Hello Coshocton County! We are a mere 24 hours away from one of my favorite holidays—Thanksgiving! It is my favorite holiday because I love food! And believe me, tomorrow I will get my fill of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, pumpkin pie and succotash.

Even though each of our Thanksgiving celebrations may look different this year, it is still a good time to pause and reflect. I know 2020 has been a crazy year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Despite it all, I know each of us have many blessings to be thankful for. It is all about perspective, correct?

T is for time to be together, turkey, talk, and tangy weather. H is for harvest stored away, home and hearth, and holiday. A is for autumn’s frosty art, and abundance in the heart. N is for neighbors, November, nice things, and new things to remember. K is for kitchen, kettles croon, kith and kin expected soon. S is for sizzles, sights, and sounds, and something special that abounds. That spells THANKS! (Aileen Fisher). I hope each of you have a great Thanksgiving Day.

Sincerely,

David L. Marrison

Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator
Hello Coshocton County! Even though each of our Thanksgiving celebrations may look different this year, it is still a good time to pause and reflect. I know 2020 has been a crazy year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Despite it all, I know each of us have many blessings to be thankful for. It is all about perspective, correct?

As I attempt to keep a positive perspective on our current tribulations, I try to place myself in the shoes of 102 brave Pilgrims on the Mayflower who 400 years ago had just arrived outside of Cape Cod. They were seeking a new home to practice their faith. Sadly, less than half of the group lived to see their first New England Spring. With deep conviction, the Pilgrims persevered and were rewarded with a bountiful harvest the next fall.

A few years back my colleague and friend, Chris Penrose in Morgan County shared some great insight on the history of giving thanks which I have dusted off to share with you today. I often find the eyes of history to be a reminder on where to keep my focus in turbulent times.

The modern Thanksgiving celebration presents a chance for us to give thanks and appreciate the blessings of the fall harvest. This sense of gratitude can partially be tied back to Lammas Day which is a British celebration corresponding with wheat harvest. On this day, farmers attend the Loaf Mass and bring loaves of bread to serve as a blessing of the first fruits of harvest.

Of course, most recognize the “First Thanksgiving” being when the Pilgrims celebrated their first harvest in the new world in October of 1621. This feast lasted three days and included 90 Native Americans.

For some scholars, the jury is still out on whether the feast by the Pilgrims at Plymouth really constituted the first Thanksgiving in the United States. Years before the Pilgrims, other colonists and native people held services and dinners to give thanks.

For instance, in 1565, Spanish explorer Pedro Menéndez de Avilé held a dinner and mass in St. Augustine, Florida to thank God for his crew’s safe arrival. Additionally, on December 4, 1619, a small group of English settlers arrived at Berkeley Plantation on the James River in Virginia. In accordance with their charter, the group read a proclamation designating the date as “a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God.”

Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789 when a proclamation was signed by President George Washington. Did you know that President Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe the holiday? In fact, Thanksgiving celebrations were intermittent until the middle of the Civil War. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day, to be celebrated on the final Thursday of November.
President Lincoln’s successors followed his example of annually declaring the final Thursday in November to be Thanksgiving. But in 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt broke with this tradition. November had five Thursdays that year, and Roosevelt declared the fourth Thursday as Thanksgiving. Today, Thanksgiving is officially celebrated the fourth Thursday of November.

Thanksgiving has close ties with American Agriculture. The United States is the world’s largest poultry producer. Do you know that an estimated 229 million turkeys will be raised in the United States this year? And do you know that Ohio is the 10th largest turkey producing state raising 5.9 million turkeys?

Over 550 million pounds of turkey will be exported from the United States with two major destinations in Mexico and China. Exports now account for 18 percent of all the poultry raised in the United States.

Surveys have indicated nearly 91 percent of Americans say they eat turkey at Thanksgiving with 46 million turkeys being consumed on this holiday. Turkey consumption has doubled over the past 30 years with the average American eating 17 pounds per year.

