

December 2, 2014  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Are You Ready for Winter?**

Maybe a better question is if your livestock is ready for winter. I know many row crop farmers are not quite ready for winter, as the completion of this year's harvest is not complete. The month of December did not get off to a good start for getting the harvest completed with enough rain to make the creeks run pretty hard in some areas of Southern Ohio. The harvest has been slow, but from most reports I have heard the yields continue to be pretty good.

As we go through this week, the forecast is for a few dry days toward the end of the week, so hopefully harvest can continue soon. As far as the rain that we had on Monday, we kind of needed it. Several livestock owners have recently told me about water concerns in some of their pasture rotations. A local Cincinnati weather report for the rainfall totals for the month of November was a little bit of a surprise to me. Several days with a trace of rain in November, but the total precipitation for the month was around 1.6 inches which is less than half of the normal amount.

As we head into the winter months, many are already feeding hay. A couple of weeks ago I discussed feeding concentrates like corn or by-products like corn gluten pellets or dried distillers grain. Doing forage testing to find the nutrients available in your hay and being able to utilize cheaper feed stuffs to improve the total ration.

All that we do to try to improve nutrition and the condition of our livestock is important for the bottom line. Livestock, especially bred females, need good body condition as we get into the winter. It is not easy to improve body condition in the winter, so having them in good body condition going into the winter is a huge step in the right direction. Realizing the nutrient needs depending on the weather can also be important to keeping condition. Wet, cold, windy conditions increase the energy needs, so feeding accordingly will most likely increase the success of these mothers in the coming months.

If we do everything right to meet the nutritional needs we should be set up for a successful outcome, right? Well, I guess the answer could be, maybe. Nutrition is very important, but it is not the total package. Do not forget to control the parasites. Lice can be a problem during the winter. Controlling parasites is just another link in the chain. One of my old coaches used to talk about a chain only being as strong as the weakest link. If the weak link in your operation is failing to control parasites, that can be a fairly easy fix. Talk to your veterinarian about options to control parasites before they become a costly problem. There are several reasonably priced products that will control both biting and sucking lice.



## Stored Forage School

The school will use webinar format and be held Wednesday afternoons in January. The dates are January 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Registration deadline has been extended to December 18. Cost of the school is \$30/person. You can register at the Highland Co. Office (937) 393-1918 and/or online at <http://highland.osu.edu>

Topics that will be covered include:

- What's new in forage genetics
- Small grains and double cropping
- Fertility and manure utilization
- What's new in weed control
- What's new in agronomic products/additives
- Precision agriculture technologies for forage production
- What's new in forage quality evaluation
- Economics of Cutting management.
- Shrink in silage/hay making.
- Forage inventory management
- What's new in corn silage

## Dates to Remember

Forage School            Dates are Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 12:30 p.m. site TBA. Registration due by Dec. 18. Call 515-2314, or e-mail at [Dugan.46@osu.edu](mailto:Dugan.46@osu.edu) if interested.

Beef School             Dates are Jan. 27, Feb. 10 and Feb. 24 at 7:00 p.m. each night, site TBA.

Pesticide/Fertilizer    Pesticide Re-certification with Fertilizer Certification:  
Jan. 21 at North Adams HS, begins at 4:00 p.m.  
Feb. 5 at Southern Hills CTC Board Office, begins at 11:30 a.m.  
Feb. 12 at Southern State Comm. College in Hillsboro, begins at 11:00  
(Pre-Registration and payment REQUIRED 5 days prior to session. Call Cindy at the Brown Co. Office at 378-6716.) The Fertilizer Certification is needed by September 30, 2017, so if your Pesticide is due in 2016 or 2017, come for both at that time so you are on the same schedule.

The following 6 listings are Farm Bill Meetings:

December 18	Southern State Community College in Hillsboro at 1:00 p.m. off of US 62, north side of town. REMEMBER we need for you to Pre-Register by calling the OSU Extension office in the County you plan to attend. Seating is limited at some locations. Call Barbie in Adams Co. at 544-2339; Cindy in Brown Co. at 378-6716 and Tami in Highland Co. at 393-1918.
December 18	North Adams HS. Round Room, Starting at 6:30 p.m. in Seaman.
December 22	Southern Hills CTC Board Office Bldg. (Georgetown) Hamer Rd at 1:00 p.m.
December 22	Hillsboro H.S.(Cafeteria)beginning at 6:30 p.m.
February 2	Frisch's in West Union on SR 41 South, at 1:00 p.m.
February 2	Southern Hills Career Center in Georgetown at 6:30 p.m.

