

# NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE NEWSLETTER

Your Weekly Agriculture Update for  
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

April 5, 2022



*Red Maple Flowering*

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## ***Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!***

We've had another cold and wet week. Unfortunately, the weather pattern looks like it could remain this way for the remainder of April making planting conditions a little more challenging than last year (see first article).

The wheat in Portage County is looking good. Hoping for some dryer weather for those of you that still need to make N applications.

Stay safe and have a good week!

Lee Beers  
Trumbull County  
Extension Educator

Andrew Holden  
Ashtabula County  
Extension Educator

Angie Arnold  
Portage County  
Extension Educator

## Chilly Damp April Expected

By: Jim Noel

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-08/chilly-damp-april-expected>

It looks like planting season will be a bit more challenging this spring than 2021 was. There is no sign of La Nina leaving us anytime soon which tends to stress crop yields in Ohio from research between NOAA and OSU.

Another overall chilly week is in store for Ohio with periods of light precipitation. The good news is the week of April 10th we will experience warmer weather but rain chances will continue. The bad news is below normal temperatures will return again the week of April 17th.

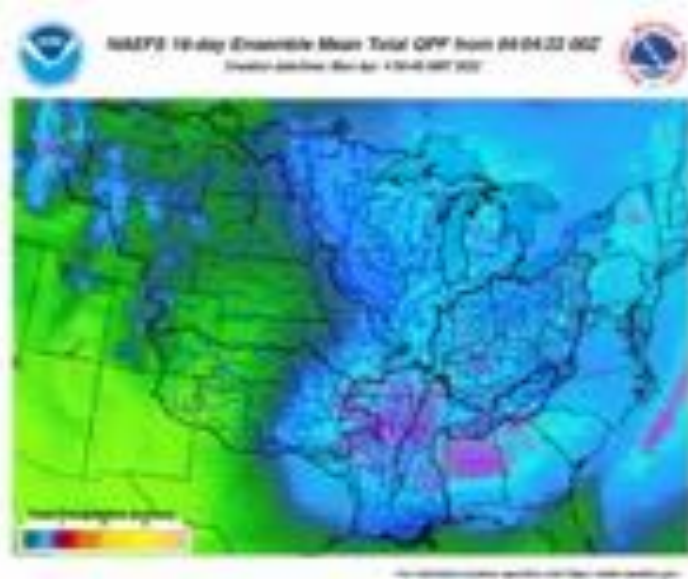


Figure 1 Rainfall for the next two weeks, about 1.5-2.5 inches wetter than normal.

Overall, April will experience normal to below normal temperatures with rainfall likely above normal. This will mean field work will continue to be delayed at times. This will be a common theme across the eastern corn and soybean belts. The outlook for May calls for slightly above normal temperatures to arrive but with it will come above normal rainfall.

The early summer outlook for growing season indicated above normal temperatures from June through August with a trend from wetter start to a drier finish.

With the chilly April weather expected, there is a risk of the last freeze for 2022 planting/growing season being later than normal. We will also run the risk of a few mixed rain/snow events still especially for northern Ohio.

## ***HPAI Detected in Franklin County; Ohio Poultry Producers Encouraged to Practice Enhanced Biosecurity***

By: Ohio Department of Agriculture

Source: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/animal-health/resources/02.25.2022HPAIUpdate>



High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been detected in a poultry flock in Franklin County, Ohio and across the U.S. HPAI spreads quickly and can be fatal to flocks and devastating to poultry owners. ODA is urging poultry owners to intensify biosecurity and best management practices:

- **Prevent Contact with wild birds and waterfowl.** Keep birds indoors when possible. Add wildlife management practices around your farm. [hpaifactsheet\\_wildlife-biosecurity.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)
- **Keep visitors to a minimum.** Only allow those who care for your poultry to have contact with them and make sure they follow biosecurity principles.
- **Wash your hands before and after contact with live poultry.** Use soap and water. If using a hand sanitizer, first remove manure, feathers, and other materials from your hands.
- **Provide disposable boot covers (preferred) and/or disinfectant footbaths for anyone having contact with your flock.** If using a footbath, remove all droppings, mud or debris from boots and shoes using a long-handled brush BEFORE stepping in. Always keep it clean.
- **Establish a rodent and pest control program.** Deliver, store, and maintain feed,

ingredients, bedding and litter to limit exposure to and contamination from wild animals.

- **Use drinking water sourced from a contained supply (well or municipal system).** Do not use surface water for drinking or cleaning.
- **Clean and disinfect tools and equipment before moving them to a new poultry facility.** Trucks, tractors, tools and equipment should be cleaned and disinfected prior to exiting the property. Do not move or reuse anything that cannot be cleaned.
- **Look for signs of illness.** Monitor egg production and death loss, discoloration and/or swelling of legs, wattles and combs, labored breathing, reduced feed/water consumption.
- **Report sick birds:** Report unusual signs of disease or unexpected deaths to OPA (614) 882-6111 or ODA at (614) 728-6220 or afterhours at (888) 456-3405.

For more information on biosecurity practices, visit: [USDA APHIS | Defend the Flock - Resource Center](#)

Defend the Flock Winter

Bulletin [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/df-newsletter-winter-22.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/df-newsletter-winter-22.pdf)

All cases in commercial and backyard flocks: [USDA APHIS | 2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#)

## ***Farm Income Enhancement Program Studies Accuracy of Agricultural Baseline***

By: Brianna Gwirtz

Source: <https://cfaes.osu.edu/news/articles/farm-income-enhancement-program-studies-accuracy-agricultural-baseline>

COLUMBUS, Ohio—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) long-term [agricultural baseline projections](#) give farmers, agribusinesses, and policymakers a 10-year look into the future of farming and global trade. Researchers at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) recently looked at the informativeness and accuracy of these projections, which many rely on when making business and government policy decisions.

