

**COSHOCTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES****May 4 (Edition #145)**

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Hello Coshocton County!! What another crazy weather week. We had nice drying conditions this past weekend but yesterday we received over 1.25 inches of rain across most of the county. Looks like more rain is in the forecast for later this week. Next week does look beautiful with summer like temperatures arriving to open up a nice planting window (see Jim Noel's article).

A reminder that we are a distribution site for the ODA & OSU Extension Victory Garden seed distribution. Stop into our office to get your seed packet that includes lettuce, carrots, cucumbers, and sunflowers. First come, first served!

Happy birthday to Chris Zoller, Tuscarawas County Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator!

May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you! Have a good and safe week!

Sincerely,

***David L. Marrison***

**Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator**

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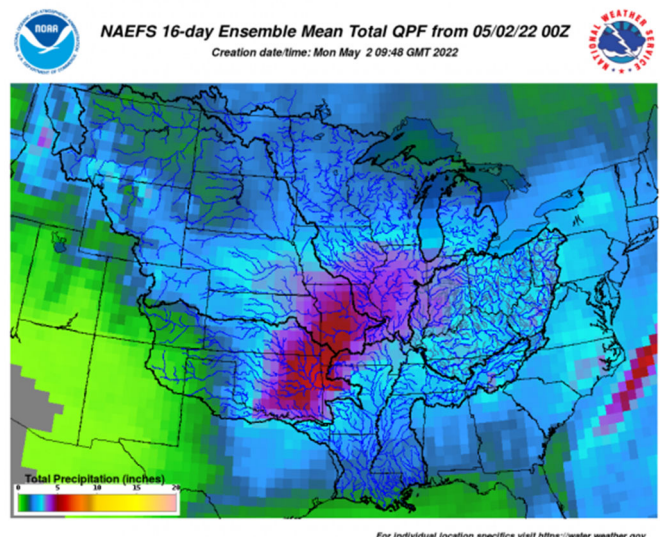
## ***Wet Weather and then a Planting Window***

By: Jim Noel

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-12/wet-weather-then-planting-window>

April was a challenging month. It was a cold month with most of Ohio -1F to -3F below normal for temperatures. We saw late freezes and snow events. Because of the cold, precipitation was generally around or slightly below normal in the 60-120% of normal range. However, with limited evaporation and evapotranspiration, soils did not dry much.

Looking forward, May will start off challenging but improvements are forecasted. The first week of May will see a wetter period across Ohio with temperatures generally below normal. Rainfall will range from just under an inch to over 2 inches in places. As we move into the middle and end of May, expect a pattern change to warmer and drier than normal which should open the rapid window for planting.



It appears the chances for a hard freeze are pretty much over. There is still a low chance for some patchy frost especially in northern and eastern Ohio like this weekend but the freeze risk has decreased significantly. The outlook for summer has not changed much from our last article. We expect slightly above normal temperatures this summer with the typical swings of dry to wet to dry on about a 30 day cycle. Overall, 2022 looks not as receptive to agriculture as it was in 2021 with a bit more of extreme periods including more intense dry and wet periods.

Rainfall totals through mid May will generally be 1-2 inches with isolated 3 inch totals in far western and northern areas as show in the image. You can get updated 16 day rainfall total maps at NOAA/NWS/OHRFC at: <https://www.weather.gov/images/ohrfc/dynamic/NAEFS16.apcp.mean.total.png>

You can also get the latest short-term evapotranspiration here: [https://psl.noaa.gov/eddi/realtime\\_maps/images/latest.trim.png](https://psl.noaa.gov/eddi/realtime_maps/images/latest.trim.png)

The blue areas are short term wetness and the orange/brown areas are short-term rapid drought development so this tool is helpful in the summer.

## ***Making On-Farm Trials Easy***

By: Taylor Dill & Elizabeth Hawkins

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-12/making-farm-trials-easy>

Planting season is upon us and is a little behind in comparison to last year. Many producers are planning on evaluating input costs and management practices on their farm this season to improve economic efficiency and stay profitable. However, there are some ways to plan on-farm research to get the most accurate data, and therefore make the best decision for your farm.

The first element to establish is what are you trying to find out? Fully understanding the question and goal of the trial is imperative to set up the appropriate treatments. Maybe your question is "What is my most economically effective nitrogen rate?" or "Does this new fungicide increase yield and pay for itself?". When doing on farm research, consider assessing practices that are critical to the long-term success of the farm. Once your question is determined, set up the treatments that you desire to observe. This is generally a



comparison of your nontreated control or “common practice”, and the new practice or product. For trials that are assessing seeding rates and fertilizer rates, more than two treatments are necessary to determine the optimal rate.

