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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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August Already

It is hard to believe that July is nearly over. We experienced such a wet beginning to the growing season that caused delayed planting, stunted plants and delayed harvest of forages. June saw much of the area with over 8 inches of rain and then came July.

Much of July was dry in the southern part of the county and maybe parts of the northern part, but some rain did fall in parts of the county throughout the month. This morning, July 30, saw some needed rainfall that should green up pastures and give late cut hayfields a boost. The rain was still falling when I left the farm, but the rain gauge showed nearly 1.75 inches.

Frances Fluharty, who was formerly with OSU Extension, is now the Department Head of the Animal and Dairy Science Department at the University of Georgia. Francis has done years of work on animal nutrition and he recently wrote about the plans that need to be made going into the upcoming winter. Francis discusses the need for planning to supplement with grain or by-products with poor quality hay. The information that Francis provides is in the Beef Blog and it was in the Beef Cattle Newsletter last Wednesday.

One of the things that needs to be done to begin making plans for the winter can be done right now. Testing the forage you have rolled up for winter feeding. Forage testing is not that difficult. I have a probe that can be borrowed for pulling samples if you have a cordless drill and a zip lock baggy. The Adams County Soil and Water District office also has a hay probe that can be used. You need to pull samples from about 10-15 bales to get a better sample. The cost is around \$25 including shipping, depending on how many samples you take. With the weather spreading out the hay harvest this year, the quality of your early cuttings to your late cuttings will vary greatly. Each field probably should be a separate sample.

Another thing that can be done is planting some things that can be raised for grazing this fall. Extending the grazing season can save on the need to supplement. Oats, turnips, radishes, and more can be planted now to graze in November. The rain we had today will be enough to get these crops off to a great start. Adding a little nitrogen, maybe 50 pounds of actual nitrogen will give these crops the potential to produce tons of feed. Remember Soil and Water has a no-till drill that can be rented.

While thinking fertilizer, that same 50 pounds or so on hay fields may provide quite the boost for a decent second cutting, too. Yes, we will need more rain in the coming weeks to make it a bunch of hay, but the nitrogen now will give it the potential.

Another option, or maybe I should say an additional thought for extending the grazing season is stockpiling fescue. Allowing fescue to rest and adding about 50 pounds of nitrogen will make really good feed in November and December with a little rain between now and then.



Adams County Farmer's Market

The Adams County Farmer's Market is open for business every Saturday Morning for the coming weeks. The market is set up on the west side of the Adams County Courthouse in West Union starting at 9:00 a.m. and is open until 1:00 p.m. Anna Adams at the OSU Extension Office is a contact for more information about the market. The OSU Extension Office phone number is 544-2339.

Dates to Remember

- August 6 Adams County Farm Bureau and Soil and Water Annual Meeting
- August 13 Southwest Corn Growers Field Day in Washington C. H.
- August 22 Beef and Forage Field Night at OARDC in Jackson at 5:00 p.m.