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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Adams County Cattlemen's Educational Meeting

I have added another meeting to the calendar for cattle producers. This one is on Feb. 21 at Frisch's in West Union. Read the dates below for more details. I am waiting confirmation for the March meeting.

Importance of a Quality Mineral Program

As part of the winter Beef Education Meetings that I have scheduled, one of them will address the importance of a good mineral program. Certain minerals are important for different things when it comes to the overall health and productivity of the herd. The following is from a recent post in the Beef Blog from Peter Vitti, with Grain News.

- **Strong hooves.** Because zinc is part of specific enzyme systems involved in epithelial (skin) formation and repair, feeding extra dietary zinc is thought to strengthen cattle hooves, particularly under harsh field and housing conditions. For example, Illinois State University fed a group of replacement heifers an additional 200 mg/hd/d in the form of zinc methionine (organic zinc) for 75 days and had fewer cases of foot rot, heel cracks, claw dermatitis, and laminitis. Stronger hooves provide a stronger barrier against pathogenic microbes that commonly work their way into cracks in cattle hooves and once inside, they cause foot disease.

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- **Less sickness.** Texas research demonstrates that serum zinc levels decrease dramatically when drylot beef cattle were diagnosed with respiratory tract infections caused by IBR. On the other hand, some Midwest research demonstrates when dietary zinc is supplemented in a more bioavailable forms (such as chelated zinc); less morbidity (sickness) among long-trucked receiving feedlot cattle was reported. Similarly, zinc has been shown to fight mastitis by stimulating an immune system response in infected udders.
- **Fertility.** Zinc has been shown to play an essential role in many cow reproductive functions such as strong estrus cycles, improved conception rates, promotion of normal post-partum uterine involution, and reduction of metritis. In the bullpen, zinc plays in a role in male fertility; essential role in the sperm production, and increased circulating male hormones such testosterone.

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 I remember about five years ago, when a beef producer grazing about 100 beef cows in swampy pastures had a real problem with lameness in his cattle (such as the Illinois case, above). The good news was that it wasn't foot rot, but many cows suffered from cracked and bruised hooves. I suggested he feed zinc-methionine at four grams per head (formulated into a commercial beef mineral) daily for the rest of the summer and until the ground freezes. At the end of the four months, he told me that the cow herd had got over this crippling problem.

It's a good demonstration on the power of zinc in cattle nutrition, whether you are feeding beef cows, replacement heifers, bulls or calves. It also a good reminder that zinc as well as other essential



nutrients will only “work” in cattle when; they receive a good level, it’s in a bioavailable form and the zinc is balanced with other nutrients in the cattle diet. As a result, overall good nutrition as well as good zinc status is assured.

Dates to Remember

- January 10 Adams Co. Cattlemen’s Educational Meeting. The meeting will begin at Frisch’s at 7:30 p.m. Meal is on your own, so please come early enough to eat prior to the meeting. Dr. Steve Boyles will present on feeding in muddy conditions, and he will offer certification for Transportation Beef Quality Assurance. Free and open to public. Please call 544-2339 at least one week prior to register if you plan to attend.
- 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. 5 2019 Southern Ohio Specialty Crop Conference at the Oasis Conference Center in Loveland, Ohio. Go to the conference website at <http://go.osu.edu/swohfvsc> or call the Warren County Extension office at 513-695-1311 if you have additional questions. I have registration materials in the Adams Co. Extension Office.
- Feb. 5 Ohio Beef School (This was just announced) Adams Co. location TBA.
- 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.

- Feb. 21 Adams County Cattlemen Education meeting at Frisch's at 7:00 p.m. The topic will be meeting nutrient needs with poor hay and plenty of mud, plus the importance of good quality minerals.
- March 12 Farm and Family Night at Maysville Community and Technical College.