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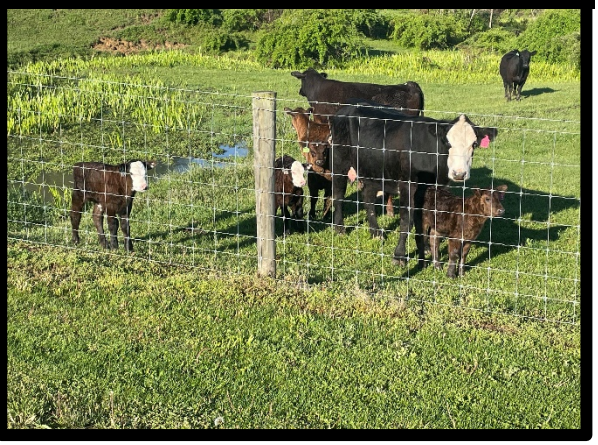
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

COSHOCTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



June 23 Issue (Edition #100)

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Hello Coshocton County! I guess I will never figure out the fickleness of our weather. The cooler morning temperatures of the past few days do not feel like the first two days of summer. But, as with anything the humidity and temperatures are predicted to return to more normal as we hit the end of the week. I did hear someone remark to stop praying for rain as the nearby forecast (right now) is predicting rain settling in starting this weekend and maybe sticking around for the remainder of the month. So, get that hay made over the next few days!

I have been out and about this week putting our western bean cutworm (WBC) traps. Thank you to the Daugherty, Lower and Porteus families for hosting a trapping site this year. Our crops (especially corn) are looking good and wheat harvest is right around the corner.

A reminder the next in-person BQA training will be held next Wednesday night. I also hope you enjoy the "Calling All Farm Dogs" article included in today's newsletter. I look forward to receiving some stories and pictures from you! Enjoy edition #100 and have a great week.

Sincerely,

David L. Marrison

Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

June 24 CORN Live Webinar Focuses on Weeds in Soybeans & Wheat Harvest

By: Mary Griffith, Amanda Douridas, Mike Estadt & Will Hamman
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/19-2021/june-24th-corn-live-webinar-focuses-weeds-soybeans-and-wheat

The next session of CORN Live is this Thursday, June 24th from 8:00 – 9:00 am. This week's webinar will touch on a variety of issues, starting with a crop progress report and field updates from Jason Hartschuh, Extension Educator in Crawford County, and a review of weed management in soybeans with Mark Loux, Professor and Extension Specialist in Weed Science at OSU.

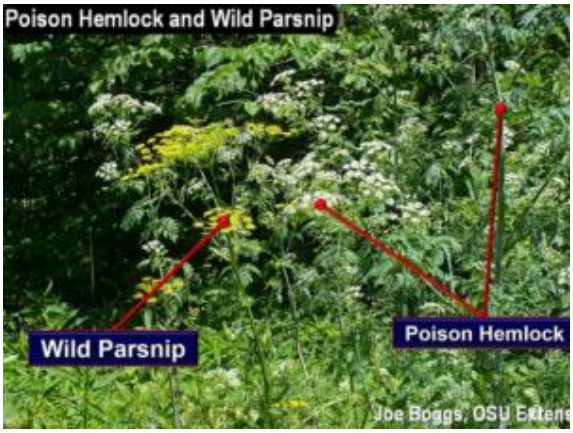
In many parts of Ohio, wind or rain have reduced spray days allowing weeds to grow to a size that is tougher to control. Loux will be available to answer questions about adjustments to weed control programs.
Brad Moffitt, Director of Market Development and Membership at Ohio Corn and Wheat, and John Hoffman, Pickaway County farmer, will also be online to review this year's growing season for wheat and talk about getting started with wheat harvest.

1 hour of CCA CEUs will be offered (0.5 PM + 0.5 CM). The webinar is free to attend. Register at www.go.osu.edu/cornlive.

Putting Poison Hemlock in Perspective

By: Mark Loux, Ted Wiseman, & Allen Gahler
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/19-2021/putting-poison-hemlock-perspective

