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Farm Bill Meetings Scheduled

With the new Farm Bill of 2014 there is a bunch of information that farmers need to be aware of. With that said, I have scheduled a total of six meetings to cover the 3 counties. Each county will have an afternoon meeting and an evening meeting. You can always travel to another meeting in another county if the dates and times do not fit your schedule. Some of the sites have a limited number of seats, and at this point I have no idea how many people may want to attend these meetings, so I need your help. Please call the OSU Extension Office in the county for the meeting you plan to attend. All we need is your name and your county of residence, with a contact number in the event of a last minute cancellation due to weather. For the meetings in Adams Co. call Barbie at 544-2339, in Brown call Cindy at 378-6716, and in Highland call Tami at 393-1918.

December 18 – Southern State Community College in Hillsboro at 1:00 p.m. off of US 62, north side of town.
December 18 – North Adams HS. Starting at 6:30 p.m. in Seaman just north of SR 32 near the hospital.
December 22 – Southern Hills CTC Board Office Bldg. in Georgetown next to JVS on Hamer Road at 1:00 p.m.
December 22 – Hillsboro H.S.(Cafeteria) located off of US 62 south side of Hillsboro 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.

Tobacco Market Opportunity

In recent days there have been some changes in the tobacco marketing opportunities for this area. For one, there was an announcement from PMI (Philip Morris International) that included this statement:
PMI today announced its decision to adopt a new leaf buying model in the United States. The company will transition from directly purchasing tobacco through contracts with U.S. growers to purchasing through two suppliers, Alliance One International Inc. (AOI) and Universal Corporation (Universal). This new purchasing model will take effect on April 1, 2015.

At this time I have not heard how this might impact growers in Southern Ohio who have contracted with PMI and delivered their crop to the Maysville, KY receiving station in recent years. My best guess at this point is you will find out more from PMI as this year's crop is delivered.

In the meantime, I also learned this week there will again be an auction in Maysville. Elden Ginn is planning to have auctions for tobacco again this year. Last year there was no auction at this location, but the plan is to have an auction, with the first auction being sometime during the first week of December at the Kentucky King Warehouse located at 1216 Forest Avenue, behind the IGA Grocery. I hope to have more information next week.

Livestock Mortality Composting Opportunity

From time to time I receive a call from someone looking for training in Livestock Mortality Composting. Dale Ricker has scheduled a mortality composting certification training for November 19, 2014. Dale will be conducting the training at the Putnam County OSU Extension Office meeting room beginning at 6:30 p.m. The class is also available online.

Composting livestock and poultry mortality in agricultural operations is a legal option for disposal in Ohio. This required training session will certify operators to compost livestock mortality of approved species and apply the

compost to fields. It is hoped this will expand operator's options for disposal and enable them to improve the efficiency and profitability of farm enterprises.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture's chief of the Division of Animal Industry administers the regulations that determine allowable methods of livestock disposal, such as incineration, burial, rendering or composting. The chief of the Division of Animal Industry establishes conditions under which specific disposal methods may be used.

The contact for information about setting up the online class is Dale Ricker at 419-523-6294 or by e-mail at ricker.37@osu.edu. More details are posted on the Ohio Pork Information Center website at: <http://porkinfo.osu.edu/content/educational-opportunities>

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