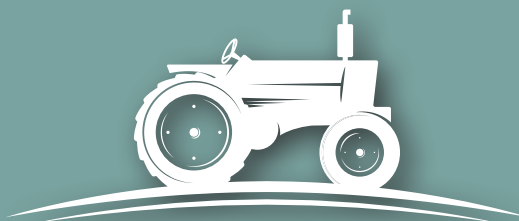


Considerations for
**BEGINNING
FARMERS**



FINAL REPORT

(September 2017)

**PILOT
WORKSHOP
PROGRAM**

2015 to 2017



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Summary

A pilot effort to conduct “beginning farmer” workshops across the state began in 2015. External funding was obtained to partially fund the program, primarily from USDA Rural Development, Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Farm Credit Mid-America. A team of 15 (14 Extension personnel and one industry partner from Farm Credit Mid-America) provided leadership to developing a curriculum and implementing six workshops in different locations across the state from September 2016 to July 2017. The workshop was offered every other month, with two sessions in each region during the year. A total of nine instructors were involved in the teaching, and a total of 158 individuals participated in the educational training across the six different locations.

Background

The “Developing Opportunities for Rural Tennessee Communities and Agriculture” project was developed in 2015 and designed with the following four activities:

1. Evaluate rural business opportunities and industry growth potential related to Tennessee’s grape production and winery operations.
2. Develop and pilot test educational programs to increase economic impact in rural communities from beginning farm businesses.
3. Evaluate the rural business impact opportunity and employment possibilities from new livestock harvesting and processing businesses.
4. Develop a user-friendly and web-based market analysis tool that extracts census data for specific geographic locations.

Details guiding the program for Beginning Farmer Education (item 2 above) included:

- ▶ Identify county agent to chair/coordinate the effort,
- ▶ Assemble team to develop format for the program:
 - ▷ Curriculum/what topics to teach.
 - ▷ Timeframe/schedule of classes (how long is the program, how long is each session?).
 - ▷ Schedule for calendar year (when and where to teach).
 - ▷ Assemble teaching team (who to develop material, who to teach).
 - ▷ Develop objectives and reporting framework.
 - ▷ Develop program evaluation tools.
- ▶ Implement pilot workshops (one every other month, six per year, one to two workshops per region).

Mitchell Mote, Extension agent in Rutherford County, was identified to lead the program and serve as chair of the workgroup that planned and implemented the program.

A total of nine instructors were involved in the teaching, and a total of 158 individuals participated in the educational training across the six different locations.

Funding Partners

The following industry partners provided funding to support the overall “Developing Opportunities for Rural Tennessee Communities and Agriculture.”

- ▶ USDA Rural Development.
- ▶ Farm Credit Mid-America.
- ▶ Tennessee Department of Agriculture .
- ▶ Tennessee Farm Winegrowers Alliance (Note: Funding from TFWA was used exclusively for the grape and wine industry study).

Program Planning Workgroup

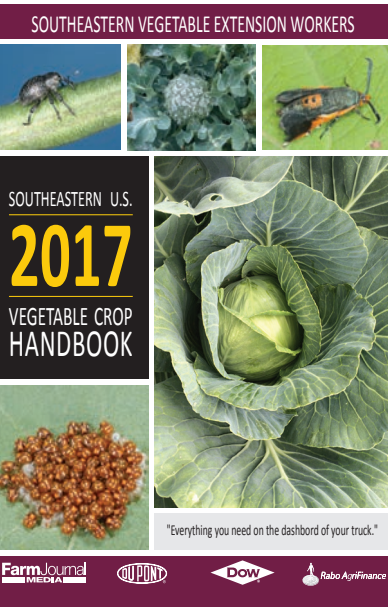
A formal workgroup was assembled to plan and implement the beginning farmer program. Members of the workgroup included:

1. Becky Bowling, Extension specialist, Agricultural and Resource Economics
2. Mitchell Mote, Central Region Extension agent
3. Marc Caldwell, UTIA College of Veterinary Medicine
4. Sam Collins, UTIA College of Veterinary Medicine
5. Kevin Ferguson, area specialist, Agricultural and Resource Economics
6. David Hughes, Greever Chair of Excellence, Agricultural and Resource Economics
7. Lester Humpal, area specialist, Agricultural and Resource Economics
8. Eileen Legault, area specialist, AgrAbility
9. Danny Morris, area specialist, Agricultural and Resource Economics
10. Heath D. Nokes, Central Region Extension agent
11. Tom Rison, Eastern Region Extension agent
12. Finis Stribling III, TSU small farm specialist
13. Jeremy West, Eastern Region Extension agent
14. Vickie Witcher, Western Region Extension agent
15. Peyton Fair, Farm Credit Mid-America



Teaching Schedule/Program/Curriculum

Applicants for the Beginning Farmer Education workgroup membership were approved by the corresponding leadership team in early November 2015. An initial meeting of the workgroup was scheduled for January 19, 2016, and was conducted using distance technology. The workgroup chair sent all workgroup members an email in December 2015 asking them to think about the subjects/topic areas they believed were essential in a beginning farmer education program that would target an audience composed largely of individuals with no or very little previous farming/agriculture experience or knowledge, but a desire to start an agricultural enterprise. The reasoning here was that if the workgroup members had spent time considering things to include in the program before their initial January 19, 2016 meeting, they would be ready to contribute during the initial meeting.



