



The Cougar Outlook:

Overo Lethal White Foal Syndrome - Ashley Payne (editor and publisher)
HMO's - Daniel Bennett
Rising Livestock Feed Prices - Hailey Lindsey

***GREENHOUSE PLANTS ARE NOW ON SALE (details on page 2)**

FFA EVENTS

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 4-9-13 | Livestock Judging | All Day | |
| 5-2-13 | Annual FFA Banquet | 6:00p.m. | Cafeteria |

*In concurrence with our banquet we will hold a silent auction to raise money for the chapter. We are still gladly accepting donations.

Thank You again to our sponsors!

Plant Ranch, Tractor Supply Company, All Animals Vet., Tennsco, Farm Credit Services, Vulcan, Wal-Mart, Fussells, EK2, Alexander, Nissan, Underhill Motors, Sportsman's Store, McKenna's dad, Ashley's grandma, 96 Lawn and Garden, Farm Bureau, Goal Post, Dickson Farm Sales, Dickson County Equipment

FFA News:

This year, Dickson County FFA had 12 members attend State FFA Convention that is annually held in Gatlinburg, TN. Bryce Sims, Shad Estes, Alex Romkey, Jordan Whaley, Taylor Bradley, Hailey Lindsey, McKenna Pierce, and Teri Anne Daubenspeck received their state degrees. Cheyenne Fussel, Brandie Miller, McKenna Pierce, and Faith Skinner competed in Farm Business Management CDE. The chapter also received its superior chapter award.



Members pictured left to right: Coy Garton, Alex Romkey, Bryce Sims, Shad Estes, Cheyenne Fussel, Teri Anne Daubenspeck, Hailey Lindsey, Brandie Miller, McKenna Pierce, Taylor Bradley, Faith Skinner, Jordan Whaley

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's)

Genetically modified food is one of the major topics of modern agriculture. Biotechnologists —“Take the genetic material from one organism and insert it into the permanent genetic code of another.” This process is meant to enhance the genes of plants and animals; thereby, making “super” organisms. In the United States 85% of overall corn production is modified. In addition, a majority of soybean and cotton are modified also. A major concern of modified genes is allergies people might have to the chemicals being used. About 90% of all allergies come from proteins in milk, eggs, wheat, fish, tree nuts, peanuts, soybeans, and shellfish. If someone were to consume a food with the genes of these foods, they could potentially have an allergic reaction. In retrospect, genetically modified organisms are a legitimate concern for people who consume these products on a daily basis. Thus, bringing up concerning topics for agricultural crop producers, and the consumers who buy the products.

- Daniel Bennett

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Tomatoes:

3-in Pots: Sweet 100, Better Boy, Bradley, Beef Steak, Whopper, Sugary, Celebrity

\$1.50 each or 18 for \$20

Gallon Pots: Bradley - \$5.00 each

Peppers:

3-in Pots:

Jalapeno,
Habanero, Sweet
Banana, California
Wonder, Hungarian
Yellow, Cayenne

\$1.50 each or
18 for \$20



Overo Lethal White Foal Syndrome

OLWFS (Lethal White Syndrome) is an autosomal gene disorder that is most common in Paint foals. When these foals are born, they appear healthy and normal. They have an all white coat and blue eyes. Within just a few hours of birth, they will display signs of colic and the affected foals die within just a few days after birth. Death from OLWFS is usually painful, therefore, foals are often humanely euthanized once they have been identified with OLWFS. OLWFS has similar etiology to Hirschsprung's disease in humans. Lethal White Syndrome is caused when homozygous carriers, who are heterozygous, that is, have one copy of the mutated allele, but they themselves are healthy. Both parents must be carriers of one copy of the LWS allele in order for an infected foal to be born. Horses that are heterozygous for the gene that causes LWS often exhibit a spotted coat color pattern commonly known as "Frame Overo."

- Ashley Payne

Why is livestock feed rising?

Have you noticed that livestock feed has gone up over 26% since 2008? Feed prices have gone up due to the competing demand for corn, and soybeans, and due to higher energy prices. The last recording high of feed prices was in 2008, and the price is still climbing. In 2008 the U.S. had a staple grain shortage due to the drought in the mid-west. The feed expenses reached to a recorded- high of \$48 billion and jumped nearly 26% from 2007. Corn accounts for 90% of feed grains, and soybean meal is a principal oil crop used in the feed. Corn prices alone jumped up to an average record price of \$5 to \$6 per a bushel, also soybean reached a record price of \$11.60 to \$13.10 per a bushel. That pushed up the average soybean meal price to \$330 to \$390 per a ton.

To finish a pig for slaughter in 2008 climbed to \$70 and was 46% of total production cost. The average lost for a feeder pig finished for slaughter was nearly \$22 per a head. The selling of feeder cattle has been losing an average of \$100 per head. This means the total cost of producing cattle and beef from pasture to plate increased from \$726 per head to \$1,131.

The U.S. biofuel production is almost entirely corn-based ethanol; therefore, 6.5 billion gallons of corn-based ethanol was produced in 2007. The Renewable fuel Standard (RFS) mandates at least 9 billion gallons of biofuel in the U.S fuel supplies; however, it's predicted that it will double to 20.5 gallons by 2015 and 36 billion by 2022. The biofuel sector is supported by tax credit of 51 cents for every gallon of corn-based ethanol, mixed with U.S. fuels and import tariff of 54 cents per gallon of imported ethanol. There are more than 160 U.S. ethanol plants; however, they plan to build more which will run up the demand for corn. Several bills have been proposed to reduce ethanol production incentives.

Due to the rising feed prices, farmers often have a significant financial loss. This has caused higher prices in the milk, meat, and eggs at retail counters in the U.S and everywhere else. A report estimated that the Food and Agricultural Organization food price index will go up by 15% by the end of June 2013.

- Hailey Lindsey