Hello Coshocton County! Yesterday’s rain has put a pause on field work across the county but I am grateful to hear how many producers were able to finish planting over the past week. I was also appreciative that we were able to help plant a corn/swine manure on-farm trial on Monday outside of West Lafayette.

The weather forecast indicates that we may be dancing around rain as we try to make hay as there is a lot of variability in the weather for the remainder of the month. But as all of us know—some hay does get rained on—because you can’t make it, if you don’t cut it.

Lots of good articles in today’s newsletter (it is the 150th edition). I hope you get a chance to catch your breath today, work on some equipment, and read this newsletter. As always, have a good and safe week!

Sincerely,

David L. Marrison

Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator
Cooler to Warmer June Ahead
By: Jim Noel
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/2022-17/cooler-warmer-june-ahead

May worked out as forecast with a wet start followed by a gradual planting window. Looking forward, the variable weather pattern continues in the short-term with temperatures continuing to fluctuate.

June Growing Season Outlook
For June, we expect slightly cooler than normal temperatures to persist until mid-month (-1 to 3F). Temperatures are likely to switch to above normal for the second half of the month (+1 to +4F). Confidence in this is medium to high.

Rainfall will be much more variable and scattered ranging from 0.50 inches to over 3 inches through June 20th (see attached rainfall forecast map for the next two weeks) You can also see this on the NOAA NWS Ohio River Forecast Center webpage at:
https://www.weather.gov/images/ohrfc/dynamic/NAEFS16.apcp.mean.total.png

Normal is about 1.5 to 2.0 inches. Confidence on where it will be drier or wetter is low as thunderstorms will drive the details of the outcome.

Rest of Growing Season Outlook
The outlook for July is for a warmer month with rainfall near normal (but the normal rainfall will be made up of anything but normal). Most areas will either be above or below normal rainfall in July but as a statewide average near normal is anticipated.

The warmer weather will persist into August with a trend toward normal or below normal rainfall. The question will be the preferred tropical track of tropical systems. Currently, most climate models indicate this will be from the Gulf of Mexico to the Southeast U.S. This will likely leave Ohio in the normal or possibly below normal precipitation category.

Fall Harvest Season
Early Indications for harvest season are for a warmer and drier than average pattern with low chances for early freezes.

Flood Risk Maps
The NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center generates ensembles of potential river conditions which can be helpful to the agricultural industry with lowland crops. You can see the 10-day river flood potential maps here: https://www.weather.gov/erh/mmefs?Lat=39&Lon=-84&Zoom=6

Farmer Sentiment Plummets As Production Costs Skyrocket
By: James Mintert and Michael Langemeier, Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture

The Purdue University-CME Group Ag Economy Barometer plummeted in May to a reading of just 99, the weakest farmer sentiment reading since April 2020. The May 2022 barometer reading marked just the 9th time since data collection began in fall 2015 that the overall measure of farmer sentiment fell below 100. Agricultural producers’ perceptions regarding current conditions on their farms, as well as their future expectations, both weakened this month. The Index of Current Conditions fell 26 points to a reading of 94, while the Index of
Future Expectations declined 21 points to 101 in May. Notably, this month saw a rise in the percentage of respondents who feel their farm is worse off financially now than a year earlier, an indication that escalating production costs are troubling producers. The Purdue University-CME Group Ag Economy Barometer sentiment index is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers’ responses to a telephone survey. This month’s survey was conducted from May 16-20, 2022.

Producers exhibited a much more negative view of their farms’ financial situation this month as the Farm Financial Performance Index fell 14 points from April’s reading of 95 to 81 in May. The percentage of producers who expect their farm’s financial performance this year to worsen compared to last year rose from 29% in April to 38% in May. Responses received to the financial performance question this May were nearly the polar opposite of responses received a year earlier. In May 2022, 38% of producers said they expect worse financial performance for their farms compared to a year earlier with just 19% of respondents expecting better financial performance. This stands in contrast to a year earlier when 42 percent of survey respondents expected better financial performance while just 16% said they thought a worse financial performance was likely. Over the course of the last 13 months, the Index of Farm Financial Performance has fallen 41% below its life of survey high of 138 set in April 2021. The decline points to farmers’ lack of confidence in their farms’ financial outlook.

The Farm Capital Investment Index drifted lower in May to 35, a new low for the index. The May reading was down just one point from a month earlier but was 30 points below its May 2021 reading. In this month’s survey, only 13% of respondents said this is a good time to make large investments in their operation while 78% said they viewed it as a bad time to invest in things like machinery and buildings. Half of the producers in this month’s survey said their machinery purchase plans were impacted by low farm machinery inventory levels, up from 41% in the April survey, suggesting that supply chain issues are at least partly responsible for the ongoing weakness in the capital investment index.

When asked what their biggest concerns are for their farming operation, once again producers, overwhelmingly (44%), chose higher input costs as the biggest issue facing their farming operation in the upcoming year. Nearly 6 out of 10 (57%) producers said they expect prices paid for farm inputs in 2022 to rise 30% or more compared to prices paid in 2021. The percentage of producers expecting costs to increase this dramatically has risen sharply since the end of 2021, shifting from 38% of producers in December who expected costs to rise by 30% or more to this month’s 57% of all respondents. For the second month in a row, the May survey asked producers about their expectations for input costs in 2023 compared to 2022. This month nearly 39% of producers said they expect costs next year to rise 10% or more compared to this year's already inflated costs. Compared to the April survey, fewer producers this month said they expect to see input prices decline next year. In April, 18% of respondents were anticipating lower input prices in 2023, but in May just 12% of producers said they expect input prices to fall back in 2023.

Noticeably fewer producers this month reported having difficulty purchasing crop inputs for the 2022 crop season than in prior surveys. In the May survey, one out of five (19%) producers said they had difficulty purchasing inputs for the 2022 crop season, down from an average of 32% who reported difficulties in the December through April surveys. Among those producers who still reported difficulties, problems were
apparent in all major input categories including herbicides, farm machinery parts, fertilizer and insecticides.

