

### COSHOCTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



Hello Coshocton County! Spring is definitely in the air as today's weather is really something. It is a little windy but last I checked we were pushing 70 degrees! But as with any March... beware as this could just be fool's gold time as next week's weather looks to be more March like.

This morning we held a nice pesticide and fertilizer re-certification session in Roscoe Village. Thanks to all who attended. A reminder that we will be hosting a **"Minerals for Beef Cattle"** webinar next Tuesday evening. You can pre-register at: <https://go.osu.edu/mineralsforbeef>

We also hope that you will participate in the **Ag Day Celebration Take-out** as we celebrate National Ag Day on March 23. We are all thankful for our great industry of agriculture and hope you will celebrate with us.

Enjoy the weather!

Sincerely,

*David L. Marrison*

Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator

#### March 10 Issue (Edition #85)

Farm Office Live Continues  
Don't Let the Green Grass Fool You  
Is Your Bull Ready for Work?  
Marketing Lamb and Goat for the Holidays  
Ag Day Celebration Take-Out  
Minerals for Beef Cattle Webinar  
ODA to Offer Pesticide Testing in Coshocton County

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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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## ***Farm Office Live Continues***

By: Barry Ward, David Marrison, Peggy Hall, Dianne Shoemaker – Ohio State University Extension

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2021/03/02/farm-office-live-continues/>

“Farm Office Live” continues this winter as an opportunity for you to get the latest outlook and updates on ag law, farm management, ag economics, farm business analysis and other related issues from faculty and educators with the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University.

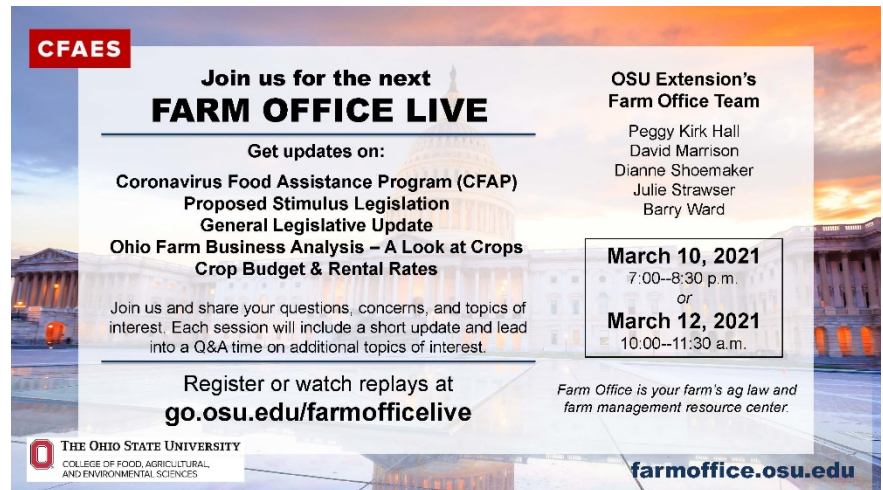
Each Farm Office Live begins with presentations on select ag law and farm management topics from our specialists followed by open discussions and a Q&A session. Viewers can attend “Farm Office Live” online each month on Wednesday evening or Friday morning, or can catch a recording of each program.

The full slate of offerings remaining for this winter are:

- March 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- March 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 11:30 am
- April 7<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- April 9<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 11:30 am

Topics to be addressed in March include:

- Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)
- Proposed Stimulus Legislation
- General Legislative Update
- Ohio Farm Business Analysis – A Look at Crops
- Crop Budget & Rental Rates

A promotional graphic for Farm Office Live. It features a background image of a farm at sunset. The text is overlaid in white and yellow boxes. At the top left is the CFAES logo. The main title is "Join us for the next FARM OFFICE LIVE". Below that, it says "Get updates on:" followed by a list of topics: "Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)", "Proposed Stimulus Legislation", "General Legislative Update", "Ohio Farm Business Analysis – A Look at Crops", and "Crop Budget & Rental Rates". To the right, it lists the "OSU Extension's Farm Office Team" members: Peggy Kirk Hall, David Marrison, Dianne Shoemaker, Julie Strawser, and Barry Ward. Below the team list, it shows the dates and times: "March 10, 2021 7:00--8:30 p.m." and "March 12, 2021 10:00--11:30 a.m.". At the bottom, it says "Register or watch replays at go.osu.edu/farmofficelive". The bottom left has the Ohio State University logo and the text "THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES". The bottom right has the website "farmoffice.osu.edu" and the tagline "Farm Office is your farm's ag law and farm management resource center."

