

COSHOCTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES**July 22, 2020 Issue**

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Hello, Coshocton County! The coronavirus pandemic continues to disrupt each of our lives and businesses. I don't know about you but I would like to fast forward directly to 2021. Can 2020 get any crazier? I think the answer is YES as it seems to me that every week seems to one-up the week before and this week has been no exception.

One blessing from the past week have been the timely showers. It was nice to wake up this morning and hear it raining. We have received 7/10 of an inch this week at our house. We are fortunate as many parts of western Ohio are getting really dry. Let's hope we continue to get the rain we need, when our crops need it.

I can't believe we are already pushing towards the month of August. If we can keep getting timely rains, now would be the time to begin pasture and hay field renovations. I have included a few articles on this subject. And for those you who like making hay---make sure to read the Dog Days of Summer article. There may be a benefit in it for you. Stay well everyone!

Sincerely,

David Marrison

Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Pasture Walk Scheduled for July 28

Area beef producers are invited to join the Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service and OSU Extension at a Summer Pasture Walk on **Tuesday, July 28** at the Jim Schumaker farm located at 21991 County Road 124 in West Lafayette, Ohio starting at 6:30 p.m. During this pasture walk, attendees will learn about a new grazing system and conservation practices installed at the farm.

We hope you join us for this informal walk. Attend and gain ideas on how you can improve your grazing system and beef handling system. There is no cost to attend and light refreshments will be available. Reservations are not required but appreciated. Call the Coshocton SWCD at 740-622-8087 ext 4 (or email samanthadaugherty@coshoctoncounty.net) for more details or to pre-register.



Late Summer Establishment of Perennial Forages

By: Mark Sulc

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-23/late-summer-establishment-perennial-forages>

The month of August provides the second window of opportunity for establishing perennial forage stands this year. The primary risk with late summer forage seedings is having sufficient moisture for seed germination and plant establishment, which is a significant risk this summer given the low soil moisture status across many areas.

The decision to plant or not will have to be made for each individual field, considering soil moisture and the rain forecast. Rainfall/soil moisture in the few weeks immediately after seeding is the primary factor affecting successful establishment.

No-till seeding in August is an excellent choice to conserve soil moisture for good germination. Make sure that the field surface is relatively level and smooth if you plan to no-till seed because you will have to live with any field roughness for several years of harvesting operations.



Sclerotinia crown and stem rot is a concern with no-till seedings of alfalfa in late summer and especially where clover has been present in the past. This pathogen causes white mold on alfalfa seedlings and infects plants during cooler rainy spells in late October and November. Early August plantings dramatically improve the alfalfa's ability to resist the infection. Late August seedings are very susceptible to this disease, with mid-August plantings being intermediate.

In a no-till situation, minimize competition from existing weeds by applying a glyphosate burndown before planting. Using no-till when herbicide-resistant weeds are present, such as marehail, creates a very difficult situation with no effective control options, so tillage is probably a better choice in those situations.

Post-emergence herbicide options exist for alfalfa to control late summer and fall emerging winter annual broadleaf weeds. A mid- to late fall application of Butyrac (2,4-DB), bromoxynil, Pursuit or Raptor are the primary herbicide options for winter annual broadleaf weeds. Fall application is much more effective than a spring application for control of these weeds especially if wild radish/wild turnip are in the weed mix. Pursuit and Raptor can control winter annual grasses in the fall in pure legume stands but not in a mixed alfalfa/grass planting. Consult the 2020 Ohio, Indiana, Illinois Weed Control Guide and always read the specific product label for guidelines on timing and rates before applying any product.

For conventional tillage seeding prepare a firm seedbed to ensure good seed-to-soil contact. Be aware that too much tillage depletes soil moisture and increases the risk of soil crusting. Follow the "footprint guide" that soil should be firm enough for a footprint to sink no deeper than one-half inch. Tilled seedbeds do not need a pre-plant herbicide.

Finally, keep in mind the following factors to increase establishment success.

