

**COSHOCTON COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES****September 2, 2020 Issue**

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Hello, Coshocton County! Last week at this time we were hoping for rain. Well, we got plenty as at our place we received over 3 inches last week which pushed us to over 5 inches of rain for the month. This should really help soybean fill.

The foggy mornings and heavy dews are indicators that fall is on the way. I have also noticed how quickly sunset is coming. Each day the sun rises later and sets sooner. I saw a report that we are losing 2.5 minutes of daylight per day now. I am pleased that Jim Noel is predicting a relatively good fall weather season for Ohio.

A reminder the CFAP deadline has been extended to September 11. Purdue University also released their Ag Barometer report yesterday which shows some hints of optimism for agriculture. I would be interested in hearing how you are feeling about ag as we continue to move through 2020 - the year of disruption.

As we move into fall harvest, I would encourage you to think ahead about safety. I hope you review the article about adding tailgate safety meetings into your routine. A great fall is a safe fall! Take care and stay well!

Sincerely,

***David L. Marrison***

**Coshocton County OSU Extension ANR Educator**



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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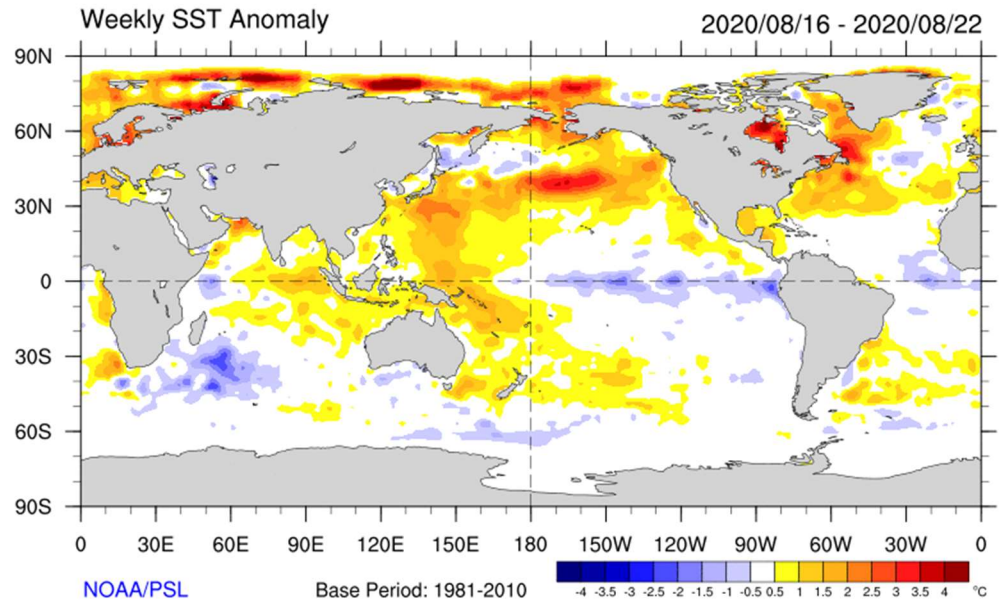
## ***Autumn Harvest Season Weather***

By: Jim Noel

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-29/we-now-turn-our-attention-autumn-harvest-season>

The cooler than normal blob of water in the eastern Pacific Ocean near the equator tends to push the first autumn freeze later than normal in our region. Therefore, there is no indication of an early freeze in September this year. It appears the first freeze for Ohio will not come until October either on schedule or a bit later than normal.

September looks to have the first half start cooler than normal followed by a return to normal temperatures for second half of the month. Precipitation will be normal or slightly above normal for September. Normal rainfall is currently 1-1.5 inches per two weeks dropping to about an inch per two weeks for the second half of September. Even though we expect rainfall at or slightly above normal in September, there is a great deal of uncertainty due to the tropics and where those systems will travel. So you will want to pay attention to later outlooks at: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>



Rainfall for the first half of September will average 0.50-2.00 inches. The heaviest rains will likely surround the state of Ohio in most directions.

October into part of November looks to resume the above normal temperatures which should create an extended autumn this year. Rainfall remains highly uncertain but it appears near normal is the most likely outcome for October and November as we have some climate models showing above normal and some below normal rainfall.

The early outlook for winter calls for above normal temperatures first half and below normal temperatures second half. Precipitation is likely to become above normal with potential influences from the tropical Pacific Ocean.

## ***Herbicide Residue Considerations for Fall Cover Crop Establishment***

by: Alyssa Essman & Mark Loux

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-29/herbicide-residue-considerations-fall-cover-crop-establishment>

Herbicides with residual that are used in corn and soybeans can affect the establishment of fall-planted cover crops, and should be taken into account when planning cover crop practices and selecting species. Soil characteristics and weather also play a role in the persistence of residual herbicides, which can vary by field and year. More information is needed on rotational intervals for many cover crop species, and this information is often not included on herbicide labels. University weed scientists have studied the effect of residual herbicides on some of the most popular cover crop species in order to provide this information to growers. In general, residual herbicides that control grass weeds can hinder establishment of grass cover crop species.

