

THE COOPERATOR

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019

CONNECTING THE **CO-OP** COMMUNITY



16

PAGE

The TAEP advantage

State's farmers encouraged to apply Oct. 1-15 for cost-share funds through Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program

CONNECT WITH US
ourcoop.com



CO-OP

WHAT'S INSIDE

PAGE
5

Outlook for the 2019 harvest

PAGE
6

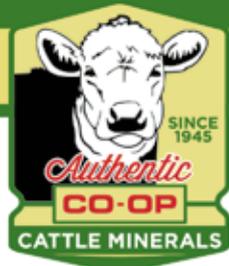
Putnam, Overton Co-ops consolidate operations

PAGE
24

Cooperator readers share family stories of their veterans

#SHOPCOOP

THE MAKIN' GREAT GAINS GIVEAWAY EVENT



GROW THE HERD. WIN MORE.

HOW TO WIN:

- 1 VISIT YOUR LOCAL CO-OP AND PURCHASE BAGGED AUTHENTIC CO-OP CATTLE MINERAL.**
- 2 TEAR OPEN THE BAG AND LOOK FOR ONE OF 150 SILVER TICKETS.**
- 3 TAKE YOUR WINNING TICKET TO YOUR LOCAL CO-OP AND REDEEM YOUR PRIZE.**



WIN FREE FEED & MINERAL

from your



For details:

WWW.OURCOOP.COM/WINFREEFEED

Prizes not claimed within the allotted time will be placed back into inventory. Employees, immediate family members, and vendors of TFC are ineligible. Any local or other taxes or fees associated with a prize are the prize winner's responsibility. This Contest is open to legal residents of Tennessee who are 18 years of age or older. This Contest is void wherever prohibited by federal, state or local law. Subject to applicable law, the Contest Sponsor reserves the right to cancel, suspend, terminate or modify the Contest Rules without prior notice and with no obligation or liability. All incidental costs and expenses associated with the prizes are the responsibility of the prize winner. The chances for winning will depend on the number of entrants received during the Contest Period. Prize winners may be required to execute certain documentation in order to claim their prize. All entries shall become the property of the Contest Sponsor, and entrants understand that his/her name, residence and association with Co-op may be used for publicity or promotional purposes by the Contest Sponsor. By entering this Contest, each entrant agrees that, to the fullest extent allowed by law, the Contest Sponsor(s) shall have no liability and shall be held harmless by the entrant for any damage, loss or liability to person or property, due in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by reason of entering the Contest or the acceptance, possession, use or misuse of any prize or prize activity. All entrants agree to comply with the Contest Rules, as may be amended from time to time. To the fullest extent allowed by law, this Contest shall be governed by the laws of the State of Tennessee, without giving effect to its conflict of law principles.



PAGE 32



PAGE 20



28 PAGE

THE COOPERATOR

October/November 2019

CONNECTING THE CO-OP COMMUNITY



5

One for the record books

Tennessee corn and soybean crops on track to reach record-setting yields.

6

Plateau partnership

Overton, Putnam merge to form Ag1 Farmers Cooperative.

16

The TAEP advantage

State's farmers encouraged to apply Oct. 1-15 for cost-share funds through Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program.

20

Answer Plot solutions

More than 100 attendees reap the educational benefits of TFC and WinField United's large-scale VIP event.

24

Stories of service

Veterans make sacrifices for the good of country.

28

Go and know

Tennessee Agriculture Leadership Tour participants enriched through learning and building friendships.

32

Pumpkin mania

Obion County native Alan Shirley turns agritourism dream into a reality.

IN EVERY ISSUE

4/Snapshots

Veterans Day memorial.

10/Priority Co-op Products

Learn about four products.

13/Neighborly Advice

Supplementing cattle with pressed blocks.

42/What's Cookin'?

Fall veggies.

46/Every Farmer Has A Story

Riley Mason of Niota is staking his future on the dairy industry.

THE COOPERATOR

October/November 2019 Volume 60, Number 10

Published by Tennessee Farmers Cooperative in the interest of better farming through cooperation and improved technology, and to connect the Co-op community through shared experiences, common values, and rural heritage.

Editor: Glen Liford
gliford@ourcoop.com

Assistant Editor: Chris Villines
cvillines@ourcoop.com

Communications Specialist: Sarah Geyer
sgeyer@ourcoop.com

Senior Graphic Designer: Shane Read
sread@ourcoop.com

Layout & Production Coordinator:
Travis Merriman
tmerriman@ourcoop.com

Editorial Assistant: Polly Campbell
pcampbell@ourcoop.com

Advertising Information: Travis Merriman
615-793-8352, tmerriman@ourcoop.com

The Cooperator is distributed free to patrons of member Co-ops. Since each Co-op maintains its own mailing list, requests for subscriptions must be made through the local Co-op. When reporting an address change, please include the mailing label from a past issue and send to the following address:

The Cooperator
P.O. Box 3003
LaVergne, TN 37086
Phone: (615) 793-8339
E-mail: tlewtter@ourcoop.com

Guest Subscriptions:

Guest subscriptions are available for \$12.95 per year by sending a check or money order to Tennessee Farmers Cooperative at the above address.

TFC's website: www.ourcoop.com

Follow our social media sites:

-  www.facebook.com/TennesseeFarmersCooperative
-  www.twitter.com/TNFarmers
-  www.instagram.com/tennesseefarmerscooperative
-  www.pinterest.com/tnfarmers
-  www.youtube.com/TnFarmersCooperative

TFC Board of Directors:

Chairman — Mark Thompson,
Cumberland Gap, Zone 3
Vice Chairman — Keith Fowler,
Martin, Zone 1
Amos Huey, Kenton, Zone 1
Tim Luckey, Humboldt, Zone 1
Benjie Daniel, Charlotte, Zone 2
Donald Jernigan, Christiana, Zone 2
Stephen Philpott, Shelbyville, Zone 2
Johnny Brady, Riceville, Zone 3
David Sarten, Sevierville, Zone 3
Chief Executive Officer — Bart Krisle

NOTICE: This publication is for informational purposes only. Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, its affiliates, subsidiaries, and member Co-ops are not responsible for any damages or claims that may result from a reader's use of this information, including but not limited to actual, punitive, consequential, or economic damages. Tennessee Farmers Cooperative makes no warranties or representations, either express or implied, including warranties of merchantability or fitness of any product/material for a particular purpose. Each article, document, advertisement, or other information is provided "AS IS" and without warranty of any kind. Tennessee Farmers Cooperative reserves the right to alter, correct, or otherwise change any part or portion of this publication, including articles and advertisements, without detriment to Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, its affiliates, subsidiaries, or member cooperatives. Unless otherwise noted, stock images courtesy of gettyimages.com.

Veterans Day memorial

Contributions from Co-op readers recognize veterans



Glen Liford

Editor

Last month in this column, I asked our readers to honor veterans from their own families by sharing their experiences. You will find those stories beginning on page 24. I briefly mentioned my own family's contribution in last month's column, and I want to share the rest of the story here.

My uncle Buddy (Bud) Edmondson was a World War II veteran and, at least to most of the family, shared very little detail of his experiences. Most of what we know was gleaned from the scrapbook his sister, Fern, kept while he was a prisoner of war. The two were only 15 months apart in age and were very close. My mother Peggy was born when they were 15 and 16, respectively, so they felt almost like parents to their little sister.

Bud was only 18 years old when he was drafted into the Army after Army and was inducted on Jan. 4, 1944. I knew him as quiet and easy going, and he was known for his mischievous nature as he liked to poke fun at other members of the family. At 18, he was grounded in his faith, and it bothered him that his dad, Glen, was not attending church at the time.

Bud completed basic training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and was sent overseas in September. On Oct. 24, the family received the wire explaining he was MIA (missing in action), and his fate was unknown until a second message arrived on Jan. 1, 1945, stating he was confirmed as a prisoner of the German government. Fern carefully preserved these messages in her scrapbook, along with multiple letters Bud wrote to his family during his captivity. The only letter from his parents to make it through to the young soldier was one informing him that since he had been captured, his dad was now attending church. Most of Bud's letters seem determined to reassure his folks he was being treated well and was doing fine. Knowing his captors were obviously reading these notes, too, it's hard to imagine them saying otherwise.

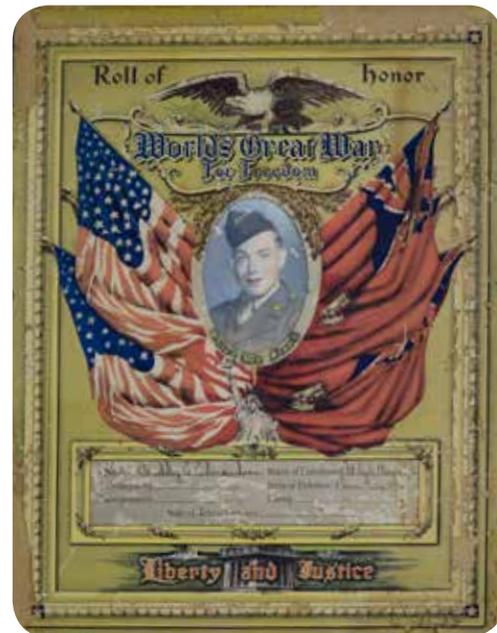
Clippings from the Knoxville newspaper were also included in the scrapbook, and they tell a different story. It was late in the war, and news of the Nazi atrocities, along with pictures of emaciated prisoners from the German camps, were just beginning to be revealed. Prominent in the journal are clippings of lists of local soldiers who had been killed, wounded, or captured.

A letter his squad leader wrote to my grandparents explained he and Bud had been seized Oct. 4 in Holland during Bud's first battle. He confirmed the story in a rare candid moment with my dad, explaining that in the chaos he lost his rifle and was crawling on the ground looking for it when he was captured. It's easy to imagine his bad luck in losing his weapon could very well have been the one thing that saved the disarmed soldier's life.

He later told that from the start of his ordeal as a prisoner in a cramped railway boxcar, he knew he would make it home, as he said God told him he had something to do when he got home. That something turned out to be preaching.

Several years after returning home, he announced his calling and was ordained in 1952. He served as pastor of Little Valley Missionary Baptist Church in Union County at various intervals from then until his death on Sept. 26, 1976, from stomach cancer. He was only 51.

Though he didn't share details from his ordeal, he once said he would rather see his only son, Darryl, dead than have him endure similar circumstances. Bud was awarded the Purple Heart, the U.S. military citation given to those wounded or killed in combat, but to my knowledge he never spoke of his injuries to the family.



Buddy Edmondson entered the Army in January 1944 and was captured by the enemy in October.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates Tennessee farmers will set a new record for corn yields, and soybean yields will tie last year's record amount.

One for the record books

Tennessee corn and soybean crops on track to reach record-setting yields

Story by: Sarah Geyer

As of press time (Sept. 18), Tennessee producers are in the midst of a potential record-setting harvest.

Based on a Sept. 12 report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Tennessee corn yields are on track to reach the highest in state history, while projected soybean yields will tie the state record.

"Even though we got a slow start due to wet conditions, this year's crop really benefited from consistent rainfall throughout the summer," says Bill Epps, manager of Tennessee Farmers Cooperative's agronomy division. "Our farmers were also quick to adjust their fertility programs, especially nitrogen, to the growing conditions. We're looking forward to another successful Tennessee harvest season."

Tennessee's corn yield is estimated to average 175 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from last year. The state's corn production

is also estimated to increase over last year, up 39 percent to 161 million bushels. U.S. corn production is projected to decrease 4 percent from last year to 13.8 billion bushels, and the national yield average is also estimated to decrease by 8.2 bushels to 168.2 bushels per acre.

The state's average yield for soybeans is estimated at 50 bushels per acre, an increase of 4 bushels over 2018. Tennessee's soybean production, however, is expected to decrease slightly, down 4 percent from last year, to 73.5 million bushels. The nation's soybean production is projected at 3.63 billion bushels, a decrease of 20 percent from last year. Soybean yields nationwide are estimated to average 47.9 bushels per acre, down 3.7 bushels from 2018.

Tennessee cotton farmers should see an increase in both production and yield compared to 2018. Production is estimated at 930,000 bales, up 21 percent from last year, and cotton yields are expected to average 1,116 pounds per acre, up 75 pounds per acre from 2018. U.S. cotton production is forecasted at

21.9 million bales, an increase of 19 percent from last year, while yields nationwide are estimated to average 839 pounds per acre, a decrease of 25 pounds per acre from 2018.

Burley tobacco production in Tennessee is forecasted at 6.40 million pounds, down 29 percent from 2018. Yield is estimated at 1,600 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds per acre from last year. Production for Tennessee dark fire-cured tobacco is projected at 17.3 million pounds, down 25 percent from 2018, while production of Tennessee dark air-cured tobacco is expected to reach 8.5 million pounds, an increase of 15 percent from last year's crop.

According to NASS's August report, the state's winter wheat production is expected to decrease 20 percent from last year to 14.9 million bushels, and yield average is estimated at 66 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from 2018. Winter wheat production nationwide is expected to see an increase of 12 percent this year at 1.33 billion bushels.

Look for expanded harvest coverage in *The Cooperator's* December issue.



Plateau partnership

Overton, Putnam merge to form Ag1 Farmers Cooperative

Story by: Chris Villines

The members of two Farmers Co-ops, Overton and Putnam, have decided their future is better as one.

Ag1, that is.

After a membership vote passed in September, the two Cumberland Plateau-area Co-ops will operate as Ag1 Farmers Cooperative. The merger takes effect on Jan. 2, 2020.

Ag1 will maintain its existing store locations in Livingston, Cookeville, Byrdstown, and Monticello, Ky., as well as its Turf & Trail store near the Livingston location. The new cooperative will be headquartered in Livingston and have 1,150 members — 800 from Overton Farmers and 350 from Putnam Farmers. Combined sales of the new business is \$23.5 million.

“Originally, our two Co-ops were just working on some projects together the last couple of years,” says Brian Gilliam, manager of Overton Farmers Cooperative who will serve as general manager of Ag1 Farmers Cooperative. “The more we worked together, the more we realized the benefits we would have by merging.”

With similar customer bases, including people who shop at both Co-ops, the move to become Ag1 made sense, says Putnam Farmers Cooperative Manager Jere Cumby.

“Being in Cookeville, we probably have a little more of the urban trade, but otherwise our two Co-ops are very much alike,” Jere says. “I think this merger will help us gain efficiencies and be stronger as one going forward against the competition, which these days is mostly national companies instead of the ‘mom and pop’ stores.”

Ag1’s initial board of directors will be made up of three members from Putnam Farmers, five members from Overton Farmers-Livingston, and two members from Overton Farmers branch locations. They will serve a three-year term. One of the board members, Livingston’s Doug Maynard, has 21 years of experience as an Overton Farmers director and says he’s excited about the prospects for the newly formed cooperative.

