CFAES

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

COSHOCTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

October 12 (Edition #168)

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Hello Coshocton County! The past week has allowed for a good run at soybean harvest as well as some corn harvest. Looks like we will dancing around some rain today but overall it looks like the weather is setting up for a nice harvest season.

It was also great seeing many of you at the fair. It was picture perfect weather for this year's fair! Thanks to all who supported our great 4-H and FFA youth at the Junior Fair Auction last Thursday evening.

We are finishing the final touches for the Fall Foliage and Farm Tour which will be held on October 22-23. This year we will be featuring the southwest portion of the county. Stay tuned to next week's addition for more details.

Still lots of great programs coming up over the next few weeks---see today's edition for more details.

Sincerely,

David L. Marrison

Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator

Harvest Considerations for Corn Grain

By: Osler Ortez and Alexander Lindsey
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-35/october-here-harvest-considerations-corn-grain

Despite a late start in many areas on the 2022 crop season, during the last days of September and early October, combines started to roll around the state. On October 3 (week ending 10/02/2022), USDA reported 7% of corn harvested from grain in Ohio (slightly behind the 10% harvested last year and the 5-year average for this time of the year). You can access their full report here. On the same report, >90% was dented, and >50% was mature. According to this report, corn condition was rated 64% good to excellent, which held close to reports earlier in the growing season.

Despite 2022 being another challenging year, yield forecasts (see Table 1) show a high probability of near or above long-term average yields in Ohio (between 207 and 250 bu/Ac for the analyzed locations). Certainly, this would apply if adequate conditions persisted in the growing season. Fields planted too early, too late, or affected by other factors (e.g., replanting, soil crusting, dry periods, pest, disease) would not be expected to yield that well.

Whichever is the case, the field season is not complete until harvest is done. Here is a list of considerations as corn harvest decisions are being made:

Physiological Maturity
The R6 growth stage happens approximately 55 to 65 days after silking (R1 stage). Physiological maturity comes right after the milk line in the kernel has disappeared. Also, it is important to note that physiological maturity technically happens before one can see the black layer in the kernel tips. However, checking for the presence of the black layer inside kernels is the common method used to verify that the R6 stage has been achieved. The R6 stage is the time when maximum kernel dry weight is reached. The moisture of kernels is close to 30-35 percent, but this can be variable, depending on factors like the genetics and the environment.

Field drydown
Various factors can drive slow or delayed grain drydown of mature corn grain before harvest, resulting in higher grain moisture at harvest. Harvesting higher moisture grain brings more drying costs (and time). Overriding observations on the in-field grain drydown of mature corn grain from Indiana included (Nielsen, 2013):

- Weather conditions (sunshine, rainfall, temperatures, wind) strongly influence drydown.
- Plant characteristics (husk coverage, husk thickness, number of husk leaves) can also influence drydown.
- Early grain maturation usually means faster drydown.
- Later grain maturation usually means slower drydown.

In general, the combination of warmth, sun, and higher wind speeds all encourage drydown compared to colder temperatures, cloudy skies, and low wind or high humidity/rain. Conditions favorable for drying tend to be present earlier in the fall rather than later.

Plant standability, grain quality, and harvest losses
Although the crop can be physiologically mature, non-favorable conditions can compromise the standability of stalks or lead to ear rots (decreasing grain quality or marketability). Several years back, an Ohio study evaluated the effects of plant populations (24K, 30K, 36K, and 42K plants/Ac) and three harvest dates (early-

mid October, November, and December) on the agronomic performance of four hybrids (with different maturity and stalk quality). The results of this study provided insights into yield losses, changes in grain moisture, and stalk quality associated with delaying harvest.

Key findings of this work:

- Nearly 90% of the yield loss associated with delayed corn harvest occurred when delays extended beyond mid-November.
- Grain moisture decreased by nearly 6% between October and November harvest dates. Delaying harvest after early to mid-November achieved almost no additional grain drying.
- Higher plant populations increased grain yields when harvest occurred in early to mid-October. When the harvest was delayed until mid-November or later, yields declined at plant populations above 30K/acre.
- When the harvest was delayed, hybrids with lower stalk strength ratings exhibited greater stalk rot, lodging, and yield loss. An early crop harvest of these hybrids eliminated this effect.
- The highest increase in stalk rot incidence occurred between October and November harvest dates. Stalk lodging increased mainly after early mid-November.
- Harvest delays had little or no effect on grain quality characteristics such as oil, protein, starch, and kernel breakage.

Corn Drydown Calculator
Iowa State University has made available an online corn drydown calculator that can help users to estimate grain drydown in fields located in the Corn Belt region. Access the tool here: https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/facts/corn-drydown-calculator

A Field Loss Calculator for Field Drying Corn
Additionally, the University of Wisconsin developed a Harvest Field Loss Calculator Excel spreadsheet. That can be accessed here: http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/Season/DSS.aspx. The Excel file allows calculating the costs of harvesting versus letting the crop stay in the field and harvest later. The spreadsheet includes scenarios for higher drying costs versus grain losses during field drying. It also accounts for elevator discounts and grain shrink.