- Soil fertility and pH: The recommended soil pH for alfalfa is 6.5 to 6.8. Forage grasses and clovers should have a pH of 6.0 or above. The minimum or critical soil phosphorus level for forage legumes is 30 ppm Mehlich-3 and for grasses 20 ppm Mehlich-3. The critical soil potassium level is 120 ppm for most of our soils.
- Check herbicide history of field. A summary table of herbicide rotation intervals for alfalfa and clovers is available at <http://go.osu.edu/herbrotationintervals>. Forage grasses are not included in that table, so check the labels of any herbicides applied to the field in the last 2 years for any restrictions that might exist.
- Seed selection: Be sure to use high quality seed of adapted varieties and use fresh inoculum of the proper Rhizobium bacteria for legume seeds. "Common" seed (variety not stated) is usually lower yielding and not as persistent, and from our trials the savings in seed cost is lost within the first year or two through lower forage yields.
- Planting date: Planting of alfalfa and other legumes should be completed between late July and mid-August in Northern Ohio and between early and late August in Southern Ohio. Most cool-season perennial grasses can be planted a little later. Check the Ohio Agronomy Guide for specific guidelines (see <http://go.osu.edu/forage-seeding-dates>).
- Planter calibration: If coated seed is used, be aware that coatings can account for up to one-third of the weight of the seed. This affects the number of seeds planted in planters set to plant seed on a weight basis. Seed coatings can also dramatically alter how the seed flows through the drill, so calibrate the drill or planter with the seed to be planted.
- Seed placement: The recommended seeding depth for forages is one-quarter to one-half inch deep. It is better to err on the side of planting shallow rather than too deep.

Do not harvest a new perennial forage stand this fall. The ONLY exception to this rule is perennial and Italian ryegrass plantings. Mow or harvest those grasses to a two and a half to three-inch stubble in late November to improve winter survival. Do not cut any other species in the fall, especially legumes.

Replacing "Junk Forage with "Quality" Forage

By: [Christine Gelley](#), Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Noble County OSU Extension (originally published in the [Ohio Cattleman](#) summer issue)

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/07/22/replacing-junk-forage-with-quality-forage/>

Do these comments sound familiar to you?

"I really need to do something with that junk pasture this year."

"The bales off that hay field are junk. I'm going to reseed it."

Issues with "junk forage" can include low yields, weed encroachment, and low-quality feed value. Forage growers tend to lament over junk forage two of the four seasons of the year. One is the summer, when their hay equipment is running, their animals are grazing, and the forage is right in front of their eyes. The other is winter, when forage is in short supply, quality issues are leading to low animal productivity, and when pastures

look more like mud spas. The time to make progress on correcting the factors that lead to junk forage is primarily in spring and fall.

Summer is the season for evaluation and making plans for improvement. Before implementing solutions for that junk forage, understanding what factors contributed to stand decline is crucial.

One of the first solutions often considered is reseeding the field. Reseeding could be one of the solutions for turning pastures around, but if you give it more thought, there could be other factors to address.

Before committing to reseeding, make sure you have completed a recent soil test and made corrections for pH and nutrients. In many cases, applying lime and/or fertilizer can yield quicker and more economical results than reseeding. If adjustments are necessary and you still think reseeding is a good idea, choose a forage that will survive in the soil you have now. In general, it takes a year or more to effectively raise soil pH.



If stand decline is limiting production, perhaps it's time to reseed.

Sites that have overly acidic or overly alkaline soils often have issues with weeds as well as reduced yields. Correcting soil fertility and pH in combination with leaving adequate forage stubble after haying or grazing will improve the ability of established forages to compete with weeds. Overgrazing and/or mowing too short will stress forage regrowth. Identifying the weeds in your forage stands and using an integrated approach for control that includes addressing soil health, forage regrowth, and appropriate herbicides has the potential to be more effective than reseeding.

Forage quality is an attribute that is tied to forage stand composition, soil fertility, and forage variety, but the most important factor is maturity of the plant. Whether the forage is harvested through grazing or mechanized means, it should be harvested before it develops seed to yield the best nutritional quality. As plants mature, quality is reduced, but yield increases. Managers should make every effort possible to balance good quality forage with good yields. Poor harvest timing is a common cause of “junk forage”.

After considering current site management, decide whether you should reseed, what to use, and how to get it accomplished.

For perennial forages, fall seeding is often preferred to spring because weed competition is reduced. Most perennial forages should be planted in mid-August in Ohio for best success.

Annual forages will only last for a short time but can increase the flexibility of your operation or serve as a cover crop while you decide on the next crop. Summer annuals like sorghum-sudangrass or teffgrass can be seeded as late as mid-July. Winter annuals like rye, wheat, and triticale can be planted in mid-August for fall and/or spring grazing or wet wrapped as baleage or chopped for silage. Brassica crops like turnips and radishes can be seeded at the same time, intercropped with other annuals or perennials or on their own and provide good grazing into late fall and early winter. Spring oats can also be incorporated for the same time frame.

