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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Getting the Cows Ready

Recently I read an article that discussed the need for better management of your cows in the last part of their gestation. The last 3 months are very important for the health of the calf. This winter has been mild, but not without stress for the cows and the producers. The mud has caused stress for cows throughout the month of January with what seemed to be a very wet month. The temperatures were warm, but some frozen ground may have caused less issues for the cows.

As we move forward, I realize some people are in the middle of their calving season, and some do fall calving, but in recent years more and more cow/calf producers are telling me that they like to calve starting in late March. Most indicate wanting to avoid the muddy conditions that March normally seems to have, and less likely to have extreme cold temperatures.

With that said, some of the cows will likely be dropping calves for these producers in six weeks or so. This will be the beginning, but in most cases the calves will come over a period of two to three months. So, if you have not already done so, now is the time to start taking the steps to get the cows headed in the right direction. It may be a need for some extra feed, it might mean some vaccinations, it might even mean sorting a few cows off from the rest of the herd to give them a little TLC.

Older cows in particular, and if you have cows coming with their second calf could be those that need a little extra care. If there is a need for the better hay and maybe some extra feed, these are the groups that I would look at first. Older cows can't compete with mid-aged cows at the bunk or hay ring. The very young cows may have this issue, too. However, the younger cows (2 and maybe 3 year olds) are coming off of just weaning that first calf, they hopefully were able to re-breed, and they may not be done growing themselves. They need a little boost. In an ideal situation, these young cows would be kept separate from the rest of the herd until they have their second calf, but that may not always be possible.

So, extra feed would be a plus to get the cows in good body condition. This will support a healthy fetus and give the cow what she needs, but a good mineral program is also a must at this point. Talk to your local feed store rep or your veterinarian for recommendations for the best minerals for the cows, and don't forget the bulls. Yes, the bulls need minerals leading up to breeding season.

While talking to the veterinarian, you may want to mention the Veterinarian Feed Directive, but also discuss the vaccination programs available for your cows. The cows can be vaccinated for things like scours and pinkeye. The cows will pass the immunity to the newborns.

GAP for Tobacco Growers

The dates that I have confirmed are: Monday February 27 at 1:00 p.m. at the West Union Frisch's; Wednesday March 15 at 1:00 p.m. at the West Union Frisch's; Wednesday March 15 at 6:30 p.m. at North Adams HS in the Round Room; Tuesday March 21 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday March 22 at 1:00 p.m. at the Board Office of Southern Hills Career Center in Georgetown.



As in the past, seating is limited at some sites so we offer several dates for training. Please pre-register for this training by calling Barbie at the Adams Co. Extension Office to reserve a seat for the date and location that works best for you. Barbie can be reached by phone Monday – Friday from 8:30 until noon and 12:30 until 4:00 p.m. at 544-2339 or by e-mail at rowe.316@osu.edu

Dates to Remember

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| 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. Pre-register by Friday, February 10 at the OSU Extension Office at 937-378-6716. |
| February 27 | GAP for Tobacco at 1:00 p.m. at West Union Frisch's. |
| February 28 | Beef School on at the Hillsboro location this week. Hillsboro High 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. |
| March 15 | GAP for Tobacco at 1:00 p.m. at West Union Frisch's and at 6:30 p.m. at North Adams HS. |
| March 21 | GAP for Tobacco at Southern Hills Board Office at 6:30 p.m. |
| March 22 | GAP for Tobacco at Southern Hills Board Office at 1:00 p.m. |
| April 8 | Ohio Tobacco Museum Fundraiser/Reverse Raffle at Ripley Elem. |
| April 8 | Highland County OSU Extension's Dinner and Auction at the Highland Co. Fairgrounds in the evening. |