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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Check under the Hood

As I type this on Tuesday morning, it has been some spring to this point. I have talked to several farmers in the local area that have had crazy amounts of rain. In the northwestern part of Adams County, I have heard reports of five plus inches, and that was before the rain on Monday night/Tuesday morning. The report included such things as, not all of the corn planted, water standing in fields, etc. I heard similar accounts from people at Winchester Ag about getting into fields, most everyone is just too wet.

On the other hand, some people were in real need of some rain as of midnight, last night. I had a rain gauge that had not been emptied in over 10 days and at sunset, it had less than a quarter of an inch in it. Hard to believe, but I watered the garden early Monday morning. While most of the rain appeared to go north of me, I had 1.3 inches in the gauge this morning. I am afraid to ask how much rain fell in the areas that were already wet. Looking at the radar, the rain appears to be just following that same line to the northern half of Adams County throughout the morning.

Eventually it will dry out and the rest of the crop will be in the ground. Some old timers will tell you to wait until the Locust Trees are in bloom to plant corn. They have bloomed, but just recently.

In addition to getting things planted, it is also time to start making hay. Grass is headed out and most likely already reached its peak for quality, so when the weather breaks, look out. There will be many bales in the fields. While preparing the hay equipment, greasing, changing blades on mowers, checking bearings, and so on, do not forget the tractor. If the oil is changed, filters are new, fittings are all greased you are ready to go, right? Maybe.

This time of the year, and in the past few weeks, birds have been building nests. Birds will build quickly and in some of the strangest places. Check under the hood for nests. Birds can build in just a day or two and that nest may cause you big problems. It gets hot under that hood and the nest are most likely easy to catch fire if under the hood of a tractor. Take a minute to check under the hood. One farmer told me that he had dealt with this issue in the past. He had a tractor fire. He now raises the hood and leaves it up when he parks the tractor in order to prevent birds from building a nest. Depending on the model of your tractor, and where you park it, this might be a thought for you. We are usually in a hurry and sometimes forget the little things. The little things are important, too.

Fertilizer Re-certification on May 30

There are only a few producers that have set through the first year of fertilizer training that were due to re-certify this past winter, that have not already done so. Most of those re-certifications were set to expire on March 31, 2018. If that is when your card says your license expires, you are too late unless you have already completed the re-certification classes I offered in February and March.



For some reason that I cannot explain, a few people have license that are set to expire on May 31, 2018. If you are one of those people, and you have not already re-certified, here is your last chance. The class will be offered for \$20 at the Adams County Extension Office on Wednesday, May 30 at 10:00 a.m. You will need to pre-register by calling 937-544-2339 before 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29 and ask for Barbie. If your license is expired you will be required to set through a 3 hour training or pass the exam to get your license renewed, plus the fee to be paid to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The exam is offered monthly at the Old Y Restaurant on the second Monday of the month at noon along with the pesticide exams. Register online at <http://pested.osu.edu> or call the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 800-282-1955.

Another follow up that I want to remind everyone who has a pesticide or fertilizer license. Remember when you pay for the local training that is only for the class. Make sure you have sent your fees to the Ohio Department of Agriculture so you do not let them expire due to lack of payment. You can check online or by phone at the same place you register above or call me at the OSU Extension Office and I can look it up for you. It is much easier if I have your last name and your license number. I can find your number, but it may take more time.