

Ag Column
Chris Ramsey
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Winter and Spring Educational Opportunities

The interest in the Hemp industry has increased exponentially over the last year. The number of growers, processors, marketers, and retailers continues to expand. We will have a meeting on Hemp production, marketing, regulatory issues, and how to complete the application. The meeting will be at the Ron Ramsey Regional Ag Center on Monday, February 11, 2018. Please call 574-1919 by Thursday, February 7 to RSVP.

We will be scheduling a fruit tree pruning class in February. This will be a hands-on pruning demonstration at an orchard. We will share techniques on proper pruning and considerations of what to prune to increase fruiting and tree health. We encourage participants to bring their pruners and get some hands-on experience. Call us to add your name to our pruning program interest list.

On Tuesday, March 19, we will have a fruit tree grafting workshop. Learn why trees are grafted, the steps required to make a successful graft, and how to care for the grafted tree. We will have scion wood and rootstock. If you are interested, call 574-1919 to reserve your rootstock.

On Thursday, March 21, we will have our Right Tree, Right Place Tree Meeting. BTES of Bristol, TN will sponsor the meal for this meeting. Topics covered will be Trees and Power lines; Weed control Measures; Pruning Trees; Current Pesticide Applicator Rules Update, Diseases of Trees, Insect Damage of Trees. Call to add your name to this list.

In April, we will have a workshop on home lawn care. We will cover maintenance and renovation of home lawns including variety selection, establishment, fertilization, diseases, insects, equipment, and other topics. Call to add your name to this list.

We will have monthly beef cattle educational meetings February through May. These meetings do count toward Advanced Master Beef Producer Certification. This certification makes beef producers eligible for 50% cost share with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture TAEP Cost Share Program.

We will have an Appalachian Heritage Festival at the Ron Ramsey Regional Ag Center on Saturday, June 1. This festival will feature educational programs, vendors, and food. The focus of the festival will be horticulture and other homesteading topics.

If you are interested in these programs or have questions, call the UT-TSU Extension Sullivan County Office at 423-574-1919.