

NEWSLETTER

NOBLE COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FEBRUARY | 2018



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Breakfast & Maple Syrup



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Dear Readers,

Winter has seemed extremely long this year. I am looking forward to the day the crocuses pop their buds through the soil and the trees awake from their winter rest. As beautiful as snow and ice can be across the landscape, the challenges that come with it can definitely wear you down by spring. I hope that you are able to stay positive and power through the ice, snow, and mud to get there.

Extension has a schedule full of activities you may find beneficial.. Beef, Sheep, and Goat Schools are all beginning. Farm Talk Breakfast this month will focus on farm business management. We have a hobby maple syrup class at the end of the month. Details are included in the newsletter. We are happy to announce that A.I. School is full for 2018. I hope to see you at some of these events!

Sincerely,

Christine Gelley

Noble County OSU Extension ANR Educator



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: <http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity>.

Southeast Ohio Sheep & Goat School

A six session series throughout 2018 featuring presentations by state specialists and regional experts.

Hosted at the Eastern Agricultural Research Station in Caldwell, OH.

Sessions:

1. Sheep & Goats 101

Thursday, February 15, 2018
5:30-8:30 p.m.

- Anatomy
- Nutrition
- Reproduction
- Environment
- Behavior

Next Class!

2. Keeping Your Calendar

Thursday, March 8, 2018
5:30-8:30 p.m.

- Calendar Based Management
- Identifying & Fitting Your Market
- Lambing & Kidding

3. Safe Systems

Thursday, May 10, 2018
5:30-8:30 p.m.

- Predator Prevention
- Parasites
- Pathogens
- Wool & Coat Care

4. FAMACHA & Forages

Friday, July 13, 2018- Subject to Change
8:00-10:30 a.m.

- FAMACHA Training
- 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Ohio Forage and Grassland Council Sheep Tour (More Details to Come)

5. Reproduction

Thursday, September 6, 2018
5:30-8:30 p.m.

- Synchronization
- Artificial Insemination
- Ram & Buck Semen Testing
- Pregnancy Checking

6. Finishing

Thursday, November 8, 2018
5:30-8:30 p.m.

- Body Condition Scores
- Finishing for Market
- Carcass Evaluation & Meat Grading
- Promoting Lamb & Goat for Dinner

RSVPs Due: Two Weeks Prior to Class

**Cost: \$100 for all six sessions or
\$25 per single session
Meal Included**

**Contact: Christine Gelley-
Noble County OSU Extension**

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
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OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



2018 Statewide Beef School

An endeavor of the OSU Extension Beef Team

Gaining Greater Market Access for Ohio Feeder Calves

All beef producers welcome!

Two presentations will be offered in 2018 using a webinar format with two viewing opportunities: Noon- 1:30 p.m. or 6:00-7:30 p.m. RSVP with your preferences by Feb. 16.

Sponsorship Provided By:

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TUESDAY

FEB. 20 & 27

NOON- 1:30 P.M. or 6:00-7:30 P.M

Location:

Noble County OSU Extension
Multi-Agency Meeting Room
46049 Marietta Road
Caldwell, OH 43724

Cost:

None

Details:

Two classes with repeated opportunities to attend. Meal provided by our sponsors.

Contact:

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noble.osu.edu

**RSVP
ASAP**

Take care while planting on slopes

Christine Gelley for *Progressive Forage*

AT A GLANCE

Livestock can maneuver ridges and slopes with relative ease, but ridges and slopes make fertility, weed management, tillage, planting and haymaking a challenge.

Tractor accidents are the leading cause of farm fatalities, with most occurring in the event of a rollover. Hence, pasture managers should be incredibly cautious when reseeding and interseeding pastures on slopes.

Tractor injuries typically fall in one of four categories: rollovers, runovers, entanglements or collisions. Every person on your farm operating a vehicle (farm truck, tractor, ATV, etc.) should be familiar with its user manual and basic safety for a safe and productive season.

All safety mechanisms should be engaged while in operation. Remind yourself and your helpers not to cut corners. The speedy way is often the dangerous way, so take your time. Inspect your machinery before using

it. Wear adequate restraints and personal protective equipment, and always be aware of your surroundings. Your safety is worth the time and effort to be cautious.

Operating on slopes

The typical tractor is not designed for working on intense slopes. A 20 percent slope is the steepest grade most can handle. Use tractors with wide-set tires on the front and back. Intense slopes require specialized equipment and trained operators. Do not put yourself at risk by operating on slopes too steep for your machinery. These types of slopes are better cared for with hand-operated equipment or managed as conservation areas for wildlife. Use walk-behind cultivators and mowers, weed eaters, backpack sprayers and hand-crank broadcast seeders for these areas.

Machinery designed for slopes typically has attachments on the front end rather than the rear and dual, tri or even quad tires to increase stability. Few dealers carry this type of equipment on the borders of the Corn Belt, but they do exist. There are some incredible machines designed in

Switzerland and Australia for working on slopes.

Do not disengage rollover protective structures, and always wear your seat belt. Since rollover protective structures were not standard until the mid-'80s, millions of tractors in rural America are not appropriately equipped to protect the rider in the event of a rollover. Retrofitted rollover protective structures can be obtained from tractor dealerships for older tractors. The combination of a rollover protective structure and seat belt are 99 percent effective in preventing rollover fatalities.

