January 21, 2022

This newsletter is brought to you by the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation highlighting important information regarding agriculture and rural life in Tennessee.

Mayberry Moment

It seems 2022 has barely even started and it has already been a bit of a whirlwind. Thankfully, it's been a fun whirlwind full of visiting with old and new friends at various events and meetings. I'll tell you - times continue to seem challenging, but as I visit with those involved in our most important industry, I can't help but remain hopeful. Each of you are optimistic, positive and eager to work hard to ensure agriculture remains strong. I cannot thank you enough for what you do, and Lynn and I look forward to meeting so many more of you in the coming weeks and months!

By: TFBF President Eric Mayberry

Policy Point

The 112th General Assembly gaveled in for its second regular session on Tuesday, January 11. Thus far, lawmakers’ primary focus has been redistricting. The Senate passed the new congressional and state legislative district maps, and the House is scheduled to vote on the floor on Monday, January 24.

It is important Farm Bureau leaders stay informed throughout the legislative session. The best way to stay up to date on Farm Bureau issues is through the Legislative Alert, which is emailed each Friday. If you would like to be added to the Legislative Alert list, contact your county Farm Bureau or the Public Policy Division at 931-388-7872 ext. 2231.
TFBF Insurance Director Jason Luckey Steps Down
Jason Luckey, Tennessee Farm Bureau Insurance District I Director, announced at the Tennessee Farm Bureau board of directors meeting held during the American Farm Bureau Convention his resignation to focus on his family’s farming operation in Gibson County. Read more.

Fayette County's Willie German Named TFBF Insurance Director
In keeping with the organization’s by-laws, Willie German of Fayette County was appointed by the board of directors to fill the vacancy and serve the remainder of the unexpired term. German, along with his family, farms row crops on more than 8,500 acres and raises roughly 100-head of cattle. Read more.

Aiken Appointed Deputy Commissioner for TDA
Tennessee Farm Bureau's 8th state president, Jeff Aiken, was recently appointed Deputy Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Aiken will oversee many of the day-to-day operations for the department and assist in directing staff, supporting programs and collaborating on policy development. Read more.

Litz Appointed FSA State Executive Director for Tennessee
President Joe Biden announced John Litz as executive director for the Farm Service Agency in Tennessee. A lifetime farmer in Hamblen County, Litz was born and raised on his family farm in Morristown that he and his wife, Kathy, now share. They grow 3,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, turf grass and a vineyard. Read more.
Four years ago, your efforts created the Navigable Waters Protection Rule. This rule fixed the problems of the 2015 WOTUS Rule, bringing clarity to how you farm. However, on December 7, 2021, the EPA and Army Corps proposed a new rule that would reverse the Navigable Waters Protection Rule and bring back the troubling pre-2015 regulatory regime. Farm Bureau is urging EPA to recognize the burden this overreaching regulations places on farmers, and keep the term "navigable" in the Clean Water Act regulations. Once again, we need YOUR help! Write to protect the rule and prevent a return to regulatory uncertainty. The deadline to send comments is February 7, 2022.

Other Information

Order a personalized Tennessee Farm Bureau "proud member" farm sign. View photos from American Farm Bureau's 103rd annual meeting in Atlanta.

Mark your calendar!

- FEB. 7, 8 & 10: TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU WEBINAR - COUNTY FARM BUREAUS
- MARCH 1 & 2: TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU LEGISLATIVE VISITS - NASHVILLE
- MARCH 22: NATIONAL AG DAY & AG DAY ON THE HILL - NASHVILLE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU.

VIDEO
We had an absolute blast at American Farm Bureau's 103rd convention in Atlanta. Take a look at a short recap from the trip.
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