Resources

- Field Drydown of Mature Corn Grain (Nielsen, 2013): http://proagconsulting.com/field-drydown-of-mature-corn-grain-by-r-l-bob-nielsen/
- Field Drying and Harvest Losses in Corn (Thomison, 2017): https://u.osu.edu/unioncountyanr/2017/10/17/field-drying-and-harvest-losses-in-corn-authors-peter-thomison/
- Grain Fill Stages in Corn (Nielsen, 2021): https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/timeless/grainfill.html
- Gibberella Ear Rot and Mycotoxins in Corn: Sampling, Testing, and Storage (Willyerd, Paul, and Thomison, 2016): https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/plpath-cer-04
- Harvesting and Handling Ear Rot-Affected Corn (Hartschuh and Paul, 2022): https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-34/harvesting-and-handling-ear-rot-affected-corn

US Corn and Soybean Production Down from September

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, WASHINGTON, Oct. 12, 2022

Corn and soybean production is down from September 2022, according to the Crop Production report issued today by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Corn production is down 8% from last year, forecast at 13.9 billion bushels; soybean growers are expected to decrease their production 3% from 2021, forecast at 4.31 billion bushels.

Based on conditions as of Oct. 1, corn yields are expected to average 171.9 bushels per harvested acre, down 0.6 bushel from the previous forecast and down 4.8 bushels from 2021. Area harvested for grain is forecast at

80.8 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast.

Also based on conditions as of Oct. 1, soybean yields are expected to average 49.8 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from the previous forecast and down 1.9 bushels from 2021. Area harvested for beans in the United States is forecast at 86.6 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but up slightly from 2021.

Today's report also included a production forecast for U.S. cotton. All cotton production is forecast at 13.8 million 480-pound bales, down slightly from the previous forecast and down 21% from 2021. Based on conditions as of Oct. 1, yields are expected to average 842 pounds per harvested acre, down 1 pound from the previous forecast but up 23 pounds from 2021. Upland cotton production is forecast at 13.3 million 480-pound bales, down less than 1% from the previous forecast and down 22% from 2021. Pima cotton production is forecast at 468,000 bales, up 2% from the previous forecast and up 41% from 2021. All cotton area harvested is forecast at 7.88 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 23% from 2021.

Objective yield and farm operator surveys were conducted between Sept. 24 and Oct. 5 to gather information on expected yield as of Oct. 1. The objective yield surveys for corn, cotton, and soybeans were conducted in the major producing states that usually account for about 75% of U.S. production. Randomly selected plots were revisited to make current counts.

The farm operator survey was conducted primarily by telephone with some use of mail, internet, and personal enumeration. Approximately 8,200 producers were contacted during the survey period and asked questions about probable yield. The Crop Production report is published monthly and is available online at nass.usda.gov/Publications

Another Article About Fall Herbicides?!

By: Alyssa Essman
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-35/another-article-about-fall-herbicides

In the past couple of weeks, Mark Loux and Mark Sulc gave us some good reminders about the value of fall applied herbicides. They can be read here: Our Annual Article to Nag about Fall Herbicides and Cressleaf Groundsel and AVOID A NIGHTMARE NEXT SPRING!!!!!!!!.

We are persistent about this because fall applications are the most effective treatment for overwintering species. Winter annuals like marestail, cressleaf groundsel, and purple deadnettle are at the beginning of their life cycle and are most susceptible to herbicides at this growth stage. Biennials like wild carrot and poison hemlock that are ending the first year of their life cycle are sending nutrients down to the roots in preparation for winter. Systemic herbicides (glyphosate, 2,4-D) applied now will translocate down to the roots along with these nutrients and achieve a better kill than waiting until spring. In the spring these plants resume growth, start sending nutrients back up to the leaves, and are less susceptible to control efforts. This also applies to simple perennials like dandelion and creeping perennials like Canada thistle.

The above articles and links within provide fall herbicide recommendations for forage systems and following harvest in corn and soybean. Another consideration this time of year is the management of overwintering weeds in wheat production. The weeds listed above interfere with the early development and growth of wheat and other small grains. Burndown products labeled for use prior to wheat emergence include glyphosate, Gramoxone and Sharpen. Recommendations for burndown applications in no-till wheat were covered in this article: Life In A Time of Glyphosate Scarcity – Part 1 - Burndown In No-Till Wheat. Fields that don't receive a burndown before planting or crop emergence also have the option of postemergence herbicides. Efficacy ratings for postemergence herbicides in small grain production can be found here: Weed Response to Postemergence Herbicides in Small Grains. Some products of note are those that control wild garlic. Contamination of wild garlic aerial bulblets in harvested wheat and other small grains can cause substantial dockage.

Hay Quality 2022 – Challenging!

By: Stan Smith, OSU Extension PA, Fairfield County
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2022/10/05/hay-quality-2022-challenging/

In a year like this when, according to the National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) estimates, barely half of Ohio's first cutting hay harvest was completed by mid-June, it is apparent that Ohio cattlemen will again be faced with finding ways to make "feed" from forages that were harvested way past their prime.

As an example of the hay quality we are seeing, a recent forage analysis on some Fairfield County mixed grass hay that was mowed in mid-June and baled shortly after shows less than 7% crude protein and less than 40% TDN (total digestible nutrients) on a dry matter basis. I could tell you that's not good feed, but perhaps a better way is to compare it to wheat straw. Book values I found for the feed nutrient content of wheat straw show a TDN of 43% and crude protein of 4.2% . . . not a lot different than the hay we tested. With so much of Ohio's first cutting hay being made in late June and even into July this year, it creates a challenging feed quality situation we have experienced far too often in recent years!

Feed of the quality referenced in the forage sample analysis above and fed to cows as long stem hay, even when offered in unlimited amounts, simply will not satisfy the nutritional requirements of a cow in the third trimester of gestation or lactation. Without amendment, feeding this quality of forage results in cows with lesser body condition, poor quality colostrum, delayed return to estrus, lower conception rates, and lighter calf weaning weights. In part this can result from cows not breeding on first service and/or having lower milk production than if they were on an adequate nutritional plane.

