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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Changes in County Fair Swine Procedures

All three counties will have some changes in the procedures for the 2014 hog projects. Some will be more than others due to the fact that they have not been exactly the same in the past. With this Saturday being the date that WAS scheduled for tag-in in Adams County, I want to make sure everyone is aware of the issue. Please check with the county you show in for details, but the following addresses the situation at this time for Adams County.

There will be no tag-in this Saturday in Adams Co. You need to obtain tags from the OSU Extension office so you can tag your own pigs. Other information and details are available through the OSU Extension Office.

The reason for the change from a centralized tagging and weigh-in to an identification form completed by the exhibitor at home is the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv). This is a viral disease that's working its way through the United State. PEDv typically results in acute outbreaks of severe diarrhea, vomiting and variable mortality (up to 100%) in young pigs. PEDv is a major concern for hog producers, both here in Adams County and across the country.

GAP Training for Tobacco Growers

The number of calls since our last GAP training has been alarming. Several people who are just now finding out that they need GAP this year. The number of calls per day has declined in the past week, but there are still growers out there that do not realize they need this.

GAP stands for Good Agricultural Practices and is required by ALL TOBACCO companies for 2014. If you plan to produce and sell tobacco in 2014, and have not been through GAP training in the past couple of months you probably need it. Go to <http://gapconnections.com> to begin the process.

We had four sessions in March in Adams and Brown Counties and in Gallia County this Monday. There are no plans to do any training sessions after this one, so please spread the word to those who may need training. You need to call Pam at the Adams Co. Extension Office (544-2339) to register for the upcoming GAP training. The date will be Tuesday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Pesticide License Testing

For several years we offered one or maybe two days for people to take the tests that is required for private and commercial applicators who apply pesticides. In recent years, we have increased the number of possible dates for taking the tests. Last year I scheduled 5 dates and ended up adding another. So far this year we have had 2 dates with all seats filled and the upcoming date for April is already full.

In order to take the test you need to register in one of two methods. You can register online at <http://pested.osu.edu> or you can register by phone with the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 800-282-1955. The test is offered at several locations throughout Ohio, but the local site is the Old Y Restaurant located on US 62 between Hillsboro and SR 32 and can be found online as the Highland Co. site.

We have decided to offer the tests throughout the year with the number of people wanting to take the tests. We plan to offer the test at the Old Y on the second Monday of most months. I say most months because there we be a few months that we will not offer the tests. We do still have seats available for the May date.

Local Wineries

Wine grapes continue to be a crop that is growing interest from several producers throughout the area. With a number of wineries in the area, the availability of locally grown and produced is an option that many consumers can now take advantage of for wine.

A couple of the local wineries recently shared some of their success stories and their upcoming summer schedules. The following is from the news release I received.

Kinkead Ridge Winery and Meranda-Nixon Winery, located in Ripley Ohio, have received competition medals at the prestigious international Finger Lakes Wine Competition. 3,756 wines were entered from all 50 states, 20 countries and 6 Canadian provinces. Meranda-Nixon won three medals, a Silver for their 2012 Cabernet Franc, a Silver for their 2011 Trotter White and a Bronze for their 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon. Kinkead Ridge won a Silver for their 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon. This wine has also been honored with a Silver at the American Wine Society competition, an Award of Merit from the Jefferson Cup competition, and 89 points and Highly Recommended at the Bordeaux World Wine Championships. Meranda-Nixon re-opened to the public on April 4, open Fridays 1-8.30 and Saturday 11-6 (open the second Saturday of the month until 9.30 p.m.) Kinkead Ridge re-opens on Memorial Day Weekend for the release of their 2013 white wines. Kinkead Ridge is open summer Saturdays after Memorial Day, 11-5. For more information see www.meranda-nixonwinery.com and www.kinkeadridge.com

Dates to Remember

- April 22 GAP Training for tobacco producers at 7:00 p.m. Register with Pam at the OSU Extension Office at 544-2339.
- 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

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