The most important keys for effective research are replication and randomization. A replication is a repetition of a group of treatments and randomization is choosing at random the pattern of the treatments within replications. Both of these elements are important to reduce the effect of field variability skewing results, increase confidence in your data collection, and provides more data throughout the field. Many farmers split the field in half to compare treatments, however this does not account for soil type changes, low spots, hills, etc. Randomization is especially needed to ensure that one treatment is not unknowingly favored over another. We require at least 3 replications and encourage using 4. The digital ag team has some pre-designed layouts in eFields that can be used to build your own study from, and can be found at this link <https://digitalag.osu.edu/efields/get-involved/study-implementation>.



To make your on-farm research process easier, remember to evaluate your equipment and know how many planter passes are needed for the header to collect data. If using more than one pass, taking the combine through the center of two passes can also eliminate treatment carryover, especially in a fungicide or fertilizer treatment. To measure yield accurately use either a weigh wagon, a grain cart with scales, or a calibrated yield monitor.

The information that is collected from on-Farm trials done with Extension educators can be published in our eFields annual report, show casing on-Farm research done throughout the state, giving producers and educators a platform to share their information.

## ***Springtime is Spray Time- Tips for Better Spraying***

By: Dr. Erdal Ozkan

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-12/springtime-spray-time-here-are-some-tips-better-spraying>

Applying pesticides requires a high level of skill and knowledge. Increases in the size and complexity of sprayers over the years require even more attention to efficiency, efficacy, and safety. Although each crop requires a slightly different approach to the application of pesticides, some general principles apply to almost all spraying situations. Here are my top 10 recommendations (not in a particular order) that will make spraying efficient and effective resulting in a higher level of biological efficacy expected from pesticides applied:

1. Select the best nozzle type and size for the job. Although each component of the sprayer plays a role in achieving success in pesticide application, nozzles play the most significant role. Nozzles come in a wide variety of types and sizes. Each type is designed for a specific target and application. Most manufacturers' catalogs and websites have charts showing which nozzle type is best for a specific job. Any of the following factors may be the deciding one when selecting the most appropriate nozzle for the job: Sprayer operation parameters (application rate, spray pressure, ground speed); the type of chemicals applied (herbicide, insecticide, fungicide, fertilizers); mode of action of the chemical (systemic or contact) for spray coverage requirement; application type (broadcast, band, directed, air-assisted); risk of spray drift; and specific nozzle or droplet size requirement given on the product label. Once you determine the best nozzle that will be best for a specific spraying situation, you need to determine the appropriate size of that nozzle that provides the application rates (gal / acre) prescribed by product labels under various operating conditions (spray pressures and travel speeds). More information on selecting nozzle type and size is outlined in Ohio State University (OSU) Extension publication FABE-528, "Selecting the Best Nozzle for the Job." ([ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/fabe-528](https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/fabe-528)).

2. Carefully read and follow the specific recommendations provided in sprayer operator's manuals and labels of pesticides applied. Remember, what is required in a label is the law. For example, the labels of 2,4-D or Dicamba herbicides include specific requirements for nozzles and operating pressure ranges. If you use any other type and size of nozzle and operate them outside the pressure range requirements given by the pesticide manufacturers, you are violating the pesticide label, and therefore the law. Remember, the label is the law!

3. Keep spray drift in mind when spraying. Although complete elimination of spray drift is impossible, problems can be significantly reduced by awareness of the major factors that cause drift, while taking precautions to minimize their influence on off-target movement of droplets. The nozzle you select and the weather conditions at the time of spraying are the two most influential factors affecting generating as well as reducing spray drift. Keep nozzles as close to the target as possible while still



producing a uniform distribution of spray on the target. If weather conditions (wind speed and direction, humidity, temperature, inversions) are not favorable, and there is concern about spray that might result in drift, wait until there is no longer that element of doubt. Extensive information related to factors influencing spray drift, is in OSU Extension publication FABE-525. "Effect of Major Variables on Drift Distances of Spray Droplets." ([ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/fabe-525](http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/fabe-525)).

