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OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

COSHOCTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

May 13, 2020 Issue

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Hello, Coshocton County! It is very common for farmers and avid gardeners to start many of our conversations talking about the weather. And boy, this past week has given us something to talk about with 4 frost or freeze events over the past 7 days. Not to mention the snow that many of us woke up to on Saturday morning.

I have included a nice article from Dr. Laura Lindsey which discusses the impact of cold temperatures on our agronomic crops. One blessing to our slow start to planting here in Coshocton County means most of our corn & soybeans are still in the ground (or yet to be planted) which given the past week is a good thing. But for some of the crops planted last week, you might be interested in her discussion of imbibitional chilling.

Congratulations to Wendell Waters for being selected to be inducted into the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame later this summer. What a great honor! Congratulations Wendell.

The cold weather has really slowed the growth of our hay fields and pastures. For those who graze animals, you will want to make sure to read Rory Lewandowski's article on grazing. Good food for thought going into our grazing season.

Stay well and remember, while our office is closed to the public I can still be reached directly at 740-722-6073 or via email at marrison.2@osu.edu. Stay safe!

Sincerely,

David Marrison

Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator

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

Cold Weather Impact on Corn and Soybean

By: Alexander Lindsey and Laura Lindsey
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-13/cold-weather-impact-corn-and-soybean

In Ohio, between May 9 and 10, temperatures were as low as 26°F with some areas even receiving snow. The effect on corn and soybean depends on both temperature, duration of low temperature, and growth stage of the plant. The soil can provide some temperature buffering capacity, especially if soil is wet. Water is approximately 4x more resistant to temperature changes than air or dry soil, and thus will buffer the soil from experiencing large temperature changes as air temperatures drop. Deeper planted seeds may also be more resistant to large temperature swings.

Imbibitional chilling. Imbibitional chilling may occur in corn and soybean seeds if the soil temperature is below 50°F when the seed imbibes (rapidly takes up water from the soil, usually 24 hours after planting). Imbibitional chilling can cause reductions in stand and seedling vigor. If seeds were planted into soil at least 50°F (and have imbibed), the drop in temperature is not likely a problem if the plants have not yet emerged from the soil.

Corn after germination. The growing point of corn is below the soil surface until the V6 growth stage, and therefore is protected from low temperatures to some extent. However, if the soil temperature falls below 28°F, this can be lethal to corn. Temperatures between 28 to 32°F may result in frost damage, and both the temperature and duration will affect the severity of damage. Between May 9 and May 10, the minimum soil temperature at a 2-inch depth was 38°F at the Northwest Agricultural Research Station in Wood County, 44°F at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wayne County, and 58°F at the Western Agricultural Research Station in Clark County.

Soybean after germination. The growing point of soybean is above the ground when the cotyledons are above the soil surface. If damage occurs above the cotyledons, the plant will likely recover. If damage occurs below the cotyledons, the plant will die. Look for a discolored hypocotyl (the “crook” of the soybean that first emerges from the ground), which indicates that damage occurred below the cotyledons.

Assessing your fields. It is best to assess damage to plants or seeds 48 to 96 hours after the drop in temperatures, as symptoms may take a few days to appear. Additionally, cold temperatures slow GDD accumulation and may further delay crop emergence. For corn, recent work suggests 50% emergence can be expected following accumulation of 130-170 soil GDDs (using soil temperature to calculate GDD rather than air temperatures) from planting, which may take 5-7 days to accumulate under normal weather conditions.

Burndown and Residual Herbicide Issues

By: Mark Loux
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-13/burndown-and-residual-herbicide-issues

Depending upon where you are in the state, it's possible right now to be experiencing delays in getting anything done, progress in planting but delays in herbicide application, weather too dry to activate residual herbicides, and/or reduced burndown herbicide effectiveness on big weeds due to cold weather. What's become a typical Ohio spring. Some information relative to questions that OSU Extension educators have passed on to us:

1. Residual herbicides and rainfall. Residual herbicides do vary in the relative amounts of rain needed for "activation", or adequate movement into the soil to reach germinating seeds. Most growers are applying mixtures or premixes of several products, so we're not sure these differences are as important as the overriding principle here. Residual herbicide treatments need to receive a half to one inch of rain within a week or so after tillage or an effective burndown treatment, to control weeds that can will start to emerge at that time. This varies with timing of application and weather. Summer annual weeds are the target here, and their emergence ramps up in early May, although cold weather can slow this down. So residual herbicides applied in mid-April, prior to most of the summer annual weed emergence, may not need rain as soon after application, compared with herbicides applied in May. Aside from this, residual herbicide activity is not really dependent upon soil reaching a certain temperature. Under more marginal rainfall conditions, it's possible that herbicides may control the small-seeded weeds that emerge at or just below the soil surface, but be less effective on larger-seeded weeds that can emerge from deeper. In a tilled situation, a timely rotary hoe can be used to remove some of the weeds that are about to emerge (the "white stage") and buy some time for rain. The good news here is that we have effective POST herbicides to remedy many situations where the residual herbicides are not completely effective.

