

COSHOCTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



February 26, 2020 Issue

Sharpen Your Farm Management Skills at Lunch Webinars
 Hay Quality Workshop Slated for March 3
 Private Pesticide Applicator and Fertilizer Re-Certification Session on March 4
 Tiverton Institute on March 4-5
 Farmers Breakfast on March 10
 eFields Meeting on March 10
 ODA Testing Date in Coshocton County Slated for March 16
 Mortality Composting Workshop on March 18
 7th Annual East Ohio Women in Ag Conference
 Coshocton County Dairy Banquet on March 20
 National Ag Day Luncheon
 Backyard Fruit Production Workshop
 SWCD Tree Sales
 Farm Bill Decision Deadline Approaching
 Making and Maintaining Quality Baleage
 What's Included in Your Calving Book
 Muddy Issues- Mastitis & Scours
 Small Herd Sire Decisions
 OSU Searching for Beef Cattle Specialist
 Upcoming Programs

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Hello Coshocton County! This week is National FFA week which allows us to celebrate the achievements of our high school agriculture programs and FFA chapters. In Coshocton County, we are blessed to have FFA Chapters at Ridgewood, Coshocton County Career Center and at River View. These programs are making huge differences in the lives of our youth. I know my career path was shaped because of my ag teachers and I appreciate the impact that FFA has had in my life. Congratulations to all our FFA Members on National FFA Week.

Last week we finished our 2 part "Passing on the Family Farm" workshop which generated a lot of great discussion. We have a lot of workshops and events planned for the upcoming month. Next week we will be hosting a Hay Quality Workshop and our 2nd Pesticide & Fertilizer Re-certification. Also on tap include the March Farmers Breakfast, 2 Farm Management webinars, eFields Regional Meeting, Mortality Composting Workshop, Regional Women in Ag Conference, National Ag Day Lunch and a Backyard Fruit Production workshop. Hope that you can join us for some of the events. Details on these and many more programs are in today's issue. Have a great week!

Sincerely,

David Marrison

Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Sharpen Your Farm Management Skills at Lunch Webinars

OSU Extension in Coshocton County invites farm managers to grab their lunch and join us for one of the remaining State Farm Management webinars. These webinars will be held on:

- **March 11: Estate Planning: What are the Tools and Options (11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.)**
 - Featured Speaker: Robert Moore, Co-owner of Wright & Moore Law Co. LPA
 - Identify and explain legal tools available to farmers for a succession plan • Discuss succession planning strategies • Address specific questions from participants.
- **March 18: Grain Marketing Strategies for 2020 (11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.)**
 - Featured Speaker: Ben Brown, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice in Agricultural Risk Management at the Ohio State University.
 - Learn strategies for pre- and post-harvest marketing plans • Learn how to use market basis to improve profitability • Understand how to manage spreads in long/short basis environments • Understand how to connect crop insurance to your marketing plan.

There is no fee to attend. But due to the size of the meeting room, each webinar will be limited to 11 people. Call the Coshocton County Extension office today to reserve your spot at 740-622-2265. Email David Marrison at marrison.2@osu.edu for additional details.

Hay Quality Workshop Slated for March 3

It is no secret our weather conditions have made it difficult to make high quality hay in East Central Ohio during the past few years. The Coshocton & Holmes County Extension offices invited hay and livestock producers to a “Hay Quality Workshop” on Tuesday, March 3 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Miley Community Center at 1332 State Route 83 in Clark, Ohio.

Dr. Ted Wiseman, OSU Extension Educator from Perry County will be the keynote speaker for this event. Participants will learn more about forage sampling, how to interpret a forage analysis, and how to account for poor quality hay when feeding livestock. Learn more about Crude Protein, ADF, and NDF. Learn why your cow's belly may be full of hay but still lacking nutrients. Knowing the key numbers from a hay quality test will help you feed your livestock better!



The fee for this workshop is \$5 per person to cover refreshments and facility rental. This fee can be paid at the door. Pre-registrations are being requested so that adequate handouts and refreshments can be made. Contact either the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265 or the Holmes County Extension office at 330-674-3015 to make your reservation.

Private Pesticide Applicator and Fertilizer Re-Certification Session on March 4

OSU Extension in Coshocton County will be offering a pesticide and fertilizer re-certification session at OSU Extension on Wednesday, March 4 from 5:15 to 9:30 p.m. A one-hour fertilizer re-certification session (Category 15) will be held from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. followed by a 3 hour Private Pesticide Re-certification (CORE & Categories 1-6) session from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The registration cost for the pesticide re-certification session is \$25 for Coshocton County residents and \$35 for out of county residents. Call the Coshocton County Extension at 740-622-2265 to make your reservation.

Tiverton Institute on March 4-5

The Tiverton Institute will be held on March 4-5 at the Tiverton Center (CR 20 and SR 206). On Wednesday, March 4, the program will start at 10 a.m. with coffee and donuts. Morning speakers will include Brad Perkins speaking on Eagles in Ohio and Tammi Rodgers speaking on recycling. A covered dish meal will be held at noon. The afternoon speakers will include Meghan Baughman from the Coshocton Library and Bill Jones speaking on Johnny Appleseed. At 7:00 p.m. music will be provided by the River View. Deputy Dave Stone will also be on hand with K-9 Henata. On Thursday, March 5 the program will once again start at 10 a.m. with coffee and donuts. The morning speakers will be Gail Piper speaking about the Coshocton County Master Gardeners followed by Dr. Risa Pesapane speaking on Ticks. A covered dish meal will be held at noon. The afternoon speakers will include Alice Hoover as the Circuit Riders Wife followed by Mike Bechtol from WTNS Radio. A soup supper will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Music will be provided by Nancy Akin's Band and a skit will be presented by Tiverton youth.