“We felt like the merger would benefit farmer members in both counties,” says Doug, whose beef cattle operation focuses on registered Angus. “It makes our Co-op bigger and financially stronger. If you’re not getting bigger and looking for growth opportunities these days, you’re probably going out of business.

“And it helps us make our service even better. I think we service our customers as good as anybody. That helps set us apart.”

Gary Bush of Cookeville, a longtime Putnam Farmers Cooperative board member who raises tobacco, corn, soybeans, and hemp and runs a 100-head cattle operation with his brother, Barry, felt the “timing was right” for the merger.

“Both Co-ops are in good financial shape right now, and you never know what the future may hold,” says Gary. “From the perspective of the Co-op in Cookeville, it’s going to increase the number of products the store is able to offer. Our board felt really positive that this was the right move to make.”

After reviewing a list of some 25 names, Ag1 Farmers Cooperative was selected as the clear-cut winner, explains Brian.

“There were several names that would have designated an area or region, like Upper Cumberland,” he says, “but we wanted to go a different route in case additional Co-ops join Ag1 in the future, which we hope will occur.”

Adds Jere, “Once we started sharing that we thought the name would be Ag1, it was almost unanimous that people liked it. It rolls off the tongue easily.”

Both managers stress that this merger is the culmination of their respective boards examining all aspects associated with such a move and determining the pluses far outweighed the minuses.

“In the end, it’s all about being able to continually improve on the way we serve every single person who does business with us,” Brian says. “With Ag1, everything we do will be centered around service and gaining efficiencies for our farmer members. We’re excited.”



Your ONLY Assurance of **GUARANTEED Genuine Marshall... The Wax® Marshall Bag!**

"When I do business with a company, it's because the people and their products have earned my trust over many years... offering seed that is consistently high quality. I have been selling Wax Marshall ryegrass for over 25 years and Wax new Nelson Tetraploid for the past several years now.

My customers know that when they plant Wax Marshall or Nelson, they are getting the same high quality and purity they have come to expect and have gotten over the years. Wax seed puts their mind at ease... They get it and plant it.

**These are the reasons I sell only Wax Marshall and Nelson.
No generics - plain bag or brown bag.**

When it's Wax Marshall... there is no question about what's in the bag!"

Frank Joiner
Farmer's Seed and Feed Services
Americus, Georgia

Bag Design is a Registered Trademark of The Wax Company LLC

Marshall... America's #1 Ryegrass!

Available at your local Co-op
The Wax Company 888 CALL WAX



© 2019 The Wax Company LLC. All rights reserved. Wax, Marshall, and Nelson are registered trademarks of The Wax Company LLC.

Lowell “Wayne” Brown, former TFC Director, dies at 73

Lowell “Wayne” Brown, 73, of Chuckey, passed away Saturday, Aug. 10, at Johnson City Medical Center with his family at his side.

Brown was a leader of Greene Farmers Co-op, where he served more than 20 years on the board, and was elected as a director of Tennessee Farmers Cooperative for a seven-year term in 2005, serving as chairman of the board in 2011.

He attended the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry. He went on to earn his Master of Science in Wildlife Biology at UT in 1975. Brown was a decorated combat veteran, having served two years in the Army during the Vietnam War, receiving a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars for valor.

Following college and his military service, he returned to Chuckey to become a fourth-generation farmer and the sole

proprietor of Braunhurst Farms, where he farmed around 1,000 acres. Brown tended to a wide variety of commodities, including dairy cattle, pigs, show horses, corn, soybeans, and tobacco. As a prominent burley tobacco producer, he served as a member of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Phase II Tobacco Settlement Committee, was an alternate for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Tobacco Marketing Committee, and in 1978 was selected as the Outstanding Young Tobacco Farmer for Tennessee.

He also served as chairman of the UT Extension Agricultural Advisory Committee, a director of the Greene County Farm Bureau, and past president of the Greeneville Rotary Club.

Brown is survived by his wife, Virginia Cargile Brown; his two beloved children, Amy Elizabeth Brown McGuire (Keith) and Major Benjamin Cargile Brown, USAFR



(Jennifer); and five grandchildren: Audrey Brown, Hallie Brown, Jackson Brown, Payton McGuire, and Hazel McGuire.

SINCE
SAKRETE™
1936

**RIP OPEN
A BAG OF
CONFIDENCE.**

THE PRO'S CHOICE.

SAKRETE.COM

Sakrete® is a registered trademark of an Oldcastle company 

The advertisement features a large black background with yellow and white text. On the right side, there is a photograph of a person wearing yellow gloves using a shovel to mix concrete in a blue wheelbarrow. The overall design is bold and professional.

IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION



OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

October 2019 is Co-op Month in Tennessee as declared by Governor Bill Lee, fourth from left. Pictured with Governor Lee representing the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) are, from left, Matthew Boynton of Bledsoe Telephone Cooperative; Roberta Smith, TCC Administrative Secretary; Paul Binkley, TCC Vice President representing Tennessee Farmers Cooperative; Dr. Charlie Hatcher, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA); and Keith Harrison, TDA Assistant Commissioner for Business Development.

FOR MORE INFO:
www.tennesseeCouncilofcoops.org



#ShopCoop

CO-OP



1. Farmco 700 Series Feeders

Farmco 700 Series Feeders (shown with optional Hay Saver Racks) are double-wide models designed for all sizes of round and square bales, chopped green feeds, and TMR. Wheeled models have great stability and weight-handling capacity. The 180° turning front dolly makes it easy to maneuver. The fold-up, extendable tongue lifts out of the way and is easy to hook up. The rear gate drops to allow multiple large bales to slide in from the end. Check with your local Co-op for available sizes and options.



3. Farmco HF606 Equine Feeders

Farmco HF606 (#301043) metal horse feeder holds large round bales up to 5½ feet. The end-load design reduces your load time, giving you more time to ride. Durable skid feet allow the feeder to be pulled across the pasture while fork pockets on the end allow for easy moving. This round bale hay feeder also comes with an incredibly secure gate lock, making it impossible for one of your horses to get into the trough and suffer injury. The upright bars also help create an orderly eating environment, a separation method that keeps any one of the horses from dominating the trough or preventing other horses from eating.



2. Farmco HF45G Equine Feeders

Farmco HF45G (#301044) combines the best of our small bale and large, round bale hay feeders in a convenient mid-range size. Built with the same 'horse tough' construction and long-lasting, weather-resistant materials, it also includes a sturdy base that won't sink into the ground yet allows for easy relocation. Rounded steel runners allow you to drag it with a UTV or ATV using the built-in tow ring. This robust hay trough is just the right height and has cut-outs in the box allowing rain or snowmelt to drain out rather than soaking the dropped hay. The most distinctive feature of this unit is the built-to-last plastic roof. It's made of the same durable material used in children's playhouses and is designed to withstand the elements. Attached to the feeder by a stainless-steel bolt on each corner, the roof is easy to remove if needed. This feeder is also available without the roof if that is your preference.



4. Farmco HF832G24 Equine Feeders

Farmco HF832G24 (#301042) holds two to four small bales, providing daily feeding for up to six horses. Vertical bars decrease waste and prevent biting/teeth damage that is common with horizontal bars. A wide trough prevents hay from falling onto the ground, saving hay and money and providing maximum nutrition to equine.

Tennessee CATTLEMEN:

"When someone talks to me about a new ryegrass..."

I don't even listen!"

"I have used Marshall ryegrass for more than 28 years. This year it proved its worth to me again. We had a dry late summer and fall, then the rain came and Marshall came on strong, which saved my operation."

I know what it can do under stress and without Marshall I would be in a "world of hurt".

I know what Marshall can do under the most extreme conditions."

Rodney Hilley
Powder Creek Cattle



"I have been using Marshall ryegrass for 20+ years so that my cows could feed themselves. Marshall is very aggressive growing and recovers fast. Planted with

fescue, Marshall gives me an additional pound of weight gain per cow a day over straight fescue.

Have tried other ryegrasses like Tam 90 and Prine, but they just didn't stay up with Marshall. Year in and year out, Marshall ryegrass is consistent. Marshall is the King of ryegrasses.

Marshall keeps feeding days at a minimum and grazing days at a maximum. I'm just thankful for this product."

Bill Legg
West Point, Tennessee



"In the past having used other ryegrasses, I had found them wanting in our stocker operation. In other words, these ryegrasses just didn't

work. I let our cattle graze heavy and these ryegrasses didn't or couldn't take that pressure.

I did find a ryegrass that could take this pressure of heavy grazing... Marshall ryegrass. I have been planting Marshall for ten years now. Our cattle gain better and faster on Marshall than any other ryegrass.

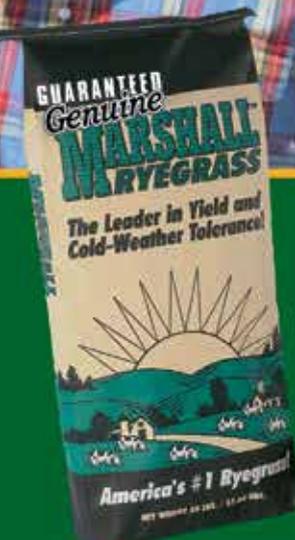
I don't want any ryegrass unless it is Marshall."

David Chase
Chase Farms
Cleveland, Tennessee

Marshall... America's #1 Ryegrass!

Available at your local Co-op

The Wax Company 888 CALL WAX



Seeds for Southern Soils

22% LAYER MINI PELLET

Top-quality nutrition for healthy poultry flocks.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- Vitamin and mineral fortified for balanced nutrition.
- Highly palatable formula to ensure consistent consumption.
- Blend of high-quality, nutritious ingredients.

BETTER CLUCKS
for your
BUCKS!

TRY
CO-OP
POULTRY FEEDS

IT'S OUR NATURE TO NURTURE

BE SURE TO SEE YOUR LOCAL CO-OP FOR EXPERT ADVICE AND DIRECTION ABOUT YOUR POULTRY FLOCKS.
FEEDS, HOUSING, CARE, AND MORE!

W-W
LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

EXPERIENCE THE "WORLD'S FINEST" IN LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT.

UNMATCHED QUALITY,
UNBEATABLE VALUE.

BEEFMASTER CHUTES

MATERNITY PEN

SWEEP TUB SYSTEMS

PORTABLE LOAD CHUTE

Check out W-W Livestock Systems products at your local Tennessee Farmers Co-op, available as part of the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program.

TAEP
Farm Investment Project
Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program

Visit your nearest Tennessee Farmers Co-op today!
www.OurCoop.com

CO-OP



Royce Towns, TFC Nutritionist

Supplementing cattle with pressed blocks

Winter beef cattle feeding programs in the Southeast are typically based upon stored hay. While considered a necessary practice, increasing input costs make it an expensive one as well. Frequent rains and rapidly maturing forages in the spring can also mean at least a portion of our hay inventory is lacking in quality. Feeding this poor-quality hay can result in decreased cattle performance and reduced profit for your beef cattle operation. Supplemental nutrition can correct this deficiency.

Cattle are ruminant animals and rely on the microorganisms that live in their digestive tracts to glean nutrition from ingested forages. When supplementing cattle, consideration must be given to how the supplement affects these rumen microorganisms. Effects can be positive, aiding the microbes in being more efficient and getting more nutrition from the forage. Conversely, supplementation with improper feedstuffs may produce negative effects and cause a decrease in forage utilization and feed efficiency. Supplementation programs should be selected to provide mutual benefits to the cattle and their rumen microorganisms, resulting in improved performance.

Co-op Supreme Cattle Supplement blocks are a great way to provide a “boost” to these microbes without the negative effects. Formulated with both plant protein and non-protein nitrogen, they provide microbes with extra nitrogen that allows them to flourish. Studies have shown that providing as little as ¼- lb. of additional protein to cattle daily can increase fiber digestion by 30 percent. These products can improve intake of poor-quality hay and allow the animal to derive more energy from the hay consumed.

In addition to protein, Co-op Supreme blocks provide a full complement of vitamins and minerals so that no additional salt or mineral is necessary. Hay is often deficient in essential mineral elements

such as phosphorus, copper, zinc, and selenium. Providing these in the proper amounts and ratios can have a positive impact on the growth, reproduction, and health of beef cattle. A high magnesium block is also available when grass tetany is a concern.

Co-op Supreme blocks are also very cost-effective when compared to other sources of protein. Lack of fillers, carriers, or expensive packaging translates into more nutrition for your dollar spent. Their self-fed formulation also means a savings in

both time and labor. When offered free-choice, the salt content and physical hardness of the block normally limits intake to 1-2 lbs. per head per day. And, the 33.3-lb. size allows for safe handling, transportation, and feeding by most anyone.

Convenience, cost-effectiveness, and consistent access are just some of the attributes of Co-op Supreme Cattle Supplement blocks. Let the beef cattle experts at your Co-op help you determine if pressed blocks are the answer to your winter supplementation needs.



Pressed blocks, such as Co-op Supreme Cattle Supplement blocks, provide additional protein, vitamins, and minerals and are a cost-effective option compared to other protein sources.



TARTER
FARM AND RANCH EQUIPMENT

SIMPLY THE BEST
IN QUALITY, DURABILITY, AND OPTIONS

Designed by farmers for farmers, Tarter's line of feeding and cattle handling equipment is ready to work for you. From the rugged Metal Grain Feeder, to the versatile CattleMaster Series 6 Squeeze chute, we have you covered.

CO-OP

Visit your local CO-OP today to learn more about these and other Tarter products and pricing!



All featured Tarter products qualify for
TENNESSEE AG ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM!

1-800-346-4486 | TARTERUSA.COM



ms metal sales
manufacturing corporation

SEE US FOR ALL OF YOUR ROOFING NEEDS.

CO-OP

VERSATILITY. DURABILITY. VALUE.



3-FT. WIDE SECTION

ms metal sales
manufacturing corporation

BARE GALVALUME CLASSIC RIB - 29-Gauge - #13033

3-FT. WIDE SECTION

ms metal sales
manufacturing corporation

PAINTED CLASSIC RIB ROOFING - 29-Gauge - MS 45-YEAR #13061

2-FT. WIDE SECTION

ms metal sales
manufacturing corporation

1/4 CORRUGATED ROOFING - 29-Gauge - Galvanized #13042

2-FT. WIDE SECTION

ms metal sales
manufacturing corporation

5V METAL ROOFING - 29-Gauge - Galvanized #13041

COMPLETE DETAILS AND INFORMATION...

SEE YOUR LOCAL CO-OP!

20
YEARS
WARRANTY



Stay with the Fencing Experts.