All 15 workgroup members participated in the initial whole group meeting, which took place via distance meeting technology (Zoom) on January 19, 2016. Considerable discussion occurred, and several points of consensus emerged, including the following:

- ▶ Individuals with no or little farming/agriculture experience and knowledge were identified as the target audience, as Extension staff across the state reported receiving multiple requests for information from such individuals annually.
- ▶ Going on the assumption that the majority of participants would be starting with a nearly zero agricultural knowledge base, the curriculum would focus on teaching about:
 - ▷ Basic needs of crops and livestock,
 - ▷ Tools to help evaluate land suitability for potential enterprises (i.e., NRCS Soil Web Survey, etc.),
 - ▷ Basics of growing safe food, tools/equipment options for small farmers, potential farming enterprises, risk factors to consider,
 - ▷ An introduction to value-added enterprise operations, and
 - ▷ Financial basics to include basics of financial forms, financial resources available to beginning farmers, recordkeeping, and the basics of tax forms.
- ▶ The intention was to arm participants with enough knowledge that they would be able to make informed choices regarding buying or leasing land and selecting enterprises so as to help them avoid wasting money and resources on the front end of starting an agricultural enterprise.

Upon identifying the intended audience and the curriculum focus, the workgroup then identified the group members who would work to develop the curriculum and who would serve as instructors. A sub committee of the workgroup was identified to develop and/or present the curriculum.

Remaining group members later helped identify possible workshop locations/venues and local contacts in the selected workshop areas. Members of the curriculum/teaching team were:

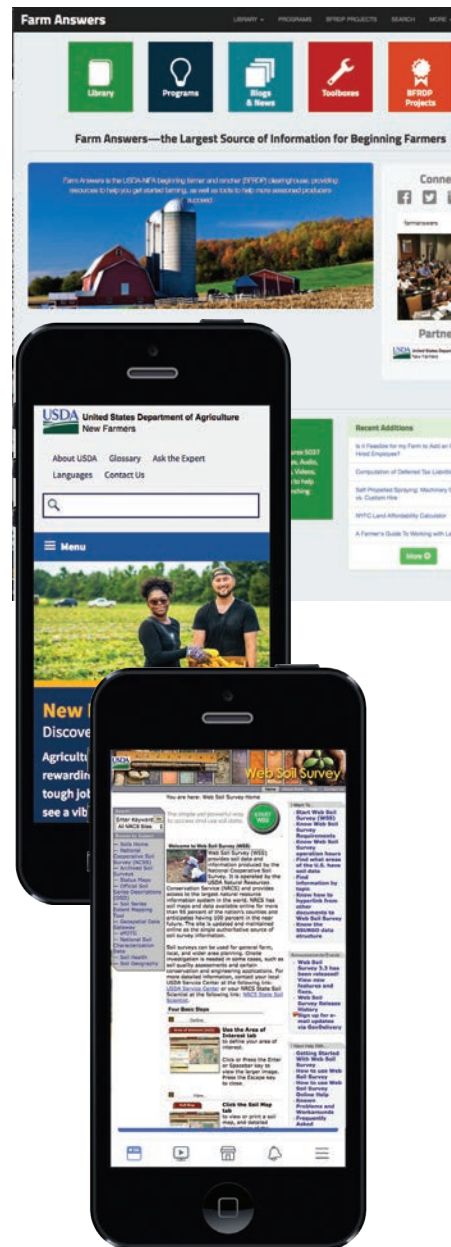
- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mitchell Mote | 6. Dr. David Hughes |
| 2. Les Humpal | 7. Danny Morris |
| 3. Kevin Ferguson | 8. Dr. Samantha Collins |
| 4. Dr. Marc Calwell | 9. Finis Stribling |
| 5. Heath Nokes | |



After the initial whole group meeting in January, the curriculum development and teaching team met face to face initially on February 18, 2016. During this meeting, the curriculum components identified in January were fleshed out in more detail, and a workshop agenda was drafted that would provide participants with seven hours of instruction in a one-day workshop. The development of presentations to cover the curriculum topics was divided among the team members based on their own interests, work area and knowledge/skill set. With the idea of reaching clientele in each of the three Tennessee Extension regions, two workshops were planned in different areas of each region to take place every other month once the workshops started, so that the six workshops would be completed in a 12-month period.

