AGRICULTURAL VALUE  
3/14/17  
  
I do not think its too big of a stretch to say the agricultural business is a significant sector of Sevier County Tennessee's economy. Agricultural production, farming, and especially beef cattle generates a large economic "footprint." The economic generation occurs daily, but we often see or hear little from these farm families who take pride in raising their crops and livestock.  
  
The direct value of agricultural products and commodities raised on our family farms is some $ 12.1 million, of which 57.4 % is generated from raising beef cattle.  
  
The raising of these agricultural products and commodities accounts for some 580 full and part-time jobs. The raising of beef cattle accounts for 55 % of these jobs.  
  
The total impact of Sevier County Agricultural products and commodities includes the direct value ( mentioned previously ) raised on family farms, plus input supplier economic activity generated from farm suppliers such as: Equipment dealers; Automotive dealers; Equipment parts and repairs; Hardware's; Transportation ( fuel and lubricants); Restaruants; Grocery stores; Insurance; also the additional household purchases of many everyday goods and services.  
  
The total impact for Sevier Counties economy when these trickle down ( multiplier ) effects are taken into account is some $ 14.9 million, with 58.1 % generated from raising beef cattle.  
  
Likewise, the employment from the total direct and input supplier economic activity generates some 634 full and part-time jobs, of which 57.4 % are created from raising beef cattle.  
  
A down cycle environment from late 2015 and throughout 2016 that agriculture has experienced, espically beef cattle, may alter these cattle percentages for the future. However, 2017 brings a slight trend of "guarded optimism" concerning agricultural economic activity.  
  
The importance of our family farms and the contributions made by farming communities and surrounding regions can not be over emphasized.  
  
Reference: Implan using 2014 data and 2014 dollars.  
  
Articles of interest  
1- [Tennessee's Top Ten](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/tennessee_agriculture_top_ten_135_427_thoughts.docx)  
2- [Agriculture and Exports](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/agriculture_and_exports.docx)  
3-[Livestock Stewardship](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/stewardship_030214_editoral.doc)  
4-[No Antibiotics In Milk](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/no_anabiotics_in_milk_thoughts_and_views.docx)