Farmers Breakfast on March 10

The final Farmers Breakfast of the winter will be held on Tuesday, March 10 at the Coshocton Village Inn & Suites at 115 N. Water Street in Coshocton (next to McDonalds). The featured speaker for the breakfast will be Lydia Fach from US Army Corps of Engineers who will speak on "Streambank Regulations." Breakfast is a buffet and the cost is \$9.00 per person, but you do not have to purchase breakfast to attend. Reservations are not required. The breakfasts are sponsored by Coshocton SWCD, Farm Service Agency, and OSU Extension.

eFields Meeting on March 10

eFields is an OSU Extension program dedicated to advancing production agriculture using on-farm research. Coshocton County Extension is pleased to be hosting one of the regional eFields meetings on Tuesday, March 10 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the OSU Extension-Coshocton County office. The evening will include a review of local and statewide projects, discussion with farmer cooperators, and planning for 2020. There is no cost to attend but courtesy reservations are being requested. Contact the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265 or email Marrison.2@osu.edu to RSVP. Registration can also be made on-line at: go.osu.edu/eFieldsMeeting. The e-version of the 2019 eFields report can be viewed or downloaded at go.osu.edu/eFields.

ODA Testing Date in Coshocton County Slated for March 16

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will be administering Private and Commercial Pesticide license examinations on Monday, March 16, 2020 at the Coshocton County Services Building (Room B100) located at 724 South 7th Street in Coshocton, Ohio. The testing will begin at 10:00 a.m. Pre-registrations are required and can be made on-line at the ODA website at:

<https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/pesticides/exam-registration> Producers can also call the ODA at 614-728-6987. Study materials can be obtained at: <https://pested.osu.edu/>

Mortality Composting Workshop Scheduled for March 18

Sometimes, despite a producer's best efforts, livestock die on farms. The producer then is responsible to properly dispose of the carcass through burial, on-farm incineration, renderer pickup or through composting. Many producers are finding that composting provides a cost-effective and environmentally friendly way for disposal of animal carcasses.

However, to legally compost livestock mortality in Ohio, producers are required to attend a certification training. To help producers gain their certification, OSU Extension is hosting a **Livestock Mortality Composting Certification Workshop** on March 18, 2020 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Coshocton County Extension office. Rory Lewandowski, Wayne County Extension will be the featured speaker for this program. Upon completion of the program, all participants will be certified in livestock mortality composting. The fee for this certification is \$10 per person but waived for Coshocton County residents. Pre-registration is requested. Call 740-622-2265 or email marrison.2@osu.edu for more information or to reserve your spot.

7th Annual East Ohio Women in Ag Conference

Ohio State University (OSU) Extension, the outreach arm of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) will host the 7th Annual East Ohio Women in Agriculture Conference. This year's conference convenes on **Thursday, March 19** from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the RG Drage Career Technical Center, 2800 Richville Drive SE in Massillon. All women and young women (high school age) who are interested, involved in, or want to become involved with food, agricultural, or natural resources production or small business are encouraged and welcomed to attend.

The conference program features an agency/vendor fair and eighteen educational breakout sessions presented by OSU Extension educators, producers and partner agencies. Sessions focus around five themes: Business & Finance, Plants & Animals, Communication, Home & Family and Special Interest (areas of specific interest to attendees). Farm and Dairy Editor, Rebecca Miller is the conference featured keynote speaker. Her presentation will engage and enlighten participants on "*Clinging to context in a noisy world: don't lose sight of your 'why'.*" Interested individuals can register for the conference on-line at go.osu.edu/eowia2020. Cost of the conference is \$55 for adult participants and \$30 for students. Conference fee includes conference participation, continental breakfast, lunch and conference handouts. Deadline for registration is Thursday, March 12.

Coshocton County Dairy Banquet on March 20

The Coshocton County Dairy Service Unit is pleased to be hosting the annual Coshocton County Dairy Banquet which on Friday, March 20, 2020 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Coshocton County Career Center. Banquet highlights will include the crowing of the Coshocton County Dairy King & Queen and the recognition of 4-H youth receiving the dairy achievement award. The cost for the banquet is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Dinner will be served by the Fresno United Methodist Church. Tickets can be paid at the door but pre-registrations are requested by March 18 so that adequate food can be prepared. Reservations can be made by contacting the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265 or by contacting Maureen Sturtz at 740-829-2488.

National Ag Day Luncheon

Join us **Wednesday, March 25, 2020** for National Ag Day to recognize the contributions of today's farmers and show our appreciation for the men and women of agriculture. This year's theme is "Food Brings Everyone to the Table." This event is sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America, Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation, OSU Extension, and Coshocton County Chamber of Commerce. The Celebration will be held at the Lock Landing on the lower floor of the Roscoe Village Visitor's Center. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at 11:45, with a short program that will adjourn at 1:00 p.m. Meal will be catered by Schumaker Farms, and the cost is \$10 per person. RSVP by March 13 to (740) 622-8087, ext. 4 or email samanthapriest@coshoctoncounty.net.



Backyard Fruit Production Workshop

OSU Extension invites Coshocton County residents to attend a Backyard Fruit Production Workshop on Monday, March 23 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Coshocton County Services Building located at 724 South 7th Street in Coshocton, Ohio. This workshop will help participants learn how to grow strawberries, red raspberries, black raspberries, and blackberries. Participants will also learn how to care for fruit trees such as apple, peach and pear trees. The keynote speaker Sabrina Schirtzinger, OSU Extension Educator in Knox County. The registration fee of \$10 includes the program, light refreshments, door prizes, and handouts. Due to space limitations, this program will be limited to the first 30 registrants. First come, first served basis. Don't miss this chance to learn more about growing delicious fruit for your family. For more information about this program, contact the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265.