SUPERIOR ALL AROUND FENCE PRODUCTS

To learn more about this great fence, contact us at 1-888-223-8322

With three times the life and almost four times the strength of typical low tensile fencing, your **Stay-Tuff Fixed Knot** fence will stand strong for generations. High tensile wire, a solid vertical stay wire, and a tight Fixed Knot provide exceptional strength and allow you to use far fewer posts, saving time and money. And our superior wire coatings ensure this fence will stand the test of time. **You owe it to yourself and your family to invest in a Stay-Tuff Fence.**



**STAY STRONG.
STAY TIGHT.
STAY-TUFF**

staytuff.com   



Lascassas farmers and long-time friends Howard “Bubba” Arnold, far left, and Ernie Brown, far right, both used Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Program cost-share funds last year to purchase grain bins. The entire process, from ordering to installation of both bins, was facilitated by John Henderson, third from left, manager of Rutherford Farmers Cooperative, and his staff and Tennessee Farmers Cooperative’s Hardware Department, including Bryan Wrather, second from left. The application window to apply for the 2019-2020 TAEP cycle is Oct. 1-15.

The TAEP advantage

State’s farmers encouraged to apply Oct. 1-15 for cost-share funds through Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program

Story by: Sarah Geyer, photos by: Sarah Geyer, Glen Liford, and Chris Villines

The state’s farmers have two more reasons to apply for cost-share funding through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP), the Tennessee Department of Agriculture has added two new programs: hay equipment and cattle herd health.

The new hay equipment program will focus on hay production. That means the purchase of new hay mowers, mower-conditioners, tedders, rakes, and balers are now eligible for cost-share funds. The second new program, cattle herd health, provides reimbursement of some

expenses related to implementing preventative protocols for dairy and beef cattle.

Established in 2005, TAEP cost-share funds assist producers in improving operational safety, increasing farm efficiency, maximizing farm profits, and adapting to changing markets.

Cost-share programs have included genetics, hay storage, livestock equipment and solutions, working facility cover, grain storage, poultry grower, and producer diversification. To date, TAEP has invested more than \$168 million in more than 57,000 producer projects. For every cost-share dollar a farmer receives, an estimated \$3.89 is generated in the local economy.

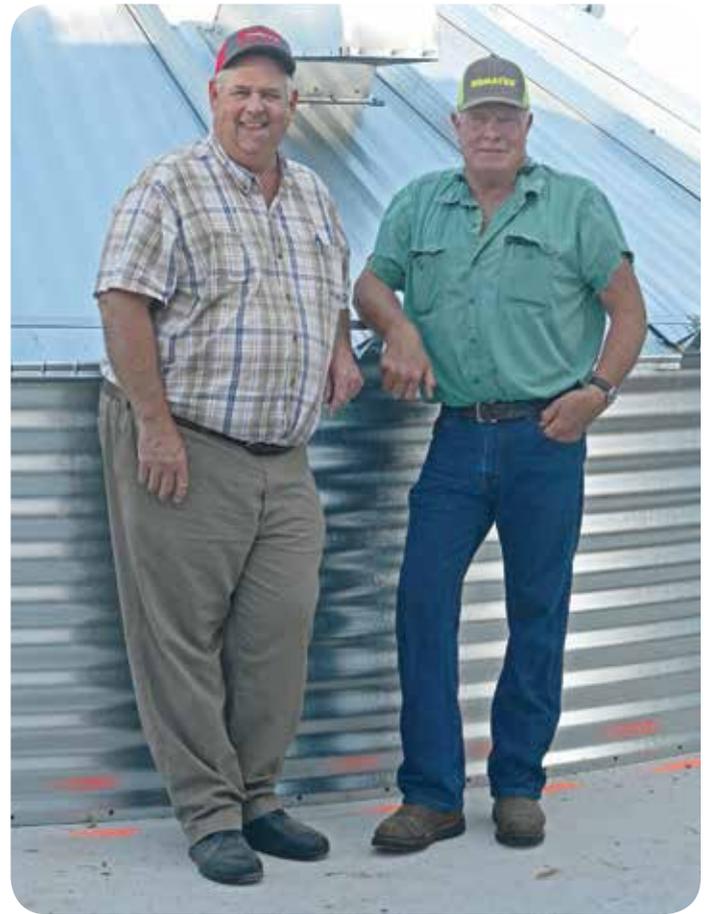
There’s a two-week application window — Oct. 1-15 — for those interested in receiving the next cycle of TAEP funds.

Applications are available at every Co-op location, and employees are ready to assist producers in each step of the process, from applying and purchasing decisions to installation.

Co-op members from across the state discuss how TAEP has benefited their operations:

Ernie Brown, Bubba Arnold, and Bobby Holbrook, Lascassas

Three Rutherford County farmers — Ernie Brown, Howard “Bubba” Arnold, and Bobby Holbrook — own farms but help each other with labor, equipment, and storage needs.



TOP: Ronnie Grantham of Bolivar is a Master Beef Producer who has utilized the 50-percent cost share he qualifies for on TAEP to purchase such items as a 40-by-100-foot hay shed, 500-gallon sprayer, genetics, and more. **BOTTOM:** Ronnie, center, talks with Barry Gray, left, and Dani Morrison of Stockdale's about the sturdy concrete feed troughs he purchased on TAEP through Stockdale's. **RIGHT:** Ernie Brown, left, and Bubba Arnold, both third-generation Rutherford County farmers, first used TAEP funds for livestock equipment and hay storage. They began focusing on grain storage in 2012. Ernie says for the next TAEP cycle, he'll apply for one more bin, and that should complete the farmers' storage needs.

Ernie raises corn and soybeans on 950 acres on the same Lascassas land his family has farmed for more than 200 years. Ernie's father, Buddy, owned and operated the popular Brown's Store in that community for several decades. Bubba is the third generation to live on the family's Lascassas farm. He raises 450 acres of corn and soybeans, 130 head of Angus cattle, and produces about 50,000 square bales of hay each year. Bobby, also a lifetime resident of Lascassas, raises hay, corn, and soybeans on more than 400 acres in Rutherford County.

Each farmer is a long-time participant in TAEP. All three began with livestock equipment, followed by a hay barn (or, in Bubba's case, four hay barns), and a grain bin and auger.

In 2012, they decided to create a grain bin conglomeration for convenience. Ernie's farm was the logical choice with its centralized location. They poured concrete pads, relocated five bins from their farms, and, using TAEP funds, installed drying floors. Since then, Ernie has added a sixth grain bin.

Last year, both Ernie and Bubba purchased grain bins for the centralized location. According to Bubba, the TDA now allows farmers to buy bins that will be installed on someone else's property because a growing number of farmers are renting land for long-term use.

With the two additional bins ready for this year's harvest, Ernie estimates that the eight bins will be able to store close to 105,000 bushels of corn.

"With the market the way it is right now, the grain bins give us some options," says Bubba. "If you need some cash flow, you can sell two or three loads while you're waiting for the price to go up, or you can sell at intervals to spread out your risk. Also, having your own grain bins means you can spend more time in the field instead of sitting in line at the granary."

As members of Rutherford Farmers Cooperative, all three men turn to the Co-op for help with TAEP purchases, from ordering to installation – even grain bins; the Hardware staff at Tennessee Farmers Cooperative works closely with member Co-ops to help facilitate the installation.

"That's a huge service when it comes to grain bins," says Ernie. "If we had to find someone to install them and try to check on the project ourselves, it would be a huge hassle. All we have to do is get the pad ready, and then Ernie Herrod and John Henderson [both with Rutherford Farmers Co-op] handle the rest of it. Both bins were installed at the same time, and they have stayed on top of the project the entire time."

As for this year's TAEP application, Ernie plans on purchasing another grain bin.

"One more bin should do it," he says. "After that, I would love to have a set of augers across the top so that we could set the transport auger at one place."

Bubba says he's not sure what he'll apply for this year but is interested in both of the new programs. One thing he is sure about is where he'll go after he's approved — the Co-op.

"I like to spend my money where I can feel good about how they're going to spend their money," says Bubba, who served 12 years on Rutherford Farmers board of directors. "They do a great job, and I wouldn't go anywhere else."

Ronnie Grantham, Bolivar

Ronnie Grantham runs a small cow/calf operation and a commercial backgrounding business on 140 acres of his Bolivar farm. Across the road, his son, Mike, produces 1,400 acres of row crops.

Ronnie and his wife Phyllis, who passed away last year, purchased the farm in the early 1970s as newlyweds and built a home on the land. The independent motel operator and his family briefly relocated to Sevier County in the 1990s. However, when he retired in 2007, the family returned to live full time on the Hardeman County farm. Since then,

(See TAEP, page 18)

TAEP

(continued from page 17)

Ronnie has grown his cow/calf operation to a herd of 25 Angus/Hereford mamas and is backgrounding between 70 and 80 calves.

He submitted his first TAEP application in 2015 to receive cost-share funding for a 40-by-100-foot hay shed.

“My hay goes a third further now that I have hay storage,” says Ronnie. “I wrap my hay, but the ground moisture rotted it anyway. Now, since the bales are stored in the shed on top of pallets, we have an altogether different quality of hay. There’s no comparison.”

The following year, he purchased an Ag Spray 3-point, 500-gallon sprayer and a King Ag creep feeder. In 2017, he invested in genetics and an Arrowquip Q-Catch 86 Series cattle chute, and last year he purchased 16 8-foot concrete feed troughs and a Raven Cruizer II GPS.

“My son has a big sprayer I could use, but it takes so much to clean it out for use on row crops and pasture,” says Ronnie, who turns to Stockdale’s for all of his cattle needs and MidSouth Farmers Cooperative for the row crop operation. “On the other hand, if you get someone to spray for you, you’re at the mercy of their time. Now, when it’s time to spray, I can go on and do it myself with my own sprayer. And now that I’ve added the GPS, I’m saving money on my chemicals because I’m not skipping spaces or overlapping anymore.”

This year, he says he’ll probably take advantage of the new approved items available through the hay equipment program.

“You’re getting twice the amount for your money,” he says, adding that with a Master Beef Producer certification, he qualifies for the 50-percent cost share. “That’s basically what it boils down to. You can slice it any way you want to, but for every dollar you spend, you’re getting two dollars’ worth.”

Bill Dunning, LaFollette

Bill Dunning has participated in the state’s ag enhancement program for two years. Bill and his wife, Bonnie, relocated to Claiborne County from Flint, Mich., after Bill retired as a supervisor for the City of Flint Fire Department in 1994. The couple purchased a 70-acre, hillside farm and currently raise more than 80 Boer nanny goats and a beef herd of 36 commercial cows.

Bill first applied for TAEP cost-share funds for a hoop barn to house the 3x3x8 hay bales he purchases from Claiborne Farmers Cooperative. The hoop barn uses a 25-year rated tarp-type cover as an economical alternative



Bill Dunning purchased the materials to build this hoop barn in 2017 to store hay for his cattle and goats from Claiborne Farmers Cooperative in LaFollette through the Tennessee Ag Enhancement Program.

to traditional roofing. The ventilation and the curved structure make it a good choice for hay storage, says Bill.

Last year, he added an addition onto his barn to house a cattle-working system that includes a Tarter Sheeted Sweep System and heavy-duty 2-inch gates purchased from the Co-op. The system makes it easier for the couple to safely work cattle, and the cover allows for chores out of the weather.

“TAEP is a good deal,” says Bill. “We wouldn’t have gotten all of that stuff without it. We pick out what we need the most first. I needed the hay barn really badly. I couldn’t put hay up there anymore. We were always going to put a lean-to on here and never did. We worked around it all the time. Finally, they came out with the cover. I said, ‘That’s what we ought to get next.’ It’s helped a lot.”

Mike Welch, the LaFollette Co-op store manager, has been a big help, says Bill, noting that the Co-op has helped source the products and provided expert advice.

Mike’s nephew, Andy Welch, has helped Bill with many projects, including building the hoop barn. The local contractor also relies on TAEP to bolster his own Claiborne County farming operation.

Bill says he’s not sure yet what he plans to add this year, but says he’s certain he will apply.

Information about the 2019-20 Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program

Program purchases can be made starting Oct. 1, 2019, and must be completed by the project’s final reimbursement request deadline identified in this year’s application booklet. Maximum reimbursements range from \$2,000 to \$20,000, and producers with master producer certifications at the time of applica-



Through TAEP, Bill added the shed behind him in the photo to provide cover for a cattle working system of a Tarter Sheeted Sweep System and heavy-duty 2-inch gates purchased from Co-op. The shed provides shelter for his 80 Boer goats.

tion can qualify for a 50-percent cost share on eligible purchases instead of the program’s standard 35-percent reimbursement.

Participants of the hay equipment program must meet minimum (operation size) requirements of 100 head of cattle, 150 head of goats or sheep, or 100 acres of hay in production (first cutting only). The hay equipment portion of the program will have a deadline of April 1, 2020, the same as livestock equipment. Maximum reimbursement on the new hay program is \$5,000. Applicants of the cattle herd health program must have a minimum of 30 cattle, and the maximum reimbursement for this program is \$2,000.

Applications are available at all Co-op locations, UT Extension offices, and the TAEP webpage, www.tn.gov/taep. Approval notifications are slated for mailboxes in mid-December.

LOG ON!

TAEP

Farm Investment Project

Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program



Department of Agriculture
<http://www.tn.gov/taep>

NOW FEATURING HAY EQUIPMENT



ALL OF YOUR TAEP INFORMATION IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.

CO-OP

APPLICATION DATES OCT. 1-15, 2019
www.tn.gov/agriculture/farms/taep.html

- SEE QUALIFYING PRODUCTS
- GET ESSENTIAL INFORMATION
- AND SO MUCH MORE



Shade, water, fans, and firsthand education were available in abundance on Aug. 14 at WinField United's Answer Plot in Manchester. More than 100 participants, including many East and Middle Tennessee farmers and staff from their member Co-ops, attended the half-day, hands-on workshop, co-sponsored by WinField United and Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, with session topics that included herbicide programs, foliar nutrition, and using data to manage acres.

Answer Plot solutions

More than 100 attendees reap the educational benefits of TFC and WinField United's large-scale VIP event

Story and photos by: Sarah Geyer

On Aug. 14, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative and WinField United co-hosted their first large-scale VIP Answer Plot event. More than 100 attended the half-day workshop in Manchester, including many East and Middle Tennessee farmers as guests of their member Co-ops.

WinField United's Answer Plot® program conducts roughly 30,000 research trials on 150 Answer Plot sites located in more than 30 states. The Manchester plot is one of four regional locations; the other three are located in Jackson and Greenfield, Tenn., and Hopkinsville, Ky.

Over the years, the trials have extended beyond hybrids and varieties to include fertility, herbicides, adjuvants, biologicals, and seed treatments. Each year organizers add new trial scenarios based on regional needs and issues as well as emerging technologies and techniques.