If you determine your slopes are workable, follow these tips for safe operation:

- Go slow. Never go down a slope faster than you would climb it.
- Keep your movement smooth. Jerky stops, starts and turns decrease stability.
- Always keep the heavy end uphill. If your attachment is on the rear of the tractor, always keep it uphill. If you are carrying a load on the front of your tractor, keep the load low to the ground and uphill.
- Distribute loads on attachments evenly. Take care to prevent them from shifting in transit.
- Do not drive laterally across slopes. Driving across slopes shifts your center of gravity and is the leading cause of side rollovers.
- Do not climb slopes if your load or attachment is in the rear. This is one of the leading causes of rear rollovers. If you are unable to approach the slope from top to bottom, back up the slope, keeping the heavy end uphill.
- Back out if the tractor gets stuck in mud. Do not pull forward. If you cannot free the tractor by backing out, it should be towed out.
- Be additionally cautious on wet or partially frozen ground. Areas that were stable during dry conditions may not be anymore. During freeze

20 %

Tractors are designed to operate on hills with a grade of 20 percent or less. You can be seriously injured or killed if you operate on a hill with a grade steeper than 20 percent.



Never drive across a hill while operating a tractor. The tractor could become unstable, causing a side rollover.



Never drive with the heavy end of the tractor facing downhill. A rear rollover could result.

and thaw cycles, the soil will heave and swell or compress. Be sure to change your approach to cope with the conditions.

Working safely on slopes is all about keeping your center of gravity on target. Use included figures as visual representations of appropriate and inappropriate practices (used with permission from Kansas State University Extension).

Tillage and seeding

Depending on the type of forage you intend to plant, you may or may not need to till the soil for establishment. If tillage is necessary, wait for the weather to cooperate. Soil needs to be thawed and firm enough to walk on without leaving depressions. Often plantings that require tillage are best saved for late spring or early fall. If you use a small tiller that can be pulled by an ATV or a walk-behind model, you will have more flexibility in spring conditions.

No-till drills are excellent for interseeding into existing vegetation. Again, small attachments are often most appropriate for sloped areas. Prevent shifting in the seed box while

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**Every person on your farm operating a vehicle
(farm truck, tractor, ATV, etc.) should be
familiar with its user manual and basic safety
for a safe and productive season.**

PROGRESSIVE FORAGE

AGE-APPROPRIATE PASTURE



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working on slopes by adding dividers between the feed cups.

Hand-crank broadcast seeders work well for slopes. They are easy to use and versatile. Try these for frost-seeding clovers into grass pastures and cultivated seed beds.

Packing or raking the seed bed is sometimes recommended after seeding. If your slope is too steep to do this with machinery, use hand tools instead.

Soil erosion needs to be minimized when tilling and planting on slopes. After seeding, add a permeable cover to the soil surface, like straw or landscape netting (erosion blankets) to prevent soil and seed wash-off in a rain event.

Wait to apply fertilizer until the plants are actively growing. Otherwise, weeds will utilize the fertilizer instead of your forage, or it will be carried away by the elements. Keep animals off of the establishment site until the plants have developed thick roots and leaves.

Renovating high-traffic areas

The agile feet of grazing animals have the ability to wear down forage in high-traffic areas. Since they are creatures of habit, they will continue


to use the same trails to travel up and down the slopes. Once the forage cover is worn away, soil wears away too. These worn areas need to be renovated on occasion to prevent erosion and the formation of gullies.

Of course, soil compaction is an issue in these areas. If possible, designate these paths as lanes to travel on for both livestock and

machinery rather than attempting to turn compacted and worn areas back into grazable pasture. Reinforce the lane with geotextile fabric and gravel. Remember to choose gravel that is the appropriate size for livestock to walk on comfortably.

Summary

Sloped pastures pose unique

challenges for farm managers and are an integral part of production for many. Always put safety first. Take precautions to prevent erosion, seed and fertilizer loss. Remember: A tractor may not be the best tool to use when establishing forages on slopes. 



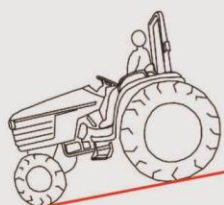
Goes to Work When You Do

How many days of ideal weather will you have for first cutting?

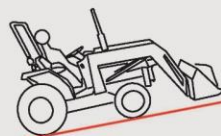
BulletProof® goes to work as fast as you do, regardless of the conditions. Bacterial inoculants can take 3-4 days to start to work, depending on the conditions. BulletProof® enhances hay drying and speeds up fermentation with the addition of sulfur containing antioxidant, enzymes and sugar sources.

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Always drive up and down the face of the hill with the heaviest part of the tractor facing uphill. With no attachments, a tractor's heavy end is the rear.



When operating with a front attachment, drive forward up a hill.



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February 23- Farm Talk Breakfast

February's Farm Talk Breakfast will feature a program reviewing the benefits and disadvantages of making your business an LLC with special guest, Peggy Hall, OSU Assistant Professor and Field Specialist for Agricultural & Resource Law. The program will run from 8:30-10 a.m. at the Noble County OSU Extension Office in Caldwell. Breakfast will include eggs, sausage, and an oatmeal and yogurt parfait bar. Register by Feb. 20th by calling Noble County OSU Extension at 740-732-5681.

February 24- Hobby Maple Syrup Class

Have you considered maple syrup production as a hobby or value added product to your farm? Then this class is for you. It will cover the basics of maple syrup production for hobby enthusiasts. Topics will include maple tree I.D., gathering your equipment, sap on tap, evaporation and syrup creation, testimonies from local producers, and the rules for selling maple syrup in Ohio. The program will run from 9:00 a.m.-1 p.m. at the OSU Extension Southeast Region Office. Lunch will be provided. Register by Feb. 21st by calling Noble County OSU Extension at 740-732-5681.



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