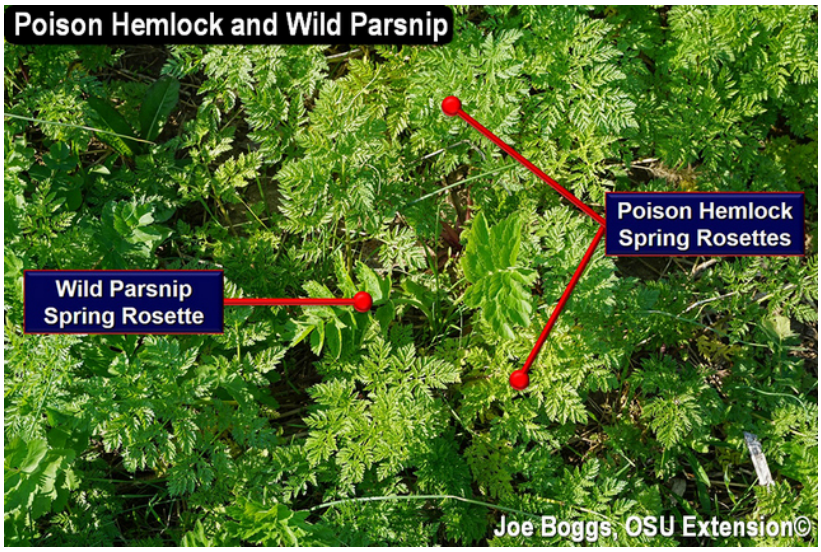
Poison hemlock seems to be on everyone's radar more than usual this year, especially in northern Ohio. We know that while hemlock has been all over southern Ohio for years, it is continuing to spread northward, where new occurrences and observations of it may be engendering concern in the general public and local government. There have also been comments that it seems "worse than usual" this year in some areas, and we don't have a ready explanation for what would cause this. For any plant that reproduces by seed, an abundance of seed in one season can lead to much higher populations the following season. Seed-based population increase tends to be exponential. When left uncontrolled for several years, the populations may stay low for a few years until seed production reaches a certain level, and that amount of seed can cause a large and very observable increase in population.



Poison Hemlock Flowers and Stem

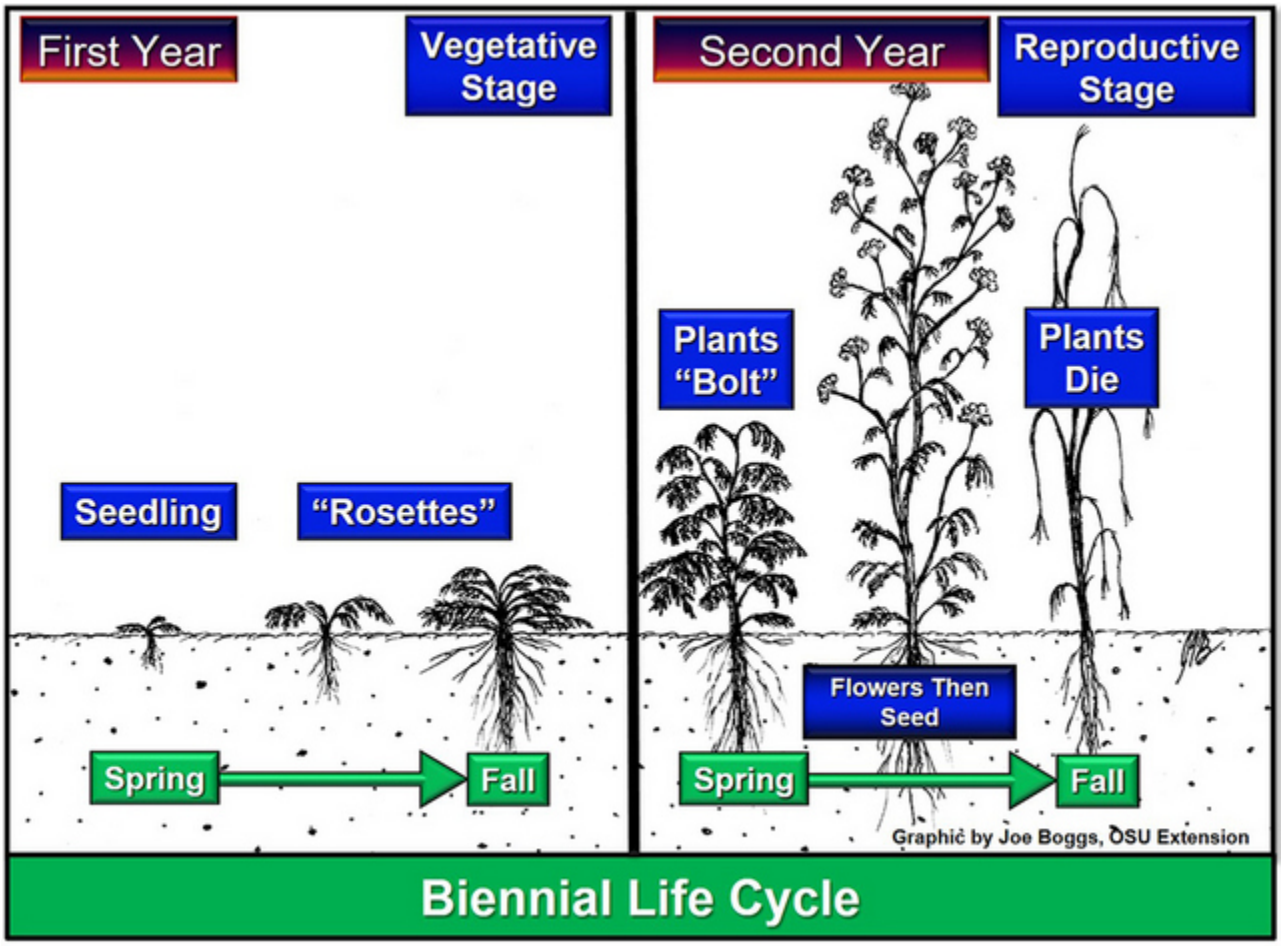
Poison hemlock in Ohio has made the news over the past month, in articles such as this one. From a frequency of poisoning standpoint, some of these articles can make it seem worse than it is. Hemlock is in the Apiaceae or parsley plant family, which also includes wild carrot (Queen Anne's lace), wild parsnip, cow parsnip, and giant hogweed. Giant hogweed is the truly bad actor in this group but has not become established in Ohio. All of these species share some of the same characteristics with poison hemlock to varying degrees. This comprehensive article in the OSU BYGL newsletter does a nice job of presenting information on the various species, including identification.