Despite the weak sentiment expressed by farmers regarding their farms’ financial performance, producers remain relatively optimistic about farmland values. The Long-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index, based upon producers’ farmland outlook over the upcoming 5 years, rose 8 points in May to a reading of 149. This month’s reading takes the long-term index back to its pre-pandemic (February 2020) level. The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index, based upon producers’ 12-month outlook, at a reading of 145 was virtually unchanged from a month earlier. The short-term index has been range–bound throughout 2022, fluctuating between 142 and 145. Both the short and long-term farmland indices in May were 7 to 8% below the peak levels attained last fall.

The contrast between farmers’ relatively optimistic view of farmland values and their expectations for weak farm financial performance continues to be a bit of a puzzle. For the last several months, our monthly survey has included a follow-up question posed to respondents who expect farmland values to rise over the next 5 years, asking them about the main reason they expect values to rise. Respondents have consistently chosen non-farm investor demand as the top reason followed closely by inflation. Interestingly, few respondents chose strong farm cash flows or low interest rates as the main reason they expect farmland values to rise.

The war in Ukraine has disrupted food production and distribution leading to serious concerns about the availability of food supplies, especially in importing countries. Wheat supplies and prices are of special concern because many low-income countries are reliant upon wheat imports from the Black Sea region. Multiple policy proposals have been discussed in the U.S. as a means of encouraging more wheat production. This month’s survey included several questions focused on crop producers’ wheat production plans and how they might respond to policy proposals.

Approximately 30% of the respondents to this month’s survey said they have used a wheat/double-crop soybean crop rotation at some time in the past. Twenty-eight percent of the producers who have experience with a wheat/double-crop soybean rotation said they plan to increase the percentage of their farms’ cropland devoted to this rotation by planting more wheat in fall 2022. The shift towards increasing wheat acreage is likely the result of the expected profitability improvement of the wheat/double-crop soybean rotation. One of the policy proposals discussed by the Biden administration is a $10/acre double-crop soybean crop insurance subsidy to make this crop rotation more attractive to producers. This month’s survey asked respondents if the subsidy would encourage them to plant more wheat in fall 2022 than would otherwise be the case. Among producers who have employed a wheat/double-crop soybean rotation in the past, just over one in five (22%) said it would encourage them to plant more wheat. Among producers who have not followed a wheat/double-crop soybean rotation in the past, just one out of ten producers said the insurance subsidy would encourage them to plant more wheat this fall.

Wrapping Up
Farmer sentiment plummeted in May as the Ag Economy Barometer dipped to its lowest level since the early days of the pandemic in spring 2020. Despite strong commodity prices, producers are very concerned about their farms’ financial performance in 2022. Weakness in producers’ sentiment appears to be driven by the rapid rise in production costs and uncertainty about where input prices are headed. Fewer producers this month said...
they experienced difficulty in purchasing crop inputs than reported having difficulty throughout the winter and early spring, suggesting that input availability did not impact planting progress this spring. Despite concerns about farm financial performance, producers remain relatively optimistic about farmland values, largely because of expectations for strong non-farm investor demand and inflation. Finally, this month’s survey suggests that producers with wheat/double-crop soybean experience plan to increase their wheat acreage in fall 2022.

**Hay Barn Fires a Real Hazard**

By: Jason Hartschuh, Allen Gahler, and Mark Sulc  
Source: [https://agcrops.osu.edu/2022-17/hay-barn-fires-real-hazard](https://agcrops.osu.edu/2022-17/hay-barn-fires-real-hazard)

Mother nature has been at it again, hardly giving us enough days to make dry hay with a risk of pop-up showers every afternoon. These conditions are very dangerous for hay producers since wet hay does just rot it may also burn. Hay fires are caused when bacteria in wet hay create so much heat that the hay spontaneously combusts in the presence of oxygen. At over 20% moisture mesophilic bacteria release heat-causing temperature to rise between 130°F to 140°F with the temperature staying high for up to 40 days. As temperatures rise thermophilic bacteria can take off in your hay and raise the temperature into the fire danger zone of over 175°F.

### Assessing your risk

If the hay was baled between 15-20% moisture and acid preservatives were used there is still potential for a hay fire but not as great as on non-treated hay. Having a moisture tester on your baler can help you know the variability across your field in moisture and when to use hay preservatives. Without a moisture tester if you find darker green damp spots occasionally or humidity is high be sure to monitor for heating. Most propionic acid-based products are effective if applied at the correct rates at inhibiting bacteria growth in hay up to 25% moisture, with variable effectiveness at 25-30% moister.

### Temperature Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature (°F/ °C)</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>125°/51.6°</td>
<td>No Action needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150°/65.6°</td>
<td>Hay is entering the danger zone, check temperatures twice per day. Disassemble haystacks moving bales outside to allow air circulation to cool the hay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160°/71.1°</td>
<td>Hay has reached the danger zone. Carefully check the hay temperature every few hours. Disassemble stacked hay to promote air circulation to cool hay be very careful of even hotter spots. Have a tank of water present while unstacking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175-190°/79.4-87.8°</td>
<td>Hot spots or fire pockets are likely. Alert fire service to the possible hay fire incident. Close barns to minimize air movement around the hay. With the assistance of the fire service, remove hot hay. Be aware that bales may burst into flames, and keep tractors wet so the tractor does not catch fire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200°+/93.3°+</td>
<td>Fire is present within the haystack near the temperature probe. With the assistance of the fire service, remove hot hay. If possible, inject water into the hot spot to cool the hay before moving. Most likely a fire will occur, keep tractors wet and fire hose lines charged in the barn and along the route of where bales will be stacked.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monitoring the haystack
There are a couple of options available to monitor hay temperature. One of these is high technology, like the cables that can be used to monitor the temperature in stored grain. There are a couple of companies that produce cables that would be placed between bales in a stack or monitoring probes that are placed in bales and use radio frequency to transmit signals.