Shop for improved seed varieties for best performance. New varieties are released each year. Reliable and proven seed will come with a detailed seed tag and source information. Avoid seed labeled “VNS”, which stands for “variety not stated.”

When it comes to site preparation and seeding, consider the size of your seed and the uniformity of the soil surface. If you intend to broadcast the seed, terminate existing forages, till and drag the soil, and make sure the seedbed is firm. This will allow good seed to soil contact that is critical for uniform germination. Drilling into existing cover is another option, which is preferred for seed that will be sown on highly erodible soils or needs to be placed deeper into the soil profile. Ground cover should be suppressed by close grazing and/or herbicide application before drilling the seed.



Proper depth and seed to soil contact are important when establishing a new stand.

Whatever means you use to sow the forage, always take the time to inspect the machinery, calibrate it for the seed you are using, and test a small area before pouring all the seed into the hopper. One of the most common causes of stand failure is seeding too deep or at the improper rate, which can usually be corrected during calibration.

For additional help with forage management and establishment, consult the [Ohio Agronomy Guide](#), Chapters 7 & 9.

Leafhoppers, Grasshoppers, and Beetles, Oh My!

by: Kelley Tilmon & Andy Michel

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-23/leafhoppers-grasshoppers-and-beetles-oh-my>

As the summer progresses we are receiving reports of insect problems often encouraged by hot, dry weather. Last week we reported on spider mites and especially if you are in an area of continued dry weather we recommend scouting your soybeans and corn <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-22/watch-spider-mites-dry-areas>.



Foliar defoliation in field corn caused by the adult red-headed flea beetle (Darin Eisinger)

Some areas are also reporting increases in young grasshoppers in soybeans, another insect favored by dry weather. Grasshoppers often start on field edges so early scouting may allow for an edge

treatment. Japanese beetles are another common defoliator of soybean that are starting to appear. Both of these pests fall into a general defoliation measurement, and we recommend treatment if defoliation is approaching 20% on the majority of plants in post-flowering beans. Download our guide to estimating defoliation in soybean



Adult red-headed flea beetle (P. Beauzay, NDSU)

at https://aginsects.osu.edu/sites/aginsects/files/imce/Leaf%20Defoliators%20PDF_0.pdf

A weird problem being reported not just in Ohio but in parts of the Midwest as far-flung as Minnesota is the red headed flea beetle, which is being found in corn and soybean. This is a small, narrow, shiny black beetle with a red head which springs like a flea when disturbed. Feeding in soybean creates small round holes and in

corn longer narrow strips of damage. This feeding is seldom economic. In soybean follow the general defoliation threshold of 20%. Leaf feeding in corn is almost never economic, but be on the watch for silk-clipping, which is rare but possible. There are no thresholds in corn, but our Minnesota colleague Bruce Potter suggest this guideline: “flea beetles are very numerous (it is likely more than 5-10/plant), pollination is less than 50% complete, and numerous plants have silks clipped to within 1/2 inch, you might consider an insecticide.” Finally, earlier in the season we reported higher than usual numbers of potato leafhopper in alfalfa and encouraged stepping up scouting. In some fields third-cut alfalfa is being heavily impacted by this insect. You can review our scouting advice for this insect at <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-17/time-start-scouting-potato-leafhoppers-alfalfa>

Heat Alert- Farm Workers at Increased Risk this Summer

Heat Alert – Farm Workers at Increased Risk this Summer

By Dee Jepsen

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-23/heat-alert-%E2%80%93-farm-workers-increased-risk-summer>

Outdoor work during these hot summer months adds additional stress to our body’s coolant system. Heat stroke, heat stress, or heat exhaustion – to distinguish between these terms does not matter – any form of heat stress can impair function. Working in extreme heat lowers the body’s reaction time and can put workers at risk. When our body’s internal temperature cannot cool itself fast enough, our body will react.

Heat is a leading weather-related killer in the U.S. Death from excessive heat can be explicit – meaning it is the underlying factor that caused the person to die. Or heat can be a contributing factor to the worker’s death – meaning the heat placed them at risk for other workplace hazards. In this second example, heat could cause eyeglasses to fog up, create sweaty palms that loose grip, or invoke dizziness or irrational behaviors. Persons with cardiovascular or respiratory illnesses can also be vulnerable to heat; making heart attacks, strokes and other circulatory system attacks more common during the summer months.



