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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Southern Ohio Ag and Community Development Foundation

The Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation has been in existence for well over a decade now. There have been a number of miles of fence built, buildings constructed, pieces of equipment purchased, college tuition dollars and much more in that time. This foundation has provided funds to adapt to the loss of income that was once provided by growing and marketing tobacco.

The program will be taking applications for funding again during the month of August. To find out if you may be eligible you can go online at www.soacdf.net or you may want to attend one of the local meetings to learn more about the application process. The local meetings include: Tuesday, July 5 at 10:00 a.m. in Georgetown at the Southern Hills Career Center on Hamer Road; and Thursday July 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cherry Fork Community Center on SR 136 in Cherry Fork.

The Foundation will also have representatives at the USDA Service Center in Lucasville on July 6 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.; the FSA Office Conference Room in West Union on July 20 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.; and in the Brown County Extension Office located on the Fairgrounds in Georgetown from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. on July 20.

Oats, planted late, aren't your Grandpa's oats!

As some people continue to work toward completing the first cutting hay in some parts of the 3 counties due to the past month plus being wetter than normal, others are dry. In some cases you may be looking for an improved quality of forage, why in other cases you may be looking for a greater quantity of forage. In either case, oats may be your best option. I have seen oats planted in early August do pretty well even in a very dry year. This article appeared in the Beef Cattle Letter a few years ago, and was written by Stan Smith. Stan is a program assistant with OSU Extension in Fairfield County (Lancaster, OH). I believe it will provide you with enough information to decide if oats may be the best option for you in your situation. Here is what Stan had to say.

With over 10 years of experience under our belts planting oats after the first of July with the intent of creating as much high quality forage as possible, it's apparent there is not a better alternative. When oats are planted in July or early August, we have consistently experienced production of 4 to 7 tons of dry matter with 18+/-% protein.

To put this into perspective, the average production of hay harvested from perennial forages in Ohio is LESS THAN HALF of that! Without including land or harvest costs, those 5+/- tons of oat forage come at a TOTAL COST of less than \$25 per ton even at today's fertilizer prices.



Suffice to say, oats planted after July 1 when the days are growing shorter are not the same oats you used to help your Grandpa plant in March! Even though we are using the same varieties of oats one would plant in early spring for the purpose of harvesting grain, when planted in the summer, oats consistently become a nutrient dense, highly vegetative forage. These late planted oats will remain in the vegetative state until a significant freeze stops them in late November or December, while seldom making a seed head. If they do, the seed hulls are empty with no grain.

As you consider your options to replace the forage production we've already lost this year, consider what we've learned over the past several years about growing oats for forage

* When planted this late, oat variety appears to have little impact on forage yields. In fact, we've used bin run seed, certified seed, treated seed, U.S. grown feed oats and Canadian feed oats and found essentially no difference in the resulting forage production.

* Oats are a "scavenger" for nutrients and require little additional fertilizer. We've applied 18 to 50 units of supplemental nitrogen to July and early August planted oats and experienced similar yields with each rate. While each ton of oats that are removed from the field will take ~14 pounds of phosphorus and ~ 50 pounds of K with it, we have not seen a yield boost when these nutrients were applied at planting.

* No-tilled seeding rates of from 80 pounds to 100 pounds of oats have resulted in optimum forage yields.

* Oats planted into dust, or into significant moisture have both yielded comparably. Oats planted in July/August seem to tolerate dry weather very well. Some of our best yields have been experienced when July, August and September precipitation has been below normal.

* Depending on precipitation and planting date, 60 to 90 days of growth are sufficient to optimize yields.

* While strip grazing is the most efficient method of harvest, baling dry hay and creating ensilage have also been successful.

* When strip grazing or mechanical harvest is delayed, the quality of oat forage is maintained well into winter. On March 11, 2003, we found that August of 2002 planted oats which were still being strip grazed had 11.12% protein. A nearby fescue field that was also being grazed had 8.19% protein on the same day.

* While not experiencing the high yields described earlier, oats have been flown into standing corn and soybean fields in August and September and resulted in yields of from 500 up to 3200 pounds of dry matter per acre without the benefit of any supplemental nitrogen. Seeding rates for aerial seedings have been boosted to 120 pounds per acre. Despite this, total costs for the seed and the aerial application will still be less than \$30 per acre. An additional benefit to interseeding oats into standing corn is the high quality (protein) oats will help make the corn residue more palatable when strip grazing harvested corn fields.

With many small grain fields soon to be harvested and likely sitting idle, the opportunity of flying seed into standing row crops, or early harvested silage fields becoming available later this summer,

cattlemen still have excellent opportunities to create high quality forages that may be mechanically harvested or grazed well into winter and even next spring.

Dates to Remember

June 30 – July 2	Festival of the Bells in Hillsboro
July 10-16	Adams County Fair
July 23	Hops Yard Open House 10:00 a.m. several locations including 2 in Brown County and one in Clermont.