4. Maximize pesticide deposit and coverage on the target which may be different part of the crop canopy. For example, when applying a fungicide to manage Fusarium head blight or "head scab," on small grains, the target is the head, not the leaves. On the other hand, when spraying for soybean sclerotinia stem rot (white mold), the most critical area that needs to be treated with fungicides is where flowering takes place. Nozzle selection has a significant influence on whether or not the droplets reach the specific target location in the canopy. For example, the twin-pattern nozzles or a single flat-fan nozzle tilted at a forward angle of 30 to 45 degrees down from the horizontal is definitely best for the application of fungicides for wheat head scab. It is, however, the worst setup for soybean insects and diseases, such as aphids and white mold, respectively.
5. Slow down when spraying. Spray coverage is usually improved at slower speeds. The higher the travel speed, the greater likelihood of spray drift.
6. Calibrate the sprayer. A sprayer can only be effective, efficient, and safe if properly checked and calibrated well before the sprayer is taken to the field, and periodically during the spraying season. Some may argue that most sprayers are now equipped with sophisticated rate controllers and ground speed sensors, and calibration is not necessary. Unfortunately, not all electronic controllers can detect flow rate changes on each nozzle on the boom, and none can detect changes in spray pattern. The primary goal with calibration is to determine the actual rate of application in gallons per acre, and then make adjustments if the difference between the actual rate and the intended rate is greater or less than 5% of the intended rate. There are several ways to calibrate a sprayer. One easy method is explained in the OSU Extension publication FABE-520, "Calibrating Boom Sprayers." ([ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/fabe-520](http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/fabe-520)). Be safe. Wear protective clothing, goggles and rubber gloves, and respirators if required on the label, when calibrating the sprayer, doing the actual spraying, and cleaning the equipment.
7. Check uniformity of application. How uniformly the chemical is deposited on the target is as important as the amount applied. Maintain uniform deposition of spray material on across the entire width of the target area. Non-uniform coverage results from using misaligned or clogged nozzles, using nozzles with different fan angles, or from uneven nozzle height across the boom. These common problems result in streaks, untreated areas, or over-application of chemicals.
8. Understand how to calculate the amount of chemical product to mix in the tank. Although your sprayer may be in good condition and calibrated frequently, if the correct amount of chemical is not put into the

tank, it can still result in unsatisfactory pest control. Detailed information on how to calculate the proper amount of chemical to add to the spray tank is provided in the OSU Extension publication FABE-530. “How Much Chemical Product Do I Need to Add to my Sprayer Tank.” ([ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/fabe-530](https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/fabe-530)).

9. Take advantage of technological advancements in spray technology, such as GPS, automatic guidance systems, and independent control of nozzles using the PWM (Pulse Width Modulation). Update and upgrade your sprayer with these technologies that can be easily integrated in your existing sprayer.
10. Consider using a sprayer that is equipped with air-assisted boom when coverage in lower parts of the canopy is essential for control of some insects and diseases especially under full, dense canopy conditions, such as soybeans sprayed in late season.

For more information on this topic, please read the OSU Extension publication FABE-532, “Best Practices for Effective and Efficient Pesticide Application.” ([ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/fabe-532](https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/fabe-532)). Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have a specific question that was not addressed in this and other OSU Extension publications I mentioned in this article.

Happy spraying!

## ***Optimize vs Maximize in 2022***

By: [Garth Ruff](#), Beef Cattle Field Specialist, OSU Extension (originally published in the [Ohio Cattleman](#))

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2022/05/04/optimize-vs-maximize-in-2022/>

In Extension work, I learned early on as a county educator that the seasons of the year are not your typical spring, summer, fall, and winter. Instead, we tend to observe, as do many farmers around the state, a yearly calendar that looks more like planting/calving, hay season, harvest and meeting season.

Being hired during COVID, my first official meeting season in this role is on the downhill slide. From Wauseon to McConnelsville and Wooster to West Union, with several stops in between I have taught several programs and had many conversations with cattle producers across the state. At the forefront of many of those conversations have been economics, supply chain issues, and the markets.

At Ohio Beef Expo, I had one such conversation with a cattlemen who made an excellent point considering all that is going on in the world – this maybe a year to optimize production as opposed to maximize production. As mentioned before from our market outlook webinar in January, cattle prices, although a bit more volatile lately (what hasn’t been), still look positive for 2022. Input costs for both crops and livestock are at record or near record highs. By in large, cattle prices and input costs are out of our control as producers. Taking that into consideration, what can we do to optimize production and hopefully profit potential in 2022?

**Soil and Forage Test** – Nutrients for both crops and livestock are expensive. Knowing what we have to work with is always important, but even more so given high fertilizer costs. Don’t forget to soil test pasture ground as well, in several cases weedy, poor performing pastures are signs of poor soil fertility.

Ted Wiseman, my colleague in Perry County always references the following quote from Justin Sexton when teaching soil and forage sampling and it’s spot on, “Anyone who’s not soil testing or forage testing still doesn’t think fertilizer and hay prices are high enough yet.”

**Lime** – Along those same lines, upon getting soil test results back, take a hard look at soil pH. Nutrients have specific ranges at which they are available to plants to utilize. Ideally, a fall application of lime is best to see a change in pH for the follow growing season. Even so, having a stable soil pH and soils in the maintenance range for phosphorus and potassium can help save on inputs this hay and grazing season.

**Hay Storage** – Nutrients are and continue to be valuable. Evaluate the cost of hay storage against dry matter and nutrient losses over the lifetime of a storage structure. Factor in increased cattle performance to that decision as well.



**Add Value to Calves** – I hope someday we are to a point where nearly every calf marketed in Ohio is weaned, vaccinated, and bull calves are made steers prior to marketing. I know to some I am preaching to the choir, and perhaps beginning to sound like a broken record on this point, but there are still several calves marketed right off the cow every week through our markets. Reach out to your local auction market, several of them have sale results that support that preconditioned sell higher bawling, unvaccinated calves.

