



Happy
Fall!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- We Can Help You!
- Cattle Market News
- Forestry News
- What's News:
Master Gardener
Course Registration
Lee County Classic
Livestock Show
Floral Workshop
Exhibit Days
- Lee County Programs:
Bloom at Noon
Composting Class
Cattlemen Association
Forestry Association
4-H Programs
- September/October
County Events
Calendar
- Lee County Extension
Service Links &
Contact Information

We Can Help You!



Fall is right around the corner. Are you working hard to complete all your summer goals, possibly revamping the landscape in your yard, planting a garden for fall harvest, freezing or canning vegetables for the winter months, winterizing your pasture, or preparing food plots for the upcoming hunting seasons? The list can go on and on and on. Don't fall short when it comes to getting it all done. Your Lee County Extension Office has resources to help you have an edge on planning, preparation, and completion of your summer endeavors.

In the Lee County Extension Office, we offer numerous ways to assist you. We have free literature addressing many of your home, garden, yard, pasture, and land needs. If you can't find a particular publication in our lobby, we can access the extensive online library available on the [Mississippi State University Extension website](#) to further advise you. Our publications provide a wealth of knowledge based on years of research from highly educated Mississippi State University specialists.

Maybe you would like more personalized guidance? Our agents are ready to assist you! They can listen to your issues and educate you on methods that can get you closer to achieving your goals. Whether it is checking pressure canning lids, collecting soil samples, helping identify issues with your plants, conducting water tests on your pond, or submitting your forages for quality nutrient testing, we can find a solution that fits your needs and help you cross items off that list!

We also offer opportunities to participate in programs, workshops, and webinars locally and across the state. Many take a more in depth approach and open up the possibilities of future projects. Be sure to go to our website and follow our [Facebook](#) page to keep up with all that is offered in our office and in extension.

Here in our newsletter, upcoming program dates are featured on page 4 with our September & October calendars on page 5. You may stop by our office, call, or email using the contact information on page 6. We look forward to hearing from you soon, and have a happy fall!

5338 CLIFF GOOKIN BLVD., TUPELO, MS 38801

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination in university employment, programs, or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status protected by applicable law is prohibited.

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. ANGUS L. CATCHOT JR., Director

CATTLE MARKET NEWS

Ground Beef Production and the Balance of Lean and Fat Trimmings

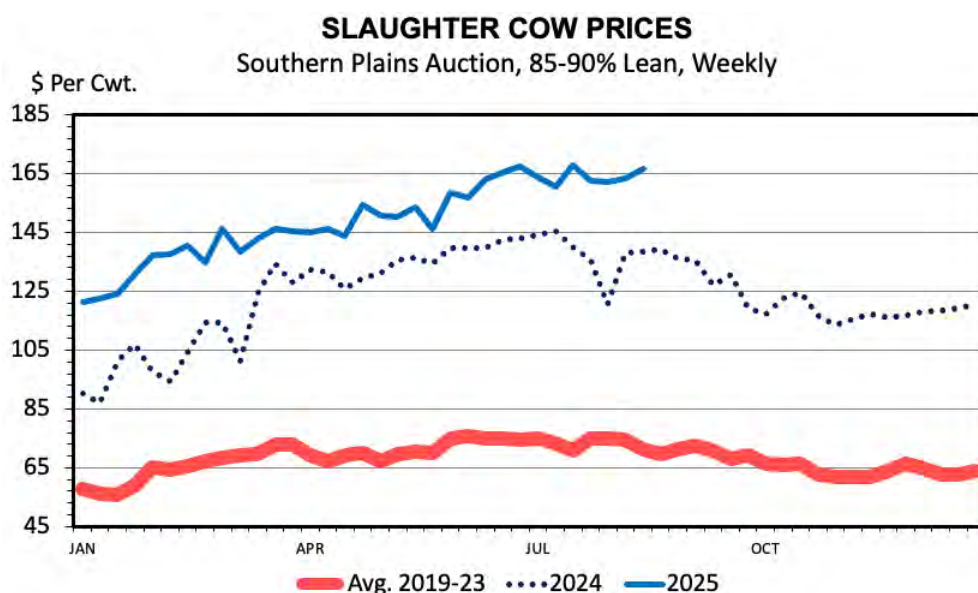
By: James Mitchell, University of Arkansas



Domestic lean trim supplies are down because of lower cow slaughter. Through June, combined beef and dairy cow slaughter is down 13%, translating to an estimated 10% decline in domestic lean trimmings production. Lean trimmings from cull cows and bulls are the primary source of 85s and 90s used in ground beef. At the same time, fed steer and heifer dressed weights remain historically high. Through June, fed cattle slaughter is down 4%, but dressed steer weights are up 3%, adding more pounds of fat trim. The net result is a trim market with proportionally less lean and more fat.