The Farm Income Enhancement Program studied more than two decades of baseline projections and actual realized values of major agricultural indicators to determine the accuracy of the projections. Examples of indicators included commodity prices, yields, farm income, acres harvested, etc. Their studies focused primarily on corn and soybean figures, two prevalent crops in Ohio.

The results suggest that most of the baseline projections are informative for the future only up to four to five years. However, the report shows that some projections are quite accurate for an extended period. For example, corn and soybean yield projections are predicted accurately for nine to 10 years into the future. On the contrary, more volatile figures, such as projections for the price of corn or soybeans, are useful for the future only up to one to two years.

“The findings of our study inform both the users of the baselines and the agencies producing these projections,” said Ani Katchova, Farm Income Enhancement Chair in Agricultural Policy, Trade and Marketing. “The tests of informativeness allow the market participants to use the projections for their decision-making reliably.” The baseline projections are used to estimate spending outlays for various Farm Bill programs. They are also used to shape the federal budget.

“As conversations about the next 2023 Farm Bill start, the baselines will play a role in shaping the discussion, particularly concerning the recovery from the pandemic,” Katchova said. “Therefore, evaluating the accuracy and informativeness of the baselines is important for the users of these projections, and for future revisions of the models generating the baselines.”

Katchova advises that the baseline projections are not the same as short-term forecasts. While short-term forecasts are widely affected by shocks to the market, the projections are created on specific assumptions.

“We foremost want to inform the stakeholders about using the projections as they are meant, as projections into the future based on conditional scenarios,” Katchova said. The baselines provide a neutral conditional scenario, making them ideal for evaluating alternative policies.

Katchova hopes her team’s findings allow farmers to use the baseline projections confidently as well.

“Farmers can feel good about putting more focus on the years to come by utilizing the projections,” Katchova said. “For example, a farmer could determine what future crops to plant for many years based on the harvested acres and yield baseline projections.”

Katchova’s team, which includes PhD candidates Siddhartha Bora, Rabail Chandio, and Kexin Ding, hopes other economists are inspired to examine the baseline projections more closely.



“Despite their importance in shaping agricultural policy in the United States, the agricultural baselines are not rigorously evaluated in the literature. Our studies aim to fill this gap,” Katchova said.

The researchers also put together recommendations and suggestions on how to improve the models and processes used to produce the projections.

The reports from the study are available to read and download on the Farm Income Enhancement Program website, [aede.osu.edu/programs/farm-income-enhancement-program/publications](https://aede.osu.edu/programs/farm-income-enhancement-program/publications).

The 2022 baseline projections are published on the USDA Economic Research Service website.

## ***Wheat in 2023?***

By Gary Schnitkey, Nick Paulson, Krista Swanson, Jim Baltz, Carl Zulauf

Source: <https://ace.illinois.edu/directory/npaulson>

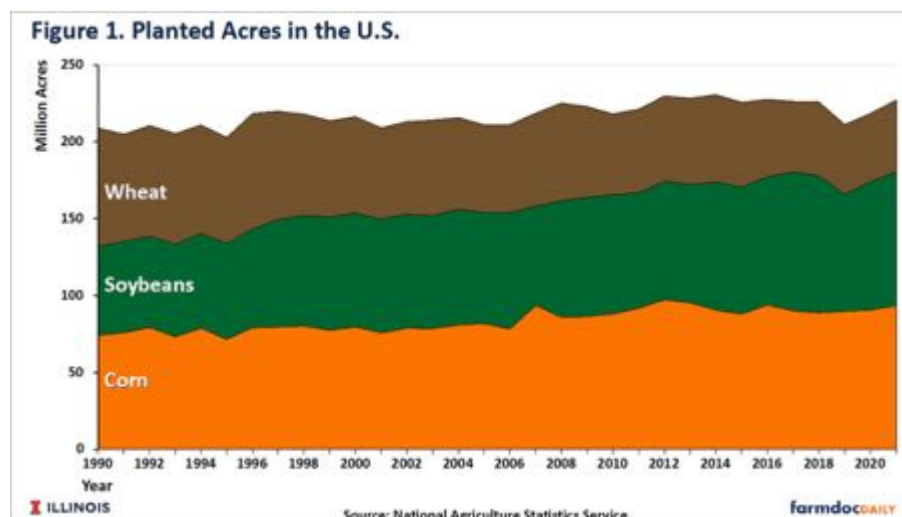
The Ukraine-Russia war has resulted in much higher wheat prices as both Ukraine and Russia are significant exporters of wheat. As a result, some Illinois farmers may be considering planting wheat for harvest in 2023. In southern Illinois, budgets using 2023 harvest-time bids indicate that wheat-double-crop-soybeans are expected to be more profitable than stand-alone corn and soybean. Similarly, wheat-double-crop-soybeans are projected to be more profitable on high-productivity farmland in central Illinois. As a result, considering planting wheat for the 2023 harvest has merit. Still, wheat-double-crop-soybeans have challenges, and much can change between now and when decisions finally need to be made.

### Wheat Background

Wheat acres in the U.S. have been declining since the 1990s. Planted wheat acres average of 72 million acres in the early 1990s, falling to an average of 45 million in 2019, 2020, and 2021 (see Figure 1). Corn and soybean acres increased since the 1990s, more than offsetting the decline in wheat acres.