Besides the sun and heat, wearing additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can burden our body’s regulatory capacity and place workers at increased risk for heat illnesses. Human skin is an important body organ. Its function is to regulate the heat and protect our other cells from damaging heat or trauma. Certain PPE (i.e. gloves, boots, rubber aprons) can interfere with our skin’s sweat response system by holding excess heat and moisture inside. This makes our body even hotter. Wearing extra PPE can increase the physical effort for our muscles to carry additional weight while we work, thereby increasing our body’s heat production. Respirators and face masks can increase the physical labor on our respiratory system.

For all outdoor workers, there are steps to take to reduce heat exposure. When workers need the benefit of PPE protection, there are additional steps they can take. The main goal in any heat-related situation is to lower the core body temperature.

Drink fluids before you are thirsty

- Encourage workers to drink small amounts of water more frequently throughout the work shift.
- During strenuous work, persons should have 1 cup (8oz) of water every 15 – 20 minutes

Schedule more frequent rest breaks in hot weather

- Taking breaks allows the body to reduce the core temperature.
- Sitting in the shade or air-conditioning will help get the core body temperature lower in a faster period of time.
- During breaks, drink water and allow the body to rest.

- Remove PPE during breaks.
- Use cold packs or wet towels to continue cooling and reducing the body temperature.

Acclimate to the work environment

- Condition your body to outdoor work by gradually working outside for short periods of time. It may take 1 – 2 weeks to be at full capacity
- New workers are at increased risk of heat exhaustion if they have not acclimated their bodies to sweating or stabilizing their breathing.

Check on workers throughout the day

- Make sure workers have access to water and shade during extreme heat conditions.
- Senior workers may need extra rest times and could experience additional cardiovascular disease deaths.
- Check for signs of heat exhaustion: dizziness, excessive sweating, cold clammy skin

Wear the right clothes for the job

- Lighter colored clothing will not absorb as much heat. However lighter colors may not have UV protection from the sun's rays.
- Choose apparel that is loose fitting and breathable.
- Wide brimmed hats (with a 3-4" brim all the way around) will protect the top of the ears and back of the neck from UV rays. Ball caps are not the best work hats in direct sunlight.
- Try wearable personal cooling systems to keep the core body temperature low throughout the work shift. Ice vests, cooling bandanas, or other water-cooled garments are available, and often can be worn in conjunction with PPE.

As the summer heat continues on, outdoor workers should take extra precaution for heat-related stress. Workers of all ages and experience levels can succumb to these dangerously high temperatures. Prevention is the best course of action.

Additional resources:

Heat Stress Tips from CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/>

Heat Stress for Trainers and Supervisors of Pesticide Applicators:

<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/aex-892222>

Heat Stress Infographic from NIOSH:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/infographic.html>

Dog Days of Summer- David's Monthly Beacon Article

By David Marrison

Written for The Beacon Newspaper, published July 22

Hello Coshocton County! The term "dog days of summer" traditionally refers to the hot and sultry days we receive during July and August. The Old Farmer's Almanac considers the "dog days" to be the 40 days between July 3 and August 11.

In ancient Greece, the "dog days" were believed to be a time of drought, bad luck, and unrest, when dogs and men alike would be driven mad by the extreme heat. (Hmm, so maybe it is not the coronavirus that is causing us all the trouble this month?)

For many when they think of the dog days of summer, they think of 90 degree temperatures, ice cream, and time cooling off in the pool. But for me, I think of the hot sun, lemonade in a water jug, humidity, sweat, and scratched up arms. You see, the summers of my childhood were spent baling over 17,000 bales of hay with my dad and grandfather. Even now, sweating in a hay mow brings back so many childhood memories.

I know I am not alone when I associate hay making with the dog days of summer. Here in Coshocton County our farmers harvest 29,323 acres of hay each year. In fact, hay is the most common crop grown as 720 farms or 60% raise hay. In comparison, our second leading crop, corn, is grown by only 20.8% of our farms. It takes a lot of hay to feed the 28,500 cows, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, alpacas and llamas here in Coshocton County. Additionally, we have almost 40,000 acres of pasture which these animals graze during the year.

This year's hay harvest has been both good and bad. First, the good. Our weather has been exceptional for hay making; in fact, it has been the best hay making summer that we have had in quite some time. A lot of second cutting hay is currently being made and some farmers have already made third cutting.

