

Fall is coming and as we wind up summer we need to make plans to carry us through winter. Agriculture is the number one industry in Ohio and a central point in Lawrence County. We would like to encourage you to contact us on any concerns and problems. If we cannot answer your questions in our office, we will find someone that can.

Sincerely,

Laura Jane Murphy
Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development, Chair

**Meat Goats Viable Enterprise in
Lawrence County-Laura Jane Murphy,
Extension Agent, 4-H**

The goat industry is an exciting and growing industry in the United States. There are many segments providing interest to many different people. People are becoming involved with dairy goats, meat goats, fiber goats, pygmy goats or utility (harness and pack) goats. Many people are utilizing the southern Ohio terrain to raise meat goats and many 4-H members are participating in goat projects.

The United States has seen an increase demand for goat products the last several years. At the present the U.S. is a net importer of goat meat. This means we cannot provide enough product for what the U.S. population demands. This is an excellent opportunity to develop an enterprise market. We are trying to establish how many people are raising goats and who

is interested. Please contact us if you have goats or want more information.

Dealing With Poor Quality Hay-Steven C. Loerch, Dept. of Animal Science, The Ohio State University

The wet cool spring and summer has led to many questions regarding hay quality and the factors beef producers should consider when planning their cow wintering programs. My first step in covering this topic was to do a little surfing on the web. The best article I found was a Fact Sheet on our OSU Beef Team web page:
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/as-fact/0001.html>

There is a lot of good information in this article for making management decisions regarding how to deal with poor quality hay. Below I have listed some additional ideas that weren't covered in the article by Steve Boyles and Clif Little:

To me, there are 2 main reasons for forage testing. First, it allows you to predict deficiencies in energy and protein for a particular stage of cow production. Cows can't eat as much poor quality forage and it is lower in net energy for maintenance. This is a double whammy. Hay that is more than 70% NDF will not meet energy needs the last 8 weeks of gestation or during early lactation. This causes all kinds of production problems (loss of Body Condition Score, more dystocia, lower milk production and delayed return to estrous and difficulty rebreeding). All of these are magnified in 1st and 2nd calf heifers. Protein is probably not as big an issue for our forages, although some supplementation may be necessary during early lactation if

you have good milking cows and hay is less than 10% protein.

This brings me to the second reason for forage testing: to help in the decision of what hay to feed when. Perhaps this is the simplest and most effective step a producer can take. Great efficiency can be achieved just by matching forage quality with nutritional needs of the cow. For March/April calving cows, the poorest quality hay should be fed first during the winter. After weaning, the cow's requirements are the lowest. When grazing can no longer be accomplished, then feed your poorest quality hay. During late January, February and March (before calving) energy requirements are on the rise. This is also when cold weather taxes the cow's energy status. For example, a 1300 lb cow requires 9.3 Mcals of Nem (net energy for maintenance) during the dry period after weaning (October into January), 11.5 Mcal during the last 8 weeks before calving (late January and February), 16.8 Mcal during the first 3 months of lactation (until mid-July) and 13 Mcal after breeding and during the last 4 months of lactation. Hay quality factors and the cow's energy requirements should dictate what hay gets fed when. The best hay should be saved for late gestation and early lactation (before spring pasture turn-out). Sorting cows into groups based on their nutritional needs is another good way to save supplement costs. If half of my cows are in good condition, there is no point in wasting supplement on them just to meet energy needs of my thin cows. You can save supplement costs by pulling out thin cows and feeding them with our replacement heifers. Cows will usually start showing the effects of poor quality in late January and February. Keep a sharp eye on body condition score during these last 8 weeks before calving season. Management intervention to maintain cow body condition

during this time is more effective and profitable than letting cows get thin and then trying to recover later.

