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OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

COSHOCTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

March 23 (Edition #139)

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Hello Coshocton County! Looks like our weather rollercoaster will continue! A few nice days and now a few wet ones (with potential snowflakes in the forecast). We will take the rollercoaster now as long as it mellows out as we move into planting season.

This week is National Week and yesterday we celebrated National Ag Day with the 7th Annual Ag Day Celebration Luncheon at the Lake Park Pavilion. Over 110 farmers and industry supporters gathered to celebrate our great Coshocton County Ag Industry. It was great to see so many of you there. A special thank you to Phyllis Debnar and Kyle and Kurtis Croft for their excellence talks on Farming from the Past and Farming for the Future. What an amazing event!

Tick Alert: We all are aware of ticks and the dangers of Lyme disease but now we even have to be concerned about our beef cattle. Make sure to read Tim McDermott's article included today on Asian Longhorn Ticks and how they killed some cattle in Ohio last year (yes, killed!). Ticks, ticks, ticks!

Sincerely,

David L. Marrison

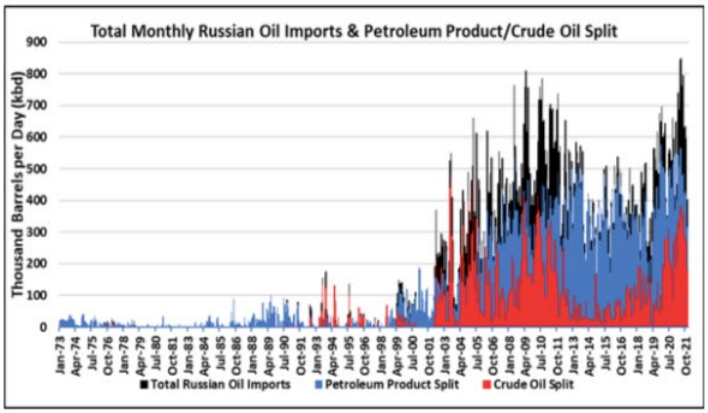
Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator

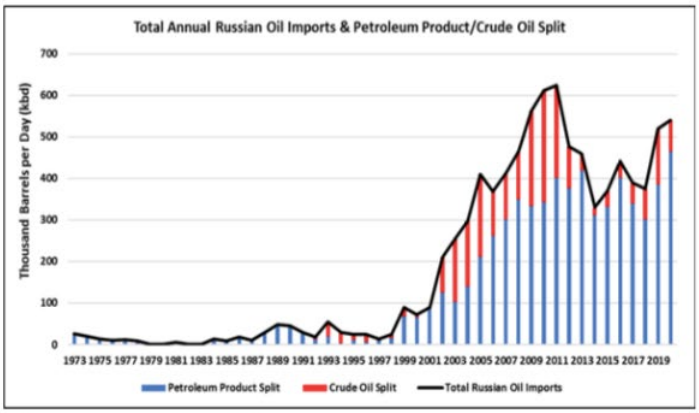
Can E15 Really Replace Russian Oil Imports Can E15 Really Replace Russian Imports and Curb High Prices at the Pump?

By TYNE MORGAN March 17, 2022
Source: https://www.agweb.com/news/policy/politics/can-e15-really-replace-russian-oil-imports-and-curb-high-prices-pump

Earlier this month, the Biden administration signed an Executive Order (E.O.) to ban the import of Russian oil. The move came with bipartisan support, and as the White House looks to fill the gap of displaced Russian oil, ethanol groups say E15 is a ready-made answer today.

The Nebraska Ethanol Board released a white paper that shows the conversion of 33% of all E10 fuel in the U.S. to E15 could potentially displace 100% of Russian import generated gasoline. That's as, currently, about 8% of all U.S. imports of oil and refined products come from Russia.





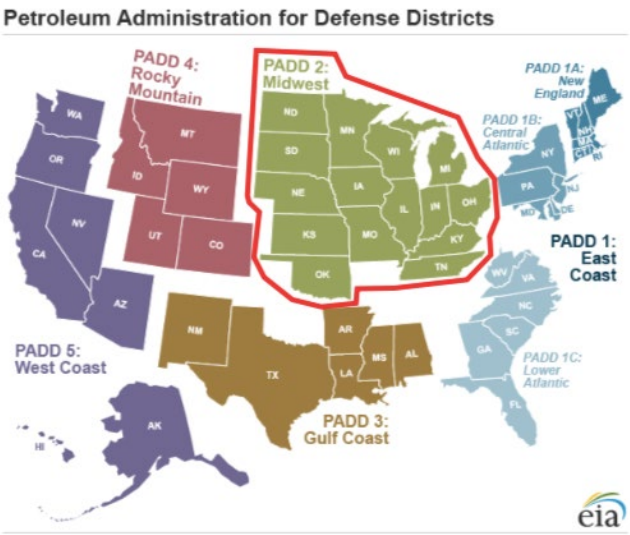
Data Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (Russian Oil Import Data)

Jan Tenbensel, chairman of the Nebraska Ethanol Board, says when you do the math, it clearly shows E15 is a viable option to fill the void. “Over the last five years, we've averaged about 400,000 to 440,000 barrels a day (18 million U.S. gallons) of imports from Russia,” says Tenbensel. “Now, about half of those barrels, or about 200,000 to 220,000 barrels, are actually gasoline or become gasoline products for us. The rest are various other petroleum products, kerosene, jet fuel, those sorts of things. So, of the 220,000 barrels a day of Russian imports that become gasoline, we could replace that tomorrow with E15.”