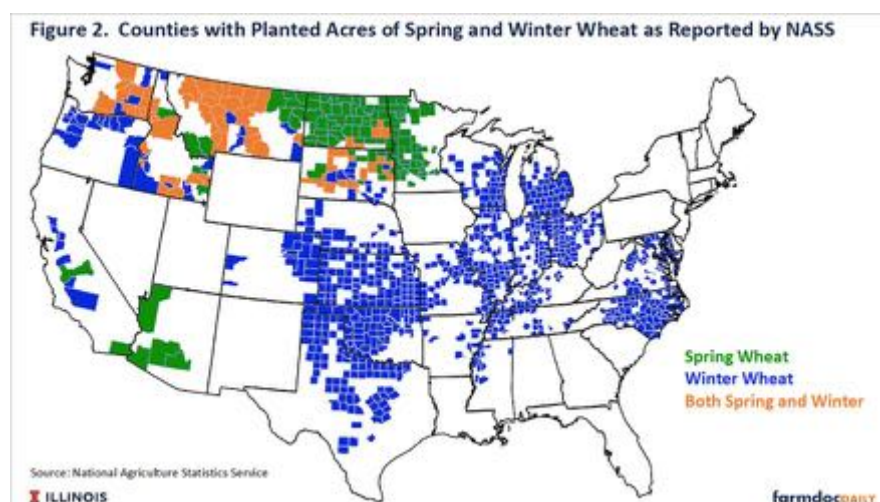
Changes in demand partially explain these acreage shifts. The ethanol build from the mid-2000s to the mid-2010s spurred corn demand. Soybean exports have continued to grow throughout much of this period. On the other hand, the

primary uses of wheat are in bread and other bakery products, which has generally been stable. Furthermore, corn and wheat are energy sources in livestock diets, and corn has increasingly filled this need.



The timing of wheat planting varies by geography and wheat classes. Some wheat classes are planted in the spring, including hard red spring wheat and durum wheat. Hard red spring wheat is used to make bread, while durum wheat often is used to make pasta. These kinds of wheat are grown in the northern Great Plains (see Figure 2). The Ukraine-Russia conflict happened before spring wheat planting commenced, leaving the possibility of increased spring wheat acres in 2022. Whether farmers choose to increase 2022 spring wheat plantings is an open question. Most planting decisions likely were made before the conflict began and adjusting planting decisions could be difficult. Furthermore, the profitability of corn and soybeans — the most likely alternatives to wheat — are projected to be profitable in 2022.

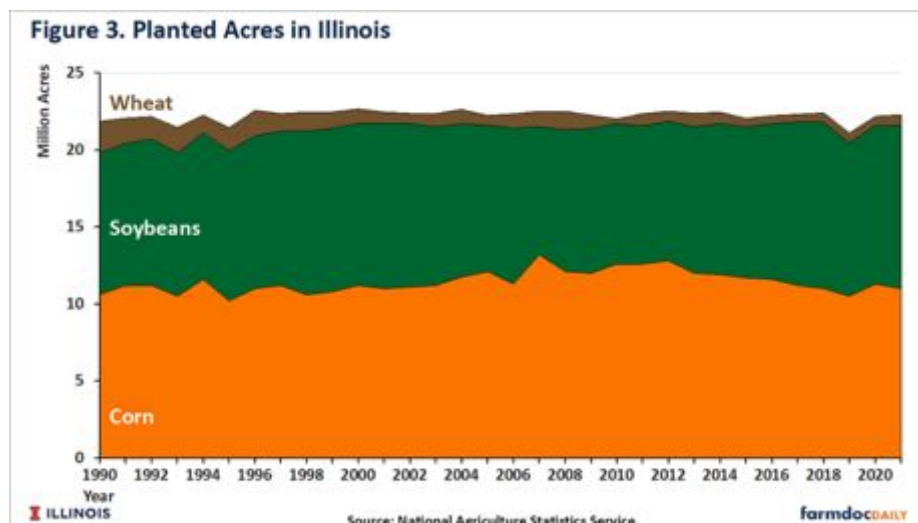
Winter wheat is planted in the fall and harvested the following summer. Given the planting schedule, harvested acres in 2022 cannot increase as these winter wheat plantings have already occurred. Winter wheats are planted over a large portion of the U.S.



(see Figure 2). Two types of winter wheats predominate. Hard red winter used in making bread is grown in the Great Plains. Soft red winter wheat — usually used to make cakes, cookies, and crackers — is grown east of the Mississippi, including Illinois. Similar to the U.S., wheat acres in Illinois have declined since the 1990s (see Figure 3). In 1990, 2 million acres of wheat were planted in Illinois. In recent years, less than 1 million acres of wheat have been planted. Total acres reported for 2022 are 730,000 acres.

Most wheat in Illinois is grown in southern Illinois. Washington County is the largest wheat-producing county, having 81,900 acres in 2022. All counties with over 20,000 acres are in southern Illinois: Randolph (38,000 acres), Clinton (35,500), Perry (33,300),

Monroe (25,900), St Clair (22,000), Wayne (21,000), and Franklin (20,800). Indeed, seeing a wheat field in many northern and central Illinois counties is unusual. In Illinois, a double-crop soybean crop typically is attempted with a wheat crop. A stand-alone wheat crop almost always is not as profitable as corn or soybeans.



