CFAES

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

COSHOCTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

March 25, 2020 Issue

Coshocton County Extension
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Hello Coshocton County! It seems like every day brings us new information about the coronavirus outbreak better known as COVID-19. We continue to monitor the situation and try to adjust to this new challenge. I have provided some additional factsheets in this week's newsletter to help answer some of the question you might have.

A new cancellation to report this week is that we had to cancel the Livestock Mortality Composting Workshop slated for May 4. We will re-schedule this program later this year after the pandemic has passed. I know many of you are busy in the shop, preparing for the upcoming planting season; however if you still desire for educational workshops, OSU Extension is sponsoring an AG MADNESS education effort via Zoom. Check out details on connecting to these webinars. I hope to see you on-line.

While our office is physically closed, our staff is still working to serve you! I can be reached by calling the Extension office at 740-622-2265 or to my direct line at 740-722-6073. I can also be contacted via email at marrison.2@osu.edu I have even completed to farm visits virtually this week (due to stay at home directive) so if you desire to meet this way; please know that it is an option.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support during these unique and challenging times. If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact me. Stay well everyone. Together, we can help slow the spread!

Sincerely,

David Marrison

Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator

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

Coshocton County Extension Office Closure

Governor DeWine recently issued a state of emergency and implemented a variety of strategies to reduce the spread of the disease. In order to do our part in reducing risk to our employees or clientele, we have implemented a teleworking plan. **OSU Extension offices will be closed to the public until further notice.** While our offices will be physically closed, we are committed to continuing to conduct our work as fully as possible. In recent years, we've invested in the technology needed to facilitate effective teleworking. We will utilize all our teleworking capabilities to continue serving our clientele and communities. You should continue to feel free to call, email, etc. with any OSU Extension staff member as you normally would. OSU Extension is deeply committed to the health and well-being of its staff and doing our part to help slow the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). If you have questions, please feel free to contact our office at 740-622-2265 or you can call David Marrison directly at 740-722-6073 or via email at Marrison.2@osu.edu

Livestock Mortality Composting Workshop Canceled

Due to COVID-19, the **Livestock Mortality Composting Certification Workshop** re-scheduled for May 4th in Coshocton County (originally scheduled for March 18) has been canceled. We will re-schedule this program later this year after the pandemic has passed.

For producers looking to complete their training now, an on-line version of the course is available. This is a self-directed, fee based course in which participants will become certified to practice mortality composting on their farm. The course is broken down by chapters following the Composting Manual. Each chapter is presented via PowerPoint with voice-over. You are free to move at your own pace and will become certified once you have passed the final test. The on-line course fee is $17. To enroll in this course, please contact Amanda Douridas at douridas.9@osu.edu. More information can also be found at: https://campus.extension.org/course/search.php?search=mortality+composting

Backyard Poultry Production Zoom Meeting Available

If you have an interest in starting or keeping a small backyard poultry enterprise, consider attending this backyard poultry meeting scheduled for March 31 at 6:00 pm using Zoom on-line technology. Dr. Tim McDermott was in private veterinary practice for 20 years and has been an OSU Extension Educator for the past 4 years. He has an engaging and practical teaching style. Join a few minutes before the meeting starts by clicking on the following link; https://osu.zoom.us/j/874349798 . For more information contact Carri Jagger in the Morrow County Extension office by phone at 419-947-1070 or via email at jagger.6@osu.edu

OSU Extension Announces Ag Madness: A Tournament of Education

By: Sherrie R. Whaley
Source: https://cfaes.osu.edu/news-writers/sherrie-r-whaley

Did your usual conference get canceled? Looking to fill the void of the big basketball tournament? Ohio State University Extension is here to help with a new virtual education program for the agricultural community.

"Agriculture and Natural Resources Madness: A Tournament of Education" will include 64 educational events broken into daily brackets. Each day, a virtual educational session will be held at 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. The educational tournament is free of charge and will likely continue until mid-May. "This effort is a direct response to providing a variety of useful and timely sessions for farmers and families across the state during Gov. DeWine's stay-at-home order," said Jacqueline Wilkins, interim director of OSU Extension. "While our 'tournament' is being loosely tied to March Madness, it's not a competition, and people can join in at any time for as many or as few sessions as they desire."

OSU Extension will offer a virtual education program to stay engaged with Ohio's agricultural community during the coronavirus outbreak.

The tournament opens on Wednesday, March 25, with the eFields 2019 Results webinar. Learn how the eFields program used modern technologies to help Ohio farmers learn new practices and techniques to improve farm efficiency and profitability. Tip-off is at 9 a.m., and registration is required at go.osu.edu/eFieldsWebinar.

Also in this bracket is a March 25 noon webinar from Sam Custer, interim assistant director of OSU Extension's agriculture and natural resources program, to discuss how educators are working remotely to continue serving Ohioans during these uncharted waters of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

Tournament "brackets" will change daily. Topics will cover a variety of subjects and be presented in a variety of virtual platforms. When possible, question-and-answer opportunities will be included. To find complete details on the tournament's educational opportunities and other event and webinar links, visit go.osu.edu/agmadness.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Madness is just one example of how OSU Extension is employing its online resources during this challenging time to remain engaged with Ohioans. "The intent is to reach the agricultural community in a time of high stress," Custer said. "OSU Extension has also updated its Ag Crisis website to include a toolbox of resources related to COVID-19. Those can be reached at go.osu.edu/AgCrisis."

Control of Poison Hemlock

Now is a good time to get control of poison hemlock that may be in pastures and hayfields. Poison hemlock is toxic to a wide variety of animals including man, birds, wildlife, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses. In grass pastures and hayfields herbicide products containing 2,4-D can be effective when applied to young, actively growing plants that are in the rosette stage of growth. Spot treatments with products containing 2,4-D, triclopyr, or glyphosate can also be used depending on the location. More information about poison hemlock and control options can be found in the attached factsheet from Purdue Extension (see end of this newsletter).