If you believe that you may be at risk for hay heating, monitoring temperature is critical. It should be done daily until temperatures stabilize in the safe zone or reach 150°F when monitoring needs to be increased too twice daily. This can be done with technology or manual temperature probes. When monitoring hay temperature, be very cautious, hot hay can burn within the stack and cause cavities underneath that you can fall into. Use planks to spread out your weight while walking on the stack and have a harness system attached to the ceiling in case you fall into a burned-out cavity. Also, work in pairs with someone on the ground within voice range to assist you if you find yourself in a bad situation. Temperature monitoring should continue for possibly six weeks until values stabilize in the safe zone.

Temperature monitoring depends on the stack size but should be taken close to the center of the stack. In larger stacks ideally, this is 8 feet down in the stack. This can be done by purchasing a long probe thermometer or building your own. Building your own can be done with a 3/8-3/4 piece of pipe or electrical conduit cut into a closed point. The pipe size will depend on the thermometer probe size you will put in the pipe. A larger pipe can be used and a thermometer on a string is lowered into the pipe. Drill 3/16-inch holes in the bottom four feet of the pipe. Leave the thermometer in the stack for about 10 minutes to get an accurate reading. A less accurate method is to leave a pipe in the stack all day, and if a section is too hot to hold in your hand when removed you are at risk for fire. Or even better use an infrared thermometer to measure the temperature of the pipe. Any time temperatures are above 175°F hay should not be removed from the barn until the local fire department is present, you are at risk for fire. Once the fire department is present hay should be carefully removed from the barn with charged fire hoses ready if spontaneous combustion occurs. Have a safe a well-drying hay season this year!

The Beef Market Has Topped
By: Stephen R. Koontz, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2022/06/08/the-market-has-topped/

One of the adages that makes analysis of cattle and beef markets so difficult is that the playing out of somewhat observable supply and demand scenarios seems to take so long – possibly twice as long as you might think. That said, the cattle and beef markets appear to be returning to much needed and anticipated normalcy. And certainly – or at least more recognizable – than what we’ve lived with the past two years. There will continue to be lots of talk – and sticker shock – regarding inflation. But the large supplies of fed cattle, exacerbated but COVID supply chain issues, look to be worked out through this summer and into fall.

Beef prices are still strong and seasonally strong for the early summer but are softening, packer margins are shrinking but still large, the weekly kill is still very strong, and slaughter weights continue the seasonal decline and are perhaps more so than seasonal norms. Saturday slaughter is strong but below last year and weekly steer and heifer FI slaughter remains strong. Packers appear to be well-crewed, and a huge Saturday kill is not key to a strong weekly volume. These weekly kill numbers were key for market prices over the coming weeks. Short kills and weak prices while heavy kills allowed for stronger fed cattle prices.

High prices and strong volumes translate into solid domestic demand. In this environment it is not surprising at exports of beef – to some destinations – are softer and that imports are higher. It appears that lean beef was needed for blending with fed trimmings for the domestic ground beef market. And export sales to China continue to be bright spot while taking market share from traditional customers.

Beef cow slaughter for the year is nothing short of aggressive. Weekly slaughter for this year is 15% above the high rates of one ago. Interestingly the northern and central plains – and the northern mountain region –
received good perception over the past week. It will take a few weeks to impact crop progress but was not anticipated in seasonal forecasts. Pasture conditions are nothing short of horrible with 39% in the very poor and 20% in the poor categories. And it’s worse in Texas. But it is one step in the right direction for forage conditions. The coming weeks will be interesting to watch. The tightening supply situation is clearly in process and will take some years to materialize. While many eyes are on the corn and bean markets, cooler and wetter weather conditions are in some sense good news for the cattle markets and producers.

A Rose We Love to Hate
By: Christine Gelley, Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Noble County OSU Extension
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2022/06/08/a-rose-we-love-to-hate/

Mutiflora rose is in full-bloom this week! The sweet aroma of roses and honeysuckle drifting through the June evening air is almost heavenly when paired with the scent of freshly mowed hay. As sweet as they smell, both multiflora roses and Japanese honeysuckle are invasive weeds commonly found in Ohio pastures and woodlands.

I tend to be less critical of these two weeds than many others simply because they are not poisonous to livestock, they can provide some benefit to wildlife (primarily birds and insects), and they can be target grazed with small ruminant animals. Goats are quite effective grazers of both roses and honeysuckle because they have a specialized prehensile lip that allows them to select individual leaves from plants and avoid thorns and woody tissue.

However, NO ONE should be propagating these plants on purpose or ignoring them in the landscape. Because they have invasive status in Ohio, it is every landowners’ legal responsibility to control their spread. My stance is, make the invasives that are poisonous your top priority for control, then address the invasives that won’t cause death if something consumes them before you can control them. Better yet, work with your local professionals to develop an integrated management program that helps you do both at the same time!

Interestingly, both multiflora rose and Japanese honeysuckle were introduced to the Eastern United States from Asia in the 1800s for ornamental use. Multiflora rose originally used as a rootstock for other rose species and then was promoted for erosion control and as living fence in the early 1900s, but it was so aggressive in our landscape that it became increasingly difficult to manage as the years passed. Today it is considered a noxious weed. Japanese honeysuckle was imported for its beauty and fragrance, but soon escaped private landscapes and naturalized itself all along the East Coast smothering many native plants along the way with its fast-growing vines.

This week we will focus on multiflora rose because it is so easy to spot right now. It is one of our weeds that can be treated successfully with a foliar herbicide while in bloom. However it is best to avoid spraying herbicides directly on blooms that attract pollinators, so proceed with caution when selecting a herbicide and a spray time.