Poison hemlock has been in Ohio for a long time, and there are many areas it is never subject to any control measures – abandoned fields, forest borders, etc. And there are other areas hemlock grows well where it should be controlled because it reduces the quality and safety of these areas or can be seen by people. These areas include parks, roadsides, ditches, hayfields, pastures, etc. Poison hemlock is poisonous to humans and livestock, but only when ingested. Poisoning seems to be extremely rare because: 1) it's not a plant that smells or tastes good, so animals avoid it; and 2) humans are not prone to wandering down roadsides eating plants, especially the ones that do not appear appealing. Contact with hemlock can also cause skin and eye problems which are way more likely than internal poisoning. The severity of this response varies depending upon the sensitivity of the individual and the degree of contact. This does not happen from a distance though – only with direct contact with plant parts or fluids from the plants. Anyone mowing or removing hemlock by hand should keep this in mind and protect themselves from skin and eye contact. Mowing large populations with open station tractors is not recommended.



Within this plant family, poison hemlock and wild parsnip present the most risk to livestock, based on the level of infestation in Ohio and toxicity. Livestock seldom eats these plants due to strong odor and taste, and most problems occur when no other forages/desirable plants are available, often during droughts. It is also possible for these weeds to inadvertently end up in hay bales where they retain toxicity. Many other plants that can have toxic effects on livestock will see those toxins dissipate during the hay drying process, or the during fermentation process if hay is ensiled or wrapped. This is not the case with poison hemlock – toxins will remain

viable and lethal regardless of the curing and storage methods. All parts of the plants are poisonous with the seed heads being the most toxic. Poison hemlock contains eight piperidine alkaloids, with coniine (mature plants) and g-coniceine (young plants) being the two predominant toxic compounds. Experimental hemlock poisoning in livestock has shown a wide range of clinical signs suggesting variation in the toxic alkaloid content in the plant. Cattle eating as little as 300 grams up to 0.5 percent of body weight has shown to be fatal. Bluish discoloration of the skin from poor circulation, respiratory paralysis, and coma without convulsions are common signs before death which usually occurs within 2-3 hours after consuming a lethal dose. Wild Parsnip contains chemicals called furanocoumarins which cause severe sunburns. Housing infected livestock in shade may help reduce its effects. Other clinical signs may include acute disorders to the central nervous system or digestive tract without a fever but weakness and rapid weight loss. Other symptoms may include suddenly accelerated heartbeat, stomach, and intestinal irritation, general distress, or repeated attempts to void feces.



Poison hemlock and wild parsnip are on the Ohio noxious weed list, and therefore need to be controlled before becoming large enough to present a threat, and before seed production to prevent spread. Information on the Ohio noxious weed law can be found in this bulletin and on the OSU Farm Office page. At this time of the year when these plants are flowering, producing seed, and dying, it's not always possible to use chemicals to control them. The goal should be getting rid of existing plants through cutting, mowing, or hand removal, and limiting production and spread of seed. The most effective timing for the application of herbicides is fall when plants are low-growing rosettes in their first year of growth, or early the following spring when plants are still small. Herbicide effectiveness ratings in Table 21 of the "Weed Control Guide for Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois", which lists pasture and CRP herbicides. Additional products labeled for roadsides, industrial areas, etc but not shown in this guide are also effective.

Canada Thistle Rebounds

By: Mark Loux
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/19-2021/canada-thistle-rebounds

It can be nice to see old friends. Except when they cause crop and yield loss, refuse to leave after a few days, and don't respond to chemicals. A while back we wrote about what appeared to be an increase in populations of dandelions and other winter weeds and made some guesses about why this was happening. Canada thistle has once again become a problem in some fields in a big way, probably for some of the same reasons that dandelion has. Our history with thistle during the past 30+ years is that it was a major problem before the widespread adoption of RoundupReady soybeans in the late 1990s. Back then we had to take advantage of specific windows in the cropping cycle to try to get control with glyphosate, and the rest of the time we just tried to keep it from getting worse. The "all glyphosate, all the time" strategy during the first decade of RoundupReady soybeans handled thistle and other perennials such as milkweed and hemp dogbane well, and we didn't hear much about them. Now we are though, and increases in thistle could be due to the following:

