

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

March 16	SW BCIA Bull Test Open House, 1-4 PM, 255 Grippy Run Rd. Wytheville
March 18	VQA Calf Sale
March 18	National Ag Day
March 20	Farm Toy Show Set Up, SWVA Higher Ed Center, 8 AM-5PM
March 21-22	First Annual Farm Toy Show, Friday Noon to 8 PM and Saturday, 8 AM to 3 PM
March 22	SW BCIA Bull Test Sale, Wytheville
March 24	VQA Steer Take-up
March 26	VQA Heifer Take-Up
March 29	BSE Program for area beef bull owners, Call 276 676 6309 for appointment times and directions
April 1	AFCA Bull Sale
April 16	Smyth County Ag Field Day for 4th Graders, WL Hanger
April 18	Sign Up Day for Smyth County 4-H Camp, Chilhowie Elementary School, 3:30-6:30
April 24	Pasture Walk, WL Hanger in Chilhowie 5-8 PM
July 7-11	Smyth County 4-H Camp
July 29	Youth Day at Rich Valley Fair... stay tuned for more information



Just Look at Everything That’s Going On!

A great way to stay current is to pick up a Saturday edition of the ***Smyth County News***. In it, you will find an “Upcoming Events” section at the end of all of Andy’s weekly articles!

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Andy Overbay or Pam Testerman at (276) 783-5175/TDD (800) 828-1120) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

Serving You by Reporting and Listening!

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Smyth County Agriculture Extension Newsletter! My goal is to continue to provide you with a newsletter packed with information at least once each quarter. Let us know what you think. If you have ideas for articles or topics of interest, please contact us at (276) 706-8339.



Is Your Bull Ready to Go?

An open cow can be a bad blow to the pocketbook of a small herd, but if that is so, a bull that is found to be sterile is a disaster! So is your bull ready for spring turnout?

You don’t have to guess or hope for the best. On Saturday, March 29 at the Bill Hayter farm in Washington County. Dr. Tom VanDyke will be on site to test your bull to be sure he is ready to service your cows.

While the BSE (Breeding Soundness Exam) testing is not free, bringing the bulls to the event saves you a farm call charge and helps streamline the process. There is a limit of two bulls per farm. If you have more bulls than that, you likely need to schedule an on-farm BSE program.

Testing will be done by appointment only so bulls won’t be standing around, getting upset, and getting in trouble. To schedule your bull(s) and get directions to the farm call Phil Blevins’ office at 276 676-6309.



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New Event: Spring Pasture Walk Planned

Spring is a busy time but taking a few hours to learn something helpful is never a waste of time. While this season’s great cattle prices are nice, our input costs are higher as well, so we need to do a good job with both. In our recent Master Cattleman Economics course, Tom Stanley shared that the most profitable herds were tied to herd size, but rather cost controls.

Improving forage quality is the number one way to improve profits and animal performance, and the least expensive way to get good forages into our cows is to graze improved pastures.

Our Pasture Walk is scheduled for April 24, 2025 at the WL Hanger in Chilhowie. I am working with our 4-H Livestock club for a meal so call in to help us have enough food or notify you if the club is unable to feed us. Also, BRING A LAWN CHAIR!

Our topics for the evening will include:



- Weed ID and Control,
- Sprayer Calibration and
- Soil Sampling and Understanding Your Test Results



First Annual Farm Toy Show is March 21-22

As many of you know, we have a unique 4-H Club in our area... The Southwest VA 4-H Tractor Club. We have members in Smyth Washington and Russell Counties, and we have a blast learning more about farm equipment of all kinds. We invite you to join us at the Southwest VA Higher Education Center for our First Annual Farm Toy Show and Display Contest. We will open the show on Friday, March 21 from noon to 8 PM and Saturday March 22 from 8 AM to 3 PM. Admission is \$5 per person, youth under 5 get in free. At the show we will also be giving away a 1945 Farmall H at noon Saturday. Chances on the tractor are \$5 each, 5 for \$20 and 30 for \$100. All proceeds go the the club to help them continue to learn and grow!



Win Me!

March 22

@ Noon



VIRGINIA BEEF CATTLE UNIVERSITY

The conference will feature trade show vendors, entertainment, and a variety of educational topics for adults! This is an all-inclusive event for beef producers and the industry to connect with one another more personally.



Herd Health



Marketing



Nutrition & Forages



Business Management



Reproduction



Meat Science

JULY 21-23 AT THE INN AT VIRGINIA TECH AND VT GERMAN CLUB

REGISTER NOW!



EMPOWERING BEEF PRODUCERS: UNITING, LEARNING, AND INNOVATING TOGETHER!


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