IRS Delays Filing Until July 15

Source: https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-day-now-july-15-treasury-irs-extend-filing-deadline-and-federal-tax-payments-regardless-of-amount-owed

The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service announced today that the federal income tax filing due date is automatically extended from April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020. Taxpayers can also defer federal income tax payments due on April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020, without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. This deferment applies to all taxpayers, including individuals, trusts and estates, corporations and other non-corporate tax filers as well as those who pay self-employment tax.

Taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms or call the IRS to qualify for this automatic federal tax filing and payment relief. Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the July 15 deadline, can request a filing extension by filing Form 4868 through their tax professional, tax software or using the Free File link on IRS.gov. Businesses who need additional time must file Form 7004.

The IRS urges taxpayers who are due a refund to file as soon as possible. Most tax refunds are still being issued within 21 days. "Even with the filing deadline extended, we urge taxpayers who are owed refunds to file as soon as possible and file electronically," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "Filing electronically with direct deposit is the quickest way to get refunds. Although we are curtailing some operations during this period, the IRS is continuing with mission-critical operations to support the nation, and that includes accepting tax returns and sending refunds. As a federal agency vital to the overall operations of our country, we ask for your

personal support, your understanding – and your patience. I'm incredibly proud of our employees as we navigate through numerous different challenges in this very rapidly changing environment."

The IRS will continue to monitor issues related to the COVID-19 virus, and updated information will be posted on a special coronavirus page on IRS.gov. This announcement comes following the President's emergency declaration last week pursuant to the Stafford Act. The Stafford Act is a federal law designed to bring an orderly and systematic means of federal natural disaster and emergency assistance for state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to aid citizens. It was enacted in 1988. Treasury and IRS will issue additional guidance as needed and continue working with Congress, on a bipartisan basis, on legislation to provide further relief to the American people.

COVID-19 Resources for Farmers

A recent American Dairy Association (ADA) Mid-East newsletter included the following list of resources. Although these have a dairy emphasis, the information can be applied across farms. ADA Mideast is encouraging all dairy farmers to read the Dairy Farmer Handbook on Coronavirus Prevention and Management. This handbook outlines COVID-19 symptoms, dairy farm workforce preventative measures, employer action steps and answers to frequently asked questions. This resource can be found at: https://www.nmpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/V1-03192020-Dairy-Farmer-Handbook-on-Coronavirus-Prevention-and-Management-1.pdf EDITOR'S NOTE: I have included it in today's newsletter.

Approaches for Re-establishing Hay Feeding Areas

By: Chris Teutsch, UK Research and Education Center at Princeton
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/03/25/approaches-for-reestablishing-hay-feeding-areas/

Wet conditions this winter have resulted in almost complete disturbance in and around hay feeding areas. Even well-designed hay feeding pads will have significant damage surrounding the pad where animals enter and leave. These highly disturbed areas create perfect growing conditions for summer annual weeds like spiny pigweed and cockle bur. Their growth is stimulated be lack of competition from a healthy and vigorous sod and the high fertility from the concentrated area of dung, urine and rotting hay. The objective of this article is to outline approached for dealing with these areas.

Excessive rainfall and high livestock concentration in and around hay feeding areas has resulted in almost complete disturbance.

Approach I: Planting cool-season grasses and legumes

The first strategy is to seed cool-season grasses or a mixture of grasses and legumes in the spring. While this commonly done, results are usually less than spectacular in most years. This is due to several reasons. The first is that seedings are normally delayed until late spring or early summer. This does not allow adequate time for the seedlings to develop a large enough root system to sustain them through a hot and often dry summer. The second reason is that summer annual weed pressure is very high. Summer annuals weeds like foxtail, crabgrass (?), goosegrass, spiny pigweed, cockle bur and others actively compete with cool-season seedlings for light and water, often causing stand failures.

If you decide to attempt a spring planting of cool-season grasses and legumes, there are several things that you can do to enhance, but by no means guarantee success. These are listed below.
Plant adapted forage species. Plant forages that are well adapted to Kentucky and the soils and drainage found on your farm. Tall fescue, red clover and ladino clover are by far are best adapted and most versatile forage species for pastures in the Commonwealth. Information on the best varieties to use can be found on the UK Forages webpage.

Consider leaving legumes out of the mix. While legumes are an important part of grassland ecosystems, herbicide options for controlling weeds in grass-legume mixtures are limited. Leaving legumes out will allow you to apply selective herbicides to control broadleaf summer annual weeds.

Use the high end of the seeding rate. Seeding rates are normally given as a range. For spring seedings, make sure and use the high end of this range. Rapid canopy closure is critical to suppressing summer annual weeds. *Plant as early as possible*. Spring seeded cool-season forages should be planted starting in early to mid-March. Early plantings will have more time to emerge and form a canopy that can shade summer annuals weeds. They will also have additional time to develop a root system that can sustain the developing seeding during the summer months.

Plant in two directions. If drilling, cut your seeding rate in half and plant in two directions. This will aid in obtaining quicker canopy closure and hopefully prevent and shade summer annual weeds.

Check seeding depth. Small seeded cool-season forages should not be planted deeper than ½ inch. Make sure to check and recheck your seeding depth. Seeding deeper than ½ inch will delay emergence, result in uneven stands, and in many cases cause complete stand failure.

Control broadleaf weeds in cool-season grasses. Once seedling have four collared leaves, some herbicides can be applied. Always consult and follow label directions. For more information on using herbicides on new seedings, contact your local extension agent.

Clip or flash graze new stands. Summer annual weeds compete very aggressively for light, water, and nutrients with cool-season grass seedlings that are trying to establish. If this competition is not controlled, it will likely result in stand failure. The most effective control this competition is to flash graze these paddocks before weeds get to far along. Flash grazing is accomplished be placing a large number of animals in small areas for a short period of time. This reduces selective grazing and increase grazing uniformity.

Approach II: Planting a warm-season annual grasses

The second strategy involves planting a summer annual grass in late spring or early summer and has much higher probability of success. Summer annual grasses, especially sorghum-sudangrass or sudangrass, have very rapid emergence and canopy closure. This will prevent summer annuals weeds from germinating and provide forage for grazing or harvesting during the summer months (Figure 2). Perennial cool-season grasses can then be reseeded under more ideal conditions in late or summer or early fall. If you decide to use summer annuals grasses, there are several things that you can do to enhance your success. These are listed below.