To register or view past recordings, visit <https://go.osu.edu/farmofficelive>

For more information or to submit a topic for discussion, email Julie Strawser at [strawser.35@osu.edu](mailto:strawser.35@osu.edu) or call the farm office at 614-292-2433. We look forward to you joining us!

## ***Don't Let the Green Grass Fool You***

By: Dr. Katie VanValin- Assistant Extension Professor- University of Kentucky.

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/03/10/dont-let-the-green-grass-fool-you/>

Perhaps it was the full season worth of winter weather we got in one-week last month, or the above average temperatures that followed, but either way we are rounding the bend and spring will be here before we know it. One of the things I love most about spring is that along with the warmer temperatures and longer days, inevitably comes greener pastures. However, the growth we see out in our pastures during the early spring can often be deceiving from a nutrient standpoint.

The problem that we can run into is that there simply is not enough forage available, and the forage that is high in moisture. When we turn cows out to early, they can exert more energy searching for the next mouthful than they are consuming, since most of every mouthful is water. This is especially critical for spring-calving cows. At this time, cows have either or will be transitioning from late gestation to lactation which represents the time when a cow's maintenance nutrient requirements are at their highest throughout the production cycle. This is not the time to let cows slip into an energy deficit and lose condition.



If cows lose condition during early lactation when their maintenance nutrient requirements are high, it is often difficult to recover that condition prior to breeding. It is a much better plan to ensure cows are in good body condition prior to calving and maintain adequate condition through breeding. Research has shown the reproductive performance is decreased when cows reach a BCS of 4, so it is critical to the performance and efficiency of the cow herd that cows maintain a BCS of 5-6.

For example, a cow in early lactation with a BCS of 4 consuming fresh cool-season forages would be able to consume enough forage to meet her maintenance requirements. If we tried to improve the BCS of this cow by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a BCS (approximately 75 lbs) now that fresh forage is only providing about 70% of her energy requirement. So, in this scenario even if available forage was not the limiting factor, supplementation would still be needed to improve body condition. It can also be helpful to manage older or thin cows separately from the rest of the herd, allowing them to receive the extra nutrition they require without overfeeding the rest of the herd.

Although it is tempting to turn cows out to grass early, remember that doing so may limit cow-performance. This can also cause undue stress on forages, ultimately hurting our stands, and creating opportunity for opportunistic weeds to encroach. Evaluate the forages in your pasture and let grass growth dictate when cows are turned out as opposed to a date on the calendar.

The bottom line here is don't let spring fever set in early by turning cows out onto fresh grass that may not meet all the nutritional demands of the herd. Continue to evaluate BCS of the herd and allow this to guide nutrition and management decisions as mother nature transitions from winter to spring, and cows transition from gestation to lactation.

### ***Is Your Bull Ready for Work?***

By: [Dean Kreager](#), Ohio State University Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Licking County

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/03/10/is-your-bull-ready-for-work/>

Should a person wait until the hay is mowed before looking at the rake and baler to fix any problems that carried over from last year? Would they head out on a cross country drive without at least checking the oil and tires? If most people answered no to these questions, then why do so many people just turn their bull in with the cows without first being sure that he is ready to do his job. A cow/calf producer's income comes from having calves in a timely manner and half of that is up to the bull. A breeding soundness evaluation (BSE) is an often-overlooked way to avoid some potentially major problems in this year's breeding season. Typical prices are in the \$50-\$100 range and some facilities will establish days in the spring when producers can bring their bulls to a central location for testing.

