Hello Coshocton County! After a great stretch of weather to close April, it appears we will be dancing around rain and cooler temperatures in the near term. However, it does appear that better weather is only a week away.

Print, TV and social media are all buzzing about the impending invasion of Brood X of the periodical cicada (17 year cicada). Should we be concerned here in Coshocton County? Will they be a threat to field crops, trees, pets or humans? The answer is NO as we are in the Brood V region which was here in Coshocton County in 2016 (so, we won’t see them again for another 12 years in 2033). Until then, enjoy our annual dog day cicadas. Want to learn more about the life cycle of the 17 year cicada? If so, check out the lead article in today’s edition.

For farmers who need to obtain their fertilizer certification, we will be hold a certification for NEW fertilizer applicators on May 19 in Sugarcreek, Ohio. See today’s edition for more details.

Have a great week!

Sincerely,

David L. Marrison
Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information visit: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.
Are Periodical Cicadas a Threat to Field Crops?

By: Curtis Young
Source: [https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/12-2021/are-periodical-cicadas-threat-field-crops](https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/12-2021/are-periodical-cicadas-threat-field-crops)

Are periodical cicadas a threat to field crops? The quick and dirty answer to this question is NO. Are they a thread to the health and welfare of anything? There is no quick and dirty answer to this question.

The best way to answer the second question is to start by looking at what the periodical cicada is, what it feeds on, where one would expect to find them, and its life cycle.

The periodical cicada or 17-year cicada is an insect with an extremely long life cycle that takes 17 years to get from the egg stage to the adult stage. Some people mistakenly refer to this insect as a locust. Unfortunately, locusts and cicadas are not one-in-the-same. Locusts are a type of grasshopper (Order Orthoptera). Cicadas (Order Hemiptera) are not grasshoppers. And the two look nothing like one another.

The periodical cicada feed mostly in their nymphal stages and are hosted by trees of many species. And since it takes 17 years of feeding by the nymphs, the trees have to be old and well established, minimally 20+ years old. Therefore, periodical cicadas are going to be found in and around long-standing woodlots, forests and landscapes (homes, parks, and cemeteries), especially those that have been established in or next to woodlots. What does this preclude? We will not find periodical cicadas in crop fields, pastures, landscapes recently established on field crop ground, housing developments where all of the ground was excavated, or basically anywhere where there isn’t long established trees. There are also northern limits to their natural range (e.g. they do not exist very far into the state of Michigan).

The periodical cicada has three stages in its life cycle, eggs, nymphs and adults. Adults present themselves once every 17 years for about 4 to 6 weeks. In Ohio, the time period could start in early May in southern Ohio and mid- to late May in northern Ohio. Not all parts of Ohio will experience periodical cicada. Besides being limited to places where older growth trees are

Dog-day cicada

Grasshoppers
established, there are different populations called Broods that emerge in different years. In Ohio this year, we are expecting Brood X periodical cicadas which are mainly distributed in mid- to western Ohio (see the map). There is currently a Citizen Science project called Cicada Safari with a reporting application for people to report where they run into populations (https://cicadasafari.org/). This is a smart phone application for reporting to help the scientists verify the true distribution of this insect.

The main purpose of the adults is reproduction, find a mate, mate, and lay eggs for the next generation. This is when damage can occur to trees. Mated females jam their ovipositors (egg-laying structures) into small branches of trees. Multiple jabs can damage the stems to the point that they may die or at the very least be very easily broken called flagging. Mature, healthy trees will easily grow through this damage. Very young trees and newly planted trees may suffer from the damage. Because of the way that orchard trees are pruned and managed, this could cause serious damage and crop loss.

The eggs hatch a short time after they are laid. The newly hatched nymphs drop from the trees to the ground, dig in and find a tree root to attach to for feeding. No research has been done to determine if the nymphal feeding causes problems for the trees. And that is where they stay for 17 years.

Are they a health concern for humans? No, they do not bite nor sting. Are they a threat to livestock or pets? They are not poisonous, however some dogs and cats stuff themselves with cicadas to the point that they vomit.

