Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Harvest is in full swing here in NE Ohio. Are you prepared in case of emergencies this year? Check out the first article to make sure you are fully prepared for fires in harvesting equipment. Following the steps can help prevent disaster and keep you safe.

Have a great week!
Be Prepared for Combine Fires during Harvest Season
By: Dee Jepsen
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-35/be-prepared-combine-fires-during-harvest-season

The combination of high temperatures and dry conditions are the perfect conditions for field fires and combine fires during harvest. Dry grasses, crop residues, and woodland debris along many of our farm fields provide fuel for field fires. Likewise, leaked fuel, cracked hydraulic hoses, heated bearings, overheated belts and chains can provide the ignition for equipment fires.

The combine is a critical piece of equipment for fall harvest. Here are several precautions for protecting combines from fire this season.

Prevent Combine Fires from Starting
Work crews should take extra precautions to prevent fires from starting.

- Park a hot combine away from out-buildings. Keeping a combine out of barns, sheds, and away from other flammables is a common prevention strategy in case a hot spot ignites. Insurance claims can double when equipment fires are responsible for loss of farm structures.

- Regular maintenance is priority. Check the machine daily for any overheated bearings or damage in the exhaust system. Keep the fittings greased. Maintain proper coolant and oil levels. Repair fuel or oil hoses, including fittings and metal lines, if they appear to leak.

- Keep dried plant material from accumulating on the equipment. Frequently blow dry chaff, leaves and other crop materials that have accumulated on the equipment with a portable leaf blower or air compressor. Be sure to inspect the engine compartment and other areas where chaff accumulates around bearings, belts and other moving parts.

- Maintain the electrical system. Pay attention to machine components that draw a heavy electrical load, such as starter motors and heating/cooling systems. Monitor circuits for any overloading, especially if fuses blow regularly. Keep wiring in good condition and replace frayed wiring or worn out connectors.
• **Refuel a cool engine whenever possible.** Never refuel a combine with the engine running. It is recommended to turn off the engine and wait 15 minutes; this helps to reduce the risk of a spill volatilizing and igniting.

• **Prevent static electricity while operating in a dry field.** Use a ground chain attached to the combine frame to prevent static charges from igniting dry chaff and harvest residue, letting the chain drag on the ground while in the field.

**Protection Strategies for Combatting Fires**
Have equipment ready to fight field and combine fires.

• **Have 2 fully charged fire extinguishers on the combine.** ABC fire extinguishers are recommended on farm machinery. In a combine, keep a 10-pound unit in the cab and a 20-pound unit mounted at ground level.

• **Have 1 fully charged fire extinguisher in the tractor, grain cart, and pickup truck.** ABC fire extinguishers are recommended on farm machinery. These extinguishers are good for fires at incipient phases – meaning at the first sign of smoke or a small flame.

• **Have a portable water tank and shovel on standby.** A water tank at the edge of the field can help extinguish field fires. A shovel can be used to throw dirt over burning field residue. However, stay back if the fire takes off.

**What to Do When a Fire Appears**
When a fire appears, it is important to put worker protection before saving equipment.

• **Turn off the engine.** If in the combine cab, turn off the engine and exit the machine.

• **Call 911 before trying to extinguish the fire yourself.** In many situations, first responders cannot arrive on the scene fast enough to extinguish a fire. Calling 911 puts professionals in action sooner than later.

• **Use a fire extinguisher.** If the fire is in the cab, stand on the exterior platform and use the 10-pound fire extinguisher from the outside of the cab. If the fire is inside the equipment, use caution when opening the engine compartment or other hatches as small fires can flare with extra air. Stay a safe distance away from the fire as you use the 20-pound extinguisher.

• **Use water and a shovel on small field debris fires.** These items can stop field fires from spreading.
Have an emergency plan in place and be sure all employees know the plan. Combine fires happen fast—be sure to talk to employees (the hired and the “helper crews”) to know what to do if smoke or fire appears. The safety of the people always comes before the saving of equipment.