Broadleaf cover crop species are most impacted by group 2 (ALS inhibitors), 5 (PSII inhibitors), 14 (PPO inhibitors), and 27 (HPPD inhibitors) herbicides (Purdue University).

A multi-state study found that the general order of sensitivity of cover crops to herbicide carryover, from greatest to least sensitive, is:

- Tillage radish > Austrian winter pea > crimson clover = annual ryegrass > winter wheat = winter oats > hairy vetch = cereal rye.

Soybean herbicides that tended to be most injurious were:

- Fomesafen, pyroxasulfone, imazethapyr, acetochlor, and sulfentrazone.

Corn herbicide treatments that were most injurious to cover crops were:

- Topramezone, mesotrione, clopyralid, isoxaflutole, pyroxasulfone, and nicosulfuron
- (University of Missouri).



Below is a table of commonly used corn and soybean herbicides, the fall cover crops that are safe to plant in rotation, and cover crop species that may be injured following these herbicides (Adapted from Lingenfelter D. and Curran W., Penn State University).

Herbicide	Fall cover crops: safe to plant	Fall cover crops: potential for injury
2,4 - D	All grasses	30 days before sensitive broadleaves
nicosulfuron/ nicosulfuron+ rimsulfuron	Fall cereal grains, ryegrass	Small-seeded legumes*, mustards, sorghum
topramezone	Wheat, barley, oats, rye, and ryegrass after 3 months	Many broadleaves are restricted, does not have much soil activity
atrazine	Sorghum species	Cereals, ryegrass, legumes, and mustards
isoxaflutole	Fall cereals grains	Cereals, ryegrass, legumes, and mustards
mesotrione	All grasses	Small-seeded legumes, mustards
tembotrione + thiencarbazone	Wheat, triticale, rye	Small-seeded legumes, mustards, sorghum
dicamba	All crops	Only at high rates or less than 120 days after application
isoxaflutole + thiencarbazone	Wheat, triticale, rye	Small-seeded legumes, mustards, sorghum
metolachlor	Almost anything	Annual ryegrass or other small-seeded grasses
glyphosate	All	None
paraquat	All	None
thifensulfuron	No restrictions for wheat, barley, and oats	None with 45-day waiting interval
acetochlor	Most crops should be fine	Food or feed residues rather than crop injury a concern



tembotrione	Cereal grains after 4 months	Unknown; small-seeded legumes, mustards could be a problem
glufosinate	All	Food or feed residues rather than crop injury a concern
metribuzin	Cereal grains and ryegrass	Slight risk for small-seeded legumes and mustards
dimethenamid	Most crops should be fine	Food or feed residues rather than crop injury a concern
prosulfuron	Cereal grains and sorghum are labeled, other grasses	Small-seeded legumes, mustards
halosulfuron	Cereal grains and sorghum after 2 mo., other grasses	Small-seeded legumes, mustards
pendimethalin	Cereal grains	Small-seeded legumes and annual ryegrass
flumetsulam	Cereal grains	Small-seeded legumes, mustards, and annual ryegrass
rimsulfuron	Based on short half-life, most fall cover crops should be OK	None
saflufenacil	All	None
simazine	Sorghum species	Cereals, ryegrass, legumes, and mustards
clopyralid	All grasses	Small-seeded legumes
pyroxasulfone	Most crops should be fine	Food or feed residues rather than crop injury a concern
quizalofop	Most broadleaves	All grasses if less than 120 days or at high rates
sulfentrazone	Cereals and ryegrass	Small-seeded legumes, mustards, sorghum
chlorimuron	Cereals and ryegrass	Small-seeded legumes, mustards, sorghum
cloransulam	Wheat, triticale, rye	Small-seeded legumes, mustards, sorghum
imazethapyr	Wheat, triticale, rye, alfalfa, clover	Oats, sorghum, mustards
flumetsulam	Cereal grains	Small-seeded legumes, mustards, and annual ryegrass
imazamox	Wheat, triticale, rye, alfalfa, clovers	Slight risk for mustards
fomesafen	Cereal grains	Small-seeded legumes, mustards, sorghum
imazaquin	Cereal grains	Small-seeded legumes, mustards
clethodim	All broadleaves	None assuming at least 30 days
saflufenacil	All	None
flumioxazin	All grasses	Small-seeded legumes and mustards

Cover crops provide a multitude of benefits and their use is becoming an increasingly popular practice in Ohio. Including cover crops in rotation with agronomic crops to realize these benefits costs time and money. It is important to evaluate the potential risk of herbicide residue on the establishment of cover crops in order to ensure success. Residual herbicides applied at the time of planting typically interfere with cover crop establishment less than those applied POST. Weather can affect the persistence of herbicides also, especially rainfall in summer. The risk of residual herbicides affecting cover establishment will be higher in areas that have been dry since herbicide application. Risk will be lower where the herbicide application was followed by some wet weather to get herbicide degradation started, compared with an application during prolonged dry weather. One of the least problematic cover crop species is cereal rye, which can be successfully established following a late corn or soybean harvest, and is tolerant to a most of the most commonly used corn and soybean herbicides. Weed control should continue to be the priority in selecting herbicides, and cover crop species selection should be based on potential injury and goals for the use of cover crops. The introductory section of the “Weed Control Guide for Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois” has some of the same information presented here, and OSU weed scientists also summarize this in a video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIrl0zGnXMfs>