This is a concern with multiflora rose because to achieve effective herbicide response, you need to fully coat rose leaves with herbicide, and inevitably the blooms will be sprayed too. Pollinators tend to forage very little in the hour before sunset and the two hours prior to sunrise, so evening time would be ideal for a foliar herbicide application if the plants are in bloom. To make control easier from a timing perspective, make an effort to spray rose plants before they bloom or after the petals have dropped. If you have a plethora of multiflora rose, you should be able to identify it now and create a plan to address it.
Multiple herbicides provide good control of multiflora rose if the plants are small. These include products containing metsulfuron methyl, dicamba, 2,4-D, triclopyr, and/or glyphosate. The best herbicide for your situation will depend on the time of year, the application method, the setting where it grows, the size of the plant, and label restrictions of the herbicide, which may include lactation or slaughter withdrawals for livestock and/or hay harvest restrictions.

Multiflora rose can also be treated in the off season through basal bark or cut stump treatments, but these methods may be more labor intensive than foliar applications. Although they require more physical labor, they are often more effective on large plants or patches of many roses due to the direct approach of treating the stem tissue and sending translocated herbicides down to the roots.

Multiflora rose often takes multiple years and methods to achieve measurable control because it is a perennial that can easily spread by stolons, sprout from root tissue left behind in the soil, and seed can lay dormant in the soil for up to 20 years and still be viable. One well-established plant can produce 500,000 seeds, which are often spread by birds and deer that feed on rose hips. Unfortunately, mowing multiflora rose has limited effectiveness. It can be good control on small plants that are newly emerged. Mechanical or cultural control of larger plants will require pulling or digging of the root tissue.

There are many reasons why we see it everywhere. It is a thorn in many a manager’s side. Diligence and patience are key in gaining ground back from a multiflora rose infestation. My advice to you is enjoy the blooms today but bid those plants goodbye in the coming weeks.

The Ag Law Roundup

By: Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Law
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/mon-06062022-240pm/ag-law-roundup

It's time for another roundup of legal questions we've been receiving in the Agricultural & Resource Law Program. Our sampling this month includes registering a business, starting a butchery, noxious weed liability in a farm lease situation, promoting local craft beer at a farmers market, herd share agreements, and agritourism's exemption from zoning. Read on to hear the answers to these questions from across the state.

I want to name my farm business but am not an LLC or corporation. Do I have to register the name I want to use for the business? Yes, if your business name won't be your personal name and even if the business is not a formally organized entity such as an LLC. You must register the business with the Ohio Secretary of State. First, make sure the name you want to use is not already registered by another business. Check the name availability using the Secretary of State’s business name search tool at https://businesssearch.ohiosos.gov/. If the name is available, register the name with the Secretary of State using the form at https://www.sos.state.oh.us/businesses/filing-forms--fee-schedule/#name. If there is already a business registered with the name you want to use, you might be able to register a similar name if your proposed name is “distinguishable” from the registered name. The Secretary of State reviews names to make sure they are not already registered and are distinguishable from similar names. See the Guide to Name Availability page for examples of when names are or are not distinguishable from one another.

I am interested in starting a small butchery. What resources and information are helpful for beginning this endeavor? There are legal issues associated with beginning a meat processing operation, and there are also feasibility issues to first consider. A good resource for initial considerations to make for starting a meat processing business is this toolkit from OSU at https://meatsci.osu.edu/programs/meat-processing-business-toolkit. A similar resource that targets niche meat marketers is at https://www.nichemeatprocessing.org/get-started/. On the legal side, requirements vary depending on whether you will only process meat as a custom operator or fully inspected operator, and if you also want to sell the meat through your own meat market. The Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Division of Meat Inspection has licensing information for different types of processors here: https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/meat-inspection/home. If you also want to have a retail meat market, you’ll need a retail food establishment (RFE) license from your local health department. To help you with that process, it’s likely that your health department will have a food facility plan review resource like this.
Is Ohio’s noxious weeds law enforceable against the tenant operator of my farm, or just against me as the landowner? Ohio’s noxious weed law states that the township trustees, upon receiving written information that noxious weeds are on land in their township, must notify the “owner, lessee, agent, or tenant having charge of the land.” This language means that the trustees are to notify a tenant operator if the operator is the one who is in charge of the land where the noxious weeds exist. The law then requires the notified party—which should be the tenant operator—to cut or destroy the noxious weeds within five days or show why there is no need to do so. The concern with a rental situation like yours is that if the tenant does not destroy the weeds in five days, the law requires the township to hire someone to do so and assess the costs of removal as a lien on the land. This puts you as the landowner at risk of financial responsibility for the lien and would require you to seek recourse against the tenant operator if you want to recover those costs. Another option is to take care of removing the noxious weeds yourself, but that could possibly expose you to a claim of crop damages from the tenant operator. A written farm lease can address this situation by clearing shifting the responsibility for noxious weeds in the crop to the tenant operator and stating how to deal with crop damages if the landowner must step in and destroy the noxious weeds.

Can we promote local craft beers at our farmers market? Ohio established a new “F-11” permit in H.B. 674 last year. The F-11 is a temporary permit that allows a qualifying non-profit organization to organize and conduct an event that introduces, showcases, or promotes Ohio craft beers that are sold at the event. There are restrictions on how long the event can last, how much beer can be sold, who can participate in the event, and requirements that food must also be sold at the event. The permit is $60 per day for up to 3 days. Learn more about the permit on the Department of Commerce website at https://com.ohio.gov/divisions-and-programs/liquor-control/new-permit-info/guides-and-resources/permit-class-types.

