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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fly Control, Don't Wait

By the time most of you pick up this newspaper, and read this, it will be April. The winter has been wet and muddy, but it seems to have been an early spring. Though my bet is winter will give us another shot or two.

With the early spring, many farms have cattle out picking wherever they can. Grass has started to grow and they will leave the hay rings to pick the young tender grass. As I reminded you last week, keep that high magnesium mineral available at all times to help reduce the risk of grass tetany.

As we get closer to fly season it is also a good time to plan you fly control. So you need to plan fly control? Actually it should be planned to some extent. There are several options from back rubbers, soaked with an insecticide and placed in a strategic area to make sure the livestock come into contact with it on a regular basis, to sprays, insecticidal ear tags, pour-on, sprays or additives to the mineral. All of these options can be very effective, but some detail must be considered.

The sprays, pour-on, ear tags, etc. need to be used with a plan. First the timing is important. The second thing is to change chemistry to avoid resistance issues. Just changing the brand may not be enough. Check the active ingredient and make sure it is different. Discuss this with your veterinarian to make sure you are getting the most control for you money.

The other option may be to use a mineral that will disrupt the reproduction of flies in the larvae stage. This is mainly for controlling horn flies. Again, start using the product before flies become a major issue. Horn flies can be pretty costly. These are the flies that are usually on the backs of cows, and particularly bulls. The numbers can be huge and they are usually taking a blood meal while on the animal, thus reducing performance.

Pinkeye can be costly, too. Face flies can be a contributor to spreading this costly problem. Getting fly control ear tags in the animals early can help reduce the population of these flies, too.

As is the case with many things, getting an early start and being ahead of the issue is normally a good thing. Follow instructions from your veterinarian and remember to not continue to use the same products over and over. Plan for the long haul, and good luck with your fly control program in 2016.



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

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| April 5 | GAP for Tobacco at 1:30 at West Union Frisch's. Call 544-2339 to pre-register. |
| April 6 | Estate Planning workshops |
| April 6 | Highland County Cattlemen's Banquet at Ponderosa Banquet Center in Hillsboro. |
| April 9 | Adams County Cattlemen's Banquet at Frisch's in West Union. |