2. Residual herbicides and crop injury. The concerns here seem to be more about soybean herbicides, which may partly reflect the overall greater safety of residual corn herbicides. Several residual soybean herbicides can cause injury, depending upon when they are applied relative to planting, rainfall, soil type, seeding depth, etc. These include products that contain metribuzin, sulfentrazone, flumioxazin, and chlorimuron. One of the things that has reduced our risk of injury from all of these herbicides is that in no-till soybeans they have usually been applied a week or more prior to planting to accommodate restrictions on 2,4-D ester and dicamba. Application at or after planting increases the risk of injury, as does use in tilled situations. We have increased metribuzin use substantially over the past decade, but injury has been extremely rare due to application prior to planting and use of relatively low rates in combination with other products. We hear more about injury or suspected injury from flumioxazin and sulfentrazone when wet weather delays planting and forces application of residual herbicides after planting. It's worth noting here also that the Xtend and Enlist soybean systems do away with the wait to plant soybeans for dicamba and 2,4-D, respectively, and more growers may be waiting until after planting to apply burndown/residual herbicides.

In brief, symptoms of these are as follows: chlorimuron – slowed development, stunting, yellowing; flumioxazin and sulfentrazone – necrosis on young leaves and stem, stunting; metribuzin – usually delayed until first trifoliate, yellowing and possibly necrosis on margins of older leaves. Cloransulam, imazethapyr, and imazaquin are generally safer on soybeans than chlorimuron, in situations where injury is a concern. Activity of metribuzin varies considerably with soil texture and organic matter content, so using the labeled rate for soil type is important. Injury from any of these may be more likely when herbicide application is delayed for several days after planting, followed by substantial rain as the soybeans are about to emerge. Labels for products containing flumioxazin state that soybeans should be planted 1 ½ inches deep and herbicide should be applied

no later than three days after planting, in an attempt to avoid this situation (does not always work). The good news here is that early injury to soybeans usually does not reduce stand, but may slow early growth and rate of crop canopy development and leave soybeans open to the effect of other stresses. In some of these situations, it can be difficult to sort out how much of the damage is due to herbicide and how much is due to other factors. Yield loss is probably infrequent based on the soybean plant's ability to compensate for these types of factors.

3. Cold weather and burndown herbicides. We had a fairly warm winter and early spring, followed by the recent month of colder than normal weather. The net result of this is large winter annual weeds, and weather that is currently not terribly conducive for burndown activity. There is not much specific guidance on herbicide labels about cold weather, just general statements about how effectiveness can be reduced under adverse conditions that include cold weather. We expect many experienced applicators may have their own set of rough guidelines on this, or at least gut feelings. Under cold conditions, the rate of herbicide activity declines and also the overall effectiveness. It's more difficult to define the weather conditions when herbicide should not be applied. These would certainly include periods when frost or freeze is occurring overnight and daytime weather is cool and cloudy (less than about 50). One night of frost followed by a warm sunny day may still allow for decent herbicide activity, if weeds appear sufficiently recovered from the frost. Aside from this we could make a general recommendation to keep applying as long as night and day temperatures are at least 40 and 60 to 70, respectively, although this is still not ideal compared with day temperatures higher than 70 with sun. One way of dealing with this problem is to just wait for a return to warm, sunny weather before applying burndown herbicides. Another is to increase herbicide rates and use a more comprehensive herbicide mixture. For example, adding Sharpen to a mixture of glyphosate plus 2,4-D or dicamba. As with the less than effective residual herbicides under dry weather, burndown herbicide problems can sometimes be resolved with an effective POST treatment of glyphosate, 2,4-D, or dicamba, depending upon the trait system.