Now for the bad news- yields. Overall, yields have been down between 25-40%. This is especially true for first cutting. The majority of the yield reduction can be traced back to the frost and cooler temperatures we had in early May. This stunted the growth of the forages.

First cutting yields were also lower as the weather allowed farmers to cut and bale their hay earlier than usual. In fact, some were over a month ahead of schedule compared to the past two years. While the yields have been lower, there is a bright spot. By being made at a more optimal time, the forage quality is significantly better than usual. This will translate into higher animal performance when feeding these forages this winter.



Over the past two months, I have had some great conversations with farmers about making high quality hay and improving hay fields. Today, I would like to share two of OSU Extension's recommendations for hay producers.

Soil Testing- We recommend farmers complete a soil test on each of their hay fields every three to five years. A soil test will give you the pH level with 6.8 being ideal for alfalfa fields and 6.5 for other legumes and grasses. For low pH fields, lime will be needed. This fall is a great time to apply lime to hay fields. The soil test also provides fertility recommendations which is especially important for meeting the phosphorus and potassium needs of forage crops. A reminder that soil tests can be sent in through our office at a cost of \$16 per sample. We mail these samples in every Wednesday.

Forage testing- Back in March, we held a hay quality workshop at which Dr. Ted Wiseman from OSU Extension taught participants about forage testing. We learned how forage quality is impacted by crude protein, acid detergent fiber, and neutral detergent fiber. We also learned how a cow's belly may be full of hay but still lacking nutrients. We encouraged livestock producers to forage test their hay to better manage their animals' diets.

As a service, the Coshocton County Extension office can send in your hay sample to be tested at a cost of \$35 per sample. We also have a forage testing probe which you can borrow to take the hay sample.

I would also like to invite local hay producers to participate in a local hay quality forage project for Coshocton County. As an incentive, the first ten farmers to contact me will get one hay sample pulled and tested at no charge. Just contact me at the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265 or via email at marrison.2@osu.edu.

In closing, as I think of the dog days of summer, I am reminded of a quote from Jean Paul Malfatti which states "A friend is a friend and a dog is a dog. A friend will never be a dog, but a dog won't ever quit being a friend." Have a good and safe day.

Rory Lewandowski Set to Retire from OSU Extension

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2020/07/15/rory-lewandowski-set-to-retire-from-osu-extension/>

Rory Lewandowski, Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Wayne County, is retiring from Ohio State University Extension on July 29, 2020. Rory has served agricultural clientele in Guernsey, Noble, Athens, and Wayne Counties during his twenty years with Ohio State University Extension. As an Extension Educator and Certified Crop Advisor (CCA), Rory focused much of his teaching on forages, pesticide use, nutrient management, and farm financial management. Rory worked tirelessly to serve the needs of his clientele. Farmers locally and across Ohio benefitted from his knowledge and expertise. His ability to make every lesson unique and meet the needs of his audience is commendable.

Rory was a member of the Ohio Joint Council of Extension Professionals, National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Epsilon Sigma Phi National Extension Fraternity, Ohio Sheep Industry Association, and Ohio Cattleman's Association. Rory was recognized with numerous awards for his exemplary teaching, research, and service, including the Steven D. Ruhl Award for Outstanding Teaching, Leadership, and Service from Ohio State University Extension; Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents; Mid-Career Award from Epsilon Sigma Phi; and the Ohio Sheep Industry Distinguished Service Award. In addition, Rory was recognized by his professional associations for his outstanding teaching, winning eleven awards.

Rory and his wife Marcia have accepted a three-year assignment in Cambodia with the Mennonite Central Committee. They will focus on peace and justice as they help people learn to work out their differences as opposed to resorting to violence. This is not their first experience with the Mennonite Central Committee, having served in Bolivia from 1989 – 1992 and 1996-2000.

Those of us who have had the pleasure of working with Rory are better because of his teaching, leadership, and friendship. His efforts have made an impact on the communities he has served, and he will carry his style of servant leadership into retirement.

In keeping with Rory's wishes, an in-person gathering will not be held. However, anyone interested in sharing memories, pictures, stories or well wishes may do so by clicking on this link: <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/yIDiZU6S> We wish Rory the best in his retirement!

The Ag Law Harvest

By: Ellen Essman and Peggy Hall

Source: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/fri-07172020-220pm/ag-law-harvest>

Published on July 17, 2020

This edition of the Ag Law Harvest has a little bit of everything—Ohio and federal legislation responding to COVID issues, new USDA guidance on bioengineered foods, and a judicial review of Bayer's Roundup settlement. Read on to learn about the legal issues currently affecting agriculture.