## Fertilizer Costs



Fertilizer costs will play a key role in the relative profitability of corn, soybeans, and wheat in 2023, and a great deal of uncertainty exists concerning fertilizer prices. Table 1 shows estimates of fertilizer costs for crops grown in southern Illinois and on high-productivity farmland in central Illinois.

Per acre costs shown in Table 1 are based on: Fertilizer prices were adjusted up 10% from the prices in the March 24th Illinois Production Cost Report: \$1,515 per ton for anhydrous ammonia, \$892 per ton for urea, \$862 for Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), and 818 for potash. Increasing prices assumes that the sanctions resulting from the Ukraine-Russia conflict will be long-lasting and result in higher prices.

Fertilizer	Price Per Ton	Southern Illinois		Central Illinois (High)	
		Pounds	Costs	Pounds	Costs
Panel A. Corn		per acre	per acre	per acre	per acre
Anhydrous Ammonia	\$1,667	207	173	190	158
DAP	\$948	151	72	183	87
potash	\$900	75	34	91	41
			<b>\$279</b>		<b>\$286</b>
Panel B. Soybeans					
DAP	\$948	88	42	110	52
Potash	\$900	105	47	131	59
			<b>\$89</b>		<b>\$111</b>
Panel C. Wheat					
Urea	\$1,070	261	140	152	81
DAP	\$948	153	73	172	82
Potash	\$900	35	16	40	18
			<b>\$229</b>		<b>\$181</b>
Panel D. Double-crop soybeans					
DAP	\$948	69	33	74	35
Potash	\$900	76	34	89	40
			<b>\$67</b>		<b>\$75</b>

See test for information on prices and rates.

**farmdoc** DAIRY

See test for information on prices and rates.

farmdocDAILY

Nitrogen requirements for corn were derived by consulting the [Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator](#). Wheat nitrogen rates come from consultations of the Illinois Agronomy Handbook.

DAP and potash application rates are at replacement rates specified in Nafziger ([September 7, 2017](#)) and the [Illinois Agronomy Handbook](#).

#### Corn, Soybean, Wheat Prices

Harvest-time bids for 2023 are used: \$5.60 per bushel for corn, \$13.10 for soybean, and \$8.50 for wheat. These prices are high compared to historical prices.

The wheat-to-corn price ratio is 1.51 ( $1.51 = \$8.50 \text{ wheat price} / \$5.60 \text{ corn price}$ ). From 1950 to 2021, the wheat-to-corn price ratio averaged 1.30. Hence 1.51 indicates that the 2023 wheat bid is relatively high compared to the corn bid. A return to historical levels reduces the profitability of wheat relative to corn.

#### Southern Illinois

Table 2 shows the 2023 budgets for southern Illinois. Operator and land return is projected at \$243 per acre for corn, \$217 per acre for soybeans, and \$150 per acre for

wheat. For these stand-alone situations, wheat has lower profitability than corn and soybeans.

Double-crop soybeans have a return of \$272 per acre. When combined with the \$150 per acre return for wheat, the wheat-double-crop-soybeans combination has a return of \$422, exceeding the return of both corn and soybeans.

From 2003 to 2021, operator and land returns from the corn, soybean, and wheat-double-crop-soybeans combination were:  
 Corn: \$231 per acre,  
 Soybeans: \$225 per acre,  
 Wheat-double-crop-soybeans: \$224.

Table 2. Projected 2023 Crop Budgets, Southern Illinois

	Corn after Soybeans	Soybeans after Corn	Wheat	Soybeans after Wheat	Wheat- Double-Crop- Soybeans
Yield per acre	188	57	78	45	
Price per bu	\$5.60	\$13.10	\$8.50	\$13.10	
Crop revenue	<b>\$1,053</b>	<b>\$747</b>	<b>\$663</b>	<b>\$590</b>	<b>\$1,253</b>
Fertilizers	\$279	\$89	\$181	\$67	\$248
Pesticides	95	65	50	42	\$92
Seed	109	78	52	60	\$112
Drying	13	3	15	4	\$19
Storage	4	3	1	1	\$2
Crop insurance	32	26	14	4	\$18
<b>Total direct costs</b>	<b>\$532</b>	<b>\$264</b>	<b>\$313</b>	<b>\$178</b>	<b>\$491</b>
Machine hire/lease	\$17	\$14	\$14	\$10	\$24
Utilities	8	6	4	5	\$9
Machine repair	46	46	40	37	\$77
Fuel and oil	29	29	23	22	\$45
Light vehicle	2	2	2	2	\$4
Mach. depreciation	75	69	52	28	\$80
<b>Total power costs</b>	<b>\$177</b>	<b>\$166</b>	<b>\$135</b>	<b>\$104</b>	<b>\$239</b>
Hired labor	\$33	\$33	\$20	\$14	\$34
Building repair and rent	8	8	6	6	\$12
Building depreciation	19	19	8	5	\$13
Insurance	15	15	9	0	\$9
Misc	12	12	7	0	\$7
Interest (non-land)	14	13	15	11	\$26
<b>Total overhead costs</b>	<b>\$101</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$65</b>	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$101</b>
<b>Total non-land costs</b>	<b>\$810</b>	<b>\$530</b>	<b>\$513</b>	<b>\$318</b>	<b>\$831</b>
<b>Operator and land return</b>	<b>\$243</b>	<b>\$217</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$272</b>	<b>\$422</b>

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From a historical perspective, the 2023 projected wheat-double-crop-soybean return is relatively high compared to corn and soybeans.