Few holidays embody American traditions like Thanksgiving. The bountiful feast, the time spent with your family, the pies, the breads, the stuffing, and of course, the turkey. I hope each of you will have a super Thanksgiving and I encourage each of you to take time to reflect on all you are thankful. Remember it is all about perspective!

I would like to end today’s column with Thanksgiving Thanks written by Aileen Fisher. T is for time to be together, turkey, talk, and tangy weather. H is for harvest stored away, home and hearth, and holiday. A is for autumn’s frosty art, and abundance in the heart. N is for neighbors, November, nice things, and new things to remember. K is for kitchen, kettles croon, kith and kin expected soon. S is for sizzles, sights, and sounds, and something special that abounds. That spells THANKS--for joy in living and a jolly good Thanksgiving season. Have a good and safe day!

**American Farm Bureau’s Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Survey**


As many families struggle with the economic impacts of the pandemic, there is good news in this year’s Thanksgiving dinner cost survey, conducted by the American Farm Bureau Federation. The average cost of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for 10 remains affordable for consumers, coming in at $46.90 or less than $5 per person, a decline of 4% from last year.

The 35th annual informal survey of classic food items typically found on the Thanksgiving Day table shows the average cost of this year’s Thanksgiving dinner is the lowest since 2010. The AFBF Thanksgiving dinner survey was first conducted in 1986. The informal survey provides a record of comparative holiday meal costs over the years. Farm Bureau’s classic survey menu has remained unchanged since 1986 to allow for consistent price comparisons.
Farm Bureau volunteer shoppers were encouraged to check prices online using grocery store apps and websites due to the pandemic. The average cost of turkey this year is $19.39 for a 16-pound whole bird or $1.21 per pound. This is a decrease of about 7% from last year.

The price of a 4-pound ham remained the same, $9.16. Stable pork prices at the retail level is welcome news given the strong year-over-year increase in wholesale ham prices due to improved pork exports and domestic demand.

In addition to turkey, other foods that showed slight price declines included whipping cream, down 16%, and sweet potatoes, down 8%. Foods showing modest increases this year included fresh cranberries, dinner rolls, cubed bread stuffing and pumpkin pie mix.

Thanksgiving celebrations will look different for many Americans this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and some families may even opt for the time-saving convenience of meal delivery services, which continues to grow among consumers. A price check of popular meal delivery services indicates a 16-pound turkey costs 64% more ($1.99 per pound) compared to Farm Bureau’s average. The total cost of the Thanksgiving meal priced by Farm Bureau would be about 42% higher when purchased from a meal delivery service.

With more families eating food at home this holiday, it’s important to note that the farm share of the food-at-home dollar was 13.2% in 2018, compared to 2.4% for the farmer’s share of the food-away-from-home dollar. U.S. farmers and ranchers are #StillFarming.

**Buckeye Shepherd’s Symposium Slated for December 4**
The Ohio Sheep Improvement Association (OSIA) invites shepherds of all ages, sectors, and regions to attend the Buckeye Shepherd’s Symposium on December 4, 2020 to expand their knowledge of sheep nutrition and connect with their peers. For the first time in the association’s 71-year history, the annual symposium will be entirely online. This year’s event will be offered in a condensed format, featuring multiple guest speakers presenting in various formats and styles about flock nutrition, with no fee to register. The symposium will run from 2-5 PM via Zoom. Register online at: https://go.osu.edu/ohiosheep. The full schedule for the symposium is available online at: https://agnr.osu.edu/events/buckeye-shepherds-symposium.

