Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

We hope everyone was able to enjoy the beautiful weather this past weekend. We’ve heard that several of you were able to make herbicide and N applications to your wheat in the last week. In addition to wheat applications, spring burndown has also begun. Planting season is just around the corner!

Just a reminder, if you have some extra time on your hands visit go.osu.edu/AgMadness for some great online ag programs!

Have a great week!
Cold this Week then Warmer for Later April
By: Jim Noel
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-09/cold-week-then-warmer-later-april

A switch to a colder pattern for at least a week before milder air returns later April into May. Widespread freeze conditions are expected this week. Rainfall will generally remain at or above into May but there will be opportunities for plant this late April and May unlike last year.

Temperatures will average up to 10 degrees below normal for the week of April 13-20. Expect highs in the 40s and 50s and lows in the 20s and 30s this week which is well below the normals by about 10 degrees on average. Temperatures will return to near average the week of April 21-28 then above normal the end of April and start of May.

Excessive rain is not expected the next 2+ weeks but frequent lighter rain is. Rainfall systems will continue in the light to sometimes moderate category for the rest of April. They will be frequent enough to amount to 1.5 to 3 inches for the rest of April. Normal is 1.75 to 2 inches in most areas. This means generally near normal to a little above normal rain is in tap. Some wet snow will likely get mixed in with the rain this week from time to time but amounts will be mostly light if any accumulation occurs and northern areas are favored. Please monitor later forecasts as the week progresses.

As discussed last week, we are expected widespread frost and freeze conditions this week over much of Ohio. A few mornings of hard freeze of 28 or less is expected this week. It appears conditions will relax after this week but some frosts are still likely but hard freeze probabilities will be dropping starting this weekend.

Soil temperatures have been mainly bouncing in the 40s north to 50s south the last week or so. Temperatures with the milder weekend rose but with the cold week ahead, soil temperatures will likely be below 50 across much of the state for parts of this week.

The Ag Law Harvest
By: Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Law
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/fri-04102020-532pm/ag-law-harvest

Although many of us are quarantined at home these days, the gears of the legal world are still turning. Here’s our gathering of recent notable news and legal developments:

Our Farm Office is open Monday night!
Join us for the Farm Office’s live online office hours this Monday night from 8—9:30 p.m. Our team of experts will provide updates on the Paycheck Protection Program and the dairy economy and discuss COVID-19 macro-economic and export impacts, BWC dividends, property tax concerns, potential legal issues arising from COVID-19, and other issues you want to discuss. Register at https://go.osu.edu/farmofficelive.

What’s the deal with dicamba?
Our partner, the National Agricultural Law Center, is hosting a free webinar on dicamba litigation on Wednesday, April 15 at noon EST. "The Deal with Dicamba: An Overview of Dicamba Related Litigation," will feature attorney Brigit Rollins, who will review each of the dicamba lawsuits, the claims made by the plaintiffs, and what the outcome of each suit could mean for dicamba use in the United States. Go here to learn more.

Walmart sued for employee’s COVID-19 death.
We’ve been wondering when we’d start seeing COVID-19 lawsuits, and the answer is now. On Monday, the estate of a Walmart employee in Illinois who died from COVID-19 sued the company for negligence and wrongful death. The complaint alleges that Walmart failed to properly clean the store or provide employees with masks, gloves, antibacterial wipes and other protective equipment, knew that employees were exhibiting COVID-19 signs and symptoms, and did not screen new employees for COVID-19. A second employee at the same store has also died of the virus. Read the complaint here.

Shell eggs go to market.
The FDA issued guidance that eases up packaging and labeling requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic for shell eggs sold directly to consumers in retail food establishments. The agency explained that it made the change because plenty of shell eggs are available to meet increased consumer demands, but properly labeled retail packaging for the eggs is not. See the guidance here.

EPA’s glyphosate approval is challenged.
Glyphosate, used in the weed killer Roundup, is in the news again. This time, the controversy surrounds the EPA’s decision in January 2020 to allow glyphosate to continue being used in the interim while the agency conducts its mandatory 15-year re-approval review. Although EPA has yet to make its re-approval decision, two groups of plaintiffs have petitioned the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for an invalidation of the EPA’s decision allowing continued use in the interim. Plaintiffs argue that the decision violates both the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Endangered Species Act because the EPA has not gathered enough information to prove that glyphosate is safe for humans, the environment, and endangered species. You can read the petitions here and here, and EPA’s interim decision here.