The following resources contain information on residual herbicides and cover crops also:

- <https://extension.psu.edu/corn-herbicides-and-rotation-to-cover-crops>
- <https://extension.psu.edu/soybean-herbicides-and-rotation-to-cover-crops>
- <https://ipm.missouri.edu/IPCM/2020/3/coverCropTermination-KB/>
- <https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/weedscience/Documents/covercropcarryover.pdf>

## ***Should Tailgate Safety Meetings Be Part of Your Routine?***

Source: <https://agsafety.osu.edu/programs/cfaes-osh/tailgate-safety-training-employees>

Conducting regular safety meetings is a key component of any organized workplace safety program. One very effective method is to conduct tailgate safety training on a regular basis. Basically, “tailgate” safety training is a system of short, frequent, safety training sessions. Tailgate Safety sessions are generally held daily or weekly depending on the workplace, and sessions should last no longer than 20 minutes. By keeping the sessions short (10 to 20 minutes) farm owners can keep the employees’ interest, minimize the loss of production time, and make the training session easy to conduct with a minimum of preparation. By making them frequent (every 7 to 10 days) safety can stay on the mind of employees and help demonstrate your concern for the employees well-being. Even more importantly they can help reduce the number of accidents that your employees experience.

Over 80 areas of concern have been identified in agricultural safety. Training materials have been developed for each of these areas by OSU Extension’s Agricultural Safety & Health Program. It is a good idea to get into a habit of presenting the safety topic once a week on the same day. For example, every Wednesday morning before your crew starts work. Avoid giving the safety training on days when employees may not be fully attentive; for example, Monday mornings, Friday afternoons, or on paydays. Modules can be repeated if employees need a refresher session. With each training unit is a sign-up sheet and a short true and false quiz. This is an excellent way of documenting your safety training program. By having copies of the sign-up sheet, and completed and signed true/false quizzes, you can document your employees’ participation and their understanding of the material. Topic ideas for tailgate safety training can be found at:

Agricultural Tailgate Safety Training (2019 Ohioline Version) - English  
<https://agsafety.osu.edu/sites/agsafety/files/imce/T-Manual-Body.pdf>

Agricultural Tailgate Safety Training: Trainer Manual  
<https://agsafety.osu.edu/sites/agsafety/files/imce/All-Modules-1.pdf>

Agricultural Tailgate Safety Training Modules (85 topic modules)  
<https://agsafety.osu.edu/sites/agsafety/files/imce/All-Modules-1.pdf>

## ***Keeping Agri-Tourism Employees Healthy this Season***

by: Dee Jepsen , Lisa Pfeifer, Eric Barrett, Rob Leeds, Peggy Hall & Brad Bergefurd

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2020/08/31/keeping-agritourism-employees-healthy-this-season/>

Agritourism operations need to go above and beyond to plan for safe operations of their farms during the COVID-19 pandemic. The public is looking forward to participating in traditional autumn activities, especially when they know health practices are being followed by the venue.

Employees are a critical piece to any business. When key employees are 'out sick', the agritourism activities may be affected or not offered at all. Employers will want to safeguard their small staff during the pandemic to ensure they are providing the necessary protection for their staff, as well as their agritourism guests.

### Worker safety starts with good workplace practices.

Start with the basics. All staff should practice the CDC guidelines of washing hands, wearing masks, keeping six feet physical distance, and staying home when sick. Additional precautions include:

- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer for remote locations.
- Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible.
- Use disposable paper towels. There should be no shared towels, including shop rags.
- Discourage sharing of any food or beverages.
- Establish protocols for sanitizing common gathering places like the shop, lunch areas, and offices spaces. Cleaning and disinfecting high touch areas, like door handles, phones, 2-way radios, keyboards, light switches, monitors/touchpads, faucets/sinks, and restroom areas.
- Avoid ride sharing in company vehicles, when possible.

### Schedule employees to work in teams.

Employers should look at the functions of the total operation. Creating workforce teams or 'pods' can help ensure an operation minimizes the impacts should a worker become ill or test positive for the coronavirus. Try to schedule these employees to work together without co-mingling the pods. This will reduce the risk of quarantining the entire workforce, in the event someone within a pod becomes ill or tests positive for the coronavirus.

Levels of risk will differ with different job descriptions. By thinking in advance, it will be possible to make appropriate plans for employee work shifts and have protective mechanisms in place for high exposure areas.

- Group employees according to their contact with the general public, on-site service providers, or other co-workers. Manage employee schedules without overlapping work crews who work in the different areas of the operation. For example, keep the pick-your-own field staff in separate teams from the employees who handle checkout and re-stocking at the store.
- You may also consider grouping employees based on their demographics or their personal environments. Do some of your employees face high exposure risks at home because of a spouse's work setting? Is it possible to group younger workforces together to minimize exposure to senior workers, or workers who are caregivers to elderly or susceptible family members?

