Hello Coshocton County! I am very grateful to see the progress which has been made in planting and hay making since the last edition of this newsletter two weeks ago. However…..it looks like the rollercoaster will continue!

During this time of year, I am focusing more on research and farm visits. A “Boots on the Ground” soybean research plot was planted in May in cooperation with Lapp Farms and I am pleased to be working with Clark’s Orchard for Brown Marmorated Stinkbug monitoring. I will also be placing two Western Bean Cutworm monitoring traps out next week. One on the east side of the county and one on the west side. These traps will be monitoring the presence of the Western Bean Cutworm. And finally, I will be taking soil samples from 20 different soybean fields this month as part of a state-wide project looking at the levels of Soybean Cyst Nematodes in soybean fields. If you have soybean field which is not performing up to par, than it could be due to soybean cyst nematode. I still have a few slots still available for testing, so if you would like to be part of this project, just call me at the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265.

Dairy Producers will want to make sure to schedule time to attend the June 21 FSA Dairy Farm Bill meeting which will start at 1:00 p.m. Details about this meeting are included in this newsletter. Additionally, a great dairy farm bill PRIMER article written by Dianne Shoemaker is also included.

I would like to pass along huge thank you to the many individuals who supported the Coshocton County Master Gardener’s Plant Sale on June 1. What a great sale. I also hope you take time to read the article on the new bright spot on Main Street. Make sure to check it out when you are in downtown Coshocton!

Sincerely,

David Marrison
Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information visit: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.
**Dairy Farm Bill Program Slated for June 21**
The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has started roll out of programs that were authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill. One of the first programs to be implemented is the Dairy Margin Coverage program (DMC). USDA recognized that many dairy producers have been struggling the past several years and made specific effort to get this program enrollment started.

Signup for the dairy DMC will begin on June 17, 2019. Coverage will be based upon pounds of milk produced in years 2011, 2012, or 2013. Dairy operations who were enrolled in the previous dairy program (MPP) can use records already on file to complete their application. Operations who do not have records established with FSA will need to provide these at the time of application. If you started milking after 2013, you can choose between your first full year of milk marketing's or a national herd rolling average to establish your base. In addition, all dairies who enroll in DMC will need to make a coverage level selection.

Those who enroll in DMC for 2019 will have their coverage extended to be retroactive to January 2019. Loss payments have been calculated for each of the first 4 months of 2019.

In order to help understand the DMC and options available, OSU Extension is teaming up with FSA to give a presentation covering this program. We will host a public meeting on June 21, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. This will be held in Room 145 of the County Services Building. No RSVP is necessary. Please take this opportunity to learn more about DMC, risk management, and how this program can help you.

**More Wet Weather Ahead**
By Jim Noel
Source: [https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/201917/more-wet-weather-ahead](https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/201917/more-wet-weather-ahead)

After the wet spring which was forecast, we expected a transition in early/mid-June from the spring pattern to summer pattern with a relaxation of rainfall for a brief period. This appears to be happening. However, it won't last too long as we expect above normal rainfall to return for the second half of the month.

Over the last week, rainfall has been all over the place. Northern Ohio and far southern Ohio saw above normal rainfall above 1 inch. Central sections and far northwest Ohio saw below normal rainfall below an inch.

For the remainder of June, expect temperatures to be near normal. However, there will be a lot of swings in those temperatures. For the week of June 11-16, temperatures will be slightly below normal. For the week of June 17-23, temperatures will remain slightly below normal. For the last week in June temperatures will likely swing to above normal. With those average temperatures, expect below normal maximum temperatures the next two weeks with above normal minimum temperatures. For the last week of June, both maximum and minimum temperatures will be above normal but plenty of moisture will keep maximum temperatures generally at or below 90.

Rainfall for the week of June 11-16 will average 0.50 to 1.5 inches which are actually close to normal. For the 2
rest of June rainfall will go above normal after this week. For the next 16 days, rainfall will average 2-5 inches which are above the normal of too far from 2 inches. However, confidence is low in rainfall after this week. Weather models are all over the place with the transition to summer. There is the risk of some heavy rain events in late June of 5+ inches. The greatest risk is in northern Ohio for these heavy rain events. The outlook for June is near or slightly above normal temperatures and above normal rainfall and humidity.