A BSE is a test performed by a trained veterinarian to estimate the readiness of the bull to settle cows. This evaluation concentrates on 3 aspects: 1) Physical soundness, 2) Reproductive soundness, 3) Semen quality.

Physical soundness includes evaluation of feet and legs, body condition, eyes and any other condition that could affect the bull's ability to breed cows. Soundness of feet and legs are extremely important as the bulls increase steps taken while walking with the cow herd, but they must also be able to transfer their weight to their rear legs without pain to consistently service the cows. Adequate body condition is also important as the bull will be more active during breeding season and will be using excess body stores to maintain energy.

Reproductive soundness is evaluated by internal and external palpation. Reproductive secondary organs such as the seminal vesicles and prostate are palpated internally. The penis, testis, and scrotum are examined



externally. Malformations, inflammation, and scrotal measurements are prime targets of the reproductive soundness portion. I will go into further detail on scrotal measurements later.

Semen quality is evaluated by collecting a semen sample by using electro-ejaculation. This is not the unpleasant experience that the name may suggest. Think of it more as the electrical muscle stimulation you may receive in therapy and not the electric fence charger. Semen is then evaluated for motility, morphology (normal shaped sperm) and any abnormal fluids such as blood or pus.

Studies indicate that 1 of 5 bulls that are evaluated will not be scored as a satisfactory potential breeder. These bulls can be retested in 60 days for a potential change in status. The 60-day window is set because that is about how many days it takes for a sperm cell to complete the growth and maturation process. Changes to the bull's health or environment any time during the 60-day cycle can result in drastic changes in sperm. This includes things like sickness, fever, extreme heat, extreme cold, stress, and injury. Sometimes that 60-day wait will be enough for sperm quality to improve.

The BSE should be conducted every year about 30-60 days before the breeding season. Just because you had good conception rates last year does not mean that you will this year. Many things can happen during the bull's off season that could affect fertility, and this includes natural aging.

Minimum scrotal circumference standards have been established based on the age of the bull. Even though your bull may meet the minimum there are reasons that larger circumferences are important. The scrotal circumference measurements that are taken during the BSE are excellent predictors of many traits. The heritability of scrotal circumference is often estimated at near .70 which is much higher than many growth traits and similar to the heritability of carcass traits. Above average scrotal circumference is highly correlated to earlier onset of puberty in offspring. This is true for both bulls and heifers. The circumference is also strongly correlated to pregnancy rate and female lifetime productivity.

Every additional cycle that a cow remains open is 21 less days of growth on that cow's calf the next year. This amounts to about 55 pounds lower weaning weight which at \$1.40 feeder calves is a loss of \$77. This does not factor in that that cow will be 21 days behind for the next breeding season since it is always a challenge to move cows up in the breeding season. A sub-par fertility bull can cost you money and push your calving season back but if that sub-par turns into a situation where only a few cows or possibly no cows settle that can be a major setback. With the Ohio average herd size of 17 cows, not many have a backup bull in place. A BSE is a cheap insurance policy when so much rides on the performance of one animal. There is no guarantee that it will prevent all issues as it is just looking at one day in that bull's life, but it will help prevent many issues.

## ***Marketing Lamb and Goat for the Holidays***

By: Melanie Barkley, Livestock Extension Educator, Penn State Extension

(previously published with [Penn State Extension: July 2, 2012 – Updated Calendar for 2020 – 2024](#))

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/sheep/2021/03/09/marketing-lamb-and-goat-for-holidays/#more-4291>

The following is a listing of dates for various ethnic holidays with descriptions including the type of small ruminant required. For those interested in a complete yearly calendar outlining these specific holidays for 2020 – 2024, please find calendar list at the end of the article.

There are a number of ethnic holidays that sheep and goat producers may wish to target when marketing their animals. This creates an excellent opportunity for sheep and meat goat producers to plan their breeding seasons so that they can market their lambs or kids at the proper size for these holidays.

The United States currently has a population that varies greatly in their religious beliefs and in their ethnic backgrounds. According to data from the 2000 National Survey of Religious Identification and the 2000 American Religious Identity Survey, 76% identified themselves as Christian, 1.3% Jewish, and 0.5% Islamic. Data also showed that from 1990 to 2000, Islamic identification increased by 109%.

