

Tennessee Department of Agriculture Announces

“GROW THE HERD INITIATIVE”

Nationally, Tennessee has dropped from ninth in beef cattle production to 13th in the past two years due in part to economic and weather-related factors that decreased the state’s herd size. Currently, the state hosts about 864,000 beef cows. The goal of the new Grow the Herd Initiative is to increase beef cattle numbers, which is consistent with the recommendations of the Governor’s Rural Challenge.

Issued in December 2012, the challenge sets a goal of making Tennessee No. 1 in the Southeast in the development of agriculture and forestry, emphasizing efforts to increase farm income and agribusiness investment. With beef producers located in every county in the state, enhancing beef cattle production is a natural priority for the state’s agricultural communities and the Department of Agriculture.

“Tennessee has the land capacity to support beef herd expansion and to recapture our share of the U.S. market,” Agriculture Commissioner Julius Johnson said. “The Grow the Herd Initiative ties in with the recommendations of the Governor’s Rural Challenge to grow our industry and gives producers another tool with which to improve their operation and to maximize profits.”

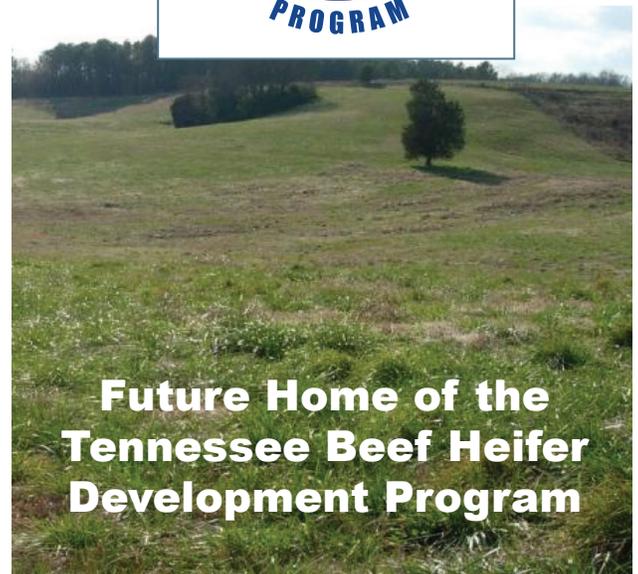
TENNESSEE BEEF HEIFER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has teamed with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and Tennessee Farmers Cooperative to implement a custom heifer development center that will:

- Demonstrate proper replacement heifer development protocols.
- Increase the implementation of heifer development practices that will result in mature cows with optimum reproductive efficiency.
- Stimulate more availability of custom heifer development opportunities offered in the private sector.
- Decrease barriers to expansion that are often encountered with heifer retention.

Weaned heifers will be enrolled into the development program by producers from across the state. After almost a year of development, culminating with breeding and pregnancy diagnosis, the heifers can either be returned to the owner or marketed through an associated replacement heifer sale.



Program to Start Fall 2015



TENNESSEE AGRICULTURAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM BRED BEEF HEIFER COST SHARE

In an effort to increase the beef cattle numbers in Tennessee, a Bred Beef Heifer Cost Share Program has been developed and added to the TAEP Beef Genetics Program to assist beef producers with the purchase of bred beef heifers. To be eligible, heifers purchased through this program must meet specific requirements.

Qualifications

- Individually and permanently identified
- Vaccinated with respiratory, reproductive, and backleg vaccines
- De-wormed
- Test negative for PI-BVD
- Meet minimum weight, muscle and frame scores
- Bred for a minimum of 90 days
- Service sires must meet TAEP calving ease bull type requirements and minimum accuracies (artificial insemination to high accuracy calving ease sires is recommended)
- Sires of the bred heifers must have known EPDs from the respective breed association

Program Specifics

TAEP will provide producers cost share assistance on purchasing bred beef heifers. Eligible producers may purchase up to five bred beef heifers and receive \$400 cost share per heifer. Maximum reimbursement for the heifer program is \$2,000.



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