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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Farm Bill Update**

Last year we had several Farm Bill Meetings explaining some of the issues with the recent Farm Bill. Chris Bruynis, Ross Co. OSU Extension ANR Educator explains an issue that may need attention if you have land in more than one county.

Farmers with the administration of their farms consolidated at one FSA office may want to examine their 2014 and 2015 ARC-CO payment calculations. Original 2014 ARC-CO payments were calculated on the average yields for the administrative FSA office county, regardless of where the land was physically located. Recently FSA announced that farmers could elect to have the 2014 and/or the 2015 ARC-CO payments calculated on the county in which the land is physically located. For some farms this would be financially beneficial and needs to be requested by April 15, 2016. FSA has calculated the results for the 2014 payments and for the farms where this election is beneficial, farmers simply need to sign the forms at their local FSA office. This will only affect farmers with land in more than one county.

I have created some visual maps for farmers to reference for the 2014 payments received in October of 2015. These maps give a quick visual for ARC-CO corn, soybean, and wheat payments by county with payments rounded to the nearest dollar. Farmers can quickly look to see if the land in a neighboring county, that is not their administrative county, had a significantly different payment. Based on this information, they can decide if they want to elect to be paid based on the farm land's county. For 2014 this decision is very easy since payment rates are known (check with your local FSA office to determine exact payment changes)

## **Estate Planning Workshop**

The Estate Planning Workshop is starting to get several people on the list. We have space for more for this two day program. The dates again are March 30 and April 6 with two sessions each date. We will offer the program at 1:00 p.m. at the Southern State Community College in Hillsboro; the evening session will be at Eastern Brown High School at 6:00 p.m. I am happy to be able to offer this workshop at no charge.

Remember even though there is no charge for the class, you must pre-register if you would like copies of the handouts. You can register for the afternoon sessions at the Highland Co. Extension Office at (937) 393-1918, or the evening sessions at the Brown Co. Extension Office by calling (937) 378-6716.

This workshop is open to everyone. The focus will tend to lean toward farm estates, but will be helpful information for all. There will be information about long term health care insurance, life insurance, Wills, Trusts, LLCs, and more.



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Last week I said I would discuss is equal fair? In other words is it as simple as taking all of the assets and splitting them 50/50 when there are two children, or in thirds if there are three children and so on? If it were that simple would we need to do this workshop? Actually we would because there is much more to setting up a good estate plan than just how to split things up, but back the initial question, is equal fair? The answer is: it depends. In some cases it may be perfect, however in other cases equal could not be any less fair.

Consider these examples and if equal is fair. Situation number one you have a family business or farm and you have two children. Neither child has any interest in continuing the farming operation, nor do they have any involvement in the farming business. A 50/50 split appears to be fair in this case.

Situation number two is a family with 3 children. All 3 children go to college and receive a degree. One child comes home and works on the farm and continues to build the farming operation with his parents while the other two have no interest in the farm, build a life and a career that does not involve any part of the farming operation. Would a 3 way split of the farming operation be fair in this case? All three children should be treated equally, right? How can the two non-farm children be taken care of without ruining the child who is farming with the parents? How can the farm child afford to purchase the land, equipment, livestock, etc. from the other 2 siblings and still be able to keep the business going? Is this a place where life insurance may play a role? What happens if the farm is left to the farming child and money to the other two if a long term illness involves a long stay in a retirement home or medical facility? Would the money be used to pay the bills? Would the farm have to be sold in order to pay the bills?

Estate Plans can be complicated. This workshop will help you consider some of the options you have as you decide what will work for you and your situation.

### **Highland Co. Cattlemen's News**

Highland County Beef Queen and Scholarship applications are due **Friday March 18.** If you know of anyone who would be interested, please let them know.

There will be an educational meeting at the Union Stockyards on March 22 at 6:30 p.m. Meal will be at 5:45 p.m. The topic will be Management and Business Decisions directed toward good animal health.

### **Pesticide Re-certification**

Everyone who has a license that will expire on March 31 should have received notice from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Still check your card to make sure yours will not expire in a couple of weeks. If you missed the re-certification classes and still need a class there are two programs fairly close by, with one on March 22 in Clermont County, and March 29 in Ross County.

Also, if you have been through the Pesticide and Fertilizer classes, you will soon receive a card if you have sent the fees to ODA. You will get a green Pesticide card and a yellow card for Fertilizer. They may not come together.

## **GAP Training for Tobacco Growers**

If you missed the early GAP programs there will be one last program on April 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the West Union Frisch's. Call the Adams Co. Extension Office at 544-2339 to pre-register (required).

### **Dates to Remember**

March 18-20	Ohio Beef Expo in Columbus
March 30	Estate Planning workshops
April 5	GAP for Tobacco at 1:30 at West Union Frisch's. Call 544-2339 to pre-register.
April 6	Estate Planning workshops