An important consideration when marketing lambs and goats for ethnic markets is the weight and sex of the animal and the method in which the meat is harvested such as Halal (Islamic) or Kosher (Jewish). Halal refers to foods that are considered permitted or lawful in the Muslim Qu'ran. These foods, and in this case animals, must be treated with respect and be well cared for. When the animal is harvested, the jugular vein is cut and the blood from the animal is allowed to drain. (Those of the Islam faith are not allowed to consume blood or blood byproducts.) The animal is also blessed at the time of slaughter.

Lambs and kids designated for the ethnic market can be sold at auction or they can be sold directly to the consumer. Keep in mind that state laws prohibit a producer from selling meat unless the animal was processed in a USDA inspected facility. Therefore, the lambs and kids should be sold live or they should be delivered to a processing facility.

One point to make is that holidays vary in when they will occur each year. Some holidays follow the Julian or solar calendar, which allows them to occur at the same time or at approximately the same time each year. The Julian calendar is followed by most of the western part of the world. Muslim holidays will follow a lunar calendar which is dictated by the moon. This calendar is about 11 days shorter than the Julian calendar. Jewish holidays occur at the same time each year on a Jewish calendar. This calendar is also of a different length than the Julian calendar.



Image: American Lamb Board

The following information discusses some of the holidays that feature lamb or goat meat and points out the sizes and sexes that should be sold for these markets. A table with holiday dates can be found after the holiday descriptions.

## **Christian Holidays**

### Western or Roman Easter

This holiday is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his death from crucifixion. Lambs marketed for this holiday should be milk fed and weigh between 30-45 lbs. They should also be nicely conditioned, but not excessively fat. The preferred size of goat for this holiday is a milk fed kid that weighs between 20-40 lbs. with 30 lbs. being considered optimum. These kids should carry some condition or fat to reach the prime price categories. Kids that weigh 40-50 lbs. are often acceptable, but may have a price discount for their larger size. Kids that weigh less than 20 lbs. are often thin and are not as acceptable to buyers.

### Eastern or Greek (Orthodox) Easter

This holiday also celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but the time is calculated a bit differently and so the holiday often occurs about one to two weeks following the Western Easter celebration. Ideal size for lambs and goats is slightly heavier than the Western Easter at 40-55 lbs. for lambs and 25-50 lbs. for kids. Both should also be milk fed.

### Christmas

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Lambs and kids should both be milk fed. At this time of year, milk fed lambs and kids are at a premium because ewes and does must breed outside of the typical breeding season. Ideal weights for lambs are 40-60 lbs. and under 50 lbs. for kids.

## **Islamic Holidays**

### Eid ul Adha – The Festival of Sacrifice

Eid ul Adha is a celebration that commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim (renamed Abraham) who was willing to sacrifice his son Ismail for Allah. Animals that are sacrificed for this celebration must be Halal. The sacrificed animal is often shared with extended family members and some may be given away to the needy. Many

Muslims will look for an animal that is blemish free. In other words, the animal should not have been docked or castrated and if the animal has horns, the horns should not be broken. In addition, the animal should not have open wounds, torn ears, or be lame. Some Muslims find animals acceptable if they have been castrated with a burdizzo or if the castration wound has completely healed.

Heavier lambs and goats are preferred for this holiday since the meat is shared. Yearling lambs and goats are preferred, but older sheep and goats are also acceptable. Weights of lambs and goats should be heavier than 60 lbs.

#### Muharram – Islamic New Year

The Islamic New Year is the first day of the Muslim calendar. Mutton is often served as the main course for this holiday meal. There is no preferred weight for this holiday, although animals should appear healthy.

#### Mawlid al Nabi

Mawlid al Nabi celebrates the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam. There is no specific recommended size for lambs and goats for this holiday.