4. Reminder about the value of fall herbicides. Fall herbicides are an essential tool for marestail management, but given our current situation of dense, big weeds in no-till fields and potential problems with burndown herbicide effectiveness, it's worth reminding all of us why fall herbicides started being used in the first place. In the late 1990's, growers were experiencing problems with dense stands of winter annual weeds such as chickweed that interfered with tillage and planting. One contributor to this was the occasional reduced activity of spring-applied burndown herbicides in cool weather, which resulted in too slow death and dry down of weeds to prevent the problems the weeds caused. Fall-applied herbicides became a solution to this, since they result in almost weedfree spring seedbeds up until the point when giant ragweed and other summer annuals emerge (early May for most of these). As anyone knows who has used fall herbicides, their effectiveness reduces the overall importance of the spring-applied burndown, since it does not have to control a mess of large, overwintered weeds. It's all just way easier. And issues with cold weather and spring-applied burndown herbicides are therefore less important. For as little as $6 worth of fall-applied herbicide. Something to think about moving forward.

Set Yourself Up for Grazing Success

By: Rory Lewandowski, Extension Educator Wayne County
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/05/13/set-yourself-up-for-grazing-success/

Like any resource, pastures respond to management. Grazing offers economic benefits as compared to producing and feeding stored forages as livestock harvest the forage directly. Capture the benefits of grazing and set yourself up for success by using the 4-R's to manage pastures. We typically hear of the 4-R's in relationship to water quality and fertilizer management, but pasture management has its own set of 4-R's. Those 4-R's stand for the grazing principles of Right beginning grazing height, Remove/Reduce seed heads, Residual leaf area and Rest period.

Do not begin to graze pastures too soon. There is a positive correlation between pasture plant height, density, and livestock intake. Animal intake is directly correlated with animal performance. The goal is to make sure that grazing livestock get a full mouthful of forage with every bite they take. For example, cattle on average graze for 8 hours/day, averaging 30,000 total bites. If the pasture growth is too short and they only get a

partially filled mouth of forage in every bite, they do not make up for it by grazing longer or taking more bites. Total forage intake will be lower compared to the cow able to get a full mouthful in every one of her grazing bites. In general, after the spring growth flush, plan to start a grazing pass when pastures have 8-10 inches of growth. During the spring growth flush, plan on starting a grazing pass at 6-8 inches and move quickly through pasture paddocks. The goal is to remove only the top couple of inches of the plant.

During the spring flush, the goal is to remove only the top couple of inches of the plant, and then quickly move on.

In the spring through early summer, our cool-season grass plants will shift from vegetative to reproductive growth and produce seed heads. When this happens the grass plant no longer produces new vegetative tillers and the nutritive quality of the plant decreases. Removing or reducing seed head production by mowing/clipping or providing heavier stocking density to increase grazing pressure will keep pastures more productive. Removing the seed head returns the plant to vegetative growth.

After a grazing pass, plant regrowth will come from carbohydrates produced by remaining leaf area through photosynthesis or from carbohydrates mobilized from root reserves. Overgrazing is the bane of pasture productivity because it demands that much of the regrowth will draw upon carbohydrate root reserves. Additionally, overgrazing significantly reduces root mass and volume, further delaying plant recovery after grazing. Residual leaf management is an important grazing principle to maintain pasture health, quicker regrowth, and more total forage production. The goal is to remove livestock when there is still 3-4 inches of pasture growth left. In grazing schools, we sometimes say, “take half, leave half” to illustrate this principle. Leaving this amount of leaf residual allows the plant to continue to produce carbohydrates through photosynthesis and results in more rapid plant recovery and regrowth, without drawing down plant root reserves.

The final management piece is rest period. The rest period is the recovery time that allows a plant to grow back to the target beginning grazing height. The length of time necessary for this to happen depends upon weather conditions and how that plant has been managed in the past. In general, rest periods between grazing passes may vary from 15-20 days in the spring to 30-40 days in the summer. If conditions turn hot and dry, longer rest periods are required.

The 4-R’s of grazing involves a system approach and is all about protecting the pasture plant and making sure it thrives. When pasture plants thrive, grazing livestock benefit. The goal is to avoid a situation where a plant is overgrazed and/or where a plant is grazed too soon after a grazing pass. This situation leads to plants that draw down or deplete root reserves, resulting in weak plants that struggle to regrow and that may disappear from the pasture mix if the practice continues repeatedly.

The only way to manage pastures and follow the 4 R’s of grazing is through pasture divisions. The successful grazier needs at least 8 to 10 pasture paddocks to have the flexibility to vary pasture rest periods from 15 to 40 days. Pasture productivity, grazing success, is multiplied by dividing pasture grazing area. More divisions are better than fewer. I know graziers who have used 20, 30 or even 40 pasture divisions. I have never heard one of them say that they overdid it and had too many divisions.

