

Ag Enhancement continues throughout October

The time is here. The application period for the 2016 Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program began Oct. 1 and continues throughout the month of October. If you have not picked up your application yet, please come by the Extension Office or one of the farm stores in the county and get one.

New this year is the disappearance of the premise ID and account numbers. Everyone who participated in the program in the past should have received a letter with their TAEP identification number. If you did not, please call the Extension Office and we will get it for you. For those new to the program, please complete the form and leave the number blank and they will issue an ID number when they receive the application.

BQA

For those whose Beef Quality Assurance certi-

fications have expired, there will be a BQA class held in the early voting room of Warren County Administrative Offices on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 6 p.m. The program only takes approximately 45 minutes to complete and your recertification will be good for three more years.

GRASS FED BEEF CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER

Consumer demand for local grass-fed beef products continues to grow so the interest among Tennessee livestock producers to meet this demand is growing too. To help farmers understand the rigors of producing and marketing grass-fed beef, the University Of Tennessee Institute Of Agriculture will host a Grass-Fed Beef Conference Nov. 9, 2016, in Athens. The event is an encore presentation. Earlier this year the same program and curriculum

AGNEWS & NOTES



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was presented in Spring Hill to 89 producers from 64 different farm enterprises.

"Tennessee producers and other producers across the region want to learn more about grass-fed production systems and market opportunities," said Chuck Grigsby, a marketing specialist for UT Extension's Center for Profitable Agriculture. The Nov. 9 event will be at the Western Sizzlin' restaurant, 1804 Decatur Pike, Athens.

Check-in and networking starts at 9 a.m. EDT. The workshops begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. There is a \$25 registration fee for the confer-

ence. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. The registration deadline is Oct. 26.

TENNESSEE-ALABAMA SMALL RUMINANT CONFERENCE

University of Tennessee Extension and Alabama Cooperative Extension will partner to provide small ruminant producers with an educational program to help them navigate the essential elements of production and turn a profit. The conference will be held Oct. 27-29 at the Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Spring Hill and will address topics of interest to both goat and sheep producers.

This three-day event includes educational sessions covering topics such as:

- Marketing live animals for custom-exempt harvesting
- Genetics and replace-

ment stock selection

- Nutrition
- Marketing and production contracts
- Treatment and preventative practices for health issues
- Forage and pasture management
- Setting up marketing cooperatives
- Market outlook
- Facilities and equipment
- Developing a biosecurity plan
- Carcass and meat quality finished on various forages

The conference also features virtual tours of operations from each state, followed by a time for questions and answers with the producers highlighted in the videos. A trade show with many of the organizations involved in the region's industry will be present for participants to meet and learn more about their products and services. There will also be a live animal grading

demonstration to wrap up the conference.

"This conference should be one that adds dollars to operations," said Andrew Griffith, UT Extension livestock economist with the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

The conference registration is 8:30 a.m. CDT each morning with the programs at 9:30 a.m. The trade show opens at 8:30 a.m. Registration for the conference is \$100 which includes lunch each day and handout materials. The deadline for registration is Oct. 20. Tennessee producers who attend all three days can earn a Master Small Ruminant certification. Additional information can also be found online at <http://economics.ag.utk.edu/smallruminantconferences.html>.

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Garretson, Richardson honored as Volunteers of the Year

BY JAMES CLARK
Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

At a banquet where roughly 100 volunteers were treated to lunch for their year-long service, two were recognized for their exemplary efforts.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program honored Carol Ann Richardson and Barbara Garretson on Wednesday as its Co-Volunteers of the Year.

Richardson is known for founding the Hope Center of Warren County, an organization that began after she started to visit inmates in jail.

"When I left the jail, I thought 'Now what?'" said Richardson. "What do we have for these people once they're released? So I started the Hope Center with the idea of changing their thought process from one of destruction, to breaking free from all the stuff that's holding them back. If we don't offer a service, or know of a service that

will help them, we'll create one."

The Hope Center, approaching four years of operation, offers a variety of life skills. This includes courses on parenting, anger management, GED preparation, banking and budgeting, resume writing, job interview skills, grief counseling and more.

It's enough to keep Richardson busy.

"All my time off is spent volunteering," she said.

Garretson was recognized for her volunteer efforts at Central Church of Christ's Benevolence Center, the Senior Center, and Just Friends at Saint Thomas River Park Hospital.

"I volunteer because I love to help people and there are so many people who need it nowadays," said Garretson. "It's gratifying to help some of the older people at the Senior Center

because they are so appreciative of anything you do for them."