Considering that in many parts of Ohio a forage quality problem exists again this year, it's not realistic to expect we can replace all the poor-quality hay that's was made this year with only a properly made second or third cutting. It is apparent it will be necessary to find ways to efficiently utilize the lesser quality first cutting hay we presently have. There are options available to accomplish just that, and time to create and implement strategies that allows it without cow health suffering.

As you consider alternatives for efficiently feeding late made, low digestible forages, and stretching the supply of any high-quality forages that might be in inventory, consider this brief checklist:

- Sample, test and inventory each lot of hay that has been made. Similar qualities of hay should be stored together in order that they can be found and fed at the most opportune times throughout the hay feeding season.
- Can bunk feeding cows during the winter months be made an option? This allows for limited supplementation of extra energy and/or protein in the correct amounts and at the correct times.
- Consider processing poor quality, long stem hay into smaller particle size? Reducing the large particle size of mature long stem grass hay to two to 6 inches in length can increase the rate of forage digestion enough that it allows cows to consume 25-30% more forage on a daily basis.
- If forage processing is not an option for you, consider using a prebiotic feed additive that will increase fiber digestibility. The increase in digestion of feedstuffs by supplementation of a prebiotic is the result of increased numbers of ruminal bacteria and the activity of the normally occurring intestinal microflora.
- Optimize the quantity and quality of pasture lands that can be grazed yet this fall or winter. At a minimum, applying 30 to 50 units of additional nitrogen now will create additional high quality forage that can be grazed later this year.
- As soon as possible pregnancy check and eliminate open or unproductive cows. Cull cow values remain high, and high quality forages are a precious commodity that need to be reserved for productive, bred cows.

In the meantime, if Mother Nature has caused you to be dealing with far too much hay of subpar quality, now is the time to assess feed inventory and create a plan for how to effectively and efficiently utilize what you presently have. Calves are and will continue to be into the foreseeable future too valuable to risk their health and performance by mismanaging momma's nutrition in the coming months.

EDITOR's NOTE: Learn more about improving digestibility of poor quality forages in the 8 minute video presentation at: https://youtu.be/niEUWypnnc0

Practice Patience With Your Stockpile

By: Victor Shelton, Retired NRCS Agronomist/Grazing Specialist
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2022/10/05/practice-patience-with-your-stockpile/

The best stockpiled forage is late summer to fall regrowth – just don't start grazing it too early.

When a lot of things that occupy your time or influence your pocketbook are impacted by the weather it is hard to not talk about it some! I felt it was a very odd growing season, at least in my neck of the woods. My reasons were certainly different than in other areas, even not that far away. The weather constantly reminds me that we need to always have a plan B and be prepared to act on it. It also reminds me that we need to build in as much resilience into the grazing system as possible.

I've been asked twice recently about what I consider "stockpiled" forage. Stockpiled forage is technically defined as standing forage that is allowed to accumulate for grazing at a later period, usually for fall and winter grazing after dormancy. Stockpiling usually is initiated anywhere from early August to the first of September. I like to see at least 60 days of forage accumulation prior to the first frost – that means it needs to be started by mid-August most years. This time frame allows enough time, with adequate rainfall, to grow a nice amount of forage for use after dormancy.

Waiting until after dormancy is important. Dormancy often requires several nights in a row at 25 degrees or lower. Once dormant, the forage can be grazed with less harm to the plant's energy reserves. When it is grazed, it can be taken down a bit closer than normal but leaving good residual. That good stop grazing height will slow runoff over winter, reduce any erosion and help springboard growth next season.

Quite often, people get in too much of a hurry to utilize that stockpiled forage. This usually happens with systems that are running out of forage to graze. Stocking rates have increased on several farms the last few years – that is the number of animal units (1000-pound live weight) on the total acres. Quite often to more animal units than the land base can adequately support. When that happens, more "fed" feed is needed to support the animals present. That is quite often purchased feed. The pencil better be pretty sharp to make that work out well with present day prices.

A fair amount of marginal land that used to be pasture or hay land has been converted to cropland. If animal numbers were not adjusted, the stocking rate increased putting more pressure on the remaining acres. That generally means a shorter grazing season, quite often reduced production due to shorter rest periods, and again, increased inputs. Enough of that tangent.

Early grazing of stockpiled forage, prior to dormancy, reduces the plant vigor the following spring and quite often opens it up to more competition from weeds, especially if there was a lot of soil disturbance or over grazing occurred. Fields that have had increased weed pressure are probably not the best to stockpile and should be allowed to recover prior to dormancy and left ungrazed until the next spring.

When possible, such fields could also be stockpiled early and then left to be utilized early the next spring when both the cows and owners are eager to start grazing. That stockpile not only could help to reduce weeds due to stronger root systems and cover but can provide an excellent site for calving or such without mud.

I've seen several pastures that were stockpiled as recommended, but grazed too early, let to regrow and then grazed again. I've intentionally done this in some of my experiments and paid for it dearly. Not only was there a weakened forage stand the next spring, but the site was also more easily disturbed during any grazing event and that greatly increased weed pressure. That weed pressure appears from the seed bank present in the soil along with any new additions from equipment, movement with animals and certainly wildlife. Some weeds can lay dormant for decades just waiting patiently for the right opportunity and conditions to grow. Delayed spring grazing with a little extra fertility, especially nitrogen, helped to reduce weed pressure some by increasing

competition by the desired forage, but not always.

