

David Dugan
OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Adams/Brown/Highland Counties
Ohio Valley Extension Education Research Area

Animal Traceability Program April 28

Back in November there were a couple of meetings held in Hillsboro at both the Union Stockyards and the United Producers to explain the Animal Disease Traceability program. These meetings were held to discuss the rules for transporting animals over state lines.

Next Monday there will be another meeting explaining this in Maysville, KY at the Mason Co. Extension Office. Representatives from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Agriculture will be there to explain the details. The office is located at 800 US 68, going up the hill if you cross the old bridge.

Some animals are exempt while others will require some form of permanent ID. This is put in place to help reduce the amount of time it would take to trace back the origin of a disease outbreak. To find out the details, plan to attend the program on Monday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

If you are wondering if you should attend, from the flyer, the question of who should attend has this answer. Anyone that transports livestock across state lines, or has their own livestock! Also includes veterinarians and their staff, Ag extension personnel, licensed livestock dealers, haulers or others interested in learning about the new Animal Disease Traceability rule. This is open to the public.

Termites Swarming

The number of calls about ladybugs being everywhere has slowed a bit, but I do want to bring you attention to the fact that termite swarmers have started. I had some brought to me earlier in the month, and recently the Kentucky Pest News addressed termite swarmers and the fact that this takes place from March through May. Below is more information from Dr. Lee Townsend, UK Extension Entomologist.

These dark-bodied winged males and females, which are the dispersal and reproductive individuals of the colony, usually leave warming soil soon after a rain. Dozens to hundreds may take flight, but only a few live to establish new colonies. An underground colony may have to be 3 to 4 years old before swarmers are produced.

The sudden appearance of swarmers usually is the first sign of an infestation. While termites are serious structural pests, there is no need to make a hurried decision about control. This publication contains information to aid in making sound choices <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef604.asp>

Termite swarmers have approximately 1/4-inch long bodies with long straight antennae and 2 pairs of equal-sized wings that break off easily. The leg-bearing thorax and abdomen join broadly. Some ants also swarm in the spring. Ant antennae have a 90 degree bend and there is a distinct narrow "waist" between the thorax and abdomen.

The factsheet from OSU Extension on Termites can be picked up at the local OSU Extension Offices or online at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2092.html> The factsheet discusses detection, prevention and control measures for termites.

Carpenter Bees are Buzzing

Carpenter Bees are often confused for Bumble Bees. They do look somewhat similar, but upon a closer look you can see some differences. The Carpenter Bee has a bare and shiny abdomen, but the bumble bee is hairy.

The Carpenter Bees are not aggressive, but they do like to fly near your face. The females do have stingers, and if you mess with them might sting. The males do not have stingers. The problem with these bees is the fact that they are destructive, especially to buildings. The KY Pest News describes the damage they cause below.

Females use their strong mandibles to chew 1/2-inch diameter entry holes into soft, dry wood. Tunnels follow the grain and are get about 1 inch longer each week. Ultimately, they can be 6 to 10 inches long and can contain 6 or 7 individual larval cells. Each is provisioned with a ball of nectar and pollen as food for the grub-like larva. Over the years, galleries may become several feet long.

Control of these bees is difficult so trying to prevent them from damaging your structures is a better choice. If possible keep buildings closed up during this time of the year. The problems are sheds that can't be closed. These bees will make many holes in unprotected wood if not managed. Painting or varnishing is another thing that might reduce activity.

If holes and tunnels already exist, the use of pesticides in a dust form might be your next option. By applying the dusts into the tunnels, the bees will be exposed to the dust as they enter and leave the nest, but they may also carry some of the dust into the nest.

You can get more details about Carpenter Bees and how to control them at the local OSU Extension offices or online. The address for the factsheet is: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2074.html>

Scours in Calves

This past winter has been pretty tough on livestock. I have talked to several beef producers who have told me they buried more cows this year than they have in the past several years combined. I have not heard of many issues of sick calves, but in some parts of the country that is not the case.

Scours is the number 1 problem for beef producers to fight with young calves year after year. This is a problem that can become very costly in a hurry, especially if treatment is not given quickly. Scours is a disease that leads to diarrhea and causes the young calves to become dehydrated. Good quality colostrum will reduce the risk of a calf getting scours, but management of the newborns is important, too. Scours can be caused by bacteria or viruses, so reducing exposure of the young calves to dirty, muddy conditions will help.

When it comes to treatment, you should consult your local veterinarian. Keeping fluids in the young calf is essential. The thing that kills the calves is dehydration.

For more in depth understanding of how to deal with, treat and prevent scours you may want to read a recent post from Kansas State University. Do a google search and type in Understanding Scours Kansas State.

Dates to Remember

- April 30 Farm to School Workshop at Mt. Orab Elementary School from 3:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. with a registration deadline of April 20. For details go to my archived articles on the county extension webpage or call Sue Basta at 937-378-4171. County webpage is the (name of the county).osu.edu
- May 12 Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Register with Ohio Dept. of Ag at 800-282-1955 or go to <http://pested.osu.edu>. This is for private and commercial applicators.