- lack of herbicide treatments in fall, when thistle is most effectively controlled
- lack of wheat in the rotation. Including wheat allows a period after harvest for thistle to regrow to a large enough size in fall (compared with cutting it off during corn and soybean harvest)
- nonGMO soybeans, where options for control are ineffective/expensive and thistle gets a better foothold
- switch to the use of Liberty Link soybeans and the use of glufosinate in POST treatments. Glufosinate is a contact herbicide that can burn down the top-growth but will not reduce populations
- applying POST glyphosate treatments too early, before thistle is large enough to respond well
- failure to use effective POST treatments in corn

The initial slow increases in the population of any weed are often ignored since populations are too low to cause a loss in stand or yield or interfere with harvest. At some point though, the current year's infestation will be substantial enough to provide the source for a much denser infestation the following year. In this steeper part of a population's growth curve, things can get out of control fast. Canada thistle reproduces via windblown seed, and also spreads via a deep, dense network of creeping roots. Left uncontrolled for a while, the patch of thistle that results from this can be thick enough to reduce crop stands and vigor considerably, literally sucking the life out of corn and soybeans. Some suggestions for controlling thistle for those experiencing a rebound:

- Apply herbicides in the fall when the thistle plants are at least 10 to 12 inches tall. This can occur into November as long as plants are still green, before freezes. Our experience is that it's probably not worth treating in fall when plants do not regrow to at least this size unless there are other weeds requiring fall application anyway.
- Use effective POST herbicides in corn, especially where wheat is not in the rotation and glyphosate is not being used POST in soybeans.
- if using glufosinate POST in soybeans that are resistant to glyphosate also (LLGT27, Enlist), add glyphosate to the mixture.
- use effective burndown and residual herbicides in soybeans, to try to delay the POST glyphosate application until later in June when thistle are larger (ideally in the bud to flower stage).
- Herbicides applied to small thistle plants in late spring only reduce the top-growth, without herbicide getting to the roots. At small sizes, thistle plants are primed to just regrow again. We have heard from several clients who observed ineffective activity on thistle from burndown applications and then resprayed as soon as the thistle plants had a few inches of regrowth. While the basis for this approach in dense stands is to try to prevent suppression of the crop, it largely won't work. Steps need to be

taken the previous years to prevent the development of dense thistle stands.

- In soybeans resistant to glyphosate, scout later in the season following the initial POST application for thistle regrowth and treat again as necessary.
- POST options in nonGMO soybeans are generally not good or are just expensive. From the Weed Control Guide: "Postemergence applications of Basagran (2 pt/A) will control above-ground parts of the plant or suppress the growth of Canada thistle. Regrowth usually occurs, but this treatment will reduce competition from Canada thistle in soybeans and help prevent the production of more rootstock. Apply when thistle plants are from 8 inches tall to the bud stage. COC should be included in the spray mixture. A second application at the same rate may be made 7 to 10 days later, if necessary. Other products and mixtures with activity on thistle include fomesafen and mixtures of Basagran with fomesafen, Ultra Blazer, or Cobra. Postemergence application of Pursuit (1.44 oz/A), Classic (0.66 to 0.75 oz/A), FirstRate (0.3 oz/A), and Synchrony XP (0.75 oz/A) may also suppress thistle growth, but results have been variable."

A reminder that the first page of the "Control of Problem Weeds" section of the "Weed Control Guide for Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois" contains a list of strategies for managing perennials. This was first written before the availability of RR soybeans, so it can have some useful information for this type of situation where the use of glyphosate is being deemphasized.

Now's a Great Time to Plan and Assess Forage Inventory

By: Chris Penrose, OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Morgan County
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/06/23/forage-inventory-a-great-time-to-plan-and-assess/

Since May 21st, I have had three great chances to make hay and was lucky enough to finish last week before the rains arrived, I was lucky. I know other areas have not had a chance or just got started. When we finish first cutting hay, it seems to me to be a great time to assess our pasture condition and hay supplies. We will now know how much hay we have and how much more we will need, plus a little extra just in case it turns dry. Do you or will you have enough once first cutting is finished? Are your pastures holding up well?
Options: If you are going to have plenty of hay, can you graze some of those fields? It is always cheaper to graze than to make hay. Speaking of hay, prices are good right now; if you don't need the fields to graze, can you make some extra to sell if you need the income? If you are short on hay, can you get enough in subsequent cuttings? If not, have you recently soil tested your fields? Improving fertility will help improve yields for the rest of the season.

How are your pastures holding up? So far this year, it looks like many are doing well. In my case, all my hay fields but one can be grazed providing flexibility for either more hay production or more pasture.
When I think about other things we can do for livestock feed if it will be short this winter, I believe the cheapest feed we can provide is corn stalks after harvest. Look around. Are there any corn fields in the area that could be grazed after harvest? I have seen it done with temporary fence built in a short period of time. How about forage fields that have not been utilized from neighbors that could be grazed for very little charge?
The next option for additional forages is to stockpile fields to graze in the fall or early winter. All you need to do is make a final clipping, harvest or grazing of a field and let it sit and grow. Recent research confirms that adding nitrogen fertilizer will increase yields. A good recommendation is to apply 100# of urea per acre when you start to stockpile. Generally speaking, the earlier you start to stockpile the higher the yields will be and the lower the quality. Conversely, the later you start, the lower the yields and higher the quality. Fescue can be grazed well into the winter but I suggest grazing orchardgrass before the end of the year since it dies back more in cold weather.