The latest observed 7-day 4-km hi-resolution rainfall estimates can be found here: https://www.weather.gov/images/ohrfc/dynamic/latest7day.jpeg

The latest 16-day rainfall outlook can be found at https://www.weather.gov/images/ohrfc/dynamic/NAEFS16.apcp.mean.total.png

The latest NWS Ohio River Forecast Center river conditions can be found at https://www.weather.gov/ohrfc/

**Ponding and Saturated Soils**
By: Alexander Lindsey and Peter Thomison
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/201917/ponding-and-saturated-soils-results-recent-ohio-corn-research

Persistent rains during May and early June have resulted in ponding and saturated soils in many Ohio corn fields and led to questions concerning what impact these conditions will have on corn performance. The extent to which ponding injures corn is determined by several factors including (1) plant stage of development when ponding occurs, (2) duration of ponding and (3) air/soil temperatures. Corn is affected most by flooding at the early stages of growth (see https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2018-15/young-corn-wet-feet-what-can-we-expect). Under certain conditions, saturated soils can result in yield losses. Saturated soil conditions can result in losses of nitrogen through denitrification and leaching. Additionally, root uptake of nutrients may be seriously reduced even if plants are not killed outright by the oxygen deficiency and the carbon dioxide toxicity that result from saturated soil conditions.

Root growth and plant respiration slow down while root permeability to water and nutrient uptake decreases. Impaired nutrient uptake may result in deficiencies of nitrogen and other nutrients during the grain filling stage. Once the corn has reached the late vegetative stages, saturated soil conditions will usually not cause significant damage. Moreover, moderate temperatures should help minimize the level of stress.

Although standing water is evident in fields with compacted areas, ponding has usually been of limited duration (i.e. the water has drained off quickly within a few hours). In Ohio in 2017-2018, we observed a 10% yield loss when corn was flooded at V4 for 2 days and received 120 lbs N pre-plant + 60 lbs N sidedress (applied post-flood). When flooded for 4 or 6 days, yield loss increased to 15 and 33%, respectively, when receiving the same N regime. If the additional 60 lbs N was not side-dressed post-flood, yield losses increased to 30, 50, or 57% for 2, 4, or 6 days of flooding, respectively. According to Dr. Emerson Nafziger at the University of Illinois (http://bulletin.ipm.illinois.edu/?p=1240) “…At the time the crop reaches stage V13 (about head-high), it still has to take up 110 to 120 lb of N, and in years when June is wet, a common question is whether or not the crop might run out of nitrogen, leaving the crop short. While the need for 20 or more lb of N per week would seem to raise the possibility of a shortage, the production of plant-available N from soil organic matter through the process of mineralization is also at its maximum rate in mid-season. For a crop with a good root system growing in a soil with 3 percent organic matter, mineralization at mid-season likely provides at least half the N needed by the crop on a daily basis. This means that normal amounts of fertilizer N, even if there has been some loss, should be adequate to supply the crop.”

If the rain has been paired with strong winds, root lodging may occur. Yield losses of 4, 10, and 15-25% have been reported for 100% root lodging at V10, V13-15, and V17-R1, respectively in Wisconsin. Results from Ohio in 2018 suggest these values may be greater than previously reported (8, 37, and 58%
yield loss when root-lodged at V10, V13-14, and VT-R1, respectively). This trial will be repeated in 2019 in Ohio.

Disease problems that become greater risks due to ponding and cool temperatures include Pythium, corn smut, and crazy top. Fungicide seed treatments will help reduce stand loss, but the duration of protection is limited to about two weeks. The fungus that causes crazy top depends on saturated soil conditions to infect corn seedlings. There is limited hybrid resistance to these diseases and predicting damage from corn smut and crazy top is difficult until later in the growing season. However, the economic impact of these latter two diseases is usually negligible.

References

Too Much Pasture? Clip it, hay it, or stockpile it!
By: Victor Shelton, NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist
Source: http://u.osu.edu/beef/2019/06/05/too-much-pasture-clip-it-hay-it-or-stockpile-it-for-summer/

Do you stockpile for summer, clip or hay? I cannot believe the weather. I have never seen a spring quite like this. After a long discussion recently with an old friend who is 79, he said he hadn’t either and we both agreed that we would rather not see another, but only because the weather didn’t repeat itself. We have gone from soggy wet pastures with forages that were hesitating to grow to runaway forage on wet or saturated soils. I’m still an advocate for utilizing grazing first as the main means of forage management. The normal recommendation is to continue moving animals through the system until the first pasture or allotment is ready to be grazed again. Then go back to that first field and start over. The fields that are skipped can be used as summer stockpile as is, clipped to remove seed heads, or mowed for hay. I want to discuss these choices, but first I encourage you to do a simple assessment.

