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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Grass Tetany Prevention

The grass has really greened up quickly over the past couple of weeks of warm temperatures and sunshine. There has been noticeable growth as I have seen some lawnmowers going, not livestock, but real mowers with a gasoline engine and blades. The other kinds of “lawnmowers”, namely cattle, have been on the go, too. I have seen cattle leave the round bale feeders full of hay and grazing on the short grass whenever they can.

With spring growth there comes some risk of grass tetany. Grass tetany is treatable, but in most cases the detection of the onset of this magnesium deficiency is too late. Most often the first indication is a dead cow or two. The group that is at the greatest risk is the mature cow with a nursing calf. The risk may increase with cool temperatures, but that is not the only thing that can increase the risk. A recent application of potash fertilizer may also increase the risk as the amount of potassium can be a factor with the magnesium. I have read that potassium basically blocks the absorption of magnesium. On the other hand sodium may help increase the cow's ability of absorption of magnesium which is basically done through the rumen. Part of the problem with older cattle being at risk is the fact they cannot store magnesium so it is available to them. They need a regular daily intake, so it is important to keep it available at all times. This is especially important for lactating cows, as milk can drain some of the reserves in the cow.

As with most problems the best management practice is prevention. Keeping the cattle in good health often can be associated with good nutrition. Providing quality feed during the winter with good quality hay and/or a supplement as you lead toward spring and possibly your calving season. A good mineral program is also important as a prevention to grass tetany or other issues. Most, if not all, feed suppliers have mineral available with a higher percentage of magnesium available for this time of the year. Keeping the mineral available to the livestock at ALL times is important, too. Remember, they do not absorb it or store it very well, so daily intake is crucial.

Estate Planning Workshop

The Estate Planning Workshop list is continuing to grow. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn more about the options you may have when it comes to developing your estate plan.

The dates again are March 30 and April 6 with two sessions each date. We will offer the program at 1:00 p.m. at the Southern State Community College in Hillsboro; the evening session will be at Eastern Brown High School at 6:00 p.m. I am happy to be able to offer this workshop at no charge.

Remember even though there is no charge for the class, you must pre-register if you would like copies of the handouts. You can register for the



afternoon sessions at the Highland Co. Extension Office at (937) 393-1918, or the evening sessions at the Brown Co. Extension Office by calling (937) 378-6716.

This workshop is open to everyone. The focus will tend to lean toward farm estates, but will be helpful information for all. There will be information about long term health care insurance, life insurance, Wills, Trusts, LLCs, and more.

GAP Training for Tobacco Growers

If you missed the early GAP programs there will be one last program on April 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the West Union Frisch's. Call the Adams Co. Extension Office at 544-2339 to pre-register (required).

Dates to Remember

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| March 30 | Estate Planning workshops |
| April 5 | GAP for Tobacco at 1:30 at West Union Frisch's. Call 544-2339 to pre-register. |
| April 6 | Estate Planning workshops |
| April 6 | Highland County Cattlemen's Banquet at Ponderosa Banquet Center in Hillsboro. |
| April 9 | Adams County Cattlemen's Banquet at Frisch's in West Union. |