Hello Coshocton County! I hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas. In just a few short days we will put a bow on the year of 2020. And next year, hindsight will literally be 2020!

As we roll into 2021, there still is a lot of uncertainty for our traditional Extension activities. Many of our Ag Workshops will continue to be virtual. I encourage you to check out the article on our “one-stop shop” to access these programs. It is incredible to see the number of programs our producers will have access to.

For pesticide & fertilizer applicators who need their licenses renewed in 2021, we will be offering re-certification in three different manners (self-paced on-line, Zoom meetings and in-person). We will be flexible as we continue to adapt our in-person programming to meet health & safety guidelines. Applicators will be getting a personal letter in the mail early next month to provide options for re-certification.

Happy New Year! It will be good to turn the page to 2021. Stay safe and be well!

Sincerely,

David L. Marrison
Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator
Agricultural Risk Coverage & Price Loss Coverage for the 2021 Crop Year

By: Mary Griffith, Chris Zoller, Hallie Williams
Source: https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2020/12/30/agricultural-risk-coverage-and-price-loss-coverage-for-the-2021-crop-year-2/

Enrollment for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2021 crop year opened in October, with the deadline to enroll and make amendments to program elections on March 15, 2021. This signup is for potential payments for the 2021 crop.

If changes are not made by the March 15th deadline, the election defaults to the programs selected for the 2020 crop year with no penalty. While it is optional to make changes to program elections, producers are required to enroll (sign a contract) each year to be eligible to receive payments. So, even if you do not change your program elections, you will still need to make an appointment at the Farm Service Agency to sign off on enrollment for the 2021 crop year by that March 15th deadline.

Producers 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. 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.

As you consider amending your program choices, here are some important reminders:

- **PLC payments are triggered by low prices.** PLC is a disaster price program and pays when the marketing year average price is below a reference price. The marketing year average price (MYAP) is an average price calculated using cash prices across the nation over the course of a year. The 2021 marketing year for wheat is May, 2021 – June, 2022 and for corn and soybeans is August, 2021 – September, 2022. This means that the MYAP for 2021 for wheat will not be known until June, 2022 and the MYAP for corn and soybeans will not be known until September, 2022. PLC payments will only be triggered for a covered commodity if the MYAP published at the end of the marketing year are below the reference price. The reference price for corn is $3.70, for soybeans is $8.40, and for wheat is $5.50.

- **ARC-County payments are triggered by low county revenues.** Revenues are calculated using the market year average price times the county average yield. When producers enrolled for 2019 and 2020, they were enrolling after the 2019 crop had been harvested. Yields for 2019 were known at the time of the enrollment deadline for that year. For the 2021 crop year, producers will be enrolling before the crop is planted.

- **Producers have less information about both price and yields for the 2021 enrollment period, compared to the last enrollment period.** When producers enrolled for 2019 and 2020, we were more than halfway through the marketing year for each crop, so there was much more information on price expectation. For the 2021 crop year, producers will be enrolling before the marketing year begins.

- **The maximum ARC-IC payment is triggered in cases where an FSA Farm has 100% Prevent Plant acres.** At the time of enrollment for the 2019 crop year, producers knew if they had FSA Farms that fit this description and were able to use that information to decide if ARC-IC was a good fit for a FSA Farm. For the 2021 crop year, producers will need to decide by March 15th if ARC-IC is still the right choice for those farms without knowledge of how many acres they will have in Prevent Plant. While some FSA Farms triggered large payments for ARC-IC in 2019, producers may want to reassess this program election for the 2021 crop year if they do not expect to put those farms in 100% Prevent Plant in 2021.

For most producers, the number one consideration driving program election is the markets. What are markets going to do? We will not know the MYA price for corn or soybeans until September of 2022, and a lot could change in that time.
OSU Extension and the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics (AEDE) are offering several webinars between now and the March 15th enrollment deadline for producers to get up to date market outlook information. For information about AEDE’s 2021 Winter Outlook Meetings, visit https://aede.osu.edu/research/agricultural-policy-and-outlook-conferences/county-meetings.