What most producers really need is more grazable acres or fewer animal units. That is probably easier done by utilizing some cropland, especially marginal cropland, to grow annual forage in the rotation for haying or ideally grazing and making use of crop residue when conditions are favorable to do so without causing compaction or the need for cleanup tillage afterwards. If the livestock are off the pastures for several weeks, then it is a lot easier to rest pastures more and stockpile forage correctly and reduce the need to carry feed to them. Feed that the animal can harvest itself is almost always cheaper than anything that you have to carry to it.
I was asked recently again about the grazing of Johnsongrass during a farm visit. If the field is grazed very often, you usually won't see much present because it is often one of the first forages the cows take out. They will eat it and actually like it, but I certainly wouldn't plant it.

Summer annual warm-season grasses such as sudangrass or sorghum-sudangrass hybrids and the noted johnsongrass produce a toxic compound when frosted causing the production of the prussic acid (hydrocyanic acid). To be safe, livestock should be removed from these forages after frosted for at least two weeks to allow for the forages to "dry down" and the prussic acid to dissipate before grazing again.

These forages can be harvested for baleage five to seven days after being frosted and later fed as long as they are allowed their normal fermentation process time period of six to eight weeks – but best harvested prior to frost Dry hay containing these is generally fine. Johnsongrass tends to be a bit more toxic than sorghums. Frosted areas could be only "pockets" in a field to start with. Any regrowth from the base of the plant after a frost can also be very high in prussic acid. If in doubt, wait and or test. It is better to be safe than sorry and occurrences can happen with little warning. Millets generally do not have this issue.

Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Graze crop residues or annuals that you have now to allow pastures to rest and continue to grow until dormant. Keep on grazing!

Business Entity Discounts

By: Robert Moore, Ag & Resource Law Program
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/thu-10062022-1146am/business-entity-discounts

Business entity discounts can be a valuable tool in farm succession planning. This strategy provides a method of reducing the values of assets that will be in an estate without the need for gifting. Discounting can be used with any kind of entity; the key is to draft the entity's controlling agreement to maximize the discount.

Discounting is based on two important factors: lack of marketability and lack of control. Lack of marketability reflects the disinterest that an outside buyer would have in buying into a closely held entity. Lack of control reflects the inability of an owner to singularly control the entity. These two factors overlap somewhat but they essentially measure the discount that would be needed to make an arms-length buyer interested in buying an ownership interest in the entity.

The amount of discount is scrutinized by the IRS. Owners of entitles have abused the discounting strategy in the past as a scheme to transfer ownership without incurring gift taxes or estate taxes. A typical discount for an ownership interest that is fully subject to lack of marketability and lack of control may be around 35%. Discounts in excess of 35% may be challenged by the IRS as excessive. The discount is usually determined by an accountant or other financial professional that has expertise in determining business entity discounts.

Discounting can best be explained using examples. Let's say Mom and Dad own 400 acres of farmland valued at $3 million. If Mom and Dad were to die with the land titled in their names, the land would be valued at $3 million in their estates. The land is valued at its full value because either Mom or Dad can cause the land to be

sold at any time through partition and they would presumably receive full, fair market value.

Now, let's say Mom and Dad transfer the land into an LLC. The LLC's operating agreement includes the following provisions:

- Land may not be sold without majority consent of ownership
- Money cannot be distributed out of the LLC without majority consent
- The LLC cannot be dissolved without majority consent
- Ownership may only be transferred to the descendants of Mom and Dad

Additionally, Mom and Dad gift a 0.5% ownership interest to each Son and Daughter. After the gift, Mom and Dad are each 49.5% owners of the LLC. Now, neither Mom nor Dad can singularly control anything that happens with the LLC. Due to the lack of marketability and lack of control created by the terms of the LLC operating agreement and the minority ownership (49.5%), Mom and Dad can expect to receive around a 35% discount on their ownership.

Using discounting, Mom and Dad have reduced the value of their estate by over $1 million by setting up an LLC and transferring their land to the LLC. At a 40% estate tax rate, Mom and Dad have potentially saved Son and Daughter over $400,000 in estate taxes. Entity discounts can same many thousands, if not millions, of dollars in estate taxes for some farm families.

The primary downside of using a business entity for discounts is the cost of establishing and maintaining the LLC. An LLC will need to be established, an operating agreement drafted and deeds executed to transfer the land to the LLC. Perhaps the initial startup and deed expense will be around $5,000. The LLC will need to maintain a bank account to collect rent and pay expenses such as real estate taxes. Additionally, the LLC will be required to file a tax return each year. While there are startup and maintenance costs for the LLC, the savings in estate taxes usually makes establishing business entity discounts and easy decision.

It should be noted that some presidential administrations have sought to eliminate the entity discounts for family-held businesses. So, the business entity discount can be abolished with a stroke of a pen at any time. However, as long as discounts are available, they can be a very valuable tool in farm transition planning. For those farmers and landowners who may be concerned about estate taxes, a business entity may be a relatively simple but effective tool to reduce the value of the estate. An attorney should be included in the process of establishing the LLC to be sure that the necessary provisions are included in the operating agreement to maximize the discount. Also, a tax advisor should be consulted to ensure a thorough understanding of the tax ramifications of establishing an LLC.

Sheep and Goat Housing

By: Sarah McNaughton, Editor, Dakota Farmer
(Previously published online with Ohio Farmer: September 29, 2022)
Source: https://u.osu.edu/sheep/2022/10/04/sheep-and-goat-housing-renovate-or-build-new/

When considering building or renovating housing for sheep or goats, producers should first examine their current level of production and management styles, while keeping future plans for potential growth or management changes in mind.