No rehearing for RFS litigation.
We reported previously that the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals held the EPA in violation of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) when it granted RFS blending waivers to three small refineries. While the Trump administration did not appeal the court’s decision, two of the oil refiners requested a rehearing before the full panel of Tenth Circuit judges. This week, those requests were rejected by the Tenth Circuit, starting a 90-day period during which the refiners may petition for a hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court.

ODNR suspends hunting and fishing license sales for non-residents. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources announced this week that it is “temporarily suspending the sale of non-resident hunting and fishing licenses until further notice” to further discourage travel into the state. ODNR has no set date to lift the suspension; it will be in place as long as state COVID-19 orders dictate. Read ODNR’s press release here.

BWC gives dividends and deferrals. The Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation board decided yesterday to pay dividends to employers for BWC premiums to the tune of up to $1.6 billion. Checks will go out to employers later in April, and will equal approximately 100% of the BWC premiums paid in their 2018 policy years. The agency is also allowing employers to delay unpaid premium installments due for March through May until June 1, 2020 and will not lapse coverage or assess penalties for amounts not paid due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See this FAQ for details.

**Considerations for Planting Depth this Year**

By: Alexander Lindsey, K. Nemergut, Peter Thomison

Source: [https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-09/considerations-planting-depth-year](https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-09/considerations-planting-depth-year)

Timing corn emergence is key to minimize yield reductions and can be more important for preserving yield than even seed spacing. When setting planting depth for corn this year, be sure to consider not just first emergence seen, but also how uniform the emergence is.

In work conducted from 2017-2019, we manipulated seeding depth to be approximately 1, 2, or 3” deep (current recommendations are for planting at 1.5-2 inches deep) in two conventionally tilled fields. One field had 2-3% organic matter, and the other had 4-5% organic matter. We tracked daily emergence in the plots, and measured stalk strength and yield at the end of the season. Across years and fields, shallow...
planting resulted in faster emergence of the first plants in each year. However, the seeds that didn’t emerge were more subject to moisture fluctuation and took more time to go from 10% emerged to 90% emerged. In the high organic matter field, planting at 1” depth resulted in a 6-day period to go from 10% emerged to 90% emerged compared to the 2” and 3” depths which took 4 or 3 days, respectively. In the lower organic matter field, emergence was much more uniform (within 3 days for all treatments). Temperatures above 86 F can dramatically reduce root elongation and seedling growth, and may help explain the differences between fields. There were more than 3 days on average during emergence where daily maximum soil temperatures exceeded 86 F at the 1” depth in the high organic matter field. Conversely, fewer than 2 days on average during emergence had maximum soil temperatures that exceeded 86 F on average at the 1” depth in the low organic matter field.

According to some field agronomists, shallow plantings increase stress and result in less developed roots, smaller stalk diameters, smaller ears and reduced yields. We did observe reduced stalk strength and saw poorer pollination of the base of ears when planting depth was 1” compared to 2” or 3”. A 9-10% yield reduction in the high organic matter field was observed with 1” planting compared to the deeper planted treatments. In the lower organic matter field where emergence was more uniform, yields were similar regardless of depth.

In these trials, planting dates ranged from May 11 to June 4. Deeper planting may be recommended as the season progresses and soils become warmer and drier, however planting shallower than 1.5 inches is generally not recommended at any planting date or in any soil type. Some studies have documented faster emergence rates with shallower planting depths, but the comparisons have often included deeper planting depths than the recommended ranges and results are highly influenced by temperature and rainfall in the given season.

Improving our understanding of corn response to planting depth across different soil types and conditions may enable more effective use of planting technologies that allow variable planting depths during the planting operation.

References:


Nemergut, K. 2020. Corn emergence uniformity as impacted by planting depth. Masters Thesis: The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
A Pasture Turnout; Wait, not yet!
By: Victor Shelton, NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/04/08/pasture-turnout-wait-not-yet/

There’s new green grass; can we, should we, start grazing?

Yes, there is green grass. Yes, both you and the livestock are more than eager to utilize it. Yes, you both should wait before grazing it.

It is one of the hardest times of the season for some people, me included. We are tired of mud and tired of feeding hay. There is an increasing amount of fresh new lush green grass beckoning to be grazed. Why shouldn’t you allow the cows to partake in this new growth? When is the ideal time to start grazing?

Let’s think this over a little. What is the real problem with grazing too early? Forages have just woken up from a long winter’s nap. New growth comes from energy reserves stored in the roots and lower shoots; that early growth does not come from photosynthesis. Plants must make their own food. That process is called photosynthesis, the production of carbohydrates from carbon dioxide, water and sunlight. The process creates sugars and oxygen. Early growth is not supported by photosynthesis; early growth comes from stored energy.