Can a goat herdsman legally provide goat milk through a herd share agreement program? Herd share agreements raise the raw milk controversy and whether it’s legal or safe to sell or consume raw milk. Ohio statutory law does clearly prohibit the sales of raw milk to an “ultimate consumer” in ORC 971.04, on the basis that raw milk poses a food safety risk to consumers. But the law does not prohibit animal owners from consuming raw milk from their own animals. A herd share agreement sells ownership in an animal, rather than selling the raw milk from the animal. Under the agreement, a person who pays the producer for a share of ownership in the animal may take their share of milk from the animal. The Ohio Department of Agriculture challenged the use of herd share agreements as illegal in the 2006 case of Schitmeyer v. ODA, but the court did not uphold the ODA’s attempt to revoke the license of the dairy that was using herd share agreements. As a result, it appears that the herd share agreement approach for raw milk sales is currently legally acceptable. But many still claim that raw milk consumption is risky because the lack of pasteurization can allow harmful bacteria to exist in the milk.

Can the township prohibit me from having a farm animal petting zoo on my hay farm? It depends whether you qualify for the “agritourism exemption” granted in Ohio law. The agritourism exemption states that a county or township can’t use its zoning authority to prohibit “agritourism,” although it may have same zoning regulations that affect agritourism buildings, parking lots, and access to and from the property. “Agritourism” is an agriculturally related entertainment, recreational, cultural, educational or historical activity that takes place on a working farm where a certain amount of commercial agricultural production is also taking place. If you have more than ten acres in commercial production, like growing and selling your alfalfa, or you have less than ten acres but averaged more than $2,500 in gross sales from your alfalfa, you qualify under the agritourism exemption and the township zoning authorities cannot prohibit you from having your petting zoo. However, any zoning regulations the township has for ingress and egress on your property, buildings used primarily for your petting zoo, or necessary parking areas would apply to your petting zoo activity. If you don’t qualify as "agritourism," the township zoning regulations could apply to the petting zoo activity, and you must determine whether a petting zoo is a permitted use according to your zoning district, which could depend upon whether or not you want to operate the petting zoo as a commercial business.
The Continuation of Disaster Programs in U.S Agriculture: Emergency Relief Program

By: Krista Swanson, Gary Schnitkey, Jonathan Coppess, and Nick Paulson, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics - University of Illinois and Carl Zulauf, Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics, Ohio State University

Source: https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2022/06/the-continuation-of-disaster-programs-in-us-agriculture-emergency-relief-program.html

Since 2017, disaster payments have been made available to crop producers through programs called Wildfires and Hurricanes Protection (WHIP) program, WHIP Plus (WHIP+) program, and Emergency Relief Program (ERP). Given the persistence of these disaster programs, there likely will be attempts to include a permanent disaster assistance program in the next farm bill. Herein, we lay out the basics of the WHIP+ and ERP programs, particularly as they relate to crops with crop insurance or Noninsured Disaster Assistance coverage. Then, we lay out potential issues with these programs which will be covered in future farmdoc daily articles.

Background on Ad Hoc Programs and Disaster Policy Assistance for Commodity Program Crops

Discussion surrounding ad hoc assistance for crop disasters is not new. Unpublished data from USDA indicates CCC outlays for disaster assistance exceeded $3.57 billion between 1975 and 1981 (Goodwin & Rejesus), to cover prevented planting losses and yield losses. This disaster assistance was one of the primary drivers for the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980, which created the current, modern Federal crop insurance program with the goal of replacing the need for disaster assistance (RMA).

Even given this crop insurance program, the 2008 farm bill authorized the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE). SURE program payments were calculated as 60% of the deficit between a farm’s guaranteed crop revenue level and actual crop revenue (including farm program payments and insurance indemnities) using total crop revenue for the entire farm. The whole farm approach differed from the crop specific design of crop insurance and prior disaster assistance programs. The program, only authorized for five years, ended in 2012. It was not renewed by the 2014 farm bill. A key reason for nonrenewal was the complexity of its calculations. Further, use of the crop insurance program declined initially while SURE was in effect while the end of the program brought about a notable increase in insured acres over 2012 and 2013. The resurgence in crop insurance without the presence of a permanent disaster program is reflective of the initial goal of the federal crop insurance program.

In 2017, Congress responded to significant damage from hurricanes and wildfires with a new ad hoc disaster program, appropriating up to $2.36 billion to the 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP) as part of a bipartisan budget act. In June 2019, Congress passed a disaster aid package that provided more than $3 billion for The Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+), building upon the 2017 WHIP predecessor program. In December 2019, an additional $1.5 billion was provided to WHIP+ for the 2018 and 2019 crop years.

WHIP+ covered not only wildfires and hurricanes but other types of natural disasters including floods, tornados, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms, drought, and excessive moisture. In essence, WHIP+ covered many of the same losses as the crop insurance program. Importantly, WHIP+ included additional disaster assistance for farmers with Federal crop insurance or Noninsured Disaster Assistance (NAP) coverage. More detail is provided in the following sub-section.

A continuing resolution signed into law in September 2021 provided $10 billion for crop losses in 2020 and 2021. With a few modifications, The WHIP+ program has been rebranded as the new Emergency Relief Program (ERP) for the 2020 and 2021 crop years. Qualifying natural disasters were expanded to include derechos, excess heat, freeze including polar vortex, and smoke exposure. ERP continued additional assistance to farmers who have crop insurance and NAP.
ERP for Crops with Insurance or NAP coverage

ERP is very similar to WHIP+. Both WHIP+ and ERP increases coverage factors of an underlying crop insurance or NAP policy eligible producers. Coverage factors for both programs are based on the insurance or NAP coverage level selected by the producer (see Table 1).

For individuals with crop insurance or NAP, ERP provides an increase in the coverage level and the ERP payment represents the difference. If CAT coverage level is selected, the ERP factor is 75%. The factor increases as the coverage level of the underlying policy increases, reaching 95% for and 80% or 85% policy coverage level. The WHIP+ factor was 70% for uninsured crops. Details on the corresponding ERP factor are not yet released but are expected when ERP Phase 2 information becomes available.

