

March 5, 2019  
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **The End: Winter or Hay Supply?**

So, which will end first, this dreadful winter or your shrinking hay supply? I have talked to several livestock producers that wonder that on a daily basis. When you listen to the 5 or 7-day forecast it seems to always have more days with either rain or snow forecasted than sun.

The recent weather conditions have continued to result in more than normal consumption of hay by cattle. Typically, livestock will consume more high quality hay than they can poor quality. Most often the reason for this it that the poor quality hay is poor because it was harvested late and was over mature. If this is the case it contains more fiber. The more fiber the more bulk and results in the stomach being full.

If cows are full they are normally ok, or so they seem. They appear full, they are not bawling, so they must be happy. Happy and ok are not the same in this case.

If the hay is high in fiber and low in nutrients it may not be meeting the nutritional needs of the animals. So even though they are “happy” they may be malnourished. When you take malnourished and add the stress of mud and then some cold wet weather it pulls pretty hard on cattle. This is even more true for older cows. Older cows is a broad term so cows over 10 may be on the edge, older than 12 would be leaning over the edge and if you have older than that they are a high risk not making it through a winter like this.

In the past we have talked increasing feed, and recently I have discussed the need for a good mineral program. With the current state we are in, coming off of months of stressful conditions and poor quality hay that really goes back to our stockpiled grasses in the fall, the need for additional feed is even more needed. In the past an additional 2 or 3 pounds was a big help for cattle. At this point that may not be enough. Probably 5 or 6 pounds of a high energy feed for the next 45 days or so would be well worth the cost of the feed.

## **Small Farm Conference & Trade Show**

The two day conference will be held on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at the OSU South Centers in Piketon, Ohio. This is the program that has been held at Wilmington College for several years.

The conference is designed for small farm owners wanting to learn more about how to make their farms work better for them. Many topics will be offered to help landowners expand their operations. Land owners can attend workshops and seminars taught by Extension professionals and industry leaders on a wide variety of agricultural enterprises. Attendees will also get to meet various vendors at the trade show. The trade show will be open part of the day on Friday, and all day Saturday.



For more information you can access the agenda, registration and much more on the web at: <https://agmr.osu.edu/small-farm-programs/new-and-small-farm-conferences> If you do not have access to the internet you can call the OSU South Centers at 800-297-2072 or call Tony Nye at 937-382-0901.

## **Ohio Tobacco Museum**

In 2019 the fundraiser will be held the same as it has been in the past two years. The Scioto Ribber will cater the meal, and you can choose steak, ribs or chicken with the purchase of your ticket. The location will be the Ripley Elementary School Cafeteria and the date will be April 13, 2019. Tickets are now available and remember we only sell 300 tickets. You can contact me for more information at [dugan.46@osu.edu](mailto:dugan.46@osu.edu) or call 937-544-2339.

## **Dates to Remember**

- March 11 Pesticide Testing for Private and Commercial at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. You must pre-register as the room fills up this time of year. Walk-ins are not likely to be able to take the exams due to limit space. Register online at <http://pested.osu.edu> or call Ohio Dept. of Ag at 800-282-1955 and ask for Pesticide Division.
- March 12 Farm and Family Night at Maysville Community and Technical College.
- March 12 Phenology for Beekeepers at 7:00 p.m. at Western Brown HS.
- March 13 Gardening for Pollinators at 7:00 p.m. at Brown Co. Fairgrounds.
- March 14 Berry and Grape Workshop at OSU South Centers at 9:30 a.m. Preregister no later than Friday, March 8, 2019. Call Bradford Sherman at 740-289-2071 ext. 115.
- March 23 Adams Co. Cattlemen's Banquet.
- April 13 Ohio Tobacco Museum Reverse Raffle at Ripley Elem. School. Tickets still available.