Are those Mosquitoes on Steroids…No, they are just Crane Flies.
By: Curtis Young, CCA
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-35/are-those-mosquitoes-steroids%E2%80%A6no-they-are-just-crane-flies

Crane flies (a.k.a. daddy longlegs and mosquito hawks) belong to the insect Order Diptera (the true flies) in the Family Tipulidae. There are some 15,000 species of crane fly throughout the world. Crane flies and mosquitoes belong to a common subgroup of the flies and crane flies do look superficially like giant mosquitoes. Crane flies fortunately do not possess the mosquito piercing/sucking mouthparts for taking a blood meal. Therefore, they do not bite other animals for blood. Some adult crane flies do not eat in their short life span or feed on liquids from plants. Adults live for upwards of 10-14 days.

The larvae of crane flies are maggots called leatherjackets because of their tough, leathery outer covering (exoskeleton). Depending on the species of crane fly, the larvae may be aquatic, semi-aquatic or terrestrial living in soils that are high in organic matter and relatively moist for most of the year. Some species can attack living plants eating root hairs, small roots, outer coverings of roots and stems, and occasionally eating leaves such as grass blades.

Adults usually appear in Ohio landscapes during two peak periods. Some species produce a heavy adult emergence in the spring while other species generate adults in the fall. Currently, parts of Ohio are experiencing extremely large numbers of newly emerged adult crane flies. These large numbers of crane flies flitting above lawns, pastures, and field crops are mostly a nuisance, and some of them can find their way into homes.
Like the adults, the larvae occasionally appear en masse spilling onto driveways or sidewalks, especially after heavy rainfalls. Such a dramatic appearance in a landscape may signal that the lawn has a thatch problem since the larvae are particularly fond of decaying thatch. However, the native species found in Ohio cause no damage to the turfgrass.

The same cannot be said for two non-native species that have been found in the northeastern states and eastern Canada and have now spread to Ohio and Michigan. Both were accidentally introduced from Europe. Larvae of the European crane fly (*Tipula paludosa*), and the Marsh crane fly (*T. oleracea*) feed on the crowns and blades of living grass plants. Both can cause serious damage to turfgrass. They are also known to do damage to cereal (wheat, oats, rye, barley, etc.) and other crops, and a variety of minor crops ranging from sugar beets and turnips to brassicas, berries and carrots.

**OSU Extension Announces Two-Day Tax Schools for Tax Practitioners & Agricultural & Natural Resources Income Tax Issues Webinar**

By: Barry Ward & Julie Strawser, OSU Income Tax Schools


Dealing with the tax provisions of the COVID-related legislation for both individuals and businesses are among the topics to be discussed during the upcoming Tax School workshop series offered throughout Ohio in November and December.

The annual series is designed to help tax preparers learn about federal tax law changes and updates for this year, as well as learn more about issues they may encounter when filing individual and small business 2020 tax returns.

The tax schools are intermediate-level courses that focus on interpreting tax regulations and changes in tax laws to help tax preparers, accountants, financial planners and attorneys advise their clients. The schools offer continuing education credit for certified public accountants, enrolled agents, attorneys, annual filing season preparers and certified financial planners.
This is another important year for tax education as the new COVID-related legislation creates some challenges for tax practitioners to prepare tax returns. These schools offer an excellent set of instructors with a great deal of experience and training along with a top reference workbook to prepare tax practitioners to best serve their clients during this ongoing process of incorporating recent tax law changes in completing tax returns.

The workbook alone is an extremely valuable reference as it offers over 700 pages of material including helpful tables and examples that will be valuable to practitioners. Sample chapters of the reference workbook can be found at: https://go.osu.edu/WorkbookChapters.

Topics/chapters to be presented this year during the two-day tax schools include:


This year, OSU Income Tax Schools will offer both in-person schools and online virtual schools.

