



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, some of these groups provide programs and events for the adult producers to help produce, manage, and promote their respective livestock 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 for several years and are planning events for this season after not being able to have banquets for the past couple of years due to the pandemic.

This year's Horse Banquet will kick-off the winter banquet season on February 20. The Hardin County Horse Association will be holding their event at the Kenton Moose Lodge starting at 2:00 pm with doors open at 12:30 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 Sheep Improvement Association will be holding their annual Lamb Banquet on March 5. 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 Pork Producers will hold their annual Pork Banquet on March 19, starting at 6:30 pm. It will be held at Mid-Ohio Energy Cooperative in Kenton. In addition to recognizing royalty and presenting scholarships, the Pork Banquet will feature a menu of pork products and door prizes will be provided for both kids and adults to enjoy.

The Cattle Producers will have their annual Beef Banquet March 26. This event will be held in the Community Building at the fairgrounds, starting at 6:00 pm. Attendees to this banquet will enjoy a beef dinner. There is usually an update from the Ohio Cattlemen's Association, scholarships are awarded, and the beef ambassador team is recognized.

The Poultry Banquet is also planned for March 26 at 6:00 pm at the Christian Missionary Alliance Church in Kenton. In the past each family has been asked to bring their most requested, best-tasting side dish and dessert to share, with the main dish being provided. The Poultry Banquet will recognize poultry exhibitors from the Hardin County Fair and crown the poultry king and queen.

The Goat Banquet will take place on April 9 at 5:30 pm at the Christian Missionary Alliance Church in Kenton. This banquet is a potluck dinner so attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert with the main course provided. This banquet will recognize goat exhibitors and goat royalty from the Hardin County Fair. The Dairy Service Unit is not planning to have a Dairy Banquet in 2022.

Tickets for the livestock banquets can be obtained from each organization's directors or reservations can be made at the Hardin County Extension office (with the exception of the Beef Banquet where tickets are available at the County Engineer's office). 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 at 419-674-2297 or visit the Hardin County OSU Extension web site at hardin.osu.edu, or the Hardin County OSU Extension Facebook page. More specific information will be released as each livestock commodity group finalizes their banquet plans.