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Published: April 09, 2008 08:23 am

Phase I grant meeting set

Brandon Sears

A meeting to explain the 2008 Phase I Tobacco Grants is set for 7 p.m. Friday at the Madison County Extension Center, 230 Duncannon Lane. There will be five grants available to farmers this year.

The rules and regulations for each cost-share grant will be discussed. In order to understand the application process and your required reporting information, it is extremely important to attend this meeting.

The scheduled discussion time for the five grants on April 11 is as follows: Genetic Improvement (Bull and Heifer) Grant and Cattle Handling Facility Grant, 7 to 7:30 p.m.; Hay, Straw, Commodity Storage Grant and Farm Livestock Boundary Fencing Grant, 7:30 to 8 p.m.; and Forage Improvement, Temporary Fencing, Water and Heavy-Use Area Grant, 8 to 8:30 p.m.

The organizations administering these grants are Madison County Beef Cattle Association, Madison County Farm Bureau and the Madison County Conservation District.

All grants will be judged this year from the information on your application form and from previous year's participation. There will be no first-come, first-served during the sign-up period.

Sign-up dates are Monday through April 29 at the Madison County Extension Center for all grants except for the Forage Improvement, Temporary Fencing, Water and Heavy-Use Area grant. Sign-up dates for this grant will be Monday through April 29 at the Madison County Conservation District Office in Harper Square in Richmond.

Farm tour

The 2008 farm tour to western Kentucky and western Tennessee will be July 7-12. The group will be touring an ethanol plant, large grain farms (including rice), UK Princeton Beef cattle research facility, WKU beef research herd, Kentucky Quilt Center, horticultural stops at the West Tennessee Experiment station in Milan and commercial cow/calf operations along the way.

The group will also be attending the Grand Ole Opry. Additional farm stops are still being organized. The cost per couple is \$1,100. This price includes motels, transportation, tours and some of the meals.

The sign-up date will be at 8 a.m. Tuesday at the Madison County Extension Center. This will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. There are 52 seats on the bus and priority will be given to those involved in agriculture (present or retired). A \$200 deposit will be required at sign-up and the remainder will be required by May 23.

Critter control

Dr. Tom Barnes, UK Extension wildlife specialist, will be on hand to discuss controlling moles, skunks, mice, deer, raccoons and other nuisance wildlife. The meeting will be conducted from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Madison County Extension Center. If you would like to attend, call us and let us know so that we can have enough materials prepared.

Heifer sale

If you are thinking about consigning heifers in our Richmond heifer sale this fall, give me a call at 623-4072. We are in the process of planning a sale for early November. Sale guidelines and other information will be forthcoming.

Phase I board meeting

The Madison County Phase I Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Ag Credit Office in Richmond. This is a board meeting only. More information on sign-ups for grants will available at the 7 p.m. Friday meeting at the Madison County Extension Center.

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