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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 David Dugan
 Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
 and Community Development

Ohio Industrial Hemp Summit

I have had people ask about the opportunities with Industrial Hemp in recent weeks. I know there has been research conducted at the University of Kentucky over the past few years, as I have seen some of the trial plots on the UK Farm. If you are interested in knowing more about possibly growing in Ohio in the future I would recommend you check out this upcoming program.

Westerville, Ohio - Farmers, landowners, policy makers and interested parties are invited to attend the first-ever Ohio Industrial Hemp Summit on Saturday, November 17, at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. The purpose of the event is to begin the process of fully legalizing the growing and processing of industrial hemp.

Topics to be discussed include Industrial Hemp legality, farming, harvesting, processing and policy. The day will include open discussions to forward the direction of bringing Industrial Hemp to Ohio.

The day's host will be Julie Doran from Meigs Fertilizer Company and #hemp. She will talk about the current hemp bill being drafted to introduce to Ohio legislators. Speakers include Beach, owner of Hemptations stores in Ohio; Kentucky hemp grower Carson Nation from Carson's Farm; hemp processor Chad Rosen of Victory Hemp Foods; Parker Lawrence of Extra Step Assurance Certified, a company that certifies doctors to prescribe medical marijuana; and Radio Talk Show Host K.C. Starke, a national hemp industry expert.

Industrial hemp is cultivated for use in the production of a wide range of products, including foods and beverages, personal care products, nutritional supplements, fabrics and textiles, paper, construction materials, and other manufactured goods and has no psychoactive affects like it's sister plant known as marijuana.

The Summit runs from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at costs \$20 to attend. The cost includes lunch. To register, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/1349657141803689/>. The deadline to register is Saturday, November 3, for guaranteed food and seating. The Industrial Hemp Summit is coordinated by Julie Doran. For more information, contact Julie at jdoran12@att.net or 614-984-4824.

Reminder Time

As I type this up on Monday, October 29, there are still lots of crop remaining in the fields. I know many have been busy doing whatever they can get done around the weather. As we move forward with a forecast of 3 to 4 inches of rain this week, we may have time to do a few other little jobs that we have not gotten to just yet. Some of these jobs are time sensitive and have slipped my mind in the past. One of these jobs is winterizing your sprayers. We have had temperatures down to the high 20s, but not likely to be cold enough to damage a pump or other parts of your sprayers yet. Go to this link for a detailed list of things to do to winterize and store your sprayers. <https://u.osu.edu/vegnetnews>



More on Frosted Forages

I know this has been the hot topic for the past 3 or 4 weeks in my column, but it seems to be sparking some interest. I have had several calls and several have asked for more information. I ran across some more information in a recent Beef Blog. This information explains the situation of when it is safe to graze and what some of the risks are. It also discusses things to watch for as far as symptoms that could give you a heads up to something is wrong. Yes, johnsongrass is in the Sorghum family. This comes from Glenn Selk, who is now retired from Oklahoma State University as an Extension Animal Scientist.

It was discovered in the early 1900s that under certain conditions sorghums are capable of releasing hydrocyanic acid or commonly called prussic acid. Prussic acid when ingested by cattle, is quickly absorbed into the blood stream, and blocks the animal's cells from utilizing oxygen. Thus the animal dies from asphyxiation at the cellular level. Animals affected by prussic acid poisoning exhibit a characteristic bright red blood just prior to and during death. Lush young regrowth of sorghum-family plants are prone to accumulate prussic acid especially when the plants are stressed such as drought or freeze damage. Light frosts, that stress the plant but do not kill it, are often associated with prussic acid poisonings.

Producers should avoid grazing fields with sorghum type plants following a light frost. The risk of prussic acid poisoning will be reduced, if grazing is delayed until at least one week after a "killing freeze". A hard freeze is a period of at least four consecutive hours of air temperatures that are below 25 degrees Fahrenheit. Many plants can survive a brief frost, but very few can survive a hard freeze. As the plants die and the cell walls rupture, the hydrocyanic acid is released as a gas, and the amount is greatly reduced in the plants. One can never be absolutely certain that a field of forage sorghum is 100% safe to graze.

Cattle that must be grazed on forage sorghum pastures during this time of year should be fed another type of hay before turning in on the field, and should be watched closely for the first few hours after turn in. If signs of labored breathing, such as would be found in asphyxiation, are noted, cattle should be removed immediately. Call your local veterinarian for immediate help for those animals that are affected. Be certain to read OSU Fact Sheet PSS-2904 "Prussic Acid Poisoning" before turning cattle to potentially dangerous fields. (*I typed in "Oklahoma state university pps 2904 prussic acid poisoning" and found this factsheet pretty easily*).

Frosts also stress the plant before a hard freeze kills it. Plant stress from frosts will impair the normal metabolism of the plant. Therefore the plant continues to take up nitrates from the soil but is inefficient at converting the nitrates to protein. Therefore nitrate accumulations may reach dangerous levels. Testing the forage before grazing or cutting for hay will provide important knowledge about the safety or danger in the forage.

Dates to Remember

November 9 Join us to learn about GMOs as well as the myths and facts of heirloom, hybrid and grafted plants! **Dinner at 5 P.M. | Program at 5:30 P.M.** at OSU Extension Greene County, 100 Fairground Road, Xenia, Ohio 45385 **Cost: \$20** includes educational materials and catered dinner. Register online at go.osu.edu/greenegmo or call 937-372-9971 **Deadline:** by November 5.

November 19 Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Third Monday versus the normal second Monday of the month due to Veteran's Day on November 12. Please pre-register at <http://pested.osu.edu> or call the Ohio Dept. of Ag at 800-282-1955.

January 16 Small Farm College will begin. This is an 8-week course offered from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. This OSU Extension event will be in the round room at North Adams High School. Registration material will soon be available at the OSU Extension offices throughout Ohio including the Adams County Office. Materials are available online today. Go to the OSU Extension Website, <http://adams.osu.edu>