The Boyles/Little article does a good job pricing relative energy sources if supplementation is needed. Here are some additional thoughts in this regard. Soybean hulls are a great forage supplement, but their price has risen dramatically this year. Good quality hay is a great supplement to feed with average quality hay during peak cow energy needs, but purchasing good quality hay may be cost prohibitive. 5-8 lbs of corn/day is a cost effective energy supplement during last gestation and early lactation (corn will likely be a much cheaper source of calories than purchasing good quality hay). One effective option producers rarely consider is hay chopping. Chopping hay allows the cows to eat 25-30% more energy. Costs of chopping hay (equipment, labor, etc.) should be compared to costs of purchasing supplemental energy. For some producers, they may be a cost effective option. I came to realize the potential of hay chopping from an observation I made 2 years ago at the OARDC Beef Center in Wooster. Steers fed a chopped hay based diet gained 2.5 lbs/day while those fed round baled hay (same hay source) in a rack gained less than 1.5 lbs/day.

Freshwater Shrimp Activities

Are you interested in finding out more about raising fresh water shrimp? Several people have been investigating this new and exciting enterprise, including the OSU Centers for Research at Piketon. There are several upcoming activities you can attend to find out more.

September 20-2nd Annual Ohio Fish & Shrimp Festival will be held in Urbana, Ohio on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00

The festival is free to the public, and features the best of Ohio's farm raised fish and freshwater shrimp with a variety of food vendors, kids games (frog jumping contests, crawfish races, sand castles, amusements, sturgeon petting zoo) and lots of live music and artists. Water cannon battles between local fire departments, a shrimp princess contest, a "shrimp" car show, and cooking/recipe contests are new events being added this year. The event is open to all Ohio fish or shrimp farmers to sell their wares at no charge for a space. There will be free shuttle service between downtown, the Urbana municipal airport and Freshwater Farms of Ohio. Contact either Main Street Urbana at 937-652-1161 or Dr. Dave Smith at Freshwater Farms 937-652-3701 for more information.

September 26-OSU South Centers Shrimp Pond Harvest & Processing Demo, Piketon, OH 1-800-297-2072. We plan to harvest our 1 acre shrimp pond from 9-12 and demonstrate the processing process for shrimp from 1-4.

Highway Law: Vehicle Licensing

What types of farm machinery are exempt from Ohio's licensing requirements?

The Ohio Revised Code requires all "motor vehicles" to be registered and licensed, but exempts "farm machinery" from the definition of a "motor vehicle". Therefore, farm machinery is not required to be registered and licensed with the State.

What exactly qualifies as farm machinery?

The statutory definition of "farm machinery" is "...all machines and tools used in the production, harvesting, and care of farm products, including trailers used to transport agricultural produce or agricultural production materials between a local place

of storage or supply and the farm when drawn or toed on a public road or highway at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour, or less, threshing machinery, hay baling machinery, corn shellers, hammermill and agricultural tractors and machinery used in the production of horticultural agricultural and vegetable products."

The definition clarifies that equipment such as tractors, wagons and combines qualify as farm machinery, but questions still arise over certain vehicles or equipment. Ohio court cases and opinions of the Ohio Attorney General have provided some guidance. The determining factor, according to these cases, is not the kind of vehicle or the occupation of the owner, but the use to which the machinery is put.

For example, Ohio has determined that a floater or "big A" used for custom spray applications is farm machinery because it is used in the "production, harvesting and care of agricultural products"; the fact that it is not owned by a farmer is irrelevant.

Innovative Beef Marketing

A project designed to explore opportunities that may exist in a branded beef product built to the characteristics an Ohio consumer desires was initiated in Northwest Ohio. The brand actually works from "consumer to conception" with a focus on source verification and restaurant quality beef guaranteed. A cooperative was formed known as The Great Lakes Family Farms beef cooperative and is searching for new members.

"The cooperative has 16 original members in northwest Ohio plus producers in Ashland and Guernsey counties. However, we are looking to source cattle statewide," said Dan

Frobose, Ohio State University Extension
Beef Marketing Agent.