On average, by early to mid-June, most cool season forages have reached about two-thirds of their dry matter yield. Stop and think about that for a moment. By this point, most cool season grasses have gone from leaves only, to pollinating, to seed production. Removal of vegetation by grazing has slowed the process down some, but it won’t stop it.

What you need to assess, is how much forage you have presently. You should not be able to completely control all forages by grazing this time of year. Consider this. If two-thirds of the potential forage that you can normally grow on the farm have now been grown, there had better be more forage out there than what you need for the time frame. If the cows are keeping up with the forages, then you either don’t have enough forage or more likely, you have too many cows.

It would be nice if forages grew at approximately the same rate as consumption. There are times when this is possible, but it will not stay that way long. Pastures can be managed by what I call “put and take” grazing, which is actually more like a continuous grazed system, than a rotated system. Animals are added or removed to keep consumption more in balance with forage growth. This method is not very practical. This method, if workable at all, is probably best done with stocker cattle of which numbers might be slightly easier to adjust, as needed. If you have a cow-calf operation, it will not work.
Continuing with our discussion on making an assessment, do you have excess forage right now in early June? If yes, then good, animal numbers are at least somewhat in balance with forages long-term. If no, then forages will be even shorter in supply as the year progresses, reducing the number of grazing days and increasing the number of feeding days. The more “feeding” days, the more out-of-pocket expense in the cost of operation.

Our cool season forages grow with good soil moisture and moderate temperatures, but will slow down drastically or stop growth in response to low soil moisture and high temperatures later in the summer. That’s why you need to stockpile some growth for later. You also want to go into summer with as much vegetative forage and cover as possible because that live vegetative cover helps to keep the soil cooler and slow evaporation (although it certainly is not an issue right now), which helps promote at least some continued growth.

Grazing, especially when you graze just the top portion of the plant, helps to promote more growth, more tillering of grasses, as long as moisture is present and summer heat has not slowed the process down too much. Now getting back to the original discussion about your options: fields that are skipped can then be used as summer stockpile as is, clipped to remove seed heads, or mowed for hay.

If you skip the fields and stockpile them and do nothing else, the forages will mature. Mature forages are usually lower in protein and higher in carbon. There is still some good feed value in this forage, but animals will tend to eat the best and leave the rest. If the field could use some extra soil organic matter or benefit from extra rest, then this would be a very good choice. When you finally get through those earlier paddocks the second time and find that the first-grazed field is not ready to be grazed again, then you could go back to the skipped stockpiled field. It is best to either strip-graze or allocate out in sections to maintain some quality as you move across the field. While the livestock are grazing this summer’s stockpile, the rest of the pastures are resting and recovering the best they can for later use.

There is some value in clipping or topping that summer stockpile with a rotatory mower, but timing is important. It needs to be done early enough to help promote some continued growth. Once the seed heads start drying off, you are mainly only making the plants look better cosmetically. New growth is harder to achieve at this stage, especially as drier, hotter days increase. Clipping must be done while the seed stalks are still green and before the plants are too big.

It is almost impossible to mow high enough to only remove seed heads and not remove too much leaf. Mowing too short will remove potential feed and the better part of the solar panel or cover it up with the clippings. After it is clipped, stems and cut forage is often coarser and in some cases may be less desirable to the animal. I’ve seen this go both ways—again timing is everything. The more vegetative the field is when clipped the better. There is a cost to clipping, so the added value of forage, potential extra regrowth, or weed control needs to be obtained to justify the expense. Most pastures I’ve been in so far this year that have good fertility and have not been grazed yet, are too dense and tall to clip, so you would lose more than you would ever gain. You would be better off just grazing it as discussed earlier, or my least favorite option—haying it.

If you are in what I refer to as the “building” stage of soil fertility – in other words, it still needs some, then you would be better off bringing in sources of fertility, such as hay, then to remove it. Hay harvested off a pasture will be removing nutrients from where they are needed and moving them to a “feeding” area where they are already high. When grazed, most nutrients which are present have a higher chance of remaining and being used for future forage growth.