SWCD Tree Sales

The Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District is holding its Annual Tree Seedling Sale! Tree varieties are available in packs of 5, 25, or 100 seedlings, and this year the White Pine, American Plum, Redbud, River Birch, and Tulip-tree are also available as single 2.5 to 4 foot saplings. You are encouraged to order early as there are a set number of seedlings available for the sale. All orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline for turning in order forms is Monday, March 16. The pick-up day for all orders will be Friday, April 17 at the Coshocton SWCD Office. More information about the sale is available by calling 740-740-622-8087, ext. 4 or via email at samanthapriest@coshoctoncounty.net.

Farm Bill Decision Deadline Approaching

By Chris Zoller, Mary Griffith and Ben Brown

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-04/farm-bill-decision-deadline-fast-approaching>

Enrollment in the 2018 Farm Bill programs (PLC, ARC-CO, and ARC-IC) ends on March 16th. If you do not enroll by this date you will default to the election you made in the previous Farm Bill and receive NO PAYMENTS for the 2019 program year. This same election holds true for 2020.

As a reminder, PLC is a price protection/income loss option that covers declines in crop prices and the ARC-CO program is an income support option based on county-level benchmark revenues and guarantees compared to actual revenues. For those with prevent planted acres, the ARC-IC program may be worth consideration. ARC-IC issues payments when individual crop revenue is less than the guarantee and uses individual yields, rather than the county yields.



Once an election is made, the choice carries through for 2019 and 2020. Annual changes can be made in 2021, 2022, and 2023 program years. If you have already made a program election and decide you want to make a change, you may do so until March 16th. Information about the Farm Bill program options and the OSU Farm Bill Decision Tool are available at <https://aede.osu.edu/research/osu-farm-management/2018-farm-bill/arcplc-decision-aid-tools>. You may also consult your local FSA office or OSU Extension Educator for answers to your specific questions.

The Secretary of Agriculture has said there will not be an extension to the enrollment deadline. FSA offices are very busy processing enrollments and have a great deal of work to complete in less than one month. If you have not met with your FSA office staff to enroll in the Farm Bill program, please do so ASAP. Remember, the deadline is March 16th.

Making & Maintaining Quality Baleage

By: [Brady Campbell](#), Program Coordinator, OSU Sheep Team

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/sheep/2020/02/25/making-and-maintaining-quality-baleage/>

It almost seems like a broken record. We have continually talked about the excessive amount of poor quality hay made last year and the issues surrounding how to incorporate it as a viable feed source in livestock diets. Here in Ohio, we have yet to have had an actual winter and the rain continues to fall. This weather pattern may be the new norm, thus we must learn how to adapt to these challenges. So, the question becomes, how will producers make quality first cutting hay that maintains a high feed value in the future?

The greatest challenge with making dry hay is simply getting the forage dry enough for baling before the next precipitation event. With this being said, how can we decrease this time interval while still maintaining a high quality product? The solution may be making baleage or baled haylage. Baleage is certainly not a new concept, but maybe for those that are not accustomed to feeding this type of forage.

Thankfully, for those with uncertainty of how to feed this type of forage or looking for more information on improving their current system, on Friday, February 21 at the Ohio Forages and Grasslands Council Annual Conference in Reynoldsburg, Ohio attendees had the opportunity to listen to Dr. Jimmy Henning, a professor and extension forage specialist with the University of Kentucky as he discussed the in's and out's of making and maintaining quality baleage.

During his presentation, Dr. Henning noted that the biggest issue that producers have to get a handle on when making baleage is determining the moisture content 'in the moment.' When making baleage, moisture should be between 40%-60%, however, this can be difficult to hit this moisture mark! Some may be thinking, that's a 20% range, how can this be so challenging? The challenge here is that forages dry faster than what we think. When mowed, forages are roughly 80% moisture. Dependent upon several environmental conditions, wilting and drying time will vary significantly.

Do you have a moisture tester on farm? When making quality baleage, this is an important tool to have on hand. This range is considered ideal for baleage to properly ferment. Baleage made beyond these recommended ranges can be problematic. Drier forages will tend to have poor fermentation, but can still be fed if done in a quick manner. Some have referred to these forages as sweet hay. Forages baled at a higher moisture content has the potential to break equipment and be toxic when fed to livestock. Just as we always suggest with dry hay samples, it is recommended that baleage also be tested prior to feeding to livestock!

Another tip that Dr. Henning offers is that the best bales to make baleage with are those that are uniform and tight. These bales tend to have flat ends and will line up nicely in an inline tube wrapper. The key here is that we exclude as much oxygen as possible to allow for fermentation to properly occur. Tight, uniform bales are also easier to maneuver, handle, and wrap. Dr. Henning recommends that producers use at least 6 layers of plastic or more. He notes that 4 layers is enough, but at this rate there is no safety net! When wrapping bales, it is better to be safe than sorry. Speaking of plastic, it should also be noted that plastic does not keep out 100% of the oxygen. Plastics will slowly deteriorate over time as well, this is why it is recommended that wrapped forages be fed within the year as forage quality may decrease as plastic integrity diminishes.

Overall, this process sounds simple, but there are some pieces to this puzzle that you must be cautious about. For proper fermentation to occur, a pH of 5.0 or below must be achieved. When mowing our forages, we want to ensure that our ash levels are as low as possible as higher ash levels have been associated with toxic issues. One of the greatest concerns revolves around botulism, which is a toxin that is produced by *Clostridium botulinum* bacteria. However, Dr. Henning notes that *Clostridium botulinum* fermentation does not equal botulism. Small grains tend to have more issues with botulism than grasses and legumes. Small grains in the spring are higher in moisture content (low lactic acid) and tend to have a high ash content due to tillage and/or planting which all lead to potential issues with botulism. These issues pose serious risks when determining how to feed this feed source to livestock as in some cases this will result in animal death due to ingestion of the toxins. Regardless if you suspect there to be an issue with your baleage or not, it is critical to have these feeds tested. You do the math, how many forage tests can you run before it costs more than losing just one animal due to a toxic issue?