Through TFC's partnership with WinField United, Co-op growers have benefited from the Answer Plot's extensive statistical storehouse. The four regional plots also provide an opportunity for producers to see firsthand the in-season results of these side-by-side research trials.

"Historically, TFC has used [WinField United's regional Answer Plots] in two

ways," says Brett Jones, agronomy specialist for TFC. "Each spring, we host a training session for Co-op agronomists where we share the latest information. Then we have 'VIP sessions' where a member Co-op brings a small group of five or so growers to a site. It's an intimate setting and works well, but we [TFC's agronomists] wanted to find ways for more growers to benefit from our regional plots."

The TFC agronomy team decided to build on the successful foundation of the small VIP events by creating a similar experience for a larger group of people.

"We also decided to target East and Middle Tennessee growers and their member

Co-ops,” says Brett. “These two regions are often overlooked when it comes to row crop conversations, and this event is one way we can change that.”

Next, the team sent a survey to the participating Co-ops and, based on the results, developed sessions on herbicide programs, using data to choose and manage best-in-class corn hybrids, foliar nutrition, and soybean acre management as related to population considerations, seed treatments, maturity selection, and yield preservation with fungicides and insecticides.

“There are a lot more row crops in East Tennessee than people realize,” says Cory Vineyard, an agronomist at AgCentral’s Maryville location. “I believe our farmers are hungry for information. They need to know what’s new in the industry and what’s going on. I feel like this event was a good way to introduce them to some new concepts and show them that information hands-on.”

After a brief introduction and welcome, attendees were placed into five groups of 10 to 20 participants. Each group rotated through four pre-selected sessions based on topic interests identified through the survey. Each 45-minute session was led by agronomists from both TFC and WinField United and included a classroom-type setting under

a tent and a hands-on demonstration in the midst of the test plot.

“We wanted to create an atmosphere where participants could share feedback and ask questions that would dig deeper,” says Brett. “We had additional TFC and WinField representatives there so if someone wanted a side conversation, we could make that happen. We didn’t want anyone to leave with an unanswered question.”

Lincoln County farmer Jim Arnold reflected on the day while enjoying lunch, catered for the event by Prater’s BBQ.

“I enjoyed every session,” says the member of Lincoln Farmers Cooperative who raises corn, soybeans, and cattle on his farm in the Howell community. “They shared a lot of information for us to digest and think about.”

Jeff Howell, a farmer from Sweetwater, noted one session that was especially helpful for him.

“I’d say the fungicide part was probably the most interesting, particularly their spray recommendations and their take on adjuvants,” says the AgCentral Farmers Co-op member who raises corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay on his farm in McMinn County. “I’m new to spraying and still learning, so that session was really informative.”

Clay Richardson, an agronomist with AgCentral’s Athens Farm Center, echoed Jeff’s opinion, specifically praising the side-by-side comparison plots of Roundup® and Ammonium Sulfate (AMS), Roundup and methylated seed oils (MSO), and the plots with the various pre-emergent chemistries and a post-application of Roundup.

“It was very beneficial for the growers and us to see the multiple modes of action versus just one mode of action with Roundup,” he explains. “With just one mode, you could see morning glory and pigweed, but the plot with three modes of action had nothing.”

There was consensus among attendees about one thing: Co-op customers should take advantage of the four Answer Plots located in the region.

“If a farmer hasn’t visited [an Answer Plot], they need to try it at least one time,” says Jeff. “It doesn’t matter what you are learning – whether sprays, seed, or whatever – being able to have a hands-on and eyes-on experience is not only interesting but also educational.”

Growers who are interested in visiting an Answer Plot location should check with their local Co-op manager or agronomy specialist for opportunities to tour the nearest site. For more information about the Answer Plot program, visit www.answerplot.com.



LEFT: TFC agronomist Brandon Sheridan concludes his session with a demonstration, showing attendees firsthand how fungicides can aid corn’s stress mitigation in absence of disease. RIGHT: WinField United’s Answer Plot includes a variety of test trials on each of the company’s soybean and corn hybrids, including this ear of Croplan 5340.

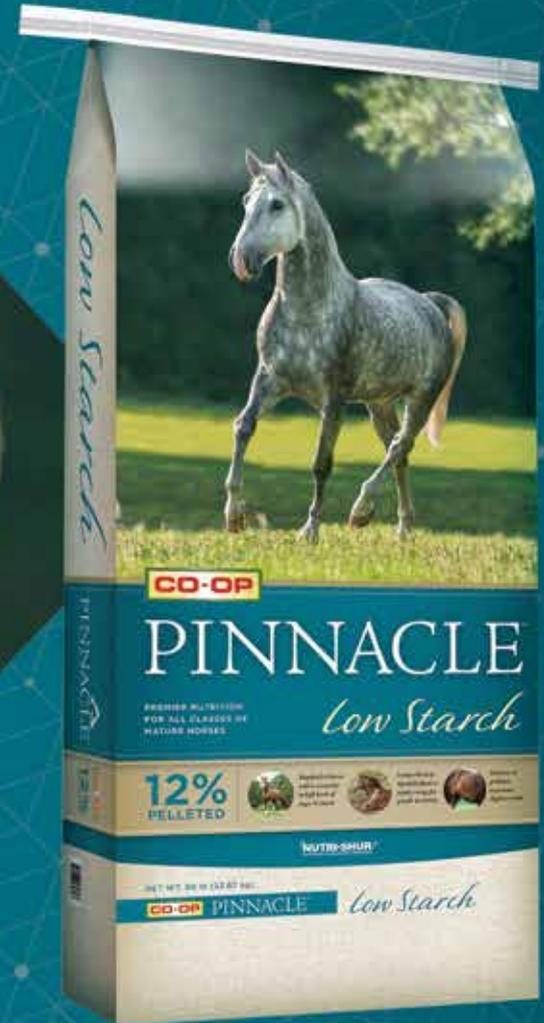
CO-OP



PINNACLE

HORSE FEEDS

12%
PELLETED



A fully-fortified, pelleted feed ideal for horses benefiting from a low-starch and sugar diet, but appropriate for a variety of horses.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

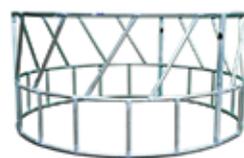
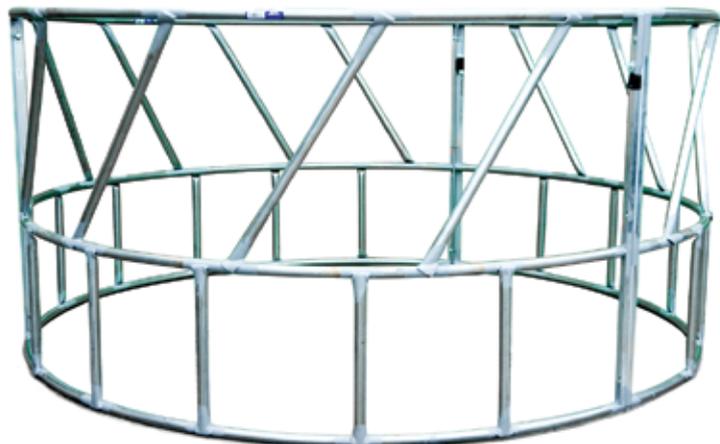
- Unique blend of digestible fibers to supply energy for growth and activity.
- Prebiotics and probiotics to promote digestive health.

IT'S OUR NATURE TO NURTURE

#RIDETOTHE TOP

OUR FEEDERS SIMPLY OUTLAST

Co-op hay feeders are clear coat galvanized for longer life which equals greater value.



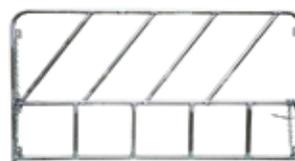
CO-OP SHD ROUND BALE FEEDER

- Clear Coat Galvanized
 - 1 1/4-in. x 12-ga. Tubing
 - Includes Assembly Hardware
- 15641



CO-OP SHD HAY FEEDER WITH SKIRT

- Clear Coat Galvanized
 - 1 1/4-in. x 12-ga. Tubing
 - Includes Assembly Hardware
- 15648



CO-OP SHD 8-FT. FEEDER PANEL

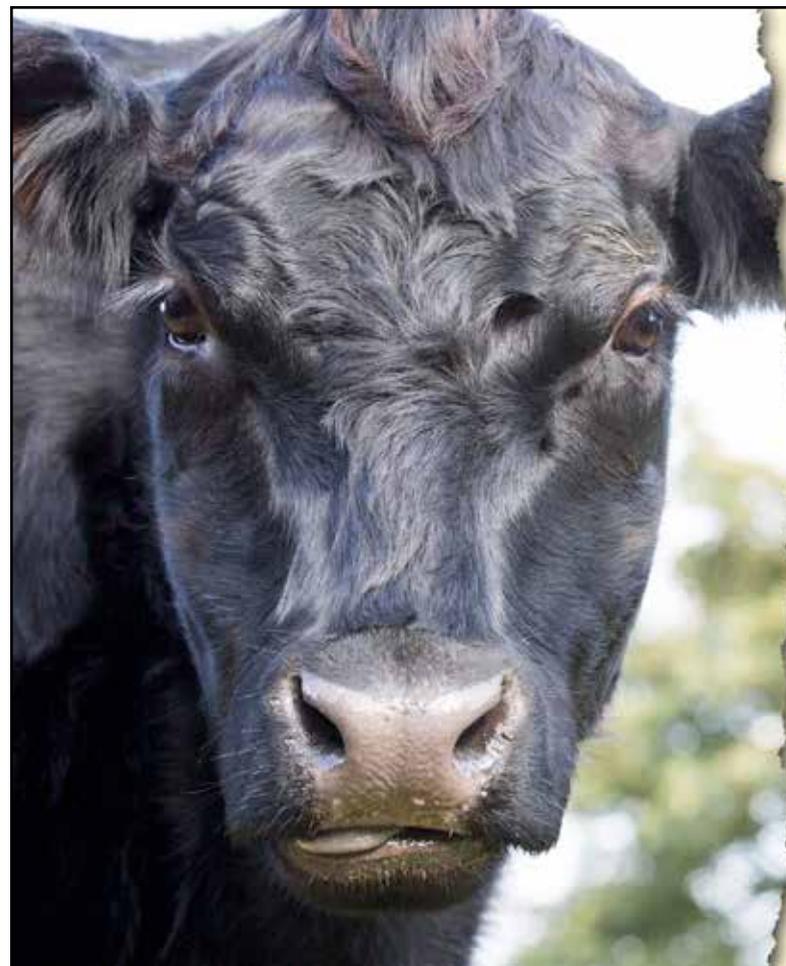
- Clear Coat Galvanized
 - 1 1/4-in. x 12-ga. Tubing
- 15657 - 8-ft. 15658 - 10-ft.
15659 - 12-ft.



CO-OP CRADLE HAY FEEDER FOR SHEEP & GOATS

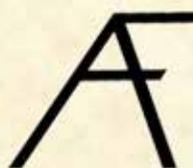
- Clear Coat Galvanized
 - Both Ends Are Removable
- 15463

#SHOPCOOP



DON'T SACRIFICE

PHENOTYPE FOR GENOTYPE BECAUSE LOOKS AND STATS MATTER



See our consignments in the Duck River Classic and the Decades of Excellence Sales. For more information or a catalog, visit our website farmingtonangus.com, email us at farmingtonangus@gmail.com, or call farm manager Kevin Perkins at 502-269-7189.

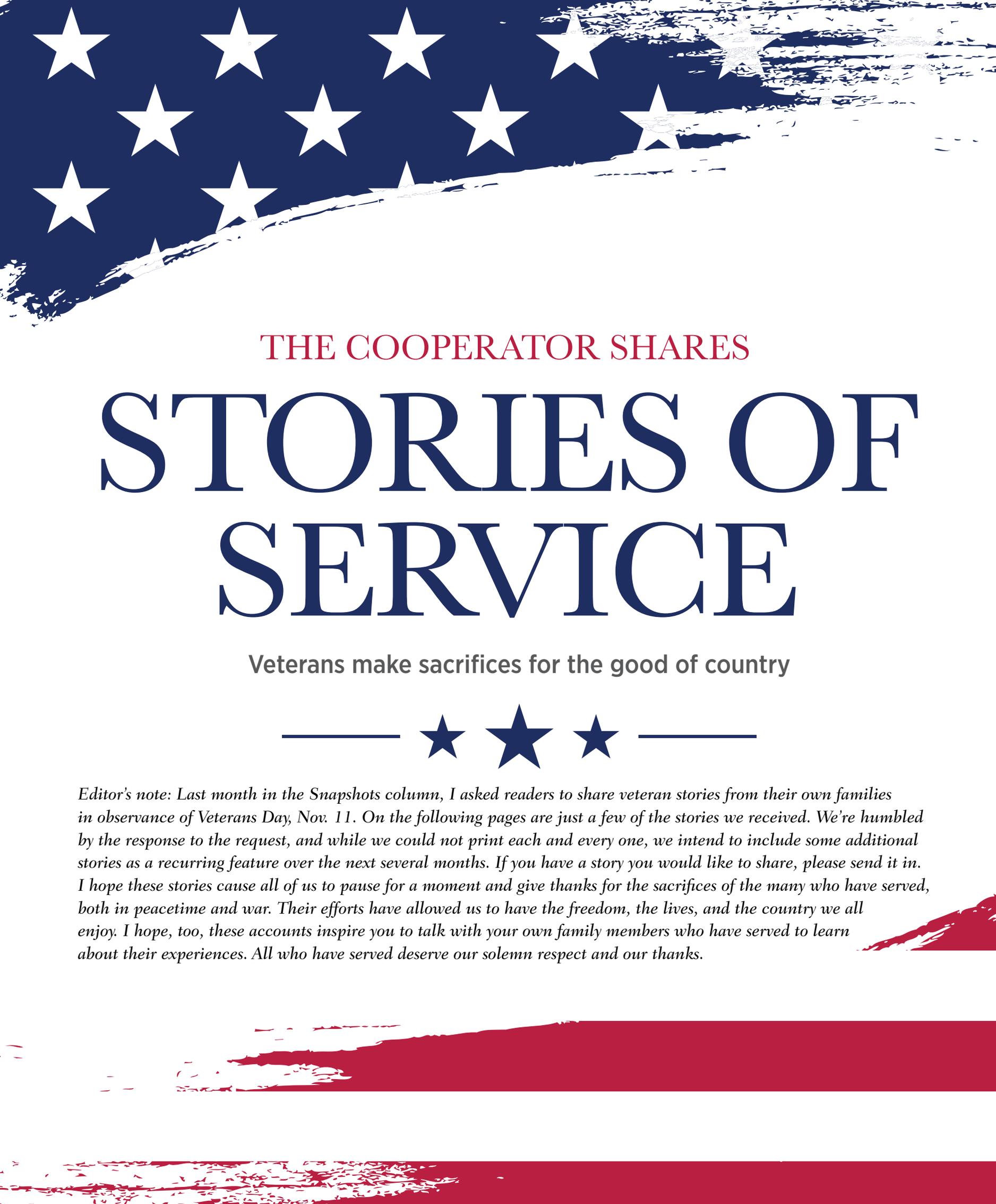


Whitestone 18 Million



Linz F Paymaster 7212

FARMINGTON ANGUS
OWNERS: COLLIN AND STEVE BILLS



THE COOPERATOR SHARES

STORIES OF SERVICE

Veterans make sacrifices for the good of country



Editor's note: Last month in the Snapshots column, I asked readers to share veteran stories from their own families in observance of Veterans Day, Nov. 11. On the following pages are just a few of the stories we received. We're humbled by the response to the request, and while we could not print each and every one, we intend to include some additional stories as a recurring feature over the next several months. If you have a story you would like to share, please send it in. I hope these stories cause all of us to pause for a moment and give thanks for the sacrifices of the many who have served, both in peacetime and war. Their efforts have allowed us to have the freedom, the lives, and the country we all enjoy. I hope, too, these accounts inspire you to talk with your own family members who have served to learn about their experiences. All who have served deserve our solemn respect and our thanks.