If you want to learn more about the periodical cicada, see the following links:
OSU Fact Sheet, Periodical and “Dog-Day” Cicadas: https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ENT-58
Cicada Mania: https://www.cicadamania.com/

Science for Success: Answer Soybean Questions
By: Laura Lindsey
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/12-2021/science-success-answering-soybean-questions

With funding from United Soybean Board, soybean agronomists across the U.S. are hosting a ‘Notes from the Field’ webinar series the first Friday of each month beginning May 7. Join research and extension specialists from Land Grant institutions for monthly informal discussion on production topics of timely relevance. Bring your questions!

When: May 7, June 4, July 9, and August 6 at 9:00 AM eastern time

Want to plug in: Register to attend (via Zoom) for each monthly session and you will receive Zoom login information. Register at: https://ncsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkdeipqTlgHNNYI3FuXRVPgsC87mavL6hs
If you have any questions, please contact Laura Lindsey (lindsey.233@osu.edu or 614-292-9080).
Soil temperatures continued to warm this week despite considerable variability in air temperatures (Fig. 1). Many locations throughout Ohio are now reporting daily average 2- and 4-inch soil temperatures in the mid-50s to low-60s. Daily maximum soil temperatures are routinely reaching 80°F with the increasing sun angle. Warming progress is likely to slow a bit this week. While daytime highs are expected in the 70s again on Tuesday, 50s and 60s are likely behind a cold front for the remainder of the week.

Figure 1: Daily average air temperature (dashed red), two-inch (green) and four-inch (blue) soil temperatures for spring 2021. Current daily average soil temperatures are noted for each location. Soil type and location of measurements (under sod or bare soil) are provided in the lower right corner of each panel. A map of all locations is in the bottom right. Data provided by The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Agricultural Research Stations located throughout the state.
The weather pattern has become quite active over the last couple of weeks as well. Most of the state picked up at least 0.5” of rainfall, with two solid swaths of 2-3” amounts across northern and southern Ohio (Fig. 2 left; yellow shading). Additional rain was occurring at the time of this report, and an additional 1-2” are expected over the next 7 days. Figure 2 (right) shows the 2-week change in column (down to 1m) soil moisture (percentage), with improvements noted over the northwest counties (e.g., Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert) and southeast of about I-71. Much of this rain fell after last week’s U.S. Drought Monitor, which currently depicts about 70% of the state with abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions. The recent wet conditions and forecast may lead to some improvement in the drought monitor over the next couple of weeks.

Figure 2: (Left) Precipitation estimates for the last 7 days ending on 5/3/2021. Figure provided by the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (https://www.mrcc.illinois.edu). (Right) 2-week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) as of 5/3/2021 according to NASA’s SPORT-LIS (https://weather.msfc.nasa.gov/sport/modeling/lis.html).

For more complete weather records for CFAES research stations, including temperature, precipitation, growing degree days, and other useful weather observations, please visit https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weather1/.

**Fertilizer Certification Session to be held on May 19 in Sugarcreek**

The OSU Extension offices in Tuscarawas and Coshocton Counties will be holding a Fertilizer Certification for NEW Applicators workshop on May 19 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Sugarcreek Stockyards located at 102 Buckeye Street in Sugarcreek, Ohio.

If you apply fertilizer to more than 50 acres of crops grown primarily for sale, then the Ohio Department of Agriculture requires you to obtain a Fertilizer Certificate. This class will review laws, water quality, soil sampling & analysis, and nitrogen and phosphorus management. Attendance will allow you to receive your fertilizer certification.

There is no cost to attend however pre-registration required. Please call 330-339-2337 to register. All current health guidelines will be followed per the Ohio State University. A facial covering must be worn at all times and the current social distancing practice of 6 feet per person will be maintained. Please stay home if you are not feeling well or if someone in your family is ill. You are welcome to bring your own drink and/or snack.

