

COSHOCTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCESApril 15, 2020 Issue

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Can you ID this wetland plant?

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Hello Coshocton County! What a change from our pleasant weather from a week ago. High winds, colder temperatures, and this morning's 23 degree temperature have made a lot of people gloomy this week.

At OSU we continue to monitor COVID-19 and its impact on agriculture. Last week the news was filled with milk dumping. This week it has been about shutdowns and slowdowns at processing plants. This means more hooves on the ground and downward pressure on live animal prices. As an example, a recent analysis showed that every 1% reduction in slaughter capacity on hogs drops the market price by 1.8%.

One of the first assessments of the pandemic's impact on agriculture was released by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) yesterday. I have included an article written about the report. Hindsight will give us better vision but it does paint a rocky road ahead (which should be of no surprise).

Stay well and remember, while our office is closed to the public I can still be reached directly at 740-722-6073 or via email at marrison.2@osu.edu. Stay safe!

Sincerely,

David Marrison

Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information visit: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.

COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide Available

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue unveiled a one-stop-shop on April 13, 2020 of federal programs that can be used by rural communities, organizations and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The **COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide** is a first-of-its-kind resource for rural leaders looking for federal funding and partnership opportunities to help address this pandemic. This resource matrix organizes funding opportunities identified in the CARES Act and other federal resources that can help support rural America.



COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

Opportunities are categorized by customer and assistance type. The guide can be accessed at:

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_COVID-19_Fed_Rural_Resource_Guide.pdf

COVID-19 Could Slash Farm Income by 19%

By: [Chuck Abbott](#)

Source: <https://www.agriculture.com/news/business/coronavirus-could-slash-farm-income-by-19-percent>

Crop and livestock prices could tumble by as much as 12% this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, pulling farm income down by \$20 billion dollars, said the FAPRI think tank at the University of Missouri on Monday. "A lot of producers are already in trouble. This is going to make it more severe," said FAPRI director Pat Westhoff.

The FAPRI report was one of the first assessments of the pandemic's effects on agriculture. Farm sector losses could be offset by coronavirus relief, said Westhoff. President Trump says \$16 billion in aid is forthcoming, but the administration has yet to say how it would be divided among producers.

Market prices for major commodities, such as corn, soybeans, cotton, cattle, hogs, and milk, have fallen sharply since the coronavirus reached the United States. An economic recession is looming due to aggressive efforts, including stay-at-home orders.

When the estimated \$32 billion slump in crop and livestock income is combined with other elements in the farm sector balance sheet, among them lower production costs and an upturn in farm subsidies, the result is a \$20 billion decline from FAPRI's previous estimate of \$106 billion in net farm income this year – a 19% decline. Net farm income includes grain held in storage and is a gauge of wealth.

"Livestock receipts drop more than crop receipts in 2020, given the relative changes in market prices," said the FAPRI report. Livestock prices were forecast to fall by 8% to 12% and crop prices by 5% to 10%.

Americans are driving fewer miles and burning less gasoline than usual, reducing demand for corn ethanol. FAPRI estimated ethanol production at 14.8 billion gallons, down by 1.4 billion gallons due to the pandemic. If true, that would mean a 500-million-bushel drop in corn usage. Usually, more than 5.4 billion bushels of corn is used annually in making the biofuel.

FAPRI incorporated lower consumer spending in its estimate but did not consider disruptions in the supply chain that could reduce prices paid to producers, such as shutdowns and slowdowns at processing plants. For example, Smithfield Foods said its pork plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was "closed until further notice" due to COVID-19 cases among its workers. The plant is the ninth-largest hog slaughterhouse in the country. "If we don't have processing facilities that are open, that means those animals get backed up. There is less demand for those animals, so it places downward pressure on live animal prices," said Westhoff.

Each 1% reduction in slaughter capacity is associated with a 1.8% drop in market prices for hogs, according to a recent analysis. "Hog prices have already been tumbling over the past couple weeks, potentially reflecting the market's expectation of some capacity being off-line," wrote Purdue University economist [Jayson Lusk](#) in a

blog last week.