Plant adapted summer annuals species. Always plant forages that are well adapted to Kentucky and the soils and conditions on your farm. Summer annuals that can be used to reclaim hay feeding areas include sudangrass, sorghum-sudangrass, pearl millet, and crabgrass. Detailed information on the adaptability, establishment, and management of these species can be found in UK publication AGR-229.

Sorghum-sudangrass (left) formed a quick canopy that was able to shade out summer annual weeds compared with a mixture of forage soybeans and pearl millet (right).

Use the high end of the seeding rate. Seeding rates are normally given as a range. Make sure and use the high end of this range. Even with summer annuals, rapid canopy closure is critical for reducing summer annual weeds.

Plant after soil warms. For summer annuals grasses to germinate and rapidly emerge, soil temperatures at planting should be at least 60 degrees F. As a general rule, this is about two weeks after the “ideal” corn planting date. This should allow plenty of time to let the area dry out and to get it smoothed up prior to planting.

If there is a delay in planting the summer annuals after final tillage, it may be a good idea to do one more pass of light tillage to disturb any weed seedling that may have germinated.

Control broadleaf weeds. Once warm-season annual grasses are established, some herbicides can be applied to control summer annual broadleaf weeds. If you plan to reseed cools-season perennials in the fall, make sure and check the label for reseeding restrictions prior to application. Always consult and follow label directions. For more information on using herbicides on summer annual grasses, contact your local extension agent.
Grazing summer annuals grasses. Allow taller growing summer annuals like sorghum-sudangrass and pearl millet to reach a height of 18-24 inches before grazing and stop grazing a to 8-10 inches. Regrowth can be stimulated be applying 40-60 lb N/A after each grazing, but the last. Crabgrass can be grazed once it reaches a height of 6 to 8 inches. Cattle should be pulled off once it has been grazed to a height of 3 to 4 inches.

Haying summer annual grasses. Allow taller growing to reach a height of 30 to 40 inches before mowing. This will optimize yield and forage quality. If regrowth is desired, do not mow close than 6 inches apply 40 to 60 lb N/A after each cutting, but the last. Crabgrass should be cut for hay at the late boot-stage. Care should be taken to not mow crabgrass closer than 3 to 4 inches.

Reseeding cool-season grasses in the fall. Pastures should be sprayed with a non-selective herbicide in late summer to control any remaining summer annual grass and any weeds that have germinated. Cool-season grasses can be no-tilled into the killed pasture area.

Creep Feeding Lambs

Dr. Scott Greiner, Extension Animal Scientist – Sheep, Virginia Tech
Source: https://u.osu.edu/sheep/2020/03/24/sheep-update-creep-feeding-lambs/
(Previously published on the Virginia Cooperative Extension web page)

Creep feeding young lambs while still nursing the ewe can provide valuable supplemental weight gain. This added weight gain has the most economic value for lambs managed in an intensive, early weaning production system where lambs will be maintained in a dry-lot. Conversely, for lambs that will be developed on pasture throughout the spring and summer, creep feeding would be of less value due to the relative expense of this early weight gain. Creep feeding also is beneficial for flocks with a high number of multiple births, or flocks with ewes having limited milk production.

(Image Source: Ketcham's Sheep Equipment)

Young lambs may be started on creep feed as early as 10 days of age. Although significant amounts of feed are normally not consumed until 3-4 weeks of age, providing access to creep feed at an early age allows lambs to develop a habit of eating dry feed, and helps stimulate rumen development. For creep feeding to be economical, lambs must consume enough feed to increase performance. Lambs should eat a minimum of 0.5 pounds of creep feed per head per day from 20 days of age to weaning.

Intake of creep feed is influenced by the design of the creep area as well as the feed provided. The creep area should be kept dry and well bedded. Place the creep in a high-traffic area where lambs will naturally find their way into it. The creep area should be large enough that the majority of the lambs may be in it at any one time. Observation of the traffic patterns of the ewes and lambs will help identify an ideal location. A light in the creep area will help attract lambs into the creep. Creep gates should provide spaces between 8-12 in. to allow lambs in but keep ewes out. Creep gates with rollers allow larger lambs through a smaller space. A small used tire can also be used as a creep gate.

The creep ration need not be expensive or complex. Of critical importance is that the feed be kept fresh and dry. Replace the feed in the creep daily. Old creep feed may be given to the ewe flock. Utilize covered feeders that minimize contamination from lambs standing or playing in the feeder. Young lambs are very sensitive to what they eat, and will not consume stale or contaminated feed.

The principle behind creep feeding is to stimulate lambs to eat and therefore promote weight gain. Therefore, highly palatable feeds must be provided. At a young age, lambs prefer feeds that are finely ground and have a small particle size. Feedstuffs high in palatability for young lambs include soybean meal, ground corn, and alfalfa hay. These feeds should be replaced daily to keep fresh. A simple mixture of 80-85% ground or cracked corn and 15-20% soybean meal, with free choice high quality alfalfa hay is a very palatable early creep ration. The feed being fed to the ewes may also be included free choice in the creep feeder. Early in the creep feeding period, stimulating intake is of primary concern. These diets should be formulated to contain 20% crude protein.

As the lambs get to 4-6 weeks of age and older, coarser feeds become more palatable. Providing feeds early will enhance the lambs' acceptance to these coarser feeds. As the lamb gets older, intakes and growth rates should increase. Additionally, the proportion of the gain that is derived from dry feed vs. milk increases. During this time, lambs may be gradually switched to a complete pelleted ration or a ration containing cracked corn and supplement. Over time, the ration should be changed to represent what will be fed once the lamb is weaned. Complete feeds are available commercially, which can be convenient yet expensive. Pelleted supplements to be mixed with cracked corn are generally cheaper, and are also widely available. At weaning, protein requirements of lambs drop to 15-16%. An advantage of the complete feeds and protein supplements is that they are fortified with vitamins and minerals which are important for lamb health and performance. Lambs should be vaccinated with Clostridium Perfringens C & D to prevent overeating disease prior to weaning at 6-8 weeks of age, [preferably prior to weaning to allow for the vaccine to work appropriately].

