Webinar offered to cattle producers

Beef is still popular among American consumers and the consumer has enjoyed lower beef prices at the grocery store the past several years. Many hamburgers will be eaten during this year’s Super Bowl.

Beef production has been one of the few agricultural industries that has not been adversely affected by the tariff battles with China. Beef exports, in general, have been strong.

Domestic prices have dropped in recent years since cattle numbers have recovered and increased since the low in 2014. Feedlot operations have been able to take advantage of the low grain prices for the past five years. However, nationally, beef production has been affected by wildfires in the West and shortages of forage, neither of which has affected Ohio’s production.

Beef producers’ profits have been reduced because of increased regulations the past several years. These include Ohio’s manure laws, veterinarian feed directive, and beef quality assurance certification. Also, animal rights activists continue to disrupt the industry on the East and West coasts with voter initiatives.

In Ohio, beef producers have been affected by the proximity to wholesale markets and the decline of local processing facilities. Changes in Ohio regulations have caused many small local processors to close. Our area is fortunate to have a processor in Hancock County.

To stay competitive, cattlemen will need to know and implement management practices to lower beef production costs and assure the public that they are getting a quality product that has been raised responsibly in a sustainable system that has minimal effects on the environment.

Beef producers will be able to obtain the latest management information from a cattle webinar being offered by the Ohio State University Extension beef team. The program will be held Feb. 5 from 7-9 p.m. in the OSU Extension Conference Room at the Hancock County Agricultural Service Center, 7808 Hancock County 140 Findlay.

This year’s theme is “Winter Management of the Cow Herd to Insure a Productive 2019.” Speakers are faculty from Ohio State University’s Animal Science Department and Extension educators from the beef team.

Topics and speakers are:


• ”Nutritional Requirements of the Beef Female for Optimal Performance from the Last Tri- mester Through Breeding Season.” Dr. Steve Boyes, Extension beef specialist.

• “Impacts of Nutrition on Heifer Development and Conception Rates of Heifers.” Also, “Impacts of Nutrition on Days to Return to Estrus and Conception Rates of Lactating Females.” Dr. Alvaro Garcia Guerra, animal science researcher.

• “Managing Calf Health Born into Stressful Situations: Weak Calves, Importance of Amount and Timing of Colostrum Intake, Colostrum Replacements or Supplements, Suggested Newborn Treatments and Vaccinations.” Justin Kieffer, a clinical veterinarian.

The program is free and open to the public. Register for the program by calling the Hancock County Extension Office at 419-422-3851 or email lentz.38@osu.edu.

Hancock and surrounding counties have a rich tradition in raising quality livestock — most of the grain in the area is grown for feed. In cooperation with OSU Extension, local livestock producers have made changes to stay competitive, protect the environment, and care for the well-being of their animals.

Lentz is extension educator for agriculture and natural resources for the Ohio State University Extension Service in Hancock County. He can be reached at 419-422-3851 or via email at lentz.38@osu.edu.

Lentz can be heard with Vann Wickerham on weekdays at 6:35 a.m. on WFDN, at 5:43 a.m. on WKXA-FM, and at 5:28 a.m. at 106.3 The Fox.