

May 12, 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tobacco Company Farm Visits

I have received a few calls recently from tobacco producers concerned about an upcoming visit from the company that they market their crop through. The majority of the tobacco grown here in Adams, Brown and Highland Counties is sold to Philip Morris International (PMI) in Maysville. Some is sold to other companies, including the Burley Co-op in Lexington.

It is my understanding that this is not going to be a “police” situation, but simply a chance for representatives from the company to get to know the producers a little better, and see the operations so the company could assess the situation. This is being done to determine how they could better help producers in the future. The plan is to visit all growers selling with PMI in 2014. PMI will be sending out a newsletter, that should arrive soon, that will explain the PMI visits in a little more detail.

I have talked to Pat Raines, President of the Burley Co-op about this. Pat told me that a similar visit could take place for those who sell to the Burley Co-op. He stated that it would be more “we are here to help” visit, if that takes place.

Beef Cattle Market Forecast

As the value for feeder calves continues at record prices this spring, discussion often leads to something about how long can these prices last? What we do know from basic economics is that when the demand is high and the supply is low, prices will be high. With the United States cow numbers as low as they have been since the 1950s; the supply is not likely to meet the demand in the near future. It takes years to rebuild a cow herd. The drought in heart of beef cattle production in recent years has taken a toll. Many cows were sold to slaughter because of the drought. There are other factors that have also had an impact on the herd size and the markets, including beef exports. The following is a recently released forecast for 2015.

USDA’s [World Ag Supply & Demand Estimates \(WASDE\) report](#), released May 9, forecast 2015 beef prices higher as supplies continue to tighten, demand for beef remains strong.

According to the USDA, Beef production is forecast lower as a declining beef cattle inventory and potential heifer retention during late 2014 and into 2015 is expected to limit cattle placements in late 2014 and into 2015. Despite expectations of heavier slaughter weights, tight supplies of fed cattle for slaughter and reduced cow slaughter will result in lower beef production.

Tobacco Plant Issues

I have had several calls for tobacco plants showing signs of stress. Of course, the weather has not been friendly this spring for lots of things trying to grow. I have seen very little disease in the plants, but that does not mean we are disease free. If you are not on my e-mail list for tobacco you may want to be added. I have sent out

information about the use of fungicides and a calendar for applying. If you do not use e-mail and would like a copy you can contact one of the local OSU Extension offices. My e-mail is Dugan.46@osu.edu or you can call the Adams Co. Office at 544-2339, Brown Co. 378-6716 and Highland is 393-1918. My cell is 937-515-2314. The best use of fungicides is as a preventative.

Many of the plants I have seen have had issues with temperatures. Some cold injury and some heat related injuries. The day or two that we hit the 80s a couple of weeks ago did the damage for some plants and temps that hit the low 20s or even the teens did the rest of the damage for the plants that were at a critical stage.

Dates to Remember

May 22 Strawberry Field Night at OSU South Centers at Piketon beginning at 6:00 p.m.

May 22 Fence Building Workshop in Jackson at OARDC starting at 6:00 p.m.

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