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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Brown Co. Master Gardener Monthly Program

The next Brown Co. Master Gardener program is coming up Thursday, March 15, 2018. The Garden seminar hosted by OSUE Brown County Master Gardener Volunteers will feature Carrie Taylor, Horticulturalist at Maysville Community and Technical College, discussing Gardening on a Small Scale. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. in Room 107 at the Mt. Orab campus of Southern State Community College. As always all seminars are free and open to the public.

Feed Cows, Yes or No?

If you talk to ten cow calf producers and ask them if they supplement their cows, you may get five yes, and five no answers. Should that be the case or should they all ten answer the same? I guess the easy and best answer to this question is; it depends.

For some of you, your hay may be of very high quality. For some, you may have much more grass than you have momma cows, and the quality of feed has been more than a momma cow needs. However, for most producers that is not the case.

Additional high protein and energy in the form of a supplemental feed is not terribly expensive. When compared to a few weak calves, feed is really cheaper than medications or dead calves.

Additional protein and energy has often been associated with the fear of heavier calves that will cause calving problems. I recently read about some research on this subject in the Beef Blog that discusses additional nutrition and how it can make for a heavier calf at birth. Are you ready for this? The information discussed a calf weighing 2 or 3 pounds more at birth. Yes, I know if you are pulling your guts out trying to get that calf out my ears will be burning for saying only 2 or 3 pounds, but they may not be burning at all. If that cow is in better shape, has more energy she may not even need your help getting that calf on the ground. Add to that thought that the calf will be better off if it hits the ground quickly, because staying in the birth canal for an extended time is not a good thing for a newborn.

With that in mind, some added energy in the last 6 to 8 weeks of gestation may be a good thing to consider. As far as the added protein, you will most likely see a stronger calf that is able to stand and nurse that needed colostrum quicker. While I am thinking colostrum, it will most likely be much better too, as protein is essential for high quality.

Have I convinced you yet? I know it is too late this year for many producers. Several calves are already on the ground, or are getting close. Hopefully your calves are all healthy and calving problems are not something you have had to deal with. If so, then you may want to look feeding next year. The other benefit that I have not touched on is the rebreeding. Cows are more likely to breed back if they are in good body condition.



Bottom line, sick calves are a problem, assisting at birth is a problem, dead calves do not fetch much money, and open cows do nothing for your operation. If a little feed helps reduce one of these issues most people would probably think it is worth the extra effort and money, but if it helps reduce all of these, well you decide.

GAP for Tobacco in Georgetown

With the contracts now out for several growers, I want to make sure people are aware of the fact that there is one remaining GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) training remaining in the area. Please remember you need to attend a GAP training if you plan to sell tobacco with a contract in 2018. We require you to pre-register for the class by March 27 so we can make sure we have seating and materials for everyone.

The class will be on March 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Southern Hills Career and Technical Center. Please call ahead to pre-register. Call Cindy at the Brown County Extension Office at 937-378-6716.

Dates to Remember

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| Mar. 5 | Farm and Family Night at Maysville Community and Technical College. |
| Mar. 15 | Brown Co. Master Gardener Monthly Program at SSCC in Mt. Orab. |
| Mar. 16-18 | Ohio Beef Expo in Columbus at the State Fairgrounds. |
| Mar. 16 | Agriculture is Everyone's Business at Southern State Community College Patriot Center in Hillsboro. Tickets are required. |
| Mar. 24 | Adams Co. Cattlemen Banquet at Adams Co. Fairgrounds. |
| Mar. 28 | GAP for Tobacco at Southern Hills CTC in Georgetown at 7:00 p.m. Call Cindy at 378-6716 to register by noon on March 27. |
| Apr. 4 | Highland Co. Cattlemen Banquet at Ponderosa in Hillsboro. |