See the attached flyer for more details.
Ag Economy Barometer Remains Strong & Producers Concerned About Possible Changes in Estate Tax Policy

By: James Mintert and Michael Langemeier, Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture


The April reading of the Ag Economy Barometer was 178, virtually unchanged from a month earlier when the index stood at 177 and just 5 points below its all-time high of 183, which was set back in October. Compared to March, however, there was a small change in producers’ perspective on the ag economy as they became more optimistic about the future, while their appraisal of the current situation waned. In April, the Index of Future Expectations rose 5 points to 169, whereas the Index of Current Conditions moved down 7 points to 195. Both of the barometer’s sub-indices remain historically strong, with the Index of Current Conditions just 3% below its all-time high and the Index of Future Expectations reaching its second-highest reading since the survey’s inception in fall 2015. The Ag Economy Barometer sentiment index is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers’ responses to a telephone survey. This month’s survey was conducted from April 19-23, 2021.

Farmers’ expectations for their farms’ financial performance continues to improve. The Farm Financial Performance Index rose to a record high reading of 138 in April, up 13 points from a month earlier and 83 points higher than in April 2020. Strength in the financial performance index this month was primarily driven by more producers saying they expect better financial performance this year compared to 2020, up from 39% who felt that way in March to 50% in April. Strength in commodity prices continues to drive improving expectations for strong financial performance, even though many input costs are rising.

Somewhat surprisingly, given expectations for strong financial performance, the Farm Capital Investment Index declined 13 points in April compared to March, leaving the index at 75. This month’s decline leaves the index just slightly ahead of where it was before the pandemic got underway in winter 2020 when it stood at 72. The investment index is based upon a question that asks producers if now is a
good time or a bad time to make large investments in things like buildings and equipment. However, when asked more specifically about their plans concerning farm machinery purchases, farmers’ optimism was still evident. Compared to March, more producers this month said they plan to increase their machinery purchases and fewer farmers said they plan to hold their future purchases unchanged from a year earlier. The difference in responses to these two investment questions could be reflective of both the run-up in costs and difficulty in scheduling construction projects across the U.S.

Farmers expect the rise in farmland values to continue unabated over the next year as the Short-Run Farmland Value Expectations Index rose to a record high reading of 159, 11 points higher than a month earlier. This month’s reading stands in sharp contrast to a year ago when the short-run index bottomed out at a reading of 72. Producers were less optimistic, however, when queried about their longer-run (5-year) outlook for farmland values as the Long-Term Farmland Values Expectations Index declined 9 points in April to a reading of 148. The difference in producers’ short vs. long-term expectations could be an indication they are concerned that the rapid rise in farmland values currently underway might not be sustainable over the long run.
Myriad tax policy proposals are currently under consideration by the Biden administration and Congress. To learn more about ag producers’ perspective on tax policy this month’s survey included several questions focused on taxation. Nearly 9 out of 10 (87%) survey respondents said they expect capital gains rates to rise over the next five years. Three-fourths of producers in this month’s survey said they are “very concerned” about the possible elimination of the step-up in cost basis for farmland in inherited estates and just over two-thirds (68%) of respondents said they are “very concerned” about a possible reduction in the estate tax exemption for inherited estates. Perhaps the biggest issue facing farm families is their ability to pass their farm business on to the next generation. When asked if they are concerned that changes in tax policy being considered by Congress will make it more difficult to pass their farm on to the next generation of farmers in their family, 82 percent of producers said they are “very concerned” while an additional 13 percent of respondents said they are “somewhat concerned”, suggesting this issue is on the minds of nearly all ag producers.

Now that COVID vaccinations are widely available across the U.S., attention is shifting to the percentage of the U.S. population that does not plan to get vaccinated. Results from a mid-February 2021 survey conducted by the Pew Research Center indicated that 30 percent of U.S. adults either “probably” or “definitely” would not get the COVID vaccine. A series of polls from Monmouth University conducted in January, March, and April 2021 indicate 21 to 24 percent of U.S. adults will “likely never get the vaccine”. To learn more about commercial ag producers’ vaccination plans and to compare them to the U.S. population at large, we’ve been asking about producers’ vaccination plans going back to October 2020. The percentage of producers planning to get vaccinated as soon as possible rose from just 24 percent last October to 58 percent in January and has been fluctuating between 54 and 60 percent since that time. The percentage of commercial ag producers saying no they do not plan to get vaccinated declined from a high of 37 percent in October to 28 percent in January. Since January, the percentage of agricultural producers saying they do not plan to get vaccinated has ranged from 28 to 32 percent. These results suggest the reluctance to get vaccinated for COVID among U.S. ag producers mirrors that of the larger population of all U.S. adults.