Tenbensel says on a national level, the Nebraska Ethanol Board is looking at about a one-third of market penetration with E15 could do the job to eliminate all Russian gasoline imports. “It’s a shocking number, but it's there,” he adds. “And the amazing part of this is the unused capacity of the American ethanol industry is about 220,000 barrels a day.”

Timing Could Be Immediate

What’s the timing to replace it all? Tenbensel says by bumping blends to E15 from E10, it could essentially happen tomorrow. The Nebraska Ethanol Board’s white paper shows if the entire Midwestern defense pad (PADD 2) alone converted E10 to E15, this could displace 98% of Russian import generated gasoline. And based on U.S. Energy Information (EIA) data, Nebraska Ethanol Board found the conversion would utilize less than half the unused ethanol capacity across the U.S.



“The industry could ramp up pretty quickly for the first portion of that simply by increasing the throughput and

the current corn grind that we have in the industry with the biorefineries we've got going. Now, of course as with anything, the final 20% to 30% of that takes us several more months. So, I'd say between six months and nine months, if we wanted to go to a full 33% market penetration," says Tenbensel.

White House Says E15 Is On The Table
Just this week, Biden blamed Russia and Vladimir Putin for the pain at the pump. "The second big reason for inflation is Vladimir Putin and gas prices," Mr. Biden said. "We've seen the price of gas go up over $1 just since he put his troops on the border of Ukraine…. then Putin invaded. The current spike in gas prices is largely the fault of Vladimir Putin. It has nothing to do with the [$1.9 trillion] American Rescue Plan," Biden said, during a speaking engagement earlier this week.

While the blame game is in full force, claims E15 could ease the price pain face regulatory issues, as current regulatory hurdles prevent the sale of E15 year-round. The White House did acknowledge this week that utilizing higher blends of ethanol is an option on the table.

"A bipartisan group of lawmakers have called on the White House to lift the ban of summer sales of gasoline with higher blends of ethanol. It's cheaper than traditional blends of gasoline. Is that something — you mentioned a menu of options, but is that something specifically that the White House is considering?" asked a reporter during the press briefing this week. "(It's) in the menu of options," answered Jen Psaki, White House press secretary.

Ethanol Reserves Highest Since April 2020
If the White House decides to tap into E15 to help fill the void, it appears there's plenty of ethanol to go around. Ethanol stocks grew by 2.7% recently, according to Energy Information Administration (EIA) data analyzed by the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA). The Association found ethanol reserve levels sit at almost 26-million barrels, which is the largest level since April 2020.

The Nebraska Ethanol Board says with the reserves on hand, and ethanol's ability to help lower prices at the pump, the white paper should reassure the Biden administration that E15 is the clean energy option that should be tapped into today.

"This white paper was so eye-opening for me, because it allowed us to realize we have the capacity today to eliminate Russian imports as a national security issue. And we as farmers and people involved in agriculture, we need to ask our local retailers, we need to ask our co-ops, 'Hey, we need to switch to E15 today, we need to do it now. It's for our country. It's for our economy. It's for the entirety of rural America," says Tenbensel.

SE Ohio Cattle Deaths Result from Asian Longhorn Ticks

By: Tim McDermott DVM, OSU Extension Educator, Franklin County (originally published in Farm and Dairy)
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2022/03/23/se-ohio-cattle-deaths-result-from-asian-longhorn-ticks/#more-12388

Pictured are two adults and thousands of nymphal Asian longhorned ticks collected from a pasture tick drag in a SE Ohio pasture. (Risa Pesapane photo)

Ohio is on the forefront for expansion of ticks and tick-vectored disease going from one tick that is medically important to humans, companion animals, and livestock twenty years ago to five ticks now.

I encountered the American Dog Tick way back when I was in clinical veterinary practice, then added the Blacklegged, or Deer Tick in 2010. I talked about the Lone Star tick back in Farm and Dairy on June 27th, 2019 in the article "Don't Let a Lone Star Tick Bite Make You Allergic to Your Dinner" and still get nervous about potentially getting the mammalian muscle allergy (alpha-gal) that could make

me allergic to my favorite food, bacon cheeseburgers.

We finally added two more ticks to get to our total of five in 2020 with expansion to new host ranges of those ticks continuing to this day. The Gulf Coast tick, not a true invasive, has been present in the United States since the 1800's and was a serious pest for cattle producers at the time assisting with the economic and medical damage caused by the severe and reportable screwworm pest. This tick has established colonies in counties in Southwestern Ohio.