Additionally, OSU Extension will be offering two webinars this winter focused specifically on the ARC/PLC decision, reviewing decision-tool calculators available to evaluate options, and current market outlook. The dates for these webinars are January 13th from 1:00-3:00pm and February 25th from 9am-11am. Both programs are free to attend, but registration is required. Register online at: http://go.osu.edu/arcplc2021.

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**2021 Market Outlook for Corn and Soybeans**

By: Scott Irwin and Joe Janzen, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois

Source: https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2020/12/ifes-2020-2021-market-outlook-for-corn-and-soybeans.html

This is a presentation summary from the 2020 virtual Illinois Farm Economics Summit (IFES). A video of the webinar and PowerPoint Slides (PDF) are available at: https://farmdoc.illinois.edu/ifes

The corn and soybean markets have been on a tear since bottoming in mid-August. Both markets have increased over 30% in just three months. This is certainly a welcome change to the economic prospects of corn and soybean producers. An obvious question is how long the rally will last. To answer that question we have to dig into the reasons for the price rally in the first place.

There are several factors driving the rally in corn and soybeans, but the number one reason is clearly export sales. As of early November, total corn export commitments (export shipments + outstanding sales) are running 900 million bushels ahead of the pace a year ago. Soybean export commitments are up almost a billion bushels versus a year ago. The wind behind these export sales was China, which accounted for half of the increase in corn and three-quarters of the increase in soybeans.

Another contributing factor to the price rally was a poor ending to the 2020 U.S. growing season. August ended up being extremely dry in the heart of the Corn Belt and this was amplified by the derecho event that flattened millions of acres of corn and soybeans in Iowa and parts of Illinois on August 10th. The net result was that the USDA estimate of the U.S. corn crop declined by almost 800 million bushels between August and November. The USDA soybean crop estimate declined by over 250 million bushels over the same time period. Looking forward to the 2020/21 marketing year, the outlook for corn and soybean prices is certainly brighter than we would have expected just a few months ago. The large export sales to China are a major reason for lower projected ending stocks and higher prices for corn and soybeans in the 2020/21 marketing year. A major question to consider is whether this phenomenon will continue into 2021/22 and beyond, especially for corn where US export sales to China were negligible prior to the current marketing year. Unlike soybeans, China was until 2015 largely self-sufficient in corn production. From 2015 and 2019, China met most of its corn import needs with imports from Ukraine. Poor yields for the 2020 Ukraine corn crop account for much, but not all, of the increase in Chinese demand for US corn.

China can meet burgeoning corn demand in three ways: growing domestic production, increasing imports, and reducing stocks. Beyond the current marketing year, it is likely to do all of these. Assuming trendline yields, Chinese domestic corn production growth will reduce the need for imports in 2021/22. If Ukrainian production returns to normal and/or Brazilian corn is price-competitive with US export values – both of which appear likely – US exports of corn to China are likely to be lower in 2021/22 than what is projected for the current 2020/21 marketing year. Even so, US corn exports to China will likely be higher than in previous years. Geopolitical factors, including Chinese tariffs and import quotas that may or may not be imposed and mediation of the grain
trade by Chinese state-owned enterprises, remain an important wildcard that could dramatically affect this forecast.

With this background, we can consider the outlook for acreage and supply for corn and soybeans in 2021. All signs point towards a significant increase in total principal crop acres in 2021, which had been depressed by low prices and prevented planting in 2019 and 2020. Total principal crop acre looks to rebound to near 320 million acres in 2021, which will leave ample room for increasing total corn and soybean acreage towards 184 million acres.