Just as Dr. Henning did during his presentation, I will leave you with the two lists that he provided us. The first of which is key steps to making good baleage. This is a good rule of thumb set to follow when making baleage,



regardless of your experience level. The second list outlines high risk baleage factors. These are certainly factors that we would like to avoid at all costs! Good luck during the 2020 haying season and may the weather be in your favor!

Good baleage:

Cut early
Tight uniform bales
Mow only what can be wrapped in one day
Bale at wet end of moisture range (60%)
Use at least 6 layers of plastic
Ensure that you are using quality plastic

High risk baleage factors:

Moisture content above 70%
Loose, uneven bales
4 layers of plastic or less
A BAD smelling odor (butyric acid)
pH greater than 5.0
Ash content is greater than 11%

What's Included in Your Calving Book?

By: William Halfman

Source: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wbic/2020/02/12/whats-included-in-your-calving-book/>

As we gear up for calving season, now is a good time to consider what information we should be recording in our calving books. The key is not what we weigh, measure, collect, spray, or write down. It's what we do with the information months later that really counts.

In addition to some key information such as calving date, calf sex, and birth weight, here may be some new columns to include in your calving book. Ultimately, accumulating this information should aid in making more informed decisions about the future of your cow herd.

Cow disposition score – Typically, this is recorded as a score of 1 to 6 with a 1 being maintaining a very docile demeanor whereas a 6 indicates a very aggressive temperament towards her calf, other animals, or people. While a cow's score may vary the other 364 days a year, her disposition score on the day she calves when you need to collect information on her and her calf is the most important one.

While it is easy to make the decision to cull a bad-tempered female who raises a poor calf, the decision might be harder for a cow who has a bad attitude at the time of calving but still raises a good calf. However, don't forget that temperament is a moderately heritable trait, and high-stress animals have poorer feed conversion and performance and result in increased stress of the owner. Despite how it feels in the real world sometimes, there is research data that suggests bad-tempered females have lower artificial and natural conception rates compared to more docile females. Not to mention the huge safety concern these high-headed females are.

Cow body condition score (BCS) – This is typically a score of 1 to 9 in beef cows, with a score of 5 and 6 being ideal for mature beef cows at the timing of calving. There are countless online resources to help self-assess your herd's condition. What many producers don't realize is that BCS has a direct correlation to colostrum quality and quantity produced. Both too thin (BCS at 4 or lower) and too heavy (BCS of 7 or higher) cows produce less amounts of lower-quality colostrum.

Winter hair coats often hide fat cover, so BCS collected this time of the year tend to be overestimated. However, monitoring and recording BCS near calving, breeding, and weaning allows to assess milking ability and may help explain poor calf performance or cow reproductive success later in life.

Cow udder score – This includes two scores on 1 to 9 scale : teat size and udder suspension. Scores should be recorded within 24 hours of calving to be most representative. Scores approaching 1 indicate very poor, large teats and poor udder structure. On the flip side, higher scores approaching 9 indicate very tight udders and small teat size which may also be problematic for newborn calves to find and latch onto . Both traits are moderately heritable, so having this information is a great tool to make progress in udder quality through selection. (For more information on udder and teat scoring, click on the following link: [University of Nebraska: A Guide to Udder and Teat Scoring Beef Cows](#))

Calf vigor – This can be monitored or scored based on several ways but is something that needs to be measured within the first couple of hours after birth. This is likely one of those measurements that may not be very useful, unless you have a major problem. Coupling the percentage or timing within calving season of lethargic calves with cow BCS, udder score, and other data may help identify whether there is an environmental, herd health, or nutritional issue that is the underlying problem. Likewise, you may find that a certain cow family or a sire has a larger risk of poor calf vigor compared to others.

Treatment and supplementation – Noting which calves required treatment for navel infection, assistance getting started, or colostrum supplementation will be helpful to monitor calf sickness and performance later in life. If persistent in collection over the years, this data may be useful in identifying cow families that are at risk for increased calf sickness which may indicate poor mothering abilities or colostrum antibodies production. In addition to being helpful when troubleshooting issues later in calf life, records of all vaccinations and treatments should be kept for at least two years in order to follow Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) guidelines. Regardless of what you choose to write down, culling cows, buying bulls, and selecting replacement females should always be based on informed decisions. The calving book is a tremendous tool to enhance profitability.

Written by: Erika Lundy and Patrick Wall, Iowa State Extension Beef Specialists, and posted here with lead author's permission. "This article first appeared in the [Iowa Cattleman](#) magazine."

Muddy Issues- Mastitis & Scours

By: [Christine Gelley](#), Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Noble County, OSU Extension

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/02/19/muddy-issues-mastitis-and-scours/>

We finally got some snow and freezing temperatures! At our house, we didn't get snow a single day that our Christmas decorations were up, but snow on Valentine's Day was appreciated. Fresh snow provides a refreshing look to the landscape when it covers up all the muck and brown underneath it. However, those cold temperatures are still not lasting long enough to firm up the ground and as soon as we track through that snow, our break from reality is over.



Mud creates challenges with mobility both for our animals and equipment. Aside from complicating the logistics of caring for the farm, mud increases our risks for herd health complications too. Many producers have babies on the farm right now. It is important to watch out for signs of mastitis with the mothers and scours with the young.

Lactating animals are at greater risk of mastitis infections when it is muddy. Contaminants on the udder tissue can enter the mammary glands through the milk ducts and cause inflammation. Mothers with mastitis may not allow their young to nurse at the needed length of time or frequency due to pain. The udder may feel hard or hot. Many cases of mastitis occur and pass before we ever notice, but some more acute cases can cause lasting damage to the mother's mammary tissue and reduce the growth of her young.