The actual impact of the pandemic will depend on its intensity and duration, said FAPRI. Its analysis assumed a “V-shape” recession, with the biggest downturn occurring from March-June, followed by speedy recovery in the second half of the year. “While it may not be fair to characterize this as a best-case scenario, worse outcomes are possible,” said FAPRI. “If COVID-19 continues to disrupt economic activity through 2020 and into 2021, the recession could be far deeper and last longer.” The full FAPRI report, “Early Estimates of the Impact of COVID-19” can be accessed at:

<https://www.fapri.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FAPRI-Report-02-20.pdf>

Cold Then Warmer for Late April

By Jim Noel

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-09/cold-week-then-warmer-later-april>

A switch to a colder pattern for at least a week before milder air returns later April into May. Widespread freeze conditions are expected this week. Rainfall will generally remain at or above average into May but there will be opportunities for plant this late April and May unlike last year.

Temperatures will average up to 10 degrees below normal for the week of April 13-20. Expect highs in the 40s and 50s and lows in the 20s and 30s this week which is well below the normals by about 10 degrees on average. Temperatures will return to near average the week of April 21-28 then above normal the the end of April and start of May.

Excessive rain is not expected the next 2+ weeks but frequent lighter rain is. Rainfall systems will continue in the light to sometimes moderate category for the rest of April. They will be frequent enough to amount to 1.5 to 3 inches for the rest of April. Normal is 1.75 to 2 inches in most areas. This means generally near normal to a little above normal rain is in tap. Some wet snow will likely get mixed in with the rain this week from time to time but amounts will be mostly light if any accumulation occurs and northern areas are favored. Please monitor later forecasts as the week progresses.

As discussed last week, we are expected widespread frost and freeze conditions this week over much of Ohio. A few mornings of hard freeze of 28 or less is expected this week. It appears conditions will relax after this week but some frosts are still likely but hard freeze probabilities will be dropping starting this weekend. Soil temperatures have been mainly bouncing in the 40s north to 50s south the last week or so. Temperatures with the milder weekend rose but with the cold week ahead, soil temperatures will likely be below 50 across much of the state for parts of this week.

The latest NOAA climate information can be found at:

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

The latest river and soil information can be found at:

<https://www.weather.gov/ohrfc/>

The latest Water Resources Outlooks can be found at:

<https://www.weather.gov/ohrfc/WRO>

CFAES Ag Weather System Near-Surface Air & Soil Temperatures/Moisture

Aaron Wilson, Greg LaBarge, CPAg/CCA, Elizabeth Hawkins, Sam Custer

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-09/cfaes-ag-weather-system-near-surface-air-and-soil>

We are once again providing a soil temperature overview in the C.O.R.N. Newsletter through April-May 2020. The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Agricultural Research Stations located throughout the state have two- and four-inch soil temperatures monitored on an hourly basis. Our Western site in Clark County is not available this year.

Therefore, we are supplementing data from western Ohio with data from Darke and Greene Counties. These sites (noted by an asterisk on Figure 1) report minimum (morning) soil temperatures. The other sites are reported on Figure 1 as a daily average.

Figure 1 shows that two- and four-inch soil temperatures have varied significantly in response to large swings in air temperature. Early in the week, daily average air temperatures warmed well into the 60s for southern sites (Versailles, Xenia, and Piketon) and to near 60 for northern sites (North Central and Wooster). In response, soil temperatures warmed into the mid-50s to low-60s across the state. Cooler weather later in the week caused soil temperatures to cool

into the upper-40s to low-50s with a small rebound over the weekend. These soil temperatures are near their 5-year averages for North Central and Piketon but a bit cooler than the 5-year average at Wooster (by ~2°F). The current weather forecast calls for below to much-below average air temperatures over the next 5-7 days. Soil temperatures are likely to remain steady or cool slightly throughout the upcoming week.