The tick that I mentioned way back in the July 23rd, 2020 edition of Farm and Dairy article " The Threat of Asian Longhorned Tick Continues" was initially discovered on a rescue dog in southern Ohio in summer of 2020. A second detection of Asian Longhorned tick (ALT) was on a cattle and sheep farm in a neighboring county in the spring of 2021 when the animals were tick-checked while running them through the chute. There are a lot of unknowns with the Asian Longhorned tick as it is a true invasive. We do not know how far it will spread, and most importantly what diseases it will prove competent to vector, or transmit, to humans, companion animals and livestock.

One characteristic of this tick that causes me major worry is how it can reproduce. This tick species can reproduce via parthenogenesis meaning the female does not need a male in order to lay eggs. That means that one female can establish a colony. This tick was recently found on a Canada goose. Let that sink in . . . if it attaches and feeds on a Canada goose for a week knowing how far they can fly in a day!

The Asian Longhorned tick gave a demonstration of its destructive potential in the summer of 2021. I received an email from a recently retired OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources colleague of mine who grazes cattle in Southeastern Ohio asking me to call him. He told me that when his neighbor did his morning herd check he found three dead cattle. They were covered in ticks in extraordinary numbers. I asked him to get some ticks submitted for identification and my colleague at OSU who first discovered ALT in Ohio, Risa Pesapane, confirmed them as ALT.

A subsequent visit by Risa and her team found the pasture contaminated with large numbers of ticks. The herd tested negative for disease, so the hypothesis is the ticks caused death through blood loss due to exsanguination. It must also be noted the cattle were mature animals, including a bull.

What does the producer need to do to mitigate potential problems from ALT? Make sure to practice good biosecurity and scouting. Check animals carefully for ticks. Manage the area around pastures by clearing brush and keeping weeds short. Work with your veterinarian if you think you have a problem with this tick.

If you see a tick that resembles ALT you can submit them to this link: https://u.osu.edu/pesapane/research/submit-a-tick/

For more information on ALT please refer to the OSU Extension publication Asian Longhorned Ticks in Ohio found at: https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/vme-1035

Cow-Calf Profitability Estimates for 2021 and 2022 (Spring Calving Herd)

By: Greg Halich, Kenny Burdine, and Jonathan Shepherd
Source: https://agecon.ca.uky.edu/cow-calf-profitability-estimates-2021-and-2022-spring-calving-herd Shareable PDF

The purpose of this article is to examine cow-calf profitability for a spring calving herd that sold weaned calves in the fall of 2021 and provide an estimate of profitability for the upcoming year. Table 1 summarizes estimated costs for a well-managed spring-calving cowherd for 2021. Every operation is different, so producers should evaluate and modify these estimates to fit their situation. Note that in this table we are not including depreciation or interest on equipment/fencing/facilities, as well as labor and land costs.

Calves are assumed to be weaned and sold at an average weight of 550 lbs. In the fourth quarter of 2021, steers in this weight range were selling for prices in the upper $140's and heifers in the low $130's, on a state average basis. Therefore, a steer/heifer average price of $1.40 per lb is used for the analysis, which was $0.10 per lb higher than last year. However, it is important to note that calf prices were much higher in December of 2021, than in October and November. So, the timing of calf sales would have had a significant impact on cow-calf revenues. Weaning rate was estimated at 85%, meaning that it is expected that a calf will be weaned and sold from 85% of the cows that were exposed to the bull. Based on these assumptions and adjusted for the weaning rate, average calf revenue is $655 per cow.

Pasture maintenance costs are assumed to be relatively low at $20 per acre and would include only basic cash costs of pasture clipping (fuel, maintenance, repairs), and a limited amount of reseeding, fertilizer, and fencing repairs. Producers who consistently apply larger amounts of fertilizer to pasture ground would see much higher pasture maintenance costs. The pasture stocking rate is assumed to be 2.0 acres per cow, but producers should carefully consider the stocking rate for their operation, as this will vary greatly. Stocking rate impacts the number of grazing days and winter feeding days for the operation (i.e. high stocking rates will mean more hay feeding days), which has large implications for costs on a per cow basis.

These spring calving cows were assumed to use 2.5 tons of hay per cow, and the estimated cash cost of making this hay (fuel, maintenance, repairs, supplies, fertilizer, etc.) was $35 per ton. Mineral cost is $35 per cow, veterinary / medicine costs $25, trucking costs $15, machinery cash costs for winter feeding and other miscellaneous jobs is $15, and other costs (insurance, property taxes, water, etc.) are $40. Breeding costs are $40 per cow and should include annual depreciation of the bull and bull maintenance costs, spread across the number of cows he services. Marketing costs are currently around $25 per cow, but larger operations may market cattle in larger groups and pay lower commission rates.