As we switch from meeting season to hay, field days, and county fairs, I hope to continue having these conversations with cattlemen and women across Ohio. As always if you have questions or are looking for additional information, send me or your local Extension Educator an email or I'm more than happy to pick up the phone.

### ***It's Spring...Keep the Animals Moving***

By: Victor Shelton, Retired NRCS Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2022/05/04/its-spring-keep-the-animals-moving/>

It has been a few years since I mentioned one of my uncle's usual spring declarations. He used to talk about grass being in head by May 5, and he usually was correct. It probably will be pushing it to get there this year. Forages have been nipped a bit by cold spells, but certainly moisture is not lacking in this part of the country. Some areas could possibly have some reduced yield in spots because of freezing of new growth, but I don't see that as too much of an issue and in fact, for quite a bit of the state forage growth is in full swing. The northern part of the state appears to be still waiting for spring to fully appear. Wet and cold conditions have kept them from doing much grazing on new growth.

I am pleased so far by the forage stands and their early growth. Most producers have already started grazing. I know of several producers who are still grazing or just started grazing fall planted annuals. Their main hesitation was wet soils. If you are grazing fall annuals, especially cereal rye, then you know that once it really starts taking off, the livestock can barely keep up with it. That is a good thing!

For most people, hay supplies are either limited or gone by now and there is no more waiting ... you just have to graze. So, the rules of thumb for these conditions: First, start or continue grazing the fields or paddocks with the most growth present, ideally with a fair amount left over from last year if that is possible. The heavier amount of material will help to protect the soil and provide some "cushion" to slow down pugging if wet.

Second, keep the animals moving. If they are in any one area for any extended period under saturated conditions, they will do more damage. If paddocks are fairly good sized, then leave them long enough to just top the growth and then move them to the next area. This actually will serve more than one purpose; the topping will hamper seed head development slightly right now (more deferment as the plant matures) and it is allowing the plant to maintain that solar panel and keep producing roots and leaf which will help give structure to the site and it will help maintain quality. It will also help stage the paddocks for future grazing.

Third, keep grazing new paddocks until the first paddocks grazed have re-grown back to a desirable height (for most cool-season tall grass combinations 8-10 inches) and then start back on them. With all that said, that is assuming that you have enough paddocks that each of these areas will have ample time to rest and recover prior to being grazed again.

By the second round of grazing or before, you will want to start really slowing down the rotation and making sure to graze each allotment more evenly. That doesn't mean even and level with the ground. It means to the appropriate stop grazing height. The stop grazing height will be three to four inches for most cool season forages, e.g., tall fescue and orchardgrass. The ideal stop grazing height for perennial warm season forages is 6-12 inches; those include switchgrass, big bluestem and Indiangrass.

Please remember, the stop grazing height is the shortest forage left standing, not the tallest. You can quickly and easily assess each paddock or allotment with a yardstick or with time, a point on your boot.

Allowing the plant to recover as much as possible prior to being grazed again will not only boost forage yield above ground, but also root growth below ground.

Not applying too much fertilizer, especially nitrogen, in the early spring will help keep this furious growth under a little more control. I really don't think that is going to be much of a problem this year with the price of nitrogen. This will be the year to hopefully have a very good stand of nitrogen producing legumes present – which is always pretty much true.

I don't see any hay making weather in the near future, but I would be hesitant to graze fields that will be cut for hay that are extremely wet until they dried up enough that they are less likely to pug.

I would take the fields that are the hardest to hay/mow and graze them in the early rotated half and leave the better fields for haying/mowing if that was my plan. If I did not plan on doing any hay or clipping, then I would think more about which fields really need more rest this spring. Rest is good. Just remember – more green growth, more solar panel, more roots, and more production equals more grazing.

Hay could potentially be of higher value this year. Not particularly because of supply and demand per se, but because of increase cost of inputs. You will want to graze as much and as long as you can this year and reduce the amount of hay requirements. Hay certainly is not free or even cheap, especially when you take into account just two things – fuel and nutrients.

Areas where you fed hay this winter and early spring are probably by now a muddy mess. With discarded and uneaten hay, manure and just mud, these areas will take a while to dry out enough to do anything with. Once they do, rotten hay and manure can be pushed up in piles to compost and later spread on fields for some added fertility and organic matter. The feeding area if left will turn into a “healthy” stand of weeds usually including some of our favorites such as prickly pig weed, lambs-quarter, crabgrass and an assortment of other opportunists that like high phosphorus and organic matter. These areas can often be worked slightly and sown to sorghum-sudangrass, sudangrass, or millets for summer grazing and for a little cover. I've also seen brassicas sown into these areas with success, but I'd still mix them with some annual grass such as the ones mentioned above.

It is probably a wise decision to continue feeding a mineral mix with sufficient magnesium for a while until we get past the early fast flush of new grass growth. When we have cooler temperatures and lush forage in front of the cows, a high-magnesium mineral supplement should be used. High-magnesium mineral mixes usually have about 16.5% magnesium.

Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Keep on grazing!

## ***Beef Markets: Improvements & Cautions***

By: Stephen R. Koontz, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2022/05/04/improvements-cautions/#more-12598>

The cattle markets bring a mix optimistic and caution news. Fed cattle prices are at levels not seen since mid-2015. The substantial heifer composition of FI fed slaughter and the reasonably aggressive beef cow slaughter and liquidation clearly communicates the tightening future beef supplies. Boxed beef comprehensive cutout values continue to counter-seasonally soften but only from last year's greater than \$300 per cwt amounts. Beef demand continues to look very strong even as beef valuations and packer margins shrink. The beef supply chain gives the modest perception of something of a return to normal given the repeated restart issues of the past year. Beef production has been very strong since problems experienced in January. And retail beef prices are finally not the protein setting record high valuations.

There was a mix of news in the Cattle on Feed report. Placements were, again, surprising large compared to expectations. But then again maybe the drought-driven behavior by cow-calf and stocker producers reflects conditions worse than understood. Regardless, the very high cattle on feed inventories will impact the market

for some time with these placements. But there is also the discussion that cattle feeding enterprises are chasing the available calves in anticipation of a tighter and smaller fall run. The inventory of cattle on feed over 120 days and over 150 days are only modestly tighter than 2021 and 2019. Putting together a useable assessment of these inventories is more difficult with the additional days on feed that is now more common. But futures communicate more clearly than ever a changing supply scenario into the last half of the year.

In addition to supply chains showing some smoothing out of operations, we may also be seeing the first of tighter animal numbers compared to industry capacity in feeding and packing. Of course, the relative supply and demand has not changed yet but the long-term dynamics in the cattle and beef industry is determined drought and feed costs – as well as economic returns. There are many definitive signals for tightening supplies. A variety of feeder cattle market summaries refer to demand as being moderate to good. High feeding costs and tight forage availability combined with lighter and more variable movements in feeder cattle and calves.

## The Markets

What does the technical picture say? The situation is different between nearby and deferred live cattle contracts. Deferred contracts sit at life of contract highs while the nearby contracts have backed off considerably. Up trends remain in place for live cattle contracts expiring into 2023. There are no clear trends for contracts expiring in 2022. Technically, the market appears to have exhausted its up move for this year while contracts for next year are priced at better than \$150 appear willing to move higher. But then again, the cash market will have to remain strong for the rest of the year for basis not to be an issue. The technical picture for feeder cattle contracts mirror price moves in the corn market. The best opportunities for cow-calf producers to purchase LRP, put options, or make other price risk management decisions were again very early in the year. Before most producers consider those actions. Opportunities now look limited. Any movement of fall contacts back to resistance between \$180 and \$185 look favorable. But this market will also be strongly influenced by weather.

## Hold the Date: Ohio Beef Day Coming to Muskingum County on July 16

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2022/05/04/hold-the-date-ohio-beef-day-coming-to-muskingum-county-july-16/>

Field days have long been a great educational tool used to show farmers new technologies and management practices. OSU Extension is pleased to announce the return of a statewide [Ohio Beef Cattle Field Day and Tour](#). It has been several years since an Ohio Beef Field Day has been held, and the program will make it reappearance in Muskingum County on Saturday July 16, 2022.

Pre-registration for the program is required and can be completed online at [go.osu.edu/2022beefday](https://go.osu.edu/2022beefday) by July 7. The program fee is \$10 per person to cover costs. An information folder, refreshments, lunch, and Beef Quality Assurance certification will be provided to all attendees. More detail will be forthcoming as the date approaches but in the meantime if there are any questions regarding the program contact Garth Ruff, Beef Cattle Field Specialist at [ruff.72@osu.edu](mailto:ruff.72@osu.edu) or 740-305-3201.

We hope to see you in Muskingum County on July 16!



**CFAES** COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### 2022 Ohio Beef Day and Tour

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

**Agenda**

- 8:00 a.m. Registration Opens - Donors  
Muskingum Livestock  
944 Main St., Zanesville, OH 43701
- 8:00 a.m. Welcome and Tour Introduction  
Garth Ruff, OSU Extension Beef Cattle Field Specialist  
Depart for Tour in Own Vehicles - Groups in Order
- 9:00 a.m.
  - Model Livestock
  - Sorting and Receiving Feeder Cattle
  - Meat Work Booths
  - Local Meats C&A
  - Proper H&E, OSU Extension Ag Law Specialist
  - Hatfield Farms
  - Feeding, Fall Calving, and Farm Succession
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch at Roger's Pavilion Barn  
Sponsored by Muskingum Co. Cattlemen's Association
- Lunch Beef Industry Update  
Ohio Cattlemen's Association/Ohio Beef Council  
Beef Health - Vaccinations and Anthelmintics  
Dr. Justin Smith, Ohio OSU County Veterinarian
- 1:15 Beef Quality Assurance Wrap up  
Cotton Martin, OSU Extension Muskingum County
- 2:00 Adjourn  
Please complete program survey and have a safe trip home!