As soon as possible after birth and if you are able, check that each teat produces colostrum (the first and most crucial milk). Getting colostrum into a newborn within the first few hours is critical for the long-term health of the animal. The best source of colostrum is from the newborn's mother. If this is not possible, the next best choice is another mother of the same species from your farm. After that, the next best choice is a colostrum replacer. The nutrient composition of milk is different from species to species and there are diseases that can be passed through milk from farm to farm. Therefore, do not substitute across species or with milk from another farm. In addition, do not pasteurize colostrum. It will denature the components that make it so special. If you have a mother that produces extra colostrum or in the unfortunate event that a mother dies giving birth or shortly after, milks as much colostrum from her as you can and freeze it. Thaw frozen colostrum/milk in a warm water bath, never in the microwave. For more tips consult <https://u.osu.edu/beef> or <https://u.osu.edu/sheep> by typing

“colostrum” into the search bar. There are many helpful articles available on the OSU Extension Team websites that you can access 24/7.

Another very helpful article was featured in Farm and Dairy recently by my colleague in Belmont County – Dan Lima – about scours. It can be viewed online at <https://go.osu.edu/scoursbydan>. In his article, Dan reminds us that muddy conditions put calves (and other young) at a higher risk of developing scours, which is most obviously noticeable as diarrhea. Scours can be caused by a variety of organisms present in mud. The most common being E. coli. Often the young will pick up the bacteria (or other pathogens) from mother’s udder tissue while nursing. Scours can be very detrimental to young animals because it causes dehydration and weight loss.

Young that receive adequate amounts of colostrum at birth receive helpful antibodies from their mothers that provide the immune system responses needed to combat the pathogens that cause scours. Vaccines can be administered to mothers in the weeks before calving that can also increase immunity in their young to scours. In both mastitis and scours cases, the best way to keep issues at bay is through prevention. Do everything in your power to provide a relatively clean birthing environment and promote healthy immune systems.

Cull mothers that do not adequately care for their young or that have poor udder structure. If the udders are not conformed to aid the young nursing, they will struggle. If the udder bag is abnormally saggy, there is a greater chance of contamination of manure on the teats. Make notes at birth and after regarding mothering capabilities and resist the urge to give too many chances to mothers that create problems for you. A mother that does not do her job is a liability rather than an asset and will likely pass those traits on to her young. For lasting success, only keep the assets on your farm. Good luck as we traipse through the rest of this muddy winter together!

Small Herd Sire Decisions: The Heifer Bull Dilemma

By: [Garth Ruff](#) OSU Extension Henry County

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/02/26/small-herd-sire-decisions-the-heifer-bull-dilemma/#more-8351>

Bull buying season is almost upon us, and for the smaller cow-calf operators in the region, I think it time to ask the question: Do you need to buy a heifer bull? Year over year as I sit and watch bull buying decisions being made, I have observed producers faced with the dilemma of buying a calving ease “heifer bull” or a higher performance sire with a slightly higher birth weight. Part of the dilemma is the total the cost of the bull, where locally, a “heifer bull” will cost more, due to the willingness of cattlemen to pay for calving ease sires.

Before tackling this question it is important to recognize that the past quarter century, the beef industry has made tremendous strides in the area of genetic improvement, a large part of which can be attributed to the adoption and understanding of Expected Progeny Differences (EPD’s). With a desire for calving ease, one of the most studied and most utilized EPD’s by cattlemen when purchasing bulls is Birth Weight (BW) and more recently, Calving Ease Direct (CED). Another data point to consider is the Accuracy of a given EPD. Accuracy values range from 0 to 1. Often high accuracy bulls that have had hundreds, perhaps thousands of progeny data points are considered to be proven bulls.

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, the average cow herd size in Ohio is about 17 cows. For the sake of math, let’s assume on an operation of 20-25 cows and the following conditions. 1) the annual culling rate is 15-20 percent and 2) that there is on a single bull on the farm. This would mean culling 4-5 cows and keeping that many replacement heifers annually. Does 15-20 percent of the herd dictate how bull buying decisions are made? If selling cattle by the pound, how much production (revenue) is lost by breeding mature cows to calving ease bulls?

When it comes to making genetic decisions, one needs to consider the resources available when evaluating potential sires. Available labor is one resource to be considered. A live calf is always more valuable than a dead calf. If labor is a limiting factor, then there is a case to be made for a “heifer bull” in a single bull herd. However, if labor is not a limiting factor, there are options available to capitalize on genetic improvement within in the herd. Consider the following scenarios in which the goal is to capitalize on both calving ease for

replacement heifers while adding pounds and performance to calves from our mature cows.

Figure 1. Example EPD's of calving ease sire (Bull 1) and high growth and performance sire (Bull 2).

		CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	DOC	Milk	Marb	RE	Fat	\$W	\$B
Bull 1	EPD	17	-3.5	46	90	0.2	35	28	0.6	0.65	0.003	69	126
	Acc	0.92	0.97	0.96	0.94	0.93	0.9	0.87	0.72	0.68	0.72		
Bull 2	EPD	5	2.6	82	144	2.29	33	27	0.83	0.86	-0.011	84	190
	Acc	0.62	0.83	0.76	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.29	0.4	0.4	0.39		

Scenario #1: Artificially Inseminate Heifers

If genetic improvement is a goal, artificially inseminating heifers to a proven calving ease A.I. sire can be advantageous. When utilizing a calving ease bull with an accuracy of 0.8 or greater for CED and BW, the risk for calving difficulty is much lower than compared to using an unproven yearling or two-year-old bull to breed heifers. By combining estrous synchronization with A.I. there is the increased ability to calve heifers in a shorter calving window. First calf heifers traditionally have a longer post-partum interval before returning to estrous. Compared to mature cows, it's recommended if possible, to calve first calf heifers early in the calving season to allow for an increased probability of rebreeding within the desired breeding season.