The curriculum/teaching team recognized that a consolidated collection of resources potentially useful to beginning farmers would be of value if it were readily available to participants. With that in mind, the team put together a lengthy list of resources in an Excel file with active links to the resources included. The resource file, along with the various presentations made during the workshop, were copied onto a thumb drive. Each individual participant or participating family received a thumb drive, as well as paper copies of the presentations to use for notetaking. Examples of items included in the resource file are:

- ▶ Links to UT and TSU Extension sites.
- ▶ Links to USDA sites such as the Beginning Farmer Resource site, NRCS and FSA sites.
- ▶ Link to the NRCS Soil Web Survey.
- ▶ Links to various other state Extension sites for various enterprise budgets.
- ▶ Links to farmer's tax guide.
- ▶ Link to the *Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook*.



The curriculum/teaching team met a total of four times between February and July 2016 to review and edit the presentations being developed for use in the workshops. During this time, locations/venues for the six workshops were identified and secured. A promotional flyer was developed during this period as well. The promotional brochure was distributed to all 95 county Extension offices in Tennessee, as well as various NRCS and FSA offices across the state around the first of August prior to the initial workshop on September 21.



The workshop agenda was consistent for all of the workshops. There were some adjustments from one workshop to the other due to instructor availability on a specific date.

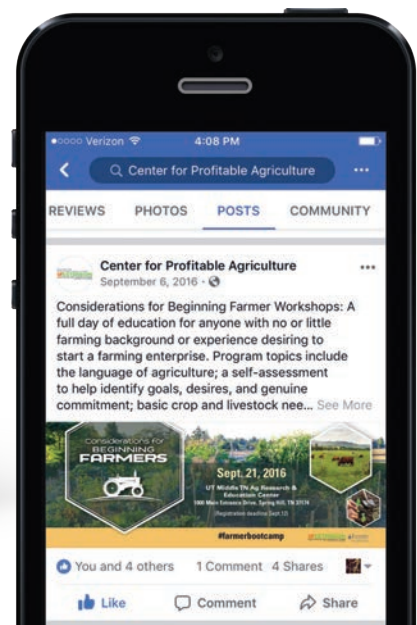
The following sessions were scheduled:

1. September 21, 2016 – Spring Hill, Tennessee
2. November 9, 2016 – Cleveland, Tennessee
3. January 25, 2017 – Clarksville, Tennessee
4. March 28, 2017 – Sparta, Tennessee
5. May 10, 2017 – Rutledge, Tennessee
6. July 11, 2017 – Jackson, Tennessee

Promotion and Publicity

Statewide, regional and local promotions for the workshops were developed. Promotional materials included a workshop brochure, social media posts and a news release.

- ▶ Brochure – A brochure was developed to promote all six workshops (the brochure is included in Appendix B). A registration form was also included in the brochure.
- ▶ Social media – A social media post was developed for each workshop and was distributed through various social media outlets by members of the workgroup, county Extension agents, UT Extension social media outlets, and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. A copy of the social media post is available in Appendix C.
- ▶ News release – A news release was prepared to promote the workshops and was distributed statewide to local and regional media. A copy of the news release is included in Appendix D.
- ▶ Charles Denney with the UTIA Marketing & Communications Department filmed a segment at the November 9 session in Cleveland that aired in several markets in and outside of Tennessee.