You probably remember some past conversations we’ve had about not overgrazing last fall, especially before the forages went dormant. That was a critical time for energy storage that is now expressed in the speed of new spring growth. If reserves were withdrawn last fall, then it will take longer for plants to jump start this spring. That last growth prior to going dormant is critical. That particular solar panel is building reserves to sustain the plant over winter and providing energy for new growth in the spring. If you turn around and let them graze it too early, especially if energy reserves are withdrawn last fall, then not only is spring production going to be reduced, total production for the whole year will be reduced.

If you either deferred grazing last fall until the plants were dormant or you stopped grazing once you reached appropriate stop grazing wintering heights (generally similar to stop grazing heights during the season, four inches for cool-season forages), then energy reserves should be decent and spring growth normally will be good. Those reserves that were built in the roots and lower shoots last fall provide energy for quicker and more abundant growth in the spring.

It’s not hard to notice the differences between two fields side by side, especially those managed so differently the past fall and early winter. There is usually a remarkable
difference in forage growth. If you took clippings right now, you will often find a four to six-fold difference in forage present and I’ve seen even bigger differences.

There are times when we want to slow growth in the spring, such as frost seeding legumes, so we reduce competition for those new seedlings. Even under those conditions, we often see a slight reduction in total yield for the year, even with the benefits of the legumes and providing a little extra time for establishment. A worse scenario is overgrazing in the fall with reserves not built and then turning around and initiating grazing too early in the spring or never removing them the entire time. Energy reserves are grossly hampered in this situation and total yield potential for the season is quite often reduced by at least fifty percent.

I’ve heard people say, “The cows didn’t lose anything, they consumed it all.” They consumed all that was grown, but the amount that was grown didn’t come close to the potential of the field. It all boils down to, “it takes grass to grow grass.”

So, when should I initiate grazing in the spring? Good question. Fields that have good fast growth with reserves maintained over winter could be utilized for some grazing when forages are at least eight to ten inches tall. Try and remove no more than one third of the forage and then move them on to the next field. When forages are growing fast, rotate fast. Try to never remove more than half of the entering growth amount or closer than the appropriate stop grazing height. We’re talking cool season forages this time of year, so you can’t go wrong with using four inches as the stop grazing height. Remember, stop grazing height is the shortest forages left standing, not the tallest. If the pasture is rotated correctly it will have a fair amount of forage, between four and six inches left standing.

Fields that were grazed hard last fall, especially prior to dormancy, could use a longer deferment prior to grazing this spring. Those fields will need to first try to grow some solar panel off the reserve left, and then spend valuable time rebuilding roots and root reserves before allocating energy and resources to growing forage. The plant is going to try and preserve itself and yield is the last thing on its mind; it’s thinking survival. Quite often you will find these stands initiating reproductive stages quicker and earlier because of this survival mechanism. In some cases, some anti-quality factors, such as alkaloids, may also be higher due to this. In the long run, if you take care of the plant, the plant will help take care of you. Unless you have run out of hay or are calving in mud, wait until the grass is ready.

If you haven’t taken any soil tests on your pastures recently, especially in the last four years, then now is a good time to do it unless you already did it last fall. Fields that have any hay taken off them should be tested more often and at least every other year. It is difficult to maintain a stand of quality forage that produces to its potential and provides nutritious feed without adequate fertility levels. Systems that are rotated frequently,
managed well, and don’t have any hay removed from them are generally a lot easier to maintain long term.

If funds are limited, calcium is probably the first and best money spent. Calcium and its relationship or ratio with magnesium have a major impact on the forage’s ability to extract nutrients from the soil and certainly the acidity or alkalinity of the soil which can dictate what will or can grow. You should shoot for at least a 4:1 ratio of calcium to magnesium, or 5:1 if you are a dairy operation. If you are really short on calcium and start fixing that problem, then you might find out that other elements start becoming more readily available.

I’ll end today with a thought on magnesium. It is a good idea to move to a high magnesium type mineral supplement (usually 10-20% instead of 1 or 2%) and continue with it until we are past the early flush of new forage. The issue with insufficient magnesium is more of a problem where nitrogen and/or potassium has been applied recently or in excessive amounts. For more detailed information about grass tetany, contact your local extension service or large animal veterinarian.

Keep on grazing!

**Attention Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and Meat Farmers in Ashtabula County**

If you are interested in selling your local food collectively through an online ordering system with a central processing/pick-up location, please contact Local Food Coordinator Julie Wayman at wayman.31@osu.edu or call 440-624-1022 to be including in meeting scheduling and notices. A group of farmers is forming now to discuss possible software options and logistics. Come be apart of a project to move local food forward together! All meetings will be held via Zoom or Conference Call.

