Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Welcome to August! We have received some fortunate rains in NE Ohio with the rest of the state being very dry. You can read more about that in today’s newsletter.

Also check out the second article on Spotted Lanternfly. The pest’s host plant is the Tree of Heaven (see above) and it’s important we keep an eye out for this pest as it gets closer to Ohio. You can always call or email us a picture to help identify.

Finally, if you receive unsolicited seeds in the mail please report it. You can schedule a time to drop them off at our offices and we will send them to the ODA.

Have a great week everyone!
Farming is truly risky business. Every moment of every day on the farm holds inherent risk. The main duties of the farm manager in any sector are to identify, evaluate, and mitigate risk. All the little steps of risk mitigation add up to make a big difference that we can’t always see, but can still save us time, money, and distress in the future.

One of the risks forage managers face on a regular basis is the threat of persistent weeds. Weeds are an issue that compound over time if not addressed soon after detection. Choosing to make the investment in weed prevention and control early can help prevent exponential population growth that is increasingly difficult to manage.

Any plant in the wrong place can be considered a weed, but not all weeds are created equal as threats in forage production. The more you know about weeds, forage, and soil health the more complex weed management and weed risk analysis becomes. All plants offer some benefit to an ecosystem, but we must weigh the benefits against the risks when we develop a weed management program in grazing and hay systems.

Step one in your weed risk analysis process is to identify the weeds in your system. Forage crops are often a diverse mix of plants and it can be challenging to identify a plant as friend or foe. What seems like a weed to you may be a flower to your neighbor. In a forage system, weeds are plants that can cause health issues for livestock and/or out compete desirable plants for nutrients, sunlight, and square footage. Identifying the suspect weed by species is the only way to proceed to step two. To identify a weed, pay attention to plant traits including:

- Site preference- soil moisture, terrain, sunlight?
- Growth habit- climbing, upright, or creeping?
- Woody or herbaceous- when traced back to the root, are the stems woody or soft?
- Leaves, stems, and flowers- shape, size, color, hairs, thorns, secretions, scent?
- Roots- depth, connected roots above or below ground, shape, and color?

Step two is to evaluate the risk associated with the weed. Evaluate potential threats including:

- Toxicity to livestock- if so, at what levels, and what circumstances?
- Allelopathy to surrounding plants- secretions that kill competitors.
• Seed production- seed deposition leads to exponential growth.
• Seed persistence- how long can seed stay viable in the soil?
• Lifecycle- annual (summer or winter), perennial (cool or warm season), or biennial?
• Rhizomes, stolons, and suckers- are there other methods of reproduction or regeneration, besides seed production?
• Site preferences- soil fertility, texture, and moisture, sunlight, tilled or no-till?

Step three is to mitigate the associated risk of the weed.

A. Consider why the weed is there and correct issues that may have led to establishment. These could include:
   • Fertility issues with the site that prohibit desirable plants from succeeding
   • Bare spots in the field from animal/machinery traffic or water flow
   • Introduction of seed by the wind, wildlife, machinery, or contaminated hay/seed/manure

B. Use an integrated pest management program to reduce the population. These strategies include a combination of:
   • Cultural control- strategic mowing, hand pulling, fertilizer application, tillage, and/or reseeding competitive beneficial plants
   • Biological control- strategic grazing if the weeds are edible, but still threatening
   • Chemical control- selective and safe use of approved herbicides to suppress weed growth and allow competing beneficial plants to regain ground

C. Evaluate the cost of each control method, both from the standpoint of production loss, upfront cost, and payback period. Financial analysis should answer these questions:
   • Can we afford this treatment (fertilizer, herbicide, new seeding)?
   • Can we afford to do nothing? How much estimated revenue has been lost from the weed competition and/or health complications of livestock?

Your local county ANR Educator can help you through a weed risk assessment and provide research-based consultation on mitigation techniques. Each forage system is unique and is best evaluated on a case by case basis. Please don’t hesitate to contact us for assistance even during COVID-19.
Some general advice when you are questioning a weed is: When in doubt, pull it out.

Wear gloves if you are concerned about potential skin reactions and collect as much of the specimen in question as possible. Photograph the weed from far away and close. Send the photos to your local extension service (or set up an appointment to meet if possible). Thoroughly describe the features listed in step one for the best chances of quick and accurate identification.

Don’t Forget!