#### Central Illinois Budgets for High-Productivity

Wheat-double-crop-soybeans typically are not grown on high-productivity farmland in central Illinois. Questions have increased in recent years about the possibility of growing wheat-double-crop-soybeans. Table 3 shows budgets for high-productivity farmland in central Illinois.

Operator and land returns are projected at:  
Corn: \$472 per acre  
Soybeans: \$425 per acre

Wheat: \$228 per acre

Wheat-double-crop-

soybeans: \$513 per

acre (\$228 wheat +

\$285 double-crop

soybeans).

Wheat-double-crop

soybeans are projected

as having higher

returns than corn and

soybeans in 2023. Note

that the margins are

close in central Illinois.

A return to a 1.3 wheat-

to-corn ratio resulting in

a \$7.28 wheat price,

would result in wheat-

double-crop-soybeans having a lower return than the \$472 per acre for corn.

Table 3. Projected 2023 Crop Budgets, Central Illinois -- High Productivity Farmland

	Corn after Soybeans	Soybeans after Corn	Wheat	Soybeans after Wheat	Wheat-Double- Crop- Soybeans
Yield per acre	228	71	88	48	
Price per bu	\$5.60	\$13.10	\$8.50	\$13.10	
<b>Gross revenue</b>	<b>\$1,277</b>	<b>\$930</b>	<b>\$748</b>	<b>\$629</b>	<b>\$1,377</b>
Fertilizers	\$286	\$111	\$181	\$75	\$256
Pesticides	95	70	50	42	92
Seed	123	78	52	60	112
Drying	22	2	15	4	19
Storage	6	5	1	1	2
Crop insurance	34	26	16	0	16
<b>Total direct costs</b>	<b>\$566</b>	<b>\$292</b>	<b>\$315</b>	<b>\$182</b>	<b>\$497</b>
Machine hire/lease	\$18	\$16	\$18	\$10	\$28
Utilities	6	6	7	5	12
Machine repair	38	34	33	25	58
Fuel and oil	21	18	18	22	40
Light vehicle	2	1	2	2	4
Mach. depreciation	75	66	66	28	94
<b>Total power costs</b>	<b>\$160</b>	<b>\$141</b>	<b>\$144</b>	<b>\$92</b>	<b>\$236</b>
Hired labor	\$23	\$21	\$21	\$14	\$35
Building repair and rent	7	6	4	6	10
Building depreciation	13	11	8	5	13
Insurance	12	12	5	0	5
Misc	12	12	9	0	9
Interest (non-land)	12	10	14	11	25
<b>Total overhead costs</b>	<b>\$79</b>	<b>\$72</b>	<b>\$61</b>	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$97</b>
<b>Total non-land costs</b>	<b>\$805</b>	<b>\$505</b>	<b>\$520</b>	<b>\$310</b>	<b>\$830</b>
<b>Operator and land return</b>	<b>\$472</b>	<b>\$425</b>	<b>\$228</b>	<b>\$319</b>	<b>\$547</b>

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### Commentary

Wheat-double-crop-soybeans are projected to be more profitable than either corn or soybeans in 2023. Much can change between now and when wheat planting decisions occur. These budgets suggest that considering wheat in 2023 is reasonable, particularly in southern Illinois.

Still, making wheat-double-crop-soybeans profitable requires management. Generally, Illinois farmers have been moving to an intensive management system that involves fungicides. Harvesting wheat early at relatively high moisture is key to maintaining wheat quality and planting double-crop soybeans in a timely fashion. Of course, planting soybeans in late June/early July involves weather risks, and occasional low yields should be expected for double-crop soybeans.

Farmers without wheat-double-crop-soybeans should consider the learning curve associated with new systems. The profitability of a management practice or system usually increases with experience. Hence, those farmers with a longer run interest in wheat-double-crop-soybeans likely will find potential 2023 returns more motivating.

Wheat-double-crop-soybeans has both environmental benefits and rotational considerations. The wheat will act like a cover crop, which has the potential to reduce nitrates leaving the fields. Often, rotational studies find that including nitrogen will increase subsequent corn yields.

Planting wheat in 2023 could require changes to 2022 production practices on corn and soybeans. Generally, the optimal time to plant wheat is in late September through October, depending on the region of Illinois. Therefore, planting hybrids and varieties that facilitate making this window could be beneficial. Herbicide programs also could impact the advisability of fall wheat planting.

Wheat's highest and best uses are in making bread and bakery products. Competing with corn in livestock feeds will result in downward price pressures on wheat. Large increases in wheat acres could result in downward price pressures on wheat.

Even given today's prices, we do not find wheat as a stand-alone crop as a profitable alternative. Hence, consideration of only planting wheat likely will not result in higher returns.

#### References

Iowa State University, Agronomy Extension and Outreach. *Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator*. Accessed March 29, 2022. <http://cnrc.agron.iastate.edu/>

Nafziger, E. "[New Grain Phosphorus and Potassium Numbers](#)." Department of Crop Sciences, University of Illinois, September 7, 2017.

