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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Educational Opportunities at OSU South Centers

The rain just will not quit, or at least that is the way it seems. Just about the time it gets dry enough to spread fertilize or manure it rains again. It is getting late when it comes to seeding grasses or legumes.

Now things are starting to get a little late for weed control in grain fields in preparation for planting. Planting? Yes planting. By the middle of April, in many years, there would be a significant number of acres of corn in the ground, and maybe some acres of soybeans. There is very little corn or soybeans planted in Adams, Brown or Highland Counties to my knowledge.

Once the weather breaks, there will be little to no chance of having any farmers attend a meeting of any kind, but there are several programs that I would like for everyone to be aware of in the coming months. These programs will be offered at the OSU South Centers near Piketon.

Brad Bergefurd, OSU Extension Educator at the OSU South Centers and Scioto Counties will be conducting these programs. For more information about these meetings you can contact the OSU South Center at 800-297-2072.

- High Tunnel Training at South Centers-April 27 & 28
- Strawberry Field Night at South Centers-May 21, start time is 6 p.m.
- Hops Field Night at Wooster-July 23, start time is 6 p.m.
- Hops Field Night at South Centers-July 30, start time 6 p.m.
- Southwest Ohio Hop Farm and Craft Brewery Tour at Mankato Hop Farms-July 24 & 25, more information to come
- Pumpkin Field Night at South Centers-October 1, start time 6 p.m.
- Hops First Friday Tour at South Centers- May 1, June 5, September 4, and October 2

Are Your Bulls Ready?

It is a good time to be in the cattle business. Cattle prices are continuing to be strong this spring, or should I say very strong. This is a the time of the year when feeder calf prices are traditionally high as the grass begins to grow, and only time will tell how long this ride of high prices will last.

While cattle producers can't control the prices, there are some things that good marketing can do to help with your prices. Communication with the manager at the market can help with making the right cattle available to potential buyers. Management of selling groups vs. individuals,



selling steers vs. bulls, weaned (45 to 60 days) vs. weaned on the trailer, etc.

While all of these things are important, so is the condition of the cows. The cows need to have adequate nutrients, mainly thinking protein and energy, but do not forget the minerals.

While thinking about body condition of the cows, don't forget the bulls. The bulls need to be in good body condition, but the mineral program is very important for the bulls, too.

The other situation that is often overlooked is the health of the bulls that will be expected to service the cows. With all of the high calf prices and good care of the cows, if the bull fails to perform and get the cows covered, there will be few or maybe no calves a year from now. Everything could be good except the bull, but without the bull it all fails.

A breeding soundness exam with your local veterinarian is a wise investment of time and money. Even if a bull did well last year, things can happen. Take the time, make the call to your veterinarian and get the bull examined before you see cows not bred.

Dates to Remember

COBA AI Class COBA/Select Sires will again offer the training for artificial insemination at the United Producers in Hillsboro on the evenings of April 28, 29 and 30 beginning at 6:00 p.m. For details contact COBA at 800 837-2621.