CFAES Near-surface Air and Soil Temperatures

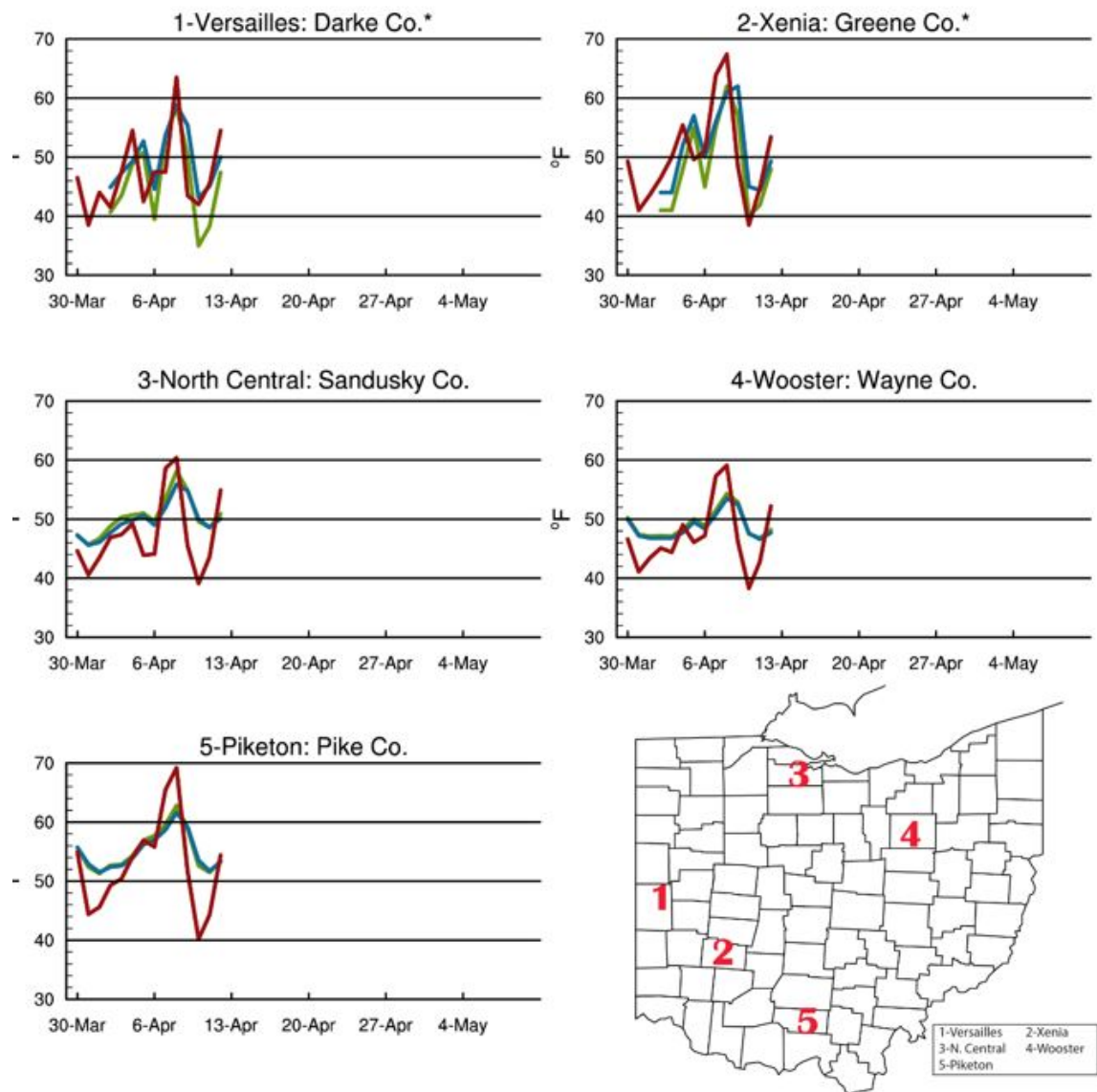


Figure 1: Average daily air temperature (red), two-inch (green) and four-inch (blue) soil temperatures for spring 2020. Map of locations in bottom right. Soil temperatures are minimum temperatures for Versailles and Xenia and daily average for other sites.

Figure 2 (left) shows that plenty of rainfall fell across much of the state for the week ending April 12, 2020. Totals of 1.5-3 inches were verified from west central Ohio southeast through our far southeastern counties (dark green and yellow shadings). Much drier conditions were experienced in southwest Ohio. As a result, current calculated soil moisture ranking percentiles (right) dropped across this part of the state. However, soil moisture increased across Ohio's eastern counties. Much of the state remains above the 80th percentile with the greatest percentiles noted across northeast Ohio.

