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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dicamba Soybeans Sprayer Education

A couple weeks ago or so, I wrote about some of the changes that were coming with the technology of Dicamba resistant soybeans. There were several that used this technology in 2017 and will probably be many more in 2018. There were several issues that occurred with neighbor soybeans and the reasons could be several things, but in the end neighbor soybeans were damaged in some cases. This does not typically set up the best situation when crops are damaged so there will be more education required to use this technology in 2018.

From what I understand, there will be training offered by the companies that supply the technology. What I have been told is that OSU Extension will NOT be doing the training. The requirements for applicators will be different than what is the norm for those using restricted pesticides.

In the case of Dicamba the applicator will have to be trained. The actual person doing the application, not someone that is supervised by someone who has been trained.

This was not the only thing that I took away from the training that I attended last week about Dicamba and what happened in 2017. Farmers in many cases are good neighbors to each other. In most cases, when something goes wrong that causes damage to a neighbor crop, it is simply taken care of and compensation is made amongst themselves. No need for anyone else to be involved. No need to cause someone to get in trouble if they can work it out, everyone is happy in the end, or at least satisfied.

The message that I heard on the issues with Dicamba in 2017 included cases where this happened. The message that ODA (Ohio Department of Agriculture) shared with us was that they need documentation when there are problems with this technology and other's crops are damaged. What I understood was that ODA was not looking to levy fines, but needed documentation of issues so they could better deal with the problems that occur. My understanding is that they need to know about the problems. The number of problems that I heard about here locally compared to the number of reported to ODA for the entire state of Ohio makes it clear that most issues were not actually reported to ODA in 2017.

Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-certifications for 2018

The dates for the 2018 Pesticide and Fertilizer re-certifications are listed below in the Dates to Remember, however I have not discussed the registration for this year. As I told a few weeks ago, the plan is to have 2 new educators hired soon. I will soon be covering just Adams County and the two new hires will be for Brown and Highland Counties. So all registrations will NOT be in Brown County with Cindy as it has been the past several years. Yes, you can still attend any of the sessions, but you will need to register for the one you plan to attend. There are other changes to registration coming this year, too. I will have more details on this soon, so hold off on calling to register until we know more about the changes. I will keep you updated in this column, on local radio and the webpage.



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OSU Extension Office Hours

The next couple of weeks we will all be celebrating the holidays, so I thought it might be a good idea just to go over the office hours. With Christmas falling on Monday, the offices will be closed on December 25 and 26. The next week, the office will be closed on Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day. Just a reminder, with short staff in all 3 offices, it is always a good idea to call before you make the trip. In several cases there may only be one person in the office, especially during the holidays as some take vacation to spend time with their families. With only one in the office, if they need to run to the bank or post office you could find the door locked. So, please call before you make the trip. The office numbers are as follows: Adams County 544-2339; Brown County 378-6716 and Highland County is 393-1918.

Farmer's Tax Guides

Farmer's Tax Guides are here. Stop by the office if you need one. They are still free.

Dates to Remember

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| Jan. 8 | Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Pre-register by calling ODA at 800-282-1955 or online at http://pested.osu.edu |
| Feb. 20 | Adams Co. Pesticide Re-certification at Frisch's starting at 5:00 p.m. 3 hours of Pesticide and 1 hour of Fertilizer Re-certification. Must Pre-register. |
| Feb. 28 | Brown Co. Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-cert at Southern Hills Board Office at 11:00 a.m. Must Pre-register. |
| Mar. 2 | Highland Co. Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-cert at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro at 11:00 a.m. Must Pre-register. |