Following a nearly one-year hiatus, more in-person ag field days, workshops, and educational events are being planned for 2021. On both the March and April barometer surveys, we asked producers if they are more or less likely to attend these programs than they were in 2020. Responses were mixed. Two-thirds to just over 70 percent of respondents said they are more likely to attend in-person events this year, but 28 to 35 percent of producers said they are less likely to attend in-person events. For program planners, this implies there is still a need to offer programs in a hybrid or virtual format to reach the broad audience of commercial ag producers.

![Figure 7. How Concerned Are You That Changes in Estate Tax Policy Being Considered by Congress Will Make It More Difficult to Pass Your Farm on to the Next Generation of Farmers in Your Family? April 2021. (left)](image)

![Figure 8. When a COVID-19 Vaccine Becomes Available, Do You Plan to Get Vaccinated? October 2020-April 2021. (right)](image)
Wrapping Up
The Ag Economy Barometer was virtually unchanged in April compared to March, but producers indicated more optimism about the future and a bit less optimism about current conditions than a month earlier. Ag producers continue to report expectations for very strong financial performance on the part of their farms and expect farmland values to continue to rise over the next year. However, producers were a bit less optimistic about the long-term outlook for farmland values, suggesting there might be some concern that recent farmland price rises might not be sustainable. Despite expectations for their farms’ strong financial performance, farmers were less inclined to think now is a good time for large investments in buildings and equipment than they were in March. However, when queried more specifically about their farm machinery investment plans, more producers in April said they planned to increase their farm machinery purchases than in March. Possible changes in U.S. tax policy are on the minds of ag producers. Ninety-five percent of survey respondents are either somewhat or very concerned that changes in tax policy being considered will make it more difficult to pass their farms on to the next generation.

A breakdown on the Purdue/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer March results can be viewed at https://purdue.ag/barometervideo.

Download the complete report at: https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/ageconomybarometer/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/April-2021-Ag-Economy-Barometer.pdf

Rising Feed Prices Create Divergence Between Fed and Feeder Cattle Values
By: Kenny Burdine, Livestock Marketing Specialist, University of Kentucky
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/05/05/rising-feed-prices-create-divergence-between-fed-and-feeder-cattle-values/

As I write this on the first Monday of May, it’s hard not to think about all the changes we have seen over the last year. A quick look at the year-ago column of the price table below reveals how much better things are in most markets than they were this time last year as we were dealing with increasing challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Early May was about the low point for cattle harvest in 2020 and can be easily picked out by the bottom made this time last year in the slaughter steer price chart above (see the dotted 2020 line). Historically, May is a good month for fed cattle and beef prices as weather is warming up and we are moving into the spring grilling season. This can be seen in both the 2015-2019 average and the 2021 price line on that same chart.

A lot of demand factors are encouraging as we move through spring. COVID restrictions are likely to continue to be eased over the upcoming months. And, warmer temperatures open up increased opportunities for outdoor dining at restaurants that are still under capacity limitations. We have also seen an encouraging start to beef exports this year, which always bodes well for prices. But, when it comes to feeder cattle markets, there is an elephant in the room and that elephant is shown on the second chart above.

Feeder cattle markets are expectation markets that are primarily driven by two things: (1) the expected value of fed cattle in the future and (2) the cost of getting those feeder cattle to that point. While there are reasons for optimism about the expectation of fed cattle prices, it’s hard not to be very concerned about the level of feed prices in the current market. Nothing rains on a feeder cattle parade like expensive corn and that is exactly
what we are seeing this spring. James actually wrote about this right after the Prospective Plantings report came out and corn prices have continued to rise since that time.

The price chart for Omaha corn above is just used to illustrate the trend that we are currently seeing. It is always important to distinguish between old crop and new crop when discussing grain prices and clearly the current market is reflective of old crop. But, even new crop prices are very high by historical standards as December 2021 CME© corn futures settled just under $5 per bushel to end last week. At this point, we don’t know how many acres of corn will actually be planted in 2021 and we don’t know what conditions will be like during the growing season. But, it is sobering to know that the current expectation is that we still have corn around $5 come winter.

