

December 15, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
David Dugan
OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Adams/Brown/Highland Counties
Ohio Valley Extension Education Research Area

Beef School Dates

I will include more details in the column next week, but I did want to get the dates on your calendars. The locations will be in the Hillsboro area and in Adams Co. this year, as we were in Brown last year. The dates are January 19, February 2, and February 16. These are all Tuesdays and will begin at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

New and Small Farm College

This is the official news release for the upcoming New and Small Farm College. This has more details than the information I ran before Thanksgiving and we are now just a month away from the start of this exciting program.

Are you a small farm landowner wondering what to do with your acreage? Are you interested in exploring options for land uses but not sure where to turn or how to begin? Have you considered adding an agricultural or horticultural enterprise but you just aren't sure what is required, from an equipment, labor, and/or management perspective? Are you looking for someplace to get basic farm information? If you or someone you know answered yes to any of these questions, then the OSU Extension Small Farm College program may be just what you are looking for.

OSU Extension is offering a program targeted at the new and small farmer. The Ohio New and Small Farm College is an 8 week program that introduces new and even seasoned farmers to a wide variety of topics. The program will teach participants how to set goals, plan, budget, and where to find resources available for them if they chose to start a small farming operation. The courses will layout how to manage financial and farm records. Extension Educators will illustrate many different enterprises that can be profitable on land as small as one acre. The educators will show the benefits and pitfalls of each enterprise so that the participant will be able to pick and chose what may work best for them and what suits their interest.

The Small Farm College was originally conceived as a way to help southern Ohio's tobacco farmers make the transition away from that crop as government subsidies were phased out. OSU extension educators soon realized such programming also could benefit rural landowners who own small acreage in the countryside. Since 2005, past regional New and Small Farm Colleges have helped 783 individuals representing 584 farms from 52 Ohio counties improve the economic development of their small family-owned farms. This program can help small farm landowners and farmers diversify their opportunities into successful new enterprises and new markets. And, it can improve agricultural literacy among small farm landowners not actively involved in agricultural production.



Many program participants don't expect to make a living off the land, but do want to recoup something, said organizer Tony Nye of OSU Extension in Clinton County. First time farmers want their interaction with their land to be productive.

"They like living in the country, getting their hands dirty," Nye said. "That has been their motivation for buying land."

The New and Small Farm College will be conducted at three locations this year. The first college will be held in Brown County at the Southern State Community College, Brown County Campus, 351 Brooks-Malott Rd., Mt. Orab, Ohio on Wednesdays, beginning January 20, 2016 through Monday, March 16, 2016. Classes run from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. each week. This class will be limited to the First 50 registrations.

The second college will be held in Athens County at the Athens County Extension Office, 280 W. Union Street, Athens, Ohio on Thursdays, beginning January 21, 2016 through Thursday, March 10, 2016. Classes run from 6:30 –9:00 p.m. each week. This class will be limited to the First 40 registrations.

The third college will be held in Miami County at the First Baptist Church, 53 S. Norwich, Troy, Ohio on Mondays, beginning January 25, 2016 through Monday, March 14, 2016. Classes run from 6:30 -9:00 p.m. each week. This class will be limited to the First 40 registrations.

The cost of the course is \$150 per person, \$100 for an additional family member. Along with the vast resources and knowledge gained, participants will receive a notebook (per each \$150 registration) of all resource materials, a soil test, refreshments, and the bus tour. Registrations are now being accepted. Individuals interested in the program may contact the Brown County Extension office at (937) 378- 6716, the Athens County Extension office at (740) 593-8555, or the Miami County Extension office at (937) 440-3945. Registration brochures for the program can also be found online at the following websites <http://brown.osu.edu> , <http://athens.osu.edu> , <http://miami.osu.edu> , or at <http://agmr.osu.edu/node/283> and are also available in area Ohio State University Extension offices.

For further information contact Tony Nye, OSU Small Farm Program Coordinator at (937) 382-0901 or E-mail at nye.1@osu.edu.

Pesticide and Fertilizer Dates

The sessions are as follows: Monday, February 8, 2016 at North Adams High School. This session will begin at 5:00 p.m. with Fertilizer training until 7:00 p.m. Then we will break for pizza followed by the pesticide re-certification from 7:30 until 10:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro. This session begins at 10:00 a.m. with Fertilizer training until noon. Then we will break for pizza followed by pesticide re-certification from 12:30 until 3:30 p.m.

Monday, February 22, 2016 at Southern Hills Board Office on Hamer Rd in Georgetown. This session begins at 10:00 a.m. with Fertilizer training until noon. Then we will break for pizza followed by pesticide re-certification from 12:30 until 3:30 p.m.

Remember to pre-register early. You can also e-mail Cindy at kratzer.11@osu.edu. Please mail payment to the Brown Co. Extension office at 325 W. State St. Bldg. B Georgetown, OH 45121.