Another option is to plant something. If you have fields that need to be re-seeded or you have small grain fields that are or will be harvested, brassicas such as turnips, or small grains like oats and cereal rye are good options to plant later in the summer. You can also plant a combination of small grains and brassicas.
Finally, fertility can go a long way to improving forage yields. If your pH is low, applying lime after first cutting is a great option. If we can correct soil acidity before applying fertilizer, production will be optimized. For me, I have the lime truck coming in this week to finish applying lime on my hay fields now that first cutting is finished,

and I hope to fertilize and even stockpile later on in the season for added forages this year and beyond. On my farm, I think I reach a milestone when I finish first cutting as it is the bulk of feed that I will need to make it to next year and I feel like I have accomplished a lot. I also like to plan and assess my potential needs at this point because the sooner we determine our needs, the more options we will have and more time to execute them.

To Crack or Not to Crack – A Common Question

By: Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/06/23/to-crack-or-not-to-crack-a-common-question/

As grain and commodity prices shoot up, beef producers begin to look for other feedstuffs to find bargains. In many cases, there are no bargains to be found as commodity brokers know the value of the feeds they market. However, occasional opportunities do present themselves from plant shutdowns, shipping issues, and other various reasons. Yet, many folks look past the common feeds available such as corn, oats, wheat, distillers grains and other local feedstuffs hoping to save a few dollars. Corn is a constant in our area and should always be considered as an energy source in ruminant diets.

One of the first questions I get when I start talking about feeding corn to beef cattle producers is whether it has to be cracked or ground. Seems like an easy question with a simple answer. However, the impact of grain processing has been studied for decades and continues to be researched. The hammer mill was invented in 1840 to process grains for feeding. Flaking of corn was developed in 1962 to gelatinize starch and increase efficiency. Reviews on grain processing were presented in papers dating back almost 50 years by the National Research Council. Yet today, research continues to investigate the impact of grain processing on cattle performance.

A review paper on grain processing published around 25 years ago summarized research of finishing cattle and the impact of grain processing. Similar daily gains were noted when corn was fed whole or cracked. Intakes were slightly lower improving feed efficiency when grain was left whole. Ohio researchers published a paper in 2020 in which dry rolled corn was compared to whole shelled corn in finishing diets feeding a typical level of hay at 7% of the diet dry matter. Feeding dry rolled corn resulted in greater intakes which in turn led to close to an 8% or 0.25 lb/d increase in daily gains. Yet, feed efficiency, animal gain per unit of feed consumed, was similar between the rolled and whole corn. Keep in mind the work discussed above relates to finishing diets with low forage levels. Diet composition, feeds selected, hay level, feed additives and other factors can have an influence on performance.

The main site of starch digestion is the rumen and processing can influence the extent of digestion in the rumen. Processing can increase rumen starch digestion from approximately 60% to 80%. This increase in ruminal starch fermentation can increase the risk of ruminal acidosis and digestive upset. Maintaining sufficient forage intake is important to reduce this risk. Today, the substitution of low starch feedstuffs like corn gluten and distillers grains for corn or other grains reduces the risk of digestive upsets.

I normally cannot convince producers that feeding whole corn rather than cracked corn will result in similar performance. Producers always have the rebuttal that they see whole kernels of corn in the feces. Research conducted by Ohio researchers investigated the interaction of grain processing and forage or roughage level in finishing diets. The poor student working on this project determined the number of corn kernels fed, and wait for it, physically separated corn kernels from the manure! For both weanlings and yearlings, the percentage of whole corn kernels digested was similar at 92%. The weanling calves ate almost 19,000 kernels of corn a day. Some quick math reveals that these steers excreted about 1,500 kernels of corn a day, about 1 pound of corn. Seeing this corn in the feces is the reason producers are convinced they must grind the corn. You are convinced now that you should process the corn, aren't you?

This Ohio work also demonstrated that processing corn did not have an impact on digestibility of dry matter, starch, protein, or fiber. The authors mention a 44% increase in fecal starch excretion, a variable feedlot nutritionists monitor. This is a huge increase, right? Well, figures can be misleading and there was 100 grams

more starch excreted in the feces. However, steers eating whole corn consumed 800 grams more starch compared to ground corn. Overall, total gastrointestinal tract starch digestibility was found to be similar at 93% for whole and 95% for ground corn. Previous research in Kansas revealed similar results with total GI tract digestibility of corn being 89% and 91%, whole and cracked, respectively.

What about performance on higher forage diets? North Dakota researchers investigated daily gains of yearling cattle from 900 to 1,100 lbs consuming a diet containing approximately 30% forage. Average daily gains for cattle receiving whole corn were 7% lower than cracked and 3% lower than ground corn. However, feed efficiency was better for whole corn. When 500-700 feeders were offered a receiving diet with 35% forage, gains were slightly higher for whole corn compared to cracked and gain efficiency was similar. These studies would seem to support the previous feedlot review with little or no benefit in processing corn.