Massive Stimulus Deal Authorizes Billions in New Farm Aid

By Philip Brasher
Source: https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/13370-massive-stimulus-deal-authorizes-billions-in-new-farm-aid

Congressional leaders have reached agreement on a $2 trillion economic rescue package that would replenish the Agriculture Department's Commodity Credit Corp. authority and earmark additional money for livestock and specialty crop producers as well as local agriculture.

The additional spending authority would clear the way for USDA to make additional Market Facilitation Program payments this year. The legislation, the text of which was obtained by *Agri-Pulse* Wednesday morning, would provide $14 billion to replenish the CCC account, which is capped annually at $30 billion, as well as $9.5 billion more for livestock and specialty crops, such as fruit, vegetables and nuts. Dairy producers and "local food systems" also would be eligible for the $9.5 billion, which is earmarked for producers harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

USDA used the CCC account to make the 2018 and 2019 MFP payments, and farm groups have been lobbying the administration to make another round for 2020. The cattle industry had lobbied for direct payments to offset a steep drop in live cattle prices since January. The fruit and vegetable industry has asked for up to $5 billion to compensate distributors and growers for the loss of produce that could not be shifted from restaurants and feed service to retail outlets amid the pandemic.

USDA had asked for $50 billion in total CCC authority, Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., said earlier. It was not clear what the final number in the stimulus bill would be. Hoeven chairs the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee.

The legislation also would extend the term of marketing assistance loans by an additional three months, from the current limit of nine months. The loans provide producers with interim financing so they don't have to market crops during periods when prices are relatively low.

Other key elements of the bill:

- $15.5 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to cover an expected increase in demand as a result of the pandemic.
- $8.8 billion for child nutrition programs.
- $450 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program, or TEFAP, which funds food distribution to food banks.
- $100 million for additional rural broadband grants.
- $33 million to the Food Safety and Inspection Service to cover the cost of temporary and intermittent workers, relocation of inspectors and overtime costs.
- $25 million for the Rural Utilities Service to support telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas.
- $4 million to cover the cost of repatriating Foreign Agricultural Service staff.

Eric Deeble, policy director for the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, welcomed the inclusion of local food systems in the $9.5 billion aid provision. “As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and ‘social distancing’ restrictions, we expect farmers who have lost access to direct markets – like farmers markets, schools, and restaurants – stand to lose more than $1 billion in sales this year. As the impact of the pandemic continues, their losses will mount and they will have to make hard choices about what to plant and whether they can stay in business at all," he said.

The stimulus package also includes direct payments of $1,200 per person to lower-income and many middle-income Americans as well as expanded unemployment insurance benefits, billions in aid to small business and what Democratic Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., calls a “Marshall Plan” for the U.S. health care system.

The package “will inject trillions of dollars of cash into the economy as fast as possible to help American workers, families, small businesses and industries to make it through this disruption and emerge on the other side ready to soar,” said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Ohio Farm Custom Rate Survey 2020

By: Barry Ward, Leader, Production Business Management, OSU Extension, Agriculture & Natural Resources

A large number of Ohio farmers hire machinery operations and other farm related work to be completed by others. This is often due to lack of proper equipment, lack of time or lack of expertise for a particular operation. Many farm business owners do not own equipment for every possible job that they may encounter in the course of operating a farm and may, instead of purchasing the equipment needed, seek out someone with the proper tools necessary to complete the job. This farm work completed by others is often referred to as “custom farm work” or more simply “custom work”. A “custom rate” is the amount agreed upon by both parties to be paid by the custom work customer to the custom work provider.

Custom farming providers and customers often negotiate an agreeable custom farming machinery rate by utilizing Extension surveys results as a starting point. Ohio State University Extension collects surveys and publishes survey results from the Ohio Farm Custom Survey every other year. This year we are updating our published custom farm rates for Ohio.

We need your assistance in securing up-to-date information about farm custom work rates, machinery and building rental rates and hired labor costs in Ohio. This year we have an online survey set up that anyone can access. We would ask that you respond even if you know only a few rates. We want information on actual rates, either what you paid to hire custom work or what you charged if you perform custom work. Custom

Rates should include all ownership costs of implement & tractor (if needed), operator labor, fuel and lube. If fuel is not included in your custom rate charge there is a place on the survey to indicate this.

You may access the survey at: ohio farm custom rates survey 2020
Or: https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7WN0eNQz3VO41nv

The deadline to complete the survey is March 31, 2020.

March 25 Ag Update on WTNS Radio

WTNS Radio OSU Extension Update for March 18, 2020
By: David Marrison, ANR Educator
Source: https://coshocton.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/wtns-osu-extension-agriculture-update/news

Hello Coshocton County! The week of March 22-28 is National Ag Week. This year we are celebrating the 47th anniversary of National Ag Week. That's over 40 years of recognizing agriculture's role in American life, and that's certainly an achievement worth celebrating! This year's theme is **"Food Brings Everyone to the Table"**

National Ag Week is a time when producers, ag associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others pause to celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture. But more broadly, I think it's important - particularly in a time like we are currently facing to show our gratitude to the many men and women who make agriculture possible. Sadly, our Coshocton County National Ag Day Luncheon for today was canceled to the coronavirus pandemic.

We know that food and fiber doesn't just arrive at the grocery or clothing store . . . or magically appear on our dinner table or in our closet. There's an entire industry dedicated to providing plentiful and safe food for consumption . . . as well as a wide range of comfortable, fashionable clothing choices. We rely on agriculture for the very necessities of life. From beef and pork to cotton and corn, agriculture is working harder than ever to meet the needs of Americans and others around the world.

And it's important to remember that American agriculture is not just doing it, but doing it better and more effectively! Consider this:

- Each American farmer feeds about 165 people. Agriculture is America's #1 export.
- New technology means farmers are more environmentally friendly than ever before.

