

NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE NEWSLETTER

Your Weekly Agriculture Update for
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

April 4, 2023



Purple dead nettle is enjoying the warm weather!

In This Issue:

- Portage County Hiring ANR Educator
- Warmer Weather Ahead
- Record in Brazil, Drop in Argentina: Contrasting Soybean Harvests in South America
- Extension Talk – College Ag Scholarships Offered
- Lee's Monthly News Column
- Upcoming Extension Events

Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Would you like to join our OSU Extension team? We are currently accepting applications for an Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator in Portage County. See job details and how to apply in the newsletter.

We will also be hiring an Office Associate in Trumbull County. Job details and posting will be available soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions about either position, please call Lee Beers at 330-638-6783.

Have a great week!

Lee Beers
Trumbull County
Extension Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County
Extension Educator

Portage County Hiring ANR Educator

Apply: <http://go.osu.edu/portagejob>

Ohio State University Extension seeks an **Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources in Portage County, Ohio**, with an office location in **Ravenna, Ohio**. We seek a dynamic individual will a background in agriculture and natural resources for this amazing opportunity to work with a fun office team to serve the residents of Portage County. The Educator will work collaboratively with county, area, and state teams of professionals as well as local agency leaders and volunteers. The position will be responsible for a broad range of basic to complex duties that include: providing guidance and/or leadership to developing and conducting a proactive applied research and education program to meet current and future needs in farm management, livestock and crop production, consumer horticulture, commercial horticulture, farmland use issues, food security, innovative agricultural business opportunities, environmental quality and sustainability, renewable energy, and bio-based products. The Educator will plan teach, deliver, disseminate, and evaluate educational programs and applied research on relevant local issues; Give leadership to the development of pro-active educational programs; maintain a high level of visibility and facilitate communications with a wide range of clientele to promote the understanding of agriculture and natural resource issues; Maintain a program of individual professional improvement in selected subject areas; ensure a diversity among potential clientele and learners and equal access to programs and facilities; Work closely with local advisory committees, commodity groups and volunteers to conduct needs assessment and priority setting to determine emphasis of educational programs; serve as an educational advisor and liaison for OSU Extension and the University to appropriate public issue and program related organizations. The Educator will identify, recruit, and develop the volunteer leadership necessary to carry out relevant parts of their programming including volunteer management, educational training, and program development with and for the Master Gardener Volunteer program in Portage County. The Educator will offer the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist certificate program.

DEAILS & BENEFITS A detailed position description is available at the link below. Benefit package includes medical, vision, dental, retirement and more are available at the application site and a <https://hr.osu.edu/benefits> Ohio State University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion. Details at cfaesdei.osu.edu.

WHAT IS OSU EXTENSION? We connect with people in all stages of life, from young children to older adults. We work with families and children, farmers and businessowners, community leaders and elected officials to build better lives, better businesses, and better communities to make Ohio great. Watch a video about us at: <http://go.osu.edu/weareextension>

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

HOW TO APPLY Deadline for applications is Saturday, January 22, 2022. To apply, go to: External Candidates – <http://go.osu.edu/portagejob> Internal Candidates - <http://go.osu.edu/portageinternal>

Warmer Weather Ahead

By Jim Noel

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2023-08/warmer-weather-ahead>

APRIL

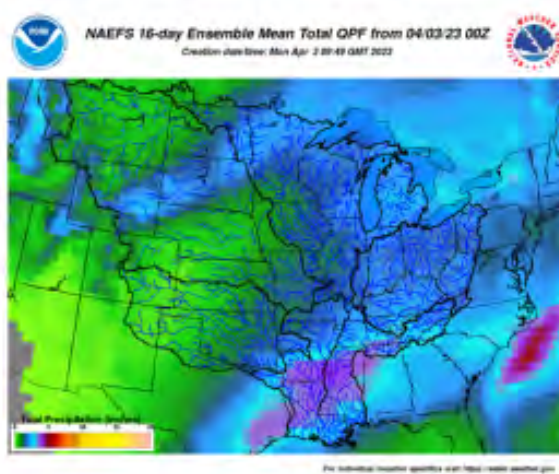
April is forecast to be warmer than normal with some typical swings. Those swings will still bring periods of windy weather for the first half of April. Normal high temperatures are now 55 northeast Ohio to 60 southwest Ohio. Expect above normal temperatures this week with the first half of the week in the 60s and 70s for highs followed by a cool down later in the week with highs in 50s to near 60.

