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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Farm Truck Awareness Program Monday

With more and more producers growing more acres and producing greater yields, the number of trucks on the road has increased in local agriculture. In many cases the driver who delivers the fertilizer in the spring or the takes the harvest to the elevators in the fall is not the farm operator.

In either case, the farm operator, a relative, or hired help, we all could benefit from a little more awareness. The safety for the people on the roads, on the farm and the driver are all part of this. There are several things that will be discussed at this program held with the Southwest Corn Growers, including maintenance on the truck, insurance and much more. This program will start at 2:00 p.m. in the Sabina area at Woodruff Farms and go until 6:00 which is the time for the Southwest Corn Growers Association Annual Meeting on Monday, February 17.

For more information and registration, call the Clinton (937-382-0901) or Fayette County (740-335-1150) Extension Office.

GAP Training for Tobacco Producers

GAP training is now pretty much an expected thing for tobacco growers. Some companies required GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) last year, so some people have already been trained. GAP consists of several things about the production of the crop, record keeping, and more.

I currently have 3 opportunities for GAP training. The space is limited for these sessions, so you must pre-register. There is no charge for the class, but you do need to log onto <http://gapconnections.com> and get that part done prior to the training. Please call the Adams County, OSU Extension Office to register ASAP. These may fill up and if they do I may offer an additional session. Call Pam in Adams Co. at 544-2339 to register for one of the following times: March 10 at 4:00 p.m. at the Ohio Valley CTC in West Union; March 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ohio Valley CTC; or March 19 at the Southern Hills CTC in Georgetown at 1:00 p.m.

As I said, there is no charge, you need to go to the web and get yourself registered at the address above. Then call Pam so we know how many we will have at each session. All Pam will need is your name, phone number and the county you produce tobacco in.

Solid Waste Management on the Farm

I am sure this winter is beginning to, or has been for a while, wearing on most everyone. We have seen enough cold temperatures, snow, ice and mud to last us for a few months, or in my case years. The weather has led to an extended amount of feeding of hay, and more manure in concentrated areas. This can be a problem, but it can also be a good thing.

Ideally the manure is spread out evenly as cattle graze. This also allows for the nutrients in that manure to be spread out onto the fields as well. When we feed in concentrated areas the manure needs to be managed. The good thing that I referred to before is the concentrated areas can be utilized later on fields that may need additional nutrients. The use of a front end loader and a manure spreader can help manage where the nutrients are applied, so they runoff is minimized and the nutrients are there available for the coming growing season.

Beef Check-off Voting

In the next few weeks any and all cattle producers will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum to raise the beef check off in Ohio. The proposed increase would be from the current \$1 per head to \$2 per head. The opportunity to vote is ongoing online at <http://Ohiocattle.org>. You can also vote in person at the local OSU Extension offices for three days in March. You may stop by the offices during regular office hours on March 18, 19 or 20. The website also explains more details about the check off and the proposed change.

Dates to Remember

- Feb. 18 & March 11 OSU Beef School sessions 2 and 3, both starting at 7 pm. The Beef School will be held at the Frisch's in West Union. Class is also offered in Piketon and the Fayette Co. Extension office in Washington Court House. Session details in Jan. 6 newspaper article and on the OSU Extension County webpage. (name of the county).osu.edu
- March 7&8 Fifth Annual Small Farm Conference at Wilmington College. Registration information is available at <http://clinton.osu.edu>
- Mar. 10 Pesticide Testing opportunity for anyone wanting a Private or Commercial Applicator license for Ohio. Testing requires pre-registration with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This can be done online at <http://pested.osu.edu> or call toll free at 800-282-1955. Other test dates include April 14 and May 12 at this time. Others may be scheduled if needed.
- March 10 Tobacco GAP training in West Union at 4:00 and 7:30. Please pre-register by calling Pam at 544-2339 by March 7.
- March 11 Farm and Family Night at Maysville Community and Technical College starting at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are needed, but they are FREE. Tickets can be picked up at the Adams, Brown, Clermont or Highland Co. Extension offices. There will be a large selection of classes to choose from that evening, plus a light meal and the trade show. A flyer with details will be available with the tickets.
- March 19 Tobacco GAP training in Georgetown at 1:00 p.m. . Please pre-register by calling Pam at 544-2339 by March 17.

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