- Landowners of Noble, Guernsey, Muskingum, and Morgan County are still eligible to apply for cost recovery funds to treat spotted knapweed in pasture and hayfields. County Soil and Water Districts and OSU Extension are active partners in the program. The Spotted Knapweed Treatment for Ohio Producers (STOP) Project is funded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP), which is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

- While forage crops do not qualify for payment through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, cattle and sheep do. Eligible farmers from any state and any county in the U.S. can apply for CFAP through their local Farm Service Agency to receive a payment for commodity losses due to the pandemic. Perhaps consider using your CFAP payment as an investment toward things you’ve been delaying that will yield long-term benefits, like a fertility program, an improved livestock handling facility, better fence and water systems, winter feeding areas, or weed control.

**Authorities ask residents to be on the lookout for a potentially devastating pest**

By: General


State and county authorities are asking residents to keep a sharp eye out for the spotted lanternfly, an invasive pest from Asia that has the potential to do millions of dollars of damage to Ohio’s economy and possibly cost thousands of jobs if discovered too late or left unchecked.

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect species native to China, Bangladesh and Northeast Ohio Agriculture
Vietnam. In 2014, it was found in southeastern Pennsylvania and has since spread to 26 counties there, which are now under an agricultural quarantine. Verified populations exist in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and northern Virginia, according to a report released by Penn State.

Most recently, the spotted lanternfly has been discovered in Beaver County, Penn., 50 miles from Ashtabula County and the vineyards of the Grand River Valley. “Spotted Lanternfly has not yet been found in Ohio, but just over the Ohio border in Alleghany and Beaver Counties in Pennsylvania, which is right across the border from Mahoning and Columbiana counties in Ohio,” Lake County OSU Extension Educator Thomas DeHaas said.

The Penn State report goes on to put current economic damages in Pennsylvania due to the pest at $50.1 million per year with a loss of 484 jobs in the southeastern part of the state. The potential agricultural and economic effects in Ohio could be even greater. Should the spotted lanternfly make the jump to Lake or Ashtabula County, it would pose a serious threat to the local wine industry — a major employer, tourist draw and economic driver already affected by the economic downturn brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Ohio grape and wine industry has an impact of $1.3 billion on the state’s economy and provides over 8,000 full-time jobs,” Ashtabula County OSU Extension Educator Andrew Holden said. “A majority of the acreage for grape production is in Lake County and Ashtabula County.”

The spotted lanternfly is the latest Asian insect pest to pose a threat to agriculture and forestry in Ohio. The gypsy moth was discovered in Ashtabula and Lake counties in the late 1980s, the Asian long horned beetle made its way here in the late 1990s and the emerald ash borer joined them in the mid-2000s.

“It’s just a matter of time before it is found in Ohio,” DeHaas said. “It’s not ‘if’ but ‘when’ it is found.”

The spotted lanternfly is a planthopper insect, meaning it has wings but moves primarily by jumping. Its favored home is the so-called Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima), native to China. The spotted lanternfly can complete all five stages of its development on this tree, according to Holden.

The Tree of Heaven is itself an invasive species, one of the worst invasive plant species in Europe and North America, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. However, the spotted lanternfly is not particularly picky about what it eats, particularly during its immature nymph stage, and lacks diseases or natural predators that typically keep its numbers in check in its native habitat.
The spotted lanternfly causes serious damage in trees including oozing sap, wilting, leaf curling and tree dieback. In addition to tree damage, when spotted lanternflies feed, they excrete a sugary substance, called honeydew, that encourages the growth of black sooty mold. This mold is harmless to people; however, it causes damage to plants. The spotted lanternfly will lay eggs beginning in October through the beginning of winter. The egg masses are small, grey masses protected by a waxy, slimy-looking covering. DeHaas said female spotted lanternflies like to lay their egg masses on the undersides of rusty metal surfaces as well as the sides of trees.

Adult insects are active in July through November. Their bodies are about an inch long and a half inch wide at rest. The forewings are patterned gray and black in color. The hind wings have contrasting patches of red and black with a white band. The legs and head are black and the abdomen is yellow with broad black stripes.

Immature insects, called nymphs, are active April through October. Spotted lanternfly nymphs are very small, wingless with black with white spots. As they mature, they develop red patches and grow to about half an inch long.

“Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio State University Extension have created a task force for Spotted Lanternfly,” DeHaas said. As part of the effort aimed at curbing the spread of this noxious pest, authorities are asking Ohio residents to report any possible sightings of the spotted lanternfly. One way to do so is through the Great Lakes Early Detection Network – an app available for iOS and Android smartphones at apps.bugwood.org.

“We’d rather have 50 reports of spotted lanternfly that are determined not to be positive finds than to miss the one spotted lanternfly,” DeHaas said. “Spotted lanternfly could have a major impact on our local fruit and grape growers, along with the vineyards in the area. The Great lakes Early Detection Network App is a great way for anyone with a smart phone to take a picture and send it in.”