Another benefit of more pasture divisions is that they allow the livestock manager to put more head in a smaller area. This increases stocking density. When stocking density increases animal selectivity decreases, resulting in more uniform grazing. Additionally, manure distribution, and thus nutrient recycling, is more uniform as pasture divisions become smaller and stocking density increases.

Pastures respond to management. Plant fence posts and increase grazing success by using the 4-R's of pasture management.

For more detail regarding Pasture Management Basics, see the recording of a recent presentation at: https://youtu.be/P5JZvxyRYsM

Making Baleage as a Stored Forage Production Costs

Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/05/13/making-baleage-as-a-stored-forage-production-option/

On March 26, 2020, Ohio State University Extension Ag and Natural Resources Educator Lee Beers hosted a webinar presentation focused on Making Baleage as a Stored Forage Production Option. Considering the spring weather challenges experienced over the past couple of years, Ohio's forage producers are frequently looking for options that allow a more timely harvest of high quality forages, especially when it comes to first cutting.

Rory Lewandowski, OSU Ag and Natural Resources Educator in Wayne County, was the featured presenter during the webinar. In the video, Lewandowski details the advantages of baleage and offers advice in regard to properly making, storing and managing baleage. Watch this video at: https://youtu.be/NdpY7X7JNEo

Wendell Waters to be Inducted in Ohio Ag Hall of Fame

Source: http://www.ohioagcouncil.org/news-events/2020-hall-of-fame-inductees-announced/

The Ohio Agricultural Council (OAC) recently announced the **2020 Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame** inductees, including Joe Cornely of Westerville, Tony Forshey of Hebron, Larry R. Gearhardt of Covington and **Wendell L. Waters of West Lafayette**. These individuals - who have committed their lives to working in, promoting and advocating for Ohio's farm community - will be inducted as the 55th Hall of Fame class on Friday, August 7, 2020.

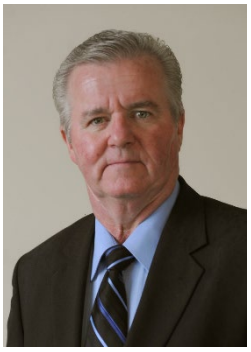
Induction is currently planned in Kasich Hall on the fairgrounds, which features the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame display and salute to Ohio's agriculture community. The following four inductees will join 233 prior recipients named since 1966 when the program began. Information on event registration will be made available in late June.

Wendell L. Waters of West Lafayette, Ohio- An untiring advocate for the agriculture industry, Wendell Waters has changed the face of Ohio agriculture through the sharing of his time and experience. Following a short term as the vocational agriculture teacher at Ridgewood Local Schools, Waters and his wife Marcia formed WenMar Farms, Inc., which today consists of 4,000 acres of corn and soybeans, and a 3,600-sow farrow to finish hog operation.

In the late 1970s, Waters joined the "Ohio Corn Rookies" - an informal group of farmers that met to discuss farm management techniques. As the group evolved, the farmers realized it was time to form an official organization to be a voice for Ohio's corn farmers. Waters, with several other "Rookie" trailblazers, founded the Ohio Corn Growers in 1977, which he would serve for eleven years in many capacities, including president. He also advocated for the Ohio Corn Marketing Program, which was established in 1989 for the betterment of Ohio's corn industry. Waters was instrumental in creating the PGI Group in 1994, a coalition of hog farmers that lowers costs through standardized genetics, jointly markets animals to increase market prices and shares best practices to continuously improve the hog industry. For more than 50 years, Waters has been a champion for Ohio farmers, ensuring the industry continues to thrive for years to come.

Joe Cornely of Westerville, Ohio- For more than 40 years, Joe Cornely has dedicated his time to improving the agriculture industry through communication - cementing his name as a true guide and trusted news source for Ohio agriculture. Joe began his communication career at WKTN in Hardin County, serving local farmers through his broadcast. He later joined the WRFD radio stations, developing the station's 90-minute mid-day farm program that reached 80 Ohio counties.

In 1998, Cornely was hired as the director of media relations at the Ohio Farm Bureau. As the voice of OFB for more than 20 years, he made numerous contributions to the organization: helping to create the Our Ohio magazine, developing the radio program Town Hall Ohio, and launching OFB's social media accounts. Cornely retired from OFBF in 2019, leaving a legacy that will last for years to come. Cornely has been recognized at both the state and national level. He has twice been awarded the Ohio Farm Bureau agricultural communicator award - the only two-time recipient of the award. He was chosen by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block to accompany the U.S. Delegation to the European Union Economic Summit. Cornely was president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters in 1995 and was voted the National Farm Broadcaster of the Year by his peers in 1996.



