

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Report Wildlife Damage

Last week we held a Livestock Predator program in Adams Co. that consisted of several agencies. The turnout was pretty good and the information shared was worth sharing again, especially when it comes to the Black Vultures.

The Black Vultures are becoming more and more of a problem for livestock producers, but they also do other damage. I saw pictures of damage to homes and things people keep around the home that I didn't know they damaged like a grill cover for example.

A few years ago there was a program that would pay for the loss of livestock through the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The funds are no longer available from this source, but the 2014 Farm Bill may have funding for losses to these Federally Protected birds.

Regardless if funding is available or not, we NEED DATA to help get something changed about what can be done with this problem. If you have livestock killed or other damage please report it. In Adams Co. report it to Bill Wickerham at 544-1010, in Brown report to Danielle Thompson at 378-4424, and in Highland report to the FSA Office at 393-1921.

SOACDF Programs for 2015-16

In case you missed it, there have been changes to the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation in recent years. Eligibility is no longer only for those who once produced or had a tobacco quota. So, if you were not eligible in the past because you didn't have a tobacco history, you may want to check into this a little more.

Over the years there have been many projects funded with help from the SOACDF in Adams, Brown and Highland Counties. There have been barns built, equipment purchased, fence built, livestock purchased, and much more in an effort to diversify away from depending on tobacco as a main source of income. If you recall, this foundation came about after the Master Settlement Agreement between tobacco companies and many of the states. A small portion of that settlement helped start the SOACDF.

In addition to diversification projects there have been funds available for education as well. Many students have benefited with funding for college tuition. The educational funding has been available in different means of applications. Some have been competitive while some have been available if you simply qualify.

There are also funds available for community development. These funds would require more



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direct contact with the SOACDF office which is located in Hillsboro, OH. The number to contact the office for questions about any of the funding I have mentioned above is 937-393-2700. You can also check it out on the web at <http://soacdf.net>

For updates about the regulations and requirements for applications in 2015 you may want to attend one of the informational meetings in our area. There will be two meetings held for the masses to attend. The first one will be on Tuesday, July 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cherry Fork Community Center and the second one will be on Thursday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Southern Hills Career and Technical Center in Georgetown, on Hamer Road, near US 68.

Other opportunities to simply walk-in and meet with a representative from the SOACDF are also scheduled. The dates and locations are as follows: Tuesday, July 14 at the Foundation Office in Hillsboro; Tuesday, July 21 at the FSA office in Adams Co. and Thursday, July 23 at the OSU Extension Office in Brown County, located on the Fairgrounds in Georgetown, The times for all three days are from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Dates to Remember

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| Monday June 8 | Pesticide Testing for private and commercial applicators at noon at the Old Y Restaurant, located on US 62 at the intersection of SR 321. To register contact ODA by calling 800 282-1955 or online go to www.pested.osu.edu |
| July 12-18 | Adams Co. Fair |