"We want to consider where we're at," said University of Minnesota Extension engineer Erin Cortus, during a recent webinar by University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University. "Where are we in terms of existing space or existing facilities?"

Cortus encourages producers to think about the number of head, a barn's function, and how much time they have to commit to management, as well as future plans.

"We don't want our current structures or plans to dictate our future," she said. "Plan

for where you want to be for production, the capacity you want the barn to function. Really look toward that optimal scenario. We want to consider existing structures but not let it be our limiting factor."

Housing types
Two broad categories of housing can be considered for small ruminants. "One is termed confinement housing, where we have all of the animals under a roof. This can offer more protection from inclement weather and easier handling," Cortus said. "This tends to be more expensive, and then the ventilation aspect does require more management." Examples of confinement housing include hoop and pole barns, and monoslope- or gable-roof barns.

A second category is open housing. With this system, "we tend to have less protection from inclement weather," Cortus said. "There's usually some form of a structure that provides protection from weather extremes but still open areas that expose the animals."

Benefits shared for an open-housing system includes cost savings, higher ventilation with air circulation, and more freedom of animal movement. Examples of this housing style include open sided-structures of sheds, carports or portable huts. "These are two very broad categories we might consider for housing sheep and goats," Cortus said. "But there are other barn-level requirements that need to go into our housing decisions."

Other facility requirements
The three main requirements for a sheep or goat facility, according to Cortus, follow:

1. Space requirements
When considering space, think about both the largest size of animal and the greatest animal capacity at one time under one roof. Producers should consider the size, nutrient requirements, and pen space when planning new or retrofitted housing. "Don't forget to add additional space for our facilities for human and equipment access. Other areas [such as] milking areas, hospital pens, and working facilities all require additional space," she said.

2. Ventilation
Discussions around ventilation generally are twofold: ventilation during both winter and summer. "Ventilation during winter conditions really focus on moisture and gas removal," Cortus said. "When we have live animals, we should never have a completely closed-up barn." During summer or hot conditions, Cortus said the focus shifts to heat removal. "As temperatures outside get warmer, we think about how we can remove as much heat as possible from that barn." Having a target temperature helps guide system design and management for the ventilation systems. In addition to temperature, producers should consider the air distribution and potential drafts in the barn.

3. Manure management
When managing manure in any facility, keep in mind that each animal will produce about 10% of its body weight per day. "The bedding we use in our housing will add both mass and volume to our manure storage amount," Cortus said. "Whatever bedding you choose to use will also influence water absorption and odor." A producer's preference guides when bedding and manure packs are removed; however, Cortus said barn or fence openings should always allow access by equipment for ease of removal. "We should also consider stacking pads for short- or long-term storage," she said. "If we can't use it right away, we can try to minimize leeching to groundwater, ideally on an impervious pad. That pad might be concrete, might be clay, might be a liner."

Renovate or build new?
The big question for many producers is to remodel an existing structure or build a new one. Outside of cost, consider these factors when evaluating existing buildings:

- their compatibility in size and efficiency
- structural integrity
- location

“The general rule of thumb: If the cost of remodeling is more than a third to a half that new construction would be, the guidance is to go with new construction,” she said. No matter the route taken, Cortus said to consult about insurance, obtain all required permits, and consider quality assurance programs before beginning a project.

Got Bats in the Belfry?

By: Marne Titchenell
Source: https://bygl.osu.edu/node/422

March through September is the active time for bats in Ohio. Ohio’s 11 species spend their summer hours like every other species in Ohio – feeding and reproducing. There is no question Ohioans benefit from the feeding of bats – a single bat can consume over 1000 mosquito-sized insects in one night.

The reproduction side of things however, can sometimes cause an issue…especially if the result is a colony of bats in the home. Two Ohio bat species will commonly share living space with humans; the little brown bat and the big brown bat. The females of both of these species form maternity colonies (these colonies range in size from 50 to over 100 females) in which the females birth and raise their young together. In their natural habitat, these maternity colonies would be found in hollow trees or under peeling bark. But the little and big brown bats have discovered that human structure also provide good habitat.

Natural places for bats to roost are in hollows of dead standing trees, tree cavities, or under loose bark (like this little brown bat is utilizing).

It is possible to remove bats from a home with a bit of work and patience. The most effective way is exclusion, which involves identifying where the bats are entering the building and covering those access points with one-way exclusion devices. These devices allow bats to leave the building but not reenter. Patience is required to wait for the young to be able to fly on their own. If exclusion takes place before the young can fly, the mothers will be excluded and the young left inside to die. Therefore, excluding a bat colony in Ohio should never take place between May and August!

In July and August, new young of the year are testing out their wings and learning to fly. That means if you have a colony of bats in your home, towards the end of July into the early part of August you may notice a few more bats in your home than usual. These young bats haven't quite keyed in on their navigation skills, causing them to take a wrong turn that leads to your living room instead of outside!

A baby bat (called a pup). Do not handle bats unless it is absolutely necessary (in the case above, the young pup needed help returning to its colony). If you must handle a bat, be sure to wear thick work gloves to protect against bites. Photo courtesy Kim Baker.

Bat exclusion professionals are available for hire, but do-it-yourself instructions can be found here: [http://www.batcon.org/pdfs/binb/ExcludersGuidelines2014.pdf]. The biggest challenge if doing-it-yourself is identifying all the access points bats use to enter and exit a building. This often involves roof access and can be dangerous. For a list of wild animal control operators by county, some of which exclude bats, see:

[http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/Portals/wildlife/PDFs/Licenses%20&%20Permits/CNWACO%20Current%20License%20Holders.pdf].