In our area, cracked or ground corn is often significantly greater in price than whole corn. Further, if you can purchase whole corn from your neighbor at elevator price, it will often be much less than what one will pay from the feed dealer. In many instances, the cost of processing corn will likely not be recovered unless we are finishing cattle with low roughage diets.

I caution readers to consider the forage source and other diet components. If supplementing mature cows on the spring flush, the rapid passage rate and greater orifice for feed to pass out of the rumen will impact kernel digestion and processing corn will likely improve total tract digestibility greater than discussed above. Further, consider the risk of sorting. Cattle have the capacity to sort out larger feed particles, even the size of a corn gluten pellet. When using a loose mineral supplement or a protein source in a meal form like soybean meal or dried distillers grains, rolled corn may be needed to minimize sorting. This needs to be considered particularly if feed additives are in your mineral or meal protein source.

So, I ask you, process or feed whole?

Forage Focus: Consider the Benefit of Multi-Species Grazing

Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/06/23/forage-focus-consider-the-benefit-of-multi-species-grazing/

In this episode of Forage Focus, Dr. Brady Campbell of the OSU Animal Sciences Department joins our host Christine Gelley for a discussion on forages for goats. While this is not necessarily a topic focused on cattle, multi-species grazing is often best accomplished with the addition of goats because their weed suppression ability is hard to beat. Goats have distinctly different preferences and eating habits than other livestock. From water to fence and from meat goats to dairy, this episode covers the ins and outs of creating and maintaining pasture environments to keep goats productive, entertained, and healthy in any grazing system. Click here to access the video: https://youtu.be/b6m14XmedEo

The Ag Law Harvest

By: Jeffrey K. Lewis, Attorney and Research Specialist, Agricultural & Resource Law
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/fri-06182021-1044am/ag-law-harvest

Did you know that a housefly buzzes in the key of F? Neither did I, but I think the musical stylings of the Cicada have stolen the show this summer.

Aside from Mother Nature's orchestra, federal agencies have also been abuzz as they continue to review the prior administration's agencies' rules and regulations. This week's Ag Law Harvest is heavily focused on federal agency announcements that may lead to rule changes that affect you, your farm or business, or your family.

USDA issues administrative complaint against Ohio company. The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service ("AMS") issued an administrative complaint on May 4, 2021, against Barnesville Livestock LLC ("Barnesville") and an Ohio resident for allegedly violating the Packers and Stockyards Act ("P&S Act"). An investigation conducted by the AMS revealed that the Ohio auction company failed to properly maintain its custodial account resulting in shortages of $49,059 on July 31, 2019, $123,571 on November 29, 2019, and $54,519 on December 31, 2019. Companies like Barnesville are required to keep a custodial account under the P&S Act. A custodial account is a trust account that is designed to keep shippers' proceeds from the sale of livestock in a secure and centralized location until those proceeds can be distributed to the seller. According to the AMS, Barnesville failed to deposit funds equal to the proceeds received from livestock sales into the custodial account. Additionally, Barnesville reported a $15,711 insolvency in its Annual Report submission to AMS. Operating with custodial account shortages and while insolvent are both violations of the P&S Act. The AMS alleges that Barnesville's violations place livestock sellers at risk of not being paid fully or completely. If Barnesville is proven to have violated the P&S Act in an oral hearing, it may be ordered to cease and desist from violating the P&S Act and assessed a civil penalty of up to $28,061 per violation.

USDA to invest $1 billion as first investment of new "Build Back Better" initiative. The USDA announced that it will be investing up to $1 billion to support and expand the emergency food network so food banks and local organizations can serve their communities. Building on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, the USDA looks to enter into cooperative agreements with state, Tribal, and local entities to more efficiently purchase food from local producers and invest in infrastructure that enables organizations to more effectively reach underserved communities. The USDA hopes to ensure that producers receive a fair share of the food dollar while also providing healthy food for food insecure Americans. This investment is the first part of the USDA's Build Back Better initiative which is focused on building a better food system. Build Back Better initiative efforts will focus on improving access to nutritious foods, address racial injustice and inequity, climate change, and provide ongoing support for producers and workers.

Colorado passes law changing agricultural employment within the state. On June 8, 2021, Colorado's legislature passed Senate Bill 87, also known as the Farmworker Bill of Rights, which will change how agricultural employees are to be treated under Colorado law. The bill removes the state's exemption for agricultural labor from state and local minimum wage laws, requiring agricultural employers to pay the state's $12.32/hour minimum wage to all employees. Under the new law, agricultural employees are allowed to organize and join labor unions and must also be paid overtime wages for any time worked over 12 hours in a day or 40 hours in a week. The bill also mandates certain working conditions including: (1) requiring Colorado's department of labor to implement rules to prevent agricultural workers from heat-related stress, illness, and injury when the outside temperature reaches 80 degrees or higher; (2) limiting the use of a short-handled hoe for weeding and thinning in a stooped, kneeling, or squatting position; (3) requiring an agricultural employer give periodic bathroom, meal, and rest breaks; and (4) limiting requirements for hand weeding or thinning of vegetation. Reportedly, Colorado's Governor, Jared Polis, is eager to sign the bill into law.

