

Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program

The Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program is designed to improve farm income in Tennessee and to facilitate participation with the national animal identification program. These goals will be achieved by providing cost share funds for beef and dairy cattle producers to upgrade the genetics of their cattle and install cattle handling equipment. The details of the cost share are still being worked out. Funding for the program was provided within Tennessee Governor Bredesen's budget and approved by the General Assembly.

The program consists of two major components: a cattle genetic improvement program and a cattle handling facilities program. Both programs utilize cost share incentives to encourage producers and markets to improve herds and facilities. Producers may receive up to a maximum of 35% or \$700, whichever is smaller, for the improved genetics program and up to a maximum of 35% or \$850, whichever is smaller, for the handling facilities program. Producers may receive up to a maximum of \$175 for a herd evaluation. In addition, up to 400 producers can receive \$50 toward their fee for the Master Beef Producer Program.

The cattle genetics cost share will be available for the purchase of a superior bull or for an artificial insemination program. The handling facilities cost share will be for a squeeze chute, corrals, scales or other livestock handling facilities components.

To qualify for the cost share, or the \$50.00 incentive for the Master Beef Producer Program producers must have a Premise Identification Number and have their Beef Quality Assurance Certification.

Producers will need to pre-qualify for the program by completing the Request for Cost Share Application form. Questions concerning this program may be addressed by calling the Cattle Improvement Initiative Coordinator at Tennessee Department of Agriculture at 615-837-5160. Additional details are also available at www.picktnproducts.org.