

Course Planned For Those Considering Opportunities In Small Acreage Farming

SPRING HILL, TENN.

Landowners and transitional farmers looking to turn their small acreage into profits should make plans to attend a two-session course designed to help them learn how to best utilize their land resources and start a successful small farm enterprise.

Extension agents frequently field calls from landowners with small acreages and limited knowledge of agricultural production and marketing. They wonder both what they should farm and what they should do so that farming is profitable. That's a really hard set of questions to answer since so many different variables affect a farm's success.

"These workshops are ideal for small acreage landowners and hobbyists considering a new agricultural enterprise," says Amy Ladd, a marketing expert with the University of Tennessee Center for Profitable Agriculture. "Our goal is for participants to leave this course with a better understanding of the steps to consider when selecting, planning and successfully operating a small farm."

Workshop topics will address issues such as

skill assessment, soil fertility and suitability, enterprise selection, farm planning, direct marketing, agricultural enterprise opportunities, regulations and legal considerations and production methods. Each participant will receive a notebook and flash drive containing workshop presentations and resource materials and one complementary soil analysis from the UT soil lab.

The "Developing Small Farm Enterprises" course will held in Spring Hill, on April 13 and 20. Workshops will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. each day.

The cost of the workshop series is \$50 per person if registered prior to April 1. Registration after that date is \$60 per person. Pre-registration is required as enrollment is limited. The registration fee includes workshop materials, sessions and lunch each day.

A registration form and additional information are available on the Center for Profitable Agriculture website: <http://cpa.utk.edu>, or by contacting John Campbell, UT Extension Area Farm Management Specialist at 931-375-5301 or by e-mail at jccampbell@utk.edu. Δ

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