With regards to a bull purchasing decision, calving ease should be less of a concern if only using natural service sires on mature cows. Performance EPD's such as Weaning Weight, Yearling Weight can be of greater consideration if selling feeder cattle. If maintaining ownership throughout the feed period, one can also focus and capitalize on terminal traits such as Back Fat, Ribeye Area, and Marbling or Percent Intramuscular Fat (%IMF).

Scenario #2: Sell Heifer Calves and Purchase Bred Replacements

Raising replacement females efficiently and correctly requires a level of management that is often not feasible within small herds. To meet nutrient requirements, in a ideal system, one would raise replacement heifers and two-year-old females separate from the mature cow herd. Those younger females still have nutrient requirements for growth and development, whereas the requirements of mature cows are often met maintenance levels. If unable to manage the development of replacement females correctly there is a cost associated. That cost could be calving difficulty, longer post-partum intervals, reduced conception rates as two year olds, or reduced milk production.

Once again, this scenario also allows for the utilization of genetics that will add productivity to the mature cows in the herd. When making the decision to raise or purchase bred replacement females there are some additional factors to consider. Lee Schulz and Patrick Gunn at Iowa State University suggest there are potential advantages to both decisions (see Table 1).

Table 1. Potential advantages to either raising or purchasing replacement beef females.

Raising Replacement Females	Purchasing Bred Replacements
Genetic Control	Free-up Resources for Alternative Uses
Understanding of a Replacement Heifer's Background	Reduced Bull Power and Allowing Increased Emphasis on Non-calving related EPDs
Control over Disease	Expand Herd or Change Breeding Program in Less Time
Cost Less to Raise than Buy	May Be Able to Buy Genetically Superior Heifers
	Cost Less to Buy Than Raise

In order to analyze replacement female costs, Iowa State also have a calculator designed to compare the two decisions. Those respective tools can be found at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/livestock/html/b1-73.html>.

Summary

Selecting a herd bull is an important decision that will have long lasting impacts on the productivity and profitability of the cattle enterprise. By utilizing EPD's and setting goals for continuous genetic improvement there are options available to the small beef cattle producers in Ohio and across the Eastern Cornbelt. Economic and management consideration should be made when deciding which bull best suits your operation and management capabilities.

References:

Schulz, L., and Gunn P. (2014). Raising Versus Buying Heifers for Beef Cow Replacement. Iowa State University Extension. Ames IA. Retrieved from: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/livestock/pdf/b1-73.pdf>

2017 Census of Agriculture. (2019). USDA-NASS. Washington D.C. Retrieved from: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_State_Level/Ohio/st39_1_0015_0016.pdf

OSU Searching for Beef Cattle Specialist

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/02/26/osu-beef-cattle-field-specialist-immediate-opening/>

The individual in this position has the responsibility of developing and stewarding a tripartite partnership between the Ohio State University Department of Animal Sciences, field-based Extension professionals, and representatives of the beef industry to respond to the ever-changing needs of beef producers. Consequently, it will be important for the incumbent to adeptly listen to stakeholders, distill research to a usable form, and develop consistent statewide programmatic responses that can be delivered through Extension and other channels. This individual will serve as the central point of contact through which internal and external stakeholders can connect with the beef cattle expertise at Ohio State. The roles will include planning and organizing learning experiences for producers, industry representatives, and the public that respond to contemporary industry issues and needs in the areas of animal care and welfare, marketing, and forage, including:

- Beef Quality Assurance and bio-security training for adult and youth producers,
- Promote consumer understanding of beef production practices,
- Improved marketing and management practices, and
- Forage systems to improve productivity for Ohio cow-calf operations.

The successful individual would be expected to facilitate the work of the OSU Extension Beef Team by actively involving representatives from across campuses, participating in applied research, and coordinating the dissemination of information to relevant stakeholders through traditional and innovative means to create consistent training materials statewide. The position is a full-time, 12-month appointment. For additional questions about the expectations of the position, contact Ted Wiseman, Search Committee Chair, Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, PO Box 279, Somerset, OH 43783, 740-743-1602, wiseman.15@osu.edu. For complete position description and online application instructions, please go to www.jobsatosu.com and search by Job Opening Number 457921. To assure consideration you must apply by March 22, 2020. The Ohio State University is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or identity, national origin, disability status, or protected veteran status.

Upcoming Programs

- Farm Management Luncheon Webinar Series- Feb 26 and March 11 & 18
- Hay Quality Workshop: March 3
- Pesticide & Fertilizer Re-certification in Coshocton- March 4
- Farmers Breakfast- March 10
- eFields Regional Meeting in Coshocton- March 10
- Mortality Composting Workshop- March 18
- Pesticide & Fertilizer Re-certification in Tuscarawas County- March 19
- Backyard Fruit Production Workshop: March 23
- National Ag Day Luncheon- March 25
- Pesticide & Fertilizer Re-certification in Tuscarawas County- March 26

**Check out upcoming
programs at:**

go.osu.edu/coshoctonevents

Sharpen Your Farm Management Skills at Lunch Webinars

**Coshocton County Services
Bldg - Room 110
724 South 7th Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812**

OSU Extension in Coshocton County invites farm managers to grab their lunch and join us for one of the following State Farm Management webinars.

February 19: Grain Contracts & Markets: What to Use When (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

Lindsay Fager, Risk Management Trainee with INTL FCStone Bowling Green, Ohio.

Understand the types of grain contracts, how they compare amongst each other, and using them to manage risk. • Understand grain price cycles and when is the right time to market grain. • Learn about the factors that influence the grain markets.

February 26: Where to Start with Workers Compensation Benefits (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

Dee Jepsen, Leader of the OSU Extension Ag Safety and Health Program and the Ohio AgrAbility program.

