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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Fertilizer Certification

I have talked about the Fertilizer Certification Program for months. We have offered several sessions locally and throughout the region. I saw this information in this week's CORN newsletter, and thought I would pass Harold Watters' comments along. We are looking for a date to offer this program regionally in the fall, prior to the September 30 deadline. Watch for date and location of this last opportunity.

Since the fall of 2014 Ohio State University's county educators and field specialists have worked to deliver fertilizer certification training to Ohio growers who farm 50 acres or more. To date we have trained approximately 14,500 at 294 meetings.

Farmers tell us they will attend training programs during the winter months as that's when they have down time to take in such programs. So we too are winding down our training programs. Checking on the Nutrient Education website: <http://nutrienteducation.osu.edu>, shows that there are 23 more fertilizer certification programs scheduled yet this spring and three for the summer. No doubt more will be added, so check the website if you still are need of the certification to spread fertilizer.

By rules established with SB 150 in 2014, the first phase of the fertilizer certification program is to be completed by September 30, 2017. After that date we will begin re-certification programs.

## Time for Fly Control is Not Far Off

As we near the end of March, it will be time to start putting some of your fly control strategies into place. With that said, I think this Ask the Vet is timely as we go through the first year of the Veterinarian Feed Directive (VFD). There will continue to be confusion about what changes will need to take place in several livestock operations over the next few months due to the VFD. This is from Dr. Ken McMillan, DTN/The Progressive Farmer Contributing Editor.

### QUESTION:

I feed a mineral containing an insect growth regulator (IGR) for fly control. My supplier told me the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) would no longer allow him to sell a mineral with an IGR. I usually start feeding this in early spring. What should I do for fly control this year?

### ANSWER:

There is confusion around this issue, and it won't be the last time as we all learn how the VFD works in the real world.



It's possible the mineral you've used in the past has more than an IGR in it. If it also contains an antibiotic, perhaps chlortetracycline (CTC), then your supplier is correct. However, if the mineral only contains an IGR, you do not need a VFD. Nothing substitutes for reading the label here.

As for the VFD, only antibiotics listed as "medically important" by the FDA and administered in feed (which includes minerals) or water fall under the provisions of the VFD. IGRs, ionophores and coccidiostats (including lasalocid, monensin and decoquinate) are not covered by the rule. Keep in mind they must be fed in legal combination.

### **Ohio Tobacco Museum Tickets**

There are still a few tickets available for the reverse raffle on April 8 at the Ripley Elementary School to support the Ohio Tobacco Museum. Only 300 tickets will be sold and the last ticket drawn will win \$8000, with every tenth ticket getting \$100. The \$100 ticket includes a meal catered by the Scioto Ribber. For tickets call me at 515-2314 until the last ticket is sold.

### **Dates to Remember**

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| April 5  | Highland Co. Cattlemen's Annual Banquet   |
| April 8  | Ohio Tobacco Museum Fundraiser/Reverse Raffle at Ripley Elem.   |
| April 8  | Highland County OSU Extension's Dinner and Auction at the Highland Co. Fairgrounds in the evening.  |
| April 10 | Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Must pre-register at <a href="http://pested.osu.edu">http://pested.osu.edu</a> or call 800-282-1955. As always, this test is offered on the second Monday of each month. |