Market incentives as of early November clearly favor planting soybeans over corn. For example, the soybean/corn price ratio for new crop 2021 futures has been above 2.5 for some time, compared to a breakeven ratio around 2.3. With this incentive in place we expect planted soybean acreage to increase 7.7 million acres to 90.8 million acres. We expect planted corn acreage in 2021 will fall 1.1 million acres to 90.9 million acres. At trendline yields, this will result in a soybean crop of about 4.5 billion bushels and a corn crop of almost 15 billion bushels.

This sets up a very volatile scenario for 2020/21. Even with production at the projected levels, the current size of the demand base for corn and soybeans implies that it will be difficult for ending stocks to increase substantially in 2020/21. For stocks to be replenished to more normal levels, either prices will have to rise further to reduce the size of the demand base, or good weather will be needed first in South America this winter and then the U.S. in the summer of 2021. On top of all this, there is the timing of the expected economic recovery as COVID-19 vaccination proceeds. The roller-coaster ride in the grain markets is unlikely to end anytime soon.

Visit our “One-Stop Shop” to View Ag & Natural Resources Programs

As the pandemic continues to create challenges for meeting and/or offering ‘live’ and in-person programming, much of OSU Extension’s traditional winter programming remains ‘virtual’ into the foreseeable future. In response, check out this one-stop shop to view upcoming regional and statewide agriculture and natural resources programs at: https://agnr.osu.edu/programming. Once there, simply click the topic you are interested in to view 2020-21 events, including agronomy, beef, forage and farm management programs. If you have any questions, please contact us at the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265 or email marrison.2@osu.edu

Dairy Labor Management Mini-Series Deadline is December 31

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. To address this, The Ohio State University is providing a certificate course to assist dairy farm owners and managers with labor management on farms. The 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. This is a 5-week program held weekly on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:00 pm in January and February 2021 via ZOOM. The cost is $75 per person and is limited to the first 30 people who register. Registration deadline is Thursday, December 31. More information about this program can be found at: https://dairy.osu.edu/sites/dairy/files/imce/PDF/Promotion%20Flyer%20Labor%20Management.pdf This flyer is also attached to the end of this newsletter.
**Make Hankies Handy Again**
By Christine Gelley, Noble County Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator

The year 2020 will soon be in the past and we will usher in a new year. I am hopeful that it will be better than 2020, but I still have my reservations. Those reservations will not stop me from making resolutions though! I have already chosen one and I hope to create a new movement with it called “Make Hankies Handy Again!”

It wasn’t until recently that I realized what an emotional attachment I had to such a simple article of cloth. When I moved my home office into our spare bedroom, I found a collection of my Grandma Betty’s handkerchiefs saved in a box. I have some from my Grandma Gladys too. I have always kept a hanky in my purse, just because you never know when you might need one.

My father has always had a hanky in his pocket for as long as I can remember. Those hankies dried many tears; tended skinned knees and bloody noses; wiped up drippy ice cream cones, oil and dust from working hands, and the sweat from many a brow. Whatever the need, if Dad was there, so was his hanky- a gentle tool to clean up the little messes of life. At the start of each day a fresh and clean hanky would be folded in his pocket. At the end of each day the stress of the day would be washed away in the laundry.

My hankies have been used in similar fashion, both for convenience and as tradition. To me hankies are a symbol of care. Whether on the farm or in church, hankies are the perfect accessory for every occasion.

Do you carry a handkerchief? Handkerchiefs used to be something everyone carried for personal hygiene, whether rich or poor, men or women, white collar, or blue collar. Hankies have likely been replaced by single use paper products in most situations.

I admit, a cloth handkerchief is less sanitary than paper tissues, napkins, wet wipes, and paper towels when in public spaces, but when taking care of yourself or those you love, it is an amazing multipurpose tool that should be on the checklist of things to put in our pockets when we leave our homes. They are reusable, recyclable, and a reflection of a person’s personality. Conveniently, they can even serve as face masks during the pandemic.

Therefore, I vow that for 2021, I will have a hanky on hand to help tidy up the messes in my life. Pictured are a few of my Grandma Betty’s handkerchiefs that I keep tucked in my purse or pocket, just in case.

