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**“NEW EXTENSION SPECIALIST NAMED TO LEAD PROGRAM IN UPPER CUMBERLAND”**

*Spring Hill, Tennessee* - - Director of UT’s *Center for Profitable Agriculture* Dan Wheeler recently announced the hiring of Ben Sanders as Extension Specialist in the Center. Sanders is a native of Bradley County, Tennessee, where he grew up on the family dairy farm. He has a MS degree in Agricultural Economics and a BS degree in Animal Science, both from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

“We’re excited to have Ben join our Center,” said Wheeler. “ His strong educational background and farm experience as well as his knowledge of UT Extension and Tennessee agriculture will serve us well. Ben will be an asset to the educational programs of our Center and a great resource to the farmers of Tennessee,” said Wheeler.

Sanders’ primary role in the Center is to coordinate a targeted educational initiative in 19 Tennessee counties in the Upper Cumberland region. The program is titled “Developing Rural Businesses” and will concentrate on conducting workshops and meetings and providing one-on-one assistance to farmers who are considering value-added agriculture enterprises.

Sanders joins six other full-time University of Tennessee Extension employees in the *Center for Profitable Agriculture* which is located at the Middle Tennessee Experiment Station in Spring Hill, Tennessee. The *Center for Profitable Agriculture* is a partnership educational outreach program between UT Extension and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation. The *Center for Profitable Agriculture* is the state’s flagship program for value-added agriculture. The Center conducts feasibility and marketing analysis for value-added agriculture ideas, develops educational and training programs across the state and assists in the evaluation and development of new and innovative agriculture business ventures. The Center’s web site is <http://cpa.utk.edu>

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