There will be another sharp cool down the first half of next week but then there is expected to be a big surge of warmer weather starting about next Thursday for a solid week which could push high temperatures into the 60s and 70s north to 70s to near 80 south. This should allow some field work to begin in full swing for mid-month. By the end of the month temperatures will settle back to about normal.

As for rainfall, after another strong weather system the middle of this week with rain, weather systems are forecast to weaken for much of the middle of the month. This will reduce the wet pattern we saw in March into early April to more normal rainfall patterns.

Though mid-April, rainfall will average 1-2 inches across Ohio (see image). This is actually about normal to slightly below normal.

With La Nina gone, near normal last freeze dates are projected this spring with most freezes occurring by the end of April or very early May.



GROWING SEASON - May to early September

A warmer than normal late spring through summer and early fall is forecast. However, there is no indication of any significant number of maximum temperatures above 95 which is good news. Rainfall is officially forecast near or slightly above normal.

However, with the rapid transition toward an El Nino that could cause a quick switch to drier than normal conditions in the eastern corn and soybean belt from June or July and on. We need to monitor this risk. If we remain in neutral conditions then any dry pattern would be off the table due to adequate soil moisture conditions. But if El Nino develops, things could change this summer quickly.

This link shows historical rainfall patterns from July to September if an El Nino forms.

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/ENSO/composites/elnino.jas.precip.gif>

You will see a wetter western corn and soybean belt and drier in the east can form.

We will keep you posted on where we go.

Record in Brazil, Drop in Argentina: Contrasting Soybean Harvests in South America

By Joana Colussi, Nick Paulson, Gary Schnitkey, Silvina Cabrini

Source: <https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2023/03/record-in-brazil-drop-in-argentina-contrasting-soybean-harvests-in-south-america.html>

South American countries, which account for about 55% of the world's soybean supply, are experiencing varying harvest expectations this crop season. While Brazil is on the verge of breaking a record in soybean production, Argentina will have its worst harvest in more than two decades. The contrasts in yields result from the effects of La Niña. Overall, South American soybean production still is expected to exceed the previous year, but to a lesser extent than initially thought. The consequences of a larger soybean crop in South America, combined with the potential for a larger U.S. soybean crop in the fall, could tend to push prices down – a trend already evident in the commodity market in 2023, which could become more pronounced in the coming months.

Different Effects of La Niña

Projections put the combined 2022-2023 output in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay at 6,887 million bushels, up 416 million bushels (6%) from last crop season (see Figure 1). The South American soybean harvest would have been higher were it not for the strong influence of La Niña. La Niña events favor increased rain across northern Brazil and decreased rainfall in extreme southern Brazil, Argentina, and

Uruguay. Lower rainfall this year caused extreme South Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay to experience a drought.

The effects of La Niña this season were more concentrated in southern South America, affecting the extreme South of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay. Paraguay, the world's fourth-largest soybean exporter, was spared this season. According to data from the Chamber of Exporters and Traders of Cereals and Oilseeds (Capeco), Paraguay is expected to produce 367 million bushels, more than double the output of the last crop season. This

estimate represents a recovery from the previous cycle when Paraguay's soybean harvest fell almost 60% to 147 million bushels, the lowest level in the last decade. Paraguay exports more than half of the soybeans it produces, and its economy depends heavily on those exports.



Conversely, soybean production in Uruguay is expected to be just a third of last year's production because of the devastating effects of the extreme drought. According to data from the Uruguayan Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries (MGAP), production is forecast to be 37 million bushels, down 63% from the 2021/22 crop season. Soybeans are the second most important product exported by Uruguay in terms of revenue.

The Pacific Ocean was in a La Niña phase from August 2020 to February 2023. Three consecutive crop years with La Niña conditions is relatively rare. This triple sequence has occurred only three times since 1950. Over the last 30 years, the data shows a strong relationship between La Niña and low soybean yields in Argentina but no correlation in Brazil (see *farmdoc daily*, [May 23, 2022](#)). The geographical variation of Brazilian soybean production limits the effects of La Niña compared to Argentina, as shown in the following sections.