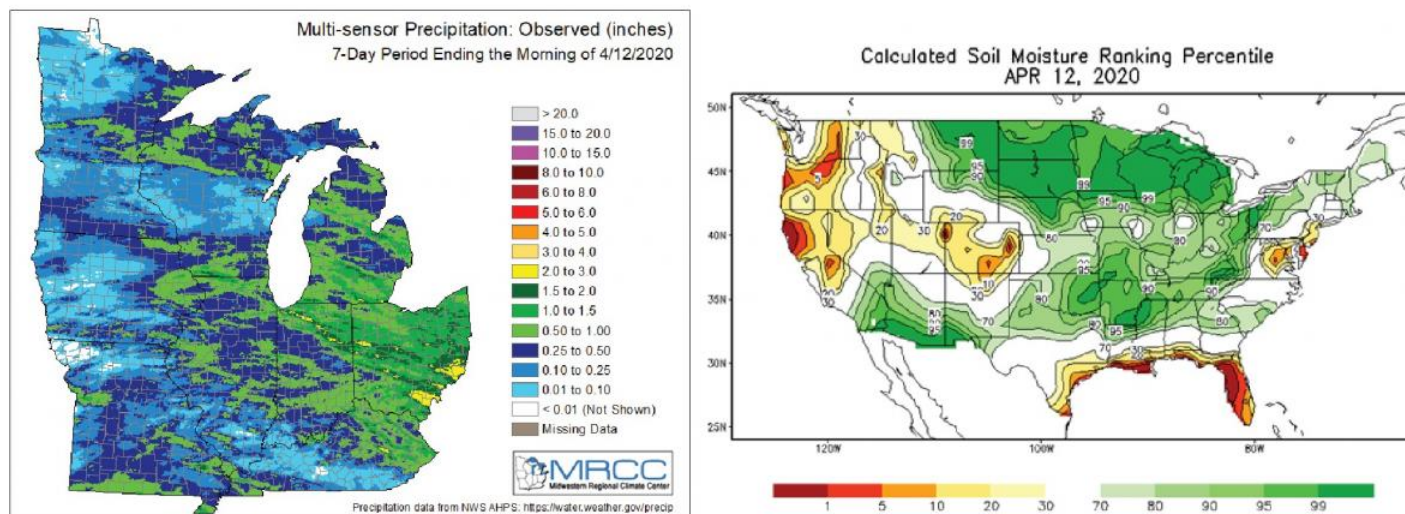


Figure 2: (Left) Precipitation estimates for the last 7 days ending on 4/12/2020. Figure provided by the Midwest Regional Climate Center (<https://www.mrcc.illinois.edu>). (Right) Calculated soil moisture ranking percentile for April 12, 2020 provided by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (<https://www.cpc.noaa.gov/>).

For more complete weather records for CFAES research stations, including temperature, precipitation, growing degree days, and other useful weather observations, please visit <https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weather1/>.

Employer Information for COVID Positive Employee

Source: Ohio Farm Bureau

Ohio Farm Bureau Public Policy staff put together a document that helps employers with an employee who contracts COVID-19. The document is a compilation of the best available information on how an employer can provide a safe work environment and steps to be taken if an employee is found to have COVID-19 or show symptoms. The information in the document has been obtained from the websites for the Ohio Department of Health, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, USDA, FDA and the CDC. Links are included in the sections to the pertinent guidance. Note: This document is not to be construed as legal advice and is solely for informational purposes. The Maintaining a Healthy Workplace and Addressing an Employee Found to have COVID-19 (PDF) can be accessed at: <https://ofbf.org/app/uploads/2020/04/Information-for-Employers-Operations-for-COVID-19.pdf> Contact your local Farm Bureau Office for more information.

PPE Shortage for Pesticide Applicators

by: [Mary Ann Rose](#)

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-09/ppe-shortage-pesticide-applicators>

This spring pesticide applicators are likely to encounter a new challenge getting the personal protective equipment (PPE) required to make their pesticide applications. The emergency needs that our first responders and medical care providers have for PPE in the COVID-19 war have led to shortages of all types of PPE, even for types not typically worn by medical personnel. By the time that PPE become more readily available, it will likely be too late for many spring (or even summer) pesticide applications.

Every pesticide product label includes a list of the required personal protective equipment. So ... what should farmers and pesticide applicators do in this situation? **First, If you can't acquire and properly use the label required PPE, don't make the application of that pesticide.** Carefully review the labels of the pesticide products you plan to use for the coming growing season to learn what PPE are required to use those products. If there are any PPE items that you do not have (or cannot get), then choose another pesticide product that does not require the PPE. One possible solution that has been advanced is to purchase higher level protection types of PPE that are not used by health care providers. Disadvantages to this approach are that these are usually hotter and more uncomfortable, more expensive, and availability perhaps just as limited, especially of replaceable parts such as the cartridges used in respirators.