Here in Coshocton County, we have a lot to be proud of. Over 2,100 individuals have a hand in managing 1,191 farms. These farms manage almost 183,000 acres of crops, pastures and woodland. We have Do you know that our farmers raise over 29,000 acres of hay, 28,000 acres of corn, 21 acres of soybeans, 2,000 acres of wheat, 1,300 acres of silage, almost 500 acres of fruits and vegetables, and over 50 acres of Christmas trees. Our farmers also manager nearly 40,000 acres of pasture for our cattle, sheep and goats to graze on.

Speaking about livestock, Coshocton County has great diversity. You most likely find a cow on our farms as 45.5% of our farms have cattle. We have over 21,000 cattle in Coshocton County which includes 8,200 mama beef (brood) cows, 3,200 milk cows, and almost 10,000 replacement beef & dairy animals. On any given day, you will also find a total of 900,000 meat chickens, 76,000 layer chickens, 71,000 pigs, 3,500 sheep & lambs, 1,800 horses, 1,300 goats, and over 100 turkeys, donkeys and alpacas. Our bee industry also is also buzzing along as we now have over 40 farms raising 169 colonies of bees.

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. Our livestock industry is definitely a force here in Coshocton County.

The Census of Agriculture also tracks farm machinery. Do you know there are almost, 2,700 tractors, 150 combines, almost 800 hay balers, and 1,500 farm trucks in Coshocton County? It is estimated the value of this farm equipment is over $116 million dollars. It takes a lot of equipment to keep our farms going!

So, I encourage you to join me in thanking our Coshocton County farmers during National Ag Week. While most of us are under the stay at home orders, our farmers continue to be essential as they raise their livestock and make preparations for the spring planting season which is right around the corner. I encourage you to pick up your phone and call the farmers in your life and say thank you. Thank you Coshocton County farmers for all you do!

IN CLOSING….. At OSU Extension, we are proud to work for Coshocton County to help improve our families, farms and businesses. Please feel free to contact the OSU Extension Office in Coshocton County for more information at 740-622-2265 or visit our website at coshocton.osu.edu. This is David Marrison, Extension Educator for Agriculture & Natural Resources wishing you a good and safe day.

Sources:
2017 AG Census
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/index.php

National Ag Week Resources
https://www.agday.org/

Upcoming Programs

- ~~Backyard Fruit Production Workshop: April 28~~ Canceled
- ~~Mortality Composting Workshop- May 4~~ Canceled
- Master Gardener Plant Sale: June 6
- Summer Pasture Walk: July 28
- Summer Pasture Walk: August 25

Check out upcoming programs at:
go.osu.edu/coshoctonevents

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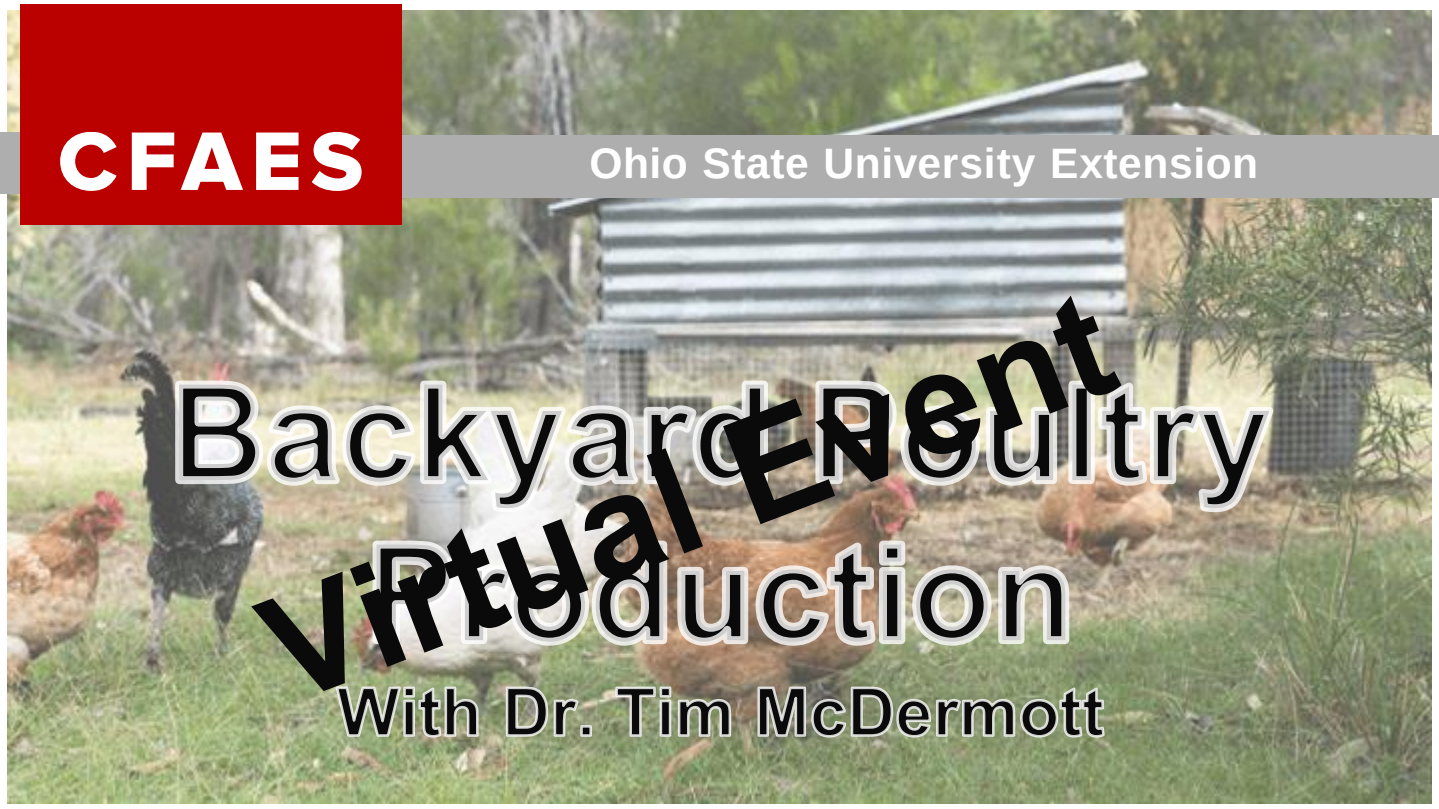
Ohio State University Extension



Tuesday March 31st @ 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Tim McDermott has been an Extension Educator in Agriculture and Natural Resources for the past four years after twenty years in private practice veterinary medicine and surgery. He lectures state wide to audiences on poultry topics including nutrition, husbandry, biosecurity, and disease management. He is a visiting instructor to the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine teaching 4th year veterinary students the poultry component of the Veterinary Preventative Medicine rotation.