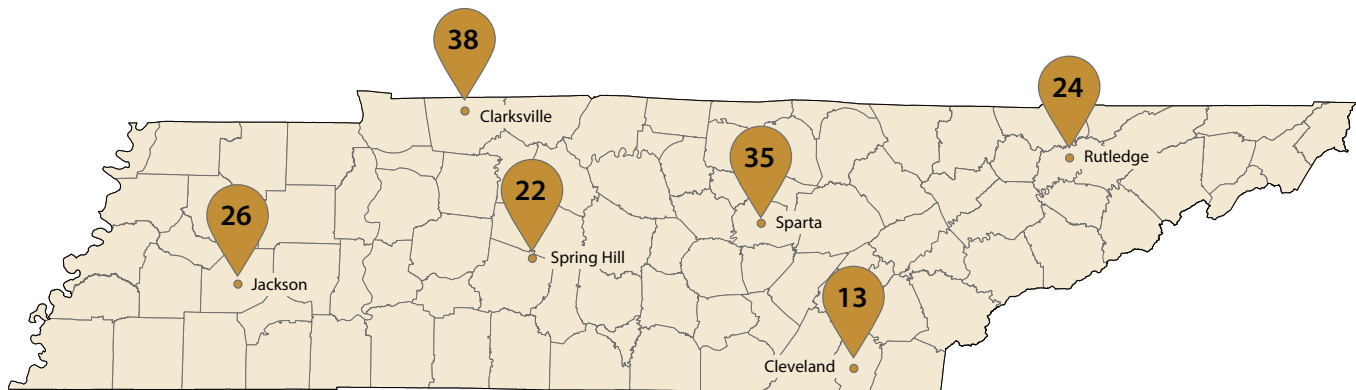


Summary of Workshops

A total of 158 people participated in the six workshops, and nine staff members served as instructors. Of the nine staff members who served as instructors, three taught at all six workshops, one taught at five, one taught at four, one taught at three, two taught at two, and one taught at one.

Table 1. Summary of the Workshop Dates, Locations, Instructors, Local Hosts and Attendance

	Date	Location	Instructors	Local Host(s)	Attendance
1	September 21, 2016	Spring Hill	6	2	22
2	November 9, 2016	Cleveland	7	2	13
3	January 25, 2017	Clarksville	6	3	38
4	March 28, 2017	Sparta	6	3	35
5	May 10, 2017	Rutledge	6	1	24
6	July 11, 2017	Jackson	6	2	26



Workshop Feedback and Evaluations

Of the 158 participants, we received 108 completed evaluations following the workshops. A copy of the evaluation form is in Appendix E. Some of the evaluations that were returned weren't completed fully. A summary of the completed evaluations is included in Appendix F.

Observations and Future Considerations

The following are comments made on participant evaluation forms:

- ▶ "This class was awesome. I gained a better understanding of both risks and rewards in agriculture. I realized the importance of marketing for our products."
- ▶ The resources provided have been huge. The amount of info you all covered today was very helpful!"
- ▶ "This confirms that I don't want big animals."
- ▶ "Excellent program, should be continued throughout the state."
- ▶ "Learning how to evaluate land's potential and suitability by using the online tools was very helpful."
- ▶ "Feel like I have a better understanding of what preparations are needed before embarking on an enterprise and making financial and time investments."

The majority of participant feedback was positive and many participants expressed appreciation that such a program was offered. The interest in starting an agricultural enterprise from non traditional clientele appears to be increasing, not decreasing. It would seem that with the apparent level of interest in the state, programs that help "beginning farmers" catch up on their learning curve will be viewed as beneficial. It would seem that the possibilities for topics is wide open and could range from specific instruction on how to do specific things to hands-on "farm skill" sessions where participants could learn and practice essential skills such as fence building and calculating pesticide rates.



Appendices





September 21, 2016 UT MTREC, Spring Hill

Agenda

7-7:50 a.m.	Check-in	
7:50-8 a.m.	Opening Remarks & Introductions	Mitchell Mote, UT Extension
8-8:20 a.m.	How to Talk Farming	Mitchell Mote
8:20-9:30 a.m.	Considerations for Beginning Farmers	Kevin Ferguson, UT Extension
9:30-9:40 a.m.	Break	
9:40-10 a.m.	Basic Crop Needs	Mitchell Mote
10-10:20 a.m.	Good Land Cheap! (Evaluating Land Potential)	Mitchell Mote
10:20-10:40 a.m.	Growing Safe Food for Your Family	Mitchell Mote
10:40-10:50 a.m.	Break	
10:50-11:10 a.m.	Basic Livestock Animal Needs	Les Humpal, UT Extension
11:10-11:30 a.m.	When to Call a Vet	Dr. Marc Caldwell, UTCVM
11:30-11:50 a.m.	It's Mine & I Can Do What I Want (Possible Land Use Restrictions)	Les Humpal
11:50 -12:10 p.m.	I Need a Big Ole Tractor (Tools & Equipment)	Heath Nokes, UT Extension
12:10-1 p.m.	Lunch	
1-1:20 p.m.	There Are a Lot of Ways to Mess Up (Risk Considerations)	Mitchell Mote
1:20-1:50 p.m.	What Is Value Added?	Dr. David Hughes, UT Extension
1:50-3:50 p.m.	Let's Make Some Money (Break when needed)	Les Humpal, UT Extension
3:50-4 p.m.	Evaluation & Wrap-up	