Dr. Tony Forshey of Hebron, Ohio- A mentor to future veterinarians and a champion of preventative measures, Dr. Tony Forshey made invaluable contributions to the betterment of the swine industry in his 27 years as a practicing veterinarian. The swine industry has grown significantly due to his focus on herd health and disease prevention, rather than simply treating sick animals. As an adjunct faculty member of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Forshey mentored countless students, many of whom are now involved in Ohio agriculture as livestock producers or food animal veterinarians. After leaving his private practice in 2005, Dr. Forshey joined the Ohio Department of Agriculture as the Assistant State Veterinarian, later appointed the State Veterinarian and Chief of the Division of Animal Health. In this position, he is charged with protecting and promoting Ohio's livestock and poultry industries. Through his leadership, Dr. Forshey has made significant investments in the betterment of the industry, most notably the creation of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board - the most comprehensive livestock care standards in the U.S.
Dr. Forshey has been recognized by the industry on numerous occasions, including the 1998 Ohio Pork Producers Council Service Award for Outstanding Service to the Ohio Swine Industry, the 2010 Ohio Veterinary Medical Association's Veterinarian of the Year Award and as the Distinguished Alumnus of the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2013.

Larry R. Gearhardt of Covington, Ohio- Equally comfortable in blue jeans or a suit, Larry R. Gearhardt moves with ease from his small family farm, raising crops and livestock, to the Ohio Statehouse, lobbying on behalf of Ohio agriculture. Gearhardt began his career at a local general civil practice in 1979, before transitioning to the Ohio Farm Bureau as an attorney and legislative analyst in 1991. He now serves of counsel at Barrett, Easterday, Cunningham and Eselgroth and volunteers with Ohio Northern University's Agricultural Law program - the only one of its kind in Ohio and one which Gearhardt was a driving force in establishing.

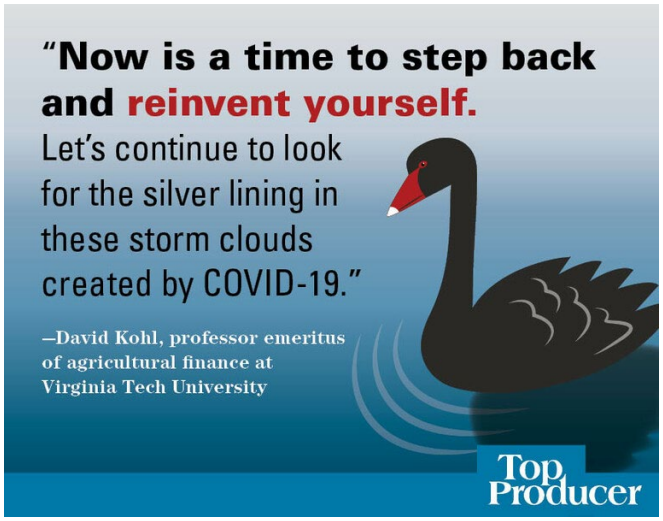
In his distinguished career, Gearhardt has made significant impact on agriculture's political landscape. He was an advocate of private property rights, battling government's overuse of eminent domain and strengthening landowner rights through his time on Ohio's eminent domain task force. Gearhardt was a major force in instituting the "Fast Tractor Law," which resulted in the adoption of speed identification symbols, as well as legislation involving weight variances, slow moving vehicle signs and the use of dual wheel tractor lights. Gearhardt is known for his willingness to listen and advise, no matter the situation: whether it is an intentional phone call or a casual conversation in the grocery store, diner or local sporting event. He has spent his career perpetuating the advancement of agricultural law and serving as an ambassador to the farming community, political arena and beyond.

The Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame induction annually attracts more than 600 guests to honor the Ohio agricultural community and the selected inductees dedicated to Ohio's largest industry. For further information on how to sponsor this event in honor of the inductees and in celebration of Ohio agriculture, contact the Ohio Agricultural Council at 614-794-8970, info@ohioagcouncil.org or click here. The celebration details and date are subject to change based on Covid-19 restrictions.

David Kohl: The Black Swan Has Landed

by Sara Schafer
Source: Farm Journal: Ag Web: https://www.agweb.com/article/david-kohl-black-swan-has-landed

How will the COVID-19 pandemic transform agriculture? David Kohl, professor emeritus of agricultural finance at Virginia Tech University, has a few ideas.