Fields that you cannot graze for one reason or another, would be better choices for hay or fields where nutrients, especially phosphorus might be high from past heavy applications of manure. If a pasture is cut for hay, restore fertility back to that field as soon as possible to help promote and sustain the forage. Understand that those fields will take longer to recover than if they were grazed, especially as the days get hotter, and perhaps drier. Keep on grazing!
Bruising and Cattle
By: Steve Boyles, OSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Source: http://u.osu.edu/beef/2019/06/05/bruising-and-cattle/

Cattle bruising is an animal well-being concern as well a loss in economic value. When loaded, 60% of cattle are in the middle portion of a trailer, 30% in the rear compartments and 10% in the nose. Cattle rarely change position while a trailer is in motion, and the cattle typically position themselves at right angles to the direction of travel to try to compensate for the trailer movement and focus energies on keeping their balance. Road conditions can have an impact on carcass bruises as well as driver experience. In one study, it was observed that ‘low’ space stocking rates caused lower carcass weights compared to ‘medium’ and ‘high’ space stocking rates. However, the ‘medium’ space stocking rate resulted in the lowest bruising rate; the ‘low’ and ‘high’ space stocking rates had 4 and 2 times greater bruise scores.

Helen Kline (2018, Colorado State) conducted a study in five commercial slaughter facilities, located in multiple regions of the U.S. Individual carcasses were followed through the slaughtering process and were evaluated for bruising, weight of bruised meat and location of bruising. In Kline’s study she found that 28.1% of carcasses observed were visibly bruised. Regions of the carcass that had the highest bruise incidence were the round, rib, and loin beef cuts, respectively. However, some carcasses had deep tissue bruises that were not visible on the surface of the carcass, but trim loss was collected once these bruises were exposed and averaged 2.2 pounds per carcass. Cattle in the top deck compartment of a trailer were less likely to be bruised when compared to cattle in the belly compartment (P = 0.03). Although the study focused on transport other events in the supply chain are critical control points prior to transport were implicated.

Reference:
https://mountainscholar.org/bitstream/handle/10217/193200/Kline_colostate_0053A_15238.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

2019 Dairy Margin Coverage Program Sign-up Coming Soon
By: Dianne Shoemaker, Extension Field Specialist
Source: https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2019/05/21/2019-dairy-margin-coverage-program-sign-up-coming-soon/

Occasionally it is nice to catch a break…and breaks have been hard to find in the cow-milking business for a while now. So, put on your mitt because it is nearly time to play ball. The Farm Service Agency plans to open the sign-up period on June 17th for the newly renovated Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program, re-named and re-configure in the 2018 Farm Bill. The changes you will see in the DMC Program attempt to fix some of the problems that rendered the Dairy Margin Protection Program largely ineffective until initial adjustments were implemented early in 2018.

Two of the biggest changes that will positively impact farms of all sizes include 1) adding 3 new margins, $8.50, $9.00 and $9.50, at reasonable premiums, and 2) allowing farms with base production of more than 5 million pounds to make a second margin election for pounds over the first 5 million.

There are also opportunities to recover program participation net losses from 2014, 2015, 2016 or 2017. Repayment can be received either as cash (50% of the net loss), or by applying it to premiums for participation in the new program (75% of the net loss). What does this mean? If a farm purchased $6.50 margin coverage in 2016, paid a premium of $3,500 and received a total indemnity payment of $500, they had a $3,000 net loss. The farm can now choose to receive half the difference, or $1,500 as a cash payment. The other option is to receive $2,250, or 75% of the amount, as a credit toward premiums for Dairy Margin Coverage Program participation. If you participated in any or all of those years, you will receive notification from your Farm Services Agency office with your amounts and options.

So why should you step up to the plate? Just like 2018, when sign-ups were re-opened for the updated
program, sign-ups for 2019 will open well after January, but participation will be retroactive to January 1. When the sign-up period opens on June 17th, we will know exactly what the margins will be for January ($7.99), February ($8.22), March ($8.85), and April. Signups will end September 20th, so you could wait and know what the actual margins are through at least July. As USDA announces new monthly margins, you can find them posted at https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/Dairy-MPP/index

No need to wait
For farms with up to 5 million pounds of base production, indemnity payments for January through March more than cover the premiums at the highest ($9.50) margin.