University of Illinois, Crop Science Extension & Outreach. *Illinois Agronomy Handbook*. Accessed March 29, 2022. <http://extension.cropsciences.illinois.edu/handbook/>

## **Scholarships Available for Ashtabula County Students**

Ashtabula County OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for a minimum of thirteen scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year to Ashtabula County students enrolled in either an accredited full four-year college or an accredited two-year technical institute. The Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Fund was founded on April 29, 1952 to promote interest in the study of agriculture, family and consumer science, environmental sciences or natural resources in an accredited full four-year college or an accredited two-year technical institute. This fund awards scholarships to students attending an accredited four-year college or two year technical school. Each year the general scholarship fund awards at least two \$1,000 scholarships. The committee also works with local organizations and farm families to offer many additional

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scholarships. Students are encouraged to apply for the scholarships which they meet the eligibility requirements. The scholarships are for a one year period. A student may apply and be awarded a scholarship three separate years from the scholarship fund. Application forms with complete instructions for applying are now available and can be received by stopping in at the Ashtabula County Extension Office or by calling 440-576-9008. Applications can also be accessed at: <http://go.osu.edu/agscholarship>. The application deadline is **May 1<sup>st</sup>** and no late applications will be considered. More information can also be obtained by emailing [ashtabulacountyagscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:ashtabulacountyagscholarship@gmail.com)

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Ashtabula County OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen's Association are pleased to announce they will be awarding two youth beef scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year. One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a deserving 2022 High School Senior who will be attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute in 2022-2023. In addition, one \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a current College Student who is currently attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. Applicants must be resident of Ashtabula County. The first preference by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen's Association is the scholarships be awarded to deserving students who have been involved in the beef industry as a youth. Applications must be received by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen's Association by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**, 2022 by 4:30 p.m. for consideration for the scholarship. No late applications will be considered. The application can be obtained at: [www.Ashtabula.osu.edu](http://www.Ashtabula.osu.edu). Additional information can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

## ***7th Annual Chili Cook Off & Family Fun Night***

**Friday, April 22, 2022 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm**

**Location: Ashtabula County A-Tech Cafeteria B Building 1565 St Rt. 167  
Jefferson, Ohio**

All proceeds benefit the Ashtabula County 4-H Camp Counselors program! Tickets are \$5 with children 3 and under free. Tickets are available through any 4-H Camp Counselor or at the Extension Office. Cornbread, dessert and beverage included. Lots to see and do, including a Basket Palooza. Many different Chili recipes to try and vote for your favorite!

We are looking for entries, click here to enter: [ENTER YOUR CHILI!](#)

All proceeds benefit the Ashtabula County 4-H Camp Counselors program. For more information contact the O.S.U. Extension Office, Abbey Averill 440-576-9008 or [averill.10@osu.edu](mailto:averill.10@osu.edu).



## ***The Portage County Extension Office is Seeking a Summer Intern***

Join OSU Extension in Portage County! We have a COLLEGE STUDENT INTERN position open in Portage County at Ohio State University Extension. Students will support educational programs and community engagement in 4-H Youth Development along with Agriculture and Natural Resources. The intern will work directly with Extension professionals and staff in to address community-based issues. Ohio State or Non OSU students can apply at <http://go.osu.edu/portageintern> or call 330-533-5538 or email [barrett.90@osu.edu](mailto:barrett.90@osu.edu) with questions regarding a summer of learning, opportunity, and fun working with the staff and residents of Portage County!

## ***Lee's Monthly News Column***

Hello Trumbull County, and welcome to spring! Robins, red-winged black birds, bluets, snow drops, hellebores, and many other ephemeral signs of spring have arrived despite the cold and dreary weather. In a way, we should be thankful for the cold weather since it tends to slow us down more and makes us be a little more thoughtful about planting. When it is warm in March, we tend to get antsy and try to plant grass seed, till our gardens, and generally try to force Mother Nature to our will, only to have her remind us the importance of patience when our grass seed doesn't grow and we make a muddy mess in the gardens.

Compared to 2020 and 2021, this spring seems to be moving at a slower pace – probably closer to what we would consider normal. We can use this slow time to our advantage to make final equipment repairs, last minute seed orders, and finalize plans for spring and summer projects. Thinking ahead to planting season, and watching the fertilizer prices increase due to the war in Ukraine, it may be tempting to cut your fertilizer bill with some unproven products.

When it comes to agriculture, the amount of knowledge related to crop nutrition, soil fertility, and soil health is staggering. Yet, despite all of this knowledge there is always something new to learn and discover. One of these developing areas is related to biological and microbial additives to soil to boost crop nutrition. Symbiotic relationships have been long known between microbes (bacteria and fungi) and plants; think mycorrhizae fungi and rhizobium bacteria that supply nitrogen and nutrients to some plants. In these examples, the microbes take up nutrients from the soil or fix nitrogen from the air and provide it to the plant in return for carbohydrates, and a nice place to stay. These are well studied examples.

Playing on these known relationships, some unscrupulous companies have been marketing some products that claim they have discovered a strain of bacteria that will provide most nutrients to your crop and reduce your fertilizer inputs. While it is possible they have the new miracle solution to the worlds fertilizer problem, they will typically provide very little scientific data to back up their claims. The old adage is still true, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. It's like the wild west at the rate these products are hitting the market without the amount data needed to make accurate claims. A product that is analogous from the wild west is snake oil. Many of these new products do not actually do anything for plant nutrition.

It's not just microbial products either. There are several fertilizer companies marketing to small farms liquid lime, calcium fertilizer, and other products at rates that are not beneficial to any crop. One recent example claimed that their nitrogen fertilizer product only needed to be applied at a rate of 40lbs/acre to get a 200 bushel corn crop. This is just not true, and to get to a 200 bushel crop you will likely need five times that amount. There is nothing magical about any fertilizer.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again - the best and only way to accurately determine how much fertilizer (if any ) you need for your farm or garden is to test your soil. You can purchase a soil test through our office, or at various other retailers in the region. I can help you interpret your test results, no matter where you purchase your test to develop a fertilizer plan that fits your budget.