With cow slaughter down and fed cattle dressed weights up, imports of lean trim become essential. So far in 2025, imports are sharply higher, up 28% in June and 33% year to date, and the majority of those imports are lean trimmings. Brazil was the leading source through the first half of the year, accounting for 25% of total U.S. beef imports, though tariff increases will limit volumes going forward. This places more emphasis on other suppliers such as Australia and New Zealand, where year-to-date imports are up 35% and 8%, respectively.

Imports of lean trim help balance the U.S. beef trimmings market. Otherwise, an adjustment occurs through higher prices that ration limited lean trim across end users.



Data Source: USDA-AMS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-P-35
08/18/25

Lee County Cattlemen Association will meet Thursday, September 18th, 6 PM, for an educational program on Crossbreeds & EPD's by Libby Durst, Mississippi State University Extension Associate II. Be sure to call 662-841-9000 by 12 PM on Tuesday, September 16th, to reserve your seat if you plan to eat. They will meet again Thursday, October 16th, 6 PM. Again, be sure to call 662-841-9000 by 12 PM on Tuesday, October 14th, to reserve your seat if you plan to eat.

FORESTRY NOTES



Managing the Family Forest in Mississippi - The Management Plan

Brady Self, Associate Extension Professor, Forestry, and John B. Auel, Certification Programs Coordinator, Mississippi Forestry Association, Revised from earlier work by Britton Hatcher, former Extension Associate

Do I Need a Forest Management Plan?

Timber and timberland are valuable assets, and landowners cannot afford to ignore the importance of proper management. A forest-management plan provides you with the direction needed to successfully reach your goals and objectives in a precise and efficient manner. A plan can also reduce the chance of making costly mistakes with long-term consequences. Of course, if your objectives change, you may need to modify your management plan.

In addition to providing direction for forestry-related activities on the property, a plan may also provide an opportunity for you as a landowner to obtain assistance through state and federal cost-share programs. These programs can provide financial assistance for landowners engaging in responsible management practices. Limited funding under such programs is sometimes available on a first-come, first-served basis for qualifying landowners. An approved forest-management plan is necessary for forestland to be certified in programs such as the American Tree Farm System, Forest Stewardship Council, or any number of other certification programs worldwide.

Determine Goals and Objectives

When determining goals and objectives, you must start with forest-management planning. A plan will help you determine what you want your property to be and provide in the future. This process helps identify opportunities and available resources. Remember, opportunities and resources may vary depending on your goals and objectives. A plan can help you concentrate on enhancing the aspects and values of forestland most important to you. These can be aesthetics, immediate financial return, long-term financial gain, inheritance values, recreational opportunities, improvement of wildlife habitat, and others.

Once you have determined where you want to go, you need to inventory and evaluate your property's resources to help determine where you are. A detailed inventory will tell a lot about your property, such as stand types, landscape features, and wildlife information.

Once you have determined where you are in the process, the next step is to take necessary actions to get your property where you want it to be. Specific activities listed in the management plan detail how, when, and where to implement scheduled management activities to help reach your goals and objectives.

Obtain a Written Forest Management Plan

Obtaining a written plan is easy; however, there are several things to consider. As noted above, the first step is to determine your goals and objectives. The next step is to seek the help of a professional. Most often, landowners work with private consulting foresters. Consulting foresters charge a fee for their services, but, once hired, they are obligated to represent your interests. They can take your goals and objectives and turn them into a proactive plan that helps you reach your target. In addition, the Mississippi Forestry Commission, through the Forest Stewardship Program, can produce management plans for landowners for a small fee. If you are interested in this program, contact your nearest MFC area forester.

A good forest-management plan has many components; however, not all plans are the same and can vary from simple to complex. Some of the components that should be included in the plan include ownership goals and objectives, a detailed property boundary description, inventory data, management recommendations, activity schedules, and maps of the property.



Explore this complete publication & more information on the extension website at:
<https://extension.msstate.edu/publications/managing-the-family-forest-mississippi>

Join us for the next Forestry meeting, Monday, November 3rd, at 6 PM.

Call 662-841-9000 by 12 PM on Friday, October 31st, to reserve your seat.

What's NEWS?



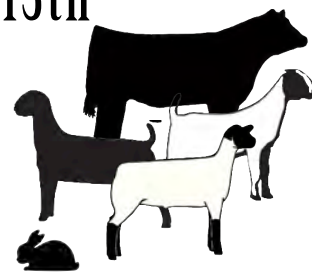
Registration ends September 10th to become a Lee County Master Gardener!



Master Gardener Course Registration is open & closes September 10th. The self-paced course is online and conducted from October 1st through December 3rd. You can register online using the following link: msuext.ms/mg Please feel free to share this information with a horticulture enthusiast you may know! **For more information contact Susan McGukin at 662-841-9000.**

Lee County Classic Livestock Show - September 12th & 13th
at Lee County/MAFES Agri-Center, 5395 MS-145, Verona, MS

Friday shows will be the Rabbit Show at 3 PM & Dairy Goat Show at 6 PM. Saturday shows will be the Beef Show at 10:30 AM, Goat Show at 11 AM, & Sheep Show at 2 PM. Come support our youth, enjoy good company, and admire quality livestock!



