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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

David Dugan

OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources

Adams/Brown/Highland Counties

Ohio Valley Extension Education Research Area

Burley Production Way Down in 2016

As I type this coming back to the office from a few days away for the Christmas Holiday, I realize the end of the year is near. By the time you read my next column it will indeed be 2017 and we can be talking about 2016 in the past. As with any year there are good and bad times to talk about. I am sure for some 2016 will hold special times and memories, but some will look back and be glad it is in the past.

For tobacco producers, 2016 will not be a year that is looked back at with a smile. Tobacco production has been in decline for the biggest part of two decades, with only a few good years sprinkled in here and there. The biggest problem for producers has been a declining demand. Some of that is because there are fewer using tobacco, or it sure appears that way to me. It seems odd to see someone light up a smoke these days. However, demand will not be the only thing that producers look at for 2016 with a sour taste. The weather in 2016 was really poor for tobacco production. The following describes the 2016 tobacco season very well. It was in a recent tobacco newsletter that I receive. It indicates just how poor the yields for 2016 appear to be.

Tremendous mid-season rains followed by a dry curing season crippled yields. Most reliable sources say that USDA's last estimate of burley production was way too high at 143 million pounds. Estimates of 110 to 120 million pounds have been suggested, but Rankin doubts it will reach as high as 100 million. "This may be the shortest burley crop ever," he says.

Farmer's Tax Guides

Typically we have the printed version of the Farmer's Tax Guides available in early December. I normally pick these up while on campus for training that has been held the second week in December for the past few years, but this year they were not yet available. At this time, I am told we should see them soon, but not yet.

I will let you know when these become available. Hopefully it will be soon.

Tobacco Museum Fundraiser

Last week I wrote about the Tobacco Museum Fundraiser scheduled for April 8 in Ripley. Tickets are available now. I did receive a few calls and request for tickets in recent days. If you would like more information you can read my previous columns on our website at <http://adams.osu.edu> or you can go to Brown or Highland by substituting the county name into the link.

Dates to Remember

January 9 Pesticide testing at noon, Old Y Restaurant, every month, second Monday.

January 12 Small Farm College in Owensville.

January 17 Ohio Beef School starts at

7:00 p.m. Plan is for two



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locations with one being confirmed as Hillsboro HS Agriculture classroom. The second location is TBD.

There are 2 additional dates of Feb. 7 and Feb. 28, same locations and time.

January 18

Three-hour Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training for those people who do not currently hold a Pesticide Applicator License. Southern State Community College in Hillsboro at 12:30 p.m. or North Adams HS in Seaman at 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited at SSCC so pre-register early by calling Cindy at the Brown Co. Extension Office at (937) 378-6716.

January 26

Three hour Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training and Pesticide Re-certification at OSU South Centers in Piquette. Call to pre-register at the Pike County Extension Office at 740 289-4837.

February 1

Ohio River Valley Agronomy Day at the Mason Co. Extension Office.

February 4

Brown Co. Cattlemen Annual Banquet.

February 7

Beef School.

February 8

Two-hour Fertilizer Certification and three-hour Pesticide Re-certification at North Adams HS with Fertilizer starting at 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. meal, then Pesticide Re-certification 7:30 until 10:30 p.m. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. Call Cindy at the OSU Extension Office at 937-378-6716.

February 9

Two-hour Fertilizer Certification and three-hour Pesticide Re-certification at Southern Hills Board Office in Georgetown with Fertilizer starting at 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. meal, then Pesticide Re-certification 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. Call Cindy at the OSU Extension Office at 937-378-6716.

February 14

Start of Grain Marketing School at the Southern Hills Board Office in Georgetown on five Tuesdays. (Feb. 14, 21, 28, March 7 and 21) The classes will begin at 1:00 p.m. and go until approximately 4:00 p.m. Charge is \$25 and the same class will be offered on Wednesday evenings (the next day) in Chillicothe.

February 15

Two-hour Fertilizer Certification and three-hour Pesticide Re-certification at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro with Fertilizer starting at 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. meal, then Pesticide Re-certification 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. Pre-registration is REQUIRED and space is limited at this location. Call Cindy at the OSU Extension Office at 937-378-6716.

Feb. 28

Beef School.

March 3

Agriculture is Everyone's Business at SSCC in Hillsboro.

March 7

Farm and Family Night at Maysville Community and Technical College.

March 10-11

Southern Ohio Small Farm Conference at Wilmington College. This will include another 3-hour Fertilizer Training.