



Field Notes for The Week Of

2-27-2023

Are You Ready for a New Bull?

The spring-like weather continues as we open the door to the month of March, the main question is, will it continue? I continue to be amazed by all the signs of spring that most commonly are not seen this early. From daffodils in full bloom to the songs of robins in the early morning. Pastures are turning green and new babies are being born. On my farm, spring is truly in the air as my lambing season wraps up, sows beginning to farrow, and soon baby calves will be hitting the ground (hopefully running)! Many other farms across the county are greening up and farms are starting to get busy. As I make my travels across the county, I am amazed at how pastures are greening up and winter annual plants are beginning to grow and bloom. Unfortunately, with the spring-like weather comes spring troublesome weeds like poison hemlock. This noxious weed is a major problem weed serving as a health risk for both livestock and humans. Poison Hemlock is biannual, meaning that it takes two years to complete a full life cycle. Year one is the establishment and the year the plant forms a low-growing foliage called a rosette, year two is when the plant bolts and grows as tall as 8ft in height forming a white umbrella-shaped bloom. My usual recommendation is to apply an herbicide like 2-4-D, Dicamba, or Triclopyr in mid-March but this year application should be made earlier as plants are getting a head start. Another task for many beef cattle producers is to replace or purchase a new sire for their herd. There could be many reasons to purchase a new bull such as replacing an older bull, disappointment in their current bull, increasing herd size, or improving genetics. No matter what your reason is, it is important to take your time to research, ask questions, and take a close look at your potential new bull before cutting the check! Some helpful considerations as you go to your local bull sale.

- Talk to the man or woman who owns the brand- I often discuss being transparent and having good records to add value to your feeder calves, the same should go for bull, cows, and replacement heifers. A sale is only as good or bad as the records he or she keeps. Take time to ask the seller some critical questions such as health, nutrition, and performance records. Purchasing bulls from performance-oriented producer sales and sales sponsored by breed associations can help eliminate some unknowns of seller integrity
- Know what you actually need- Matching the right size and age of bull to fit your operation. Yearling bulls should not have any more than 25 females to breed and mature strong healthy bulls should not be pushed over the 40 female mark.
- Is the bull ready to work- Watching how the bull walks and moves are important- the bull should be functionally sound and structurally correct in the back, legs, pastern, and feet. The bull should have a calm demeanor and not be nervous acting or mean-spirited.
- Come to my Bull Buying School First!!! (See the picture for details).

CFAES

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DATE:
March 10th, 2023

TIME:
6:30P.M.–9:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
Raines Farm and
Greenhouse 2667
Nichols Ridge Road
Seaman, Ohio 45679



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

2023 Bull Buying School

Are you thinking about purchasing a new herd sire this year? If so, you will not want to miss this hands-on field night focusing on visual evaluation, importance of a bull soundness exam, reading EPD, nutritional management, and estrous synchronization and how it can fit in your operation. Speakers include:

Garth Ruff -OSU Extension Beef Field Specialist

Bain Wilson- Livestock Evaluation Specialist, Assistant Professor
FAES Animal Science Department

Brooks Warner- ANR Educator for Scioto County Extension

Brain Cowdrey – Brown County Veterinary Services

For more information, visit adams.osu.edu or contact **Richard Purdin** at purdin.19@osu.edu or call (937) 544-2339

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