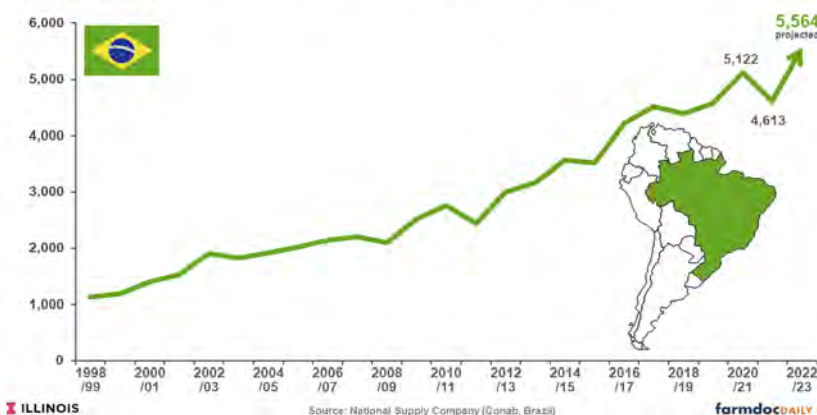
Record Production in Brazil

Brazil, the world's largest producer and exporter of soybeans, is forecast to produce a record 5,564 million bushels this season, a 21% increase compared to the previous cycle, when a drought affected the crop in southern states. The projections for the current cycle remain optimistic mainly because of the recovery in yield to historical trend (52 bushels per acre on average) and to the 5% expansion of the cultivated area in relation to last season, according to data from the National Supply Company (Conab).

The Brazilian soybean harvest is underway and is expected to supply the global market over the next few months. About 70% of the soybean area was harvested by March 25, compared with 76% a year ago, according to data from the Conab. Constant rains in the Center-West and Northeast states, an expected weather behavior in a La Niña year, caused the delay in the harvest, especially in February.

While there is plenty of rain in most soybean-producing states, there has been a lack of rain in Brazil's southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul. The state suffered a severe drought for the second consecutive year. The soybean crop there is projected to be lower than the previous five years' average. Rio Grande do Sul accounts for about 15% of the soybean production in Brazil. Despite the losses in the extreme South, yield gains in the Center-West and Northeast should offset them. In Mato Grosso, the country's largest producing state, average yields have been about 55 acres per bushel.

Figure 2. Brazil Projected to Have a Record Soybean Production
in million bushels



Brazil's soybean exports in 2023 should be higher than initially projected. The forecast is for a record 3,391 million bushels, 17% above the 2,892 million bushels in 2022, according to Brazilian Association of Vegetable Oil Industries data. The projection for domestic soybean processing is at the unprecedented level of 1,929 million bushels for 2023, a 3% increase from 2022. Soybean oil and soybean meal exports should also rise, because Argentina, the world's biggest supplier of both commodities, faces an intense drought.

Global soybean stocks remain historically low (see *farmdoc daily*, [March 13, 2023](#)), although Brazil's harvest is making large replenishments to global supplies. Soybean prices continue to fall in the Brazilian market because of the expectation of a record

harvest. The pace of Brazilian farmer sales has improved recently in response to the strength of the U.S. dollar against the Brazilian real and producers' need to make room in their silos for the coming months, when the second corn crop (safrinha) will be harvested.

Drought Cuts Production in Argentina

Argentina, the third-largest global producer of soybeans, is expected to harvest 919 million bushels in the current crop season. In the last two decades, soybean production in Argentina has averaged about 1,600 million bushels, with no significant trend, with a maximum of 2,256 million bushels in the 2015 harvest. The expected production in the upcoming harvest would be the lowest in more than two decades and 40% lower than the previous harvest (see Figure 3).

Since soybean crop planting, the soybean production projections reported by the local stock exchanges, Buenos Aires Grain Exchange and the Rosario Stock Exchange, have decreased monthly. With a third consecutive La Niña event, the Argentinian central Pampas are going

through unprecedented unfavorable weather conditions: precipitation is at historical minimums, there was early frost in February, and heat waves at the end of February and March. Harvest is about to start, and production estimates are 45% below the initial projections for the growing season.

