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Tobacco Buyout Money Delayed

The annual tobacco payments were supposed to run through this year. These payments were part of the buyout that was signed into law in October of 2004. The payments have arrived in bank accounts or as a check for the past several years during the month of January.

The payments hit a snag. In fact those payments appeared to be subject to sequestration (the "automatic" reductions in spending authority that were authorized by the Budget Control Act of 2011). At the Burley Expo, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky spoke about this situation. According to the Senator the payments will now come, but they will be delayed. So do not look for the payments in the near future.

Treat for Lice

The conditions have been just great for feeding lots of hay and burning lots of wood in the past few weeks. It has also been ideal conditions for lice to be a problem in the herd. As the temperatures have been cold, cattle group up and lice multiply. Lice come in two forms, biting lice and sucking lice. Hay and most other feed stuffs are cheaper than they were the past couple of years, but the cost is still too high to be feeding parasites. Lice and worms both can be greatly reducing your gain and profit.

There are several pour products that will kill both biting and sucking lice. In most cases a second treatment may be needed to get good control. The first treatment will kill the lice, but most likely not the eggs, so a second treatment is recommended. Consult your local veterinarian for more advice for controlling parasites. Part of that discussion should probably be based on avoiding resistance. Worms have become more of a problem with resistance in recent years, as the same products have been used over and over. Timing is also important for best results.

There are several signs of lice on livestock. One sign might be that the animals just do not appear to be maintaining body condition. Another sign is constantly rubbing on trees and or fences. Cattle will rub their hair of on parts of their body when lice are a problem. Sometimes the rubbing becomes damaging to buildings and fences.

Weather and Truck Cleanup

With the crazy winter that we are having in the Ohio Valley this year, it is a good idea to pay attention to your vehicles. The salt and other products used to melt ice and snow can have a negative impact on your car or truck. Many wash this off the vehicle at the first sign of temperatures and dry roadways. The clean shinny appearance just makes it all look better, so it is all good, right? The answer is probably not.

The point I am trying to make is the fuel lines and brake lines are exposed to the damage more than the part of the vehicle that is painted. Over time this can cause real problems, especially for farm trucks hauling loads. Take the time to clean the undercarriage, too. It will pay in the long run. Some of the automatic car wash systems will do a good job at reducing the amount of salt on the part of that we can't see.

Ohio River Valley Agronomy Day

This event is held at the Mason Co. Extension Office in Maysville, KY. The program includes updates from UK Specialists for Tobacco, Vegetables, Corn, Hay and Pastures and Ponds. The program is free of charge, but you are requested to contact the Mason Co. Extension Office if you plan to attend at 606-564-6808. The program is on Wednesday, February 5 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Lunch is provided.

GAP Training for Tobacco Growers

There will be training for GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) for burley growers. Dates have not yet been set, but part of the process will include obtaining a Grower ID and Registration. This is part of the program so it is unified for all companies that require this training. I will have more on GAP in the coming weeks.

You can register by going to <http://gapconnections.com>

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
- January 30 Day one of the Agronomy Series at the Ponderosa in Hillsboro. Program begins at 10:00 a.m. Please call the Highland Co. Office to register. Remaining dates are **Feb. 27** and **March 27** at the same time and location. Topics, in order are Dr. Terry Niblack discussing nematodes in soybeans and corn, Dr. Mark Loux with weed control and new weed problems, and Dr. Andy Michel with crop insect damage.
- Feb. 3 First night of Sheep and Goat School at Greenfield HS Ag Classroom starting at 7pm, with other nights being every Monday night in February. Sessions will be held at the same location and time.
- Feb. 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.
- March 7&8 Fifth Annual Small Farm Conference at Wilmington College. Registration information will be available soon.
- 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.

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