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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Farming Experts

I recently read an article that discussed the issues that farmers have to deal with when it comes to how they do their everyday work. There are experts everywhere and it is becoming more and more of an issue with the mainstream media and social media. WOW, some of the things that are out there will make you shake your head, and might just make you shake all over.

Recently there was a post that showed up with a bull being restrained in a chute that was laid over so his feet could be trimmed. The animal must be restrained for his safety and the person trimming the hooves, however someone saw the picture and decided this chute was a cow crusher. YES, a cow crusher. Are you shaking yet? Of course, the chute was hydraulic and hooked to a tractor. The tractor was used so the animal could be turned safely, and easily, as the animal probably weighed between 1500 and 2000 pounds. If you would like to read the

The other story I read recently that kind of made me shake was talking about people who live in a farming community, but do not farm. This one made me think. It actually made me think of certain people who fit the story. This article also appeared on the Beef Blog last week and was from Greg Truitt from Indiana. The article's title, "I live in farm country. I know how things are done." Let that sink in before you read any further. That would be like living in a high rise building with a bunch of nuclear scientist and proclaiming you know about how to handle uranium. Or living in a building with a bunch of surgeons and saying, sure I can cut you open and fix that leaking valve in your heart because I live in a building full of surgeons and I know how things are done. Are you shaking your head yet? Here is the article that was in the July 17 edition of the Beef Blog.

"I live in farm country. I know how things are done" is an actual quote from a real person who was sharing anti-livestock propaganda on social media. This individual is not and has never been involved in agriculture. Yet, because they live in a rural community, they think they are an expert on farming. This is not the first time I have heard this argument, some people who grew up on a farm or spent time on a relative's farm when they were young feel they understand and can pronounce judgment on modern agriculture.

These people can be more difficult to communicate with about agriculture than people who have lived in the city all their lives. City folks will readily admit they know nothing about farming, and this sometimes provides an opening to educate. On the contrary, the rural resident feels they are an expert and so are resistant to hearing anything different from someone who really knows. Their ag knowledge is decades out of date or based on their experience with one farming operation or on media misinformation.

Farming practices continually evolve and change. The way we raise crops and livestock today is much different than it was a decade ago, let alone 4 decades ago. Much of this change may not be visible to those not directly involved in production agriculture. Thus, this shows the importance of continuously communicating our story, not only to the urban population but also to our neighbors.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Farming operations need to have a community that understands what they do and how they benefit the local community and economy. A local population that does not see your farm as a threat to them is an ally when you go before a zoning committee or drainage board. I have driven through many small towns with boarded-up storefronts that have signs along the road reading “No Factory Farms” or “No Wind Farms.”

When your neighbors say they understand agriculture, don't assume you are talking about the same kind of agriculture. Their image could be several decades out of date. The next time you encounter one of these so-called experts, invite them to lunch at your farm. Show them how you care for your animals and your land. Give them the opportunity to become real agricultural experts.

OSU South Centers Hops Field Night

The Ohio State University will be hosting the Hops Field Night at the South Centers in Piketon on August 8, 2018. This field night is geared towards all growers, new and experienced. The field night will be held partially indoors, with the majority of the workshop being out in our hops field. Some of the topics to be discussed are:

- Galvanized Trellis System
- Hop Mechanical Harvesting Demonstration
- Drying Demonstration
- Insect & Disease
- Pest Management
- Nutrient Management & Fertigation demonstration
- Drip Irrigation Management

Attendees will receive hands-on experience, visit our hops field, and receive multiple handouts-including the *Ohio Hop Disease Management Guide*. Attendees must preregister. To register, please contact Charissa Gardner at gardner.1148@osu.edu or at 740.289.2071 ext. 132. You don't want to miss this educational one-on-one opportunity.

On another note, this weekend is the annual Ohio Hop Farm Open House organized by our Ohio Hop Growers Guild for this Saturday July 28 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. One Brown County hop farm Scott Farms will be hosting a Home Brew Competition using local ingredients.

Scott Hop Farms
9681 U.S. Route 68
Georgetown, Ohio 45121
<http://www.scottfarmsohio.com/hops.html>

BioGene Field Day

BioGene is having a Field Day on August 29th. One of the speakers will be Dr. Mark Loux of Ohio State. We will also have additional speakers and test plots to review. Lunch will be served around noon, and catered by Country Inn restaurant.

The program will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Southern State Community College located in Mt. Orab which is located at 351 Brooks-Malott Road. You do need to RSVP and if you do so by August 8 there is an extra gift according to the flyer. The toll free office number is 888-862-3276.

Dates to Remember

- August 9 Adams County Farm Bureau/Adams Soil & Water annual meeting. Must register by July 26. Meeting on August 9 is at the Ohio Valley CTC on Lloyd Road beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- August 13 Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Pre-register at 800-282-1955 or <http://pested.osu.edu>
- August 14 Beef Quality Assurance Training at the Union Stockyards in Hillsboro at noon.
- August 23 Beef and Forage Field Night in Jackson at the OARDC Research Facility on SR 93 about a mile south of SR 32, small charge for the meal that begins around 5:00 p.m. Please call in advance if you wish to attend. More details in next week's column.
- August 28 Beef Quality Assurance Training at the Union Stockyards in Hillsboro at 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 13 Beef Quality Assurance Training at the United Producers Stockyards in Hillsboro at 6:30 p.m.
- October 25 Beef Quality Assurance Training at the United Producers Stockyards in Hillsboro at 6:30 p.m.