Breeding stock depreciation and interest are major costs that are often overlooked. They are generally not cash costs that need to be paid on a yearly basis, unless you have a loan on the cattle, but they are real costs that need to be paid at some point. As an example, assume a bred heifer is valued at $1500, has eight productive years, and has a cull cow value of $700. The average yearly depreciation is calculated as follows:

$1500 bred heifer value
–$700 cull-cow value
$800 total depreciation

$800 depreciation / 8 productive years = $100 cow depreciation per year. The actual depreciation will vary across farms. When buying bred replacement heifers, the initial heifer value is clear. With farm-raised replacements, this cost should be the revenue foregone had the heifer been sold with the other calves, plus all expenses incurred (feed, breeding, pasture rent, etc.) to reach the same reproductive stage as a purchased bred heifer. At an average value of $1100 (halfway between bred heifer and cull value) over her lifespan on your farm, and assuming a 3% interest rate results in a $33/cow/year interest cost, or a total of $133/cow/year in combined depreciation and interest.

Note that based on the assumptions in our example, the total specified expenses per cow are $456 and revenues per cow are $655. Thus, the estimated gross return is $199 per cow. At first glance, this positive return looks impressive but is also misleading. A number of costs were intentionally excluded because they vary greatly across operations. Notice that no depreciation or interest on equipment/fencing/facilities was included. Notice also that labor and land costs were also not included. Thus, the gross return needs to be adjusted by these costs to come up with a true return to the farm.

Table 1: Estimated Gross Return to Spring Calving Cow-Calf Operation

Revenues				
Steer / Heifer Calf Average	**550**	lbs	**$1.40**	**$770**
Discount for Open Cows	**15%**	open		**$115**
Total Revenues per Cow				***$655***
Specified Expenses				
Pasture Maintenance (cash costs)	**2.0**	acres	**$20**	**$40**
Hay (cash costs)	**2.5**	tons	**$35**	**$88**
Mineral				**$35**
Vet				**$25**
Breeding				**$40**
Marketing				**$25**
Winter Feeding and Other Machinery (cash costs)				**$15**
Trucking (calves, supplies, etc.)				**$15**
Cow Depreciation and Interest				**$133**
Other (insurance, prop taxes, water, etc.)				**$40**
Total Specified Expenses per Cow				***$456***
Gross Return (Doesn't include Depreciation or Interest on Equipment/Fencing/Facilities, Land, or Labor)				***$199***

Since these costs vary so much from one operation to the next, it may be helpful to pick a specific sized farm and provide estimates for these costs: a 40-cow operation that is producing its own hay and has all farming operations on its own land (80 acres of pasture and 30 acres of hay).

Assume this farm has on average $50K in equipment which depreciates roughly $1000 every year, or $25/cow/year in depreciation. At 4% interest, an additional cost of $2000 in interest per year, or $50/cow/year, would be realized. Assume also this farm has fencing, barns, working facilities, etc., with an initial value of $50K and a lifespan of 25 years. That would amount to $50/cow/year in depreciation and $25/cow/year in interest.

If we have 2.0 acres of pasture and .75 acres of hayground per cow, and value that at a land rent of $36/acre, that would be $100/cow/year in land rent. Assume also that we have determined we have $100/cow/year in labor, which would amount to $4000 total per year for the entire herd.

Summary of Additional Non-Cash Costs (Example Farm):

Equipment Depreciation	$25/cow/year
Equipment Interest	$50/cow/year
Fencing-Facilities Depreciation	$50/cow/year
Fencing-Facilities Interest	$25/cow/year
Land Rent	$100/cow/year
Labor	$100/cow/year
Total Additional Non-Cash Costs	$350/cow/year

These non-cash costs add up to $350/cow/year on our example farm: $150 per cow in depreciation/interest on equipment/fencing/facilities and $200 per cow in land rent and labor. We encourage you to estimate these for your own operation, but the unfortunate reality is that they quickly add up on most farms. The $199/cow/year gross return over cash costs and cow depreciation does not look quite as good now. After adjusting for these other costs, the net return (all costs included) is –$151 per cow per year, or –$6,040 for the 40-cow farm.

Another way to look at this is to just include the depreciation and interest for equipment/fencing/facilities ($150/cow/year), and not include land and labor ($200/cow/year). In this case, the return would increase to $49/cow/year, and would represent the farm's return to land and labor. Did this farm actually lose money on a cash basis? No, not if they are using their own labor and their land is paid for. But the farm also did not make a real profit. This farm essentially paid the equipment/fencing/facilities depreciation and interest in full and part of the labor-land cost. However, the farmer and the land worked for free roughly 3/4 of the time.

These numbers will vary across operations, but estimating your own cost structure is extremely important. Our guess is that compared to our example farm, there are far more cow-calf operations of similar size with a higher cost structure than there are operations with a lower cost structure in Kentucky. Put simply, well-managed spring calving herds were likely covering all cash costs, breeding stock depreciation/interest, and depreciation and interest on equipment/fencing/facilities, but were not generating much of a return on their labor or land this last year.

