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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fertilizer Certification Training Sessions

Last week I discussed some of the regulations for who would need a Fertilizer Certification. I need to expand on that a bit more. First of all, if you have your fertilizer applied by a commercial applicator, you do not need a certification.

For those who spread their own fertilizer, not including manure, on 50 or more acres of crop land that the crop is primarily produced to sell, you most likely will need this certification by September 30, 2017. For possible exemptions call the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 800-282-1955.

Remember this part. If you have a pesticide license you will be required to attend a 2 hour session for the fertilizer certification. I have those dates listed below in the Dates to Remember. We have these scheduled so you can get the pesticide and fertilizer all done in one trip and at no extra fee. Call to register at the number given below.

For those who will need a fertilizer certification that do not currently have a pesticide license the rules are a little different. One thought is that this might be the time for the next generation to get certified for pesticide application. My understanding is that if you have the pesticide license first you will only pay the single fee for both pesticide and fertilizer. However, if you get the fertilizer first and later get the pesticide you will pay for both separately. I have a local testing site set up for each month at the Old Y Restaurant. The tests are given by ODA beginning at noon on the second Monday of each month except October which is the third Monday because of a holiday. You need to register for the exams at pested.osu.edu or call ODA.

If you have no pesticide license you will need to attend a 3 hour session which will be offered in March. The 2 hour session offered with the pesticide re-certifications will NOT work for you. I will have more on the dates for the 3 hour Fertilizer Certification Sessions at a later date.

Ninth Annual Ohio River Valley Wineries Barrel Tasting Trail

Hopefully if you are into local wines or wineries, this is not news to you. If it is, then mark your calendars now. This Saturday after Thanksgiving you have the opportunity to try some of the local wines from a few wineries all in one day. This has become a very well attended event in recent years.



Kinkead Ridge and Meranda-Nixon (Ripley) Harmony Hill (Bethel) and Baker Bird (Augusta KY) wineries have joined together for the Ninth Annual Barrel Tasting Trail, Saturday November 29.

This is a classic event in wine making regions for family and friends to gather together to taste existing and future vintages and meet the winemakers.

Currently released wines will also be available for those interested in purchasing a special holiday gift... a locally grown wine. Kinkead Ridge will be releasing the 2013 Chamboursin from McCafferty Vineyards in Fayetteville.

Hours vary, see www.KinkeadRidge.com/barreltasting.htm for details, or call 937-392-1178.

Applications Available For Educational Excellence Grant

The Southern Ohio Ag and Community Development Foundation has made the applications available for the \$7,500 Educational Excellence Grant for 2015-16 year. The applications are available at FSA and OSU Extension offices, or you can go online to www.soacdf.net and print one. This is directly from the application as far as who is eligible.

Individuals who have a current Farm Service Number on record with the Farm Service Agency at the time of application submission and reside in the 22 counties the Foundation serves OR tobacco quota owners, quota owners/growers, or grower/tenants of Farm Service Agency record in any single crop year from 1997 through 2004, and their immediate family dependents, that are enrolled at an accredited institution and are seeking a Bachelor degree are eligible. Applicants must be enrolled as a **full time** sophomore, junior or senior in the 2015-2016 school year to be eligible.

Dates to Remember

- Tobacco Auction** Kentucky King on Forest Avenue first day to receive tobacco is Nov. 28, first sell date is Dec. 5. Contact number is 606-782-2477.
- Forage School** Dates are Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 12:30 p.m. site TBA. Registration due by Dec. 12. Call 515-2314, or e-mail at Dugan.46@osu.edu if interested.
- Beef School** Dates are Jan. 27, Feb. 10 and Feb. 24 at 7:00 p.m. each night, site TBA.
- Pesticide/Fertilizer** Pesticide Re-certification with Fertilizer Certification:
Jan. 21 at North Adams HS, begins at 4:00 p.m.
Feb. 5 at Southern Hills CTC Board Office, begins at 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 12 at Southern State Comm. College in Hillsboro, begins at 11:00
(Pre-Registration and payment REQUIRED 5 days prior to session. Call Cindy at the Brown Co. Office at 378-6716.)

The following 6 listings are Farm Bill Meetings:

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| December 18 | Southern State Community College in Hillsboro at 1:00 p.m. off of US 62, north side of town. REMEMBER we need for you to Pre-Register by calling the OSU Extension office in the County you plan to attend. Seating is limited at some locations. Call Barbie in Adams Co. at 544-2339; Cindy in Brown Co. at 378-6716 and Tami in Highland Co. at 393-1918. |
| December 18 | North Adams HS. Round Room, Starting at 6:30 p.m. in Seaman. |
| December 22 | Southern Hills CTC Board Office Bldg. (Georgetown) Hamer Rd at 1:00 p.m. |
| December 22 | Hillsboro H.S.(Cafeteria)beginning at 6:30 p.m. |
| February 2 | Frisch's in West Union on SR 41 South, at 1:00 p.m. |
| February 2 | Southern Hills Career Center in Georgetown at 6:30 p.m. |