Where: Virtual Via Zoom Follow this link to connect to the class: https://osu.zoom.us/j/874349798

Questions:
OSU Extension Office
419-947-1070 or
Jagger.6@osu.edu

OSU EXTENSION MORROW COUNTY MORROW.OSU.EDU

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Invasive Plant Series

FACT SHEETS

Poison Hemlock

EXPERT REVIEWED

Conium maculatum L.

Other Common Names: *Deadly hemlock, poison parsley*

Authors: *Eric Eubank, former project director, SICWMA;*
Ron Rathfon, Extension forester, Purdue University

**** Warning:*** *All parts of this plant are poisonous to both animals and humans. Use caution when managing this plant.*

Figure 1. *First-year rosette*
Ron Rathfon, Extension forester, Purdue University

Figure 2a. *Purple spotting on stems*
Jan Samanek, State Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org

Description: *A native of Europe, poison hemlock was introduced to North America as a garden/ornamental plant. Poison hemlock is a member of the Apiaceae (parsley) family. It has a biennial growth pattern, being a low-lying rosette (**Fig. 1**) the first year and bolting to 3-10 feet the second year. The stems are stout, smooth, with distinctive purple spotting (**Fig. 2a and 2b**). Flowers are small, white and found in umbrella-shaped clusters (**Fig. 3**) in early summer (June/July). The fern-like leaves are pinnately compound and arranged alternately on the stem (**Fig. 4**). The plant reproduces prolifically via seeds that are flattened and ribbed. Seeds mature in August/September and are easily spread via mowing/agriculture equipment. It may be confused with wild carrot (Queen Anne's lace **Fig. 6**) or wild cow parsnip (**Fig. 7**), both of which have white umbrella-shape flower clusters. Wild carrot has a hairy stem, while cow parsnip has a ribbed stem. Neither have purple spotting.*

Impact/ Distribution: Poison hemlock contains highly poisonous alkaloid compounds that can be fatal to humans and livestock. Poison hemlock easily invades disturbed/early successional sites and is typically found along roads, streams, trails, ditches, forest edges and waste areas *(**Fig. 5**)*.

Management: Poison hemlock spreads via seed, so effective management must prevent new seed production, prevent spread of existing seed, and exhaust the existing seed supply in the soil seed bank.

Prevention: Poison hemlock seed often is inadvertently spread by mowing, road maintenance or agricultural equipment. Mow infested areas along roadsides, ditch banks and field edges before seed

Poison Hemlock is well established and widely distributed throughout Indiana. Counties highlighted in green have established populations of poison hemlock.

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Figure 2b. *Base of first-year rosette stem showing purple spotting*
Ron Rathfon, Extension forester, Purdue University

Figure 3. *Umbrella-shaped flower clusters*
Pedro Tenorio-Lezama, Bugwood.org

matures. Poison hemlock seed maturation may vary from year-to-year depending on weather patterns. In southern Indiana, mowing should occur from April through early to mid-July. Avoid working, recreating in or walking or driving through infested areas during seed dispersal periods. Also, clean clothing, shoes, ATVs or vehicles following activity in infested areas.

Control: The most effective control may be mowing to prevent seed production, followed with herbicide applications to rosettes and resprouts.

• Manual - Can be effective for single plants or very small infestations. Pull or dig up all plants, place in trash bag and dispose of with regular trash. Always wear protective clothing, including gloves and eye protection, to prevent the plant from contacting skin.

• Mechanical - Mowing or cutting may be effective control but must be repeated often because the taproot can send up new shoots after a single mowing. Tilling or grubbing can kill hemlock and prevent seed production but is generally not recommended because of soil disturbance.

Figure 4. *Pinnately compound leaves*
Pedro Tenorio-Lezama, Bugwood.org

Figure 5. *Poison hemlock invading a disturbed roadside*
Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.org

• Chemical - Effective for large infestations and for spot spray applications to individuals and clumps. Herbicide application should be performed while the plant is actively growing and before flowering. First-year basal rosettes may be sprayed from midsummer through fall. Second-year plants begin bolting flower stalks in April and begin flowering in mid-May. Follow-up treatments will be required, as seeds already present in the soil sprout. Follow label directions and use a surfactant to increase effectiveness.

- Glyphosate: Use herbicides containing at least a 41 percent concentration of glyphosate and follow label directions to mix a 2 percent spray solution. Thoroughly wet all surfaces of the plant but not to the point of runoff.
  Use caution: Glyphosate is nonselective and will damage or kill any plant it contacts.
- 2,4-D or Triclopyr: Broadleaf-specific herbicides that will not harm grasses. Most effective on first-year rosettes or very small second-year plants.

Look-a-likes:

Figure 6. *Wild carrot (Queen Anne's lace),* Daucus carota *L*
Wendy VanDyk Evans, Bugwood.org

Figure 7. *Cow parsnip,* Heracleum maximum Bartr
Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

For vegetation management professionals:

Aminopyralid, chlorsulfuron, clopyralid, dicamba, imazapic, imazapyr, metsulfuron-methyl, sulfometuron-methyl plus metsulfuron-methyl, and 2,4-D plus picloram may prove effective alone or in combination with other listed herbicides for plant control and pre-emergence control.