In the last 20 years, only in the extreme drought in 2008/2009 were soybean yields lower than the projected values for the current season. About 15% of soybean plantings are expected to be unharvested this year. Second-season soybeans planted after wheat are facing more severe conditions than first-season soybeans.

This situation will have a significant impact on Argentina's exports. Argentina is a key player in the international soybean market: it is third in soybean grain exports and first in soybean oil and meal exports. Soybean products represent more than 30% of the value of the total exports in Argentina. China, India, and the European Union are the main buyers of Argentine soybean products. The importance of Argentina as an international

Figure 3. Argentina Projected to Have the Lowest Soybean Production in 20 years
in million bushels



supplier will drop abruptly, and demand will be met by other exporting countries. Moreover, Argentina may have to import more than double the amount of soybeans compared with previous years, mainly from Paraguay and Brazil, to continue supplying regular external customers with soybean meal and oil.

Harvest prices for soybeans grown in Rosario, Santa Fe, are above the average for the last five years, but the price has decreased 20% in the last two months because of weak demand and the expectation of record production in Brazil. Currently, Argentine farmers are waiting for a government announcement to re-establish a preferential U.S. dollar-peso Argentine exchange rate ("soybean-dollar") for soybean exports at harvest time. This measure could be implemented to encourage the sales of soybean products as soon as they become available.

Summary

Overall, South American soybean production is expected to exceed the previous year's level, but to a lesser extent than previously anticipated. Unlike the last crop season, the effects of La Niña this season were more concentrated in the extreme South of South America – Argentina, Uruguay and Rio Grande do Sul state, in Brazil. These regions have been suffering a severe drought since the beginning of the crop season. Consequently, Argentina is expecting its lowest production in the last 20 years. This will have a significant impact on Argentina's exports. In contrast, Brazil is projected to produce a record soybean crop this season as a result of favorable weather in most soybean producing regions. Therefore, Brazil's soybean exports in 2023 should be higher than expected.

College Ag Scholarships Offered

Applications: www.go.osu.edu/ne-events

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 2023-2024 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

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

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 **April 15th** and no late applications will be considered. More information can also be obtained by emailing, and submissions may be sent to, ashtabulacountyagscholarship@gmail.com

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 2023-2024 school year. One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a deserving high school senior who will be attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute in 2023-2024. 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 **April 17th**, 2023 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.

The *Bloom Family 4-H Scholarship* was established by Cliff and Janis Bloom Eldredge to honor the memory of George (Wally)& Ina Bloom and Jim & Nancy Bloom who collectively provided leadership to Ashtabula County 4-H for more than 80 years. **Up to two \$2500.00 scholarships may be awarded annually to incoming freshman residing in Ashtabula County with a 4-H background enrolling at The Ohio State University.** The completed application must be submitted online at <http://go.osu.edu/bloomscholarship>. Supporting documents including current transcript of grades and two letters of support from the academic advisor, school guidance counselor or teacher must be uploaded or submitted to the Ashtabula County Extension Office, 39 Wall St., Jefferson, OH 44047, by **April 1.**

Andrew Holden is an Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator for Ohio State University Extension. Andrew can be reached at 440-576-9008 or Holden.155@osu.edu

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

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Lee's Monthly News Column

Hello Trumbull County, and Happy Spring! Spring ephemeral flowers including daffodils, Lenten-rose, and snowdrops have begun blooming. Their blooms bring a seasonal reminder that our cold and snowy days are limited before the buzz of lawnmowers return. If you want to have a great looking lawn this year to make mowing a little more enjoyable, here are several tips to get you off to a great start.

The foundation of a good lawn is your soil. Nutrient levels, drainage, and composition all influence the growth of grass lawns. For starters, I always recommend soil testing as a first course of action. Although grass lawns require lower nutrients relative to most other types of plants, you still want to make sure you have an adequate supply of phosphorus and potassium. Soil testing is an easy and straight forward process – collect soil from the top 4-6" in fifteen locations, combine the samples, and submit to a soil testing lab following their instructions.

