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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Small Farm College

There will be two opportunities to attend one of the Small Farm College's this year. One will be held at Shawnee State in Portsmouth and the other in Butler County. We have flyers available in the OSU Extension Offices or you can go online to see the details. You can find both on the Clinton Co. website at <http://clinton.osu.edu>

The Butler County classes will begin on January 18 at the Butler County Extension Office located at 1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, OH 45011. The classes will at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays running through March 8.

The Scioto County classes will begin on Monday, January 29 and run through March 19. This class will also begin at 6:00 p.m. in Massie Hall on the campus in Portsmouth.

The eight-week class is limited to 50 participants and costs \$150 per person. Additional family members can attend for \$100 each. This does not include a notebook which is given one per family, however it does include a light meal at the beginning of each session.

The sessions will begin with Getting Started and Goal Setting; Appropriate Land Use; Sources of Assistance with several local agencies; Legal, Insurance, Insurance needs, liabilities and Farm Laws; Natural Resources, Forestry, timber marketing, wildlife, ponds, etc.; Financial and Production including record keeping and taxes; Marketing and niche markets; and end up with a round table of discussion.

Master Gardener Programs

Keep in mind that the Brown Co. Master Gardeners continue to offer free programs on the third Thursday of the month. The January session will be on January 18 at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of Southern State Community College in Mt. Orab in room 107. This month Susan Barber will talk about growing fair exhibits. Susan has grown some huge pumpkins and watermelons in recent years. Remember, these classes are free and open to the public. Simply check the college if bad weather. If SSCC is closed this will be rescheduled.

Registration for Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-certs

There are going to be several changes with the registration for the local Pesticide and Fertilizer re-certifications this year. The dates are listed below, but the registration is not. I hope to have this all resolved in the next week or two. Please hold off on registering until mid-January so the training can be done and the changes all in place. Now that the holidays are behind us, I am hoping to get this taken care of soon. Will keep you posted.



Winter Weather and Stressed Livestock

I have talked about the stresses of livestock during winter weather for some time now. This recent stretch of single digit temperatures has been bad, but not terrible. At least the wind has been minimal and for the most part it has been dry. Wet hair and cold temps plus wind is really rough.

Additional nutrients are needed for sure. Livestock will tell you that by the amount of hay they consume, but additional high energy feed is helpful. Keep in mind the water needs, too. Chopping ice has not been fun, but they need water.

Do not forget the Farm Bill. Contact your local Farm Service Agency to check on and report losses due to bad weather or other issues covered in the current Farm Bill. As some people have started calving, the weather could be an issue if this cold spell continues. The reporting of losses is time sensitive, so report timely.

Farmer's Tax Guides

Farmer's Tax Guides are here. Stop by the office if you need one. They are still free.

Dates to Remember

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| Jan. 8 | Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Pre-register by calling ODA at 800-282-1955 or online at http://pested.osu.edu |
| Feb. 20 | Adams Co. Pesticide Re-certification at Frisch's starting at 5:00 p.m. 3 hours of Pesticide and 1 hour of Fertilizer Re-certification. Must Pre-register. |
| Feb. 28 | Brown Co. Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-cert at Southern Hills Board Office at 11:00 a.m. Must Pre-register. |
| Mar. 2 | Highland Co. Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-cert at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro at 11:00 a.m. Must Pre-register. |