Alternative products or alternative control methods that don't require the PPE are probably your best bet. Many common pesticides require only: long sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, and socks. Other products have more stringent PPE requirements. Online product label databases such as Agrian.com are very useful for searching out the PPE requirements for agricultural pesticides before purchase. Whatever the label says, you must be in compliance. Your health and safety is at stake and, - the label is the law!

Used and modified from the original with permission of Dean Slates, Ohio State University Extension Agriculture Educator, Emeritus.

Hay Equipment Checkpoints for Optimal Drying

By: [Jason Hartschuh](#), OSU Extension Crawford County, AgNR Educator (originally published in [Progressive Forage](#))

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/04/15/hay-equipment-checkpoints-for-optimal-drying/#more-8632>

The primary purpose of our haymaking equipment is to dry hay to the optimum moisture for storage, then package densely. This winter, our shop has been a staging ground for improved hay drying.

The mower conditioner, both rakes and tedder have all been rotating through our shop to be sure they are ready to not only function properly but to make sure hay dries as fast as possible. It is amazing how little adjustments in the shop can save a couple of much-needed hours of drying time. Your operator's manual will have the proper adjustments for your machine. Just as we always start with the mower for winter repairs, let's start there on best maintenance practices to improve hay drying.



Uneven roll wear can result in poor conditioning across the length of the rolls. Photo provided by Jason Hartschuh

Mower checklist: Improved hay drying starts at the cutter bar.

When the crop is cut ragged with lots of long plant material still attached, this material is often ripped loose by the rake and ends up creating wet spots in windrows. The primary winter service to prevent this is to make sure knives are sharp and not dragging on the cutter bar when spinning. This is also a good time to check all gear boxes and, on disc mower conditioners, that cutting modules are not worn to the point of becoming out of time. Changing cutting speed by slowing down can improve the machine's ability to cut the entire crop and not leave long stems attached.

This is also the time to check the conditioning system for proper adjustment. Last spring, just before harvest, we checked our mower and found high roll wear that would result in uneven conditioning across the length of the rolls. The area between each cutting module, where more crop runs, had more wear than the center of each module, to the point we could not adjust roll clearance properly.

The rolls are currently missing as we replace them to improve drying. So how do you determine if your rolls

need adjustment? First, you will need three pieces of aluminum foil, each 18 inches long. Next, find a 3/8-inch rod at least 18 inches long and roll the aluminum foil around it, creating three 3/8-inch diameter by 18-inch long roll-clearance gauge checkers.

Make sure the mower is lowered to the ground or locked up. Insert the home-made roll gauges into the rolls and turn over by hand until they fall out the back. Roll gauges should be put in the middle and about a foot from each end, or if you can feel wear, put the gauges in both the high and low spots. Once the roll gauges are through the machine, measure the crush points with a digital or dial caliper. The roll clearance for standard rolls should be 1/16 inches to a maximum of 3/32 inches. Measure all crush points on the aluminum foil roll and find the average. Watch for measurements that are out of range over the length of the 18-inch-long roller gauge.

Avoiding tire tracks: Driving over windrows with a tractor tire can greatly affect drying time. For self-propelled swathers, this is not a problem, but for many pull-type mowers, this is a major problem. A standard row crop tire driving on a 9-foot-wide swath slows the drying of 18% of the forage, which will be the limiting factor on when the hay is ready to bale. If soils are damp, not only does air not move through the area that was driven over, but the swath pressed against the ground is pulling moisture from the soil as well. The best solution is to have a tractor set wide enough to straddle your windrows. There are adaptors that will allow you to straddle up to 10 feet. The next best option is to ted windrows soon after mowing so that 18% of your crop does not stay wetter than the rest of the field for 24 hours.

Tedder leveling: Proper tedder maintenance is important so hay is spread evenly over the field, and all hay pressed against the ground is fluffed to allow for better air movement. Untedded hay will now be the drying time limiting factor. When it comes to winter tedder maintenance for drying, the best method is to unfold the tedder on level concrete and check it for levelness across the width of the machine. Many of us do not have level concrete, so another good option is to use a level plywood frame. Just like with the mower, be sure the tractor is off and only turn the machine over by hand when checking distances. When the machine is in the run position, all tines should be the same distance from the ground; 3/4 inches works well for adjustments.

