 97% of the state is in drought. Most counties in East TN are still in Extreme Drought (D3). Rain has reduced the intensity in some counties, but we still need more moisture. Overall, about 74% of the state is in Moderate Drought (D1), with around 34% in Severe Drought (D2), and 6% in D3 (droughtmonitor.unl.edu). However, the forecast calls for normal precipitation and above-average temperatures across the state, and El Niño is present and expected to strengthen. We don't expect much from tall fescue at this time of year, but this is when our warm-season forages may thrive in Tennessee.



## CONTROLLING DIFFICULT SUMMER WEEDS

Dr. Hannah Wright-Smith, Assistant Professor, UT Extension Weed Science Specialist

Warm-season perennial weeds like tall ironweed, horsenettle, and dogfennel are more difficult to control due to their storage of carbohydrates and sugars in their root systems, which include rhizomes, tubers, and bulbs. These energy stores need to be depleted over time through well-timed herbicide applications and mowing in order to fully control perennial weeds. Perennial weeds are most susceptible to herbicide applications after they've fully come out of dormancy in the spring and before they flower since they've depleted all their energy stores. Summer perennials are susceptible again to herbicide applications made late summer or early fall prior to going dormant when the herbicide can be translocated to the root system.

The main issue with waiting until prior to dormancy for herbicide applications is the weather in Tennessee; it tends to be hot and dry by late July and through September. Heat and drought stress in weeds lead to reduced herbicide uptake into the plant and movement through the plant. So my recommendation is to apply a herbicide that also has residual activity early in the summer so it can control what is emerged, start working on depleting the energy stores in the roots, and be taken up by new shoots as they emerge while the weather is more temperate and there is adequate moisture. Then throughout and especially late in the summer mow any plants that have emerged to reduce the amount of energy going to the roots and deplete energy stores by forcing the plant to send up new shoots. Plan to do this for at least two to three years for complete control of warm-season perennial weeds off of the ground.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Live Stock** - Join us for our broadcast - July 8, 2026 at 2 PM ET
- **Tobacco, Beef, and More Field Day** - June 25, 2026 at 8 AM CT

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



**Photo of the Month** by Malerie Fancher: Rounding out Spring Tennessee Master Forage Program Tours in Washington County! Want to learn more about the Tennessee Master Forage Program? Visit the link below!  
<https://utbeef.tennessee.edu/tennessee-master-forage-program/>

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

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