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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Adams County Cattlemen's Educational Meetings

I am in the works for setting up a few educational meetings for cattle producers in Adams County in conjunction with the Adams County Cattlemen's Association. These meetings will be open to the public and you do not have to be a resident of Adams County or a member of your local cattlemen's association.

The first meeting will be on January 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Frisch's in West Union. Plan to come early so you can eat prior to the beginning of the program. The meal will be on your own, as it is NOT included in these FREE programs.

The January 10 program will include information on dealing with feeding in muddy conditions. Dr. Steve Boyles, OSU Extension Beef Specialist will be our presenter. After Steve discusses the issues with feeding in mud in the coming months, he will also offer an opportunity for Transportation Quality Assurance Certification.

I am still finalizing the programs for February and March. If you plan to attend, please help me out by calling the office at 544-2339 and register with Barbie so I know how many to plan for. Please do this at least a week prior to the class so I can let Frisch's know so they can have enough servers scheduled.

Grape and Wine Workshop at South Centers

The Ohio State University South Centers (Piketon) is hosting a Grape & Wine Analysis Workshop on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person and a lunch is included. Anyone wishing to attend will need to preregister no later than Friday, December 14, 2018. Call Bradford Sherman at 740-289-2071 ext. 115 or email him at sherman.1473@osu.edu with your registration details, including any dietary restrictions.

For even more information read the article on the South Center's website here:

<https://southcenters.osu.edu/grape-and-wine-analysis-workshop-coming-south-centers-in-december>

Is it a Brown Recluse Spider?

OSU Extension has many teams with OSU Extension Educators with areas of specialization. Many of these teams work together to write newsletters to help educate the rest of us. The Beef Cattle Letter, CORN newsletter and BYGL (Buckeye Yard and Garden Line) newsletter are just a few of these. The recent BYGL contained this information from Ashley Kulhanek. I think it is very timely. Ashley recommended several factsheets from both Penn State and the University of Kentucky for more info.

It's the holiday season (*the holiday season...*) and many are digging in attics and basements for decorations and bows, stored sweaters, coats and yes... SNOW boots. Inevitably, Extension offices receive calls about the unfortunate spider (or stink bug) that was found, dead or alive, while sifting through packages, boxes or bags that haven't seen the light of day for a year. The question is, "Is it a brown recluse?"



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Remember that there are many different spiders that may come to inhabit our homes at one point or another, and cooler temperatures often facilitate home invasions from multiple insects and spiders

alike. This includes some recluse look-alike spiders such as wolf spiders, funnel weaver spiders, and barn spiders. These home invaders often make their way indoors for shelter, protection from the weather, or in search of food. They are actually beneficial, providing pest control of other insects or arthropods you would rather not have, inside or out. So, keeping them around is usually encouraged!

Brown recluse spiders (*Loxosceles reclusa*) are not known to survive winter outdoors in Ohio, but they do survive well indoors and can be dispersed through movement of furniture or household goods to areas outside their generally considered "range". Brown recluse spiders are secretive in nature. As with many spiders, any undisturbed dark area could be a habitable space for them to hide out. They, as with many other spider species, could inhabit garages, attics, basements and crawl spaces, behind wall voids, and hollow spaces. Shed skins and egg sacs may be found near joists and tight protective spaces or under clutter, insulation, stored undisturbed boxes and stored clothing. So when we run across any spider or critter that falls out of that artificial tree we just hauled upstairs, we often assume the worst.

They are named recluse for their shy and timid behavior. People who come into contact with the poor creatures usually do so by stepping into a shoe or tossing on a stored item of clothing that has long sat and hasn't been washed or shook out for a long time. In the face of the impending SQUISH, the spiders must lash out and bite as their only last defense. And this is how many spider bites have happened, regardless of species. Most arthropods only bite or sting in defense during accidental crushing or agitation.

The identifying character most cited for Brown Recluse is the "violin" or "fiddle" shape on its back (cephalothorax). This description is actually a little subjective and sometime people mistake stripes or other patterns as the so-called fiddle. A better key to identifying the brown recluse is its eyes. Brown recluse have only 6 small eyes arranged in three pairs on the head. With legs extended they are about the size of a quarter. They are tan to brown in color and appear semi-hairless though they do have short sparse hairs.

General precautions for any home spiders concerns:

- Reduce clutter that serves as dark hiding places in basements, garages, and homes.
- Use gloves and wear long sleeves when unpacking boxes from storage.
- Be vigilant of what you are doing and where you are stepping in unfrequented spaces. Use a bright flashlight to inspect dark corners you may be rustling around in if concerned about the presence of spiders.

Farmer's Tax Guides Available

I picked up the Farmer's Tax Guides from campus this week. You can stop by and pick one up at the OSU Extension Office. As always, the tax guides are free while supplies last. With 2018 being the crazy year it has been, you would be well advised to consult your tax preparer prior to the end of the year.

Dates to Remember

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| January 14 | Pesticide Testing at noon at the Old Y Restaurant. Pre-register at ODA by calling 800-282-1955 or online at http://pested.osu.edu |
| January 16 | Small Farm College will begin. This is an 8-week course offered from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. This OSU Extension event will be in the round room |

at North Adams High School. Registration material will soon be available at the OSU Extension offices throughout Ohio including the Adams County Office. Materials are available online today. Go to the OSU Extension Website, <http://adams.osu.edu>

- January 22 Beef Quality Assurance Certification. Union Stockyards with the meal beginning at 5:30 p.m. The program will begin at 6:30 or once everyone is finished eating, so please do not come at 6:30 to eat. Call Janet at 393-1958 to register.
- January 23 Fertilizer and Pesticide re-certification at Frisch's in West Union. Fertilizer starts at 10:30 a.m. with pesticide beginning at noon. Please pre-register by Jan 16 for this class by calling Barbie at 544-2339.
- January 31 Fertilizer Certification for commercial and private applicators in Georgetown in the Administration Building on the Brown Co. Fairgrounds from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. More details to come.
- Feb. 6 Ohio River Valley Agronomy Day at Mason Co. Extension Office in Maysville. Free program that begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Feb. 7 Fertilizer and Pesticide re-certification at Frisch's in West Union. Fertilizer starts at 5:00 p.m. with pesticide beginning at 6:30 p.m.. Please pre-register by Jan 31 for this class by calling Barbie at 544-2339.