ERP is applied on a crop basis on a farm and not a whole farm approach, following the model of WHIP+. If a farm has multiple eligible crops, a disaster payment may be made on any one or more of the crops. The actual mechanics of determining ERP payments and notable changes from WHIP+ are illustrated in Table 2. The biggest two changes are: 1) expected value for ERP follows provisions of the underlying policy and 2) a net indemnity payment accounting for policy cost is used.

Eligibility for WHIP+ and ERP

Eligibility for WHIP+ was based on Presidential or Secretarial (US Secretary of Agriculture) disaster declaration by county. For Phase 1 of ERP, producers who received a crop insurance indemnity or NAP payment for 2020...
and/or 2021 with a qualifying disaster cause of loss are eligible. The exception is losses due to drought which are only eligible for assistance if within a drought eligible county (see lists for 2020 and 2021). ERP Phase 2 will include producers with qualifying causes of loss who didn’t receive an indemnity payment, but USDA has not yet released factors for determining eligibility.

Both WHIP+ and ERP provide disaster assistance to insurance and uninsured producers. To be eligible for ERP Phase 1 producers must have purchased crop insurance or NAP coverage, but uninsured producers will be eligible for ERP Phase 2. All producers who received ERP payments must purchase crop insurance with at least 60% coverage level, or NAP with at least catastrophic coverage, in the next two available crop years. Both WHIP+ and ERP payments are subject to payment limitations. While WHIP+ included a $125,000 payment limitation per person or legal entity, ERP expands to allow for up to $125,000 in payments for specialty and high value crops and $125,000 in payment for all other crops.

Both programs expand payment limitations for farmers with at least 75% of income derived from farming. For WHIP+ the expanded limitation was $250,000 for each crop year or $500,000 total. For ERP the expanded limitations are $900,000 per year for specialty crops and $250,000 per year for all other crops.

Summary
The ERP program (and previously WHIP+) was created to assist crop producers suffering disaster related losses. While addressing a perceived need, the continued use of ad hoc disaster programs raises important issues to be considered, particularly related to crop insurance interactions. All of this leads to the question: what is good farm safety net policy in the presence of natural disasters? These topics will be presented in additional farmdoc articles over the next week.

References
- Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture. "Emergency Relief."

USDA to Allow Producers to Request Voluntary Termination of Conservation Reserve Program Contract

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will allow Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants who are in the final year of their CRP contract to request voluntary termination of their CRP contract following the end of the primary nesting season for fiscal year 2022. USDA has determined to waive refunds and penalties for CRP participants who voluntarily request to terminate a CRP contract that is set to expire on 9/30/2022. Today, USDA also announced additional flexibilities for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

FSA is mailing letters to producers with expiring acres that detail this flexibility and share other options, such as re-enrolling sensitive acres in the CRP Continuous signup and considering growing organic crops. Producers will be asked to make the request for voluntary termination in writing through their local USDA Service Center. If approved for voluntary termination, preparations can occur after the conclusion of the primary nesting season. Producers will then be able to hay, graze, begin land preparation activities and plant a fall-seeded crop before October 1, 2022. For land in colder climates, this flexibility may allow for better establishment of a winter wheat crop or better prepare the land for spring planting.

Organic Considerations
Since CRP land typically does not have a recent history of pesticide or herbicide application, USDA is encouraging producers to consider organic production. USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to help producers plan and implement conservation
practices, including those that work well for organic operations, such as pest management and mulching. Meanwhile, FSA offers cost-share for certification costs and other fees.

**Other CRP Options**
Participants can also choose to enroll all or part of their expiring acres into the Continuous CRP signup for 2022. Important conservation benefits may still be achieved by re-enrolling sensitive acres such as buffers or wetlands. Expiring water quality practices such as filter strips, grass waterways, and riparian buffers may be eligible to be reenrolled under the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) and CLEAR 30 options under CRP. Additionally, expiring continuous CRP practices such as shelterbelts, field windbreaks, and other buffer practices may also be re-enrolled to provide benefits for organic farming operations.

If producers are not planning to farm the land from their expiring CRP contract, the Transition Incentives Program (TIP) may also provide them two additional annual rental payments after their contract expires on the condition that they sell or rent their land to a beginning or veteran farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group. Producers interested in the Continuous CRP signup, CLEAR 30, or TIP should contact FSA by Aug. 5, 2022.

**NRCS Conservation Programs**
USDA also encourages producers to consider NRCS conservation programs, which help producers integrate conservation on croplands, grazing lands and other agricultural landscapes. EQIP and CSP can help producers plant cover crops, manage nutrients and improve irrigation and grazing systems. Additionally, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), or state or private easement programs, may be such an option. In many cases, a combination of approaches can be taken on the same parcel. For example, riparian areas or other sensitive parts of a parcel may be enrolled in continuous CRP and the remaining land that is returned to farming can participate in CSP or EQIP and may be eligible to receive additional ranking points.

**Other Flexibilities to Support Conservation**
Additionally, NRCS is also offering a new flexibility for EQIP and CSP participants who have cover cropping including in their existing contracts. NRCS will allow participants to either modify their plans to plant a cover crop (and instead shift to a conservation crop rotation) or delay their cover crop plans a year, without needing to terminate the existing contract. This will allow for flexibility to respond to market signals while still ensuring the conservation benefits through NRCS financial and technical assistance for participating producers.

**More Information**
Producers and landowners can learn more about these options by contacting FSA and NRCS at their local USDA Service Center.

**Producers Have until June 30 to Receive 2022 Census of Agriculture**

Agriculture producers who did not receive the 2017 Census of Agriculture and do not receive other USDA surveys or censuses have until June 30 to sign up to receive the 2022 Census of Agriculture at [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus). USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will mail ag census survey codes for responding securely online to every known U.S. producer this November. Hard copy questionnaires will follow in December.