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

\$10 per person

**Register by July 7, 2022 at:**  
[go.osu.edu/2022beefday](https://go.osu.edu/2022beefday)

**Registration fee includes:**

- Refreshments
- Lunch
- Resources

**Education Credits Offered:**  
Beef Quality Assurance  
Certification (BQA)

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## Part 2: Long-Term Care Costs: What Are the Odds?

By Robert Moore, Attorney and Research Specialist, OSU Agricultural & Resource Law Program

Source: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/thu-04282022-242pm/part-2-long-term-care-costs-what-are-odds>

We discussed long-term care (LTC) costs in our [April 20 blog post](#) and analyzed recent data to project that a 65-year-old Ohioan, on average, can expect about \$100,000 in LTC costs, and double that for a married couple. In this post, we continue to examine LTC costs by addressing an important question for farmers: can the average farmer absorb this cost without jeopardizing the farm and farm assets?

First, we need to remember that any income received by the farmer could be spent on paying the LTC costs. Farm income, land rent, social security income, and income from investments can all pay for LTC costs. After income is used to pay for LTC care costs, non-farm assets, like savings, can be used to pay for the costs. It's the portion of the LTC costs that income and savings cannot cover that causes farm assets to be at risk. For example, if the farmer has \$40,000 in savings, using that savings to pay LTC leaves only \$60,000 of farm assets at risk.

Let's next turn to the risk to farm assets. While a farmer would never want to sell any farm asset to pay for LTC, their land is probably the last asset they would want sold. Most farmers would sell grain, crops, livestock, and machinery before they would sell land. So, if income and savings cannot pay for LTC care costs, how at risk is the land? Data can also help us answer this question. According to the Economic Research Service – USDA (ERS), the total amount of non-real estate, farm assets owned by farmers in the US for 2020 were as follows:

Financial Assets	\$92,013,020,000
Inventory (crops, livestock, inputs)	\$62,866,872,000
Machinery	\$278,809,055,000
Total Non-Real Estate Farm Assets	\$533,688,897,000

The ERS further estimates that there were 2.02 million farmers in the US in 2020. So, on average, farmers owned \$264,202 of non-real estate, farm assets. If income and savings are unable to pay for LTC costs, the average farmer would have an additional \$264,202 of assets to sell before needing to sell real estate. So, what does all this data tell us? On average, if farmers are forced to sell farm assets to pay for LTC, they will not need to sell their land. They may need to sell crops, livestock and/or machinery to help pay for the LTC costs but the land is probably safe. That is the good news.

The bad news is the above analysis is all based on averages. When dealing with large numbers, averages are very useful. We can say with some confidence that on average, a 65-year-old farmer in Ohio will spend around \$100,000 on LTC. However, the numbers cannot tell us with any certainty what a specific farmer will spend on LTC. Farmer Smith in Delaware County, Ohio might never pay any LTC costs, might pay the average of \$100,000 or they might be an outlier. An outlier is someone whose specific circumstances end up being significantly different than the average.

Being an outlier is what farmers are really concerned about regarding LTC. We all know someone, or have heard of someone, who was in a nursing home for 10 years. That's close to \$1 million in LTC costs. Few farmers have the income, savings and non-real estate assets to pay for \$1 million of LTC.

So, what LTC planning for farmers really ends up being is protecting against the outlier scenario that puts the land at risk. Most 65-year-old farmers would probably sleep well at night if they knew they would only have \$100,000 of LTC costs for the rest of their lives. That amount of LTC costs is probably not going to cause a farm liquidation. What keeps farmers up at night is the chance they will be the outlier and spend 10 years in an expensive nursing home.

The outlier scenario is important for farmers to understand as they develop their LTC strategy. For any risk management plan, the true nature of the risk must be understood and not just presumed. The fact is most farms can probably withstand the average LTC costs. It is also factual that most farms cannot withstand an

outlier scenario of being in a nursing home for many years. This understanding is critical in developing a LTC plan. That is, the LTC plan should probably seek to mitigate the risk of being an outlier, not on being average. Fortunately, there are strategies to help mitigate the risk of losing the farm to the outlier scenario, although each of the strategies have significant drawbacks. In future posts, we will discuss those strategies.

### **Organic Certification Cost Share Available from F.S.A.**

by: Chris Zoller, Extension Educator, ANR in Tuscarawas County

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2022/04/28/organic-certification-cost-share-available-from-farm-service-agency/>

Have you ever considered transitioning all or part of your dairy or crop enterprise to organic production? If so, you may be interested in programs available through your local Farm Service Agency (FSA). These include the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) and the Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECF).