Journal entries

WWII sailor leaves details of submarine experiences

After Hershel Hall of Burns in Dickson County died in 2006, his family began sorting through his personal belongings. Amidst the piles of a lifetime of “stuff,” they found a collection of handwritten pages where the World War II veteran had recorded his experiences on the USS Snook, a Gato-class submarine, for its first seven patrols in World War II from March 1943 to Nov. 18, 1944. As one of the three lookouts, he was often the first one out of the submarine upon surfacing, and the last one back in.

“We knew he had been in the Navy in the war,” says David Moss, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative general counsel and nephew of Hall. “But I don’t think anyone knew the full story.”

The carefully scribed journal details Hershel’s enlistment in the Navy on Jan. 12, 1942, just over a month after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Since so many young men were enlisting at that time, he had to go home and wait two weeks before the Navy could accept him. He spent six weeks in basic training in Norfolk, Va., before he was sent to Signal School in Chicago, then on to Sub School in New London, Conn.

According to Hershel’s journal, only nine of 107 applicants were accepted for the intensive two weeks of physical and mental screening,

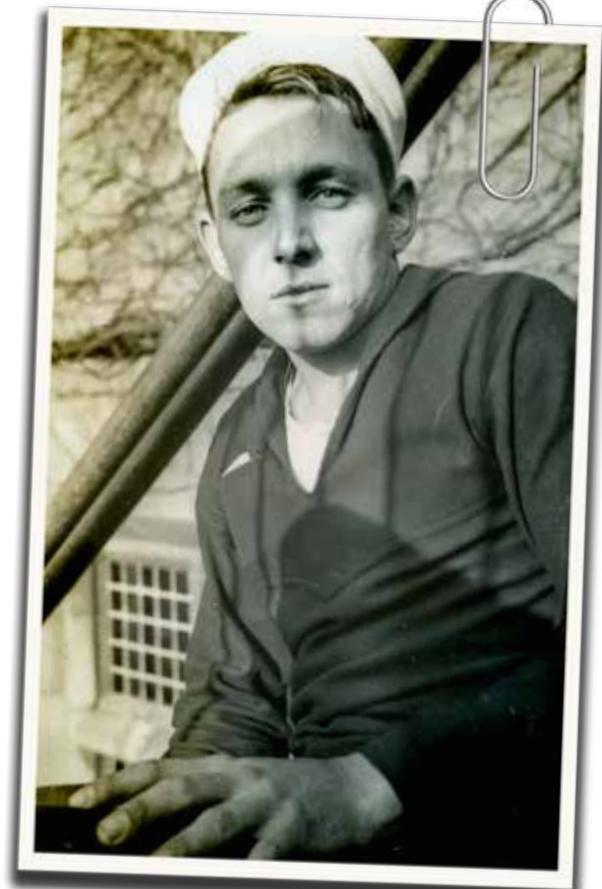
which eliminated another 25 to 30 percent of those nine.

“The main reasons for rejection were claustrophobia and the inability to withstand the increased pressures,” he wrote. “We had to endure 55 pounds of pressure at 130 degrees, which would equal a depth of 100 feet. Many of the applicants developed bleeding from the nose and ears due to this.”

After graduation from Sub School, Hershel was assigned to the USS Snook submarine, which left New London and crossed through the Panama Canal to travel to Pearl Harbor and duty in the Pacific theater. He noted how the submarine passed the sunken battleships in Pearl Harbor as they headed to their dock on the opposite side of the harbor.

Hershel provides details on his seven patrols aboard the Snook, noting how many enemy ships were sunk by the submarine. He recounted how the vessel at times dodged depth charges, its own torpedoes that would sometimes circle back at the Snook after they were fired, and bombs dropped from planes. Hershel and the rest of the USS Snook crew narrowly avoided disaster time and again.

He recounted one incident in particular when the submarine surfaced to exchange



fire with an enemy craft, and a bullet smashed through a speaker on the coning tower where the young sailor would have stood if he had been on duty.

Hershel’s journal briefly addresses the depth charges that the submarine endured:

“On one of the patrols, they (the enemy) had us in shallow water and we went to silent running. This is cutting off all equipment that wasn’t necessary and laying on the bottom of the ocean. They had us down for 72 hours. After they went past, we would move out a little and finally got away. Tokyo Rose reported us sunk! Guess we did receive about 300 depth charges in that 72 hours. In all of our patrols, we received approximately 500 depth charges.”

After being transferred from the snook after its seventh patrol, Hershel returned to New London where he began training new recruits. He said the duty was often more dangerous than the depth charges he had dodged earlier in his service as “you didn’t know what the recruits would do.”

“They didn’t realize that every person on that ship depended on you to do the correct thing,” he wrote.

– Submitted by David Moss, TFC



USS Snook crew members holding up the ship’s scorecard while at Midway before her 8th patrol in December 1944. Hershel Hall is third from the left, front row. This would have been one of the last times that Hershel would have been with the crew as he was transferred out before her 8th patrol. The sub’s 9th patrol was her last, with the sub and all crew members being lost at sea. The USS Snook was credited with sinking 17 enemy vessels and earned seven battle stars for its World War II service. (USN photo courtesy of Scott Koen & ussnewyork.com.)



‘Drive to serve’

Family tradition leads to time in Navy

Five days after turning 20 years old on Aug. 10, 2011, I joined the Navy. I had been working as a correctional officer at the Grainger County Sheriff’s Department and decided that wasn’t for me. Ever since I was a kid, I played Army or Navy on the boats. My grandfather, James Smith, was a radioman in the Navy during the Korean War. And I had an uncle, Mike Smith, who was in the Army. So I always had this drive to serve. I finally decided on the Navy as a tradition.

I went to basic training in Illinois at Naval Station Great Lakes near Chicago. From there, I went to Pensacola, Fla., for Air Traffic Control School. I realized quickly that with me being a farm boy, I didn’t like the idea of sitting behind a desk. I left there and went to the U.S. 7th Fleet in Sasebo, Japan. I was stationed on the USS Denver, which, at the time, was the oldest warship still active in the Navy. She’s since been decommissioned.

I was an undesignated seaman, and I liked the work so much that I became a boatswain mate. We got to tie up the ship, drive it, drive cranes, and lower boats into the water and drive them. We got to do all the dangerous stuff your mother doesn’t want to know that you’re doing overseas. That was right up my alley. Instead of driving a tractor, I was driving a crane of 21-foot boat with dual Cummins engines in it.

I was fortunate enough to be selected for the Visit Board Search & Seizure Team, which would be taking over vessels suspected of having illegal drugs or guns. I got to see a little bit of everything out there.

My favorite place to be was open ocean. It’s something I still miss today. You see things you’ll never see on dry land, like a whale breaching across the stern of the ship. You would go to bed at night, and the ship would be rocking ever so gently, putting you right to sleep. I loved going to Australia and Hong Kong. Those are two of the craziest, most beautiful places you’ll ever see. I’m still in touch with all of my closest friends from the ship. I’ve gone to weddings and birthday parties across the country just to have an excuse to hang out with my buddies. We spent a lot of time together out on that open ocean.

I grew up a lot during my three years in the Navy. I went from being a 20-year-old know-it-all kid to having to figure things out the hard

way. When I came out, I had a much stronger work ethic. We called it “the hustle.” That “got to get it done” attitude is very beneficial for working in agriculture. I’m now the manager for Tennessee Homegrown Tomatoes. I’m in charge of coordinating our grafting, which is like grafting an apple tree but on a much smaller scale. We usually do about 2,560 plants a day. I’m also in charge of getting trucks loaded for local deliveries, running our Facebook page, and doing anything else I’m asked to do. It’s a pretty non-stop operation.

Serving my country is my proudest accom-



Aboard the Naval ship USS Denver in the South China Sea, Justin Brooks performs machine gun qualification for the Visit Board Search & Seizure Team.

plishment. I felt the need to do it because it has been done for me. If I had it to do all over again, I would in a heartbeat for the people I met and the places I got to see. It was definitely a life-changing experience.

– Submitted by Justin Brooks,
Grainger County



Family ties

World War II Navy veterans return home for Co-op careers

Cousins R.H. (Tim) Stinnett and Carl and Tom Maples of Sevier County all enlisted in the Navy, serving in World War II before coming home and enjoying a life-long career with Co-op, working at the Tenco warehouse and fertilizer facility, says Carolyn Sue Perkins, daughter of Carl Maples.

R.H. (Tim) Stinnett was a year-and-a-half older than his two cousins and served on the USS Missouri, an Iowa class battleship best remembered as the site where Japan surrendered to end the war.

Carl and Tom enlisted in the Navy in November 1944. They completed basic training in Great Lakes, Ill. Tom left Great Lakes on Dec. 20, 1944 and arrived in Shoemaker, Calif., on Dec. 24, where he was placed in the 79th Seabees Battalion. After training, he was sent to Saipan in the South Pacific, where he stayed until the U.S. invaded Okinawa on April 1, 1945. The Seabees were sent to Okinawa four days after the invasion to build roads, airstrips, and other needed infrastructure for the war effort.

Upon his discharge from the Navy on March 4, 1946, in Memphis, Tom returned home to Sevier County. Almost a year later on Feb. 22, 1947, he married Stella Wright Maples, whom he had known since childhood. Within five years, they had four children: Sue, Paul, Reece, and Bill. Their son Paul was drafted into the Army and sent to Vietnam, where he died on April 6, 1969. Reece served in the Navy as did his son-in-law Tom Perkins during this time. Bill was 4-F and unable to serve and went on to do well in his career in business. The family grew to four grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

Tom, Carl, and Tim went to work at the Co-op when the cooperative built the warehouse at Tenco in Rockford. In February 1958, Tim was the third man hired at this new warehouse, and he recommended Tom, who became the fourth. Tim prepared tickets while Tom was in the warehouse pulling orders and loading trucks for delivery. Carl worked at the nearby fertilizer plant. Between the three men, they logged approximately 95 years of service with the Co-op. Tom retired in June 1988.

Tom and wife Stella shared 70 years together as man and wife until her death on July 21, 2017. Tim, his wife Eunice, and



Tom Maples, a 93-year-old Co-op retiree, shows a picture of himself taken during his service in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Carl have all passed on. Carl's wife Eveline is in her early 90s and still lives in the Seymour community.

"Tom celebrated his 93rd birthday on June 11, 2019, and still enjoys an occasional visit to the Co-op to meet the employees and

make new friends there," says Carolyn. "He is still very active: driving, mowing, and loving his family and his church family."

— Submitted by Carolyn Sue Perkins, Sevier County



2019 Tennessee Agriculture Leadership Tour attendees: Amy Beckham, Paul Binkley, Christopher Binkley, Justin Brooks, Faye Coble, Philip Coble, Jason Crawford, Lane Davis, Shannon DeWitt, Jared Franklin, Jason Gibson, Randy Gilliam, Matthew Herndon, Jeff Hill, Johnathon Jackson, Ryan King, Aaron Loy, Eugene McCallie, Brian McKinney, Daniel Menge, Wayne Moss, VeraAnn Myers, Melinda Perkins, Ryan Powell, Jason Robbins, Eddie Rose, Ben Seaton, Chad Shields, Chris Villines, and Bryan Wright.

Go and know

Tennessee Agriculture Leadership Tour participants enriched through learning and building friendship

Story by: Chris Villines

When 30 farmers, two University of Tennessee Extension agents, and personnel from the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation (TFBF) and Tennessee Farmers Cooperative gathered at TFC headquarters on Aug. 12 to begin the 2019 Tennessee Agriculture Leadership Tour, the purpose of their upcoming journey was four-fold:

Learn more about businesses impacting their livelihood. Make new friends. Take in the sights during their five-day, 1,500-mile journey across five states. And have fun along the way.

Co-hosted by TFC and TFBF, the newly relaunched event, formerly known as the Leadership Advance Tour, gave participants an up-close glimpse of the work being done in the research, manufacturing, and distribution of products pertinent to agriculture.

"Helping develop agricultural leaders in Tennessee is a priority for us," said Ryan King, TFC marketing and events coordinator. "Partnering with our friends at Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation helped take the tour to another level."

Bryan Wright, TFBF member services director, echoed King's sentiment.

"Agriculture is Tennessee's No. 1 industry," he said, "and Tennessee Farm Bureau is proud to partner with Tennessee Farmers Cooperative to make an investment in growing leadership within the Tennessee agriculture community."

Following a tour of TFC's LaVergne feed mill, attendees boarded a chartered bus and headed to Bowling Green, Ky., where they stopped at Stockdale's — the rural lifestyle store developed by TFC as one of its subsidiaries — for lunch and to browse the extensive range of products in the 10,000-square-foot facility.

The group continued on to Shepherdsville, Ky., where they received a behind-the-scenes tour of the Gordon Food Service Distribution Center. Gordon operates 12 distribution centers in the U.S. that ship to 32 states.

That evening, Farm Credit Mid-America welcomed the group to its Louisville headquarters for dinner, a brief presentation, and a tour of the facility.

On Tuesday, the group continued its northward progression with a stop at Fair Oaks Farms in northeast Indiana, one of the nation's leading agritourism destinations. Well-known for its 17,000-acre, 30,000-cow dairy, Fair Oaks has expanded to also include a large-scale hog operation, several interactive exhibits, an onsite hotel, and a farm-to-table restaurant.