The ag census, conducted for over 180 years, remains the only source of comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. It includes every operation — large or small, urban or rural — from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products are produced and sold, or would normally be produced and sold, in the ag census year.

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**Key Ag Census Dates:**
- June 30, 2022 – sign up ends
- November 2022 – census mails out
- February 2023 – response deadline
- Spring/summer 2024 – data release

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“The Census of Agriculture is a collective voice that tells the story and value of American agriculture. The data influence action and inform policy and program decisions that directly impact producers, their operations, and everyone they touch — and that’s all of us,” said Barbara Rater, NASS Census and Survey Division director. “This is why a complete count, with every producer getting and taking the opportunity to be represented in these data, is so important.”

On the NASS webpage, producers can also access frequently asked questions, explore past and current ag census data, access tools to help spread the word about the upcoming ag census, learn about ag census special studies, and more.

NASS builds its distribution list for every Census of Agriculture between and during ag census years through the official sign-up webpage and multiple National Agricultural Classification Surveys. To learn more about the 2022 Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus.

**Are You an Employer of Choice?**
By: David L. Marrison, Coshocton County Ag & NR Extension Educator
Source: Written for Farm & Dairy- Dairy Excel Column. Publication on June 7, 2022

Hello, Northeast Ohio! I know many involved in agriculture have had a lot of worries on their minds this spring. Front and center of course are the planting challenges which our La Nina weather patterns presented. Other stressors include supply chain shortages, high fuel and fertilizer prices, eroding capital, inflation, and the constant struggle with labor.

Today, I would like to share some thoughts on one of these issues: this being labor. In the May edition of OSU Extension’s Farm Office Live webinar, Dr. Margaret Jodlowski provided an agricultural labor update. She reported many farm and non-farm businesses are struggling to attract and maintain good employees. Dr. Jodlowski also shared that summer job postings are 40 percent higher than in February and that labor wages continue to rise.

Many Ohio farms have primarily relied on family members to provide the necessary labor. However, as farm businesses grow in size and complexity, our workforces are expanding to include non-family labor. Operating a highly competitive dairy operation requires the talents of many people especially when field and dairy operations are being conducted simultaneously. So, to meet today’s labor challenges, how can your farm become an “employer of choice?”

Recently, two Extension colleagues from Michigan State University completed a study on the effects of employer management on employee recruitment, satisfaction, engagement, and retention on large U.S. dairy farms. Stan Moore and Phil Durst identified six common management areas as weaknesses on many dairy farms.

The areas identified were: failure to specify goals, failure to encourage employee input, employee-to-employee problems, lack of communication, failure to provide training, and failure to provide specific positive feedback. They found that employees who had a good relationship with their employer and who understood goals, directions, and how their work fit into the accomplishment of those goals were more likely to be satisfied in their jobs.

So how are you doing with your labor management? This summer, I would encourage you to take some time to think about the ways you can enhance your employee management program. Are job duties and expectations clearly defined? Should an employee handbook be developed? Are we providing coaching and instruction at opportune times? Do we hold employee meetings? How can we increase the skills of our employees? In what ways can we improve the working environment for our employees? In what areas would we like our employees to improve and how can we help them improve? How can we remove employee dis-satisfiers such as unsafe equipment, unreasonable rules and policies, and conflict with co-workers? How can we encourage and reward
It is no secret that motivated employees are more productive. Dr. Bernie Erven, OSU Professor Emeritus, often cited an employee paradigm that states: “You can buy people’s time: you can buy their physical presence at a given place, you can even buy a measured number of their skilled muscular motions per hour. But you cannot buy the devotion of their hearts, minds or souls. You must earn these.”

How are you doing in keeping your dairy employees motivated? Have you taken time to ask your employees what motivates them? Many employers would be shocked to learn that good wages and job security are not necessarily the ultimate motivators.

A study conducted some time ago by George Mason University showed the top three motivators for employees were interesting work, appreciation, and feeling in on things. Granted with today’s inflation, competitive wages are a crucial part to being an employer of choice. Have you checked to see how your wages compare to other industries in your region?

Some employees are internally motivated while others are motivated by external rewards. By listening to employees, you can develop strategies to reward and motivate them. Some of these strategies could include: verbal praise, free meals, work uniforms, annual salary increase, free gas, tickets to a ball game, unexpected paid time off, bonuses, flexible work schedules, special gifts for special occasions, and extra vacation days. And never forget how far a sincere thank you or compliment can go for any employee including family members.

If you are looking to add to your employee management tool box, I would encourage you to check out the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s “Becoming the Employer of Choice” resources at: https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/programs/becoming-the-employer-of-choice/

Good luck as you continue to negotiate and manage through these topsy-turvy times. And remember to keep employee management as a top priority. The investment that you put into your employees today will reward you in the future. Have a good and safe day!

**Keeping an Eye Out for Safety**
By: Emily Marrison, Coshocton Extension Educator, Family and Consumer Sciences
Source: Written for Coshocton Tribune- For Publication on June 5, 2022

June is National Safety Month. According to the National Safety Council, the annual observance is to help keep each other safe from the workplace to anyplace.

All our local manufacturing companies and many of our local businesses and farms have a commitment to safety in a variety of ways. There are many rules and systems in place to encourage a safe work environment. There is certainly always room for improvement, but thankfully, the attitudes and awareness of the importance of safety in the workplace exists for many workers in our communities.

But what about outside of the workplace- in our homes, on our streets, and in recreational areas? Pedestrian Safety: In 2019, an estimated 7,668 pedestrian died in traffic and non-traffic incidents in the US, with 6,205 of those killed in traffic crashes on public roads, according to Injury Facts. Crossing the street in Coshocton, Warsaw, and West Lafayette is not like crossing the street in Columbus. Typically, in larger cities there are well-marked, highly traveled crosswalks with crossing lights and often several pedestrians at a time. But I worry about pedestrian safety just as much here in Coshocton County.