The impact of this on feeder cattle markets is very clear and is having the largest impact on heavy feeder cattle. May CME© feeder cattle futures have dropped by about $15 per cwt since early April. The chart is not pretty and it is keeping us from building any momentum this spring. We are seeing a divergence between fed and feeder cattle prices as slaughter cattle prices improve and feeder cattle prices weaken. This is the market’s way of pricing in expensive corn – that margin has to widen.

Calf prices are a bit more isolated from feed price impacts as calves can be placed into grazing programs or grown on feeding programs that are less corn-dependent. But, all feed prices will tend to move together as they are typically priced on a substitute basis with one another. So, producers backgrounding cattle on commodity feeds are still feeling the impact on their feed bill. Additionally, calf values are really driven by the expected value of heavy feeders and this can be best illustrated by looking at fall feeder cattle futures. The November CME© feeder cattle futures price has fallen by about $10 per cwt since early April. This probably equates to something like a $15 per cwt lower value on calves moving through markets this spring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cattle Market Report</th>
<th>Prices $/cwt, Sources: USDA, LMIC, and CME</th>
<th>For Weeks Ending On</th>
<th>% Chg Prev. Week</th>
<th>% Chg Prev. Year</th>
<th>Chg Prev. Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>500-600 lb. Feeder Steers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>4/30/21, 4/23/21, 5/1/20</td>
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<td>-16%</td>
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There is never a shortage of risk factors in cattle markets. The year 2020 was a lesson on black swan events like COVID-19 and 2021 appears to be reminding us that grain prices are always capable of impacting the values of the calves and feeders that we sell. The April 12th issue of Cattle Market Notes Weekly discussed price risk management strategies in a general sense. This week, we are also sharing the video from a webinar that Josh and I did on April 20th that was largely focused on Livestock Risk Protection Insurance and covers that tool in much more detail. This price insurance product has been made a lot more attractive over the last couple of years and I would encourage all feeder cattle producers to give it a serious look.
When Making Baleage- What Plastic Do I Use?
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/05/05/when-making-baleage-what-plastic-do-i-use/

During the second session of this past winter's Ohio Beef Cattle Management School, one focus of the evening was effectively utilizing plastic wrap for fermenting baled forages and making baleage. In the 2 minute excerpt of that evening’s presentation, Jason Hartschuh answers the question, “When making baleage, what plastic do I use?” Access this at: https://youtu.be/ghycCVn6q4M

In the entirety of the presentation, Hartschuh discussed harvest options, correct harvest moisture, and properly baling and wrapping wet forages. You can find that entire presentation, “The Do’s and Don’ts of Making High Quality Baleage” and it can be accessed at: https://youtu.be/tljFOgbrdac

Get Your Victory Garden Seeds from Master Gardener Volunteers
The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and OSU Extension Offices are kicking off the second year of the Victory Gardens Program. OSU Extension and the Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers have 300 seed samples for the Coshocton County Community. Each packet contains radishes, cucumbers and sunflowers. The Master Gardeners have been distributing the seed packets across the county and we still have a few remaining packets which can be picked up at the Coshocton County Extension office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Extension office is located at: 724 South 7th Street, Room 110 in Coshocton, Ohio.

“Times of transition are strenuous, but I love them. They are an opportunity to purge, rethink priorities, and be intentional about new habits. We can make our new normal any way we want.”

Kristin Armstrong
Fertilizer Certification for NEW Applicators

Do you apply fertilizer to more than 50 acres of land? If so, the Ohio Department of Agriculture requires you to obtain a Fertilizer Certificate. This class will review laws, water quality, soil sampling & analysis, and nitrogen and phosphorus management.

**Wednesday, May 19, TIME: 7:00P.M.**

**LOCATION:** Sugarcreek Stockyards, 102 Buckeye St, Sugarcreek

**COST:** None

*Pre-registration required.* Please call 330-339-2337.
If calling after business hours, please press 1 (Michelle Moon) to leave a message.

All current health guidelines will be followed per the Ohio State University. A facial covering must be worn at all times and the current social distancing practice of 6 feet per person will be maintained. Please stay home if you are not feeling well or if someone in your family is ill.
You are welcome to bring your own drink and/or snack.