### Establish an employee health reporting system

Create a plan for how daily health checks and reporting illness will be handled. Discuss these procedures with employees. Workers that are experiencing COVID symptoms may be contagious. Follow your local health department requirements by asking sick employees to stay home or self-quarantine from the rest of the farm workforce.

- Create a health screening assessment questionnaire and have employees take their temperature before reporting to work. Ask employees to stay home if they have any symptoms or temperature over 100.4°F.
- Encourage employees to reduce out-of-state travel, participation in mass-group events (weddings, funerals, graduations, etc.), and practice recommendations from state for social distancing in their off-

work environments.

- Send sick employees to get tested as soon as possible to minimize the 'wait period' for test results. Treat employees who are feeling sick or waiting for test results the same, and assume they are positive for coronavirus.

#### Prepare a business continuity plan.

Have a plan in place to accommodate a reduction in workforce. If employees are not available to work, identify which activities will be closed or managed differently. When management is not available to work, have a contingency plan for keeping the operation open.

- Are employees cross-trained to do handle additional tasks?
- Are keys available to barns and gates and equipment?
- Do employees have access to the all needed information, like passwords to important accounts?

#### OSU Extension Bulletin Forthcoming

OSU Extension has prepared a guidance bulletin to help farms develop their plans. The guide is based on publications from the state of Ohio, the CDC and others. The guide is in the final stage of the approval process and will be available in the coming days. This guide can be used to develop opening plans or update existing plans for agritourism operations. To watch for updates on the guide, we encourage farms to subscribe to our Ohio Ag Manager Blog at <http://ohioagmanager.osu.edu/>

### ***Farmer Sentiment Rebounds as Commodity Prices Rally and Agriculture Trade Prospects Improve***

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

Source: <https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/ageconomybarometer/farmer-sentiment-rebounds-as-commodity-prices-rally-and-agriculture-trade-prospects-improve/>

Farmer sentiment improved markedly in August as the Purdue University-CME Group Ag Economy Barometer rose to a reading of 144, 26 points higher than a month earlier. The improvement in producer sentiment was the result of improved perceptions regarding current conditions and, especially, better expectations for the future. The Index of Current Conditions rose 13 points in August to a reading of 124 while the Index of Future Expectations rose 33 points to a reading of 154. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. This month's survey was conducted from August 17-21, 2020.

The barometer and its two sub-indices all posted their most positive readings since February 2020 when record highs were established and before the pandemic began. The improvement in farmer sentiment this month was underpinned by expectations for excellent crop yields, as indicated in USDA's August Crop Production report, and nearly across the board rallies in key ag commodity prices that took place in August. For example, compared to lows established in early August corn, soybean, wheat, cattle and hog prices all rallied during August.

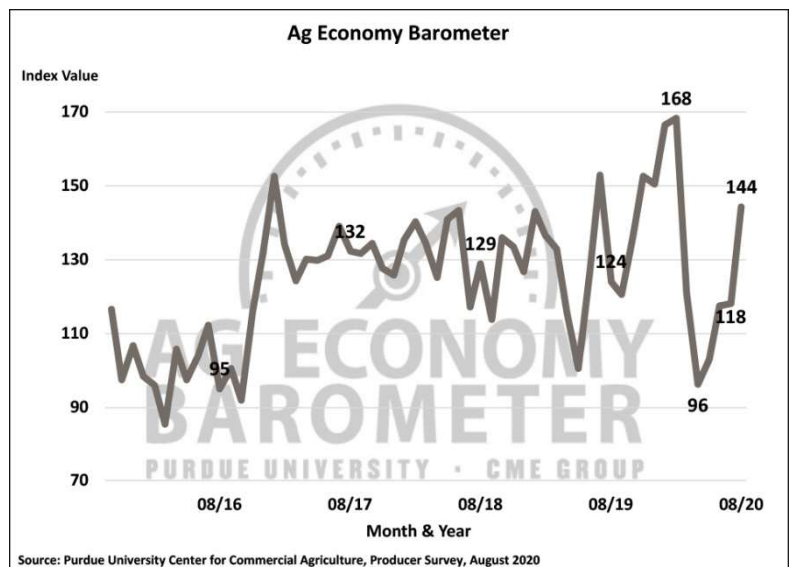


Figure 1. Purdue/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer, October 2015-August 2020.

The Farm Capital Investment Index rose 5 points compared to a month earlier to a reading of 65 which, similar to the other indices, was the most positive reading since February. When asked specifically about plans to purchase farm machinery in the upcoming year, fewer farmers (48 percent) in August reported that they plan to reduce their purchases this year than in prior months. It is worth noting that while 48 percent is a high percentage of farmers who plan to hold back on machinery purchases, this percentage has been declining since reaching a peak of 65 percent in May.

