

Guidance for Accessing UT AgResearch and Education Centers - Revised 4/9/2020

To protect the health and well-being of our employees and the general public while fulfilling our critical land-grant mission during the national COVID-19 crisis, effective March 23, 2020, UT AgResearch has adopted the following guidance concerning access to the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) AgResearch and Education Centers (AgResearch Centers) by faculty, staff, students, and external constituents.

- AgResearch Center priorities are: 1) health and well-being of the staff, 2) care for livestock and plants grown under certain conditions (e.g., greenhouses), and 3) supporting essential/critical research.
- All UTIA AgResearch Centers are closed to all external visitors, with the exception of deliveries of packages, supplies, and janitorial services, until further notice.
- Access to AgResearch Centers by faculty, students, program staff, and affiliated organizations to perform critical operations will require prior approval from the AgResearch Center director or their designee.
- Upon arrival to an AgResearch Center, immediately implement social distancing and sanitation practices that are suitable for the location.
- AgResearch Center directors are directed to implement staff social distancing practices immediately. This includes, but is not limited to, operating in shifts, practicing separation during breaks, implementing flexible work schedules, and employing working remotely where possible.
- Faculty should coordinate and manage graduate student and staff travel to the AgResearch Centers to ensure the most current UTIA rules and policies are followed. AgResearch Center directors should be contacted prior to travel to the AgResearch Center site to discuss planned work.
- Limit working group size to less than ten people while practicing social distancing. At the same time keep in mind that many of the activities conducted at AgResearch Centers are safer when at least two people work together. If possible, consider traveling to and from each AgResearch Center location and/or field site with a maximum of two people per vehicle utilizing PPE or in separate vehicles; vehicle surfaces should be disinfected, use of PPE, hand sanitizer, and other recommended safety practices are expected.

Feel free to contact us with any questions.

For the latest updates and student information, please refer to: utk.edu/coronavirus.

For UTIA-specific updates and resources, please visit: utia.tennessee.edu/coronavirus.

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