Maternity colonies will return to the same place year after year to reproduce. If they are excluded, they will need to find another place to roost and their ferocious appetites will go with them. Consider putting up a bat house to keep them in the area. Bat house plans and instructions on where best to place them can be found here: [http://www.batcon.org/resources/getting-involved/bat-houses]. Bat houses are a good way to keep bats in the area after an exclusion has taken place.

Plant of the Week -Pokeweed

By: Amy Stone and Curtis E. Young
Source: https://bygl.osu.edu/node/2062

Pokeweed (Phytolacca americana) is a native herbaceous perennial that can grow 4 to 9 feet tall. It is considered to be an aggressive plant by some because of its ability to self-seed and become numerous in numbers and have weedy tendencies. While pokeweed is an adaptable type of plant, it does prefer a medium moisture, well drained site in full sun to partial shade. It does like and will perform better in a consistently moist soil, but it will tolerate short periods of drought.

The simple leaves tend to be a lighter shade of green, and will give off an unpleasant aroma when crushed. If only BYGL had scratch and sniff capabilities, or maybe not!

The leaves are attached to stems that are shades of reds and purples. As you can see, stems can grow to a substantial size in a single season as shown in the photos above and below.



Photo Credits: Amy Stone, OSU Extension - Lucas County & Curtis Young, OSU Extension - Van Wert County

If you cut lengthwise down the stem, you will find a chambered pith or cross section. Pokeweed flowers are small and could be called insignficant if not looked at closely, but only because the fruit is more colorful, larger and much more obvious.

Fertilized flowers soon produce the fruit that most people recognize. The berries on born on pink stalks and stems and begin as a light shade of green. Upon close inspection, the fruit resembles miniature stacking pumpkins - don't you agree? The fruit then turns from green to mauve, and finally to a dark purple as the fruit matures.

Despite what many could consider very attractive features, the plant is poisonous and can have be abundant prodigies. Some may even go as far and call it invasive, but because it is a native plant, it cannot be termed invasive.

Pokeweed has long been used as food and medicine, although all parts of the plant are considered poisonous. Young leaves are eaten after boiling in two changes of water to remove toxins. A wide variety of chemicals have been isolated from pokeweed that have antiviral and other medicinal properties. The berries are poisonous to humans, but are commonly used to make dye, and are a fall favored food for migrating birds.

It is always fun to learn more. In this case about a plant that some people love, and some people love to hate. As we were gathering information for the BYGL, we ran across an article written by Joseph Mooney and posted on the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Garden and Nichols Arboretum website (https://mbgna.umich.edu/native-plant-of-the-week-american-pokeweed/). He ended his native plant of the week post with: enjoy pokeweed from a distance, but think twice before planting it in your garden.

For additional information on pokeweed, check out this NC State FactSheet:
https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/phytolacca-americana/

If pokeweed in your world is a weed and needs to be managed, check out this FactSheet from Penn State:
https://extension.psu.edu/common-pokeweed-identification-and-management

Licking County Hosting Lambing & Kidding School

By: Dean Kreager

OSU Extension in Licking County and the Licking County Sheep Improvement Association are providing a Lambing and Kidding School on Thursday, October 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be no fee for this class, but we do require registration by October 17th. Call 740-670-5315 to make your reservation. The location will be the Licking Valley Church of Christ at 158 Dayton Rd NE, Newark OH 43055. With lambing and kidding seasons approaching, now is the time to prepare. Our class will discuss nutrition needs for nannies and ewes, pregnancy management from beginning to end and delivery techniques using hands on birthing simulators. Lunch will be included!

Beginner & Small Farm College in Coshocton

Source: https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2022/09/18/osu-extension-offering-beginner-small-farm-college-in-coshocton-and-greene-counties/

The Extension offices in Coshocton and Greene counties will be hosting the **2022 Beginner & Small Farm College** on October 24, 31 and November 7 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. This college is designed to help landowners examine potential ways to increase profits on their small acreage properties. The program is open to all new or aspiring farmers, new rural landowners, small farmers, and farm families.

During this college, participants will be challenged to develop realistic expectations for their new farm business. They will receive information on getting started, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of their property, and developing a farm business plan. Information on farm finances, insurance, liability, labor and marketing will be covered during the college. The topics included in this workshop include:

October 24th-Getting Started on Your New Farm Business

- Developing real-life expectations for your farm.
- Examining the available resources and opportunities for your property.
- Developing a farm business plan, including setting your family and farm mission, goals and objectives.
- An introduction to marketing and selling agricultural products.

October 31st–Money, Money, Money! Managing your Farm Finances

- Developing a family and farm balance sheet.
- Using enterprise budgets to project farm income.
- Recordkeeping for farm businesses and farm taxes.
- Managing family and farm income and expenses.

November 7th–There's More to Farming than Just Growing Stuff!

- Farm Management for New Farms
- Setting up your farm business, including choosing a business entity and obtaining employer identification numbers.
- Farm taxes.
- Obtaining farm financing.
- Insurance and liability for farms.
- Licenses and permits needed for a small farm business.
- Employer responsibilities related to farm labor and labor laws.

Farm Tour (Date & Location TBD)

Each site host will be planning a farm tour so participants can visit with a successful local farming operation to learn how they started and what they have learned during the development of their farm business.

Registration: The cost is $30 for the first person and $15 for each additional. Registration is limited to the first 50 registrants per location. Registration deadline is October 17th. There are two methods to register for this college. Registration on-line can be made at: go.osu.edu/smallfarmcollegereg Registration can also be made by mailing in a registration form to the site host for the location you plan to attend.