Farmers became more optimistic about farmland values this month compared to July. When asked about their short-run (12-month) outlook, the percentage of producers expecting farmland values to increase rose to 20 percent from 16 percent in July and compares to just 7 percent who expected higher values back in April. Producers longer-run perspective on farmland values was also more optimistic this month than last. When the same question was posed on the survey with a 5-year time horizon instead of a 12-month horizon, the percentage of producers expecting values to increase rose to 59 percent from 48 percent in July and just 40 percent who expected higher values back in May.

Farmers also became more optimistic about U.S. agriculture's trade prospects in August. For the last several months the percentage of farmers reporting that they expect U.S. agricultural exports to increase over the next five years ranged from 55 to 57 percent. In August, the percentage of producers expecting exports to rise spiked to 67 percent.

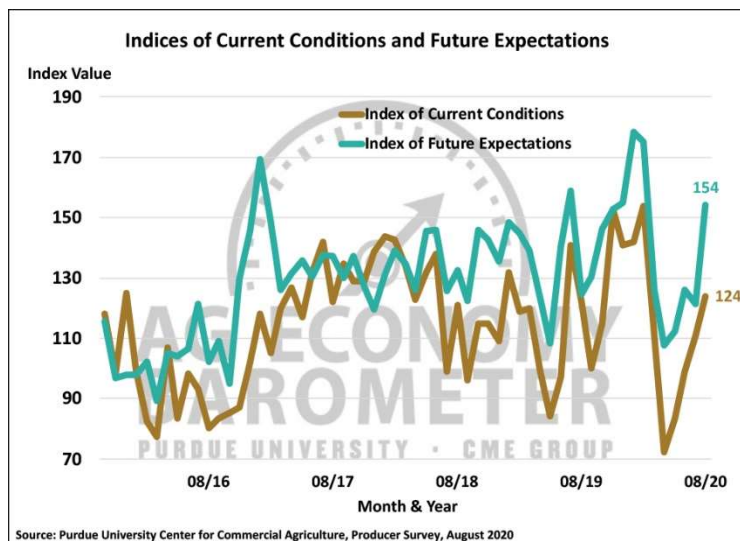
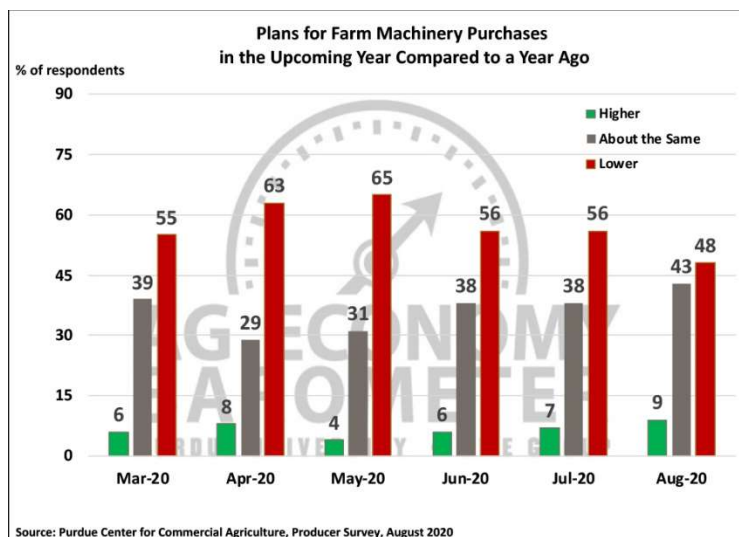
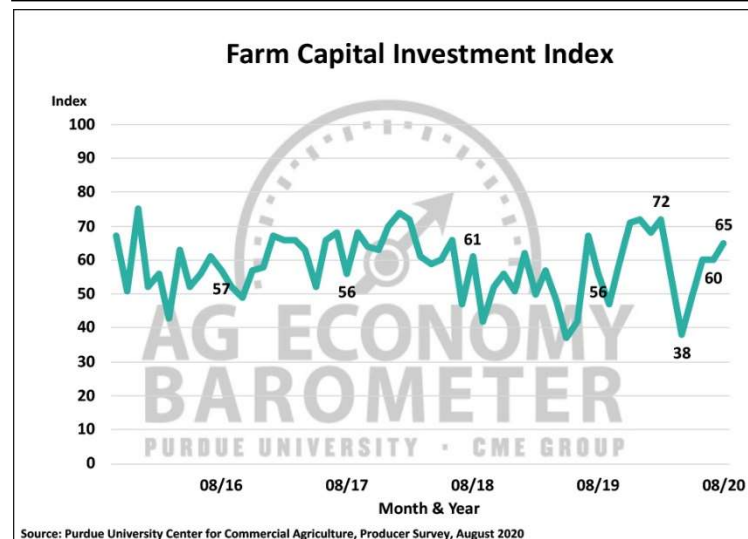


Figure 2. Indices of Current Conditions and Future Expectations, October 2015-August 2020 (above).

Figure 3. Farm Capital Investment Index, October 2015-August 2020 (below)



Although this is still less optimistic than in late 2019 and early 2020 when 70 to 72 percent of respondents said they expected to see ag exports increase, it was a notable departure in sentiment when compared to the April to July time frame and could be based in part on rising export sales to China this summer.