Learn what is required and not required by Ohio Workers Compensation Benefits • Learn strategies to improve worker safety on the farm. • Understand reporting and documentation requirements under the law.

March 11: Estate Planning: What are the Tools and Options (11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.)

Robert Moore, Co-owner of Wright & Moore Law Co. LPA

Identify and explain legal tools available to farmers for a succession plan • Discuss succession planning strategies • Address specific questions from participants.

March 18: Grain Marketing Strategies for 2020 (11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.)

Ben Brown, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice in Agricultural Risk Management at the Ohio State University.


Learn strategies for pre- and post-harvest marketing plans • Learn how to use market basis to improve profitability • Understand how to manage spreads in long/short basis environments • Understand how to connect crop insurance to your marketing plan.

There is no fee to attend. But due to the size of the meeting room, each webinar will be limited to 11 people. Call the Coshocton County Extension office today to reserve your spot at 740-622-2265.



Hay Quality Workshop

How Good is My Hay?



Tuesday, March 3, 2020
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Miley Community Center
1332 State Route 83
Clark, Ohio

It is no secret our weather conditions have made it difficult to make high quality hay in East Central Ohio during the past few years. The Coshocton & Holmes County Extension offices invited hay and livestock producers to a **“Hay Quality Workshop”** on Tuesday, March 3 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Miley Community Center at 1332 State Route 83 in Clark, Ohio. Dr. Ted Wiseman, OSU Extension Educator from Perry County will be the keynote speaker for this event. Participants will learn more about forage sampling, how to interpret a forage analysis, and how to account for poor quality hay when feeding livestock. Learn more about Crude Protein, ADF, and NDF. Learn why your cow’s belly may be full of hay but still lacking nutrients. Knowing the key numbers from a hay quality test will help you feed your livestock better!

The fee for this workshop is \$5 per person to cover refreshments and facility rental. This fee can be paid at the door.

Pre-registrations are being requested so that adequate handouts and refreshments can be made. Contact either the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265 or the Holmes County Extension office at 330-674-3015 to make your reservation.



Backyard Fruit Production Workshop

**Monday, March 23, 2020
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Coshocton County Services Bldg
Room B100
724 South 7th Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812**

Join OSU Extension and learn how to grow strawberries, red raspberries, black raspberries, and blackberries. Keynote speaker Sabrina Schirtzinger, OSU Extension Educator in Knox County, will also discuss caring for fruit trees such as apple, peach and pear trees.

Don't miss this chance to learn more about growing delicious fruit for your family. Pre-registration is requested as space is limited to the first 30 registrants. The registration fee for this program is \$10 per person.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION. The registration fee of \$10 includes the program, light refreshments, door prizes, and handouts. Due to space limitations, this program will be limited to the first 30 registrants. First come, first served basis.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

\$10 per person to register

Please make checks payable to OSU Extension and mail to OSU Extension, 724 South 7th Street, Room 110, Coshocton, Ohio 43812. For more information, call 740-622-2265.

Livestock Mortality Composting Certification

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Coshocton County Services
Bldg - Room 145
724 South 7th Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812**



As rendering and burial options for livestock mortality become more limiting or restrictive, composting livestock mortality is a good and environmentally friendly alternative. To legally compost livestock mortality in Ohio, producers are required to attend a certification training. OSU Extension invites livestock producers to earn their **Mortality Composting Certification** on March 18, 2020 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Coshocton County Extension office. Rory Lewandowski, Wayne County Extension will be the featured speaker for this program. Upon completion of the program, all participants will be certified in livestock mortality composting. The fee for this certification is \$10 per person (but waived for Coshocton County residents).

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED. There is no registration fee for Coshocton County residents and \$10 for out-of-county attendees. Room space is limited so register today! Call 740-622-2265 or email marrison.2@osu.edu for more information or to reserve your spot.

Name _____ County _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

_____ \$0 for Coshocton County Residents

_____ \$10 for Out-of-County

Make checks payable to **OSU Extension** and return to:
OSU Extension, 724 South 7th Street, Room 110, Coshocton, Ohio 43812



2020 Tree Sale Order Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

How would you like to receive the pick-up reminder? **Postcard** or **E-mail**

Would you like to receive our quarterly newsletter? **Yes - No - Already Receive**

Mail form with payment to:

Coshocton SWCD

724 S. Seventh Street, Room 120

Coshocton, OH 43812

Order Forms must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday March 16th and are subject to availability. If you have any questions, please call (740) 622-8087, ext. 4. Forms are also available at our office, and more information about the tree sale is available on our website at www.coshoctonswcd.org.

Important Information

Seedling Orders

There is no limit on the number of packets that can be ordered, but **all orders are subject to availability. We suggest ordering as soon as possible, since there are a set number of seedlings available. Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.** Anyone can order trees regardless of county residence, but trees *will not be delivered or mailed*. **Payment must be included with your order.**

Projected pick up date is Friday, April 17th at the Coshocton SWCD Office. Please be sure to specify on the order form how you would like to be notified of the pick up date.

Wildflower Seed Packet: 1 ounce of seeds per packet; plants 100 to 200 square feet.

Marking Flags: Available in pink or white; each flag is 4" x 5" on a 30" wire.

