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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Need to Remove Net Wrap

Over the years I have seen many round bales. Some bales are tied with traditional twine that rots on the bottom of the bales stored outside before the hay is fed. There is also string tied bales with plastic string. This does not rot and is a real mess in the manure if not removed at the time of feeding. The net wrap is an even bigger mess if not removed at the time of feeding. The plastic string and net can both be a problem for catching and ripping out ear tags. The bigger problem might be in the animal's digestive system. Below is a question to a veterinarian with the answer. This is from Dr. Ken McMillan and was in the Beef Blog from Progressive Farmer.

Question: I always remove the twine or bale wrap from round hay bales before feeding them to my cattle, but I see many other folks who never do. They don't seem to have a problem. Am I wasting my time?

Answer: While I have never diagnosed a problem where twine or bale wrap caused an issue in the digestive system, many others tell me they have. One of my best producers says he has had issues with Mylar helium balloons floating into their pastures and being eaten. If cows will eat these, I have no doubt they'll eat twine and bale wrap.

Many of the pastures I walk through are covered with supposedly biodegradable twine or wrap. I have seen calves walking around with twine in their mouths. It's unquestionably messy and unsightly, and it's a risk I would not want to take. I would be interested in hearing from producers who have had problems.

And I will make this pitch for doing necropsies when you lose an animal. I am certain that producers in my practice area have lost cows from ingestion of twine or wrap, but too many just accept that the cow died. If we don't look, we don't know.

One of my cows had pneumonia that I couldn't treat and couldn't figure out where it came from. I put her down and looked. She had a primary lung tumor, which is very rare. Just last year, I had a really good 3-month-old heifer who suddenly developed colicky signs. I treated her but then had to be gone for a day for the funeral of one of my childhood friends. The calf died, and when I looked, she had an intussusception, meaning the intestine had folded into itself, cut off circulation and caused the calf to die.

Knowing I did what I could was comforting to me. But finding the cause, especially when it's something that can be avoided in the future, is extremely valuable.



Small Farm Conference & Trade Show

The two day conference will be held on Friday, March 29th and Saturday, March 30th at the OSU South Centers in Piketon, Ohio. This is the program that has been held at Wilmington College for several years.

The conference is designed for small farm owners wanting to learn more about how to make their farms work better for them. Many topics will be offered to help landowners expand their operations. Land owners can attend workshops and seminars taught by Extension professionals and industry leaders on a wide variety of agricultural enterprises. Attendees will also get to meet various vendors at the trade show. The trade show will be open part of the day on Friday, and all day Saturday.

For more information you can access the agenda, registration and much more on the web at: <https://agnr.osu.edu/small-farm-programs/new-and-small-farm-conferences> If you do not have access to the internet you can call the OSU South Centers at 800-297-2072 or call Tony Nye at 937-382-0901.

Berry and Grape Workshop

The Ohio State University South Centers is hosting a Blueberry, Bramble, and Wine Grape Pruning School workshop on Thursday, March 14, 2019 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, March 8, 2019. 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.

Pollinator Education Series

There will be an Education Series on Pollinators on March 12 and 13 in Brown and Clermont Counties. These are free and open to the public. The first program is at the Clermont County Fairgrounds in Owensville on March 12 at 1:00 p.m. This is the Pollinator Advocate Certification. The second program is at 7:00 p.m. on March 12 at Western Brown HS, titled Phenology for Beekeepers, and the third is on March 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brown Co. Fairgrounds, titled Gardening for Pollinators.

Livestock Losses

With the current weather and recent weather there have been several producers talk about losses. The extreme cold and mud is very stressful to livestock. Check with your local FSA office to see if you should be documenting and reporting these losses. There are things that you may need to do to properly report losses.

Ohio Tobacco Museum

In 2019 the fundraiser will be held the same as it has been in the past two years. The Scioto Ribber will cater the meal, and you can choose steak, ribs or chicken with the purchase of your ticket. The location will be the Ripley Elementary School Cafeteria and the date will be April 13, 2019. Tickets are now available and remember we only sell 300 tickets. You can contact me for more information at dugan.46@osu.edu or call 937-544-2339.

Dates to Remember

- Feb. 28 GAP for Tobacco at Frisch's at 1:00 p.m. Call 544-2339 to RSVP one week prior.
- Feb. 28 GAP for Tobacco at Maysville Comm. College at 6:00 p.m.
- Mar. 5 GAP for Tobacco at Frisch's at 1:00 p.m. Call 544-2339 to RSVP one week prior.
- Mar. 5 GAP for Tobacco at the Brown Co. Fairgrounds at 6:30 p.m. call 378-6716.
- March 11 Pesticide Testing for Private and Commercial at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. You must pre-register as the room fills up this time of year. Walk-ins are not likely to be able to take the exams due to limit space. Register online at <http://pested.osu.edu> or call Ohio Dept. of Ag at 800-282-1955 and ask for Pesticide Division.
- March 12 Farm and Family Night at Maysville Community and Technical College.