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Attention Tobacco Producers

It is my understanding that the GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) training will be required by ALL of the tobacco companies buying tobacco in 2014. I have recently talked to some growers who were unsure about the requirement for PMI in Maysville. I talked to a representative who told me GAP was optional in 2013, but it will be required for 2014.

I currently have 3 sessions scheduled here locally. I will add a fourth if needed. Space is limited so please call the Adams Co. Extension Office and Pam will sign you up for the meeting of your choice. She will need your name, phone number and the county you are from. Call 544-2339 by March 7 if possible.

The dates and locations are in the Dates to Remember at the bottom of this article.

Artificial Insemination Class

As we continue through the snow and mud, I hope you are having a successful calving season to this point, if your calving season has started. Regardless if it has started or you are nearly finished, it will soon be time to be thinking about next year's calves. Which bull will sire the next calf crop?

If you have considered AI (Artificial Insemination) in the past, here is an opportunity for you. COBA Select Sires will be offering training in Hillsboro at the United Producers Stockyards on April 15, 16 and 17 starting at 6:00 p.m. each night. The class will include "hands-on" training and certificates for free semen once the class is completed. For more information call COBA Select Sires at 1-800-837-2621.

Ohio Farmers Encouraged to Apply for Treasurer's 2014 Ag-LINK Program

The following is from a news release that came out a while back, but the deadline is approaching soon. This is from the Treasurer's office for the State of Ohio.

The Ohio Treasury's 2014 Agricultural Linked Deposit Program (Ag-LINK) has opened. Farmers may submit online applications for interest rate reductions on agricultural start-up loans through Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 5:00 PM.

"Agriculture is one of Ohio's most important industries," said Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel. "Ohio's farmers put the food on tables that Ohio families eat and their work helps make our state economically strong. As they begin to prepare for their upcoming season, Ohio's farmers work to maximize their investments and cover up-front costs for things like feed, seed, fertilizer and fuel that are vital to a successful harvest."

Through Ag-LINK, now in its 29th year of existence, Ohio farmers can apply for an interest rate reduction on new or existing loans or lines of credit up to \$150,000. Applications are accepted on an annual basis, this year from January 15 through March 12. Lenders must complete and submit applications online on behalf of their borrowers at www.aglink.ohio.gov. If an eligible farmer's application is accepted, the Ohio Treasurer's office places an investment with the financial institution for one year. In turn, the lender lowers the interest rate on the farmer's loan according to the rate reduction established annually by the Treasurer's office.

Building on last year's modernization of the application process, lenders will complete and submit the program application exclusively online. The Treasurer's office is continually working to make the program easier to

navigate in order to better serve both the lenders and the farmers taking part in Ag-LINK.

In order to participate in Ag-LINK, farms must be for-profit and be headquartered, along with more than half of their operations maintained, in Ohio. To qualify, a farmer must apply and be approved for an operating loan or line of credit from a farm credit lender or eligible bank. After approval, the applicant may apply for an interest rate reduction from the Ohio Treasury's Ag-LINK program.

Below is the timeline for the 2014 Ag-LINK program:

* Ag-LINK applications must be received online by the Economic Development Department at the State Treasurer's office no later than 5:00 PM on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

* Once the application process has been completed, notification of each application's status will be sent to each lender no later than Friday, April 4, 2014.

* The State Treasurer's office is requiring lenders to confirm acceptance or denial of the linked deposit for each application they have submitted by Friday, April 11, 2014. This is only to confirm that the borrowers will participate in Ag-LINK.

* Requests for funding will be accepted from Monday, April 21, 2014 through Wednesday, June 25, 2014.

Detailed information on the program and eligibility requirements can be found by visiting the State Treasurer's website at www.OhioTreasurer.gov/AgLINK or by calling the State Treasurer's Economic Development Department at 1-800-228-1102 (Option #3).

Dates to Remember

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| 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 or go to our website for a flyer. Example: http://brown.osu.edu |
| March 11 | OSU Beef School session 3 starts at 7 p.m. 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 WCH. |
| March 17 | Clean-up Pesticide Re-certification for Private Applicators at noon at the South Campus of Southern State Community College in Fincastle in the Gateway Center. Pre-registration and payment must be made by March 10 with the cost of \$35. Late registrations will be an additional \$10 fee. Call Cindy at the Brown Co. Extension Office at 378-6716. |

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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Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration; Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension; and Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership.

For Deaf and Hard of Hearing, please contact Ohio State University Extension using your preferred communication (e-mail, relay services, or video relay services). Phone 1-800-750-0750 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST Monday through Friday. Inform the operator to dial 614-292-6181