Please Indicate Quantity of Packs for Each Variety			
Native Conifers	Pack of 5 9"-18" seedlings	Pack of 25 6"-9" seedlings	Pack of 100 6"-9" seedlings
	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$60.00
Bald Cypress			
White Pine			
Native Small Trees & Shrubs (20' and under)	Pack of 5 10"-18" seedlings	Pack of 25 6"-12" seedlings	Pack of 100 6"-12" seedlings
	\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00
American Plum			
Chokecherry			
Pawpaw			
Redbud			
Washington Hawthorn			
White Flowering Dogwood			
Winterberry			
Witch Hazel			
Native Large Trees	Pack of 5 12"-18" seedlings	Pack of 25 6"-12" seedlings	Pack of 100 6"-12" seedlings
	\$10.00	\$30.00	\$90.00
Chestnut Oak			
Hackberry			
Ohio Buckeye			
Red Maple			
Red Oak			
River Birch			
Sassafras			
Swamp White Oak			
Thornless Honey Locust			
Tuliptree			
White Oak			
Saplings One single 2.5' to 4' sapling	Cost	Full Height	Number of Trees
White Pine	\$5.00	60'-80'	
American Plum	\$10.00	15'-25'	
Redbud	\$10.00	25'-30'	
River Birch	\$10.00	40'-70'	
Tuliptree	\$10.00	60'-90'	
Additional Items		Cost	Qty.
Wildflower Seed Packet		\$5.00	
Plantskydd Repellent - Powder Concentrate		\$20.00	
Plantskydd Repellent - Pre-mixed Spray		\$20.00	
Pond Management Book		\$10.00	
Marking Flags Circle White or Pink	25	\$4.00	
	50	\$5.00	
	100	\$8.00	
Grand Total Enclosed:			

Source: Newsletter

Tree Seedlings: Seedling sizes are approx. 6 to 18 inches depending on variety; sapling varieties are approx. 3 to 4 feet tall. All trees are state/federally inspected and **are bare root seedlings**. Reasonable substitutions may be made based on availability.

Plantskydd Repellent: Contains 1 lb of powder concentrate that will treat over 200 plants or 1 qt of pre-mixed spray that will treat around 100 plants. Plantskydd can help prevent damage to seedlings from browsing deer, rabbits, and opossum.

Seedling Varieties in alphabetical order	Mature Height	Mature Width	Growth Rate	Sun Light	Soil Moisture	Soil PH
American Plum edible fruit, fragrant flowers, attracts birds	15'-25'	15'-25'	F	S	D, M	N
Bald Cypress long living, deciduous conifer	50'-70'	20'-45'	M	S, P	M, W	A
Chestnut Oak wildlife, timber	50'-70'	50'-70'	S-M	S	D, M	N
Chokecherry edible fruit, showy white flowers	20'-30'	15'-20'	M	S, P, SH	M	N
Hackberry edible fruit, attracts wildlife, unique bark	40'-60'	40'-60'	M-F	S, P	M	N
Ohio Buckeye attracts wildlife, Ohio's state tree	20'-40'	20'-40'	M	S, P, SH	M, W	A
Pawpaw edible fruit, wildlife	15' - 30'	15' - 30'	F-M	S, P	M, W	A, N
Red Maple lovely fall foliage, wildlife	40'-70'	30'-50'	M	S, P	W	A
Red Oak tolerates dry conditions, timber, landscaping	50' - 60'	50' - 60'	F	S	D, M	N
Redbud adaptable, edible pink-magenta flowers	25' - 30'	26' - 33'	M	S, P	M, W	B
River Birch unique flaky bark, wildlife	40'-70'	40'-60'	F	S, P	W, M	N
Sassafras aromatic, wildlife, roots can be used for teas	30'-60'	25'-40'	F	S, P	M	A
Swamp White Oak adaptable, bottomlands, timber, wildlife	50' - 70'	50' - 70'	M-S	S, P	M	A
Thornless Honey Locust attractive, wildlife	60'-80'	60'-80'	F	S	M	N
Tuliptree showy flowers, attracts wildlife, medicinal	60'-90'	30'-50'	F	S	M	A
Washington Hawthorn shrubby tree, showy flowers, attracts wildlife	25'-30'	25'-30'	M	S	M	N
White Flowering Dogwood spring flowers, red/burgundy autumn color	20' - 30'	20' - 25'	M-S	S, P	M	A
White Oak timber, wildlife, long-lived, ornamental	50' - 70'	50' - 70'	M-S	S, P	D, M, W	N
White Pine timber, windbreak, wildlife	60'-80'	20'-40'	F	S	M	A, N
Winterberry red fruits, attracts birds and butterflies	3'-12'	3'-12'	S-M	S, P, SH	M, W	A
Witch Hazel attractive fall color, wildlife, medicinal	15'-20'	15'-20'	M	P, SH	M	A

Growth Rate: F = fast 12"/year, M = medium 6"-12"/year, S = slow 2"-6"/year

Light Required: S = sun, P = part sun/part shade, SH = shade **Soil Moisture:** D = dry, M = medium, W = wet

Soil pH: A = acidic (6.5 or less), N = normal pH range (6.5 - 7.5), B = basic/alkaline (7.5 or higher)

eFields

connecting science to fields

eFields is an Ohio State University program dedicated to advancing production agriculture through the use of field-scale research.

Make plans to join us to learn about the 2019 study results from your area plus across the state.

AGENDA

6:00 PM eFields Overview

6:30 PM Local Trials and Results

7:45 PM Partner Farmer Panel

8:30 PM Discuss Future Projects

2019 eFields Regional Meetings *Eastern Region*

March 10, 2020: 6 – 9 p.m.

Location:

Coshocton County Services
Building – Room B100
724 South 7th Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812

No cost to attend.

RSVP at

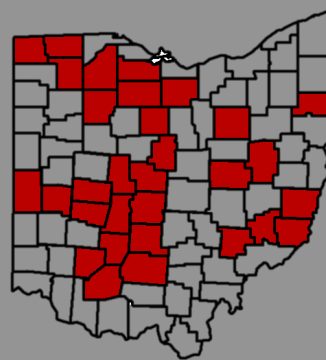
go.osu.edu/eFieldsMeeting

Contact: David Marrison

Marrison.2@osu.edu

740-622-2265

For More Information:
go.osu.edu/eFields



go.osu.edu/eFields



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