Don't get me wrong, there are new products hitting the market that do work and at least get close to their claims of increasing yield. Do some homework before investing in the product and see if they have university data on their product. Most reputable products will have some sort of university trial data to back up what they are saying. Even if they don't, that doesn't mean that you can do some trials on your own. Dedicate some side by side plots to see if the product works for you. Who knows, someone just might have discovered the solution to fertilizer, but approach with a healthy dose of skepticism.

You can find more information on the upcoming programs by visiting [trumbull.osu.edu](http://trumbull.osu.edu), checking out our Facebook page, or subscribing to our weekly newsletter. If you have any questions about soil testing, anything to do with growing plants or livestock give OSU Extension Trumbull County a call at 330-638-6783, or email me at [beers.66@osu.edu](mailto:beers.66@osu.edu)

Take care, and stay healthy!

## **Upcoming Extension Programs**

The following programs have been scheduled for NE Ohio farmers. Check back each week as more programs are added to the calendar

### **Ashtabula Camp Councilors - Annual Chili Cook Off**

April 22, 2022 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm

### **Hydrangea School – Moebius Nature Center**

April 28th, 2022, 4-6PM

### **Ashtabula County Ag Scholarships and Beef Scholarships Due**

May 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Drive-Thru Canner Pressure Testing – Portage Soil and Water**

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 9AM-12PM

### **Canning Basics – Portage County Extension Office**


May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 5PM-7PM

### **Backyard Chickens – Portage Soil and Water**

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, 6-7:30 PM

### **Cheese Making Basics with Demo – Portage County Location TBA**

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 10AM-12PM – 20 Person Limit

 <b>THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY</b> COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES		
<b>Lee Beers</b> Trumbull County Extension 520 West Main Street Cortland, OH 44410 330-638-6783 beers.66@osu.edu trumbull.osu.edu	<b>Andrew Holden</b> Ashtabula County Extension 39 Wall Street Jefferson, OH 44047 440-576-9008 holden.155@osu.edu ashtabula.osu.edu	<b>Angie Arnold</b> Portage County Extension 705 Oakwood St., Suite 103 Ravenna, OH 44266 330-296-6432 arnold.1143@osu.edu portage.osu.edu
<small>CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: <a href="http://os.ohio.edu/cfaesdiversity">http://os.ohio.edu/cfaesdiversity</a>.</small>		

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION  
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

A.C.C.A.  
presents the:



# 2022 Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show



**Ashtabula County Fairgrounds, Jefferson, Ohio**

**Champion Steer**

**\$500**

**Reserve Champion Steer**

**\$250**

*\$35 Pre-  
Entry fee*

*\$40 Day  
of Show*

**Champion Heifer**

**\$500**

**Reserve Champion Heifer**

**\$250**

Show time is 12 noon. Health papers must meet state requirements. Exhibitors must be 21 years or younger. Age Showmanship classes will be held. An Ashtabula County-only Class will be held after the regular show. Show Supplies and Food Trailer will be on-site. Generators are permitted and encouraged. Please do not park or fit on the grass---plenty of paved parking and barn space is available on-site. Fitting off trailer is permitted, but must leave area as found.

**Show check-in will be conducted from 8:00 am to 10:00 am on the day of the show.** All animals must be checked before 10:00 am. More information can be obtained by contacting OSU Extension at 440-576-9008 or Holden.155@osu.edu  
This show is sponsored by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen's Association.

**Pre-Registration Form (cut and return to address below)**

Name of Exhibitor \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibitor Age as of January 1, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Will exhibitor be participating in the showmanship class \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Is the 4-H or FFA exhibitor from Ashtabula County, Ohio \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

#of steers entering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35 pre-registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Due

#of heifers entering \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35 pre-registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Due

**Registrations received after April 15, 2022 or on the day of the event will be \$40per entry. Make Checks payable to A.C.C.A Return Registration Form to: David Nye, ACCA President, 6087 Meade Hollow Rd, Windsor, Ohio 44099**

# Hydrangea School

**Join Eric Barrett, Associate Professor and Mahoning County Extension Educator to discover the world of hydrangeas. Learn about types, care, pruning and bloom times. You'll receive a quick reference chart to take to the garden center and a hydrangea plant to take home.**

**Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>  
4PM-6PM  
330-296-6432**

**Location: Moebius Nature Center, 929 E.. Mennonite Rd Aurora, Ohio 44202**

**Cost : \$30/Person – includes a plant to take home**

**Details: Space is limited. Register early.**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION. Registration includes the program and handouts. Please mail completed registration form to OSU Extension, 705 Oakwood St. Suite 103 Ravenna, OH 44266 or drop off the registration to the OSU Extension Office. The program is filled on a first come, first served basis.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration includes handouts and a hydrangea plant to take home for your landscape.**

\$30 per person to register \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to OSU Extension. For questions, please call OSU Extension at 330-296-6432



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[Portage.osu.edu](http://Portage.osu.edu)

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# Canner Pressure Testing Drive-Thru Clinic

**DATES:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 & Monday August 15, 2022

**TIME:** 9 AM - 12 PM

**LOCATION :** PSWCD, 6670 OH-88, Ravenna, OH 44266

Are you preparing to can fresh fruits and vegetables from your garden or local market? Before starting come out to our canner pressure gauge testing clinic. We will be offering two drive through clinic days this summer.

**Details:** This is a FREE drive-thru clinic please stay in your car. Be ready to hand your pressure canner to a staff member.

