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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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May 2015 – A Weather Month to Remember

The spring of 2015 started off wet and it seemed like it may never quit raining long enough to get crops in the field. It seemed to rain every day or two in April and May started off pretty much the same.

When it stopped, it stopped. Planting went into the full gear. Ag Businesses that provide fertilizer and pesticides were working very long days and I do not think many of them had ends to the weeks. The demands were pretty much crazy for lack of a better word. As agriculture continues to change, so do those demands. Then we get a weather pattern like this spring and WOW! I talked to several businesses early on that had hired help just waiting for the weather to break so they could get started. That was a few weeks ago now. They were trying to find things for them to do. In the past 3 weeks or so it has been non-stop with no rain to allow for a little catch up. The employees I talked to looked tired. Long days, non-stop and no breaks will do that to all of us.

Part of the change that I referred to earlier is the fact that there are fewer producers, but many are bigger producers. We knew we were behind the eight ball when it came to weed control due to the weather. We were also behind on getting fertilizer applied. Compound both of these things with the fact that we now can plant so much more of the crop in a day than we could just a few years ago. Bigger planters, and in many cases more than one bigger planter running at the same time, makes it hard to keep up. Ag businesses can only cover so much ground in an effort to keep up with producers. Yes their equipment has improved, too, but there are limits to how much product they can get in and distribute in a given day.

I remember raking hay for my dad, or other local farmers, when I was a kid. An old 5 bar rake and a 2000 Ford tractor and I could easily stay ahead of whoever was baling. Of course that was when we were square baling hay. Not the high capacity square balers of today. Then, we started rolling the big round bales. The Ford 2000 and I went from single windrows to making them double and the round baler could run much faster than the old square baler. It is a wonder I didn't break the frontend out of that old tractor trying to stay ahead of the round baler. Technology allows for production to take much less time. The number of rows being planted and the number of acres planted in an hour would make our great grandfathers dizzy compared to what they planted in a season, let alone an hour. Oh, by the way, I am not using that old 5 bar rake much anymore either. The rake I raked hay with this past weekend covers close to 25 feet. Try to catch me with that round baler now.



Time for Fly Control

Just this weekend I noticed several flies on the cows. If you have not already done so, it is time or maybe a little past time, to put your fly control plan into place. Fly tags, sprays, and pour-ons may be part of your plan. Remember to use a different chemistry this year to prevent resistance problems. That does not simply mean to change brands, but look at the active ingredients.

Another method that should have already been started by now is the use of fly control in the mineral. This disrupts the development of the flies when the eggs are laid in the fresh piles of manure. Check with your mineral supplier for this option and more details.

If you have had issues with pinkeye and/or anaplasmosis in the past you may also want to talk to your veterinarian about the use of CTC in the mineral to help prevent an outbreak during the fly season.

Dates to Remember

Southern Ohio Ag and Community Development Foundation planning meetings will be held on July 7 in Cherry Fork and July 9 in Georgetown. I will have more details in the coming weeks.