Ohio COVID-19 immunity bill stalls. While the Ohio House and Senate agree with the concept of immunity for COVID-19 transmissions, the two chambers don't yet see eye-to-eye on the parameters for COVID-19 liability protection. H.B. 606, which we reported on at: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/fri-05292020-1207pm/ohio-house-passes-bill-limit-liability-covid-19-transmissions> has passed both the House and Senate, but the Senate added several amendments to the legislation. The House won't be addressing those amendments soon because it's in recess, and doesn't plan to return for business until at least September 15. The primary point of disagreement between the two bills concerns whether there should be a rebuttable presumption for Bureau of Workers' Compensation coverage that certain employees who contract COVID-19 contracted it while in the workplace. The Senate amendment change by the Senate concerns exemption from immunity for "intentional conduct," changed to "intentional misconduct." Currently, there is not a plan for the House to consider the Senate's amendments before September 15.

Lawmakers propose bill to avoid more backlogs at processing plants- Most people are aware that the COVID-19 pandemic created a huge backlog and supply chain problem in U.S. meatpacking plants. A group of bipartisan representatives in the House recently proposed the Requiring Assistance to Meat Processors for Upgrading Plants Act, or RAMP-UP Act. The bill would provide grants up to \$100,000 to meat and poultry processing plants so the plants could make improvements in order to avoid the kind of problems caused by the pandemic in the future. The plants would have to provide their own matching funds for the improvements. You can find the bill [here](#).

Revisiting the Paycheck Protection Program, again. In a refreshing display of non-partisanship, Congress passed legislation in late June to extend the [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#). Employers who haven't taken advantage of PPP now have until August 8, 2020 to apply for PPP funds to cover payroll and certain other expenses. Several senators also introduced the [Paycheck Protection Program Small Business Forgiveness Act](#), a proposal to streamline an automatic approval process for forgiveness of PPP loans under \$150,000, but there's been little action on the bill to date. Meanwhile, the American Farm Bureau Federation is in discussion with the Senate on [its proposal](#) for other changes to PPP that would expand access to PPP for agriculture.

More clarification for bioengineered food disclosure. You may recall that the National Bioengineered Food Law was passed by Congress in 2016. The legislation tasked USDA with creating a national mandatory standard for disclosing bioengineered foods. The standard was implemented at the beginning of 2020, but USDA still needed to publish guidance on validating a refining process and selecting an acceptable testing method. On July 8, 2020, that guidance was [published](#) at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-07-08/pdf/2020-14643.pdf>. The guidance provides steps for industry to take when [validating a food refining process](#) under the rule. A lot of food refining processes remove traces of modified genetic material. So, if a refining process is validated, there is no further need to test for bioengineered material to disclose. The guidance also contains [instructions on testing methods](#). Basically, "any regulated entity that is using a food on the AMS List of Bioengineered Foods and does not want to include a bioengineered food disclosure because the food or ingredient is highly refined and does not include detectable modified genetic material" should follow these testing instructions. Therefore, any entity with highly refined foods that do "not include detectable modified genetic material" should follow the recently published guidance.

Bayer settlement proposal under scrutiny. Last month, Bayer, the owner of Roundup, announced that it would settle around 9,500 lawsuits related to alleged injuries caused by using the product. Not only was the proposal supposed to settle previous lawsuits, but it was also meant to address any future lawsuits stemming from purported injuries caused by Roundup. A judge from the United States District Court for the Northern District of California recently [pumped the breaks](#) on this plan, stating that any settlement that would resolve "all future claims" against Roundup must first be approved by the court. A hearing will be held on July 24, where the court will decide whether or not to "grant preliminary approval of the settlement."

you for your continued support. Stay healthy and we look forward to 2021!

Coshocton Extension Office Update

The Coshocton County Extension Office is currently open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. being reserved for the most vulnerable population. As we re-open, there will be some new guidelines in place; these include:

- We ask that you please call ahead of your visit so we can have your items prepared for you.
- We are rotating staff on different days, so calling ahead ensures that the appropriate staff member is there to meet your needs.
- One family will be allowed to come into the office at a time.
- Face masks are required (and we will provide one for you if you do not have one)
- Use of hand sanitizer required and is also provided

OSU Extension is committed to keeping you safe. We thank you for your patience during the past few months and as we move forward, helping to make the best better.