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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vitamins and Minerals

Vitamins and minerals are important. How many of you take some type of vitamin supplement daily? If they are important for us, they are also important for livestock. There is a need for certain vitamins/minerals to help keep livestock healthy, to improve efficiency in growth, improve efficiency in reproduction, to improve the ability of vaccines to work, and the list goes on and on.

As we go through a tough time for livestock with the weather conditions it is important that we provide a good quality mineral. The livestock need it, so you may want to talk to your feed dealer about your options. There are high priced formulations and low priced formulations. Most also have a middle of the road line of minerals. In most cases the middle grade will meet the needs. This is not the place to save a dollar. The mineral intake is regulated by salt, so do not make a salt block available to cut the mineral consumption. They will eat less mineral, your bill for mineral will be cheaper with a salt block, but the cows are only getting a portion of the other needed minerals in that bag.

Mineral blocks are not the best source of minerals for consumption. Loose minerals are much more likely to be consumed by livestock to meet their needs. Yes, I know. They eat too much, right?

The mineral is formulated so they consume what they need as long as it is available free choice, all of the time. If they do not have access to it, they will over consume. The key is to keep it available so they consume it at a rate of 3 to 4 ounces per day. If they are lacking in mineral it may take a few days to get them to consume at the correct rate. If you keep it available they will adjust in time.

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://agmr.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

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| 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. |