Readers can use Table 2 to modify the analysis based on their cost structure and calf prices for 2021. It uses all costs except for land and labor, so the table shows a return to land and labor.

Table 2: Estimated Return to Land and Labor (per cow) to Spring Calving Cow-Calf Operation given Changes in Cost Structure and Calf Prices

	Avg. Steer/Heifer Price, 550 lbs				
Change in Cost Structure (per cow per year)	**$1.30**	**$1.35**	**$1.40**	**$1.45**	**$1.50**
-$100	*$101*	*$125*	*$149*	*$173*	*$197*
-$50	*$51*	*$75*	*$99*	*$123*	*$147*
$0	*$1*	*$25*	*$49*	*$73*	*$97*
$50	*-$49*	*-$25*	*-$1*	*$23*	*$47*
$100	*-$99*	*-$75*	*-$51*	*-$27*	*-$3*
Note: Returns are based on costs shown in Table 1, plus $150 per cow in depreciation/interest on equipment/fencing/facilities.					

As an example, we used $1.40/lb in our base scenario as the expected steer/heifer price for 2021. Given the cost structure, we used ($0 change on the left-hand side of the table), the expected return to land and labor is $49/cow/year, just as was previously described. If a cattle farmer also sold their calves for an average price of $1.40/lb, but had a $50/cow/year cheaper cost structure (-$50 change on the left-hand side of the table), their expected return to land and management would increase to $99/cow/year. If another cattle farmer sold their calves for an average price of $1.35/lb calf and had $50/cow/year more expensive cost structure (+$50 on the left-hand side), their expected return to land and management would decrease to -$25/cow/year. In this last example, they had no return to their land and labor and were $25/cow/year short in fully covering all their depreciation and interest expenses.

Predicting cattle prices is nearly impossible given the numerous factors that are likely to impact the market. However, there is good reason to expect higher prices for 2022, and calf prices have already risen quite a bit since last fall. The size of the US cowherd continues to shrink and is actually 5% smaller than it was in 2019. Additionally, beef exports set a record in 2021 and are likely to remain relatively strong this year. Despite high feed prices, 2022 should be the best calf market we have seen since 2015.

Given that, our best guess for fall 2022 prices for that same 550 lb steer/heifer are in the $1.50-1.60/lb range. Spring prices are likely to be much higher than this, but we do expect calf prices to decline seasonally by fall. At a $1.55/lb price, and using the same cost structure as in 2021, the return to land and labor would now be estimated at $119/cow/year. This would compensate a cow-calf operator for about 60% of the value of their labor and land cost, which would be a considerable improvement over 2021. However, fertilizer costs have increased exponentially in the last year, and will significantly reduce profitability on those cattle farms that rely heavily on commercial fertilizer.

For an acre of hay fertilized at 60 units N, 30 units Phosphorous (P2O5), and 100 units Potassium (K2O), this would increase the overall cost from $67 to $144 per acre, an increase of $77 per acre. For an acre of pasture fertilized at 60 units N, 10 units Phosphorous (P2O5), and 33 units Potassium (K2O), this would increase the overall cost from $38 to $87 per acre, an increase of $49 per acre. If we assume one acre of hay and two acres of pasture needed per cow, this would amount to a $175 increased cost for every cow in the herd. Thus at that same average steer/heifer price of $1.55/lb, the return to land and labor estimated at $119/cow/year with the 2021 cost-structure, would sink to -$56/cow/year. The cattle farmer and the land would now be working for free again, as well as being $56 short in fully covering depreciation and interest costs. Managing around these high fertilizer prices will be the paramount challenge in 2022 and potentially beyond. For details of the fertilizer price increases as well as practical strategies to reduce or eliminate fertilizer use on cattle farms see the accompanying article this month "Reducing Your Dependency on Commercial Fertilizers - Strategies for Cattle Farms in 2022 and Beyond".

In the spring of 2021, the authors of this article partnered with the Kentucky Beef Network to offer a webinar series entitled, Managing Cow-calf Operations for PROFIT. Over the course of three evenings, a large number of topics were discussed that aimed at improving the profitability of cow-calf operations. Videos and materials from each session are available to read and download.

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Selling Food You Make at Home

By: Emily Marrison, Extension Educator, Family and Consumer Sciences
Originally Published in Coshocton Tribune-March 20

Thanks to promotion from the Coshocton Farmers Market, I taught a class this week about selling cottage foods. In Ohio we have Cottage Food Law that allows individuals to make certain foods in their own home for sale in a variety of locations.

It won't be long before our local famers markets will be opening and ready for our support. If you have ever considered making and selling food yourself, here are some answers to some of the most frequently asked questions I receive.

