



MEDIA RELEASE

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MARKET DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

www.PickTnProducts.org

MEDIA ADVISORY
April 14, 2014

CONTACT: Pamela Bartholomew
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Impending Cold Snap, Freeze Risk May Threaten State's Strawberry Crop, Fruit Trees

NASHVILLE - Tennessee's highly anticipated strawberry crop has survived a roller coaster weather ride until now, but low temperatures, wind chill and moisture has area strawberry growers working overtime to protect the valuable berries. Generally, this year's crop has been on schedule to be ready for first picking around the first of May.

Other fruit-bearing trees may also be affected by a hard freeze. A little frost can actually be a good thing, naturally weeding out enough blooms that the remaining blossoms can produce bigger, better fruits, but depending on how much the warm, sunny days of the past week have prompted tender shoots and buds to expose themselves to the elements, it could also spell disaster.

Contact Dr. David Lockwood, UT Institute of Agriculture, (865) 414-2412, for details about how particular crops, from strawberries to grapes and fruit trees, may be affected by approaching weather conditions. Additional contacts are available through Patricia McDaniels, UT Institute of Agriculture Marketing and Communications, (615) 835-4570.

Contact Tennessee Department of Agriculture specialist Pamela Bartholomew at 615-517-9743 for more information or visit www.picktnproducts.org.

The following Tennessee strawberry and fruit crop growers have been contacted to be ready for media calls and farm visits to see how farmers prepare for such potential frost damage events:

West Tennessee

Moore Farms Strawberries

Ben Moore family
270 Watts Rd.
Dresden, TN 38225
Cell - (731) 431-2022
Home - (731) 364-5510

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Green Acres Farm (strawberries)

Denton Clay Parkins

158 Medina Highway

Milan, TN 38358 (Gibson County)

Phone: (731) 686-1403

E-mail: greenacresfarmmilantn@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.greenacresfarmmilantn.com>

Middle Tennessee

Batey Farms (strawberries)

Brandon Whitt, Manager

3250 Medical Center Parkway

Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Phone: (615) 848-4178 (615) 890-1608

Web: <http://bateyfarms.com>

Bradley Kountry Acres & Greenhouse (strawberries, fruit trees, greenhouses)

Mike & Cathy Bradley

650 Jake Link Rd

Cottontown, TN 37048 (Sumner County)

Phone: (615) 325-2836 OR (615) 335 -9310

E-mail: cathy@bradleykountryacres.com

Web: <http://www.bradleykountryacres.com>

Shade Tree Farm (apple orchard, berries)

Tom Head, Farm Manager & Grower

2087 Kinneys Road

Adams, TN 37010 (Robertson County)

Phone: (615) 696-2915

Fax: (615) 696-2915

E-mail: trhead@aol.com

Web: <http://www.head2thefarm.com>

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East Tennessee

Fruit and Berry Patch (variety of berries, fruit trees)

J. Dennis Fox

Owner

4407 McCloud Road

Knoxville, TN 37938 (Knox County)

Phone: (865) 922-3779 (865) 385-8654 or (865) 92-b-e-r-r-y

E-mail: dennisfox@tds.net

Web: <http://www.fruitandberrypatch.com>

Buffalo Trail Orchard

Phillip Ottinger (orchard, berries)

1890 Dodd Branch Road

Greeneville, TN 37743 (Greene County)

Phone: (423) 639-2297

E-mail: buffalotrailorchard@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.buffalotrailorchard.com>

Black Oak Farms (strawberries, peach trees)

David & Janet Cantrell, Owners

7235 Corryton Road

Corryton, TN 37721 (Knox County)

Phone: (865) 687-6900

E-mail: brotherdave01@aol.com

Web: <http://blackoakfarmstn.com>

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