"Fair Oaks was really eye-opening for me," said dairyman Ben Seaton representing Greene Farmers Cooperative. "I admired the efficiency they had in being able to turn a beginning product to an end product like their cheese and ice cream. It was neat to see."

After Fair Oaks, the group made its way to Chicago. Their adventure in the Windy City started on Tuesday night as they took in a Chicago White Sox baseball game. The following morning, they toured Chicago Heights Steel, where Co-op's red steel fenceposts are made from recycled rail steel. Wednesday afternoon and evening were focused on enjoying the city's numerous sightseeing opportunities.

On Thursday morning, the tour headed west to Moline, Ill., for a tour of John Deere's awe-inspiring world headquarters, where attendees could interact with equipment located right on the display floor.

"Since we run all John Deere equipment, it was great to see all the machinery and learn more about the history of the company," said Ryan Powell of Christiana, a Rutherford Farmers Cooperative member who grows 2,800 acres of corn and soybeans. "It was one of the highlights of a great week. I met a lot of great folks and got to learn how people make different aspects of ag work."

Following a dinner and overnight stay in Chesterfield, Mo., Friday morning featured the final tour stop at nearby Bayer Research. Here, the group got an in-depth tour of the facility showcasing the latest achievements in biotech research and product development.

"Going to Bayer was fascinating," said Shannon DeWitt, a UT Extension agent in Union County. "I enjoyed working with biotechnology when I was a graduate student, so it was exciting to see that kind of technology in action."

From Bayer, the group headed back toward home, with a stop for lunch at Miss Patti's 1880 Settlement in Grand Rivers, Ky., along the route.

"It was an insightful trip overall," said Aaron Loy, a Jefferson Farmers Cooperative member who runs a beef cattle and hog operation in New Market with his father, Bill. "I think sometimes we take some of the technologies or products we use on the farm for granted. The tour put things into perspective for me. We're all busy, but I think it is good to take some time away especially for something like this."



Healthy, Clean, Fresh Water Systems for Every Producer

Distributed by  **GALLAGHER**

Miraco perfected energy-free watering systems and was the first to manufacture automatic livestock waterers from poly materials. Join other livestock producers who enjoy these innovative features:

- No sharp edges
- Rugged, polyethylene construction
- Hi-impact material
- Resists corrosion, no chipping or cracking
- Sloped bottom for easy cleaning
- 5-year warranty

Instant \$50 Rebate on 3 Tanks

For a limited time only, get a \$50 instant rebate at the register when you buy one of three tanks: A3100DS, A3354-S & A3465 at participating co-op stores.



To find a list of participating stores visit: www.MiracoTanks.com.

Learn More

Ask in store for our full range of products, or visit us online at www.MiracoTanks.com. To speak to a knowledgeable representative, please call 1-800-531-5908.

Miraco waterers meet TN NRCS cost share standards and are one of the few automatic waterers to meet the back flow requirement specs of NRCS.

MIRACO
Automatic Livestock Waterers

45 YEARS


Proudly Made in the USA



Performance
Wire Products, LLC



PROTECT OUR HOUSE

SEE YOUR LOCAL CO-OP

**HARDWARE CLOTH • POULTRY NETTING
VINYL-COATED WIRE • ELECTRIC FENCE WIRE
• WELDED WIRE • CAGE WIRE**

WE'LL GET YOU READY FOR CHICK SEASON!

CO-OP

 **SHAYER**
Making hard work easy

Available at your local Co-op.



Farmers and fencing contractors will tell you that you can't find a better post driver than a Shaver.

Shaver's professional-grade post drivers are engineered for the most demanding jobs, from tough soil conditions to tricky side hills to having the ability to drive a wide variety of post types.

Take out trees and remove old fencing with ease!

The Predator Extractor will be one of the most popular tools on your farm. With durability you only find in American-made products.

The Predator Extractor will pay for itself before you know it!



Take care of stumps and logs

The StumpBuster is American-made and built to last, they are pieces of equipment you will use all over the farm or ranch.

Available in tractor-mounted and skid steer-mounted models, we've got a StumpBuster that will meet your needs.



bonide.com

RAT & MOUSE CONTROL

A RODENT-FREE FALL STARTS HERE.



RAT & MOUSE CONTROLS FOR HOMES



SEE YOUR LOCAL CO-OP

satisfy their HUNGER!

with **QUALITY** Behlen Country® feeders approved by TAEP



10' All Metal Feed Bunk

•10' long 44" wide 244 LB •TFC #15621 BC #22130101



V-Bar Feeder

- Will accommodate 2 large round bales
 - A real hay Saver
- TFC #15610 BC #26000302



10' All Metal Utility Feed Bunk

- 10' long 33" wide 124 LB
 - Long-lasting all steel construction
- BC #22120101



Creep Feeder

- All poly hopper
 - Galv fence & adjustable cross bar
- TFC #15607 BC #24121768



Now available at Tennessee Farmers Co-op Stores, ask for Behlen Country®



TUNE INTO THE
VOL NETWORK



JOIN HEAD COACH JEREMY PRUITT,
BOB KESLING & BRENT HUBBS

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT FROM 8-9 P.M. EASTERN



SALE AUCTIONEER - PIT KEMMER (931) 335-4628

GOD'S COUNTRY

ALL BREED FEMALE *Sale*

Open Heifers • Bred Heifers • Bred Cows • Cow/Calf Pairs

For information, contact John and Barbara Maxwell from Turner Farms.
P: (615) 418-7150 or (615) 418-6553
E: johnandbarbara90@gmail.com
Pit Kemmer - pkemmer@frontiernet.net

Nov. 2, 2019 at 1 p.m.
Smith County Ag Center
Carthage, TN



Picture by Colby Stanford

Jeanie Garrell and her family manage a herd of Hereford cattle on their 600-acre farm in Petersburg. In addition to raising beef, they also show cattle across the Southeast. Jeanie plans to use her winnings to help replace fencing at her fifth-generation family farm. The Garrells are members of Lincoln Farmers Cooperative.

Winner! 

CONGRATULATIONS Jeanie Garrell

LINCOLN COUNTY

**WINS \$3,728 IN
CO-OP CASH!**



CELEBRATING JULY BEEF MONTH



PUMPKIN mania

Obion County native Alan Shirley turns agritourism dream into a reality

This fall, families from West Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, and Kentucky will visit The Pumpkin Barn, operated by Alan Shirley. Throughout October, the agritourism farm in Obion County offers a wide variety of family-friendly activities for the perfect fall evening.

Story by: Alaina Staggs;
photos by: Hannah Nave

Farming runs in the veins of many a West Tennessean, but for Obion native Alan Shirley, the vocation has always been a true passion.

Alan lives on the longtime family farm, with an operation of 80 head of cattle, a small feed lot, and a hay crop that consists of alfalfa, wheat, and straw. However, there is another aspect of the farm that is closest to the 69-year-old's heart: The Pumpkin Barn.

The Pumpkin Barn is a seasonal agritourism venue, mere minutes from Reelfoot Lake, that sits on 20 acres of land. Nestled into the far northwest corner of Tennessee, the attraction draws customers from Arkansas, Missouri, and Kentucky each season. With 30 years of operation under his belt, Alan is proud of what a small pumpkin patch has evolved into.

The idea for the pumpkin patch began when his children were young. They grew pumpkin crops as part of their 4-H and FFA projects and sold them from the front yard and at the Reelfoot Lake Arts and Crafts Center.

It was during these visits to the center each fall that Alan heard about larger agritourism venues north of Tennessee. He eventually attended a traveling bus tour in the '80s throughout the northeastern United States, making stops in places such as Michigan and Wisconsin to visit the budding agritourism operations there. He was amazed at the things he saw, relating that "you just don't see that many people down south."

It was then that he decided to do something special.

"Every agritourism operation needs a niche," he says. "Mine is exotic animals."

Alan has operated a USDA-certified zoo exhibit fueled by feeds purchased at Obion Farmers Cooperative for more than 15 years. The farm hosts exotic cattle breeds, water buffalo, zebu, camels, and zedonks, a zebra-donkey hybrid. Several breeds of monkeys also make their home there, along with a variety of traditional farm animals. A gift shop is available on site where fall décor and pumpkins can be purchased.

While Alan no longer grows his own pumpkins, all of the pumpkins the operation sells are raised in Obion County.

"Without the help of this community, none of this would be possible," says Alan. "This is a community operation that builds memories."

The Pumpkin Barn, LLC, a member of Pick TN Products, will be open from Sept. 20-Oct. 31. Hours are 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Following is a list of Tennessee agritourism destinations we were aware of as of press time. Most are open through the end of October, but we suggest you call ahead or check websites or Facebook pages for specific dates and hours of operation.

EAST

Adventure Ranch
7464 West Andrew Johnson Hwy., Morristown
865-282-3516

adventureranch.com
Facebook: @GreatSmokyFarm

Autumn Acres
1096 Baier Rd., Crossville

931-210-7655
autumnacres.net
Facebook: @AutumnAcresCornMaze

Ballinger Farm Crazy Maze
2738 Renfro Rd., Jefferson City
865-475-7513
ballingerfarm.com
Facebook: @BallingerFarm

Beck Mountain Corn Maze & Entertainment Barn
110 Corn Maze Ln., Elizabethton
423-747-1190
beckmountaincornmaze.com
Facebook: @BeckMountainCornMaze

Cleek Farms
2233 Cleek Rd., Kingsport
423-765-3123
cleekfarms.com
Facebook: @CleekFarmsCornMaze

Deep Well Farm
9567 Hwy. 11 East, Lenoir City
865-816-2131
deepwellfarm.com
Facebook: @DeepWellFarm

Echo Valley Farms
915 Bethel Church Rd., Jefferson City
865-591-7343
echovalleycornmaze.com
Facebook: @EchoValleyFarmTN

Edwards Amazing Acres
1139 Ernest Norris Rd., Jamestown
931-260-7489
Facebook: @EdwardsAmazingAcres

Fender's Farm
254 Hwy. 107, Jonesborough
423-753-4469
Facebook: @FendersFarm

Guthrie Farm
490 County Rd. 67, Riceville
423-650-2939
tnpumpkinfarm.com
Facebook: @TNPumpkinFarm

Hyde Farms
7545 Hwy. 411 South, Greenback
423-667-6981
Facebook: HydeFarmsGreenback

Kyker Farms
938 Alder Branch Rd., Sevierville
865-679-4848
kykerfarmscornmaze.com
Facebook: @KykerFarmsCornMaze

Laurels Pumpkin Barn
303 Laurels Rd., Johnson City
laurelspumpkinbarn.com
Facebook: @LaurelsPumpkinBarn

Maple Lane Farms
1126 Maple Ln., Greenback

865-856-3517
tnmaplelanefarms.com
Facebook: @TNMapleLaneFarms

McMillan Farms
495 McMillan Rd., Mosheim
423-823-2867

Myers Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze/ Myers Greenhouse
3415 Gap Creek Rd., Bulls Gap
423-235-4796

Oakes Farm
8240 Corryton Rd., Corryton
865-688-6200
oakesfarm.com
Facebook: @OakesFarm

Old McDonald's Farm
16705 Coulterville Rd., Sale Creek
423-531-2676
oldmcdonaldsfarm.net
Facebook: @McDonaldFarmTN

The River Maze
1371 Hwy. 64, Ocoee
423-650-7222
therivermaze.com
Facebook: @TheRiverMaze

The Stickley Farm, LLC
550 Beaver Creek Rd., Bluff City
423-360-4809
thestickleyfarm.com
Facebook: @StickleyFarm

MIDDLE

Amazin' Acres of Fun
2857 Old Kentucky Rd., Sparta
931-761-2971
amazinacres.com

Facebook: @AmazinAcresOfFun

Bottom View Farm
185 Wilkerson Lane, Portland
615-325-7017
bottomviewfarm.com
Facebook: @BottomViewFarm

Boyd's Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze
1425 Hwy. 76, Clarksville
931-216-8250
boydspumpkinpatch.com
Facebook: @BoydPumpkinPatch

Bradley Kountry Acres & Greenhouse
650 Jake Link Rd., Cottontown
615-325-2836
bradleykountryacres.com
Facebook: @BradleyKountryAcres

Brown Farms
7231 Cainsville Pike, Lascassas
615-962-5715
Facebook: @BrownFarms

Cedarwood Farms
2900 Old Nashville Hwy., McMinnville
931-939-3960
cedarwoodfarmstn.com
Facebook: @CedarWoodFarms

Gentry's Farm
1974 New Hwy. 96 West, Franklin
615-794-4368
gentryfarm.com
Facebook: @GentryFarm

Granddaddy's Farm
454 Highland Ridge Rd., Estill Springs
931-327-4080
granddaddysfarm.com
Facebook: @GranddaddysFarm

(See Pumpkin mania, page 34)



Visitors will experience everything from pony rides, an awesome play area, and even pig races during their time at The Pumpkin Barn.

Pumpkin mania

(continued from page 33)

Holiday Acres Farm
346 Campbellsville Hwy., Ethridge
931-829-2660

holidayacresfarm.com
Facebook: @HolidayAcresFarmTN

Honeysuckle Hill Farm
1765 Martins Chapel
Church Rd., Springfield
615-382-7593
honeysucklehillfarm.com
Facebook: @HoneysuckleHillFarm

Keller's Corny Country
542 Fire Tower Rd., Dickson
615-441-4872
kellerscornycountry.com
Facebook: @Kellers.Country.Events

Limoland
8076 Columbia Hwy., Pulaski
931-363-5744
limolandfarm.com
Facebook: @LimoLand

Lucky Ladd Farms
4374 Rocky Glade Rd., Eagleville
615-274-3786
luckyladdfarms.com
Facebook: @LuckyLaddFarms

Lyon Family Farms
130 Bellview Rd., Taft
931-438-9938
lyonfamilyfarms.com
Facebook: @LyonFamilyFarms

Pumpkin Hill
861 Benders Ferry Rd., Mt. Juliet
615-758-5364
pumpkinhilltn.com
Facebook: @PumpkinHill

Ring Farm
2628 Greens Mill Rd., Columbia
931-486-2395
ringfarm.com
Facebook: @RingFarm

Shuckles Corn Maze at Fiddle Dee Farms
7526 Swift Rd., Greenbrier
615-669-6293
fiddledeefarm.com
Facebook: @FiddleDeeFarms

Walden Pumpkin Farm
8653 Rocky Fork Rd., Smyrna
615-220-2918
waldenfarm.biz
Facebook: @WaldenPumpkinFarm

White's Family Farm
4853 Jones Roe Rd., Springfield



LEFT: All of the pumpkins at The Pumpkin Barn are farmed in Obion County by one of the farm's partners. **RIGHT TOP:** Children of all ages enjoy visiting the USDA-certified zoo exhibit including exotic cattle breeds, water buffalo, zebu, camels, and zedonks, a zebra-donkey hybrid, which are fueled by feeds purchased at Obion Farmers Cooperative. **RIGHT BOTTOM:** All of the classic fall décor can be found around the farm as well as in the gift shop so visitors can take a piece of fall home with them.