Can I make food in my home to sell? There is a specific list of the foods that can be made including lots of baked goods (cookies, cakes and pies); jams and jellies; and dried mixes. These foods all have minimal risk of causing foodborne illness and do not require temperature control, like refrigeration, to keep them safe for us to eat. There is no inspection of the home kitchen and no fee required. The foods must be properly labeled and have the declaration "This food is home produced."

It is possible to make cream pies that require refrigeration or other baked foods that have a higher risk of causing foodborne illness, like cheesecakes or noodles or fry pies. These require a home bakery license from the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). This is $10 per year and requires an inspection. You can learn more about these at agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety .

Can I sell salsa or sauces that I make in my home? Fresh salsas and sauces require refrigeration, so they are not able to be sold fresh. Since these foods require the correct acidity and heat processing to make them a safe canned product, they cannot be made in the home and sold. You can make either of these types of foods in an approved inspected facility. This can be any facility outside of your home that has been approved by ODA including another structure on your property, an ODA registered church kitchen, or a shared use facility that co-packs foods.

Can I sell pickles or other fermented vegetables? These products also require specific acidity to make them safe. There is risk that this could be done incorrectly, depending on the recipe used. They can be made in an approved facility where a process authority reviews the ingredients and processing for food safety.

Can I sell "no sugar added" jams or jellies? The miracle of calcium-gelling pectin is that high sugar is not required to make a jam or jelly set. However, the sugar content of jams and jellies is a large part of what makes them safe to eat. Therefore, no sugar added jams and jellies are a higher risk of foodborne illness and cannot be made at home for sale.

Can I dehydrate or freeze-dry herbs or fruits to sell? This has become a popular question lately as availability of home units has increased. Anything you dehydrate at home cannot be sold, including beef jerky. None of these can be added to other food items for sale either, including dry mixes for dips or soups.

Can I make soaps and lotions to sell? ODA considers these cosmetics, and there are specific rules for the production and sale of cosmetics. They can be made in a home, but an inspection is required. You can learn more about all these rules on the ODA Food Safety website.

Today I'll leave you a quote from Thomas A. Edison, "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

Coshocton County Youth Leadership Agriculture

By Hailey Helter

On March 16th, 2022 Coshocton County Youth Leadership had the agriculture program day. We started the day off at Fender's Fish Hatchery where we heard from Steve Fender about what they do at the hatchery along with learning the different types of fish they raise. Then, we headed for Daugherty Farms. There, Kyle Daugherty gave us a tour of their new dairy facility. We were able to see how they run things along with the advanced technology they have in place at the farm. Next, we made our way back to Lapp Farms where we did an interactive activity with Samantha Daugherty from the Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District that showed us what happens when it rains

and washes soil, pesticides, litter, and other things into surrounding bodies of water. She also shared with us some things we can do to improve that run-off along with things they try and help people with eliminating that waste. Dave Marrison from the OSU Extension Office also taught us some of the statistics of various aspects of agriculture in our county, such as the total amount of cattle, and the greatest number of acres used in our county are used for pastures. The last thing we did was we heard from David Lapp, Jason Massie, and Pat Snyder about some of the modern technology they have at the farm and some of their different strategies of farming, and how their busy season goes! They also let all of us ride in the tractors which was a super cool experience!! If you have any questions concerning Coshocton County Youth Leadership or want to know more, contact Executive Director Betsy Gosnell by phone: (740) 622-0010 or email: bgosnell@coshoctonfoundation.org.

National Ag Day & Coshocton County Agriculture

By: David Marrison, OSU Extension Educator-Coshocton County
Written for The Beacon Newspaper, March 24 edition

Hello Coshocton County! This week we are celebrating National Ag Week and on Tuesday, March 22, farmers across our nation celebrated the 49th edition of National Ag Day. This celebration sponsored by the Agriculture Council of America provides us time to pause and to celebrate our great industry of agriculture.

Locally we have a lot to be proud of with regards to our agriculture industry. We have over 2,100 individuals who have a hand in managing 1,191 farms. The average age of our farmers is 54.4 years of age and it might surprise you that only 37% of our producers are classified as full-time farmers.

Small and part time farms are on the rise. Thirty-nine percent of Coshocton County operations farm under 9 acres with another 39% farming between 10 and 49 acres. That means 78% of our operations have 50 acres or less with our average farm size being 153 acres. Only 6% of our operations farm over 500 acres. Additionally, we rank in the top ten in Ohio for female operators at 38%.

Most of our farmers are also not getting rich from their farms. According to the 2017 Ag Census, 47% of our farms sell less than $5,000 worth of commodities with the average net farm income per farm at $20,966. However, this is just an average. There is a lot of variability with regards to net farm income from one operation to another.

Our farm families manage almost 183,000 acres of crops, pasture, and woodland. Do you know that our farmers raise over 29,000 acres of hay, 28,000 acres of corn, 21,000 acres of soybeans, 2,000 acres of wheat, 1,300 acres of silage, 500 acres of fruits and vegetables, and over 50 acres of Christmas trees?