**CFAP 2 Enrollment Deadline Nears**
A reminded the deadline for enrolling in CFAP-2 is December 11, 2020. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will use funds from the CCC and CARES Act to support row crops, livestock, specialty crops, dairy, aquaculture and many additional commodities. The USDA has incorporated improvements in CFAP 2 based from stakeholder engagement and public feedback to better meet the needs of impacted farmers and ranchers. Additional information and application forms can be found at https://farmers.gov/cfap. All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from https://farmers.gov/cfap/apply.
**Farmer’s Breakfast Update**
Each winter the Farm Service Agency, OSU Extension, and Coshocton SWCD collaborate to offer a monthly Farmer’s Breakfast. However due to COVID-19, the planning committee made the difficult decision to postpone the Farmers Breakfast scheduled for November and December. With COVID numbers on the rise and restrictions on food and spacing, the consensus of the group was to hold off on breakfast and speakers for now. We have ideas and names of speakers for our program so if numbers improve after the first of the year, we are ready to move forward. Please watch for updates from OSU Extension, SWCD, and the FSA for updates on this popular event. Stay safe everyone!

**Ag Risk and PLC Coverage for 2021**
By: Ben Brown, OSU Extension

The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) safety net programs that were in the 2014 Farm Bill. Producers must enroll in ARC/PLC for the 2021 crop year through their local Farm Service Agency office. Producers can amend the program elections they made for the 2019 and 2020 crop years for the 2021 crop year. The signup period for the 2021 crop year is open now, and the deadline to enroll and make amendments to program elections is March 15, 2021.

If changes are not made by March 15, 2021 deadline, the election defaults to the programs selected for the 2020 crop year with no penalty. Producers will have the opportunity to amend program elections again for the 2022 and 2023 crop years.

Producers again have the option to enroll covered commodities in either ARC-County, ARC-Individual, or PLC. Program elections are made on a crop-by-crop basis unless selecting ARC-Individual where all crops under that FSA Farm Number fall under that program. ARC program payments are made when crop revenue falls below a guaranteed level, while PLC payments are made when a crops specific effective price is lower than its reference price. These are the same program options that were available to producers during the 2019 and 2020 crop years. In some cases producers may want to amend program election to better manage the potential risks facing their farms during the 2021 crop year.

**On December 1, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. EST program directors from the Ohio Farm Service Agency and Ohio State University Extension will host a free informational webinar about ARC/PLC enrollment and election for the 2021 crop year.**

During this free 1-hour webinar, state leaders will cover program design, economic considerations and frequently asked questions. To make sure your question is addressed during the webinar, please send to Ben Brown at brown.6888@osu.edu or 660-492-7574 prior to December 1, 2020.

To register, visit: go.osu.edu/arc_plc
Dairy Labor Certificate Course
Chris Zoller, Extension Educator, ANR in Tuscarawas County
(This article was originally published in Farm and Dairy)

Dairy farm labor is one of the major costs of production, and farm labor is regularly described as an area of concern by dairy farmers. Therefore, Ohio State University is providing a certificate course to assist dairy farm owners and managers with labor management on farms. This course will provide opportunities for participants to examine labor costs, define labor needs, examine hiring processes, promote relationships among farm workers, increase retention, and identify ways to promote employee well-being.

Structure
This five-week course will be held weekly on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:00 pm in January and February 2021. All attendees will be registered with ScarletCanvas, an online platform by The Ohio State University. Materials relative to each topic will be posted there for use by attendees. Because of its virtual format, you do not have to travel to participate and learn very important topics by experts in the dairy and associated industries. Presenters from Ohio State University Extension, Michigan State University Extension, Iowa State University Extension, Cornell University Extension, and private industry will teach the program. Weekly assignments will be given, and interactive discussion will be important for the success of the program. Certificates will be provided to participants completing this program.

Dates and Topics
- **January 12, 2021**
  - Labor Management Benchmarks
  - So, You Need to Hire Someone – Developing the job description
- **January 19, 2021**
  - Recruiting Employees
  - Immigrate Labor
- **January 26, 2021**
  - Conducting an Interview
  - You're Hired, now what? Building Success from Day One
- **February 2, 2021**
  - Building Long-Term Relationships and Team Meetings
  - Conflict Management
- **February 9, 2021**
  - Labor Laws
  - Farm Safety

Registration Details
The cost of the program is $75 per person and is limited to the first thirty people who register. For additional information, please see [https://dairy.osu.edu/](https://dairy.osu.edu/) or contact Chris Zoller, OSU Extension Educator, at 330-827-0249. Registration deadline is Friday, December 11.