Figure 4. Plans for Farm Machinery Purchase in the Upcoming Year Compared to a Year Ago, March-August 2020.



Each summer we've been asking survey respondents their opinion regarding changes in farmers' equity position over the upcoming year. We first posed this question in August 2016 and have included it on the survey each August since that time. The percentage of respondents in the August 2020 survey who expect equity to decline in the upcoming 12 months, while still large at 38 percent, was the second lowest percentage since we launched our farmer survey and was well below a year earlier when 48 percent of respondents said they expected farmers' equity to decline.

Many in-person educational programs and field days are transitioning to virtual events because of COVID-19 concerns. In our August survey, just one out of five (19%) of respondents said they attended a virtual field day or conference this summer, while 44 percent of producers said they are interested in attending a virtual conference or field day this fall or winter. When we asked respondents for their top reason for not attending a virtual educational event this summer, their responses were quite varied and ranged from lack of interaction with attendees (18%) to don't have a computer (9%), poor broadband (9%) or too difficult to ask questions (6%). But over half of respondents told us there were "other reasons" why they chose not to attend that were not included in the list of responses we provided.

### Wrapping Up

Farmer sentiment rebounded in August as the Ag Economy Barometer rose 26 points from a month earlier to a reading of 144. Producers were more optimistic about current conditions in agriculture and especially about the future as the Future Expectations Index climbed 33 points from July to a reading of 154. All three indices reached their highest level since record highs were established back in February. Expectations for excellent crop yields this year combined with price rallies during August for most agricultural commodities underpinned this month's sentiment improvement. Producers also indicated they were more optimistic about agricultural exports increasing than in recent months, perhaps as a result of recent news about additional export sales to China. As a result of COVID-19, many educational programs are transitioning to virtual events. Just nineteen percent of survey respondents said they attended a virtual field day or conference this summer, but nearly half (44%) of respondents said they are interested in attending a virtual event this fall or winter.

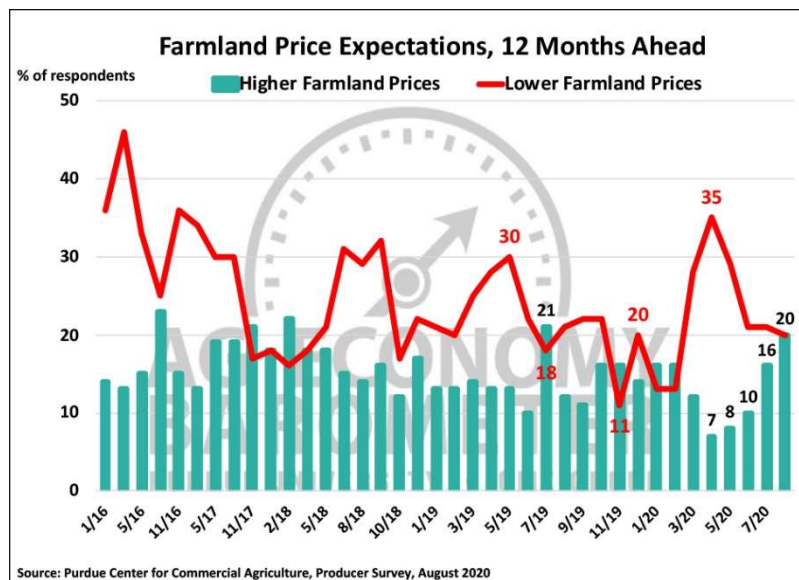
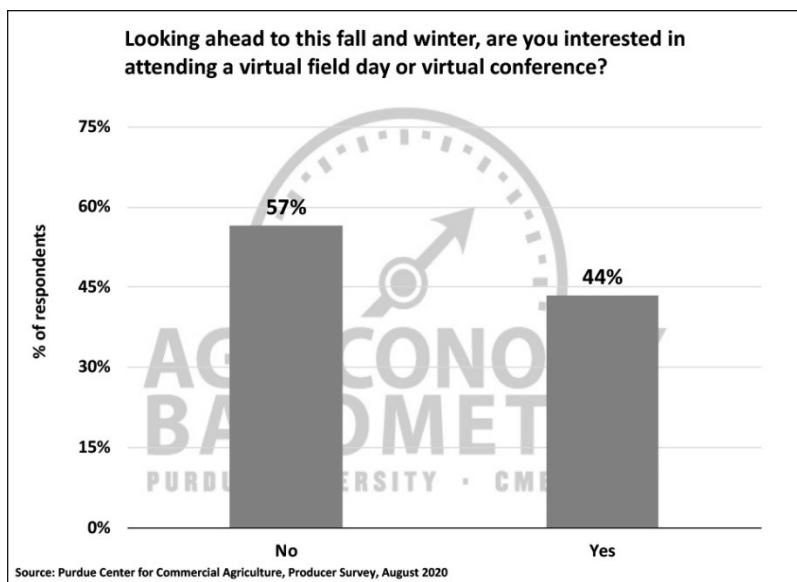


Figure 5. Farmland Price Expectations, 12 Months Ahead, January 2016-August 2020 (above)

Figure 6. Are You Interested in Attending a Virtual Field Day or Conference?, August 2020.(below)



## ***CFAP Deadline Extended until September 11, 2020***

Are you a farmer or rancher whose operation has been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic? The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. If so and you have not made an application with the Farm Service Agency, there is still time as USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue announced on August 11 that the deadline to apply for CFAP has been extended to September 11. The original application deadline was August 28, 2020.