**Nothing Good Happens During Hay Storage**
By: Mike Rankin, Hay and Forage Grower managing editor
(Previously published in Hay & Forage Grower: December 29, 2020)
Source: [https://u.osu.edu/sheep/2020/12/29/nothing-good-happens-during-hay-storage/](https://u.osu.edu/sheep/2020/12/29/nothing-good-happens-during-hay-storage/)

Millions of tons of hay now rest in storage. The quality of this hay will range from the near equivalent of cordwood to leafy rocket fuel. What we know for sure is that forage quality during storage never improves and can decline substantially, depending on the initial baling moisture and storage conditions.

Although it’s always a good idea to test forage as it goes into storage, it’s perhaps an even better strategy to test hay as it comes out of storage as well. The former offers an indication of what is available in inventory, and the latter allows you to know precisely what is being fed or sold. Don’t expect the in and out forage tests to be the same.
Just how much forage quality will change from pre- to post-storage largely depends on the moisture content at baling and if the hay is stored indoors or outdoors. Further, if it is outdoors, has there been some effort been made to protect it from the weather elements?

**Even dry bales lose**

Across the U.S., weather conditions and bale types vary dramatically. Let’s begin in the arid West where large square bales are often baled at moisture levels at 12% or lower. It’s not uncommon for bales to be stored outdoors in stacks.

According to Glenn Shewmaker, former extension forage specialist at the University of Idaho, even this dry Western hay is still subject to minor heating, and dry matter losses in the range of 5% are common over a six-month storage period.

When hay is either baled at higher moistures or wetted during storage, forage quality losses from respiration and heating begin to mount. Respiration results in lower forage quality by reducing the amount of nonfiber carbohydrates (sugars and starch). This raises the percentage of fiber fractions and may actually cause crude protein levels to rise. Excessive heating causes usable protein to decline as amino acids and sugars bind to form insoluble nitrogen compounds. This is often referred to as caramelized forage, which offers no feeding value.

Even with hay baled at a moisture level of 8% and tarped in stacks, Shewmaker has documented forage quality losses during storage of up to 5.3 percentage unit increases in acid detergent fiber (ADF). That same stack lost about 10 points in relative forage quality (RFQ).

For uncovered stacks, Shewmaker notes that, once wetted, a bale does not easily shed water. The outer 2 to 3 inches of the bale may increase in moisture by as much as 120%. A 1-inch rainfall adds about 20 gallons of water to a 4-foot by 8-foot bale surface.

The wetted bale interface deepens with each subsequent precipitation event, and this causes dry matter and forage quality losses to far exceed normal and expected levels. Frequent precipitation is more damaging than the same amount of precipitation coming all at once.

Finally, Shewmaker cautions about dry hay touching damp soil or concrete surfaces. Dry hay easily wicks moisture, and the bottom bales can account for up to 50% of the total dry loss in storage.

**Moving east**

Whatever weather hay-storing challenges exist in the West, they can be multiplied by a factor of 10 for the Midwest and East, where hay is generally baled wetter, experiences more precipitation events during storage, and generally exists in more humid conditions.

In the eastern U.S., large and small square bales are rarely seen stacked outdoors, covered or not. The same cannot be said for large round bales, and this is where double-digit dry matter and forage quality losses occur for all of the same reasons they do in the West.

Although barn storage ([https://hayandforage.com/article-2762-Plan-ahead-before-siting-a-hay-barn.html](https://hayandforage.com/article-2762-Plan-ahead-before-siting-a-hay-barn.html)) is often a worthwhile economic investment, the popularity of outdoor storage can’t be ignored. Extensive research has been done to determine how outdoor storage dry matter and forage quality losses can be
As a hay industry, we can do a better job of preserving what is harvested. Let’s make that a goal as we head into 2021.

**Lamb & Goat Webinars**

The OSU Sheep Team will construct and host three webinars offered via Zoom in 2021. The information provided will be applicable to both sheep and goat producers large and small. These webinars will be offered during the third week of the month.

