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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Importance of Pesticide Safety

Most people at some point in their lives have used some type of pesticide. A pesticide by definition is: a substance or agent used to kill pests, such as unwanted or harmful insects, rodents, or weeds. In most cases when someone feels they need to control or kill a pest they seek the pesticide that will do the job. That is normally not too difficult to do. However, in many cases that pesticide may not be available to everyone. Some pesticides are considered more dangerous than others for one reason or another, thus requiring a license to purchase and/or use the product.

With that in mind, you may now understand the Pesticide Testing that we offer every month on the second Monday at the Old Y Restaurant at noon and the Pesticide Re-certifications that we offer every year during the months of January through March. March 31 is the date that the three year licenses expire for approximately one third of the people who hold a license.

The Pesticide license is actually through the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The Dept. of Ag is the regulatory part of this process. In Ohio, OSU Extension has been the educational part of the process. This is true for both private applicators and commercial applicators. Private applicators are those who are using pesticides on their own property for the most part. Commercial applicators are spraying on property that is not their own and for pay. This includes public property that may not include pay. This would include all products on property like schools, parks, churches, etc.

In all cases the label is the law. For those who may use a pesticide in any situation, it is important to read the label. There has been many hours of research put into the use of the product to make sure it is safe to use, however there are issues that need to be addressed to prevent issues that may not be safe. In some cases the issue may be ground water if the product runs off. Other issues may be how long before a crop is used for food for livestock, or humans, this is the Pre-Harvest Interval (PHI). There are also issues like Re-Entry Interval (REI), this is the amount of time before you can enter into the field or structure after the use of a product.

There are signs and signal words that are noteworthy, too. Warning, Caution, Danger make up some words that you may look for. Danger or Dangerous may be accompanied by a Skull and Cross Bones. Look for these signal words, but most importantly, read the label. Read the entire label before you uses the product. Trying to read after an accident has occurred is not a good thing for so many reasons.

## Tobacco Museum Fundraiser

Last week I wrote about the Tobacco Museum Fundraiser scheduled for April 8 in Ripley. Tickets are available now. I did receive a few calls and request for tickets in recent days. If you would like more information you can read my previous columns on our website at <http://adams.osu.edu> or you can go to Brown or Highland by substituting the county name into the link.

## Dates to Remember



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January 9	Pesticide testing at noon, Old Y Restaurant, every month, second Monday.
January 12	Small Farm College in Owensville.
January 17	Ohio Beef School starts at 7:00 p.m. Plan is for two locations with one being confirmed as Hillsboro HS Agriculture classroom. The second location is TBD. There are 2 additional dates of Feb. 7 and Feb. 28, same locations and time.
January 18	Three-hour Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training for those people who do not currently hold a Pesticide Applicator License. Southern State Community College in Hillsboro at 12:30 p.m. or North Adams HS in Seaman at 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited at SSCC so pre-register early by calling Cindy at the Brown Co. Extension Office at (937) 378-6716.
January 26	Three hour Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training and Pesticide Re-certification at OSU South Centers in Piketon. Call to pre-register at the Pike County Extension Office at 740 289-4837.
February 1	Ohio River Valley Agronomy Day at the Mason Co. Extension Office.
February 4	Brown Co. Cattlemen Annual Banquet.
February 7	Beef School.
February 8	Two-hour Fertilizer Certification and three-hour Pesticide Re-certification at North Adams HS with Fertilizer starting at 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. meal, then Pesticide Re-certification 7:30 until 10:30 p.m. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. Call Cindy at the OSU Extension Office at 937-378-6716.
February 9	Two-hour Fertilizer Certification and three-hour Pesticide Re-certification at Southern Hills Board Office in Georgetown with Fertilizer starting at 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. meal, then Pesticide Re-certification 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. Call Cindy at the OSU Extension Office at 937-378-6716.
February 14	Start of Grain Marketing School at the Southern Hills Board Office in Georgetown on five Tuesdays. (Feb. 14, 21, 28, March 7 and 21) The classes will begin at 1:00 p.m. and go until approximately 4:00 p.m. Charge is \$25 and the same class will be offered on Wednesday evenings (the next day) in Chillicothe.
February 15	Two-hour Fertilizer Certification and three-hour Pesticide Re-certification at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro with Fertilizer starting at 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. meal, then Pesticide Re-certification 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. Pre-registration is REQUIRED and space is limited at this location. Call Cindy at the OSU Extension Office at 937-378-6716.
Feb. 28	Beef School.
March 3	Agriculture is Everyone's Business at SSCC in Hillsboro.
March 7	Farm and Family Night at Maysville Community and Technical College.
March 10-11	Southern Ohio Small Farm Conference at Wilmington College. This will include another 3-hour Fertilizer Training.