Considerations for
**BEGINNING
FARMERS**



November 9, 2016 Tri-State Exhibition Center, McDonald, TN

Agenda

7-7:50 a.m.	Check-in	
7:50-8:10 a.m.	Introductions and Opening Remarks	Mitchell Mote, UT Extension
8:10-9:00 a.m.	Considerations for Beginning Farmers	Kevin Ferguson, UT Extension
9:00-9:10 a.m.	Break	
9:10-9:50 a.m.	Basic Crop Needs	Mitchell Mote
9:50-10:10 a.m.	Good Land Cheap! (Evaluating Land Potential)	Mitchell Mote
10:10-10:30 a.m.	Growing Safe Food for Your Family	Mitchell Mote
10:30-10:40 a.m.	Break	
10:40-11:20 a.m.	Basic Livestock Needs and Possible Land Restrictions	Les Humpal, UT Extension
11:20-12:00 noon	When to Call a Vet	Kevin Ferguson
12:00-12:40 p.m.	Lunch	
12:40-1 p.m.	I Need a Big Ole Tractor	Heath Nokes, UT Extension
1-1:20 p.m.	There Are a Lot of Ways to Mess Up	Mitchell Mote
1:20-1:50 p.m.	What Is Value Added?	Dr. David Hughes, UT Extension
1:50-3:50 p.m.	Let's Make Some Money (Break as needed)	Danny Morris & Les Humpal UT Extension
3:50-4 p.m.	Evaluation & Wrap-up	



January 25, 2017 Montgomery Co. Extension Office, Clarksville, TN

Agenda

7-7:50 a.m.	Check-in	
7:50-8 a.m.	Introductions and Opening Remarks	Mitchell Mote, UT Extension
8-9 a.m.	Considerations for Beginning Farmers	Kevin Ferguson, UT Extension
9-9:40 a.m.	Basic Crop Needs	Mitchell Mote
9:40-10:05 a.m.	Good Land Cheap! (Evaluating Land Potential)	Mitchell Mote
10:05-10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15-11:05 a.m.	Basic Livestock Needs	Les Humpal, UT Extension
11:05-11:50 p.m.	When to Call a Vet	Dr. Marc Caldwell, UTCVM
11:50-12:15 p.m.	Growing Safe Food for Your Family	Mitchell Mote
12:15-1 p.m.	Lunch	
1-1:20 p.m.	There Are a Lot of Ways to Mess Up	Mitchell Mote
1:20-1:50 p.m.	What Is Value Added?	Dr. David Hughes, UT Extension
1:50-3:50 p.m.	Let's Make Some Money (Or at least keep track of how much we've lost) Break halfway through this section	Danny Morris & Les Humpal UT Extension
3:50-4 p.m.	Evaluation & Wrap-up	

Considerations for
**BEGINNING
FARMERS**



March 28, 2017 White Co. Ag Complex, Sparta, TN

Agenda

7-7:50 a.m.	Check-In	
7:50-8:15 a.m.	Introductions, Resources, Self-Evaluation	Mitchell Mote, UT Extension
8:15-9 a.m.	Basic Crop Needs	Mitchell Mote, UT Extension
9-9:30 a.m.	Good Land Cheap! (Evaluating Land Potential)	Mitchell Mote, UT Extension
9:30-10 a.m.	Do People Really Do That? (Potential Enterprises)	Finis Stribling, TSU Extension
10:00-10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15-11:05 a.m.	Basic Livestock Needs	Les Humpal, UT Extension
11:05 – 11:50 a.m.	When to Call a Vet	Dr. Samantha Collins, UTCVM
11:50-12:15 p.m.	I Need a Big Ole Tractor	Finis Stribling, TSU Extension
12:15-1 p.m.	Lunch	
1-1:20	Growing Safe Food for Your Family	Mitchell Mote, UT Extension
1:20-2 p.m.	What Is Value Added	Dr. David Hughes, UT Extension
2-4 p.m.	Let's Make Some Money (Or at least keep track of how much we've lost) Break as needed	Danny Morris & Les Humpal UT Extension
4-4:15 p.m.	Evaluation & Wrap-up	



May 10, 2017 Grainger County Ag. Pavilion, Rutledge, TN

Agenda

7-7:50 a.m.	Check-In	
7:50-8:10 a.m.	Introductions & Opening Remarks	Mitchell Mote, UT Extension
8:10-9:20 a.m.	Considerations for Beginning Farmers	Kevin Ferguson, UT Extension
9:20-10 a.m.	Basic Crop Needs	Mitchell Mote
10-10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15-10:45 a.m.	Good Land Cheap! (Evaluating Land Potential)	Mitchell Mote
10:45-11:35 a.m.	Basic Livestock Needs	Les Humpal, UT Extension
11:35-12 noon	Growing Safe Food for Your Family	Mitchell Mote
12-12:45 p.m.	Lunch	
12:45-1:30 p.m.	When to Call a Vet	Dr. Samantha Collins, UTCVM
1:30-2:10 p.m.	What Is Value Added?	Dr. David Hughes, UT Extension
2:10-4 p.m.	Did We Make Any Money? (Capital, records and taxes)	Danny Morris & Les Humpal UT Extension
4-4:15 p.m.	Evaluation and Wrap-up	