While most USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, FSA is working with producers by phone and using email and online tools to process CFAP applications. Complete details about CFAO can be obtained at: <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>

A few notable additions have occurred recently which are notable. These include:

- In response to comments and data received by the public, USDA announced on July 9 that it would make more than 40 additional specialty crop commodities eligible for the program. Nearly 60 additional commodities were announced on August 11, including additions to specialty crops and livestock along with the inclusion of nursery crops and cut flowers, aquaculture, and certain types of eggs.
- USDA announced CFAP eligibility of sheep greater than two years of age on August 11 as a result of data and comments submitted by the public through the Notice of Funding Availability.

## ***When the Art & Science of Grazing May Not Match***

By: [Chris Penrose](#), Extension Educator, Morgan County (originally published in [The Ohio Cattleman](#))

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/09/02/when-the-art-and-science-of-grazing-may-not-match/#more-9357>

I remember the first forage presentation I did in Perry County back in 1989 and I have spent my life professionally and personally working with forages. When we started teaching grazing schools in the early 90's, one of the foundational topics taught was the basics of Management Intensive Grazing and those principles include no seed heads, rest periods, and short duration grazing. That is the science, how about the art?

I remember Lorin Sanford, our OSU Extension Beef Specialist saying to me almost 40 years ago that "It is the eye of the master that fattens the cow." That is the art. In our environment with so many things that go on, sometimes the art is more important than the science and sometimes the science even supports the art. For example, we talk about rotating from one paddock to the next, but not all are created equal. I have several that are drought prone which I may skip in dry weather and I have one paddock that is a piece of bottom ground that is extremely productive that I often graze twice as much. That is the soil science supporting the art of grazing. That same paddock is also subject to flooding and twice in my life I have seen that bottom completely covered with deep rushing water. When rain is forecast and the cows are due to go in, I skip that field.

Then three years ago when I had three cows go down and about died, we finally figured out it was buckeye poisoning, so when the nuts start falling off the trees in September, I skip the paddock with the most buckeye trees for a month. I even just stockpile it now and graze it after the other paddocks are done for the season. How about non forage factors that can influence our grazing? During deer gun season, the cattle used to get nervous. I have one paddock that is surrounded completely by other paddocks on the farm. That is where I put them in case something happens and if they break through the fence, they only end up in another paddock. When I go on vacation, I may "cheat" a day or two in either direction keeping cattle in some paddocks to have them in the ones that will cause my neighbor the least amount of grief when he watches them.

I have about one half of my paddocks on one side of the farm and the rest on the other side. When I move them to each side, I have trained the cattle to go into the holding pen of the working facility, I close the gate, then I walk to the other side and open the other gate to a new paddock and let them out. When I need to work cattle on a certain date, I may keep them a day more or less in a paddock before we move them to be worked, and they think they are simply getting moved and go quietly into the pen. A one-person, stress free operation.

You don't happen to have a neighbor with that straggly multibreed dairy/beef bull do you? If so, you may want to skip that paddock that he is next to before you are ready to breed your cattle.

Then there is the field you just sprayed for invasive weeds. Do you need to skip a rotation before the grazing restriction expires? How about the cherry tree that fell a few days ago and there are still some leaves drying out in the paddock?

When it gets very dry does the paddock still have water? Do you need to have two paddocks open if you do not have portable fence or water to allow for adequate water for the cattle?

When it is time to wean, do you keep the cows in the paddock by the barn for an extra day or two where the calves are at? When I first started raising cattle, I made the mistake of putting the cattle on the other end of the farm from the calves when I weaned. After repairing a lot of fence, I decided they could hear bawling calves better than me.



Then there is the science for the inconsistent moving from paddock to paddock. When they are growing too fast, we can skip one or more and use for hay during the spring and summer. Later in the summer and fall, we can also skip some paddocks if they are growing faster than they can be grazed and stockpile for grazing later in the fall and winter.

I believe we have sound science in our grazing management principles which is a guideline for us to follow. We also have unique circumstances on our farm and in our lives that make not always following those guidelines the best decision for us. However, if we keep the science in mind, the art will work much better!

## ***Six Post Pandemic Food Predictions***

by [Rhonda Brooks](#)

Source: <https://www.agweb.com/article/6-post-pandemic-food-predictions>

Originally published Aug 26, 2020

Danielle Nierenberg spends her days thinking about food and how to help people who don't have enough of it get access to more. "I like to highlight stories of hope and success in the food system, both internationally and domestically," says Nierenberg, co-founder of Food Tank, a research and advocacy organization based in Baltimore, Md.