**Webinar One- Lambing and Kidding: 90 minutes |**
**Tuesday, January 19th | 7 p.m.**
Members of the OSU Sheep Team will cover preparing for lambing/kidding season, ewe/doe and lamb/kid care before, during, after birth, managing dystocia, troubleshooting and addressing health concerns, colostrum, bottle feeding, creep feeding, castrating, tail docking, vaccinations, and allow time for Q&A.

**Webinar Two- Small Ruminant Nutrition: 90 minutes |**
**Tuesday, February 16th | 7 p.m.**
Members of the OSU Sheep Team will address the importance of providing adequate protein, carbohydrates, and minerals in the forms of processed grains, hay, grazed pasture, minerals, and supplements to your flock/ herd. Q&A included.

**Webinar Three- Weaning, Sorting, and Selling- Lambs, Kids, and Spent Breeding Stock: 90 minutes |**
**Tuesday, March 16th | 7 p.m.**
Members of the OSU Sheep Team will offer strategies for weaning lambs/kids and preparing them for joining the breeding flock or entering the meat processing chain. Also included will be examples of marketing strategies and determining what to do with ewes/does and rams/bucks that are no longer meeting breeding needs of the flock/ herd.

Registration information will be available soon at [https://sheep.osu.edu](https://sheep.osu.edu)

**Ohio Legislation Updates Laws for Agricultural Societies**

By: Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Law Monday, December 28th, 2020
Written by Jeffrey Lewis, Attorney, Agricultural & Resource Law Program
Source: [https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/mon-12282020-900am/ohio-legislation-updates-laws-agricultural-societies](https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/mon-12282020-900am/ohio-legislation-updates-laws-agricultural-societies)

Ohio’s past fair season was mayhem thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, but some help is on the way. The Ohio General Assembly passed legislation on December 22 aimed at updating laws and regulations governing agricultural societies and local county fairs. Major highlights of the bill include increasing the amount that a county or independent agricultural society receives for operation expenses from a county, removing the cap on the amounts that a county may transfer to an agricultural society for junior club expenses associated with operating fairgrounds, and increasing the total amount of debt that a society may incur. Here’s a more detailed summary of the provisions contained within House Bill 665.
County payments to county or independent agricultural societies
For county and independent agricultural societies, H.B. 665 increases, from $800 to $1,600, the max amount that a county treasurer must annually transfer to a society operating within the county. The County Auditor is required to request that the County Treasurer make the transfer if: (1) the society held an annual fair; (2) the society has made an annual report to the Director of Agriculture concerning the fair; and (3) the Director presents a certificate to the County Auditor indicating that the society has complied with the applicable laws of Ohio.

H.B. 665 also removes the $500 cap on the annual amount that a Board of County Commissioners must reimburse an agricultural society for junior club expenses. Additionally, the $2,000 cap on the amount that a Board of Commissioners must annually appropriate to a county agricultural society has been removed, but only if the society: (1) owns or leases real estate used as a fairground; (2) has control and management of the lands and buildings on the fairground; and (3) requests an appropriation from the Board.

Debt authorization
H.B. 665 expands the total amount of debt that an agricultural society may incur. Under the new law, county and independent agricultural societies’ annual payments for debt obligations cannot exceed 25% of the prior three-year average of its annual revenue. However, a county agricultural society must obtain approval from the Board of County Commissioners prior to incurring any debt if the Board pays or has paid money out of the county treasury to purchase the society’s fairgrounds.

Other notable provisions
• H.B. 665 removes restrictions on how proceeds for beer/liquor sales are to be used.
• Any county or independent agricultural society member can sell seasonal tickets or passes for the society’s annual fair and the sale need not be conducted on the premises of the fairgrounds.
• Any property owned by an agricultural society is now tax exempt, so long as that property is “used in furtherance” of the society’s purposes.
• Modernizes the manner in which a county agricultural society must publish its annual financial information.
• If the Board of County Commissioners wish to sell or exchange the fairgrounds, the Board must notify the applicable agricultural society 14 days prior to the sale or exchange.