Considerations for
**BEGINNING
FARMERS**



July 11, 2017 Madison County Extension Office, Jackson, TN

Agenda

7-7:50 a.m.	Check-in	
7:50-8:15 a.m.	Introductions, Resources, Self-Evaluation	Mitchell Mote, UT Extension
8:15-9 a.m.	Basic Crop Needs	Mitchell Mote
9-9:30 a.m.	Good Land Cheap! (Evaluating Land Potential)	Mitchell Mote
9:30-10 a.m.	Do People Really Do That? (Potential Enterprises)	Finis Stribling, TSU Extension
10-10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15-11 a.m.	Basic Livestock Needs	Les Humpal, UT Extension
11-11:45 a.m.	When to Call a Vet	Heath Nokes, UT Extension
11:45-12:15 p.m.	I Need a Big Ole Tractor (Equipment & Tools)	Finis Stribling
12:15-1 p.m.	Lunch	
1-1:40 p.m.	What Is Value Added?	Dr. David Hughes, UT Extension
1:40-2 p.m.	Growing Safe Food for Your Family	Mitchell Mote
2-4 p.m.	Did We Make Any Money? (Capital, records and taxes) Break as needed	Danny Morris & Les Humpal UT Extension
4-4:15 p.m.	Evaluation and Wrap-up	

Appendix B

RETURN REGISTRATION FORM & FEE TO:

UT Extension Office, Rutherford Co.
c/o Beginning Farmer
315 John R. Rice Blvd, Ste. 101
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

NAME(S): _____

SESSION: _____
(Example: Sept. 21, 2016)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: (____) _____

EMAIL: _____

PAYMENT AMOUNT:
_____ (number of attendees) X \$25
= _____

Make Checks Payable to:
The University of Tennessee

Workshops that do not have a minimum number of registrations will be canceled.
Registration fees are not refundable unless the workshop is canceled.

THE CONSIDERATIONS FOR BEGINNING FARMERS WORKSHOP IS SPONSORED BY

UTEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Center for Profitable Agriculture

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Considerations for
BEGINNING FARMERS

Appendix C Social Media Sample



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

A full day of education for anyone with no or little farming background or experience desiring to start a farming enterprise. Program topics include the language of agriculture; a self-assessment to help identify goals, desires, and genuine commitment; basic crop and livestock needs; when to call a vet; evaluating land for suitability; equipment and tools; potential risks; introduction to the business side of farming, and more!

Registration fee of \$25 per person includes the program, refreshments, and lunch.

TRAINING AGENDA (tentative)

7-7:50 a.m. **Check-in**

7:50-8 a.m. **Opening Remarks**

8-8:20 a.m. *How to Talk Farming*
– Intro to the Language of Agriculture

8:20-9:30 a.m. *What Do You Really Want to Do?*
Self-assessment

9:30-9:40 a.m. **Break**

9:40-10 a.m. *Do People Really Do That?*
– Potential Enterprises

10-10:20 a.m. *Basic Crop Needs*

10:20-10:40 a.m. *Good Land Cheap!*
– Evaluating Land Potential

10:40-10:50 a.m. **Break**

10:50-11:10 a.m. *Basic Livestock Animal Needs*

11:10-11:30 a.m. *When to Call a Vet*

11:30-11:50 a.m. *It's Mine & I Can Do What I Want*
– Possible Land Use Restrictions

11:50 a.m.-12:10 p.m. *I Need a Big Ole Tractor*
– Tools & Equipment

12:10-1:00 p.m. **Lunch**

1-1:20 p.m. *There Are a Lot of Ways to Mess Up*
– Risk Considerations

1:20-1:50 p.m. Choose one:
A) *What is Value Added?*
B) *Growing Safe Food for Your Family*

1:50-3:50 p.m. *Let's Make Some Money*
– Intro to the Business Side

3:50-4:00 p.m. **Wrap-up**

"AGRICULTURE IS OUR WISEST PURSUIT, BECAUSE IT WILL IN THE END CONTRIBUTE MOST TO REAL WEALTH, GOOD MORALS, AND HAPPINESS."