#### **Organic Certification Cost Share**

The Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) provide cost share assistance to producers and handlers who are obtaining organic certification for the first time or renewing their previous certification. Organic certification is obtained through certifying agents accredited by the USDA National Organic Program. This program provides 50 percent of a certified operation's allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of \$500. The following categories or "scopes" are included: crops, livestock, wild crops, processing/handling, and organic program fees. Cost share is provided on a first come, first served basis, until all available funds are obligated. This program is available until September 30, 2022.

To be eligible, a producer must have both (1) a valid organic certification for their operation at the time of application and (2) paid fees or expenses related to its initial certification or renewal for certification from a certifying agent. Allowable costs under the OCCSP include:

- Application fees and administrative fees
- Inspection fees, including travel and per diem for organic inspectors
- USDA organic certification costs
- User fees or sale assessments
- Postage

#### **Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program**

The Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECF) provides financial assistance to producers interested in obtaining or renewing USDA organic certification. In addition to many acronyms, there are certain terms that producers need to know the definitions. These include certified operation, educational event, soil testing, micronutrients, transitional operation, and USDA organic certification. These terms are defined below:

- Certified operation – is a crop or livestock production, wild crop harvesting, or handling operation, or portion of such operation, that is certified by an accredited certifying agent.
- Educational event – is an event, conference, training program, or workshop, that provides educational content addressing topics related to organic production and handling.
- Soil testing – means soil testing to document micronutrient deficiencies.
- Micronutrients – can not be used as a defoliant, herbicide, or desiccant. Those made from nitrates or chlorides are not allowed. Deficiencies must be documented by soil or tissue testing.
- Transitional operation – is a crop or livestock production operation that is transitioning to organic production in anticipation of obtaining USDA organic certification and has an organic system plan from a certifying agent.
- USDA organic certification – means a determination made by a certifying agent that a production or handling operation is in compliance with the Organic Production Act of 1990.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for OTECP, an applicant must have paid eligible costs during the program year and, at the time of application, be either a certified or a transitional operation. Expenses that have been incurred during the program year but not paid by the applicant are not eligible for cost share assistance. Eligibility for the OTECP is based on the date expenses are paid, rather than on the date the organic certification is effective.

## Eligible Categories

Certified Organic Operations may have expenses for any combination of the following categories: crops, wild crops, livestock, handling/processing, program fees, soil testing, and educational events.

Transitional Organic Operations may have expenses for any combination of transitional operation, soil testing, and educational events.

## Payment Amounts & Limitations

Eligible Applicants	Category of Expenses	Payment Amount
Certified operations	Certification – crops	25%, up to \$250
Certified operations	Certification – livestock	25%, up to \$250
Certified operations	Certification – wild crops	25%, up to \$250
Certified operations	Certification – handling	25%, up to \$250
Certified operations	State Organic Program	25%, up to \$250
	fees	
Transitional Operations	Eligible transitional expenses	75%, up to \$750
Certified & Transitional Operations	Educational event registration fees	75%, up to \$100
Certified & Transitional Operations	Soil testing	75%, up to \$150

## Required Documentation

In addition to dividing expenses paid by category, applicants self-certify to having either a valid organic certificate, or documentation to show a transition to organic. Applicants must retain documentation in support of their application for three years after the date of approval.

## Additional Information

If you are interested in learning more about this or other Farm Service Agency programs, contact your local FSA office. Not sure which FSA serves your county? Use this link

(<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>) to locate your nearest FSA office.

These OSU Extension resources may be of interest:

<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/sag-3>

<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-34>

For Ohio specific information about the organic certification process, consult the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association: <https://certification.oeffa.org/>.

OSU Extension is thankful the support of USDA through the Outreach Education and Technical Assistance for Farm Service Agency Programs grant. This article was originally published in the Farm & Dairy Newspaper on April 28, 2022. It can be accessed at: <https://www.farmanddairy.com/columns/organic-certification-cost-share-available-from-farm-service-agency/715098.html>



## Victory Garden Seeds Distribution

OSU Extension in Coshocton County and the Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers are once again participating in the state of Ohio's Victory Garden seed distribution. Coshocton County is one of 42 counties across Ohio selected to be part of this distribution. Coshocton County was allocated 500 packets of seeds to distribute to our community. Each of these packets contains lettuce, carrots, cucumber, and sunflower.

Victory Gardens originated during World War I as an answer to a severe food shortage at the time. The idea was wildly successful, growing an army of amateur gardeners and serving to boost morale and patriotism across our Country. Although there's no food shortage now, ODA and OSU Extension are reviving the effort to once again encourage people to plant seeds, realize the fruits of their labor, and share with others if inspired.



The victory garden seed packets are now available at the Extension Office located in Room 110 at 724 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Coshocton. These packets are being distributed on a first come, first served basis. The Extension office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Along with the seed packets, you will also receive a packet of Extension factsheets which will assist you as you grow your lettuce, cucumbers, carrots, and sunflowers.