One of the biggest benefits of soil testing is knowing your soil pH, which is included as a standard measure of all soil tests. Northeast Ohio has acidic subsoils so our lawns will tend to have a soil pH of less than 6.0. Grass prefers a soil pH of 6.2 to 6.8 for successful growth, so your lawn may benefit from an application of lime to raise the pH. A mistake many homeowners make is applying fertilizer without correcting pH first. Acidic soils tend to make it harder for plants to use nutrients, and raising the pH will release those nutrients that may already be in your soil.

Not sure where to get a soil test? You can purchase them at various garden centers, feed stores, or other retailers throughout the county. We also sell them in our office for \$14, and we also have a convenient online ordering process at trumbull.osu.edu. No matter where you purchase your soil test kit, I can help you interpret the results to make fertilizer application easy.

Drainage, or lack of drainage, is a common problem in our area. Waterlogged soils will prevent root growth, which in turn can lead to bare spots in your lawn. There are no magical cures for drainage- you just need to get the water to move to a different location by surface or subsurface drainage. It's also important to make sure that your gutters and downspouts are functioning properly so that the additional water from rainfall isn't adding to any existing drainage problems you may have. Many times, a shallow surface drain of one to two inches deep may be enough to quickly move excess water away. This is a quick and economical option and can be done with a simple shovel. For

severely flooded areas, subsurface drainage may be a better option, but this will require excavation of your property and a significant investment.

Phosphorous and potassium fertilizer applications should be made based on soil test reports. Nitrogen fertilizer on the other hand can be applied without a soil test. Nitrogen will really make your grass grow, so the more you apply the more you will mow. A good rule of thumb is to apply one to four pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. If you are using readily available urea (46-0-0), that equates to approximately 2 to 8 pounds of actual fertilizer per 1000 square feet. If you use a different fertilizer, and need help calculating rates, give me a call and I can get you the correct rate.

If your lawn has good soil fertility, pH, and drainage but still looks a little rough, it may be time to investigate in lawn rejuvenation. This process can be as simple as hand spreading grass seed over the existing lawn, or much more involved, including killing off the lawn and starting new. If you choose to overseed by hand you will have better results by scuffing up the dirt with a rake in small areas or using an aerator on larger areas. Your goal with overseeding is to make sure the seed makes contact with soil, making it more likely to germinate. You can even rent overseeding tools, which will take out much of the guesswork in this process.

These tips are just scratching the surface and are suggestions to get you started. If you have further questions, or need help with your specific issue don't hesitate to call our office at 330-638-6783 and we can direct resources your way.

Upcoming Extension Events

Dinner Theater for Mental Health


April 11 – 6:00 PM – Pymatuning Valley Highschool Cafeteria

Cow-Calf School- **Postponed**

~~April 14 – 3PM to 7PM – Novak Townline Farm, Trumbull County~~

Ashtabula Ag Scholarships Due

April 15th

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

CFAES

Join us at the (Dinner) Theater!

**Tuesday, April 11th
Pymatuning Valley
Highschool Cafeteria**

**Doors Open 6:00 PM
Curtain Time 6:30 PM
Run Time 90 Min**



Talking about mental health can be difficult, but it is an important topic for the agriculture community. Join us for a delicious free meal and enjoy a theatrical performance that addresses common issues that add stress to our lives.

Join Ashtabula County Ohio State Extension and the Ashtabula County Farm Bureau for dinner and a show, all at no cost to you!

No babysitter? No problem! Childcare will be provided by 4-H teen leaders.

This event will be limited to just 50 attendees so sign up today!

Reserve your spot today by visiting www.go.osu.edu/Theater
or by calling OSU Extension at 440-576-9008



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



ASHTABULA COUNTY

8th Annual Chili Cook Off & Family Fun Night

Sponsored by Ashtabula County 4-H Camp Counselors

Friday, April 14, 2023

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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

**SOUP
too!**

New category
added for
2023!



Tickets \$6

2 tickets for \$10 (Pre-sale Only)

Children 3 and under Free

Tickets are available through any 4-H Camp Counselor or at
the O.S.U. Extension Office

Cornbread, dessert and beverage included.

Lots to see and do!

Basket Palooza

Many different Chili recipes to try.

Vote for your favorite!



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.



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