In person schools:

Lima – November 2-3
Old Barn Restaurant and Grill
3175 W Elm Street, Lima, OH 45805

Fremont – November 4-5
Ole Zim’s Wagon Shed
1375 State Route 590, Gibsonburg, OH 43431

Ashland – November 11-12 SOLD OUT
Ashland University
John C. Meyers Convocation Center
820 Clermont Ave., Ashland, OH 44805

Dayton – November 17-18
Presidential Banquet Center
4548 Presidential Way, Kettering, OH 45429

Columbus – December 10-11 SOLD OUT
Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center
2201 Fred Taylor Dr., Columbus, OH 43221
Virtual Online Schools:

Webinar (Zoom)
November 9, 13, 16 and 19
Each Day 12:30 – 5pm

Zoom Webinar

Livestream (Zoom)
December 10-11

Livestream of Columbus Tax School Location via Zoom

In addition to the tax schools, the program offers a separate, two-hour ethics webinar that will broadcast Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. The webinar is $25 for school attendees and $50 for non-attendees and is approved by the IRS and the Ohio Accountancy Board for continuing education credit.

Register two weeks prior to the school date and receive the two-day tax school early-bird registration fee of $375. This includes all materials, lunches and refreshments. The deadline to enroll is 10 business days prior to the date of each school. After the school deadline, the fee increases to $425.

Additionally, the 2020 RIA Federal Tax Handbook is available to purchase by participants for a discounted fee of $45 each. Registration information and the online registration portal can be found online at:

http://go.osu.edu/2020tax

A webinar on Ag Tax Issues will be held Dec. 18 from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If you are a tax practitioner that represents farmers or rural landowners or are a farmer or farmland owner that prepares your own taxes, this five-hour webinar is for you. It will focus on key topics and new legislation related specifically to those income tax returns.

Registration, which includes the Ag Tax Issues workbook, is $150. Register by mail or on-line at http://go.osu.edu/agissues2020.

Participants may contact Ward at 614-688-3959, ward.8@osu.edu or Julie Strawser 614-292-2433, strawser.35@osu.edu for more information.
Knowing What You Are Feeding: HAY SAMPLING 101
By: Chris Teutsch, Forage Specialist, University of Kentucky
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/10/07/knowing-what-you-are-feeding-hay-sampling-101/

Knowing the nutritional quality of forage and hay is an integral part of a profitable and efficient livestock operation. Accurate estimation of forage quality starts with obtaining a representative sample of the forage to be fed. Proper sampling technique is critical.

Hay is preserved in a number of different packages ranging from the small square bale weighing 40-50 lb to the large square bale weighing more than 1500 lb. In Kentucky, most hay is packaged in large round bales weighing between 500 and 1500 lb. Wrapped bale silage is also gaining popularity and should be sampled in a similar manner to large round hay bales with the exceptions listed below.

Figure 1. Always sample hay in lots. A lot is hay that comes from the same cutting and same field.

Obtaining a Representative Sample
Hay should ALWAYS be sampled in lots (Figure 1). A lot consists of hay made from the same field and cutting. A lot should not represent more than 200 tons of dry matter. In the event that a lot exceeds 200 tons of dry matter, multiple samples should be taken and forage quality results should be averaged to represent the overall lot.

Delay sampling until three to four weeks after baling for hay stored out of the weather. During this period bales undergo the heating or sweating process and forage quality can decline. For hay stored outside, it is best to delay sampling until three to four weeks prior to feeding to account for weathering that occurs after harvest. Remember to allow time for sample shipping and analysis and for making the feeding adjustments needed.

A representative sample will consist of at least 20 cores from 20 bales (one core per bale) resulting in a sample size of approximately one-half pound of hay from each lot.
Sample bales at random and not on some predetermined characteristic such as leafiness, color, or weed content. Use a sampling strategy such as dividing the total number of bales by 20 (number of desired cores) can help to get a representative sample of the hay lot. For example, if a lot consists of 240 large round bales and 20 cores are desired, then every 12th bale should be sampled (240 total bales ÷ 20 samples = 12). If the lot contains less than 20 bales, sample every bale. For stacked hay or truckloads count the number of exposed bale ends (square bales) or sides (round bales), divide by 20, then sample every nth bale end or side. Using the above numbers if there are 240 bale ends on an exposed side, sample every 12th bale. Equally sample each exposed side of the stack. Figure 1. Always sample hay in lots. A lot is hay that comes from the same cutting and same field. Figure 2. Large and small square bales should be samples from the ends to a depth of 15 to 18 inches.