The global economy could start to decouple.
"The past four or five decades, we were moving toward globalization," Kohl says. "Now we're going to be moving toward decoupling or selective globalization. We had a dry run with the tariffs and sanctions with China in the past year or so." Nationwide, $1 out of every $5 of net farm income comes from export markets, Kohl says. Going forward, the U.S. will start evaluating supply chains for risk and looking for opportunities to be more regional.

Prepare for an elongated-type recession.
Many economists are predicting a V-shaped recession, which is when the economy suffers a sharp economic decline, but quickly and strongly recovers. But Kohl doesn't think that scenario is likely. "I don't think it will be a V-shaped recession like in 2009," he says. "I think it will be more of an elongated-type recession. This pandemic is hitting all of us with a sudden impact and shock disruption. We don't have a pattern or corrective action yet. It's taking monetary and fiscal policy combining to solve this issue."

Land values could find extra strength.
"Since 2013, we've been in what I call an economic reset in agriculture, while the general economy has done well," Kohl says. "Our last line of defense for economic strength has been agricultural real estate values because it provides an equity bridge, which provides an economic bridge."

Kohl says he's watching to see if Baby Boomer farmers and ranchers continue to buy farmland as an alternative to the stock market. Also, will outside investors diversity their portfolio into farmland?
In addition to those moving toward farmland as a safe haven for investments, Kohl is on the lookout for any policy changes.

"We cannot have drastic policy changes on refinances for farmers and ranchers like we did back in the 1980s," he says. "You could collapse 83% of the farm and ranch balance sheet, which is in farmland. Drastic changes can really hinder the strong part of our balance sheet."

This is a golden opportunity to increase your financial literacy.
One of the benefits of this pandemic—like the 1980s crisis—is farmers will improve their financial literacy, Kohl says. "Producers will have to have plans in writing, they'll have to closely monitor financials and they'll have to have open communication with lenders and others," he says. His advice to farmers:

- Develop a written farm budget and compare the actual to the budget.
- Evaluate budgets as economic conditions change in the U.S. and around the globe.
- Develop a personal family living budget and compare actual to budget. This is an area were agricultural

producers can work with their lenders to elevate transparency.

- Reestablish your goals and objectives. What is important to you personally and for your business?
- Communicate with your advisory team: lender, crop/livestock consultant, accountant, etc.
- Develop a risk management plan.

"Now is a time to step back and reinvent yourself," he says. "This is a golden opportunity to do a good-old SWOT analysis. Let's continue to look for the silver lining in these storm clouds created by COVID-19."

USDA Webinar: Applying for Payments through Coronavirus Assistance Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) will host a webinar on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 1 p.m. ET, for farmers, ranchers and other producers interested in applying for direct payments through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP).

This webinar is an opportunity for producers to learn about the general application process and required documentation prior to the official beginning of signup. Producers interested in participating may register in advance for webinar at https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_SPWI7yOFSqaGG1JKzhEbjA.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. We encourage participants to submit questions through the Q&A box or by emailing CFAP.webinars@usda.gov. While questions will not be answered live during the webinar, answers will be posted at farmers.gov/CFAP.

USDA is hosting this webinar to share what information is needed to apply for direct payments through CFAP, once the application period begins. Producers who are new to participating in FSA programs are especially encouraged to join the webinar. More details about CFAP direct payments will be announced soon.

As part of President Trump and Secretary Perdue's April 17 announcement of a $19 billion Coronavirus Farm Assistance Program, USDA will provide $16 billion in direct support based on losses for agricultural producers where prices and market supply chains have been impacted. Also, USDA will assist eligible producers facing additional adjustment and marketing costs resulting from lost demand and short-term oversupply for the 2020 marketing year caused by COVID-19. A recording of the webinar, the answers to its questions, and other CFAP information can be found at farmers.gov/CFAP.

Farm Office Live Session Slated for Thursday, May 14 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

OSU Extension is pleased to be offering the a "Farm Office Live" session on Thursday morning , May 14 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Farmers, educators, and ag industry professionals are invited to log-on for the latest updates on the issues impact our farm economy.