Wildlife agencies release plan to improve Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") and the National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS") have released a plan to reverse Trump administration changes to the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). The agencies reviewed the ESA following President Biden's Executive Order 13990, which directed all federal agencies to review any agency actions during the Trump administration that conflict with the Biden-Harris administration objectives. The agencies look to reverse five ESA regulations finalized by the Trump administration which include the FWS' process for considering exclusions from critical habitat designations, redefining the term "habitat," reinstating prior regulations for listing species and designating critical habitats, and reinstating protections under the ESA to species listed as threatened. Critics of the agencies' plan claim that the current administration's proposals would remove incentives for landowners to cooperate in helping wildlife.

EPA announces intent to revise the definition of "waters of the United States." On June 9, 2021, the EPA and the Department of the Army (the "Agencies") announced that they intend to change the definition of "waters of the United States" ("WOTUS"), in order to protect the nation's water resources. The Agencies' also filed a motion in a Massachusetts federal court requesting that the court send the Trump administration's Navigable

Water Protection Rule ("NWPR") back to the Agencies so they can initiate a new rulemaking process to change the definition of WOTUS. In the motion, the Agencies explained that pursuant to President Biden's Executive Order 13990, they have reviewed the necessary data and determined that the Trump administration's rule has led to significant environmental harm. The Agencies hope to restore the protections that were in place prior to the 2015 WOTUS rule. According to the EPA, the Agencies' new regulatory process will be guided by: (1) protecting water resources and communities consistent with the Clean Water Act; (2) the latest science and the effects of climate change on the nation's waters; (3) practical implementation; and (4) the experience and input of the agricultural community, landowners, states, Tribes, local governments, environmental groups, and disadvantaged communities with environmental justice concerns. The EPA is expected to release further details of the Agencies' plans, including opportunity for public participation, in a forthcoming action. To learn more about WOTUS, visit https://www.epa.gov/wotus.

Beef Quality Assurance Recertification Slated For June 30

OSU Extension will be hosting a series of Beef Quality Assurance re-certification trainings to allow beef and dairy producers to re-new their beef quality assurance certification. In total, 165 producers will need to obtain re-certification before the end of 2021. The next in-person re-certification will be held on Wednesday, June 30 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 145 in the Coshocton County Services Building located at 724 South 7th Street, Coshocton, Ohio. Pre-registration is required for each session as space is limited. There is no fee to attend. Call 740-622-2265 to pre-register

Calling All Farm Dogs

By: David L Marrison
Written for The Beacon Newspaper- June 24, 2021

Hello Coshocton County! Every farmer needs a confidant and friend who they can turn to. Someone who will patiently listen to their ideas, goals, and even frustrations. Someone who is in their corner through thick and thin. Someone who is eager to check cattle on the coldest days of January and on the hottest days of August. Someone who is excited to see us each and every day. And sometimes, they will just ride along in silence as we drive to scout crops, make a parts run, or pick-up feed from the local Co-op.

As I visit with farmers across our county, I have met many of these confidants. In fact, they often will greet me before I see the farmer whom I am stopping to visit with. If they seem friendly, I will pat them on their heads and offer them a dog treat. Dog treat? So, who exactly are these confidants? Well, they are farm dogs. Yep, our four-legged friends who will greet you with a "checking you out" bark, alert eyes and ears, and often with their tail wagging.

The first farm dog in my memory bank was my grandpa's dog, Tippy. Tippy was part Australian Shepherd and was an incredible cow dog. If the barn door was left opened when the cows were out on pasture, she would take her post and would not let them back in until it was milking time. She would also faithfully follow my grandpa wherever he went on the farm, running alongside the tractor for hours on end. She was only scared of one thing – thunderstorms. We knew a big storm was coming when Tippy would bolt to the root cellar to hide.

Throughout my life, I have been blessed to have some incredible dogs in my life. From Tippy to Happy to Maggie to Hallie to Betty to Rufus and even Lola, each have a special place in my heart. For the past 14 years, Rufus was a rock for me in times of happiness, hardship, and change. For most of his life, he was known as the mayor of West Jefferson Street and then he came to love the sights and smells of Keene Township. He died in late May doing what he loved doing best, laying on our hill watching over our valley.

I think most of us have a special dog that has been in our lives and can appreciate the benefits which they bring us. Dogs make us healthier. A study from Washington State University reported that just 10 minutes of petting a dog per day can have a significant impact on your health. Another study in the United Kingdom showed that dog owners are four times more likely to meet daily physical activity guidelines. And a 2009 study in Japan found that looking into a dog's eyes raises our oxytocin levels (better known as our love hormone).