**For more information:** Scan the QR code, go to <https://go.osu.edu/cannertestclinic>

or call the Portage County Extension Office at 330-296-6432



[Portage.osu.edu](https://Portage.osu.edu)



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**CFAES****DATE:**

May 21, 2022

**TIME:**

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:**520 W. Main St.  
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Registration is required for this event.

Please register online at:

<https://go.osu.edu/smallruminant2022>Registration is due by May 13<sup>th</sup>Questions? Call the Trumbull  
County Extension office at  
330-638-6783**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
EXTENSION**ASHTABULA AND TRUMBULL EXTENSION PRESENT****Small Ruminant  
School 2022**

Join OSU Extension and Countryside Veterinary Service on May 21, 2022 for a day to learn about maintaining a healthy herd or flock of small ruminants. We will discuss general health and welfare, how to assist with kidding or lambing, zoning requirements, livestock housing, nutrition, pasture management, and everything else you need to know for successfully raising goats and sheep. Cost for this program is \$45/person; you can add a lunch for \$15/person. Cost includes many handouts and light refreshments. One child (under 12) can attend for free with parent or guardian registration! Registration is limited. To register for this event, please visit the link listed to the left.

**Agenda:**

- 10:00AM – Welcome & Introduction – Noelle Barnes
- 10:45AM – Livestock Housing & Ownership – Andrew Holden
- 11:30AM – Lunch (prepaid or on your own)
- 12:30PM – Having a Successful Kidding or Lambing – Dr. Jessica Bittner, DVM
- 1:15PM – Health & Welfare – Noelle Barnes
- 2:30PM – Break
- 2:45PM – Pasture Management/Feeding Strategies – Dr. Brady Campbell
- 3:30PM – Marketing – Andrew Holden
- 4:00PM – Wrap Up

**EVENT SPONSOR: Countryside Veterinary Service – Large Animal**



# Conservation Stewardship Program

Improving land sustainability and productivity



## What is CSP?

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) rewards private landowners for actively managing and maintaining existing conservation activities while offering additional opportunities to improve natural resource and land management goals.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides increased financial and technical assistance to producers interested in expanding conservation efforts on the landscape to address resource concerns, improve conservation performance, and/or target multiple resource concerns in a comprehensive and cost-effective manner.

CSP may provide many benefits, including increased crop productivity, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. CSP also encourages adoption of new technologies and management techniques.

Contact your local NRCS office today to learn how the agency can help you improve conservation efforts on your agricultural or forestry operations. Apply by the sign-up date to be considered for funding in the current cycle. Applications for assistance are accepted on a continuous basis and do not guarantee a contract. If an application is accepted and you decline the contract, there is no financial obligation by either party.



**Apply by May 13, 2022**

**Take your operation to the next level  
by building on existing conservation  
activities**

## How Conservation Can Work For You

**Existing activity payments are provided annually to maintain existing conservation and are based on:**



1. Amount of acreage enrolled in each eligible land use.



2. Level of conservation and number of applicable resource concerns met at the time of enrollment.



**Additional activity payments vary each year and are based on:**



1. Extent to which conservation activities are adopted annually (units vary).



2. Type and frequency of new conservation activities implemented.

**Existing Activity Payment for Land Uses:** \*Annual land use payments are based on existing stewardship; number of land uses/amount of acreage enrolled; and adoption of new conservation activities.



### **Cropland**

**Earn up to \$2,700 plus \$7.50 per acre\***

Definition: Land used primarily for production/harvest of annual/perennial field, forage, food, fiber, horticulture, orchards, vineyards, energy crops.

Resource Concerns: Degraded plant condition, pest pressure, field pesticide loss, field sediment/nutrient/pathogen loss, soil quality limitation, source water depletion, terrestrial habitat, concentrated erosion, wind and water erosion.



### **Pasture**

**Earn up to \$2,700 plus \$3 per acre\***

Definition: Land composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species used primarily for livestock production.

Resource Concerns: Degraded plant condition, pest pressure, livestock production limitation, field sediment/nutrient/pathogen loss, soil quality limitation, source water depletion, terrestrial habitat, concentrated erosion, wind and water erosion.



### **Non-Industrial/Private Forestland**

**Earn up to \$2,100 plus \$.50 per acre\***

Definition: Land on which primary vegetation is tree cover (climax, natural/introduced plant community) and use is primarily for production of wood products and/or non-timber forest products.

Resource Concerns: Degraded plant condition, fire management, pest pressure, soil quality limitation, terrestrial habitat, concentrated erosion, wind and water erosion.



### **Associated Agricultural Land**

**Earn up to \$1,200 plus \$.50 per acre\***

Definition: Land associated with farms not purposefully managed for food, forage or fiber such as idle center pivot corners, odd areas, ditches and watercourses, riparian areas, field edges, seasonal/permanent wetlands, etc.

Resource Concerns: Pest pressure, terrestrial habitat, concentrated erosion, wind and water erosion.



### **Farmstead**

**Earn up to \$1,200 plus \$7.50 per acre\***

Definition: Land used for facilities and supporting infrastructure where farming, forestry, animal husbandry and ranching activities are often initiated.

Resource Concerns: Inefficient energy use, storage and handling of pollutants, terrestrial habitat, concentrated erosion.



## **Get Started!**

Contact Your Local  
USDA Service  
Center at [https://  
www.farmers.gov/  
working-with-us/  
service-center-  
locator](https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator)

For additional  
questions, contact  
**Angel Arehart**  
at **614-917-3172**  
or **Angel.Arehart@  
usda.gov**

[Ohio]

**Natural  
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