615-585-4331
whitesfamilyfarm.org
Facebook: @WhitesFamilyFarm

The Wilson Family Farm
4809 Byrd Lane, College Grove
615-587-2676
thewilsonfamilyfarm.com
Facebook: @WilsonFamilyFarm1

WEST

Donnell Century Farm Adventure
3720 Hwy. 70 East, Jackson
731-424-4526
donnellcenturyfarm.com
Facebook: @DonnellCenturyFarm

Falcon Ridge Farm
22630 Hwy. 18 North, Toone
731-658-5200
farmatfalconridge.com
Facebook: @FalconRidgeFarm.Net

Holt Family Farms
461 Jewell Store Rd., Dresden
731-364-3459
holtfamilyfarms.com
Facebook: @HoltFamilyFarms

Jones Corn Maze & Market
6850 Singleton Parkway, Millington
901-873-3150
jonesorchard.com
Facebook: @JonesOrchard

Mid-South Maze at Agricenter International
7777 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis
901-870-6338
midsouthmaze.com
Facebook: @TheMidSouthMaze

Nanney Farms Pumpkin Patch
1767 Sharon Rd., Sharon
731-514-2431
Facebook: @NanneyPumpkinPatch

Rushing Pumpkin Patch
6105 Roby Rd., Enville
731-549-6053
Facebook: @RushingPumpkinPatch

Shirley's Farm Pumpkin Barn
2557 South Bluff Rd., Obion
731-264-5316
Facebook: @ThePumpkinBarnLLC

Todd Family Fun Farm
101 Tom Austin Rd., Dyer
731-643-6720
toddfamilyfunfarm.com
Facebook: @ToddFamilyFunFarm

Tom's Farm
1665 Murrell Rd., Rossville
901-853-0997
Facebook: @PumpkinPatch.Fall

Wallace Farms
1140 Douglas Rd., Lexington
731-614-8625
Facebook: @WallaceBerryFarm

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR TAEP FUNDS

These Quality-Made Products Qualify For The TAEP



WIDE J BUNK

ITEM #WJF
8' X 38" WIDE



USED GUARD RAIL

ITEM # GR
13.5' or 26' LENGTHS



10' FIELD BUNK

ITEM # FBF10
24" WIDE X 10.5" DEEP

See your participating **CO-OP** location

TAEP
Farm Investment
Project
Tennessee Agricultural
Enhancement Program

NEAT
DISTRIBUTING


MADE IN USA

It's
**BOUNCE-BACK
ACTION**

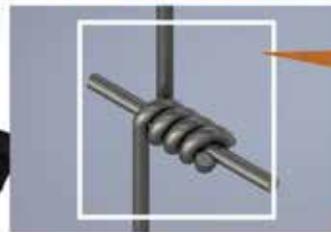
from



herdsmanbrand.com

What's the big deal about
**PREMIUM HINGE-
JOINT FIELD FENCE?**

ALL OF IT!



Hinge-Joint
Knot allows
the fence to
bounce back
into shape
when pressure
is applied.

**STRONG &
FLEXIBLE!**

- It expands or contracts under changing pressure and weather, giving flexibility and added strength.
- Allows flexibility for installation over hilly terrain.
- Designed using a variety of spacing configurations to accommodate horses, cattle, hogs and other large animals.

FLEXIBLE

TUFF STUFF PRODUCTS™

1-800-305-0889
www.tufftubs.com



CO-OP

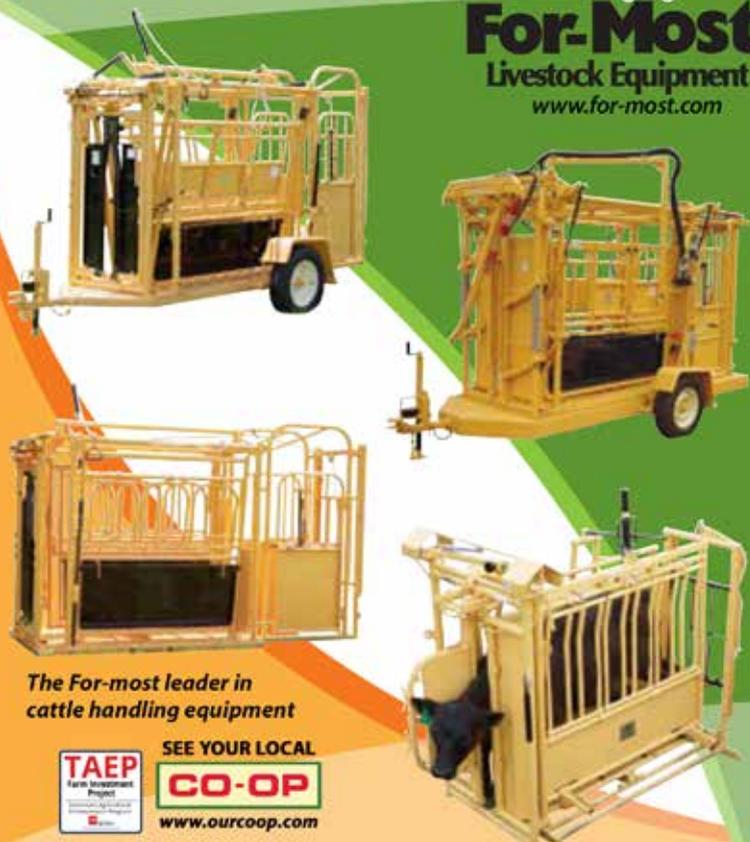
ourcoop.com



HEADGATES • CHUTES • CALVING
PENS • CROWDING & CORRAL TUBS •
CORRAL PANELS • ALLEY SETUPS



For-Most
Livestock Equipment
www.for-most.com



The For-most leader in
cattle handling equipment



SEE YOUR LOCAL
CO-OP
www.ourcoop.com



CHEVROLET BUICK GMC
Murfreesboro

AMAZING SAVINGS ON ALL NEW VEHICLES!

Don't miss out on exclusive **CO-OP** Member

Discounts available ONLY at Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac
of Murfreesboro!

Choose a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado or
2019 GMC Sierra 1500 and save as much as

\$10,000 OFF MSRP!

(ON SELECT IN STOCK MODELS. CANNOT BE
COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS.)

**LIFETIME
WARRANTY**

Call Justin Young at 1-888-711-7709 or
e-mail at jyoung@gmmurfreesboro.com

960 John R. Rice Boulevard, Murfreesboro, TN 37129
www.chevroletbuickgmc.com/murfreesboro.com



Free delivery in
the state of Tennessee.

Some restrictions apply. See dealer for details.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Water quality grant proposals now accepted

Projects to improve Tennessee waters eligible for funds

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) is now accepting grant proposals for projects that will help improve water quality and reduce or eliminate nonpoint source pollution.

“From the Delta region to the Great Smoky Mountains, we have a diverse range of waterways in Tennessee that are vital to the success of our state,” says Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M. “We’re proud to administer the Nonpoint Source Program, which encourages inno-

vative strategies to reduce the amount of pollutants that enter our state’s waters.”

Nonpoint source pollution is soil, urban runoff, fertilizers, chemicals, and other contaminants that degrade surface and groundwater quality. The Nonpoint Source Program was created in 1987 as part of the Clean Water Act and provides funding to states to stop nonpoint source pollution.

Local governments, regional and state agencies, public institutions, and private nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply

for these federal dollars administered by TDA’s Land and Water Stewardship Section. Highest priority is given to projects that seek to make measurable improvements to waters impaired by nonpoint source pollution. Other priorities for funding include water quality related to educational projects and projects that aim to protect threatened waters.

The deadline for submitting grant proposals is Dec. 1. Proposals will be evaluated based on program goals and objectives, performance evaluation criteria, and applicable EPA nonpoint source grant guidelines.

A list of impaired waters and the FY 2020 Request for Proposals can be found at www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/agriculture/documents/landwaterstewardship/319rfp.pdf. For more information, contact Sam Marshall at 615-837-5306 or sam.marshall@tn.gov.

Washington Cattlemen’s Fall Heifer Sale

The Washington County Cattlemen’s Association (WCCA) will host its 8th Annual Fall Heifer Sale on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, at the Appalachian Fairgrounds in Gray, Tenn. The sale will begin at 4 p.m. Producers are encouraged to come early to view the cattle and register for a buyer number.

The association sale is offering over 100 heifers that are either bred, open, or have a calf by side. Most of the heifers are commercial, and some will qualify for the TAEP Bred Heifer Program. The cattle have been screened and are excellent for anyone interested in improving his or her herd. The heifers will be pregnancy checked the day of the sale by a licensed veterinarian. All cattle will need to be paid for and loaded out on the day of the sale.

The WCCA Fall Heifer Sale will also have a fundraising concessions booth run by local FFA organizations. All proceeds of concessions will benefit scholarships that are given annually to two outstanding youth who are interested or involved with agriculture.

For more information or for a sale brochure, contact the Washington County Extension Office at 423-753-1680.

POWDER RIVER
LIVESTOCK HANDLING EQUIPMENT

SQUEEZE CHUTES

CALF/HEALTH PENS

TUBS AND ALLEYS

LOADING RAMPS

CLASSIC GATES

Better By Design! Powder River livestock handling equipment is the favorite choice by cattle operations across America. Don't Settle, inquire about how Powder River can be your partner in livestock handling. 800-453-5318

See it in action online at:
www.powderriver.com

75th Anniversary

POWDER RIVER
LIVESTOCK HANDLING EQUIPMENT

QUALIFYING EQUIPMENT

TAEP
Farm Investment Project

Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program

CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP • RAM
of Columbia

BUY A RAM
THE **CO-OP** WAY.



WE HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR ALL CO-OP MEMBERS TO TAKE HUGE DISCOUNTS OF UP TO **\$11,000 OFF MSRP.**

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON MOST CHRYSLER, DODGE, JEEP AND RAM VEHICLES.

FREE DELIVERY ANYWHERE IN TENNESSEE!

BUSINESS LINK

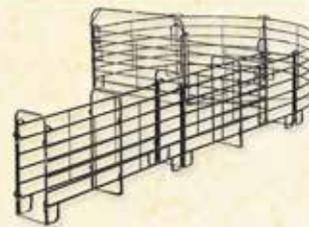
The fast lane for small business.



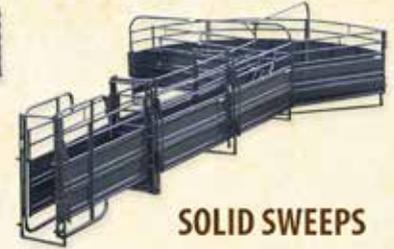
CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM

CALL CRAIG BATON • CO-OP SALES SPECIALIST • (615) 243-1528 • CBATON@CDJRCOLUMBIA.COM

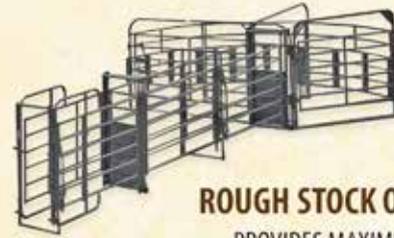
Priefert® SWEEP SYSTEMS
Farm, Ranch & Rodeo



PREMIER OPEN SWEEPS
PORTABLE & DURABLE



SOLID SWEEPS
IMPROVED ACCESS & CATTLE FLOW



ROUGH STOCK OPEN SWEEPS
PROVIDES MAXIMUM STRENGTH

AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING

CO-OP

OURCOOP.COM |

800.527.8616 | priefert.com

19th edition is here

Commemorative 4-H/FFA knife program has raised almost \$500,000

The 2019 edition of the Co-op commemorative 4-H/FFA knife will soon be available at your local Co-op. This is the 19th year for the popular program, which has raised nearly \$500,000 for these worthy youth organizations since its inception in 2001.

This year's knife is a classic Barlow pattern with amber bone handles. This vintage-era Jack knife design dates back to the early 1900's and is characterized by a single oversized pocket end bolster. Case is offering Barlow knives in limited release during 2019, after which the pattern will be returned to the Case vault for another 10 years.

It features a custom Co-op shield with the FFA and 4-H logos engraved on the bolster, the Case and Co-op logos are printed on one blade, and the 4-H and FFA logos, as well as the year, are on the other blade. The knife is packaged in a one-of-a-kind, full-color box designed by Tennessee Farmers Cooperative. Sponsored by TFC in cooperation with W.R. Case and Sons Cutlery Co. of Bradford, Pa., the 2019 commemorative 4-H/FFA knife retails for \$59.99.

For each knife sold, Co-op will donate \$10 to be split evenly between the 4-H and FFA foundations in Tennessee.

"We're proud of the success of this program," says Chance Martin, TFC Home, Lawn, Specialty product manager. "The funds it raises are going to a worthy cause. And we're pleased that so many folks continue to collect the knives and support our knife program."

An exclusive walnut showcase (#1082988) is offered yearly. The case is spacious enough to feature all the 4-H/FFA knives to date in a single collection.

For more information about the 2019 Co-op 4-H/FFA Commemorative knife, contact your local Co-op.



WESTFIELD

Over the last 60 years, Westfield has become the leading manufacturer of portable grain augers. Our reputation is backed with farm proven designs and innovation. Westfield is committed to making grain handling easier and more efficient.

IT'S NOT AN ORDINARY AUGER... IT'S A WESTFIELD.

grainaugers.com | 866.467.7207

AGI
AG GROWTH INTERNATIONAL



APPROVED

Community In Focus



On a rainy September evening, the lights of The University of Tennessee shine brightly at the pedestrian bridge spanning Phillip Fulmer Way near Neyland Stadium. The bridge, which made its debut on campus in the fall of 2014, connects the Haslam Business Building, Volunteer Boulevard, and the Joe Johnson-John Ward Pedestrian Walkway to the Hill.
 — Photo by Chris Villines

• OCTOBER 26, 2019 •

2019

CATTLEMAN'S
PROFIT-PLUS

REPLACEMENT HEIFER SALE

JOIN US!

FIRST FARMERS CO-OP

Heifer & Bull Sale
12 P.M.

LIVESTOCK CENTER

16219 HWY 22 NORTH • LEXINGTON, TN
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: (731) 968-2087

First on the farm!

This Fall Season

FIND THE TRUCK THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

Free delivery in the state of Tennessee.

Commercial Vehicle Center dealers are specially trained and equipped to sell, service and finance the most complete line of Class 1-7 work trucks.