Mail Registrations for Coshocton County Site to:
OSU Extension –Coshocton County
c/o David Marrison
724 South 7thStreet, Room 110
Coshocton, OH 43812

Mail Registrations for Greene County Site to:
OSU Extension –Greene County
c/o Trevor Corboy
100 Fairground Road
Xenia, OH 45385

More Information:

For more information contact David Marrison at marrison.2@osu.edu or (740) 722-6073

Sheep Production Tour in Knox, Licking & Crawford Counties

By: Mark Badertscher, OSU Extension in Hardin County
Source: https://u.osu.edu/sheep/2022/09/27/2022-ohio-statewide-sheep-tour/

A statewide sheep production tour of Knox, Licking, and Crawford Counties has been planned for Ohio Sheep Producers the weekend of Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16, 2022. This year's tour is jointly sponsored by the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association and Hardin County OSU Extension. Join us for a drive your own, sheep production tour focusing on dry lot/confinement sheep operations. There will be four tour stops on this year's statewide tour, with each farm stop only being offered at the time listed.

The first farm stop will be at Cable Family Lamb Feedlot (10491 Canal Road, Hebron, Ohio 43025). This Licking County stop will be at 10:00 am Saturday, October 15. The Dave Cable family is the host of this stop which includes a large contract lamb finishing feedlot in Ohio feeding several thousand lambs from all over the United States. This farm has more recently added a dry lot/confinement ewe flock to produce additional lambs for the Cable Farms feedlot. Primary facilities include hoop buildings. Lunch will be on your own at 11:30 am.

The second stop on the tour will be Lone Pine Ranch (25267 Blanchard Road, Howard, Ohio 43028). This Know County stop will be at 1:00 pm Saturday, October 15. Greg and Bev Miller are the host of this stop which is in the prime sheep producing area of Knox County. Historically known for their pasture-based sheep production systems, but for the purpose of this production tour, we will be concentrating our educational efforts on their buildings and facilities, where they lamb out their 160 commercial ewe flock and feed out their own lambs for market.

The third stop on the tour will be Skyline Farms (14501 Skyline Drive, Danville, Ohio 43014). This Knox County stop will be at 3:00 pm Saturday, October 15. The Don Hawk family will be the host of this stop, which is a large contract lamb finishing feedlot in Ohio feeding several thousand lambs from all over the United States. This operation has more recently added a dry lot/confinement ewe flock to produce additional lambs for the Skyline Farms feedlot. The primary facilities include renovated turkey barns. There will be a scheduled overnight stay in the Mt. Vernon area. If you need hotel accommodations, contact Hardin County OSU Extension Educator Mark Badertscher at badertscher.4@osu.edu or 419-767-6037 for details. Dinner will be on your own.

The second day of the tour will feature a stop at Hartschuh Livestock (6348 Parks Road, Sycamore, Ohio 44882). This Crawford County stop will be at 10:30 am Sunday, October 16. The Greg Hartschuh family will be the host of this stop, which has recently added a dry lot/confinement commercial and Club Lamb operation in combination with their confinement dairy herd. The recently built confinement/lot building has new and innovative methods of feeding the ewe flock and concentrate many resources to high quality forages due to the dairy cattle part of the operation.

Producers and others who are interested in participating on this statewide sheep tour should register at https://www.ohiosheep.org/osia-programs.html#tour to let the tour hosts know how many people to expect at each stop. Hotel reservations need to be made in advance to assure room availability. Tour participants will be responsible for their own hotel room and meals.

2023 Coshocton/Tuscarawas Lamb & Wool Queen Sought

The Coshocton and Tuscarawas Lamb and Fleece Improvement Committee is now accepting applications for the 2023 Coshocton/Tuscarawas Lamb and Wool Queen. The duties of the queen are to promote the lamb and wool industries at fairs and festivals and special events.Candidates must be a youth who has an interest in the sheep industry and is a resident of either Coshocton or Tuscarawas County. The application is available online at coshocton.osu.edu or tuscarawas.osu.edu. Applications are also available at both Extension offices. They are due Friday, October 14 by 5:00 p.m. and interviews will take place Wednesday, October 19 at the Coshocton Extension Office beginning at 6:30 p.m. Applications can be found on-line at Coshocton.osu.edu or Tuscarawas.osu.edu. For more information contact David Marrison at 740-622-2265 or marrison.2@osu.edu

2023 For the Love of Lamb Dinner Tickets on Sale

The Coshocton and Tuscarawas Lamb and Fleece Improvement Committee is hosting the 6th Annual **"For the Love of Lamb Dinner"** on Saturday, November 5 beginning at 6:00 pm. The Chef Prepared Local Farm to Plate Dinner will be held at the Heritage Vineyard Winery near Warsaw. Tickets are $30.

The meal will be prepared by Chef Mike Cichon and will highlight the versatility of delicious lamb. Chef Cichon will share his inspiration for the meal as well as tips for cooking with lamb. Wine tastings will be available and Heritage Vineyard wine can be purchased separately for dinner. Raffle tickets for baskets filled with lamb and wool items are also available. Cost is $1 per ticket or 6 for $5. Raffle tickets may be purchased prior to the event, even if you do not attend the meal. Tickets may also be purchased at the dinner.

Meal tickets and raffle tickets may be purchased from the following committee members until sold out: Elaine Ashcraft at 740-622-1573, Nancy Wells at 740-754-1247 and David & Emily Marrison at 740-622-1179.