Our farmers also manage nearly 40,000 acres of pasture for our cattle, sheep and goats to graze on. Hay is the commodity which is the most common crop grown by our farmers as 720 farms or 60% raise hay. In comparison, our second leading crop, corn, is grown by only 20.8% of our farm operations.

With regards to animals, Coshocton County has great diversity. You will most likely find a cow on our farms as 45.5% of our farms have cattle. We have over 21,000 cattle which includes 8,200 beef cows, 3,200 milk cows, and almost 10,000 replacement beef and dairy animals.

On any given day, you will find a total of 900,000 meat chickens, 76,000 layer chickens, 71,000 pigs, 3,500 sheep and lambs, 1,800 horses, 1,300 goats, and over 100 turkeys, donkeys and alpacas on our farms. Our bee industry is also buzzing along as we now have over 40 farms raising 169 colonies of bees. We also have one of the largest fish farms in the state of Ohio.

Our poultry sector is the one sector that continues to grow by leaps and bounds as over 7.2 million meat chickens are raised and sold each year here in Coshocton County. In fact, new barns have been added since the 2017 Census was conducted. So, this number is already low. Besides poultry, our farmers market on the average 151,000 pigs, 10,000 head of cattle, and 800 goats each year.
The Census of Agriculture also tracks farm machinery. Do you know there are almost 2,700 tractors, 150 combines, 800 hay balers, and 1,500 farm trucks in Coshocton County? This machinery when coupled with our land and farm buildings has an estimated value of over $1 billion dollars. That is a huge investment in bringing food to your table and mine!

Locally, we celebrated National Ag Week by holding an Ag Day Appreciation Luncheon at the Lake Park Pavilion on Tuesday. Over 100 farmers and industry supporters enjoyed a great lunch catered by Schumaker Farms. It was great to be back in-person this year to celebrate our county's number one industry. Our 2020 event was cancelled and the 2021 luncheon was held as a drive-through event due to the coronavirus pandemic. This event was sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America, the Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District, and Ohio State University Extension.

I hope you join me in thanking our Coshocton County farmers during National Ag Week. I encourage you to pick up your phone or drop a note to the farmers in your life and say thank you. Thank you, Coshocton County farmers for all you do!

To close, I would like to share quote from James Wesley who stated, "I still believe in amber waves of grain, man on his knees praying for rain. That grew this country strong and keeps us moving on. They get tougher as they live, their lives keep gettin' harder. Oh, I think it's time we all thank a farmer." Have a good and safe day!

Home Fruit Production Workshop Scheduled for April 25

OSU Extension invites Coshocton County residents to attend a Home Fruit Production Workshop on Monday, April 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Roscoe Village Visitor's Center in the Lock Landing Meeting Room at 600 N Whitewoman Street in Coshocton, Ohio. This workshop will help participants learn how to grow strawberries, red raspberries, black raspberries, and blackberries. Participants will also learn how to care for fruit trees such as apple, peach and pear trees. The keynote speaker Sabrina Schirtzinger, OSU Extension Educator in Knox County.

The registration fee of $10 includes the program, light refreshments, door prizes, and handouts. Limited copies of the "Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide" ($25) will be sold at the event. You can also pre-order with your registration to receive a $5 discount on this publication. ($20). Don't miss this chance to learn more about growing delicious fruit for your family. For more information about this program, contact the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265.

Fertilizer Certification Webinar

OSU Extension will be hosting a fertilizer certification session via Zoom on March 31, 2022 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This 3-hour training is for individuals who are obtaining their Ohio Agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification for the first time (not recertification). Agricultural Fertilizer Certification is required for applications to more than 50 acres of crops grown for sale in Ohio. It is not required for lawn and landscape fertilizer applications. This training will be held online as a webinar.