-Thomas Jefferson

DATES AND LOCATION

Sept. 21, 2016
UT Middle TN Ag Research & Education Center
1000 Main Entrance Drive, Spring Hill, TN 37174
(Registration deadline Sept. 12)

Nov. 9, 2016
Tri-State Exhibition Center
200 Nistores Trail SW, McDonald, TN 37353
(Registration deadline Nov. 1)

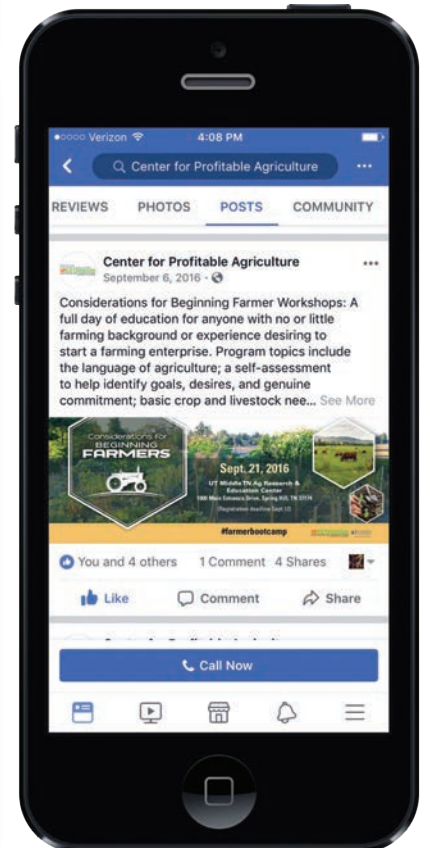
Jan. 25, 2017
UT-TSU Extension Office, Montgomery Co.
1030 Cumberland Heights Rd., Clarksville, TN 37040
(Registration deadline Jan. 13)

March 28, 2017
White Co. Ag Complex (Fairgrounds)
565 Hale Street, Sparta, TN 38583
(Registration deadline March 20)

May 10, 2017
Grainger County Ag. Pavilion
280 Bryan Road, Rutledge, TN 37861
(Registration deadline is May 2, 2017)

July 11, 2017
UT-TSU Extension Office, Madison Co.
309 North Parkway, Jackson, TN 38305
(Registration deadline July 3)

Please register as soon as possible – seating is limited in some locations



8/22/2017

Thinking About Becoming a Farmer?

UT SYSTEM | UTK | MYUTK | ONEDRIVE | ONLINE@UTEMAIL | A-Z | PEOPLE
INSTITUTE | ACADEMICS | AG RESEARCH | EXTENSION | VETERINARY

ite: News & Announcem



News & Announcements

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS | SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS | VIDEO NEWS | PLANT OF THE MONTH
COMMON GROUND

UT Institute of Agriculture > News & Announcements > Thinking About Becoming a Farmer?

Thinking About Becoming a Farmer?

Attend One of Five Workshops to Get You Started



9/23/2016

Patricia McDaniels,
pmcdaniels@tennessee.edu

SPRING HILL, Tenn. – A century ago Americans absorbed their “farming education” mostly first-hand through chores and kitchen table discussions. Today that is not the case, and Rob Holland, director of the University of Tennessee Center for Profitable Agriculture (CPA), says many would-be farmers have no idea how to get started in the business.

Holland is working with Mitchell Mote, UT Extension agent in Rutherford County, to present a workshop for those who have been dreaming of managing their own green acres. Co-sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, USDA Rural Development and UT Extension -Tennessee State University Extension, the workshop “Considerations for Beginning Farmers” will be offered to anyone interested in becoming a farm owner-operator.

Les Humpal, University of Tennessee Extension Area Farm Management Specialist, speaks at the Sept. 21 workshop for those who have been dreaming of managing their own green acres. “Considerations for Beginning Farmers” will be presented five more times from November 2016 through July 2017. Photo by M. Mote, courtesy UTIA. Download image.

The workshop is being scheduled in five locations across the state over the course of the next several months. Each event is independent, and the same materials will be presented. Those interested may choose from any of the remaining events. The premiere event was held September 21 in Spring Hill, and the organizers were pleased with the enthusiasm of the attendees, most of whom reside in Tennessee, but one came from Arkansas.

“Based on the feedback from the participants, I think we’re on the right track with this effort,” said

Appendix D News Release continued

8/22/2017

Thinking About Becoming a Farmer?

Mote. "The information we present is timely and is sought after by people who are a few generations removed from the family farm, but who are interested in returning to their roots, so to speak."

The full-day workshop is designed for those with little or no farming background. Program topics include the language of agriculture; a self-assessment of goals, desires and commitment; basic crop and livestock needs; evaluating land suitability; equipment and tools; potential risks; and more.

Registration to attend is \$25 per person, which includes the program and lunch.