Additional Information

- iMap Invasives Element Stewardship Abstract: http://www.imapinvasives.org/GIST/ESA/esapages/conimacu.html
- Indiana Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/CAPS/
- Invasive.org: http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=4365
- Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) Invasive Plant Control Database: http://mipncontroldatabase.wisc.edu/Default.aspx
- Purdue University Weed Science Department: http://www.btny.purdue.edu/weedscience/2003/articles/PHemlock03.pdf
- What's Invasive! Android or iPhone app: http://whatsinvasive.com/

Become a Weed Watcher *and help us stop the spread of invasive weeds! Visit our website at www.SICWMA.org to find out more.*

PURDUE AGRICULTURE

7/12

Questions Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on Farms with Employees

Gustavo M. Schuenemann, DVM, MS, PhD, Professor & Extension Veterinarian
Jeffrey D. Workman, PhD, Extension Program Coordinator

What is COVID-19 coronavirus?

COVID-19 is an infection caused by a novel (or new) strain of coronavirus. This strain is new; thus, people around the world do not yet have any immunity to the virus. Group immunity means a high enough proportion of individuals in a population are immune; thus, the majority will protect the few susceptible individuals because the pathogen is less likely to find a susceptible individual. This virus strain is very contagious before any signs or symptoms of sickness appear. It spreads very easily from person to person and has become a worldwide pandemic. In addition, this strain of virus can cause serious disease and death in elderly people and those with underlying health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes. Anyone who has a suppressed immune system (immunocompromised) is also considered high risk.

CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Are the risks and concerns regarding COVID-19 coronavirus different on a farm?

The difference between a farm and some other workplaces is that most work cannot be performed remotely. People must be physically present to feed, milk, and care for animals or crops. While automation may reduce the number of people necessary on some farms (e.g., robotic milkers, automatic feed pushers, automatic calf feeders, etc.), people are still needed onsite to operate and manage the automated systems as well as to provide care that cannot be automated.

Is there anyone available to communicate remotely with my employees at the farm?

Yes, we are available to assist farmers remotely via conference call (e.g., Zoom, WhatsApp). Please contact Dr. Jeff Workman at workman.45@osu.edu or Dr. Gustavo M. Schuenemann at schuenemann.5@osu.edu (Ph: 614-625-0680).

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on Large Farms.

Can livestock or other animals be infected with the COVID-19 coronavirus?

The Center for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) has reported that while this virus seems to have emerged in China from an animal source, it is now spreading from person-to-person. There is no reason to believe that any animals including livestock or pets in the United States might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus.

There are bovine coronavirus infections that are caused by different strains of coronavirus such as: calf diarrhea, winter dysentery in cows, and bovine respiratory disease complex (shipping fever).

It is illegal and dangerous to use any vaccines or drugs labeled for cattle for human use. No current products will help prevent or cure COVID-19.

Merck Veterinary Manual: https://www.merckvetmanual.com/digestive-system/intestinal-diseases-in-ruminants/intestinal-diseases-in-cattle

CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#animals

Do farm workers develop a better immune systems?

Your immune system helps your body fight an infection from microorganisms. Microorganisms include bacteria, viruses, fungi (yeasts & molds), protozoa, and algae. The microorganisms that infect and cause disease are called pathogens. Being exposed to various pathogens commonly found on a farm can help your body develop some immunity. However, this novel strain of coronavirus is new and different from other strains of coronavirus in which you may have been previously exposed. COVID-19 appears to spread very easily between people because it is able to spread without people knowing they are infected and there is no immunity to the virus in the population.

How is this coronavirus different from the common cold or flu?

Many different respiratory viruses can cause the common cold, but rhinoviruses are the most common. Other virus such as coronaviruses, parainfluenza, and adenoviruses may also cause the common cold. Flu is caused by the influenza virus. Flu is considered to be a more serious and dangerous infection than the common cold. The COVID-19 coronavirus has many of the same signs and symptoms as the common cold and flu. It would be closest related to those coronavirus strains that do occasionally cause a common cold. However COVID-19 is different because it is novel meaning our bodies do not yet have any immunity, and it can cause serious disease and death in certain groups of people similar to an influenza virus.

CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/features/rhinoviruses/index.html

CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm

How can I protect myself from getting COVID-19?

1) **Social distancing**: This helps to prevent spread of virus from person to person. Social distancing includes avoiding large groups of people and the closing of certain public businesses and events. Groups of people who are only in contact with those within their house or farm and are not in contact with other people are less likely to experience community spread. Avoid hand shaking when greeting someone and maintain 6 feet of distance from other people.
2) **Proper hand washing and sanitation**: It is extremely important you wash your hands frequently and after touching a high contact surface. The virus may live on surfaces for 2-3 days. If you touch a surface such as a doorknob or counter that has virus on it, and then you lick your fingers or touch your mouth, nose, eyes, or face, you could become infected. By washing your hands frequently and wearing disposable gloves, you decrease the risk of becoming infected or potentially spreading a virus to others. Most people still need to go to public places on occasion such as the grocery store and gas station. It is important to maintain 6 feet of distance from other people and wash your hands with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds, or if a sink and soap aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol). Keep the bathrooms and break/kitchen area in your workplace and at home clean and disinfected.
3) **Avoid any direct contact** with individuals feeling sick or experiencing the symptoms/clinical signs of common cold or flu. With the exception of those responsible for providing care for sick individuals.
CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Should I report to work?

The short answer is "YES", unless you are sick or experiencing the symptoms/signs: fever, dry cough, and shortness of breath.
CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html

What if I start to feel sick or are getting symptoms/signs?

Symptoms/signs are similar to the cold or flu: **fever, dry cough, and shortness of breath**. Emergency signs are difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, and bluish lips or face. Emergency signs require that you immediate call your health care provider for help. Do not go in-person as you might spread to others. By calling ahead, health care professionals can give you instructions and prepare for your arrival. You may also contact your manager or supervisor to help you contact the doctor's office if you are experiencing these symptoms/signs.
CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html

How long will this concern about COVID-19 last?

All of the current changes are intended to reduce the spread. Eventually, a vaccine or treatment may be developed and manufactured that will allow protection of individuals and the population such as with the seasonal flu vaccine. No one knows for certain how long it will take for life to return to normal, but a few weeks or months of collective efforts will certainly make a huge difference within our community.

