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

How the Farm Bill Concerns You?

First of all the Farm Bill concerns everyone. For a quick look at the highlights including Farm Safety Net, Research, Nutrition Program and more go to this USDA link that shows changes to the 2014 Farm Bill: <http://www.usda.gov/documents/usda-2014-farm-bill-highlights.pdf>

Locally OSU Extension has offered six Farm Bill Information meetings in conjunction with the Farm Service Agencies in Adams, Brown and Highland Counties. There have been other opportunities with other local groups as well. Hopefully every producer is aware of how the changes in the 2014 Farm Bill may concern your operation.

One thing that needs to be pointed out is that the 2014 Farm Bill eliminates direct payments and continues crop insurance. The crop insurance part deals with price and yield protection. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO RAISE THE CROP!** The 2014 Farm Bill deals with Base. Mainly in this area this would include Corn Base, Soybean Base, Wheat Base, and maybe a few others. So, if you have a farm with a Base even if you no longer grow corn or soybeans, but only have cattle and hay, you still need to visit the FSA office soon. This needs to happen before the end of March, and the best thing would be to contact your county FSA Office the first opportunity you have to set up an appointment. The FSA offices can be reached in Adams Co. 544-2033, in Brown Co. 378-6173 and in Highland Co. at 393-1922.

Fertilizer Certification Opportunities

For the past few months I have discussed the opportunities and programs for those people who already have a pesticide license. To this point there will be one more opportunity for this.

The next step is the 3 hour sessions for producers who do NOT have a commercial or private applicator pesticide license. Keep in mind this will be required after September 30, 2017 for those who need to have a license in order to spread fertilizer.

At this point the license or certification for spreading fertilizer will be needed for those producers who raise crops, primarily for sale, on more than 50 acres. If you produce crops for feeding livestock, this is not considered for sale. If you have questions you can contact me at 937-515-2314 or contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 800-282-1955.

I have three of the 3-hour sessions scheduled in March. There will be one in Adams, one in Brown and one in Highland. I have attempted to make these on different days of the week and one will be in the evening to hopefully work around work or milking schedules.

Please contact Cindy at the Brown Co. Extension office at 937-378-6716 to sign up for the program you choose to attend. Space is



sometimes a limitation, so please call ahead so I can have enough copies and seats for everyone that attends.

The dates, locations and times are as follows: Thursday, March 12 at 1:00 p.m. at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro; Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00 p.m. at North Adams High School in Seaman; and Monday, March 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the Southern Hills CTC Board Office in Georgetown.

Do You Have Inventory?

The real question should be do you have a “good” list of your inventory? I recently talked to a farm couple that lost a farm building to a fire. Yes, they had insurance, but how good is your insurance?

First of all, I do not want to imply that the insurance was at fault. We did not even discuss that, but we did discuss having insurance. Most farmers have insurance, but what do you have insured? If you answered the contents, then what is in your buildings? If you do have an inventory list, where is it? This could be the same question for any homeowner and your house.

On a farm, the big pieces of machinery are easy. A truck or car has a title, so again these are not that difficult to account for. How about small hand tools? Chainsaws, wrench sets, air tools, air compressor, corral panels, and on and on. Some of these are kind of small items, but they can add up to several thousands of dollars. How about livestock supplies like medications and vaccines, or the semen tank? How many frozen eggs or straws of semen are in that tank? How many dollars would you be able to document was in that tank? How about pesticides?

Just something to think about and might be a good topic of discussion with your insurance agent, again, not just on a farm, but items in your house, too. Nearly everyone has a camera these days on your phone. The smart phones can do video. One thought, it might be a good thing to have a family member film some of your inventory, so the phone is not in the same place as the inventory. Again, this might be a good discussion with your insurance professional that can help you make a very bad situation just a little easier to deal with. Hopefully you will never know if I am right about this one.

Dates to Remember

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| Beef School | Two locations at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro and Southern Hills CTC in Georgetown. Starts at 7:00 p.m. for the two remaining sessions on Feb. 10 and 24. Call OSU in the county you plan to attend, to register. Brown 378-6716 and Highland 393-1918. |
| Pesticide/Fertilizer | One combination program with Fertilizer and Pesticide Recertification together. Feb. 12 at Southern State Comm. College in Hillsboro, begins at 11:00 (Pre-Registration and payment REQUIRED 5 days prior to session. Call Cindy at the Brown Co. office at 378-6716.) The Fertilizer Certification is needed by September 30, 2017, so if your Pesticide is due |

in 2016 or 2017, come for both at that time so you are on the same schedule.