John Hamby - Fleet Manager
 Give us a call at 1-888-820-3654
 jhamby@fordofmurfreesboro.com



Ford Super Duty Chassis Cab



1550 NW Broad St,
Murfreesboro, TN 37129



COMMERCIAL VEHICLE CENTER



PROVEN NUTRITION. FUELED BY PASSION.



AVAILABLE AT

CO-OP

*Madison Brown, with Daisy
Host of Chasing Down Madison Brown*



We are Americans. The love for our country runs deep. So does the love for our dogs. That's why every bag of VICTOR® dog food contains the VICTOR CORE – a unique blend of ingredients that provides superior nutrition. A fundamental ingredient in our VICTOR CORE is Zinpro Availa® Pet Mineral Complexes.



Our mineral complexes consist of zinc, manganese and iron to support a healthy skin and coat, paw pad integrity, immune response and efficient metabolism.



VictorPetFood.com



fall

VEGGIES

Autumn is in full swing, and harvest favorites are aplenty. With tasty veggies such as corn, squash, and carrots on the menu, you can't go wrong with these hearty recipes. Fall vegetables are full of essential vitamins and minerals that support a healthy diet and leave you feeling full as the seasons change.



Pumpkin Bread

Margie Gunn

McEwen

Dickson Farmers Cooperative

3½ cups all-purpose flour

2½ cups granulated sugar

2 teaspoons baking soda

1 teaspoon ground

cinnamon

1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon ground cloves

1 teaspoon ground allspice

2 cups cooked, mashed
pumpkin

4 eggs

1 cup Crisco oil

½ cup water

1 cup pecans, chopped

1 teaspoon vanilla flavoring

Mix the first eight ingredients. Add pumpkin, eggs, oil, and water. Mix well until smooth. Add nuts and vanilla; mix until all ingredients are combined. Bake in three or four greased, small loaf pans in a 350° oven for about an hour.

Squash Dressing

Peggy Bryan

Hillsboro

Coffee Farmers Cooperative

1 tablespoon butter

½ cup chopped onion

2 cups yellow squash,
cooked and mashed

2 cups crumbled cornbread

1 can cream of chicken soup
or cream of mushroom

soup

1 egg, beaten

1 teaspoon salt

2 teaspoons poultry
seasoning

Pepper to taste

Melt butter and sauté onion.

Mix together with all ingredients.

Place in greased casserole dish

and bake at 375° for 30 minutes

or until brown.

Sweet Potato Biscuits

Johnny Beth Nolen

Huntingdon

Carroll Farmers Cooperative

2 cups cooked sweet

potatoes, drained

1 cup sugar

3 cups all-purpose flour,
sifted

1 cup shortening

3 tablespoons buttermilk

1 teaspoon baking soda

4 teaspoons baking powder

1¼ teaspoons salt

Mash potatoes with sugar while hot. Let stand until able to handle. Add flour, shortening, and other ingredients. Roll out on floured surface to ½-inch thickness and cut with biscuit cutter. Bake on cookie sheet at 425° for 10-15 minutes or until done. Delicious with country ham.

Roasted Root Vegetables

Teresa Vinson

Union City

Obion Farmers Cooperative

2 medium sweet potatoes

2 medium turnips

2 carrots

2 white potatoes

1 sweet onion

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 teaspoon kosher salt

½ teaspoon pepper, if
desired

Spray a large baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray. Peel and cut vegetables into ¾- to 1-inch thick chunks. Place vegetables on baking sheet. Drizzle olive oil over top and mix well. Sprinkle with kosher salt and pepper, if desired. Bake in a 400° oven for 25-30 minutes or until tender.

Cook's Note: This brings out the sweetness in turnips, and they are one of our favorites. When I make them now, I usually add another turnip. You can add extra of your favorite vegetable, if desired. We love fall, and this is a great and easy side dish.

Green Bean Salad

Patsy Kelley

Lexington

First Farmers Cooperative

2 cans short-cut green
beans, drained

½ cup diced celery

½ cup diced onion

1 small green pepper

1 small can pimentos

1 teaspoon salt

Dash of black pepper

⅔ cup brown sugar

1 cup vinegar

Mix all ingredients above except sugar and vinegar. Use liquid from beans to combine sugar and vinegar. Pour this

liquid over bean mixture. Cover and refrigerate 24 hours.

Drain and serve.

Orange-Cranberry Acorn Squash

Dr. Jean Lewis

Oneida

Scott Morgan

Farmers Cooperative

3 acorn squash

5 tablespoons instant brown
rice

3 tablespoons minced onion

3 tablespoons minced celery

3 tablespoons dried

cranberries

Pinch of dried or

ground sage

Pinch of dried or ground

thyme

½ teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon pepper

1 tablespoon butter

3 tablespoons orange juice

½ cup water

Slice tops and a little off the bottoms of squash so that it will sit upright. Scoop out seeds and stringy parts. Set squash aside.

Combine rice, onion, celery, cranberries, and spices in a bowl. Stuff each squash with the mixture and top with a pat of butter. Pour one tablespoon orange juice into each squash. Stand squash in slow cooker and pour water into the bottom.

Cover and cook in slow cooker on low for 2-3 hours until squash are tender.

Honey Bunches of Yum!

Sweeten your day with a taste of golden goodness! Honey is packed with antibacterial properties as well as antioxidants. Nature's sugar also offers a special treat for diabetics as it is healthier for the body than other sugary alternatives. Share with **Cooperator** readers the sweetest ways to mix in honey to your favorite recipes.

Send us your favorite honey goodies — drinks, baked goods, candies, and more. The person submitting the recipe judged best will be named "Cook of the Month" for the January 2020

Cooperator and receive \$10. Others sending recipes chosen for publication will receive \$5, and each winner will also receive a special "What's Cookin'?" certificate.

Monday, Dec. 2, is the deadline for your honey recipes.

Only recipes with complete, easy-to-follow instructions will be considered. Send entries to: Recipes, **The Cooperator**, P.O. Box 3003, LaVergne, TN 37086, or email them to pcampbell@ourcoop.com. Include your name, address, telephone number, and the Co-op with which you do business. Recipes that are selected will also be published on our website at www.ourcoop.com.

Our Country Churches



288th in a series to show where our rural Co-op friends worship

Pyburn Union Church in Hardin County

Pyburn Union Church is located at 345 Pyburns Drive in Savannah. This Hardin County church is located near Pickwick Dam and offers non-denominational worship services each week. Pyburn Union is led by Pastor Harry Nolen. The church offers a children's program, Kingdom Kids for ages 3-11, and Unashamed Youth Ministries for ages 12-18. Join them each week for Wednesday night service at 7 p.m., Sunday school at 10 a.m., and Sunday worship at 10:55 a.m.

HARDWARE **CO-OP** MONTHLY

SPECIAL

Hurry in! Offer valid October 1 thru November 30, 2019.

\$284.99

Cradle Hay Feeder for Sheep and Goats



- All galvanized construction
- 1 1/2" x 16 ga. cradle
- 1 1/4" x 14 ga. base
- Both ends are removable
- Snap hooks keep end gates secure

15463

Pricing may vary. Only at participating Co-op locations.

JM Cattle Company

SPRING-CALVING HERD DISPERSAL

Sat., October 19, 2019 • Noon (CST)

At the Farm • Lawrenceburg, TN

SELLING OVER 120 HEAD

Hereford & Black Herefords
Spring Pair Splits • Spring Bred Heifers
Elite Donor & Show Prospects



JM Miss Outcross Lady 420 8088

11/8/18 • Polled • 44050669

S: MM Outcross 1312 ET

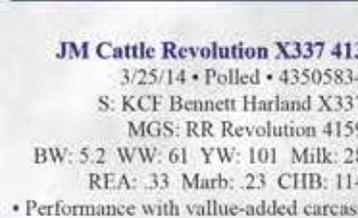
MGS: KCF Bennett Revolution Y445

BW: 3.6 WW: 62 YW: 105 Milk: 26

REA: .52 Marb: .07 CHB: 107

• Donor Prospect

• Performance with Style



JM Cattle Revolution X337 413

3/25/14 • Polled • 43505834

S: KCF Bennett Harland X337

MGS: RR Revolution 4159

BW: 5.2 WW: 61 YW: 101 Milk: 28

REA: .33 Marb: .23 CHB: 114

• Performance with value-added carcass



GSF B411 Betty F181

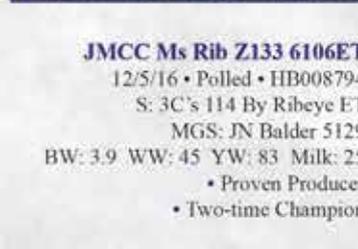
4/1/18 • Polled • HB013164

S: FF 74-51 Hometown B411

MGS: Connealy Final Product

BW: 4.5 WW: 44 YW: 75 Milk: 21

• Elite Donor Prospect



JMCC Ms Rib Z133 6106ET

12/5/16 • Polled • HB008794

S: 3C's 114 By Ribeye ET

MGS: JN Balder 5129

BW: 3.9 WW: 45 YW: 83 Milk: 25

• Proven Producer

• Two-time Champion



BID ONLINE:
LiveAuctions.TV

JM Cattle Company

JEREMIAH MALONE
(931) 309-6805

118 Powdermill Hill Lane
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464-8282
jmalone20@gmail.com
www.jm-cattlecompany.com

SALE MANAGER:

LAYTON
AUCTION SERVICES, LLC

DUSTIN N. LAYTON
(405) 464-2455

laytond@yahoo.com

ANDY MARSTON

(785) 250-4449

andemarston@gmail.com

TFL# 5818 • TAI# 6690

www.laytonauction.com

CELEBRATE TENNESSEE PORKTOBERFEST

The whole month of October.



Partnering with the
*Tennessee Pork Producers
Association*



WIN!

A BIG GREEN EGG GRILL
FILLED WITH TENNESSEE
PORK PRODUCTS!



*Fill the
Grill*
CONTEST



ENTER TODAY:

Go to www.ourcoop.com/pork and enter for a chance to win a Big Green Egg grill and \$50 in Tennessee Pork products.

Drawing will be Nov. 1, 2019

Shop us!
ourcoop.com



CO-OP

October is
PORK MONTH



From one generation to the next

Riley Mason stakes his future on dairying to carry on family operation

Story and photos by: Glen Liford

Riley Mason's optimism shines through and his face lights up as he speaks of his future in the industry that has provided a living for his family since 1902.

At 21 years old, Riley is the sixth generation to farm the family's Niota dairy in the Mt. Harmony community of McMinn County.

"I grew up 50 feet from the milk parlor in my great grandfather's [Roy] house," he says with his characteristic smile. "When I woke up every morning, I would run outside to meet our milk truck driver. He always had chocolate milk for me."

Riley learned to love the way of life by tagging along behind his grandfather, Gary, who died from brain cancer in 2013, and working alongside his father, Matt. Matt eventually took an off-the-farm job at Southeast Bank in Athens, where he now serves as senior vice president, but he still helped out on the dairy as needed, and since Gary passed away has helped mother Janette oversee the operation.

"He [Gary] always told me to do something else," recalls Riley. "He said I could make more money, go on vacations, and live my life without having something to do all the time. But dairying was what I wanted to do."

Riley says he spent nearly every spare moment with his granddad — summers, weekends, and many school breaks. He followed in Gary's footsteps, learning all he could.

"I still see things he taught me," says Riley. "And I realized I didn't pay attention as much as I should have. I thought I had time."

Riley was pursuing a degree in agribusiness and had just completed his sophomore year in 2018 at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville when the dairy operation hit another crossroad. The farm's overseer experienced health issues, and Riley was forced to step in. It was also about the time that Dean Foods, the company that operates Mayfield Dairy where the Masons sell their milk, informed several local dairies the company would no longer buy their product.

"When Dean Foods started sending out those letters, Dad and I sat down and discussed it," says the young dairyman. "He said, 'We either make a commitment and [upgrade the facilities] or sit back and wait for something that may never happen."

"I told him I wanted to do this for the rest of my life, no matter what. I love dairy farming. Milking cows is for me."

So with Riley's commitment, Janette and Matt agreed to help.

"Dad said, 'All we can do is pray and ask God to help us out, and try to do everything correctly,'" recalls Riley.

While today's environment is tough for family dairy farms, Riley isn't discouraged. He's tackling the challenges head-on with an attitude and approach that would make his forefathers proud. The Masons have invested in three robotic milkers and built a tunnel-ventilation barn for the comfort and efficiency of their 180-milk-cow herd. The improvements, Riley says, will allow the dairy to operate more efficiently with less labor and produce an even higher quality product. *(Editor's note: Look for a future story on the Mason's technological improvements in the June Dairy Month issue of The Cooperator.)*

The Masons feel they are in a perfect setting for a dairy operation. The farm is located just eight miles from the Mayfield Dairy where their milk is sold. And, they say, their relationship with AgCentral Farmers Co-op is key to their success. They rely on Rick Barham, the Co-op's livestock specialist and sales manager, as nutritionist, and purchase feed, seed, fertilizer, and other supplies, including their DeLaval Voluntary Milking Systems, from the local Co-op.

"The dairy industry has its ups and downs," Riley says. "We felt that we either had to get to this level or get out of the business. Milking in our [previous] facility was not as efficient as it is now with the technology and the robots. Our new facility allows us to fulfill our commitment to provide the quality of the milk that consumers demand and delivers the efficiency of cow care and increase production."

But with a wisdom beyond his years, Riley is quick to give recognition to the family support that has enabled him to choose this noble profession.

"I couldn't have done any of this without my dad," he says. "I'm where I am today because of him. He's where he is because of my granddad, and obviously my grandma, too."

"Every generation has a different struggle. The dairy has passed down from generation to generation, and I intend to improve it until my time is over. Then, hopefully, I'll pass it down to the next generation."



Riley Mason, center, worked with AgCentral Farmers Co-op in Athens to install three DeLaval Voluntary Milking Systems in mid-August. AgCentral employees Sam Settles, left, and Glen Allen worked closely with the young dairyman to get the system operating properly.



Riley Mason, left, with his father, Matt.

– “I love dairy farming. Milking cows is for me. It’s what I want to do, and I feel like I am doing the right thing.” – Riley Mason

Sent to you compliments of:

Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
180 Old Nashville Hwy. (PO Box 3003)
LaVergne, TN 37086-1983

Presorted Standard
US POSTAGE
PAID
Pewaukee, WI
PERMIT NO. 1364

Visit our official website at ourcoop.com
Follow us on     

TRU-TEST.



**Record your vaccines and
lot numbers chute side**

Data management. Made easy.



DATAMARS

tru-test.com

njphillips.com



PATRIOT

speedrite

800-433-3112