All farms should immediately implement stricter biosecurity protocols for all outside personnel and visitors.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention and Management
Dairy Farmer Handbook

Version 1 - Updated March 19, 2020

NMPF
NATIONAL MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION

Overview

The U.S. is confronting an outbreak of a novel coronavirus that causes serious respiratory disease and may be especially deadly for older people and those with weakened immune systems. The World Health Organization has classified the outbreak as a global pandemic because it is affecting countries all over the world. Individuals and organizations can fight coronavirus by taking steps to prevent its transmission, which will lower the infection rate and prevent health care systems from being overwhelmed. The spread of the virus has raised concerns about how it may affect public health as well as our economy, including dairy production.

Dairy farms are 24-hour, 7-day per week business and operations must continue. Following U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) precautions will minimize the risk to dairy farmers, family, employees and essential professional and service providers to be on the farm.

Coronavirus Symptoms

Affected individuals have reported mild to severe respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In severe cases, the virus has led to pneumonia and kidney failure, and, in some cases, death. The CDC believes symptoms may appear within two to fourteen days after exposure, although not everyone who is exposed to the virus will exhibit symptoms of being ill.

Dairy Farm Workforce Preventive Measures

While there is currently no vaccine to prevent this virus in humans, these simple steps can help minimize the spread of this and other respiratory viruses:

- Access to the dairy farm by non-essential persons should be limited.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Wash your hands before you eat after working in the milking parlor or other areas of the dairy.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, both on and off the dairy.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Always wear milking gloves.
- When you get home after working in the dairy, always take a shower and wash your work clothes.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Social distancing—reducing the number of close physical and social contacts we have with one another—should be practiced, such as when there is a need to get supplies from a farm and feed store.

Employer Action Steps

Employers should make sure that work environments are as clean as possible to prevent the spread of contagions. They should also make clear that employees who have symptoms of a potential contagious illness must not report to work while sick. Employers should check the CDC website regularly for coronavirus updates and have open and informed conversations with concerned employees about the virus and its potential impact.

The farm workforce is not immune to coronavirus. Please take steps to protect yourself and your employees.

1. Talk with your employees about coronavirus, how it spreads, and how to prevent getting infected.

2. Print the CDC factsheets and posters, post in your workplace and employee housing facilities in their native languages.

3. Provide guidance to help employees clean and disinfect housing.

- CDC guidance for cleaning homes

4. Clean and disinfect your workplace. The employee breakroom and bathroom are great places for virus to be transmitted. Clean and disinfect any areas where employees congregate or routinely touch items such as doorknobs and computer keyboards. Set up daily and weekly cleaning schedules.

5. Provide supplies such as cleaning solutions, buckets, mops, brushes, etc., for cleaning at work and for those living in employer-provided housing. (CDC list of approved antimicrobial cleaning products)

6. Keep restrooms and other areas of the dairy stocked with disinfectants and soap.

7. All unnecessary people should not be on a dairy farm at this time.

- Farm tours should be suspended until such time as the human-to-human transmission risk has abated.
- Use teleconferences to talk with advisors who do not need to be on the farm such as nutritionist, banker/loan officer, extension personnel, etc.

8. For dairy farms with retail stores on-site, operate in accordance with the recommendations of federal, state and local health officials.

9. Review your sick-leave policy. People who are sick should stay home, only leaving to receive medical care. Do you provide paid sick leave for your employees? If not, will employees feel financially obligated to come to work even when sick?

- Refer to the National Dairy FARM Program's State Legal Fact Sheets for awareness of the required state and federal laws around paid sick leave.

10. Communicate with employees that they should stay home if sick. Employees sometimes come to work believing they will face punishment or firing if they miss work. Be sure your employees understand that their health and that of their co-workers comes first. Communicate and plan to cover for sick employees.

11. Prepare your disaster contingency plan. What will you do if 50% of your employees become sick and unable to work? Could neighboring farms share resources in an emergency? Who will manage your operation if you or another key manager are unable to leave your house or are hospitalized?

- The National Dairy FARM program has developed Comprehensive Emergency Action Plan Guidance, which provides pertinent information and steps for a dairy to follow if an emergency should occur.
- Cornell provides the Extension Disaster Education Network offering community education resources across the entire disaster cycle of preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Penn State also provides farm disaster preparedness resources.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should a dairy employer do if an employee exhibits symptoms of COVID-19?

According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), sending home an employee who displays symptoms of a contagious illness does not violate the ADA because: (1) if the illness ultimately turns out to be relatively mild or routine (e.g., seasonal flu), it would not have constituted a covered disability in the first place; and (2) if the illness does turn out to be severe (so that it could constitute a disability under the ADA), then it would likely pose a "direct threat" supporting the employer's decision. An employer should consider clearly communicating that it has the right to send home any employee exhibiting symptoms of a potentially contagious disease.

If a dairy employer or employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, how can that person be tested?

If you think you or an employee has been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms such as a cough or difficulty breathing, call a healthcare provider for medical advice.

What should be done if an employee tests positive for COVID-19?

If an employee or individual currently working, or recently present, within your facility is confirmed by a laboratory to be positive for COVID-19, immediately notify your local health department. Ensure that all sensitive surfaces and areas are immediately cleaned and disinfected.

Your local health department will be involved in monitoring the employee or individual while symptomatic and under isolation until they recover. The authorities may recommend additional testing of coworkers. It also will be involved in clearing fully recovered employees from isolation before they can return to work. The local health department may provide further guidance on monitoring and segregating employees who came into close contact with positive individuals.

If a person has been exposed to bovine coronavirus, does that person have any immunity to COVID-19?

A person exposed to bovine coronavirus is not expected to be immune to COVID-19 and should follow all recommendations from public health authorities to minimize contracting COVID-19. The bovine coronavirus and COVID-19 are two different and distinct viruses, each causing a different disease in different species. Bovine coronavirus specifically causes illness in cattle, while COVID-19 is only known to cause illness in humans.

References

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