The **2017 Shelby County Dairy Banquet** will be held at the Palazzo in Botkins on Thursday, March 9th, beginning with social time at 7p; Dinner at 7:30p. Randy Fisher from Toastmasters will present “Mis-Information in Agriculture.” Tickets are $10 at the door. Those admitted for FREE are youth aged five and younger and 4-H and FFA members who exhibited a dairy project at the 2016 Shelby County Fair. Reservations for all (to ensure enough food!) are to be made to Greg Borchers by February 27th (That’s Next Monday!): 937.726.1805 or gregborchers@hotmail.com.

There’s still time to get your reservations in for the **Shelby County Cattlemen’s Association Annual Banquet** (Prime Rib!) to be held Tuesday, February 28th, 7p, at the Houston Community Center. Cost is $25 per person by this Friday, February 24th: 937.726.0478; secretary@shelbycountycattlemen.com.

Auglaize and Shelby County Extensions are holding **Three-Hour Fertilizer Applicator Certification Trainings** on Monday, March 20th. There will be two sessions held: 2p-5p and 6:15p-9:15p. These will be held at the Palazzo in Botkins with a light supper available between sessions.

These three-hour trainings meet the requirement for obtaining an Ohio Fertilizer License for those applying commercial fertilizer to 50 acres or more who do not presently have a pesticide applicator’s license. (Yes, that includes side-dressing corn!) There is no charge, but we need your reservations by March 13th!! Please let me know which program you plan to attend.

An **Aquaponics Workshop** is being held in Columbus on Friday, March 10th. The morning will be classroom sessions covering a variety of topics including aspects of fish and plant management, water quality, and marketing. Following lunch, the class will board a chartered bus and tour Fresh Harvest Farm Aquaponics, one of Ohio’s leading aquaponics farms owned and operated by Doug and Jeni Blackburn. The Blackburn’s are currently putting up their third greenhouse and grow a variety of lettuce, kale, and herbs in their aquaponics systems.

Registration begins at 8:30 and the bus plans to return by 5:00 p.m. This workshop will begin at the Quest Conference Center, 8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus (near I-71 and Polaris Parkway). The day-long workshop costs $50 for Ohio Aquaculture Association (OAA) members and $75 for non-OAA members and includes a continental breakfast, boxed lunch, and bus to and from Fresh Harvest Farm Aquaponics. On-line registration is required. For more information or to register: <http://ohioaquaculture.org/events>.

Our Third Annual **“Growing Women in Agriculture, An Empowerment Celebration”** will be held on Thursday, March 30th at St. Michael’s Hall in Fort Loramie. The evening begins at 6p with “Mixing and Mingling” featuring heavy hors d’oeuvres. This year’s Keynote Speaker is Shelly Thobe, Director of Innovation for The Wendy’s Company. Shelly Thobe is a Mercer County native and an OSU Graduate in Human Nutrition.

After Shelly’s talk, each attendee will have the opportunity to attend two educational sessions (from the four listed): Old-to-New (upcycling and repurposing furniture and home décor), Succession Planning (advice on estate planning and farm transition), Cooking Demo (using fresh olive oils and balsamic vinegars), and Farm Safety (keeping kids aware and safe on the farm). The evening should wrap up by 9p

Cost for this Women in Agriculture event is $20 per person, with a portion of the fee supporting women in crisis. Registration deadline is March 17th. We have fliers in our office and also online at Shelby.osu.edu.

Just a reminder that The Shelby County Cattlemen’s Association is offering a **$500.00 Scholarship.** The application is on their website <http://shelbycountycattlemen.com>.

Applications are due no later than March 15th. If you have questions, please contact Jason Gibbs at gibbs.162@buckeyemail.osu.edu or 937-726-1258.