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 Ken Givens, Commissioner


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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
 STATE OF TENNESSEE  
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
 July 3, 2008

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**TDA COST SHARE PROGRAM DEADLINE APPROACHING**  
*Farmers Encouraged to Apply for TAEP Funding*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is continuing to accept applications for the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program through August 1. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to their county UT Extension agent for application information or the department toll-free at 800-342-8206. Most applications are accepted on a first come, first serve basis and should be filled out accurately and postmarked by August 1.

“The response to the program has been tremendous so far, but there’s still time for producers to take advantage of this important economic opportunity,” said state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens. “We expect to begin sending out approval letters in mid-July so that farmers can start on their projects and make necessary purchases. We will continue to accept applications through August 1.”

Through TAEP, farmers can qualify for 35 or 50 percent cost share ranging from \$1,200 to \$15,000 on a variety of projects.

This year, TAEP has added Grain Storage as a new cost share opportunity and expanded the Livestock Equipment and Handling Facilities, Hay Storage and Livestock Feed Storage opportunities. The Livestock Feed Storage cost share now includes funds for cattle, goats, sheep, poultry and swine, while the Livestock Equipment and Handling Facilities and the Hay Storage cost share includes funds for cattle, goats and sheep.

Continued cost share opportunities include Producer Diversification and the Feeder Cattle Incentive. The Feeder Cattle Incentive offers funds for producers who participate in approved USDA age and source verified programs and meet state preconditioning requirements.

TAEP is a state funded program established by Governor Phil Bredesen and supported by the General Assembly to increase farm income in Tennessee by helping farmers invest in better farming practices and by encouraging diversification and innovation.

Applications and additional information about cost share opportunities through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program can be found online at [www.picktnproducts.org](http://www.picktnproducts.org) or by calling toll-free 800-342-8206. Applications are available through local farm related businesses and agencies, including UT Extension Offices and farm supply stores.

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