I don’t know if you notice this like I do but driving through red lights has become endemic in Coshocton. Even when your light turns green, you should be very vigilant to look towards oncoming traffic to be certain the vehicle does not continue through as their light changes to red. If your light is changing to yellow, slow down and stop for red. Believe me, with traffic lights patterns as they are, you are going to get stopped at the next
As a pedestrian, whenever possible, walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is available, then walk facing traffic (i.e., the left side of the road). And on a related note, distracted walking incidents are on the rise, and everyone with a cell phone is at risk. The National Safety Council says to stop using phones while walking, and not just in crosswalks and intersections. Over half of distracted walking injuries occur in our own homes.

**Bicycle Safety:** The number of deaths from bicycle incidents increased by 37 percent in the last 10 years, from 793 in 2010 to 1,089 in 2019, according to Injury Facts. Over 65 percent of the deaths involved motor vehicles. Do you have an eye out for cyclists as you drive streets in town, and also highways and backroads throughout the county?

Sometimes the vehicle and bicycle incident is because of “dooring” – opening the door of a parked vehicle in front of a bicycle approaching from behind. One handy piece of advice is to use the far hand reach when opening your vehicle door. By using your far hand, you are forced to look out the window and toward the mirror before your exit your vehicle.

**Water Safety:** Drownings continue to be the second leading cause of preventable death through age 15, and boys die from drowning at twice the rate as girls. Emergency departments treat about 6,400 pool and spa injuries in children younger than 15 every year. The majority of drowning incidents occurred in residential locations.

Parents are cautioned all the time about water safety, but drownings still occur. Distractions are rampant in our daily lives. Always be aware and be in the present moment with your children.

Today I’ll leave you with this quote from the National Safety Council, “Every pool, every lake and every warm summer day holds the possibility of new, fun summer experiences. All you need to add is your undivided attention.”

**“Name that Tree” Workshop Slated for June 29**

Have a tree that you pass on a regular basis that you always wonder ‘what is that? Or do you own a woodland and want to know exactly what trees you have? If so, OSU Extension and Clary Gardens will be hosting a **“Name that Tree Program”** on Wednesday, June 29 from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Clary. This one-day workshop is designed to give participants in-depth training and practice on identifying trees using leaves and other common characteristics. The class begins in a new outdoor event pavilion with some introductory identification clues and samples that we use to work through a dichotomous key. The afternoon is spent out in the woods practicing (expect moderate walking). The registration fee for this program is $40 per person. This registration fee includes the program, light refreshments, lunch, and handouts. There is limited seating so pre-registration is due by June 21. For more information about this program, contact the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265.
Have a tree that you pass on a regular basis that you always wonder ‘what is that? Own a woodland and want to know exactly what trees you have? Then this Name That Tree Workshop is for you! This one-day workshop is designed to give participants in-depth training and practice on identifying trees using leaves and other common characteristics. The class begins in a new outdoor event pavilion with some introductory identification clues and samples that we use to work through a dichotomous key. The afternoon is spent out in the woods practicing (expect moderate walking). This workshop is being co-hosted by OSU Extension and Clary Gardens.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: The registration fee of $40 includes the program, light refreshments, lunch, and handouts. There is limited seating so pre-registration is due by June 21.

Name(s)______________________________________
Address_________________________________________________
Email________________________Phone__________________

$40 per person registration _____# of attendees @ $40 each

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity
2022 Ohio Beef Day and Tour

Saturday July 16 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Muskingum County
Self Driving Tour

Agenda

8:00 a.m.  Registration Opens - Donuts
Muskingum Livestock
944 Malinda St. Zanesville, OH 43701

8:50 a.m.  Welcome and Tour Instructions
Garth Ruff, OSU Extension Beef Cattle Field Specialist

9:00 a.m.  Depart for Tour in Own Vehicles – Stops in Order

- Michel Livestock
  Starting and Receiving Feedlot Cattle
- Shirer Bros Meats
  Local Meats Q&A
  Peggy Hall, OSU Extension Ag Law Specialist
- Hatfield Farms
  Fencing, Fall Calving, and Farm Succession

12:30 p.m.  Lunch at Roger’s Auction Barn
Prepared by Muskingum Co. Cattlemen’s Association

Lunch  Beef Industry Update
Ohio Cattlemen’s Association/Ohio Beef Council

1:15  Herd Health – Vaccinations and Anaplasmosis
Dr. Justin Kieffer, DVM OSU Clinical Veterinarian

2:00  Beef Quality Assurance Wrap up
Clifton Martin, OSU Extension Muskingum County

2:30  Adjourn
Please complete program survey and have a safe trip home!

PROGRAM DETAILS

$10 per person
Register by July 7, 2022 at:
go.osu.edu/2022beefday

Registration fee includes:
- Refreshments
- Lunch
- Resources

Education Credits Offered
Beef Quality Assurance Certification (BQA)

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beef.osu.edu

The Ohio State University
EXTENSION
OSU EXTENSION - WAYNE COUNTY PRESENTS

Small Grains Field Day

Attention all Small Grain Producers. Are you interested in learning more about wheat cultivars, updates on grain variety trials, disease and insect management, barley for brewing and how to identify wheat quality? Please join us!

This event is free to attend thanks to the generosity of the Ohio Corn and Wheat Board. Lunch will be provided.

RSVP is required for lunch orders by June 7.

REGISTER: go.osu.edu/small-grains-field-day or call 330-264-8722

DATE: June 14, 2022
TIME: 8:30AM-2:30PM
LOCATION: OSU Schaffter and Snyder Farms
3230 Oil City Rd.
Wooster, OH 44691

EVENT SPONSOR:
Ohio Corn and Wheat

Topics Include:
- Wheat Cultivars
- Small Grain Variety Trial Updates
- Seeding Rates
- Small Grain Disease and Insect Management
- Barley for Brewing
- Wheat Quality