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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Grant Opportunities for Farmer's Markets and Local Foods

There seems to be more and more demand for locally produced foods. Farmer's Markets and other opportunities to buy and sell local foods are frequent calls during the summer months.

There are some grant opportunities, as well as a grant writing workshop, available in the coming weeks. The workshop will be offered in Columbus on the main campus of Ohio State. Sorry, but apparently whoever set this up is NOT a sports fan, as it is April 6 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. April 6 is also Reds Opening Day at 4:10 and the NCAA Men's Basketball Finals later that evening. The address for the workshop is: Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center 2201 Fred Taylor Dr, Columbus, OH 43210. The following is from the flyer.

This workshop will focus on effective grant writing strategies for USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) programs such as the Farmers' Market Promotion Program and the Local Food Promotion Program. However, techniques and skills learned will be useful across USDA agencies, including Farm to School. The workshop is open to all individuals and groups seeking to better connect agricultural producers and consumers through local food systems. Topics will include: USDA grant programs overview, idea development, grant proposal preparation, and the application submission process.

Registration is free, but required. A light meal will be served during the training. Register at: <http://go.osu.edu/LocalFoodsGrantWriting>. This workshop is funded by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and facilitated by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The project is coordinated by the USDA-NIFA Regional Rural Development Centers. If you have questions please contact: Carol Smathers at smathers.14@osu.edu or Christie Welch at welch.183@osu.edu or 800 297-2072.

If you want more information about some the grants that are available just send me an e-mail with a request and I will forward the information that was sent to me. Hopefully it will answer all of your questions, or the ladies listed above may be able to assist you. My e-mail address is dugan.46@osu.edu and if you do not use e-mail you may call, or stop by, one of the local OSU Extension Offices in Adams, Brown or Highland Counties.

Control Poison Hemlock

Poison Hemlock is green and starting to grow pretty rapidly. I have seen some 8 to 10 inches tall recently in Southern Brown Co. I saw some in Northern Highland County a week ago that was starting to grow, too. This is the weed that gets well over your head in height and has white flowers and a pale green stalk with purple blotches. The use of 2,4D or crossbow herbicides at



this time will do a number on it. You may want to make a second application for misses in a week or two.

Grass Tetany Prevention

Last week I said I would have information this week concerning Grass Tetany, and I have nearly ran out of space so it will be brief. This time of year, and the next few weeks, with cool temperatures and plenty of moisture, grasses grow rapidly. Grasses often grown so fast that they do not take up enough magnesium so the livestock can be deficient. This can be fatal, so it is a good management practice to provide additional magnesium in the mineral or other means as we get closer to turn out. This will help the livestock avoid grass tetany, or at least reduce the risk. I will try to have more about this next week, but it might be good to start providing the additional magnesium soon, or when you make your next mineral purchase.

GAP for Tobacco Producers

Last year was the first year for GAP as a requirement for tobacco producers with a contract to sell tobacco. GAP is Good Agricultural Practices and is something that needs to be done every year. The training needs to be done AGAIN this year.

I have had over 220 producers attend one of the five sessions that we have already held in Adams and Brown Counties. However, last year we had over 300, so I am offering one last additional session. Go to <http://gapconnections.com> to register for a grower ID number if you have not done so before. Bring your GAP card to the meeting.

The training will be at Eastern Brown HS in the cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14. You must pre-register for this program by calling the Adams Co. Extension office at 544-2339. Barbie will need your name, phone number and county to pre-register you.

Dates to Remember

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| County Cattlemen | Annual Cattlemen Banquets: Highland County is April 1, Adams County is now changed to April 9, and Brown Co. is April 11. |
| Pesticide Test | April 13 at the Old Y Restaurant begins at noon. These tests are offered on the second Monday of each month. Go to http://pested.osu.edu or call the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 800-282-1955 to register. Space is limited. |
| COBA AI Class | COBA/Select Sires will again offer the training for artificial insemination at the United Producers in Hillsboro on the evenings of April 28, 29 and 30 beginning at 6:00 p.m. For details contact COBA at 800 837-2621. |