For residents without a smartphone, someone who spots what they think is a spotted lanternfly or an eggs mass left by one, is asked to contact their county OSU Extension Office. For Ashtabula County, call 440-576-9008. For Lake County, call 440-350-2582. DeHaas said he would especially like to ask people engaged in pick-your-own fruit gathering later this year to keep a sharp lookout.

“Local wineries have been sent a supply of business card size identification tools,” DeHaas said. “Feel free to ask for one as you visit your local winery or call your local extension office to receive a copy. With your help, we can slow the spread of spotted lanternfly.”
Should the spotted lanternfly make the jump to Northeast Ohio, it’s crucial the infestation be discovered as soon as possible to help curb the damage done by the pest.

“It’s not going to wipe out the industry overnight by any means,” Holden said. “We’re going to find it somewhere eventually and it’s going to depend on how well we can contain it and how well we can control it. We’re working with community partners and across counties to scout for it so we know where it’s at. We’re working with fruit producers across our counties to help minimize the losses.”

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY THOMAS DEHASS
Agricultural authorities are asking residents to be on the lookout for the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect species native to China, Bangladesh and Vietnam, with the potential to do millions of dollars of damage to Ohio’s economy. Pictured are a female (center), flanked by two male insects. The females are slightly larger and their abdomen develops a bright yellow stripe when one is ready to lay eggs.

**Drought Conditions Expand but Some Relief Ensues**

By: Aaron Wilson  
Source: [https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-25/drought-conditions-expand-some-relief-ensues](https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-25/drought-conditions-expand-some-relief-ensues)

As of the Thursday July 30, 2020 release of the U.S. Drought Monitor, 37% of the state is covered by D1- moderate drought conditions (Figure 1). Hot and mostly dry conditions continued through much of June and July, with only scattered areas of heavy rain throughout the state. This has depleted soil moisture and lowered stream flows. If you are seeing drought impacts in your area, consider submitting a report to the Drought Impact Reporter.

**Drought Monitor for Ohio**

Figure 1: U.S. Drought Monitor for Ohio as reported on Thursday, July 30, 2020
Over the last two weeks, the frequency and coverage of showers and storms have increased. West central, north central, and areas near the Ohio River have picked up widespread 2-4" over the last 14 days, with some local amounts greater than 5". Coupled with cooler temperatures this past week, drought conditions have relaxed in these areas of Ohio. For more information on recent climate conditions and impacts, check out the latest Hydro-Climate Assessment from the State Climate Office of Ohio. Though we are dealing with a frontal boundary with showers and storms moving through the region through Tuesday, drier and less humid conditions are expected to set up for most of the week. Temperatures will be below average on Wednesday through Saturday, generally in the mid to upper 70s across northern Ohio and upper 70s to low 80s across the south. Overnight lows will likely drop into the 50s several nights this week. Showers and storms may return for Sunday and Monday, though we are only expecting light precipitation over the next 7 days (Figure 2).

The latest NOAA/NWS/Climate Prediction Center outlook for the 8-14 day period (August 11 – 17) shows the heat returning, with increased confidence in above average temperatures and slightly elevated probability of above average precipitation (Figure 3). Normal highs during the period are in the low to mid-80s, normal lows in the low to mid-60s, with 0.80-0.90" of rainfall per week. The 16-Day Rainfall Outlook from NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center shows about average rainfall over the period. This is likely to bring some continued minor improvement to drought conditions throughout Ohio.
Ten Counties on WBC Scout List as Statewide Numbers Begin to Decrease


Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-25/ten-counties-wbc-scout-list-statewide-numbers-begin-decrease

Western bean cutworm (WBC) trap counts for the week of July 27 – August 2 show a downward trend in the majority of monitoring counties. Despite the overall decrease in WBC numbers, ten counties are currently at the threshold (an average of 7 or more) indicating to scout for egg masses including, Ashtabula, Fulton, Geauga, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Sandusky, Wayne, Williams and Wood. A total of 27 counties monitored 87 traps, resulting in 418
WBC adults (a statewide average of 4.8 moths per trap) (Figure 1). Monitoring for WBC moths will continue in many counties until the end of August.

Figure 1. Average Western bean cutworm adult per trap followed by total number of traps in the county in parentheses for week ending August 2, 2020.
ODA Asks Ohioans to Send in Unsolicited Seeds

The USDA-APHIS and ODA are asking Ohioans who have received unsolicited packages of seed **not to open, plant, or throw the seed away.** Instead, citizens should report receiving seeds and then submit the packages to USDA using one of the following methods:

1. If possible, place the materials including the seeds, original packaging material and your contact information in a resealable plastic bag and mail them to USDA-APHIS at the following address:
   
   **Attn:** USDA - SITC  
   8995 East Main Street, Building 23  
   Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

   **-or-**

2. Place the materials including the seeds, original packaging material and your contact information in a resealable plastic bag and **drop them off at your county’s OSU Extension Office** during business hours. You can find the nearest extension office here: https://extension.osu.edu/lao. Please note that extension facilities may have COVID-19 specific signage detailing procedures such as wearing a facial covering that must be followed.