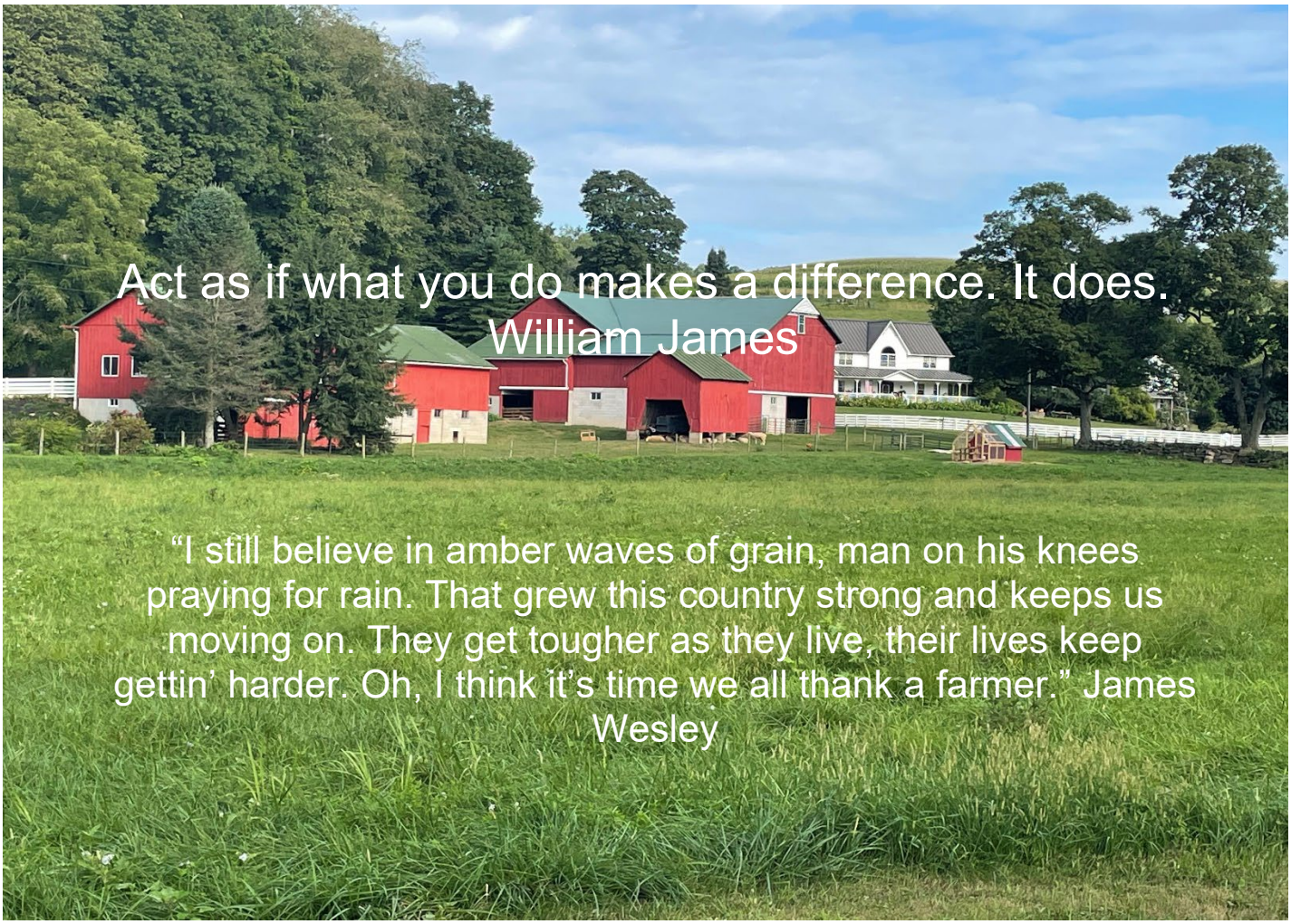
This course will be taught as an online webinar. If you register, you will be sent a link to attend. To register: Visit this link to register online or call WalCom Registration Services at 740-524-4123. There is a $25 processing charge per registrant for any cancellation, including Purchase Orders. No-shows must notify the

registration company within two weeks of a missed course: reschedule for a 2021 course OR request a refund. No refunds will be issued after more than two weeks from the missed session. There is a $30 fee for returned checks.

It will be useful to purchase a copy of the fertilizer certification manual to reference during this 3-hour training. You can purchase as either a pdf download or a hard copy. That information can be found at the following link: Purchase the Fertilizer Manual

April Beef Quality Assurance Re-Certification Training

The Coshocton County Extension office will be offering a **Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)** re-certification meeting on April 13 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 145 at the Coshocton County Services Building located at 724 South 7th Street in Coshocton County. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. There is no fee to attend. Call 740-622-2265 to pre-register. These sessions also qualify for anyone who is seeking a first time certification.
Online certification and recertification is also available and can be completed anytime at https://www.bqa.org/beef-quality-assurance-certification/online-certifications.



CFAES

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Home Fruit Production Workshop

Monday, April 25, 2022
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Roscoe Village Visitor's Center
Lock Landing Meeting Room
600 N. Whitewoman Street
Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Join OSU Extension – Coshocton County and keynote speaker Sabrina Schirtzinger (OSU Extension Educator in Knox County) to learn more about growing fruit in your home landscape. Learn how to grow strawberries, red raspberries, black raspberries, and blackberries as well as how to care for fruit trees such as apple, peach and pear. Don't miss this chance to learn more about growing delicious fruit for your family. Pre-registration is requested as space is limited. The registration fee for this program is $10 per person. Copies of the "Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide" can also be purchased. We hope you will join us in beautiful Roscoe Village!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: The registration fee of $10 includes the program, light refreshments, door prizes, and handouts. **There is limited seating so pre-registration is due by April 18.** Limited copies of the "Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide" ($25) will be sold at the event. You can also pre-order this publication with your registration to receive a $5 discount ($20).

Name(s)_____

Address_____

Email_____ Phone_____

$10 per person registration ____# of attendees @ $10 each

Pre-order a copy of Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide ___ yes ___no ($20 additional)

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

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