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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation

The Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation has been in existence since 2001 and has made some major impact on many farms in Adams, Brown and Highland counties among others. The impact can be seen on farms, but the impact has reached much farther than just a farm. The businesses in the area have seen more sales over the same period. The amount of fence built, equipment purchased, herd improvements, and buildings. In addition to the purchases, there has been a huge amount of money available for education, too.

The program will continue into 2017-18 with the program details announced in July. The local meetings will be Wednesday July 5th at Southern Hills at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday July 6th at Cherry Fork in the gym at 6:30 p.m. For more information you call the foundation at 9387-393-2700 or log onto their website at <http://soacdf.net>

Rotational Grazing

With all of the rain this spring, it seems to just dry out enough to get started and here comes more rain. We may need some of that rain before the end of the growing season, but for now crops are getting a late start. In addition, the hay production is not good either. The harvest of hay has been delayed and pastures continue to grow, but some damage is being done by foot traffic in the wetter areas.

The ability of pastures to perform is always a topic for some good discussion. Of course, the number of head and the number of acres always plays a part in the availability of forage available to livestock, especially when we have extreme heat, lack of rain, or the combination of both.

I have done some rotational grazing in the past few years, using electric fence to split off some of the pastures into smaller acres. This has been something that I have been able to do without a huge expense. With the SOACDF fence programs over the past few years, most everyone has some old (used) steel fence post and some used barbed wire that has been replaced by the new fence. Some of the wire is most likely in good enough condition that it can be used, as well as, some of the steel post. This is what I have been using to split off some of the pastures.

A good electric fence charger will probably provide more than adequate ability to turn cows for the entire farm. One wire, high enough for the calves to get under, works well. If the calves can get under the fence easily, they will not likely tear the fence down. In addition to having less repair hours to worry about, the calves benefit from “creeping” the young tender grass that their mothers can’t get to.

The fields that I had split off into smaller paddocks performed much better last year than more acres that were not split into areas that could be rotated. I am in the process of splitting fields on another farm, with plans for more. Yes, I am sold on it.



GAP for Produce

In recent years you may have seen in this column or heard about it in other ways, but we have been offering GAP training. GAP is Good Agricultural Practices and mostly in our area we have been doing these trainings specifically for tobacco producers.

On June 28, at noon, we will offer a GAP training for people raising and selling produce. The session will be held at the Old Y Restaurant. More details will be in this column next week.

Dates to Remember

- June 12 Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Must pre-register at <http://pested.osu.edu> or call 800-282-1955. As always, this test is offered on the second Monday of each month.
- June 15 Hops Field Day at OSU South Centers in Piketon.