

Wetlands Major Focus At BioHio 2001

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Wetlands improve water quality, prevent floods and support wildlife. People can learn how at BioHio 2001, said Bill Mitsch, Ohio State professor of natural resources.

Tours of Ohio State University's 30-acre Olentangy River Wetland Research Park will be offered each day of BioHio, May 10-12. On Friday, May 11, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., visitors can take part in a wetland open house and groundbreaking ceremony for a new Wetland Research and Education Building to be constructed at the research park.

The wetland events will be part of BioHio, held on the Columbus campus of Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Through hands-on demonstrations, exhibits and tours, visitors will learn about agriculture, the environment, gardening, fish farming, native plants, berries and more. Many fun and learning activities are planned for kids. The BioHio theme is "Bringing Science to Life."

"May is Wetlands Month, and many things will be happening at the wetland. Every spring there's something new," Mitsch said. "Visitors should be able to see waterfowl, muskrats, geese, diving kingfishers, frogs, aquatic wildlife, many wetland plant species and maybe even a turtle or snake or two. They can climb the Sandefur Pavilion and get a beautiful view, or walk through the wetland without getting wet on the recycled-plastic boardwalks."

Equally important, Mitsch said, visitors can see the experiments occurring at the site. A monitoring network is in place to gauge the quality of water flowing into and out of the wetlands. Experiments with plant species and water levels are underway. And the wetlands themselves are experiments-in-action, showing how to create a wetland and restore a wetland forest.

Ohio State University President William "Brit" Kirwan, officials from collaborating universities - Wright State, Youngstown State, Shawnee State and Kenyon College - and members of the Friends of Buckeye Swamp will be on hand for the groundbreaking of the state-of-the-art Wetland Research and Education Building. There will be refreshments and a live band.

The new building will house analytical laboratories, a starting point for wetland tours, displays of site data, and the headquarters for the new multi-university Ohio Center for Wetlands and River Restoration. The YSI Foundation recently pledged \$200,000 toward construction of the building, Mitsch said.

In addition to learning about wetlands, BioHio visitors can bring samples of plant, weed and insect problems for identification and recommendations; get garden-variety soybean seeds with information on how to grow and cook them; learn how strawberries and black raspberries may reduce the risk of certain cancers; see how earthworms can help recycle organic waste, such

as food scraps; see and even handle bugs at the Insect Zoo; learn about Ohio's native plants and how to grow them in the landscape; and learn more about turfgrass varieties for the lawn.

The Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital, the Horticulture and Crop Science greenhouses and the Aquaculture Laboratory will offer tours. Side trips also will be offered to Ohio Stadium.

Live entertainment will be featured throughout each day.

BioHio is sponsored by the college's components - Ohio State University Extension, the Ohio

Agricultural Research and Development Center, the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute and Academic Affairs. Admission and parking are free.

Parking for BioHio will be north of the Schottenstein Center off of Fred Taylor Drive in the Schott Special Events Parking Lot. Access to the lot will be from Ackerman Road via state Route 315. Signs will be posted on state Route 315, Ackerman Road and Lane Avenue to direct visitors to event parking. Buses will shuttle visitors to the event from the parking area.

Tours to the wetland research park will leave by van from the Information Tent on the main BioHio grounds. For those wishing to drive to the park, directions also will be available at the Information Tent. Ample parking is available at the wetland for tours and the groundbreaking. The site is at 352 Dodridge Road, just north of Chemical Abstracts' Picnic with the Pops field.

For more information about BioHio 2001, call (614) 292-3897 or visit the BioHio 2001 Web site at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/biohio/>.

April 1 Cattle On Feed 3 Percent Higher Than Year Ago

WASHINGTON, D.C. — (USDA-NASS) — Cattle and Calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.52 million head on April 1, 2001.

The inventory included 6.96 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifer and heifer calves accounted for 4.49 million head, up 3 percent from 2000.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.85 million, 9 percent below both 2000 and 1999. Net placements were 1.75 million.

During March, placements of

cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330,000; 600-699 pounds were 416,000; 700-799 pounds were 618,000; and 800 pounds and greater were 488,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.93 million, 6 percent below 2000 and 3 percent below 1999.

Other disappearance totaled 98,000 during March, 5 percent below 2000 but 38 percent above 1999.

Historic 7 States Up 3 Percent Cattle on Feed April 1, 2001 in the historic 7 states for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.86 million, up 3 percent from the previous year and 11 percent above April 1, 1999.

The inventory included 5.59 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.91 million head, up 3 percent from 2000.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.61 million, 9 percent below 2000 and 3 percent below 1999.

Marketings during March totaled 1.61 million, 9 percent below 2000 and 3 percent below 1999.

Other disappearance during March was 80,000 head, 8 percent 2000 and 54 percent above 1999.



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- STEP 3** Graze or cut sorghum sudan at 24 in. (Approx. 40 days after seeding and every 30 days thereafter). **Warning:** never feed sorghum sudan when it's less than 18" tall.
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