



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Hardin County Extension News Release

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Winter Livestock Banquets

by Mark Badertscher

Hardin County – Hardin County has a rich tradition of active livestock commodity group organizations. There are organizations for each of the major livestock species, and these groups have royalty and scholarship opportunities to recognize the youth of the county. In addition, the livestock organizations have directors that plan and lead activities for their membership throughout the year. Besides promoting the youth of the county who have livestock, these groups provide programs and activities for the adult producers to help promote their respective species.

One of the most common programs offered to livestock producers during the winter months in Hardin County are the livestock banquets. Most of the banquets have a speaker or entertainment as part of the program, along with a meal and often door prizes sponsored by the generous donations of local agribusinesses and individuals. Most of the livestock banquets have been ongoing events for several years, with the exception of the Goat Banquet that is in its third year. The Poultry Banquet is now in its fourth year, while the Horse Banquet is in its sixth year.

This year's Dairy Banquet will kick-off the winter banquet season on February 15. The Dairy Service Unit will be holding their Dairy Banquet at the Plaza Inn Restaurant in Mt. Victory starting at 12:00 noon. This banquet will feature dairy products as part of the menu and families with dairy cattle, also including dairy beef feeders and dairy steers are encouraged to attend. This year there will be a basket of dairy items/gift cards that will be given away at the Dairy Banquet to raise funds for the dairy scholarship.

The Horse Banquet will take place February 22 at the Kenton Moose Lodge starting at 6:30 pm with doors open at 5:30 pm. This banquet will recognize the equine industry, including the youth and adults who work with horses in the county. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to participate in the silent auction to benefit the horse scholarship fund.

The Poultry Banquet is planned for February 29 at 6:00 pm with doors open at 5:30 pm at the Christian Missionary Alliance Church in Kenton. Each family is asked to bring their most requested, best-tasting

side dish and dessert to share, as there will be no extra charge for the evening and the main dish will be provided. The Poultry Banquet will recognize poultry exhibitors from the Hardin County Fair and crown the poultry king and queen.

The Sheep Improvement Association will be holding their annual Lamb Banquet on March 7. This event will be at St. John's Evangelical Church in Kenton starting at 6:30 pm, and will feature different cuts of lamb on the menu. Banquet attendees are encouraged to arrive early for a silent auction to benefit the scholarship fund.

The Cattle Producers will have their annual Beef Banquet March 7. This event will be held at the Community Building on the fairgrounds, starting at 6:00 pm. Attendees to this banquet will enjoy a beef dinner. There will also be an update from the Ohio Cattlemen's Association and the beef ambassador team.

The Pork Producers will hold their annual Pork Banquet on March 14, starting at 6:30 pm. It will be held at St. John's Evangelical Church in Kenton. The Pork Banquet will feature a menu of pork products and door prizes will be provided for both kids and adults to enjoy.

The Goat Banquet will take place on March 28 at the Christian Missionary Alliance Church in Kenton. The time has yet to be announced. This banquet will be a potluck dinner and will recognize goat exhibitors and goat royalty from the Hardin County Fair.

Tickets for the livestock banquets can be obtained from each organization's directors or reservations can be made at the Hardin County Extension office, located at 1021 W Lima Street in Kenton. Tickets will be made available soon, if not already available for your family to be able to enjoy these wonderful events that bring together the agricultural community in the county.

For more information about this year's livestock banquets, contact OSU Extension or visit the Hardin County OSU Extension web site at hardin.osu.edu, the Hardin County OSU Extension Facebook page, or call Mark Badertscher, Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator at 419-674-2297.