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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Adams and Brown Counties

Ohio Valley Extension Education Research Area

Tobacco Museum Fundraiser

The reverse raffle to benefit the Ohio Tobacco Museum is just a few days away. The date is Saturday, April 14 at Ripley Elementary School. The meal begins at 6:30 p.m. and the drawing will begin at 7:30 p.m.

We still have a few tickets remaining for the raffle. Tickets are \$100 each and we will only sell 300 maximum. The \$100 ticket gains you entry for the drawing and a meal catered by the Scioto Ribber, the same place that catered the event last year. We did have a few complaints about the meal last year, the complaint was always the same, the STEAK WAS TOO BIG!

Remember the drawing will have several winners. The first of the tickets drawn will win \$100. The tenth ticket drawn and every tenth ticket after that will win \$100 until we get to the last 5 tickets. The last five will win in order, \$250, \$500, \$750, \$1000 and the final ticket drawn will win \$8000.

We still have a few tickets available. You can call 937-371-5622 or 937-515-2881 if you would like more information or to purchase a ticket. You can also call Ripley Builders Supply at 392-1371 or stop by to purchase a ticket at 116 Main Street in Ripley.

Tobacco Numbers

Last week I discussed the decline in the number of pounds Burley Tobacco being grown in the US and in Ohio over the past few years. The numbers are pretty staggering if you go back to the 1990s.

Year	U.S. Burley	Ohio
2015	279,069,000	6,859,000
2014	413,916,000	8,428,000
2009	367,290,000	11,220,000
2004	582,475,000	21,842,000
1999	1,054,237,000	32,603,000
1997	1,222,686,000	41,548,000
1992	1,306,260,000	39,727,000

When you look at these numbers, and consider just for Ohio, these are millions of pounds. Tobacco has been in the in the range of \$1.75 to \$2.00 per pound for most of this time for many producers, depending on crop quality. Put those numbers together and it shows impact for Ohio. Consider that Adams and Brown Counties made up nearly two thirds of the tobacco produced in Ohio and it makes it an even bigger impact for this area. From 1997 to 2015 in the numbers above you are looking at nearly 35 million less pounds in Ohio, so nearly 24 million less pounds for Adams and Brown Counties over that span of less than 20 years. Forty plus million dollars less in this area, that is huge.



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With foreign trade being in the news, last year I believe the number I saw was 122 million pounds of burley imported into the United States.

Master Gardener Event

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. to be at the Mt. Orab campus of Southern State Community College. The class will be in Room 107 with Denise Ballinger, president of the Mason County Master Gardeners Association. Denise will share her knowledge of the Monarch Butterfly and her experiences with raising and releasing hundreds of Monarchs each year. As always, these events are free and open to the public. Plan to attend.

Dates to Remember

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| Apr. 4 | Highland Co. Cattlemen Banquet at Ponderosa in Hillsboro. |
| April 9 | Pesticide Testing at Old Y Restaurant at noon. Pre-register at pested.osu.edu or call ODA at 800-282-1955. |
| Apr. 14 | Ohio Tobacco Museum Raffle, Ripley Elem. School, meal at 6:30, draw 7:30 |