The Quite Economy

Our Agricultural production, farming and especially cattle, generates a large economical “footprint” for Sevier County, Tennessee. The economic generation is rather quiet as we often see or hear little from these quietly working farm families. The direct value of these agricultural products and commodities raised on Sevier County family farms is $12.3 million of which 35.9% is from cattle.

These agricultural products and commodities accounts for some 537 full and part-time jobs, which 15.4% of these jobs are created from raising cattle.

The impact from Sevier County agriculture, which includes the direct value of agriculture products and commodities raised on farms (mentioned previously) plus the input supplies economic activity from farm suppliers: equipment dealers, parts dealers, hardware, fuel and transportation. Also, additional household spending for goods and services resulting from the many agricultural enterprises. The total impact for the Sevier County economy, when the multiplier (trickle down) effects are taken into account is $14.2 million with 35% generated by raising cattle.

Likewise, the total impacts generates 575 full and part-time jobs of which 16% are created from raising cattle.

The agricultural products and commodities raised on these Sevier County farms for the local economy includes a wide variety, but not limited to beef cattle and calves, crops such as corn, soybeans, hays vegetables, nursery plants, orchards, greenhouses and various other crops.

Thinking of Sevier County, we too often think of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, Dollywood and Sevierville that is why I refer to agriculture as the quiet economy.

The importance of our family farms and farming communities within Sevier County and surrounding regions cannot be over emphasized.