Example:
Base milk: 5,000,000 lbs (about 200 cows)
Farm elects to cover 95% of their base, 4,750,000 pounds, or 47,500 cwt.
Coverage level selected: $9.50 margin costing 15¢ per cwt

The program assumes that production is equal across months, or 47,500/12 = 3,958 cwt per month. Because we know the January, February, and March margins, we can calculate the current indemnity payments. These payments are made on the difference between the purchased margin coverage level ($9.50 in this example) and the announced margin, times the monthly cwts covered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Margin x Cwt</th>
<th>Indemnity Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>$1.51 x 3,958 cwt</td>
<td>$5,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>$1.28 x 3,958 cwt</td>
<td>$5,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>$0.65 x 3,958 cwt</td>
<td>$2,573</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total payments = $13,616

Less
6.2% Sequestration = $ 844
Administration fee = $ 100
Premium = $ 7,125
Difference = $ 5,547 paid to the farm

Since the signup is retroactive to January 1, we know that not only will the known indemnity payments cover all program costs; we also know there will be net positive dollars to help pay a few bills. How many total net dollars for 2019 is unclear and changing. Two weeks ago, projections indicated that there would be announced margins less than $9.50 well into the summer. If recent milk market rallies hold and show up in milk checks, then there could few or no further indemnity payments. We all hope that that will be the case!

Second election for base pounds over 5 million
A major change that impacts farms with more than 200 cows, is the opportunity to make a margin selection for the first 5 million pounds of base milk, and a different margin selection for any base pounds over 5 million pounds. The Tier 2 premiums for the > 5 million pounds are substantially higher than premiums for the first 5 million pounds (Table 1). To be allowed to make a second selection, the farm must purchase coverage at $8.50, $9.00, or $9.50 for the first 5 million base pounds (Tier 1 milk and premiums).

Table 1. Tier 1 Margins and Premiums for the Dairy Margin Protection Program (2014 – 2018), and Dairy Margin Coverage Program (2019 – 2022)
Tier 2 premiums are the same as Tier 1 premiums for $4.00, $4.50, and $5.00 margins (Table 2). The premium for the $5.50 Tier 2 margin costs more than three times as much as the corresponding Tier 1 premium, with premiums increasing exponentially until they reach $1.813 for the $8.00 margin. The higher coverage levels quickly become cost prohibitive and are unlikely to make sense for most farms. However, with the new 2-election option, farms with base production of more than five million pounds should seriously consider maximizing coverage in Tier 1 and electing the $4.00, $4.50, or $5.00 margin coverage on their Tier 2 base pounds for 2019.

Table 2. Margins and Tier 1 and Tier 2 Premiums, Dairy Margin Coverage Program, 2018 Farm Bill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Margin</th>
<th>Tier 1 &lt; 5 million pounds</th>
<th>Tier 2 &gt; 5 million pounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4.50</td>
<td>$0.0025</td>
<td>$0.0025</td>
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<tr>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$0.005</td>
<td>$0.005</td>
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<td>$0.03</td>
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<td>$6.00</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>$8.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8.50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$9.50</td>
<td>$0.15</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Long-term commitment = 25% off premiums
Another option for farmers to consider as they sign up this year is the 25% premium discount option. There is a large string attached to the 25% discount, as you have to commit to your election for 5 years.

Decision Tool
How to make a decision? Particularly if you are considering the five-year commitment, use the decision tool...
developed by Mark Stephenson and crew at the University of Wisconsin. The new DMC Decision Tool, which incorporates the changes legislated in the 2018 Farm Bill is now up and running at https://dairymarkets.org. This is a very handy tool that allows farmers to enter their historic production (still starts with the highest of 2011, 2012, or 2013 production – verify your current production history with your FSA office) and explore the cost and potential returns of different coverage percentages and levels. It will lay out your costs for 2019 participation, expected payment, and also lay out the premium with the 25% discount and total 5-year cost if you want to consider that option.

There is also a button to plug in your MPP Premium Repayment amount supplied to you by your FSA office. It will tell you how much you could receive as a cash payment and how much of your current selection’s premium would be covered if you chose that option. The decision tool’s milk and feed price data is updated nearly daily, so you may receive different “expected payment” results depending on what the markets are doing.

OSU Extension and FSA offices will be working together and offering educational programs before and early in the sign-up period to review the changes and options for farmers. Look at the options for your farm. Batter up.

Poison Hemlock in Fields and Landscapes
By: Joe Boggs, OSU Extension
Originally Published on June 1, 2018
Source: https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1052

Poison hemlock (Conium maculatum) is one of the most lethal plants found in North America. This biennial weed is now in full flower throughout much of Ohio. So, the clock is ticking on preventing seed production by this non-native invasive plant.

