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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GAP for Tobacco Producers

Last year was the first year for GAP as a requirement for tobacco producers with a contract to sell tobacco. GAP is Good Agricultural Practices and is something that needs to be done every year. The training needs to be done AGAIN this year.

I have had over 220 producers attend one of the five sessions that we have already held in Adams and Brown Counties. However, last year we had over 300, so I am offering one last additional session. Go to <http://gapconnections.com> to register for a grower ID number if you have not done so before. Bring your GAP card to the meeting.

The training will be at Eastern Brown HS in the cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14. You must pre-register for this program by calling the Adams Co. Extension office at 544-2339. Barbie will need your name, phone number and county to pre-register you.

Scholarships Available

This time of the year there are several local scholarships applications available to youth throughout the area like Pork Producers and Cattlemen Associations. Check with these local groups, as well as others, that may be offering scholarships. As a last minute reminder, the Highland Co. Cattlemen's Scholarship and Queen's applications have a deadline of this Friday, March 20. Applications are available at the Highland Co. Extension Office.

Are You Feeding Lice?

The muddy conditions continue as we seem to get rain just about the time it dries up on the surface from the previous rain, again. It seems to be an every year thing for farmers with cattle, as they talk about how muddy it is this year. Muddy conditions, along with cooler temperatures cause livestock to consume more feed. Monday the temperature was in the mid-70s while we were inside doing GAP sessions, but that is not the normal temperature for mid-March. We will continue to have both cool and warm days in the coming weeks, so it might be time to treat the livestock for lice.

In addition to cool temperatures and muddy conditions, we may also be dealing with parasite problems. It is typical during the latter part of winter for lice to become a problem. For cattle producers, there are some things you can do, but also some things that you may not want to do when lice become a problem in your herd. This is not a news flash, but feed is expensive. Regardless if you are talking about feeding hay or adding some grain to the diet, the cost is too much to be feeding parasites like lice.



Cattle most likely have some lice year round. In Southern Ohio where it is colder, and cattle are typically gathered in a bunch either trying to stay warm during cold rainy and/or windy conditions, or just jammed around the hay feeders eating 24/7 (not really, but it sure seems that way sometimes). Lice become a problem for cattle more in the winter for this reason, plus there is less sun and much more hair. Cattle have longer and thicker hair in the winter, so it makes for a great hiding place for lice to multiply.

Cattle that are heavily infested with lice may appear to be doing poorly. Other indications that lice may be a problem include cattle always rubbing on a fence post, feeder, trees, etc. These are not absolute indications of a lice problem, but it could be. Poor quality hay, not enough nutrients or just rubbing could be what is going on. Pull some hair from an animal when they are eating and by holding the hair up to the light you may be able to see some of the lice, if they are present. Excessive rubbing will often cause areas of the animal to not have any hair around the neck and shoulders or other parts of the body.

Lice come in different forms. Some are chewing or biting lice, while others are sucking lice. In any case, they are parasites, so they are feeding on the cattle, and costing you money. One treatment will not fix the problem. The first treatment may kill the lice, but most products will require a second treatment to kill the lice that were eggs at the time of the first treatment. READ the label so you understand how the product is to be used before the first treatment. It is always good advice to consult with your veterinarian prior to making any kind of treatment. Some of the products that can be used to control lice may cause other issues, so it is best to understand what the risks are and what you need to know prior to treatment.

The risk that I am referring to depends on the product that you may use. Some products simply say that they control lice. Some specifically say that they control both biting and sucking lice. The risk comes into play when the product is a wormer that controls grubs. It is a potential problem if the cattle were not treated with a similar product earlier in the winter or late fall, as the grubs could be a problem if this is the first treatment for them. They may be at a stage where treating them now could cause more harm than good. So with this in mind, you will need to choose your control treatment wisely. Again, your veterinarian can be very helpful in explaining this and most likely recommend products that will fit your situation.

Next week I will discuss Grass Tetany. In the meantime it is a good idea to start feeding a high magnesium mineral to aid in the prevention of Grass Tetany with the grass beginning to get green and livestock out picking on the warm sunny days.

Dates to Remember

Fertilizer Education Call Brown Co. Extension Office (Cindy) to pre-register at 937-378-6716. The one remaining session is Monday, March 23 at Southern Hills CTC Board Office in Georgetown at 1:00 p.m.

County Cattlemen Annual Cattlemen Banquets: Highland County is April 1, Adams County is now changed to April 9, and Brown Co. is April 11.