Figure 2. Large and small square bales should be samples from the ends to a depth of 15 to 18 inches.

Core rectangular bales by centering the probe in the end and inserting the probe horizontally into the bale (Figure 2). Sample round bales by drilling or pushing the probe horizontally into center of the rounded side of the bale (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Round bales should be cored from the side to a depth of 15 to 18 inches.
For round bales, remove weathered material from the area to be probed prior to sampling. Weathered material represents refusal and should not be included in the sample. The probe should penetrate the bale at least 15-18 inches for rectangular or round bales.

Figure 4. Always submit the entire sample. Subdividing the sample can result in altered lab results since the fine material segregates from the larger particles. Make sure the bag is clearly labeled with all required information.

After the lot has been sampled, the entire sample should be placed into a labeled plastic bag and sealed (Figure 4). Make sure that the bag is clearly labeled with your farm’s name, a description of the hay lot sampled that will allow you to reference the results back to the hay lot, the type of hay, cutting, and year, and the date it was sampled. The sample should be sent immediately to the lab for analysis. In cases where the sample is not immediately submitted, store the sample in a cool, dry place that is not in direct sunlight. Make sure and complete the sample submission form for the lab that you are using. Do NOT subdivide the sample.

Sampling Baled Silage
Sample baled silage in the same manner as hay. Delay sampling until at least four weeks after harvest to allow complete ensiling. Samples should be placed into labeled plastic bags as previously described. Submit the samples immediately or refrigerate until shipped. Remember to immediately repair holes caused by coring using a UV-resistant tape designed for silage film.

Figure 5. If excessively large samples must be subdivided, always use the quartering technique. Quartering a sample is accomplished by thoroughly mixing the collected cores, pouring the sample onto a clean flat surface, discarding opposite quarters, and recombining the remaining quarters. This is repeated until the desired sample size is obtained.
Using a larger diameter or longer probe or collecting more than 20 cores result in a sample greater than ½ lb. This is not problem in itself and may even be more representative of the hay lot. However, most labs are not set up to handle and grind large sample sizes and will only grind a portion of the sample. The portion of the sample ground may not be representative of the lot. Therefore, AVOID SUBMITTING EXCESSIVELY LARGE SAMPLES FOR ANALYSIS. If a sample must be subdivided, it should be done using a technique called “quartering” (Figure 5). Thoroughly mix the

**Hay Sampling at a Glance**

- Always collect hay samples by coring hay bales with a sampling probe designed for hay.
- Always sample hay in lots. A lot consists of a harvest-field combination.
- Delay sampling for dry hay stored inside for 3-4 weeks after harvest.
- Sample hay stored outside 3-4 weeks prior to feeding.
- Collect 20 cores per hay lot.
- Use a sampling strategy to obtain a representative sample of the hay lot. For example, if a hay lot has 200 bales, core every 200 bales ÷ 20 cores or 10th bale.
- Core square bales from the end.
- Core round bales from the side.
- Do NOT subdivide samples.
- Place entire sample into labeled plastic bag and ship to lab.
- Delay sampling baleage for 4-6 weeks after baling to allow fermentation to finish.
- Refrigerate baleage samples prior to shipping.
- Repair holes in silage film with UV stabilized tape designed for silage wrap.
- Work with your extension agent or livestock nutritionist to interpret test results and design an appropriate supplementation program.
sample and then pour it onto a clean and flat sheet of butcher paper or similar material. Then divide the sample into four equal parts. Discard two opposite quarters. Recombine the two remaining quarters. If the sample size is still too large, then repeat the procedure until the desired sample size is obtained.

**The newest edition of the Ashtabula County Plat Book is available**

The newest edition of the Ashtabula County Plat Book is available for purchase for $25 + tax at Ashtabula County - OSU Extension Office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson. Premium wall maps are also available. For more information contact the office at (440) 576-9008. Traditional landownership maps by township and range, a landowner index for easy cross referencing, and other county information are all available in the new plat book. Visit mappingsolutionsGIS.com for digital versions of Ashtabula County landowner maps. Mapping Solutions is the publisher. Perfect for hunting season!