The Public Should Report the Seeds and Submit the Packages to USDA or to an OSU County Extension Office

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**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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

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<tr>
<th>Lee Beers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Trumbull County Extension</td>
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<td>520 West Main Street</td>
<td>39 Wall Street</td>
<td>705 Oakwood St., Suite 103</td>
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<td>Jefferson, OH 44047</td>
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CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: [http://go.ohio.edu/cfaesdiversity](http://go.ohio.edu/cfaesdiversity).
OSU Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Training

August 13th and 27th
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

FREE
Registration Required

Topics Include:
• General Produce Safety Concepts
• Water Quality
• Worker Training, Health & Hygiene
• Manure and Compost handling
• Domestic and Wild Animals
• Storage and Transport

Instructors:
• Melanie Lewis Ivey, OSU Extension Specialist
• Jaqueline Kowalski, OSU Extension Educator-Summit County
• Suzanne Mills-Wasniak, OSU Extension Educator-Montgomery County
• Beth Scheckelhoff, OSU Extension Educator-Putnam County

Register at: producesafety.osu.edu/events

This is a 3-hour educational course that covers good agricultural practices or GAPs. GAPs trainings provide growers with the knowledge and tools needed to implement on farm best management practices to reduce on-farm microbial food safety hazards. *Participants will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the training.*
MEDIA ADVISORY: USDA is conducting vaccine drops to combat wildlife rabies in Ohio and surrounding states

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s, Wildlife Services, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Health and several local county health departments in Ohio, will begin distributing oral rabies vaccine (ORV) baits for wildlife in parts of eastern Ohio and surrounding states this month. ORV baits have been distributed in Ohio through aerial drops and by hand since 1997 in partnership with state and local public health agencies and others as part of the USDA National Rabies Management Program. This effort seeks to prevent the westward movement of the rabies virus most often spread by raccoons by creating a barrier along the Appalachian Mountains from the Canadian border to Alabama.

ORV baits are distributed using fixed-wing airplanes and helicopters, or from vehicles on the ground. The project is based out of North Lima, OH and will take place in early to mid-August. Approximately 888,000 baits will be distributed by fixed wing airplanes in rural areas of eastern Ohio, western Pennsylvania, and the panhandle of West Virginia, including over 700,000 baits in Ohio alone. From approximately August 11-20, 2020, ORV bait distribution by fixed wing airplanes will include large rural portions of Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Jefferson, Mahoning, Stark, Trumbull, and Tuscarawas, and parts of Belmont, Geauga, Harrison, Lake, Monroe, and Portage counties. Baits also will be dispersed by helicopter in urban and suburban areas of eastern Ohio during the first week of August, including Courtland, Warren, Youngstown, Alliance, Canton and New Philadelphia. Lastly, staff will distribute baits by vehicle in a number of towns, including Ashtabula, Conneaut, East Palestine and Hubbard.

The vaccine distribution campaign in Ohio will use an ORV bait called ONRAB. The vaccine, which is contained in a blister pack, is covered in a waxy green coating that has a sugar-vanilla smell. The odor attracts targeted wild animals, such as raccoons, who eat the baits and are then vaccinated against rabies. ONRAB has been safely distributed in parts of Ohio since 2012 as part of ongoing field trials to evaluate the safety and immune effects of the ORV bait in raccoons and skunks. The vaccine baits have been proven safe in many species of animals, including domestic dogs and cats. Humans and pets cannot get rabies from contact with the baits. If found, leave the baits undisturbed. If a person has contact with a bait, immediately rinse the contact area with warm water and soap. Do not attempt to remove a bait from an animal’s mouth, as you could be bitten. Ingesting the bait will not harm your pet. If your pet has eaten several baits, the pet may experience vomiting or diarrhea that is self-limiting. For photos of the vaccination baits, please visit this Photo Gallery.

Rabies is caused by a virus that infects the central nervous system in mammals and represents a serious public health concern. If exposures to the virus are not treated it is almost always fatal. Costs associated with detection, prevention and control of rabies exceed $600 million annually in the U.S. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 90 percent of reported rabies cases in the U.S. are in wildlife. People are urged not to make contact with or feed wildlife and to keep pet rabies vaccinations current.

For more information about the National Rabies Management Program, visit: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/programs/nrmp
Photo of ONRAB bait.

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