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# TVMA

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# TIDBITS

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TVMA Tidbits June 15, 2025

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## My Two Cents

By: Walter Clark, DVM, DABVP

“Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better.”

~ Sydney J.

Harris

I like to start each column with a quote that gives the reader a clue as to my topic of choice. I usually use a quote from a very famous person, Einstein, JFK, Gandhi, so that we don't have to run to Google to find out who said that. This column is an exception.

I had to look this up, but Sydney J. Harris was a longtime columnist for the Chicago Daily News and the Chicago Sun Times. His syndicated work was published in about 200 newspapers across North America. Not as famous or well-known today, but I thought this quote was especially appropriate for this column.

Declinism is the most direct term for the belief that a society, institution, or even the world in general is tending towards decline. It's the tendency to view the past more favorably and the future more negatively.

Think about how fondly we reminisce about the “good old days.” We tend to think that the future looks pretty bleak, that our best days are behind us, and that we may not be able to bounce back. [Read more...](#)



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## Justin Rhinehart Named Permanent Dean of UT Extension

Justin Rhinehart, who has been serving as interim dean of Extension, took on the role on a permanent basis June 1.

Many of you are familiar with Justin's work. He has served UTIA as a professor in the Department of Animal Science and as Extension beef cattle specialist, as well as assistant dean of agriculture and natural



resources and community economic development.

A native of Loudon County, Justin's family managed a diversified farming operation growing livestock, tobacco and nursery crops along with family in Jefferson County. He earned his bachelor of science degree from what is now the Herbert College of Agriculture in 1999 in agriculture and Extension education and went on to earn an MS and PhD in reproductive physiology from the University of Kentucky and West Virginia University, respectively. Justin served as assistant Extension professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Mississippi State University before joining the Department of Animal Science in 2010 as an assistant professor and Extension beef cattle specialist.

Justin has moved up through the professorial ranks, winning many awards and recognitions and co-authoring numerous academic papers and Extension publications. Among his many awards, he is the recipient of the UT Institute of Agriculture's Charles and Patricia Goan Excellence in Customer Service Award in 2021.

As an Extension beef cattle specialist, Justin translated research findings into management practices that improve the profitability of beef cattle production and the quality of life for beef cattle farmers. He has coordinated the Tennessee Master Beef Producer program that annually trains more than 2,000 beef cattle farmers on improving the health and well-being of their livestock, economic and environmental sustainability of their farming operation, and quality and safety of the food they produce. He also provided leadership for the Tennessee Beef Heifer Development Program, the Tennessee Bull Development and Evaluation Program, and the Bovine Reproductive Management Training Program.

We would like to take a moment to thank Chris Clark and Vicki Niederhauser, who chaired the search committee, the committee members, and Brooke Swart, our UT Human Resources recruiter. These folks worked tirelessly to ensure a successful search.

UT Extension is the embodiment of the Institute of Agriculture's promise to provide Real. Life. Solutions. We are thrilled that Justin will lead the talented and dedicated UT Extension faculty and staff.

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## Welcome New Members

We had five new members join during the month of May. Please make Tiffany Heaton in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Karlee Isham in Nashville, Tennessee, Farah Kuchcicki in Farmingville, New York, Mariam Shaker in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, and Callie Taylor in Lebanon, Tennessee feel welcome.



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## Guard Against Screwworm: What You Need To Know

New World screwworm (NWS) is spreading northward in Mexico, prompting the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to suspend live animal imports through ports of entry along the southern border. A new AVMA resource spells out what veterinary professionals need to know to recognize and respond to this flesh-eating fly should it breach the border. [Read more ...](#)



**Wednesday, June 25 - 1 pm CST**

LafeberVet is offering a FREE, live, interactive webinar that is RACE-approved for 1 credit hour. The Webinar will be presented by Claire Vergneau-Grosset, DMV, IPSAV, CES, DACZM.

Freshwater fish are the most common pets in North America, with over 139 million kept in U.S. households. Historically, fish medicine has focused on population-based care—a model still relevant in aquaculture and research settings. However, a more individualized approach is gaining ground. In this live, interactive, RACE-approved webinar (1 credit hour), Dr. Vergneau-Grosset will cover key aspects of individual fish care. Topics include history taking, water quality assessment, physical exams under anesthesia, and comparative diagnostic methods such as clinical pathology and imaging. This session will also review core principles of medical and surgical treatment.

[Register Now](#)

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## Aging With Grace

As you age, taking care of your health becomes more important. Things like eating well, staying active, and regular doctor visits can make a difference in your overall health. Think about building simple changes into your life, start today! [Click here](#) to find out how.



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## VPH Webinar

A Trifocal Approach to Improving Professional Wellbeing in Veterinary Practice

Presenter: Angie Arora, MSW, RSW

Wednesday, July 3 - 1:30 PM CT



Veterinary professionals often work in high-stress, trauma-exposed environments, which can take a toll on emotional well-being, job satisfaction, and team performance. This session introduces a practical 'trifocal framework' designed to help individuals and organizations navigate stress and foster healthier, more supportive workplaces by focusing on:

- Organizational Health: Psychological safety and trauma-informed practices
- Team Health: Effective debriefing and strengthening interpersonal effectiveness
- Individual Health: Nervous system care, emotional regulation, and stress management

Participants will gain concrete tools and resources they can apply right away and be empowered to foster hope, connection, and well-being even in the most challenging professional environments.

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