Fall 2020 Ag Lender Survey Results Signal Concerns
Authored by: Mike Estadt, Ag/NR Educator, Pickaway County & Chris Zoller, Ag/NR Educator, Tuscarawas County

The American Bankers Association is a membership association comprised of small, regional, and large banks that account for nearly $11 trillion in loans and $17 trillion dollars in deposits. Member banks working with Farmer Mac provide the agricultural industry with low-cost financing and risk management tools. Farmer Mac has been delivering capital to rural America for over 30 years.
The American Bankers Association and Farmer Mac have collaborated on a national survey of ag lenders since 2016 to gauge lender sentiment of the farm economy, expectations of land values and an outlook for the agricultural economy for the coming year.

Nearly 500 loan officers responded to a survey via email between August and September each year. Responses represent lending institutions that range in assets of less than $50 million to large institutions with assets in excess of $5 billion. There is also a wide geographic distribution of respondents. The Farm Credit System is not a member of and were not participants in the survey. Key Takeaways taken verbatim from the report were:

**Profitability expectations** – The agricultural economy and farm income remain stressed in 2020. The majority of agricultural lenders surveyed noted compression in farm profitability (79.2%).

**Top concerns for producers** – Lenders continue to be most concerned about the liquidity, income and leverage of producers. Uncertainty regarding tariffs and trade, the weather and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn are close behind.

**Top concerns for lenders** – Lenders across all regions and sizes remained concerned with credit quality and competition for loans in 2020. Concern regarding weak loan demand was the third highest ranked concern reflected across most regions except in the West.

**Sector concerns** – Respondents expressed the most concern for the grain, dairy and cattle sectors. Concerns declined for vegetables, poultry, and fruits and nuts. Lenders reported sustained interest from borrowers in hemp and alternative energy financing.

**COVID-19 Economic Downturn** – While concern about the pandemic was lower than that for borrower financials, 87.4% of respondents noted that ag borrowers’ reliance on government payments in 2020 increased. More than half inquired about government programs like the CFAP/MFP (68%) and PPP (58%). Lenders said that loss of these payments would negatively impact ag borrower profitability.

**Land value and cash rent expectations** – Seven-in-ten lenders say that land values held steady through 2020, but more than a third expect land values to decline in 2021, including 41% in the Cornbelt and 39% in Plains states. One fifth of lenders reported cash rental rate declines on average quality farmland in 2020 (22%), a smaller decline than was observed in 2019. Lenders still believe that average quality farmland and cash rents are overvalued (40% and 30% respectively), with higher shares in the Cornbelt and Plains states.

**Loan Demand** – While over half of lenders reported that demand for ag production and ag real estate loans were flat over the last 6 months, a significant share reported increased demand (26.7% and 33.3% respectively) and 82.2% said that overall farm debt increased over the past year. Similar expectations were reported for loan demand next year.

**Credit quality** – Survey respondents generally expect higher ag loan delinquency rates heading into 2021 for both production (59.9%) and ag real estate (46.7%), though, a majority expect loan charge-off rates to stay about the same (61.5% and 70.4%, respectively). About one out of five ag borrowers (18.1%) requested a loan modification in 2020 as a result of the pandemic and resulting economic downturn.

**Approval rate** – In spite of the credit quality concerns, lenders remain positive about approvals. Lenders reported an average agricultural loan application approval rate for new loans of 72.3% in the 12 months leading up to August 2020, and expect the approval rate for renewal requests to be close to 90% in the following 12 months.