Floral Workshop

Friday, September 19th, 1:30 - 3 PM

5338 Cliff Gookin Blvd., Tupelo

Learn the art of hand tying bouquets.

\$45/Person includes flowers & materials

Registration available through September 15th using this link or scan the QR Code.

https://reg.extension.msstate.edu/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0081-0004-coe3b492ea294659b3d107eafdbob3b8



EXHIBIT DAYS THANK YOU!

This is a **BIG "THANK YOU"** to all exhibitors, the Lee County Board of Supervisors, the Tupelo Children's Mansion, and all who helped make our 2025 Exhibit Days possible! It was wonderful to see what imagination & creativity we have in our local area. We hope you continue to cultivate your passions, and we look forward to next year!

Bloom at Noon will host Anita Alef, Tuesday, **September 9th.** She will present "Peak of Fall Picnic", a program perfect for the tailgate enthusiast to the holiday host. Follow the Lee County Extension Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyextensionms> for more information. Call ahead to reserve your seat at 662-841-9000!



COMPOSTING CLASS by Lee County Master Gardener Dale Smith on **Tuesday, October 14th, 5:30 PM**, at Lee County Extension Office. Call 662-841-9000 to reserve your seat!



Lee County Cattlemen Association connects local cattlemen and provides access to learning & knowledge for the betterment of their cattle herds, from farm to plate. The next meetings are **Thursday, September 18th, at 6 PM & Thursday, October 16th, at 6 PM.**

Call by 12 PM the Tuesday before the meeting to reserve your seat.



Lee County Forestry Association brings together local land owners interested in proper land & timber management. The next meeting will be **Monday, November 3rd at 6 PM.**

You will need to call by Friday, October 31st, to reserve your seat.



We also offer many opportunities for youth ages 5-18 in our 4-H programs.



Please call us at 662-841-9000 for more information or to reserve your seat at our next program!

09



EXTENSION

SEPTEMBER



2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 31 | 01 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY <i>Labor Day</i> | 02 Foodie Club 10-18 5 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office Back Kitchen | 03 Crochet Club 10-18 4:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 04 | 05 | 06 |
| 07 | 08 Cloverbuds 5-7 & Jr Leaf 8-13 4:30 PM Rabbit Club 6 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 09 Bloom at Noon 12 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office Aggies 6 PM Lee Co./MAFES AgriCenter Verona, MS - Show Prep | 10 Master Gardener Online Course Registration Closes TODAY | 11 Expressive Arts Ages 8-13 3:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 12 Lee Co. Classic Livestock Show Lee Co/MAFES Agri-Center, Verona, MS | 13 Lee Co. Classic Livestock Show Lee Co/MAFES Agri-Center Verona, MS |
| 14 | 15 Ropes & Reins 6 PM Lee Co. Ext Office | 16 Sewing Club 10-18 3:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 17 | 18 Lee Co. Cattlemen Association 6 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 19 Floral Workshop \$45 1:30 - 3 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office Registration Required | 20 |
| 21 | 22 STEM Club 5-13 4:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 23 | 24 | 25 Junior Master Gardener 8-13 4 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 |

10



EXTENSION

OCTOBER



2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---|--|---|--|------------------------|---|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 01 Crochet Club 10-18 4:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 02 | 03 | 04 |
| 05 | 06 | 07 Expressive Arts Ages 8-13 3:30 PM Foodie Club 10-18 Lee Co. Ext. Office | 08 Plant Science Experiment Contest DUE TODAY Lee Co. Ext. Office | 09 | 10 | 11 4-H Day at the Fair, Jackson, MS |
| 12 | 13 Cloverbuds 5-7 & Jr Leaf 8-13 4:30 PM Rabbit Club 6 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 14 Composting Class 5:30 PM Aggies 8-18 6 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 15 | 16 Lee Co. Cattlemen Association 6 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Ropes & Reins 8-18 6:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 21 Sewing Club 10-18 3:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 22 | 23 Junior Master Gardener 8-13 4 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 STEM Club 5-13 4:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 HALLOWEEN | 01 |

Lee County Extension Office Staff:

Warner Creekmore
warner.creekmore@msstate.edu

Jan Garrett
jan.garrett@msstate.edu

Cassandra Hainsworth
cassandra.hainsworth@msstate.edu

Susan McGukin
susan.mcgukin@msstate.edu

Rosanne Brown
rosanne.brown@msstate.edu

Contact Us:



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION



662-841-9000



5338 Cliff Gookin Blvd.
Tupelo, MS 38801



www.extension.msstate.edu



<https://www.facebook.com/leecountyextensionms>



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI STATE, MISSISSIPPI 39762-5446
PO BOX 5446

EXTENSION

MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™