The workshop is scheduled for five dates and locations across the state, beginning November 9 and running through July 2017:

Nov. 9, 2016

Tri-State Exhibition Center, McDonald, TN (Bradley Co.)
(Registration deadline Nov. 1)

Jan. 25, 2017

UT-TSU Extension Office, Montgomery Co.
(Registration deadline Jan. 13, 2017)

March 28, 2017

White Co. Ag Complex (Fairgrounds)
(Registration deadline March 20, 2017)

May 10, 2017

Grainger County Ag. Pavilion
(Registration deadline is May 2, 2017)

July 11, 2017

UT-TSU Extension Office, Madison Co.
(Registration deadline July 3, 2017)

For more information, contact Mitchell Mote in the Rutherford County Extension Office at 615-898-7710.

Through its mission of research, teaching and extension, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) touches lives and provides Real. Life. Solutions. ag.tennessee.edu

###

Contacts:

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Workshop brochure

“Considerations for Beginning Farmers” Participant Evaluation

Our purpose at UT/TSU Extension is to provide you with information which will help you answer questions and solve problems pertaining to some particular aspect of your life. Your feedback helps us know if we're on the right track, so please answer the following questions:

1. As a result of participating in today's program, I learned something that I believe will help me start or continue a farming enterprise. _____ Yes _____ No
2. If you answered Yes above, would you please list those things you learned which you believe will be useful to you?
3. What suggestion(s) would you make to improve today's program?

Please tell us a little about yourself

Which age group do you fit in? (Please check the appropriate one)

_____ 20-30 _____ 40-50 _____ 60 & above
_____ 30-40 _____ 50-60

Are you _____ male _____ female?

Why do you want to farm? (Choose all that apply)

- A. _____ Source of additional income
- B. _____ Sole source of income
- C. _____ Desire to live a particular lifestyle
- D. _____ Produce the majority of my own food
- E. _____ Other (If you don't mind, please elaborate)

Do you presently have a farming enterprise?

_____ Yes _____ No

If you answered yes above, please briefly describe your enterprise.

What is your farming experience? (How long, enterprises, etc.)

Appendix F Summary of Evaluations

“Considerations for Beginning Farmers” Participant Evaluations Summary

As a result of participating in the Beginning Farmers program, I learned something that I believe will help me start or continue a farming enterprise.

Yes: 107 No: 1

If you answered YES above, would you please list those things you learned that you believe will be useful to you?

- Online resources
- Financial and tax information
- Risk evaluation
- Soil information
- Livestock information
- Record keeping
- Goals and planning
- When to call a vet

What suggestions would you make to improve the Beginning Farmers program?

- Have participants introduce themselves
- Second day with hands-on farm tour
- Local guests who share success stories
- Case studies for record keeping
- More details not just overviews
- Have a microphone to help participants hear speakers

Demographics

Age of participants:

20-30: 11 30-40: 21 40-50: 22 50-60: 31 60+: 15

Gender:

Male: 54 Female: 40

Why do you want to farm?

A. Source of additional income: 60

B. Sole source of income: 11

- C. Desire to live a particular lifestyle: 71
- D. Produce the majority of my own food: 62
- E. Other (please elaborate): 20
 - Getting back to the basics
 - Inherited land
 - To educate others
 - To donate food
 - To get their kids involved
 - To have fun

Do you presently have a farming enterprise?

Yes: 36 No: 62

If you answered YES above, please briefly describe your enterprise.

- Gardens
- Livestock
- Back yard chickens

What is your farming experience?

Years:

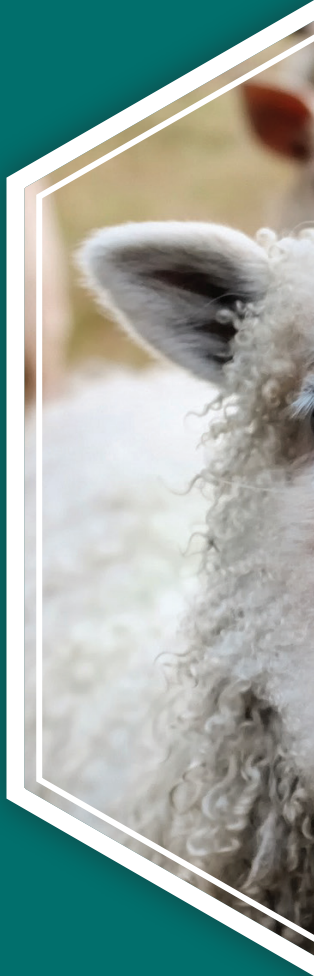
- None: majority
- 1-5yrs: 10 people
- 7-9yrs: 2 people
- 10yrs: 1 person
- 15yrs: 1 person
- Lifelong: 1 person
- Grew up on a farm as a kid: 5 people

Enterprises

- Livestock- cattle, swine, poultry
- Crops
- Fruit trees



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