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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Estate Planning and Business Transition Seminar

Regardless if you have a business in town or on the farm, you need a plan if you want to see that business continue to the next generation. Who will be in charge and what resources will be available to them to continue the business is only part of the plan? How you distribute other assets to others may impact this, so to be fair, you need a plan. A plan in writing. A plan that is discussed by all parties that is explained, then understood. Do you have that in place?

If you answered YES, then great. However, I need for you to ask yourself how old is your plan? When was it written? How many “things” may have changed since your plan was written? Some of the people may be gone. This could be because they are deceased, or it could be by divorce or something else. Status can change for other reasons, too. You may have left someone in charge of something that today is not the person you would choose to do so.

As much as people involved in a plan may change, so does the laws that could alter how a plan should be updated. So, for these reasons, even you have a plan in place you may still want to come and listen.

If you answered NO, then this is a no brainer. You definitely should have this on your bucket list. Having a plan for your business, or just your personal belongings, will make things much simpler for those left behind once you are gone.

This will be a class that will explain issues that should be considered for a plan. This class will discuss Living Wills, Wills, Trusts, LLCs, long-term health care insurance, life insurance and much more. This will be beneficial for all ages. Come as a family. While we often think of an estate plan for older people, younger couples with children need a plan, too. Who will raise your children if one or both parents would be lost in an accident? Can the one surviving parent raise them? Is there insurance?

The class will be held at North Adams High School in the Round Room on November 14, December 18, January 16 and February 6. This will be a four-night series that will cover different topics each night. The cost is the same regardless if you attend one night or all four. The cost is only \$25 for the first family member and \$10 for each additional family member. The first member will receive a notebook with copies of all handouts. Anyone who wants the notebook and handouts can pay the \$25 fee and do so. The deadline to register for the class is November 1, 2019. After the deadline all fees will double to \$50 for the notebook and \$20 for additional family members. Light refreshments will be offered each night. Call Barbie at the Adams County Extension office to register 937-544-2339.

How Much is Your Grass Worth?

If you have a cow/calf operation, how much is your grass worth? Think about it for a minute. For at least half of the year livestock graze. If it is managed well, and we get timely rain that might extend out to 9 months or even a little longer. There has been some thought to year round grazing, but the



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number of head and the weather would make that difficult to achieve.

So, have you figured it out yet? How much is your grass worth? I do not have the answer either, but I can tell you it is worth more than most of us think. I can also tell you it is worth more than the amount of time and energy we put into managing it for most of us.

With that said, now is a time to think a little bit about what we can do RIGHT NOW to protect it and better manage some of the ground that we typically graze. It rained all spring, but for most of us in Adams County it stopped raining about the end of June. Many pastures are stressed. Some may be moving cattle to other fields to graze because we do not want to feed hay yet. It is still September and I am not sure I have enough hay to begin with.

Consider this. Feed hay now and keep livestock from eating into the ground. Forages need to have enough growth going into the winter to build up reserves in the root systems. By doing this, your grass will recover quicker next spring. If we do get rain and some re-growth happens before the end of the growing season, that would be great. If this happens resist the temptation to turn them back out too soon. Let the grass grow. There will be more of it if you let it grow until mid-November or so.

Another good thing about feeding hay in rings now is there is no mud. No mud will probably result in very little wasted hay. So stretching that hay supply might be seen in less wasted hay and more to graze a little later into the fall.

With all of this said, remember how valuable that grass is to your operation. Reducing the stress on the grass and waiting to graze later may pay off now and next year. The other side of this is getting the cows ready for winter. This is not the time of the year that they can afford to not get enough to eat. Going into the winter they need to be in good body condition even if it means supplementing with additional feed. That may be needed all winter. Do you know what your hay has in it? Have you done a forage test yet? I have pulled samples on several fields. I will definitely need to supplement.

Dates to Remember

Sept. 23-28 Brown Co. Fair

Oct. 1 Hemp Informational Meeting at Ohio Valley CTC at 6:30 p.m. Must pre-register by calling 544-2339 no later than September 27. Space is limited.

Oct. 21 Pesticide and Fertilizer Certification Exams for Private and Commercial Applicators at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Remember for October and November the exam dates will change to the third Monday of the month due to Columbus Day and Veterans Day falling on the second Monday of both months.