The session will begin with the Farm Office Team answering questions asked over the ten days. Topics to be highlighted include:

- Updates on the CARES Act, Payroll Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), and Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Update
- Corn and soybean budgets
- Supply and demand balance sheets
- Other legal and economic issues

Plenty of time has been allotted for questions and answers from attendees. If you miss the on-line office hours, the session recording can be accessed at farmoffice.osu.edu the following day. Participants can pre-register or join in on Thursday morning at https://go.osu.edu/farmofficelive

Farmers and 1099 Filers Might Qualify for New COVID-19 Unemployment Benefits Program

by: Peggy Kirk Hall
Source: https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2020/05/11/farmers-and-1099-filers-might-qualify-for-new-covid-19-unemployment-benefits-program/

Farmers aren't traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits, but that won't be the case when Ohio's newest unemployment program opens. We've been keeping an eye out for the opening of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, which will provide unemployment benefits to persons affected by COVID-19. The program is targeted to persons who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits, such as self-employed and 1099 filers. PUA is yet another economic assistance program generated by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act recently passed by Congress.

PUA will provide regular unemployment benefit amounts to qualifying individuals, plus an additional $600 per week for the period of March 29 to July 25, 2020. Qualification doesn't include a minimum income requirement, but a person must not be eligible for Ohio's regular unemployment benefits and must not be currently receiving vacation, sick or other paid leave. The applicant must also be unable to work due to one of the following situations:

- The applicant has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has symptoms and is seeking medical diagnosis;
- A member of the applicant's household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- The applicant is providing care for a family or household member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- The applicant cannot work due to caring for a child whose school or other facility has closed due to COVID-19;
- The applicant has become the primary support for a household because the head of the household has died due to COVID-19;
- The applicant has quit his or her job, was laid off, or could not begin a new job as a direct result of COVID-19;
- The applicant's place of employment is closed because of COVID-19.

Applications should open by mid-May, on the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services website. Self-employed individuals will have to submit proof of employment, such as earnings statements that reflect profit and loss, payroll deposits, or a 2019 tax return. The unemployment benefits will be retroactive to the date of eligibility and will last for no more than 39 weeks, up to December 26, 2020. PUA may also provide an additional 13 weeks of benefits for those who've exhausted regular unemployment benefits. To learn more or apply for PUA, visit https://unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov/expandedeligibility/.

Being and Maintaining an Economically Resilient Farm

by: Chris Zoller, Extension Educator, ANR, Tuscarawas County
Source: https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2020/05/11/being-and-maintaining-an-economically-resilient-farm/

The word "resilience" is used often in the agricultural press. What does this mean? Merriam-Webster defines resilience as:

1. The capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress.
2. An ability to recover from or adjust to misfortune or change.

We often see resilience used in agriculture when discussing climate and weather. There is documented evidence of weather changes that have impacted agriculture, and farmers have done their best to adapt to these changes. Examples include building soil health, managed grazing, the use of cover crops, water management strategies, technology adoption, and more.

Resilience can also be used when discussing the economics of agriculture and the resulting effects. It is no surprise to anyone in agriculture that people are strained, are experiencing stress, and are trying to adjust to new and different ways of operating.

Strategies to Be Economically Resilient

Mission statement- A mission statement is a short description of the fundamental reasons your business exists – its critical purpose. The statement aligns what the business says it does, what it actually does, and what others believe it is about. The statement reflects the underlying values, goals, and purposes of the business. Example mission statement:

"The mission of Brown Family Farms is to produce high-quality crops in sufficient quantity and quality to provide a good standard of living for our family and employees. We believe a farm is the perfect environment to raise a family and strive to have the farm remain a viable business for future generations."

Set Goals- An acronym commonly used to describe goals is SMART. Goals must be Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, and Timed to be useful management tools. As you develop goals, it may be helpful to divide them into personal, production, and operational categories.

Goals should be:

- Specific – and focus on a specific problem or need
- Measurable – to have some means of tracking achievement
- Action-oriented – action is the pathway to achieving goals
- Realistic – aim high, but keep goals within the realm of possibility
- Timed – to include a realistic completion date

Know Your Cost of Production- Do you know the true costs to produce every acre of a crop, every pound of milk, every ton of hay, and each pound of meat? Are there some crops or livestock that make more money than others? Are there some acres that could be converted to a use that provides a higher net return? How does your farm compare with the established farm financial ratios? An in-depth financial analysis can help answer these and other questions. Visit the Ohio State University Extension Farm Profitability Program (https://farmprofitability.osu.edu/) for additional information or to enroll in the Benchmarking Program.

