



## The staff of Cougar

### Outlook on Agriculture:

Ashley Payne - Co-Editor  
McKenna Pierce - Co-Editor  
Hunter Underhill - Article  
Erica Lee - Article  
Bryce Sims - Article  
Daniel Bennett - Article

## **National FFA Week**

February 17th-23rd



### Notice:

All FFA students will be allowed to wear FFA shirts during National FFA week starting next week. Shirts must have an FFA logo or

## **She's a Coppertone Girl**

I'm a Coppertone Girl is a local Tennessee Walking Horse owned by Rushing Creek Walkers. She was the number 1 model mare in the TWHBEA International High Points Award for 2012. 9 years old, she has been with Rushing Creek since birth and has won numerous awards, with her biggest achievement this past year at the 74th Annual Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration when she earned the title of Reserve world Grand Champion .

By: Bryce Sims



I'm a Coppertone Girl with handler Susan Shelton during a show at Parker's Crossroads.

## **Hay Production: 6 Easy Steps to follow**

- Step 1: Choose the land you will be growing the hay crop on. It can be slightly sloping or level, as long as a tractor can easily move across the terrain choose land that has a large enough area for the crop.
- Step 2: Take samples of the soil from various points across the entire area field. You will need at least three or more samplings. Take these to your local agricultural extension service for testing. They can give you a detailed nutrient guide for the soil and advise you on how to achieve optimal results for your crop.
- Step 3: Based on step 2, talk to your extension agent about what seed would thrive the most on your land.
- Step 4: Disk the soil and continue to work it once a week to aerate the soil.
- Step 5: Plant the seeds on a calm day to decrease the chance of losing seeds. Use about 2 to 3 pounds of 1,000 square feet of field.
- Step 6: When the hay reaches 18 to 24 inches in height, use a grass cutter, hay rake, and baler cut and bale the crop. Let the crop dry for 24 hours when no rain is forecast.

By: Hunter Underhill

## FFA NEWS & EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Location
2/15	Proficiency Applications Due	—	—
2/16 - 2/23	National FFA Week	—	—
2/23	Co-op Banquet	6:00 p.m.	—
3/8	Ag Skills CDE	11:30 a.m.	Dover
3/16-3/17	Concessions at Tumbling Creek Motor Cross	All Day	—
3/23-3/24	Concessions at Tumbling Creek Motor Cross	All Day	—
3/24 - 3/27	State FFA Convention	—	Gatlinburg, TN
4/9	Middle TN Livestock Judging CDE	3:30 p.m.	MTSU
4/16	Middle TN Awards Banquet	5:00 p.m.	—
5/2	FFA Banquet	6:30 p.m.	DCHS

### Recent Activities:

- Parliamentary Procedure placed 2nd at district. Congrats to the team members: Alex Romkey (Chair), McKenna Pierce (Sec), Ashley Payne, Faith Skinner, Hailey Lindsey, and Daniel Bennett. This was Dickson's first time to compete since 1988.
- There will be nine FFA members receiving their State Degrees in April at State Convention. They are Bryce Sims, Shad Estes, Alex Romkey, Jordan Whaley, Taylor Bradley, Hailey Lindsey, McKenna Pierce, Teri Anne Daubenspeck, and Jessica McFall

## Agricultural Roots

Agriculture has taken a drastic change during the last century. Many people think of a tractor or a combine as standard farming equipment, but a modern day 'old timer' will tell you "My daddy used to live off the land with nothing but a hand-held hoe and a plow." Only 1-2 generations have passed since people depended on manual labor hand tools. The hand held garden tools used 100 years ago have now become virtually obsolete. Many farmers now depend on mechanical and electronic powered machinery to do most of the work for them.

Because of these technological advances, farming is done on a mass scale on large farms. The outcome is that farming has created a dependence on people to buy 'their' goods instead of growing and raising produce themselves. Many people feel that if they do not own a tractor or a combine that they cannot create a substantial crop for their family. The fact is that no tool can substitute manual labor farming which has become obsolete in modern agriculture.

By: *Daniel Bennett*



## Greenhouse Reminder:

**Our Chapter will begin selling early tomatoes in gallon pots on March 14th.**

## Animal Information:

### Legally Raising Chickens

To raise any farm animals you need to know the zoning laws for your location. Your property may be zoned as agricultural, residential, business, or any number of categories.

If you are listed in an agricultural zone, you can raise chickens without a problem. However, to make sure you have this right, look for a notice about the Right to Farm on your paperwork. The Right to Farm Bill states that any recognized, legal methods of farming can exist or begin at any time in that zone.

If you are listed in a residential zone, you will need to determine which practices are allowed and which are prohibited. Laws concerning the ownership of animals could have limits on how many chickens on the property. There could also be restrictions on where the chicken coop can be placed. Always double check before you decide whether or not to start a flock or add more to an existing one.

By: *Erica Lee*

## The Newsletter Team

Mr. Wallace's 5th period Ag Leadership and Communications class



Left to Right: Bryce Sims, Hunter Underhill, Taylor Bradley, Alex Romkey, Erica Lee, Daniel Bennett, Ashley Payne, McKenna Pierce, and Hailey Lindsey