Almost any size of producer can be affiliated with the cooperative. According to Larry Warns, Great Lakes Family Farms President, a typical producer/member has a dozen to 150 head of cattle. The cost of membership for the cooperative is an annual fee of \$250.

Members of Great Lakes Family Farms are educated and trained in Beef Quality Assurance and by the Livestock Environmental Assurance Program. Cattle producers, with the intentions of forming a marketable brand and improving the profitability of Ohio derived calves and feed, designed the cooperative. The cooperative's producers are also seeking ways to generate more income from individual animals by introducing many value-added concepts, since it isn't feasible to compete in a commodity market in Ohio as it is in the western states.

One way the cooperative has started adding value to their beef is through the development of the brand Ohio Signature Beef. The cattle are corn-fed with no antibiotics or hormones added to the feed or given to the animal Ohio Signature Beef offers the same great taste of a fine restaurant without leaving the comfort of home. This high quality beef must meet the brand specifications set by the producers and then it is hand-elected by the meat inspectors to be certified USDA Choice quality or higher.

If interested in more information on the Great Lakes Family Farms cooperative, contact Dan Frobose, OSU Extension Beef Marketing Agent, at 419-354-6916 or frobose.1@osu.edu

Ohio Fall Feeder Cattle Sales Brochure

The 2003 Ohio Fall Feeder Cattle Sales brochure is now available. The brochure includes the dates and times of upcoming feeder cattle sales as well as highlights weekly sale days and times. For copies of this brochure call the Ohio Cattlemen's Association at 614-873-6736.

New ASI Sheep Production Handbook

The newest edition of the American Sheep Industry Association's Sheep Production Handbook is now available for shipping. The latest edition has had significant revision with the addition of a sheep dairying chapter to the already familiar chapters on breeding, forages, wool, reproduction, health, and others. Some of the chapters have incorporated information from recent SID Updates into them and some have been extensively reorganized to reflect new developments in the industry, such as the Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Program, or new scientific knowledge. Many chapters have new pictures of higher quality to illustrate material in the text.

The new edition can be obtained from:
American Sheep Industry Association, Inc.
Attn: Vickie Gebauer
6911 S. Yosemite St.
Centennial, CO 80112

Telephone orders are accepted between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time and the price is \$57.45 which includes shipping. This is an excellent resource book if you have sheep or answer sheep-related questions.

Livestock, Dairy & Poultry Clinic

The OSU Animal Sciences Department is hosting a livestock, dairy, and poultry judging clinic on Saturday, November 1 at the OSU Animal Science Center near the Don Scott Airport.

This clinic is primarily designed for those youth who are beginners and wish to learn more about judging beef, swine, sheep, dairy, poultry. Youth can enroll in the livestock judging (beef, sheep, swine) track, the dairy track or the poultry track. They will then have the opportunity to take part in a "mini-session" on another species after lunch.

There will also be a session in the late morning for adult leaders and coaches to learn more about organizing the working with a judging team. The cost is \$15.00 per person, which includes morning refreshments, noon lunch (served by Saddle and Sirloin) and handouts. Contact the Lawrence County Extension Office for registration forms.

Field Day To Demonstrate Alternatives for Farm Families

Three nationally-known farmers and authors who specialize in producing and marketing high-value food products for American consumers will explain how Ohio farm families can add value to the products which they produce and how to market their products directly to consumers at the 10th Annual Country Living Field Day. Billed as the largest educational program in the USA for small farms and rural landowners, the Country Living Field Day will be held on

Saturday, September 27th from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in eastern Ohio.

This Field Day is nothing short of a smorgasbord of alternative farm income ideas. There will be short seminars, demonstrations, farm tours, displays and commercial exhibits on hundreds of different topics throughout the day. A flyer is on the back of this letter.

For directions please contact the Extension Office at 533-4322 or check out our website <http://lawrence@osu.edu>

**COUNTRY LIVING FIELD DAY
FLYER ON THE BACK OF THIS
LETTER. DIRECTIONS BELOW:**