#### Ramadan

Ramadan is the start of a month of fasting. It occurs in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During this holy month, Muslims will fast (do not eat or drink) from sunrise to sunset. This holiday is in celebration of the revealing of the Qu'ran. It is based on the sighting of the new moon and occurs when the "White Thread Becomes Distinct From the Black Thread," a poetic description of the coming of a new moon. Based on the lunar calendar, this holiday moves backwards 11 or 12 days each Julian calendar year. Ramadan is a time for Muslims to renew themselves spiritually, devote time to Allah, and practice self control. The ideal lamb and goat should be weaned and have all their milk teeth. Lambs should weigh 60-80 lbs. while goats have an ideal weight of 60 lbs., but weights of 45-120 lbs. are acceptable. It does not matter if male goats have been castrated. Animals should not be too fat for this holiday.

This holiday is also an excellent time to cull older animals. Both sheep and goats may bring very good prices at this time. However, these animal need to be unblemished.

#### Eid al Fitr – The Breaking of the Ramadan Fast

The end of the Ramadan fasting period occurs when the next new moon is sighted. For the next three days, Muslims celebrate Eid al Fitr. The celebration is a time for families to be thankful for their many joys and blessings. Consistent with the month of Ramadan, lambs should weigh 60-80 lbs. and goats should weigh 60 lbs..

### **Jewish Holidays**

#### Pesach – Passover

Pesach or Passover occurs on the 14th day of Nissan, which is the first month of the Jewish calendar. The holiday represents God passing over the houses of the Jews when the firstborn Egyptian sons were killed. Pesach also refers to the lamb that was sacrificed in the Temple. Therefore, lamb is often served for this holiday. Lambs should be milk fed, fat, and weigh between 30-55 lbs.

#### Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year

Rosh Hashanah means head of the year in Hebrew and occurs on the first and second days of Tishri. Tishri is the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. During Rosh Hashanah, Jews will review their past year and make plans for changes in the coming year. This would be similar to how Americans make New Year's resolutions. The front quarters of lambs weighing 60-100 lbs. are preferred for this holiday celebration.

#### Chanukkah

Chanukkah is an eight-day festival that is often known as the festival of the lights. It begins on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. It is known as a celebration that marks the rededication of the Temple when it was taken back from the Greeks. Tradition says that at that time there was very little oil left to burn in the candelabrum known as the menorah. Most of the oil had been defiled and was not usable. Only enough oil was

available to burn for one day, although the menorah burned for eight days, the length of time that it took to produce new oil for the menorah. Therefore, the eight day festival of Chanukkah commemorates this miracle. Meat consumed during this festival should be prepared through Kosher slaughtering. Young milk-fed lambs and kids are preferred.

#### Information Sources

Many sources are available to find information on holidays as well as holiday dates. Knowing these dates from year to year is very helpful in planning for breeding times so that you can sell the appropriate size animal for a particular market. The table below lists the dates of various holidays from 2020 through 2024.

#### Resources

Information for this fact sheet was taken from the following resources:

[Sheep and Goat Marketing Information](#)

[Interfaith Calendar Definitions](#)

[Religion Facts website](#)

[Ethnic Holiday Demand for Lamb and Goat Meat document](#)

#### **Holiday Calendar for Marketing Sheep and Goats for 2020 – 2024.**

Holiday	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Eid ul Adha: Festival of Sacrifice	July 30-31	July 19-20	July 9-10	July 28-29	July 17-18
Islamic New Year	August 20	August 10	July 30	July 19	July 7
Passover/Pesach	April 8-16	March 27- April 4	April 15-22	April 5-12	April 22-30
Western Roman Easter	April 12	April 4	April 17	April 9	March 31
Orthodox Easter	April 19	May 2	April 24	April 16	May 5
Ramadan: Month of Fasting	April 24- May 23	April 12- May 11	April 2-May 1	March 22- April 20	March 10- April 8
Eid-al-Fitr: Ramadan Ends	May 23-24	May 12-13	May 2-3	April 21-22	April 9-10
Rosh Hashanah: Jewish New Year	September 18-20	September 6-8	September 25-27	September 15-17	October 2-4
Mawlid al-Nabi: Birth of the Prophet	October 29	October 19	October 8	September 27	September 15
Thanksgiving	November 26	November 25	November 24	November 23	November 28
Chanukkah	December 10-18	November 28- December 6	December 18-26	December 7-15	December 25-January 2
Christmas	December 25	December 25	December 25	December 25	December 25



## **Ag Day Celebration Take-Out**

Area farmers and agribusinesses are invited to celebrate Coshocton County Agriculture via the **Ag Day Celebration Take-out** on **March 23** as we recognize the contributions of today's farmers and to show our appreciation for the men and women of agriculture.



