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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Grass is Green and Growing

In recent days it has been too wet to see lawn mowers operating, but the need to mow is probably driving some of you crazy. Grass is not just green in the lawns, but also in the fields and the temptation to mow is probably not as strong as the urge for livestock to leave a hay ring to nibble on new grass.

Keeping livestock in can be a challenge when they get a taste of the new grass. They want to eat that tender new growth and will put pressure on fences to reach it where they can. The real challenge may be for producers to not just open the gate. With the muddy conditions, and newborn calves, it becomes an issue with a clean place to calve and for the newborns to be without muddy. The answer may be to manage the cows so they calve in a clean field, but not the whole herd. The issue with the grass for long term production is another issue. The following was in the Beef Cattle Letter last week from Victor Shelton who is a grazing specialist with NRCS in Indiana.

Now, it is REALLY early still, but I know how some think about ANY new green growth in the pastures. Let's think this through. Grazing too early in the spring does nothing but remove the solar panel the plants need to start building sugars and growing new roots. The forages really need to be able to canopy and get a good start before animals start removing that new growth otherwise production will be reduced.

I know sometimes the hay is not the best quality. Better to supplement poor hay and keep feeding it, if available, than to start grazing too early...now I say that somewhat tongue in cheek. Sometimes you want to set the stand back a bit to remove some competition. Such would be the case where you have frost seeded clover into the field. This would only be a factor if it was not grazed down tighter at the end of the previous grazing season or as dormant stockpiled forage. If it was grazed down close before, especially if grazed down before going dormant last fall, then you don't want to graze it close again, just utilize it in the normal rotation.

If you would like to read the entire post that appeared in the March 29 Beef Cattle Letter you can find it on the OSU Beef Team Page. Go to beef.osu.edu

Blue Mold in Georgia

It is early in the season, but it is already showing up. We have not had to deal with Blue Mold in the past few years, but this year might be different.

Blue mold showed up on flue-cured plants in two south Georgia greenhouses in March. The infestations appear to be under control, and the two new fungicides Presidio and Orondis should help any future outbreaks. But Georgia Extension agronomist J. Michael Moore notes something strange.

"We went 10 years without any blue mold, but



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now we have had it two years in a row?" Likely factor: This was "the year without a winter" in Georgia, and that may have created favorable conditions for development of blue mold. ..Transplanting is getting going. "Many plants in Florida and Georgia will soon be ready for transplanting," says Moore. "A few farmers began transplanting in the middle of last week, but this week and the next will be when it really gets going"...There continues to be a shortage of Telone II, and delivery of what is available is being delayed. "This creates a great opportunity for the new non-fumigant nematicide Nimitz from Adama," Moore says.

Is dark tobacco in serious danger from federal regulation? A federal regulation now being considered could have a disastrous effect on the marketing of smokeless tobacco products in this country. "This proposed rule would have a devastating economic impact on dark tobacco growers and businesses," Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles said. "It would have the effect of banning the sale of smokeless tobacco in the U.S. Quarles asked Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price to direct the Food and Drug Administration to withdraw the proposal because FDA had not accurately estimated the economic impact of the rule and did not propose a standard that was "technically achievable." The main problem is that the proposal would limit the N-Nitrosornicotine level in finished smokeless tobacco products to one part per million. This limitation probably cannot be met, Quarles said.

Dates to Remember

- April 10 Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Must pre-register at <http://pested.osu.edu> or call 800-282-1955. As always, this test is offered on the second Monday of each month.
- May 8 Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Must pre-register at <http://pested.osu.edu> or call 800-282-1955.