The four most common reasons tedders are not level are bent arms, bent wheel carrier arms, improper tire pressure and replaced tines that are longer than the rest. Most of you are going to cringe as I suggest this, but when replacing tines, they need to be cut to match the length of all the worn tines on your machine. On some of these machines, this may mean the tines will need cut at different lengths; a few machines I know of have a 1/2-inch wear difference between the two tines based on operation angle. These machines have a shorter back tine in the pair compared to the front tine. As larger tedders age, we are seeing the wing pivots wear enough that wings are tipping more than the main frame, causing them to miss hay behind the tractor and add soil to the forage on the wings.

Rake positioning: The last line of defense in our hay-drying system is the rake. The rake's ability to assist in the drying process is greatly affected by type, adjustments and maintenance. On the maintenance side, just like for tedders, it is important to make sure these machines are level, tines are similar length, spring suspension is not broken and adjustments are correct. Yes, on the leveling side, this means I am suggesting again that you cut tines off to match the worn ones. If you ever replace all tines on the rake, keep a good selection of the used tines as replacements for the future.

While many large producers have gone to rotary rakes, the most common rake in the country is still a parallel bar rake. Most of these have a basket angle adjustment. When this adjustment is in the up position, windrows are fluffier, improving drying, but over time this slot adjustment falls to the bottom or down position, making windrows tighter and slowing drying speed. May your equipment work well and may you have a safe forage production season this year.

Ponds in Times of Excess Water

Gary Graham, OSU Extension – Holmes County

Wet, wet, wet best sums up the current state of things. 2019 was one of the wettest years on record. The water table most everywhere is high due to excess of water. Now, 2020 is looking to be a repeat in terms of moisture volumes seen in 2019. All this combined has an impact if you are a pond owner.

Ponds bring us much enjoyment, from swimming to fishing to aesthetics and even fire protection. Ponds, like all things, take maintenance to keep in top shape. Doing nothing is an option too, however it will end in a stagnate, lifeless, mosquito breeding zone. Now is also the time to start working towards preventing pond problems you had last year.

Recent calls that have come in are from pond owners concerned with the higher than normal pond level. Ponds are built with an inlet and should have two to three outlets. The first, being the discharge pipe and the second and hopefully the third are the spillways. A principal spillway is designed to maintain the desired water level. The emergency spillway is an exit point for when water is in excess. This allows for the safe release of excess water without flowing over the bank and potentially eroding the dam leading to total pond failure.



Emergency spillways are built into ponds for when excessive inflows cannot be removed by the outlet pipe and the primary spillway. Emergency spillways are typically an earthen structure with a height slightly lower than the rest of the ponds bank to allow water to be released without flowing over the pond's embankment where not wanted. Water flowing over the pond's embankment is very dangerous as if the pond bank is already saturated with moisture, and water flows over the area, then erosion can happen leading to bank failure. The issues are that the pond can be ruined yes, but if a pond empties into a drainage way and would happen to take out a township or county ditch, culvert, or worst case scenario a bridge you could be held responsible for all repairs.

If dealing with excess water in your pond you have some options before total pond failure happens. Originally (30 plus years ago) pond outlet pipes were steel. Now, pond outlet pipes are made from heavy wall PVC pipe. This is because PVC does not rust and can be easily adjusted. If the water inlet cannot be diverted to reduce inlet flow, then the easiest option is to lower the outlet pipe. The PVC pipe is easy to cut. Even under the water line a carpenters saw can cut through it. Whereas steel pipe is very difficult and requires special equipment to cut under the waterline. The good thing about cutting the PVC pipe is that you can always place a collar or coupler and more pipe on it to get the water level back up to where you desire it or where it was meant to be. When cutting remember the amount cut off is the level the water should drop. So an inch off the pipe lowers the water level approximately one inch.

Great caution needs to be taken anytime working around a pond's outlet pipe. First piece of equipment is a life jacket, worn for safety in the water. Second, you should have a rope around your waist and have a spotter on the bank able to pull you out if something goes wrong. Be sure to not get sucked into the outlet pipe if you must take emergency measures to lower it. The lowering of the pipe can cause water to flow very quickly and can pull you into it. For more information on pond management go to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources page on pond management. <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/pond-management>

Other important factors on pond bank issues are never let trees to establish on the banks. Their roots can provide a point for water to seep through the dam causing the dam to give way. Ground hogs (woodchucks), muskrats, mink, etc. should never be allowed to take up residence in pond banks. Their burrowing allows water to seep into the dam saturating it and could lead to possible failure. Finally, livestock should be kept out of ponds as they can damage a bank's integrity as well as add unnecessary nutrients that will cause excess weed growth.