Nierenberg recently made six food-related predictions she anticipates for the next 12 months:

1. Grocery delivery service will triple.
2. Food delivery will also triple.
3. Around 85% of independent restaurants will likely go out of business.
4. Food workers will unionize.
5. Sustainable food business will continue to disrupt food, as growth of direct-to-consumer models continues.
6. Community supported agriculture (CSAs) will experience growth tenfold.

Vulnerabilities of the supply chain, exposed during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, have heightened Nierenberg's concern regarding consumers' access to high-quality food. She says new methods for connecting food to people in need must be developed.



“There’s going to be a transformation in how we think about the way our food and agriculture systems work,” she says. “That includes how workers and farmers are treated and valued. Farmers in North America have had a rough time over the last few years, and the pandemic has only made it worse.” While abundant sources of healthy, nutritious food exist in many parts of the U.S., some areas are underserved, creating “inequity and inequality” for people, Nierenberg says. She experienced that firsthand growing up in rural, eastern Missouri, near Defiance.

“When I was a kid, we used to drive 45 minutes to the grocery store because we lived way, way out in the country, and that’s still the same for a lot of people in both rural and urban areas,” she says. Nierenberg was named the 2020 Julia Child Award recipient for her focus on food security.



## Online Grocery Delivery and Pickup Booms

U.S. online grocery sales hit a record \$7.2 billion in June, with 35% of customers ordering groceries online or for pickup.

	AUGUST 2019	MARCH 2020	APRIL 2020	MAY 2020	JUNE 2020
<b>SALES</b> Billions	\$1.2	\$4.0	\$5.3	\$6.6	\$7.2

SOURCE: BRICK MEETS CLICK AND MERCATUS

## *Is it Time for the Dairy Industry to Change & Adapt?*

By David Marrison, Extension Educator

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Hello, Northeast Ohio! As many of you know, I grew up on a dairy farm. If it is one thing you learn about cows is that they don’t like change. Most dairy cows are the happiest when there is consistency. They want the same food each day. They prefer to be milked at the same time and even lie in the same stall each and every day. They will follow the same path in the pasture and will get startled when something is in their path that wasn’t there the day before.

I, like the cows I grew up with, struggle at times with change. I stated a few months ago that the only certainty which exists right now is uncertainty. The coronavirus has made us change many of our daily habits and routines. If I was a cow, I would be completely flustered by now. But one of the blessings of the pandemic is that it has caused most of us to pause and reflect a bit. In some respect, it has brought us back to simpler times or allowed us to regain our focus on what truly is important.

For me, life since March has taken me back to my childhood. Growing up on a dairy farm meant that social distancing was just our way of life. We didn’t go out to eat as there were only 2 fast food restaurants in the entire county. We went to the grocery store maybe twice per month and went shopping for clothes right before school started each year. We stayed home and worked. We were tele-working before it was cool.





We raised our own meat and grew most of our vegetables in a huge family garden. We grew and canned every vegetable you can imagine. We had a yellow transparent apple tree which supplied enough applesauce for every family for miles around. My parents never had to worry about us being distracted by technology as we had a “party line” phone and our neighbor Marion was always on it. Our one television got only three stations and the highlights of our TV time was watching the daily news, Little House on the Prairie, and 60 Minutes. Our one social event for the week was going to church every Sunday morning.

Dairy farmers have always been good at social distancing; however even the most seasoned introvert might admit they are missing social interaction. And when we can socially interact, this too has changed. Masks, six-foot separation, no big crowds, and no handshakes or hugs.

The COVID pandemic has also created issues in all sectors of agriculture including dairy. The fall, rise, and fall of cheese and milk prices would push a 9.0 on a roller coaster rating scale. Then just for good measure, 2020 has thrown in milk dumping and two of the largest negative producer price differentials (PPD) we have ever witnessed. Can you imagine what this fall might bring?

As a dairy industry, how can we make systemic change to help address some of the processing sector weaknesses exposed by the coronavirus pandemic? As I talk with processors and dairy farmers alike, it appears it is time to work together to overhaul the federal milk marketing order (FMMO) milk pricing system. Especially with regards to the change in the Class I pricing formula involving Class III and IV.

COVID-19 has also showed the chink in the armor for both our meat and dairy processing sectors. The shutdown of schools and restaurants caused a pivot from institutional and food service production to meeting the increased retail fluid demand. There was a plenty of milk and consumer demand but an inability to deliver. The government has stepped in with federal COVID-19 assistance. However, we need to take a deeper look into policies/assistance which severely effect the normal supply and demand of dairy products causing greater instability and uncertainty.

I guess there is a lot for the dairy industry to chew our cud on. Cash flow, PPD, FMMO, and planning for the next COVID-like disruption. It is easy to stay in our comfort zone, just like our dairy cows. Now is a great opportunity to evaluate, reinvent, experiment, double down on a new business strategy, and to come together as a dairy industry. In short, let’s make sure we don’t waste a good pandemic.