H.B. 665 modernizes Ohio fair laws and agricultural society laws, some of which have not been updated since the 1950s. Many of the provisions contained within H.B. 665 were set to help out local agricultural societies for the 2020 fair season, and thus many provisions expired on December 1, 2020. However, the modernization and updates to Ohio’s laws will hopefully make next year’s fair season that much better. H.B. 665 now awaits Governor DeWine’s signature.

“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year’s Day.”

By: Edith Lovejoy Pierce
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 this program to assist dairy farm owners and managers with labor management on farms.

Why should you attend? This program will provide opportunities for you to examine your labor costs, define your labor needs, examine your hiring process, promote relationships among farm workers, increase retention, and identify ways to promote employee well-being.

Structure of Mini-Series
This is a 5-week program held weekly on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:00 pm in January and February, 2021. The meetings will be held via ZOOM each week, so you don’t even have to travel to participate in some very important topics by experts in the dairy and associated industries. Weekly assignments will be made and interactive discussion will be important for the success of the program. 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 the attendees. Certificates will be provided to participants completing this program.

Dates of Programs
- **January 12, 2021**
  - Labor Management Benchmarks, Maurice Eastridge, Department of Animal Sciences
  - So You Need to Hire Someone – Developing the job description, Chris Zoller
- **January 19, 2021**
  - Recruiting Employees, Stan Moore, Michigan State University
  - Immigrant Labor, Margaret Jodlowski, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Developmental Economics (AEDE), The Ohio State University
- **January 26, 2021**
  - Conducting an Interview, Bernie Erven, Professor Emeritus, AEDE, The Ohio State University
  - You’re Hired, now what? Building Success from Day One, Melissa O’Rouke, Iowa State University
- **February 2, 2021**
  - Building Long-Term Relationships and Team Meetings, Richard Stup, Cornell University
  - Conflict Management, Kristy Pagel, GPS Dairy Consulting LLC
- **February 9, 2021**
  - Labor Laws, Peggy Hall, Ag Law Specialist, Ohio State University Extension
  - Farm Safety, Dee Jepsen, Ag Safety Specialist, Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, The Ohio State University
OSU Specialty Crops Team and Ohio Controlled Environment Agriculture Center
Virtual High Tunnel and Season Extension School

Six, 1-hour, interactive sessions covering 12 topics important to many growers. All sessions held 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm ET on Tuesdays in January and February. Sign-up for as many sessions as you wish and bring questions!

January 12. Beginner: High Tunnels and Other Season Extension Options (Mike Hogan, Tim McDermott)
January 19. Beginner: Starting Right with High Tunnel Production (Brad Bergefurd, Matt Kleinhenz)
January 26. Intermediate: Pesticide Selection and Tomato Foliar Diseases (Melanie Ivey, Sally Miller, Francesca Rotondo)
February 2. Intermediate: Common Issues and Next-level Environmental Management (Frank Becker, Matt Kleinhenz)
February 9. Advanced: Year-round Harvest, Marketing, Irrigation and Fertility Essentials (Brad Bergefurd)

Please register here: https://go.osu.edu/high-tunnel-school-21

Please contact Matt Kleinhenz (kleinhenz.1@osu.edu; 330.263.3810) for more information.
TUESDAY January, 26, 6:30 – 8:00 P.M.

FREE REGISTRATION at go.osu.edu/2021beefschool

Presenter: Dr. Kenny Burdine, Livestock Marketing Specialist
University of Kentucky Extension

Must Pre-Register online to receive Zoom webinar link.

Join the OSU Extension Beef Team as we kick off 2021 with our Ohio Cow-Calf Outlook meeting. This program will take a look at the cattle markets and how management decisions influence marketing outcomes, including calf value in the marketplace.

Contact information: Garth Ruff, ruff.72@osu.edu