Lastly, I want to touch on the issue of pond safety. Every pond should have some kind of safety equipment by the pond. Drownings happen in seconds and too often. In many cases, the would-be rescuers become drowning victims themselves. It is better to throw something to the person in the water from the shore. Anything that floats will help. We have pond safety kits at the Holmes County, Ohio State University Extension office if you are interested in this. Pond safety is too often overlooked, but is a vitally, critical part of being a pond owner. If you have weed issues, your county OSU Extension office can help identify them and will have information on how to treat the various weeds common in Ohio ponds. To reach me during this stay at home order you can reach me by email at graham.124@osu.edu and I will help you. We are still open and working from our homes and here to serve you. Our web page has many resources for your convenience on COVID 19 at <https://holmes.osu.edu/home>

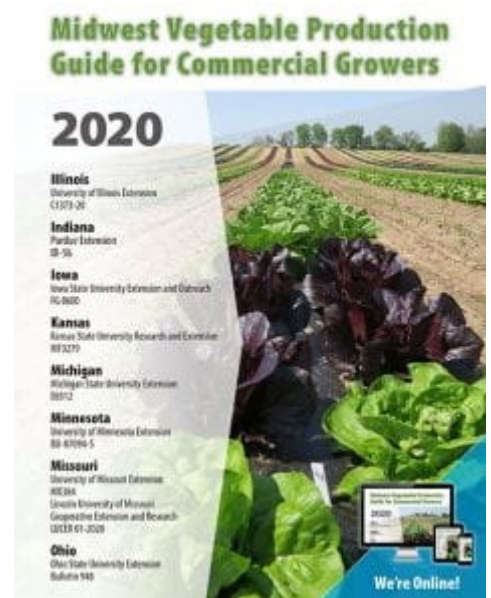
Midwest Vegetable Production Guide Now Available

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/vegnetnews/2020/02/17/midwest-vegetable-production-guide-now-available/>

If you are a vegetable grower in Ohio, the Midwest Vegetable Production Guide, is an essential resource to keep on top of the latest fertility, horticultural management, and pesticide recommendations for your operation. Each year the guide is edited and updated by specialist's in eight states to bring you the most current information possible at the time of printing.

What's new to the guide in 2020? Within the 262 spiral bound pages there is an updated Organic Production section plus updated sections on disease, weed and insect management on 45+ vegetable crops, from Asian vegetables to Zucchini.

The MVPG is also more mobile friendly now with an improved interface designed to get your crop production question addressed quickly. Enter your crop and pest information and receive cultural and pesticide recommendations matching your request. Try it out on your computer, tablet or smart phone at <https://mwveguide.org>. The site will default to the new interactive mobile friendly interface but if you want to access individual pdf chapters of the guide, click on the drop down and select "Production Guide."



If you want to order a guide online through the new Extension publications website, here is the link <https://extensionpubs.osu.edu/2020-midwest-vegetable-production-guide-for-commercial-growers/>. If you order the guide online and have it mailed to your house, it will cost \$21.25 plus shipping.

The OSU Extension Farm Office is Open

The Farm Office is Open! Each week, the Farm Office Team of Peggy Hall, Dianne Shoemaker, Ben Brown, David Marrison and Barry Ward will be holding weekly live office hours from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. to update you on current issues affecting the farm economy. Join our experts for quick presentations and plenty of time for you to ask questions. Go to <https://go.osu.edu/farmofficelive> to register. Recordings will be posted on farmoffice.osu.edu the following day.

April 10 AG Law Harvest

By: Peggy Kirk Hall, Friday, April 10th, 2020

Source: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/fri-04102020-532pm/ag-law-harvest>

Although many of us are quarantined at home these days, the gears of the legal world are still turning. Here's our gathering of recent notable news and legal developments:

Our Farm Office is open Monday night! Join us for the Farm Office's live online office hours this Monday night from 8—9:30 p.m. Our team of experts will provide updates on the Paycheck Protection Program and the dairy economy and discuss COVID-19 macro-economic and export impacts, BWC dividends, property tax concerns, potential legal issues arising from COVID-19, and other issues you want to discuss. Register at <https://go.osu.edu/farmofficelive>.