## "Name that Tree" Workshop Slated for June 29

Have a tree that you pass on a regular basis that you always wonder 'what is that? Or do you own a woodland and want to know exactly what trees you have? If so, OSU Extension and Clary Gardens will be hosting a **"Name that Tree Program"** on Wednesday, June 29 from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Clary Gardens located at 588 West Chestnut Street in Coshocton, Ohio

This one-day workshop is designed to give participants in-depth training and practice on identifying trees using leaves and other common characteristics. The class begins in a new outdoor event pavilion with some introductory identification clues and samples that we use to work through a dichotomous key. The afternoon is spent out in the woods practicing (expect moderate walking).



The registration fee for this program is \$40 per person. This registration fee includes the program, light refreshments, lunch, and handouts. There is limited seating so pre-registration is due by June 21. For more information about this program, contact the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265.



The more one does and sees and feels, the more one is able to do, and the more genuine may be one's appreciation of fundamental things like home, and love, and understanding companionship. Amelia Earhart



OSU EXTENSION - WAYNE COUNTY PRESENTS

# Small Grains Field Day

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

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

RSVP is required for lunch orders by June 7.

**REGISTER:** [go.osu.edu/small-grains-field-day](https://go.osu.edu/small-grains-field-day) or call 330-264-8722

**DATE:** June 14, 2022

**TIME:** 8:30AM-2:30PM

**LOCATION:** OSU Schaffter and Snyder Farms

3230 Oil City Rd.

Wooster, OH 44691



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

CFAES

## Topics Include:

Wheat Cultivars

Small Grain Variety Trial  
Updates

Seeding Rates

Small Grain Disease and  
Insect Management

Barley for Brewing

Wheat Quality

## EVENT SPONSOR:

Ohio Corn and Wheat



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# 2022 Ohio Beef Day and Tour



**Saturday July 16 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

## Muskingum County Self Driving Tour

### Agenda

- 8:00 a.m. Registration Opens - Donuts**  
Muskingum Livestock  
944 Malinda St. Zanesville, OH 43701
- 8:50 a.m. Welcome and Tour Instructions**  
Garth Ruff, OSU Extension Beef Cattle Field Specialist
- 9:00 a.m. Depart for Tour in Own Vehicles – Stops in Order**
- **Michel Livestock**  
Starting and Receiving Feedlot Cattle
  - **Shirer Bros Meats**  
Local Meats Q&A  
Peggy Hall, OSU Extension Ag Law Specialist
  - **Hatfield Farms**  
Fencing, Fall Calving, and Farm Succession
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch at Roger's Auction Barn**  
Prepared by Muskingum Co. Cattlemen's Association
- Lunch Beef Industry Update**  
Ohio Cattlemen's Association/Ohio Beef Council
- 1:15 Herd Health – Vaccinations and Anaplasmosis**  
Dr. Justin Kieffer, DVM OSU Clinical Veterinarian
- 2:00 Beef Quality Assurance Wrap up**  
Clifton Martin, OSU Extension Muskingum County
- 2:30 Adjourn**  
Please complete program survey and have a safe trip home!

### PROGRAM DETAILS

\$10 per person

**Register by July 7, 2022 at:**  
[go.osu.edu/2022beefday](https://go.osu.edu/2022beefday)

#### **Registration fee includes:**

- Refreshments
- Lunch
- Resources

#### **Education Credits Offered**

Beef Quality Assurance  
Certification (BQA)

#### **Contacts:**

Garth Ruff, OSU Extension  
[ruff.72@osu.edu](mailto:ruff.72@osu.edu)  
740-305-3201

Clifton Martin, OSU Extension  
[martin.2422@osu.edu](mailto:martin.2422@osu.edu)  
740-454-0144

**[beef.osu.edu](https://beef.osu.edu)**



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# "Name That Tree" Workshop

**Wednesday, June 29, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Clary Gardens**

**588 West Chestnut Street**

**Coshocton, Ohio 43812**



Have a tree that you pass on a regular basis that you always wonder 'what is that? Own a woodland and want to know exactly what trees you have? Then this **Name That Tree Workshop** is for you! This one-day workshop is designed to give participants in-depth training and practice on identifying trees using leaves and other common characteristics. The class begins in a new outdoor event pavilion with some introductory identification clues and samples that we use to work through a dichotomous key. The afternoon is spent out in the woods practicing (expect moderate walking). This workshop is being co-hosted by OSU Extension and Clary Gardens

## Class Agenda

9:30 a.m.	Registration
10:00 a.m.	Introduction to Tree ID
11:15 a.m.	Using a Key to ID
12:00 noon	Lunch (provided)
1:00 p.m.	Hands-On ID in the Woods
3:00 p.m.	Wrap-Up & Adjourn

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**\$40 per person registration**    **\_\_\_\_\_ # of attendees @ \$40 each**

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



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