2022 Farmer and Farmland Owner Income Tax Webinar

By: Jeffrey K. Lewis, Esq., Program Coordinator, OSU Income Tax Schools & ANR Extension
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/mon-10102022-900am/2022-farmer-and-farmland-owner-income-tax-webinar

Are you a farmer or farmland owner wanting to learn more about the recent income tax law changes and proposals? If so, join us for this webinar on Thursday, November 17th, 2022, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Register for just $40. If you can't attend, you will be sent a link to view the recorded webinar later at your convenience. You have unlimited views of the replay, and it will be available throughout the 2022 tax filing season. Details and registration link can be found at: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/tax/farmer-and-farmland-owner-income-tax-webinar

This webinar will focus on issues related to farmer and farmland owner tax returns. This two-hour program will be presented in a live webinar format via Zoom by OSU Extension Educators Barry Ward, David Marrison and Jeff Lewis along with Purdue faculty member Dr. Michael Langemeier. Individuals who operate farms, own property, or are involved with renting farmland are encouraged to participate.

Topics to be discussed during the webinar include (subject to change based on tax law change):

- Farm Economy and Income in '22 and Outlook for '23
- Deferring Taxes (deferring income, prepaying expenses), Retirement Plan Contributions, Accelerating Depreciation, Bunching Itemized Deductions, Self-employment Tax Planning, and Maximizing Permanent Tax Benefits
- Depreciation, Bonus Depreciation, Section 179, What is "Placed in Service"?
- Income Averaging
- Employee Retention Credits
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
- State Tax Updates – Ohio and Indiana

To register: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/tax/farmer-and-farmland-owner-income-tax-webinar
For more information, contact Barry Ward at ward.8@osu.edu or Jeff Lewis at lewis.1459@osu.edu or call the OSU Extension Farm Office at 614-292-2433.

CFAES COLLEGE *of* FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, *and* ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Lambing and Kidding School

DATE & TIME
October 20, 2022
10:00-1:00

LOCATION
Licking Valley Church of Christ
158 Dayton Rd NE
Newark OH 43055

REGISTRATION
Call: 740-670-5315
Registration needed by Oct 17

- Granville Milling presentation on nanny and ewe nutrition
- Dr Sarah Preston from Bailey Veterinary Clinic speaking on early pregnancy management.
- Jacci Smith from OSU in Delaware County will be working with deliveries using birthing simulators.
- Lunch sponsored by Granville Mill

Brought to you by:

Licking County Sheep Improvement Association

Granville Milling Co. est. 1953

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

CFAES

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE

Re-certification Trainings for Livestock Producers

Coshocton County will be hosting two Beef Quality Assurance re-certification programs to allow beef and dairy producers to re-certify their beef quality assurance during the fall of 2022. Pre-registration is required for each session as space is limited.

Sessions Will Be Held:

Monday, October 10, 2022

or

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Coshocton County Services Building
724 South 7th Street - Room 145, Coshocton, OH 43812

Seating is limited, so please RSVP
Register by calling: 740-622-2265

Other Sessions are being offered in neighboring counties or can be completed on-line anytime at bqa.org.

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

COSHOCTON COUNTY EXTENSION

Registration Information

Limited to the first 50 registrants per location.
Registration deadline is October 17th.

Cost: $30 for the first person and $15 for each additional person.

Two methods to register:

1) Online with a credit card
Go to

2) Complete the registration form and mail it with a check to the site host for the location you plan to attend.

Coshocton County
OSU Extension – Coshocton County
c/o David Marrison
724 South 7th Street, Room 110
Coshocton, OH 43812

Greene County
OSU Extension – Greene County
c/o Trevor Corboy
100 Fairground Road
Xenia, OH 45385

2022 College Locations

Coshocton County
Roscoe Village Visitor's Center
Lock Landing Meeting Room
600 N. Whitewoman Street
Coshocton, OH 43812
Site Host: David Marrison
marrison.2@osu.edu or (740)722-6073

Greene County
Ohio State University Extension Office
Buckeye Room
Greene County Fairgrounds
100 Fairground Road
Xenia, OH 45385
Site Host: Trevor Corboy
corboy.3@osu.edu or (937)736-7203

We Sustain Life

Ohio State University Extension

Beginner & Small Farm Program

CFAES

2022 Beginner & Small Farm College

A Four-Part Series for Anyone with an Interest in Starting a New Farm Business

October 24th, 31st & November 7th

Coshocton & Greene County, Ohio

This college is designed to help landowners examine potential ways to increase profits on their small acreage properties. The program is open to all new or aspiring farmers, new rural landowners, small farmers, and farm families looking for new ideas.

During this college, participants will be challenged to develop realistic expectations for their new farm business. They will receive information on getting started, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of their property, and developing a farm business plan. Information on farm finances, insurance, liability, labor and marketing will be covered during the college.

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

2022 Beginner & Small Farm College Schedule

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

October 24th - Getting Started on Your New Farm Business

- Developing real-life expectations for your farm.
- Examining the available resources and opportunities for your property.
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- Developing a family and farm balance sheet.
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Farm Tour (Date & Location TBD)
Each site host will be planning a farm tour so participants can visit with a successful local farming operation to learn how they started and what they have learned during the development of their farm business.

Registration Form

Use for mail-in registrations only.
Limited to the first 50 registrants per location.
Registration deadline is October 17th.

Cost: $30 for the first person and $15 for each additional person.

◯ **Coshocton County**

◯ **Greene County**

Name: _____

Mailing Address:

_____

_____

Phone #: _____

Email Address:

_____

Names of additional attendees with your group:

_____

_____

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