



MAILBAG

January 1, 2014

Clover Creek 832-3458

Keystone Mill 832-3113

www.millhillag.com

New at Mill Hill

We have exciting news about new products that Mill Hill will be carrying in 2014! You will soon be able to pick up John Deere oils and lubricants at our Clover Creek location. We will let you know when they arrive so that you can save a trip to Martinsburg!

Is there any item that you would like for us to have in the store to make your life (or at least your errands) easier? Please let Sarrah, Julie, or Rose know.

Early Seed Orders

January still offers you a chance to pay for your seeds and receive a discount. TA Seeds and Kings AgriSeeds both have programs to help save you money on the seeds you will need this spring and summer. Call Mill Hill and speak with Alan to determine which seeds you will fit your operation best.

Dairy Beef 4H/FFA project?

Are you interested in raising a dairy beef project for 4H or FFA this year? The purpose of a dairy beef project is to present an animal to a judge (or buyer) that can be finished in a feed lot type setting. Correct structure (feet, legs, neck, back) is very important in this project. If you have never tried this before, the first step would be to contact the PSU Extension office (940-5989) so that they can put you in touch with the local club. You also need to contact a veterinarian who can work with you throughout your project to keep your animal healthy. Next, you will need to select an animal. Calves typically need to be born early in the year to qualify as projects. Choose a healthy animal direct from a dairy farm when possible, to avoid disease contamination. Make sure the calf has

consumed adequate colostrum from its dam. Calves will need to drink milk for the first 6-10 weeks of their life. This is most easily accomplished by feeding milk replacer. Mill Hill offers several varieties of milk replacer designed to meet the needs of your calf. In addition to milk, you should start offering some grain, in the form of calf starter, to your calf. Mill Hill carries a 22% calf starter that contains Bovatec, a medication used to help prevent coccidiosis, which is a common calf disease that will prevent your calf from growing as well as he is able. We don't recommend offering hay to your calf, as this can fill him up and reduce the amount of grain mix he eats. The grain mix is where the real growth potential is! Once the calf is weaned, continue feeding him a grain mix for as **MUCH** bone (height) growth, and as **LITTLE** fat growth, as possible. If you would like some help with determining what to feed your calf, please feel free to contact Sarrah at Mill Hill 832-3458.

Rodent Control

Rodents are still trying to move into houses and barns for the winter. To help deter them, visit Mill Hill for a selection of rodent control options, including bait and traps. Bait stations are one of the easiest and safest ways to offer bait. The child and pet proof options ensure that only the rodents consume the bait. Remember to rotate the formulas you use to prevent immunity.

From PSU Extension

Seasons' Greetings from PSU Extension

By Eli Snyder, Field and Forage Crops Educator

Hello! I am a new Agronomy Educator with Penn State Extension, based here in Blair County. I came on board in September and prior to beginning with Extension, I was completing a Master's degree in Agronomy at Penn State. I conducted research at the Rock Springs Research Farm (near Ag Progress Days), and specialized in weed control in field and forage crops, and in dairy cropping systems. I received a B.A. in Economics from a small college in Maryland, my home state. I also have worked extensively with horses, sheep, and on commercial vegetable farms. In my new

role, I hope to design and deliver relevant and informative agronomic programming for this region, by receiving input from community members like you. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the Blair County office with questions, relevant agricultural information, or just to introduce yourself.

Winter is meeting season for many of us, a time to reflect on the previous year and share new information as we plan for the upcoming season. Below is a list of pesticide update meetings and agronomic programming occurring in the area this winter. Please note that the Blair County Extension Office is now located on the 2nd floor of the Altoona-Blair County Airport in Martinsburg (see contact information below). I look forward to meeting you and hearing from you throughout the coming year.

Pesticide Update Meetings (each offers 2 core credits + 2 category credits (01, 18 and private))

1/30: Southern Huntingdon HS, Three Springs. 7-9 pm. No charge.

2/4: Huntingdon County Extension Office, Huntingdon. 7-9 pm. \$10.

2/10: Williamsburg Farm Show Building, Williamsburg. 7-9 pm. No charge. Pre-registration requested.

2/13: Central HS, Martinsburg. 7-9 pm. No charge.

2/25: Huntingdon County Extension Office, Huntingdon. 1-3 pm. \$10. Pre-registration requested.

Crops Conferences: These day-long workshops will feature research from Agronomy and Horticulture specialists from Penn State University, as well as updates from industry representatives. Each conference offers 2-3 each core and category credits as well as CCA credits. \$15 in advance, \$20 at door with lunch included. They are sure to be well-worth your time!

Pre-registration requested online at <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/courses/crops-conferences> or by calling the listed number.

1/17: Blair County Convention Center, Altoona. 8 am-3:30 pm. 814-940-5989.

****Note our new address!****

Blair County Extension Office

310 Airport Road Suite 9
Martinsburg, PA 16662
Tel.: (814) 940-5989

Dairy Recipe

It's cold outside, but don't catch a cold. 3 servings of dairy are needed every day to maintain a healthy body. Nutrients like Potassium, Vitamin A and D will help with the absorption of calcium and maintaining normal vision, skin color, and blood pressure. So don't let the weather keep you under the weather. Fight back and stay healthy with dairy. From Katherine Orczeck, 2013/2014 Blair County Dairy Princess.

LOADED POTATO SOUP

12 oz. package bacon

1 ½ c. chopped onion

6 c. chicken broth

2 lbs. baking potatoes, peeled, cubed

2/3 c. BUTTER

¾ c. all-purpose flour

4 c. MILK

1 tsp. salt

1 tsp. freshly ground pepper

1 c. diced cooked ham

8 oz. SOUR CREAM

2 ½ c. shredded sharp Cheddar CHEESE

¾ c. sliced green onions

Cook bacon until crisp; drain on paper towels. Crumble bacon; set aside. Reserve 2 tbsp. drippings. Cook onion in bacon drippings over medium-high heat 6 minutes or until almost tender.

In 6 quart Dutch oven mix onion, broth and potatoes. Heat to boiling; reduce heat. Cook 10 minutes or until potatoes are very tender.

Meanwhile, in same skillet, melt butter over low heat. Stir in flour with whisk until smooth. Cook and stir 1 minute. Gradually stir in 2 cups of the milk. Pour milk mixture into potato mixture. Add remaining 2 cups milk, the salt and pepper. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly with whisk, until mixture is thickened and bubbly.

Stir in ham, half of the bacon, the sour cream, 2 cups of the cheese and ½ cup of the green onions. Cook until thoroughly heated and cheese is melted. Evenly top individual servings with remaining bacon, ½ cup cheese and ½ cup green onions.

Makes 15 (1 cup) servings.