Adapting to the lingering the lingering coronavirus pandemic restrictions, the annual Ag Day Celebration Luncheon has been converted to a TAKE-OUT meal which can be picked up on March 23 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Schumaker Farms located at 52441 County Road 16 in West Lafayette, Ohio. The cost is \$5 per person with a choice of Meatloaf or Pulled Pork. The meal is sponsored in part by Farm Credit Mid-America and WenMar Farms.

Reservations are requested by March 16 at 740-622-8087 ext 4 or by emailing [SamanthaDaugherty@coshoctoncounty.net](mailto:SamanthaDaugherty@coshoctoncounty.net) See the attached program flyer to this newsletter for more information.

## **Minerals for Beef Cattle Webinar**

Proper mineral and vitamin nutrition contributes to strong immune systems, reproductive performance, and calf weight gain. However, when it comes to selecting mineral supplementation to use for your beef herd can often be a confusing decision for beef producers as not all mineral mixtures are the same.

To help beef producers understand what minerals are need for beef cattle, OSU Extension will be offering a Zoom webinar titled “**Minerals for Beef Cattle**” on Tuesday, March 16 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. During this session, participants will learn the ball-park levels for mineral supplements for beef cows on forage-based diets. Learn more about macro minerals, trace minerals, and best practices for mineral supplementation Sample mineral tags will be reviewed. Learn what to look for and learn how you can fine tune your mineral supplementation based on your hay sample analysis.

This webinar will feature Dr. Steve Boyles, OSU Extension Beef Specialist and Garth Ruff, OSU Extension Field Specialist for Beef Cattle. This workshop will be held via Zoom and there is no fee to attend. Join us from the comfort of your home to learn more about feeding minerals to beef cattle. Pre-registration is requested at: <https://go.osu.edu/mineralsforbeef> This webinar is being hosted by the Coshocton County Extension office. For more information about the webinar, contact the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265 for more information. See the attached program flyer.

## **ODA to Offer Pesticide Testing in Coshocton County**

OSU Extension in Coshocton County is pleased to announce the Ohio Department of Agriculture will be hosting pesticide and fertilizer applicator testing sessions in Coshocton County on March 17 and April 14 from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. each day. These exam sessions will allow individuals to take a private or commercial pesticide applicators examination. The testing will be held in Room 145 in the Coshocton County Services Building with COVID-19 safety protocols enforced. Pre-registration is required and can be made by accessing the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Regulatory program at: <https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/pesticides> More details can also be by calling 614-728-6987 (option 1) or via email at: [pesticides@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:pesticides@agri.ohio.gov)

***“Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come.”***  
***Robert H Schuller***





Thanks to American Ag.

Please join us for an  
**Ag Day Celebration Take-Out**  
**Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

Pick-up Time: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5 per person - Choice of Meatloaf or Pulled Pork

Pick-up Location: Schumaker Farms  
52441 County Road 16, West Lafayette, OH 43845

This is a special invitation to celebrate Coshocton County Agriculture as we recognize the contributions of today's farmers and show our appreciation for the men and women of agriculture.

RSVPs are required by March 16 at 740-622-8087, ext. 4 or  
[samanthadaugherty@coshoctoncounty.net](mailto:samanthadaugherty@coshoctoncounty.net)

Meal sponsored in part by Farm Credit Mid-America & WenMar Farms

Event sponsored by:





# Minerals for Beef Cattle Webinar

**Tuesday, March 16, 2021**  
**6:30 to 7:45 p.m.**  
**VIA ZOOM**

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