Postpone Major Capital Investments- Most everyone is already doing this, but it is a good idea to assess what investments are necessary, how urgent these needs are for your farm, and the cost of these investments. Do you really need to buy a new piece of equipment? Could you accomplish what is needed by hiring someone or renting the equipment? If you need to make a major capital investment, consider not only the initial cost, but the associated "DIRTI 5" – Depreciation, Interest, Repairs, Taxes, and Insurance that must be accounted for after the purchase.

Restructure Debt- Discuss with your lender opportunities to refinance or restructure debt. Do you have short-term liabilities that could be moved to intermediate notes to improve cash flow?

Evaluate Expenditures- Analyze your expenses to see where you might be able to trim costs without sacrificing production. For example, can you reduce your seeding rates to reduce costs? Ohio State University Extension has been conducting on-farm research to evaluate corn and soybean seeding rates. Contact your Extension educator or review the trials reports here https://digitalag.osu.edu/efields/efields-reports. Dairy farms will find helpful information and cost-control considerations here https://dairy.osu.edu/.
Talk with your nutritionist, agronomist, Extension educator, and other experts to evaluate inputs and expenditures. Do you need every ingredient in your ration? Do you need a seed variety with every available trait?

Reduce Family Living Expenses- The Bureau of Labor Statistics data from 2018 indicate average family living expenses equaled $61,224 annually. A February 2019 article published by the Center for Farm Financial

Management at the University of Minnesota show a family of three averages almost $64,000 annually in family living expenses before paying income taxes or making other non-farm capital purchases and investments. Are there "extras" that are costing too much? Evaluate what you want versus what you need as a family.

Consider Non-Farm Income- The current pandemic may make finding off-farm employment more difficult, but there are opportunities. Look in the local newspaper, conduct online searches, let family and friends know you or a family member could use help finding employment. Calculate how much you need to earn at an off-farm job.

Seek Opportunities to Be Entrepreneurial- Challenging times might not seem like the opportunity to get creative and extend the current workload further, but there likely are tangential opportunities to your existing business that meet the needs of the community. Maybe that is offering storage facilities, tree trimming, bookkeeping, or other enterprises. This can reenergize someone in a time when it is easy to feel down and creates a productive diversion. Some of the best creative work in this country came from a less than opportune economic environment.

Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Help- To say that operating a farm business in today's environment is a challenge is an understatement! There are plenty of people who want and are available to help you sort through the complexities, answer questions, and provide guidance to help you succeed.

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When Can Unlicensed Applicators Spray on the Farm?

By: Mary Ann Rose
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-13/when-can-unlicensed-applicators-spray-farm

Many are asking who can legally apply pesticides on the farm since ODA postponed pesticide license testing. Ohio law requires a private pesticide license to use restricted use pesticides in agricultural production on the applicator's property, the employer's property or rented land. Restricted use pesticides are labeled as such, and cannot be purchased without a license. No license is needed for application of general use pesticides in agricultural production on the applicator's property, the employer's property or rented land.

Non-licensed family members or subordinate employees can apply restricted use pesticides under the direct supervision of the licensed private applicator under certain circumstances, as long as the pesticide label does not prohibit it. The private applicator's responsibilities are outlined below.

What does the licensed private applicator need to provide to those working under direct supervision?

- The licensed applicator does not have to be present, but must be available if needed during the application

- Pesticide labels must be at the worksite if licensed applicator not present
- Personal Protective equipment as required by label

What are the age requirements for unlicensed applicators working under direct supervision of a private applicator?

- If a family member, the only restriction is for Pesticides with Danger – Poison Signal word – the family member must be 18
- If an employee – they must be 18 (a Worker Protection Standard (WPS) requirement)

What are the training requirements for unlicensed applicators?

- Subordinate employees must receive WPS handler training annually
- Family members are exempt from annual WPS handler training, except when respirators are required on the label. In this case there are requirements under WPS for annual respirator training.

Which pesticides do NOT allow direct supervision (may only be applied by the licensed private applicator)?

- Paraquat dichloride
- Dicamba formulations used over the top of soybeans – Xtendimax, Engenia, FeXapan, and Tavium.
- Any other pesticide that restricts use to certified (licensed) applicators

Also see: https://u.osu.edu/psep/2020/05/07/who-can-legally-spray-for-the-farm-nursery-or-greenhouse/
Note: requirements for making applications under supervision of a commercial applicator are different. For these see:
https://u.osu.edu/psep/2020/04/23/what-is-a-trained-serviceperson-and-can-they-legally-apply-pesticides-in-ohio/

These two weeds are in flower now and can be seen in our hayfields and along the roadsides. Do you know what they are?