**Ashtabula Co. 2020 Ag Scholarships Due May 1**

Last year thousands of dollars were awarded to local students to assist them in pursuing a college degree. If you or someone you know has an agriculture/4-H background or is planning on or currently pursuing an agricultural degree, I encourage you to check out the great opportunities below. All of these scholarships can be found on our website, www.Ashtabula.osu.edu, or by contacting your school’s guidance counselor. If you have any questions about the scholarships you can also call me at the Ashtabula Extension Office at 440-576-9008.

The Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Committee and the Ashtabula County OSU Extension are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted.
accepted for a minimum of thirteen scholarships for the 2020-2021 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 additional scholarships. Both graduate and undergraduate 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 in three 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 1st and no late applications will be considered. More information can also be obtained by emailing ashtabulacountyagscholarship@gmail.com

The Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association are pleased to announce they will be awarding two youth beef scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year. One $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a deserving 2020 High School Senior who will be attending an accredited full four-year college or an accredited two-year technical institute in 2020-2021. 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 1st, 2020 by 4:30 p.m. for consideration for the scholarship. No late applications will be considered. The application can be obtained at: Ashtabula.osu.edu. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

2020 Ashtabula County Farm Bureau Scholarship Application -Deadline Extended
Ashtabula County Farm Bureau would like to remind members of the county Farm Bureau of the scholarships that are available to college students working toward an undergraduate degree. Applicants must be residents of Ashtabula County and...
their parents/guardian or themselves must be paid Ashtabula County Farm Bureau members at the time of application and at time of payout.

Applications must include two signed and dated, current letters of recommendation, one of which must be a current Farm Bureau member. Students must be full-time enrollees of a two- or four-year college or university with a 3.0 grade point average. A major in agriculture or support field is preferred.

No handwritten forms will be accepted. The fillable form is available here, by email, or by calling the Ashtabula County Farm Bureau office at 440-426-2195.

The deadline for scholarships has been extended. All applications must be received or postmarked by May 8, 2020. Applications may be mailed, emailed, faxed to 440.426.9103 or hand-delivered to the Ashtabula County Farm Bureau office.

2020 Trumbull County Farm Bureau Scholarship Application -Deadline Extended

Trumbull County Farm Bureau would like to remind its members of the county Farm Bureau scholarships, available to a student who is either planning to attend or already attending a college, university or technical school and working toward an undergraduate degree. Applicant’s parent(s), stepparent, legal guardian or the themselves must be current members of Trumbull County Farm Bureau at the time of application and payout. The applicant must be enrolled full-time in a two- or four-year college, university or technical school. The recipient and/or a representative must attend the Trumbull County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in the fall to receive monetary award.

The applicant must present him/herself to the selection committee for a personal interview. Due to Coronavirus/COVID-19, the interview dates on the application are postponed. Each applicant will be contacted to set up interviews.

No handwritten forms will be accepted. The fillable form is available here, by emailing or by calling the Trumbull County Farm Bureau office at 440-426-2195.

The deadline has been extended. All applications must be submitted or postmarked by May 1, 2020. Applications may be mailed, faxed to 440.426.9103, emailed or hand-delivered to the county office.
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<tr>
<td>Lee Beers</td>
<td>Trumbull County Extension</td>
<td>520 West Main Street, Cortland, OH 44410</td>
<td>330-638-6783</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beers.66@osu.edu">beers.66@osu.edu</a></td>
<td>trumbull.osu.edu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Holden</td>
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<td>440-576-9008</td>
<td><a href="mailto:holden.155@osu.edu">holden.155@osu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Angie Arnold</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:arnold.1143@osu.edu">arnold.1143@osu.edu</a></td>
<td>portage.osu.edu</td>
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Agriculture and Natural Resources Madness

Tournament of Education

Begins March 25

Daily events at
9:00 a.m.
Noon
3:00 p.m.

Visit tournament website for schedule

go.osu.edu/AgMadness

OSU Extension is Open for Business
Learn with us virtually!

Each day, three educational sessions will be presented relating to the “bracket” or subject. Brackets change daily and include topics like food safety, crisis management, home gardening, animal care, crop production, forestry, hemp and many more.

Events are presented virtually via webinars, social media, live events and watch parties. Links to all events are provided on the tournament website.

You can also find links to watch existing educational programs and find relevant resources as we prepare for the 2020 growing season amid COVID-19.

Brought to you by your OSU Extension educators, researchers, faculty, staff and partners.

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