What's the deal with dicamba? Our partner, the National Agricultural Law Center, is hosting a free webinar on dicamba litigation on Wednesday, April 15 at noon EST. "The Deal with Dicamba: An Overview of Dicamba Related Litigation," will feature attorney Brigit Rollins, who will review each of the dicamba lawsuits, the claims made by the plaintiffs, and what the outcome of each suit could mean for dicamba use in the United States. Go to <https://nationalaglawcenter.org/webinars/dicamba/> to learn more.

Walmart sued for employee's COVID-19 death. We've been wondering when we'd start seeing COVID-19 lawsuits, and the answer is now. On Monday, the estate of a Walmart employee in Illinois who died from COVID-19 sued the company for negligence and wrongful death. The complaint alleges that Walmart failed to properly clean the store or provide employees with masks, gloves, antibacterial wipes and other protective equipment, knew that employees were exhibiting COVID-19 signs and symptoms, and did not screen new employees for COVID-19. A second employee at the same store has also died of the virus. Read the complaint at <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/sites/aglaw/files/site-library/COVID%20Walmart%20lawsuit.pdf>

Shell eggs go to market. The FDA issued guidance that eases up packaging and labeling requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic for shell eggs sold directly to consumers in retail food establishments. The agency explained that it made the change because plenty of shell eggs are available to meet increased consumer demands, but properly labeled retail packaging for the eggs is not. See the guidance at: <https://www.fda.gov/media/136671/download>

EPA's glyphosate approval is challenged. Glyphosate, used in the weed killer Roundup, is in the news again. This time, the controversy surrounds the EPA's decision in January 2020 to allow glyphosate to continue being used in the interim while the agency conducts its mandatory 15-year re-approval review. Although EPA has yet to make its re-approval decision, two groups of plaintiffs have petitioned the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for an invalidation of the EPA's decision allowing continued use in the interim. Plaintiffs argue that the decision violates both the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Endangered Species Act because the EPA has not gathered enough information to prove that glyphosate is safe for humans, the environment, and endangered species. You can read the petitions at: <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/glyphosate-petition-for-review-20200320.pdf> and http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/01-petition-for-review--final_35405.pdf and EPA's interim decision at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-01/documents/glyphosate-interim-reg-review-decision-case-num-0178.pdf>

No rehearing for RFS litigation. We reported previously that the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals held the EPA in violation of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) when it granted RFS blending waivers to three small refineries. While the Trump administration did not appeal the court's decision, two of the oil refiners requested a rehearing before the full panel of Tenth Circuit judges. This week, those requests were rejected by the Tenth Circuit, starting a 90-day period during which the refiners may petition for a hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court.

ODNR suspends hunting and fishing license sales for non-residents. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources announced this week that it is “temporarily suspending the sale of non-resident hunting and fishing licenses until further notice” to further discourage travel into the state. ODNR has no set date to lift the suspension; it will be in place as long as state COVID-19 orders dictate. Read ODNR’s press release at: <http://ohiodnr.gov/news/post/odnr-to-temporarily-suspend-sale-of-non-resident-hunting-and-fishing-licenses>

BWC gives dividends and deferrals. The Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation board decided yesterday to pay dividends to employers for BWC premiums to the tune of up to \$1.6 billion. Checks will go out to employers later in April, and will equal approximately 100% of the BWC premiums paid in their 2018 policy years. The agency is also allowing employers to delay unpaid premium installments due for March through May until June 1, 2020 and will not lapse coverage or assess penalties for amounts not paid due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See the Frequently Asked Questions at: <https://www.bwc.ohio.gov/downloads/blankpdf/COVID-19-BWCFAQs.pdf>

Upcoming Programs

- ~~Backyard Fruit Production Workshop: April 28 Canceled~~
- ~~Mortality Composting Workshop: May 4 Canceled~~
- ~~Master Gardener Plant Sale: June 6~~
- Summer Pasture Walk: July 28
- Summer Pasture Walk: August 25



This wetland plant is popping up across Coshocton County. Do you know what it is? The first person to guess correctly by emailing David Marrison at marrison.2@osu.edu will get \$10 off registration at a future AG Extension event in Coshocton County! Good luck