

Livestock Management in Winter

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January, February, March, and sometimes even April can provide wintry weather. While observing the snow-covered scenery can be beautiful, it provides many challenges to individuals with livestock. Sabrina Schirtziner and Dr. Tim McDermott, both Ohio State University Extension Educators, have recently written a fact sheet highlighting key tips for caring for backyard chickens in the winter. While the fact sheet is tailored toward chickens, it provides basic livestock care guidelines for all animals during the winter months.

Water is a key component to animal survival, but freezing temperatures make this a challenge during the winter months. Schirtziner and McDermott recommend to change water frequently to prevent freezing. Check the water in the evening to ensure that the animals have access to water for the full 24-hour time. “Even automatic waters can freeze if not heated or insulated” according to Schirtziner and McDermott. Heated waterers or containers may help prevent water from freezing, but should be used with caution as these devices could cause a fire.

To prepare a pen or coop for animals in the winter, the space should be thoroughly cleaned. A large quantity of fresh, clean bedding should be provided for the animals. According to Schirtziner and McDermott, the fresh bedding provides “an insulation effect.” Additionally, keeping animals warm by blocking drafts will help with insulating the space.

For more tips on how to maintain livestock in the winter, contact the Highland County Extension Office at 937-393-1918. Copies of Schirtziner and McDermott’s fact sheet are available through the Extension Office or online via <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-66>.

Upcoming Events:

A fifth **Beef Quality Assurance Training** will be held at Union Stockyards on Tuesday, January 22, 2018, at 6:30 P.M. Please RSVP to the Highland County Extension Office at 937-393-1918.

The next **Highland County Master Gardener Volunteer** meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 10 AM in the Large Meeting Room in the basement of 110 Governor Foraker Place, Hillsboro, OH.

Fertilizer and Pesticide Recertifications:

February 19, 2019

Ponderosa Banquet Center, 545 S. High Street, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

5:00 pm to 6:00 pm Fertilizer Recertification – Private and Commercial

6:30 pm Pesticide Recertification (Core, 1, 2,3, 4, 5, 6) Private Applicators Only

March 4, 2018

Ponderosa Banquet Center, 545 S. High Street, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

10:00 am to 11:00 am Fertilizer Recertification – Private and Commercial

11:30 am Pesticide Recertification (Core, 1, 2,3, 4, 5, 6) Private Applicators Only

Registration details will come in the mail from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Registration for OSU Extension Pesticide and Fertilizer and your renewal application for ODA Pesticide/Fertilizer must both be completed. Meals will be included at each recertification training at Ponderosa.