As a biennial weed, poison hemlock spends the first year as a basal rosette and the second year as an erect, towering flowering plant that can measure 6-10' tall. I stand around 6' 2" and as you can see in the photo below, I cannot reach the top of this poison hemlock plant.

Poison hemlock belongs to the carrot family, Apiaceae (formerly Umbelliferae). It shares many characteristics with other notable non-native members of the carrot family found growing in Ohio such as Queen Anne’s Lace (Daucus carota) and Wild Parsnip (Pastinaca sativa). Indeed, some of the accidental poisonings in the U.S. have occurred with people mistaking poison hemlock for Queen Anne’s Lace.

Poison hemlock contains highly toxic piperidine alkaloid compounds, including coniine and gamma-coniceine, which cause respiratory failure and death when ingested by mammals. The roots are more toxic than the leaves and stems; however, all parts of the plant including the seeds should be considered dangerous. It is a common misconception that poison hemlock sap will cause skin rashes and blisters. In fact, poison hemlock toxins must be ingested or enter through the eyes, cuts, or other openings to cause poisoning.

All stages of the poison hemlock plant have bluish-green leaves that are 3-4 times pinnately compound, and the deeply cut parsley-like leaflets have sharp points. Flowering plants have hairless, light-green to bluish-green stems that are covered with obvious purplish blotches. Clusters of tiny white flowers are borne on structures called umbels that look like upside-down umbrellas.

While poison hemlock can be partially managed by mowing and tilling, the most effective control approach involves properly timed applications of selective or non-selective post-emergent herbicides including glyphosate (e.g. Roundup). However, applications of herbicides must be made now to have any chance of reducing seed production this year.

SEE PICTURES OF POISON HEMLOCK ON THE NEXT PAGE
A New Bright Spot on Main Street
By: Emily Marrison, OSU Extension

If you’ve driven near the court square any time in the past two weeks, chances are that you’ve definitely seen it: two hundreds bright orange ribbons forming a temporary pavilion in the artPARK. It’s catching a lot of attention, and I want to tell you more about it today.

We call this structure “Meeting Room,” and it is a collaborative effort of the Pomerene Center for the Arts and Ohio State University Extension. The project was made possible by an Ohio Arts Council ArtsNext grant and matching funds from the Pomerene Center Community Arts Fund through the Coshocton Foundation.

At the 2018 Coshocton County Fair we sought input from the public on the design for the structure. The design that received the most votes was by the firm Behin Ha. They won a competition in New York City with that design which was built on Governors Island. Architect, Behrang Behin, agreed to lead our project and create a different design especially for our space in the artPARK. I’m incredibly grateful for his investment in our community. It’s not every day that a super talented (and equally humble) graduate of Yale University and Harvard University School of Design comes from New York City to Coshocton to lead a creative effort.

Materials were provided by Snyder Manufacturing in Dover, a manufacturer of high-performance laminated fabrics, PVC coated mesh, and other materials. The “ribbons” are the edges cut from one of these products that is typically recycled. So we gave these “rocket red” scraps a little more life and purpose before that happens.

Sixteen volunteers from across the community assisted with the construction on May 31 and June 1. These volunteers were from the Coshocton Kiwanis, United Way, OSU Extension, Coshocton Regional Medical Center, Hasseman Marketing, and other individuals who wanted to be involved in the project.

One of our outreach objectives at OSU Extension is community development. The University of Kentucky Extension identified growing the fine arts as a key to development in many rural Kentucky counties. This inspired me to further explore this area of involvement in our community. The cornerstone philosophy for this project is that when we work creatively together through the building process we collectively develop and promote social capital. It’s when we contribute to our community that we feel like we belong to our community.

Another aspect of this public art piece is that it is not permanent. Resiliency requires a creative process of building and rebuilding and this piece is reflective of that. Everyone is encouraged to use this space to meet as community groups, families and friends throughout the summer months. The space can be reserved at meetingroomartpark.setmore.com and tables and chairs can be provided. The structure will be available for use through Labor Day.

If you have not checked out the artPARK yet, or if it’s been a while since you’ve been in the space, I hope that you will come to Main Street and take some time to enjoy this amazing piece of community built public art. I also encourage you to bring a group to meet here. It just might change the way you think. It’s a good thing to get out of our normal routine and get into a different environment.

Today I’ll leave you with this quote from Ken Robinson, “You can't just give someone a creativity injection. You have to create an environment for curiosity and a way to encourage people and get the best out of them.”