Summary
We encourage farmers to spend time evaluating the financial standing of their business as they wrap up 2020 and begin planning for 2021. Ohio State University Extension has a number of resources that may be of interest and use in planning, including:
Ohio Farm Business and Analysis Benchmarking Program (https://farmprofitability.osu.edu/)
Ohio Ag Manager Newsletter (https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/)
Ohio State University Commodity Budgets (https://farmoffice.osu.edu/farm-mgt-tools/farm-budgets)
Ohio State University Extension Farm Office (https://farmoffice.osu.edu/)
The Basics of a Farm Balance Sheet, Ohio State University Extension. Available at: https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-64

**ODNR Offering Natural Resources Officer Training Academy**
Applications are being accepted through January 15 for the next Natural Resources Officer training academy, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The department is seeking to fill at least 15 positions.

“Natural Resource Officers have an essential role in helping our department fulfill its mission,” said ODNR Director Mary Mertz. "We are looking for individuals with a great passion for the outdoors and a drive to serve the community through public service." The diversity of this career path offers a challenging yet rewarding experience for future ODNR employees. Natural resources officer duties include law enforcement and public service, as well as education and public relations for ODNR's divisions of Parks and Watercraft, Forestry, and Natural Areas and Preserves.

Top scoring candidates will undergo interviews and pre-employment evaluations. Those selected as cadets will attend the officer training academy for about five months. Following completion of the Ohio Peace Officer Basic Training course, cadets will complete an additional training program related to ODNR operations and their officer specialty.

Applicants must be 21 years old and possess a valid Ohio driver’s license. An associate degree or completion of an undergraduate core program in natural resources, fish and/or wildlife management, criminal justice, environmental law enforcement or related fields is also required. Other qualifications include completing a background check, psychological exam and pass a drug screen, as well as meet swim and physical fitness standards and reside within 45 miles of their work location. To apply, visit https://careers.ohio.gov. The State of Ohio is an equal opportunity employer and provider of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) services.

The ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft is the state’s lead agency for Ohio maritime security and instructs other state, county and local agencies in maritime law enforcement. Additionally, natural resources officers are also responsible for supporting emergency operations during flooding, natural disasters, search and rescue efforts and recovery.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiodnr.gov.

Check out http://go.osu.edu/coshocton-agnews for back issues of the Coshocton County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter
Essential Components of non-GMO Weed Management

- Plant non-GMO soybeans in fields with a history of several years of crop rotation and effective weed control that has prevented weed seed return to the soil and reduced weed populations.
- Maintain a rotation where non-GMO soybeans are planted every four years, with two years of corn and one year of traited soybeans in between, or other crops as appropriate for the farm operation.
- Start weed-free at planting by using tillage or a combination of fall and spring preplant burndown herbicides.
- Apply broad-spectrum residual (PRE) herbicides at full recommended rates in the spring before soybeans emerge, to reduce weed populations, slow weed growth, manage resistant weeds, and create flexibility in the postemergence application window.
- Apply the first postemergence (POST) treatment when weeds are less than 4 to 6 inches tall.
- Be aware that most populations of common and giant ragweed are resistant to ALS inhibitors (site 2 – FirstRate, Classic, Pursuit). Additionally, any waterhemp populations are resistant to both ALS inhibitors and PPO inhibitors (site 14 – fomesafen, Cobra), as well as glyphosate.

Fall Herbicide Treatments

Fall herbicide treatments should be used to manage marestail, winter annuals, dandelion, and other perennial weeds. Marestail can be especially difficult to control in no-till, non-GMO soybeans unless a fall herbicide treatment is used. We suggest applying a mixture of 2,4-D with one of the following: glyphosate, dicamba, a low rate of Canopy/Cloak EX/DF, or another ALS product (Basis, etc.). This should be followed by a spring preplant application of burndown, plus residual herbicides.
**Spring Preplant Burndown for No-till Soybeans**

Where herbicide was applied the previous fall or marestail is not present:

- Glyphosate + one or more of following: 2,4-D, Elevore + 2,4-D, Sharpen, or Zidua PRO
- Gramoxone (2 to 3 pt) + 2,4-D (+ metribuzin, preferably)
- Glufosinate + 2,4-D
- Glufosinate + metribuzin

Where herbicide was not applied the previous fall and marestail is present:

- Glyphosate + 2,4-D plus either Sharpen or Zidua PRO (+ metribuzin, preferably)
- Gramoxone (3 to 4 pt) + 2,4-D + metribuzin
- Glufosinate + 2,4-D + metribuzin
- Glufosinate + Sharpen + metribuzin
- Glyphosate + glufosinate + 2,4-D

**Use a Broad-Spectrum Residual (PRE) Herbicide**

- Residual herbicides should:
  - control lambsquarters and marestail for the season (including ALS-resistant populations);
  - have activity on giant and common ragweed and on waterhemp (including ALS-resistant populations)
- Activity on annual grasses may also be desirable.
- Consult the Weed Control Guide for Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois for soybean herbicide effectiveness ratings (see Tables 13 to 16). Ratings of 8 or 9 indicate “control,” and ratings of 6 or 7 indicate “has activity on.”
- Some premix products with 2 or 3 herbicide components – that have activity on key weeds such as flumioxazin, sulfentrazone, metribuzin, and pyroxasulfone – may contain reduced rates of one or more of these components. Such mixtures can be supplemented with additional amounts of those individual components to reach the full recommended rate per soil type to improve control of waterhemp, marestail, etc.
- The most effective strategy for control of marestail:
  - Panther Pro, Trivence, or other premix of metribuzin plus flumioxazin (Valor, etc.) or sulfentrazone (Authority, etc.)
  - A mixture of metribuzin plus one of following: flumioxazin, sulfentrazone, Sharpen (1.5 to 2 oz)

**Suggested Basic POST Program**

- Apply first POST when most weeds are less than 4 to 6 inches tall. Use a spray volume of at least 15 gpa and nozzles that maximize the activity of contact herbicides.
- Apply Fomesafen (1.3 to 1.5 pts/A) + grass herbicide (Select, Fusion, etc.) + COC or MSO.
  - Include AMS or 28% UAN. (Use of 28% can improve weed control but also increases crop injury.)
  - FirstRate, Classic, or Synchrony can be added to improve control of ALS-sensitive weeds.
  - Scout about ten days after first POST application. Apply Cobra or Phoenix (10 oz/A) as needed for weeds not completely controlled or late-emerging weeds.
- In fields without ALS-resistant weeds (be very sure about this before you go this route), it is possible to take the following approach in the first POST application: FirstRate (0.3 oz/A) or Classic (2/3 to 3/4 oz/A) + grass herbicide + COC or MSO + AMS. Fomesafen or Cobra can be added to improve control of ragweeds and waterhemp.
  - Where soybeans are planted in wide rows (30 inches or greater apart), POST herbicides can be supplemented with between-row cultivation at appropriate timings.

**Note on Giant Ragweed**

Two POST applications are usually necessary to control giant ragweed unless the population is very low. Apply fomesafen when giant ragweed are 6 to 10 inches tall and follow-up with Cobra/Phoenix three weeks later. OSU research shows that this three-week interval works in all populations. Do not delay the first POST application and do not fail to make the second POST application because it appears that soybeans are close to canopy closure.

**Note on Waterhemp**

Planting non-GMO soybeans in fields with waterhemp is not recommended due to the high frequency of resistance to ALS and PPO inhibitors, which eliminates all POST options for control. In fields where waterhemp is absent or still sensitive to PPO inhibitors, follow the suggested basic POST program. One of the following herbicides can be included in the POST application to provide residual control of waterhemp for several more weeks – metolachlor, Zidua, Anthem, Outlook, Warrant.

**Note on Marestail**

There are no POST herbicides that control marestail in non-GMO soybeans. Effective control requires appropriate fall and spring burndown herbicides, and appropriate residual herbicides (see comments above).