Recently, I read an article from Trevor Oldham in which he shared his five reasons to live like a dog. In one observation, Mr. Oldham stated, *"Why are dogs happy? It's because they have one job, to love unconditionally. Their sole focus is to love you whether you're happy or mad. When you're sick, they'll be by your side. Dogs are made to love you. As humans, we believe we need to be a superhero to be happy. In actuality, we have one job. It's to provide for, love unapologetically, and nurture those around us."*

Having a dog is essentially having a life coach at your side. Dogs look at the world differently and in turn they help us. Dogs think in pictures, not language. They focus on the present and they notice things that most of us ignore. They rarely talk back and they listen well. Dogs provide a soothing relief to nerves frazzled by workday stress and their love is unconditional. They are happy for the small gifts of life and appreciate everything that you do for them. They show love openly. In short, dogs can offer a gentle reminder to us about appreciation, loyalty, consistency, love, patience, compassion, respect, and family.

If you have a special story and picture about your farm dog, drop me an email at marrison.2@osu.edu as I would love to include a feature section called "Farm Dogs of Coshocton County" in our weekly agriculture newsletter. And remember, as Duane Chapman once said: "Dog is God spelled backward." Have a good and safe day!

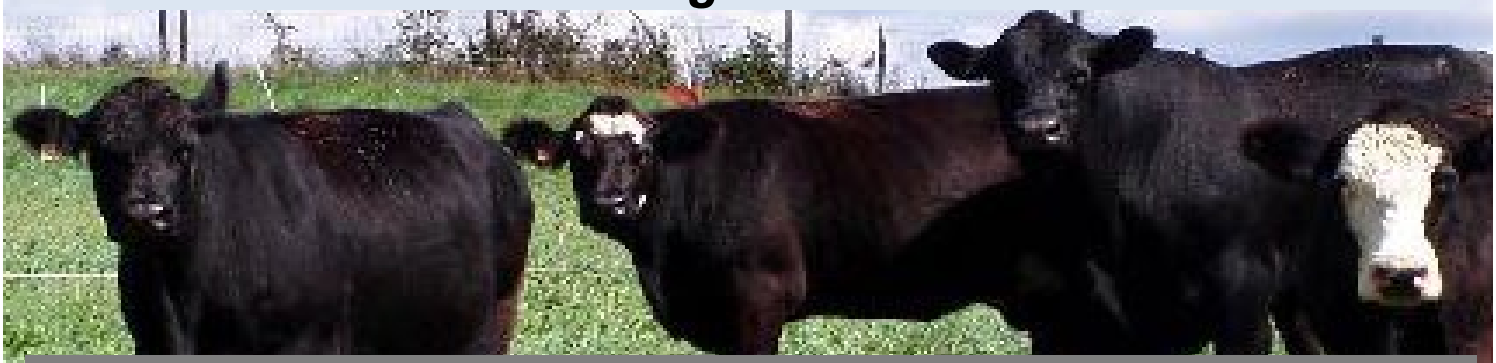
"The greatest tragedy is for any human being is going through their entire lives believing the only perspective that matters is their own."
Doug Baldwin

CFAES

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE

Re-certification Trainings for Livestock Producers



In-Person

June 30 or July 12
Coshocton County Services Building
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
724 South 7th Street - Room 145
Coshocton, OH 43812
Seating is limited, so please RSVP
Register by calling: 740-622-2265

Zoom

June 21 or July 19
Via Zoom
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Register at: go.osu.edu/bqa-cosh

Coshocton County will be hosting a series of Beef Quality Assurance re-certification programs to allow beef and dairy producers to re-certify their beef quality assurance. Both in-person and Zoom virtual sessions will be held throughout the rest of the year. Pre-registration is required for each session as space is limited. Producers may take also complete the training online (at any time) at bqa.org.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

COSHOCTON COUNTY EXTENSION

CFAES

OSU EXTENSION – TUSCARAWAS COUNTY

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Recertification

Beef and dairy producers who have a BQA certification that expires in 2021 can attend one of the following sessions to satisfy recertification requirements.

- **July 21 at 1pm**
- **July 29 at 7pm**
- **August 10 at 1pm**
- **August 25 at 7pm**

Location:
Sugarcreek Stockyards
Cost:
No Charge

Pre-Registration is requested in order to have materials prepared.

Please call: **330-339-2337**

Chris Zoller, Associate Professor, Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources
OSU Extension, Tuscarawas County 419 16th St SW, New Philadelphia, OH 44663
Email: zoller.1@osu.edu Office: 330-339-2337 Direct: 330-365-8159

Tuesday, July 20th 2021

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by: RMD Dairy Farm Ltd.

9757 Easton Road

Rittman, OH 44270

The Farm Tour:

RMD Dairy, Ltd. was established under that name in 2009 by the Dotterer family, though milking cows is not a new endeavor for them. One highlight of this year's tour will include two new Lely robotic milking units. These additional units increased their robotic milking capacity by about 120 cows per day.

Dinner will be provided through meal vouchers which can be redeemed at one of several food vendors on site. As always, ice cream, milk, and cheese will also be provided, thanks to our many generous donors and sponsors! Many of this year's sponsors will also be on farm and available to share how they partner with the dairy industry. We hope to see you there!