County Executive Herschel Wells offered his thanks to the volunteers and was given a chance to address the crowd.

"Volunteers all across Warren County are what makes us a better county," said Wells. "Whether it's master gardeners, members of the Rescue Squad, church volunteers, Honor Guard, volunteer firefighters, people who deliver Meals on Wheels, and that's just to name a few of them, all of those volunteers make our county a better place to live."

Said RSVP director Donna Anderson, "Volunteers do so many wonderful things in the community. Many of them volunteer in more than one place and some of them work long hours."



WELLS



Barbara Garretson, left, and Carol Ann Richardson are honored by RSVP on Wednesday as the organization's Co-Volunteers of the Year.

Main Street McMinnville

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In her email to board members, Miller stated, "I do not send this email lightly. I have researched, spoken with an attorney, looked for alternatives to my recommendation but it is my belief as president of Main Street McMinnville that in the best interest of our organization and the future of our organization that we only have an executive director. The co-executive directorship should be disbanded and, based on performance, Brook Holmes should be given the opportunity to resign and a full-time position should be offered to Paige Chastain. This comes after much research and after holding weekly staff meetings with the employees and monitoring job performance. Please contact me for further information personally as it is not my goal to focus on the negative."

Davidson said one problem was Holmes and Chastain didn't have specific duties. When things didn't get done as expected, there was a question of who was responsible.

"There were things that were slipping through the cracks," said Davidson.

"The state advised us against going with co-directors, but we did it anyway," said Basham. "We tried it. It didn't work. Let's not do it again."

As president, Miller laid the blame on Holmes. She said it was the fault of Holmes that: 1) Main Street McMinnville's request for city funding for fiscal year 2016-17 was late and incomplete; 2) Main Street McMinnville's insurance policy was cancelled due to nonpayment - the payment was made two weeks late; 3) Main Street McMinnville incurred a late fee for not paying its McMinnville Post Office rental fee on

time.

Members were encouraged to vote "yes" or "no" to oust Holmes by email.

The termination vote by email resulted in a special called meeting of the board on July 25. During that meeting, the successful vote to terminate and disband the directorship was "set aside" by majority vote.

According to minutes of the board's July 25 special called session, the meeting became heated and Garrison resigned.

Per the minutes, "Several board members expressed the desire to resign prior to the termination of the employment of Brook." While the minutes did not state which board members, Garrison resigned after his time as president was brought under review and questioned by Miller.

Per the minutes: "Vanessa and Randy exchanged questions and discussions concerning levels of performance and meeting of deadlines. Vanessa rebuffed Randy with details in the documentation and offered Brook an opportunity to answer any accusations. Randy described both co-executive directors as professionals. Vanessa replied Brook's performance was lacking and Paige's performance as professional."

"Randy asked if these allegations were ones that he dealt with as president. Vanessa responded some of them were. Randy replied the majority are and he already handled them. Vanessa answered the items exhibit the timeline of poor behavior. Randy stated he is resigning his position on the board of directors and left the meeting."

Sain resigned Sept. 15.

In emails between board members dated after that time, Crutcher called the organization "a board

divided."

"We should all be working as a united board of directors and all on the same page. I feel that we are definitely a board divided right now," Crutcher said.

Because Main Street McMinnville is currently

operating under co-directors, Basham said he expects the next item of business for the organization is to return to one director. He expects that item of business to be considered at the next board meeting Oct. 18 at 5:15 p.m. at the Security

Federal meeting room.

"I suspect there will be a movement to make one director position and we can take applications for that," said Basham.

When contacted by the *Standard* and asked about her removal as president, Miller stated, "I'm OK

with their decision. The big picture is we got rid of an employee who wasn't performing. My getting canned isn't a big deal, if they fix everything."

When contacted, Chastain and Holmes refused to comment on the situation.

HALLOWEEN HUSTLE 5K

Southern Standard & 1-mile Walk

OCT. 22, 2016 AT 9 A.M.

CRUISE-IN 10 A.M.-1 P.M.

- DECORATE YOUR CAR
- COSTUME CONTEST FOR RUNNERS AND NON-RUNNERS
- PRIZES FOR HALLOWEEN DECORATED HOMES ALONG RACE ROUTE

BLUE BUILDING, 215 W. COLVILLE ST., MCMINNVILLE, TN 37110

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTHERN STANDARD

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS AND MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO SOUTHERN STANDARD.

ALL CHILDREN RECEIVE A PARTICIPATION MEDAL.

FEES FOR THE RACE ARE RUNNERS \$25, WALKERS \$10.

AWARDS 10-YEAR BRACKETS