Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

We sure could have used some of that heavy snow up our way. It would have been a perfect blanket to protect some of our exposed small grain crops from the cold temps this coming weekend.

It’s going to be rough on the plants, but it will be even harder on our livestock. Make sure you are planning ahead with water, feed, and bedding before the temperature dips to near zero.

Stay safe and healthy!

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Upcoming Cold Temperatures and Winter Wheat

By Ed Lentz, Laura Lindsay, Pierce Paul
Source: [https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-03/upcoming-cold-temperatures-and-winter-wheat](https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-03/upcoming-cold-temperatures-and-winter-wheat)

The upcoming forecast of cold temperatures has sparked some concern about damage to the winter wheat crop.

Fortunately, winter wheat is very resistant to cold temperatures during the months of December, January, and February when the plant is dormant. During these months, winter wheat can withstand below freezing temperatures, especially when there is snow cover. In early 2019, Ohio experienced polar vortex temperatures without snow cover. However, no (or minimal) damage was observed in winter wheat (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Polar vortex temperatures with no snow cover in early 2019 resulted in survival of winter wheat. Besides wheat’s natural ability to be resistant to cold temperatures, plant breeders have developed wheat varieties that are adapted to Ohio’s environments. Occasionally some companies have tried to push North varieties adapted to the Mid-Atlantic region that may be affected by extreme cold. However, most often wheat that has not survived cold temperatures was planted too late for adequate growth, planted too shallow to protect the crown, or too much water on low spots before the cold temperatures.
**Fertility Calculator for Ohio Recommendations - Version Update**

By Greg Labarge


An update to the Fertilizer Calculator for Ohio has been posted at [https://go.osu.edu/ohiofertilitytool](https://go.osu.edu/ohiofertilitytool). The Fertilizer Calculator for Ohio (Version 2021) corrects an error in calculating whole field fertilizer cost and standardizes the width of field/subfield description fields across tool forms based on user feedback. The tool is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet developed to support users who want to generate their own recommendations based on the *Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, and Alfalfa, 2020*. The spreadsheet is designed to be compatible with Excel version 1997-2003 or later.

Recommendations can be generated for the following crops:

1. Corn
2. Corn-Silage
3. Soybeans
4. Wheat (Grain Only)
5. Wheat (Grain & Straw)
6. Alfalfa
7. Grass Hay
8. Grass/Legume Hay

Spreadsheet features:

- There are 21 data lines.
- Supports copying data soil test data from another spreadsheet or within the spreadsheet.
- User controls whether recommendations are build/maintenance or maintenance only for phosphorus (P) and potassium (K).
- User can select appropriate critical levels for corn/soybean rotations or wheat, alfalfa, or grass legume hay rotations for P recommendations.
- Can select a shorter or longer buildup period than standard 4 year for P & K.
- Total fertility needs can be determined for a 1-, 2- or 3-year application on P & K Recommendation page.
- User can compare cost of two lime sources on lime recommendation page.
• User can determine total cost of lime needed in the recommendation developed.
• User can determine total cost of P & K fertilizer needed to meet the nutrient recommendation.

The spreadsheet is available at: https://go.osu.edu/ohiofertilitytool

A printed User Guide is available at: https://go.osu.edu/ohiofertilitytoolguide

A video demonstration at: https://go.osu.edu/ohiofertilitytoolvideo

**Congress passes bill extending the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

By: Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Law
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/thu-01282021-805am/congress-passes-bill-extending-great-lakes-restoration-initiative

Not long after its 10th anniversary, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) received a hefty package celebrating its success. Congress passed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2019 last month, not only reauthorizing the GLRI for another five years but also significantly increasing its funding levels. The annual funds for GLRI will grow from $300 to $330 million in 2021, to $375 million in 2022, and up another $25 million per year until reaching $475 million in 2026. The GLRI had been set to expire at the end of 2021 and faced funding threats in recent years. The boost in funding with solid bi-partisan support, however, suggests long term viability for the GLRI.

The GLRI began in 2010 with the goals of making water safe to drink and fish safe to eat, reducing harmful algal blooms, protecting native habitat and species, and prohibiting invasive species in the Great Lakes basin. It does so by awarding grants for projects that aim to restore and protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes basin. In its ten-year history, GLRI has funneled $2.7 billion into over 5,000 projects in the eight states that comprise the Great Lakes ecosystem.

In Ohio, GLRI has funded projects for the removal of dams, agricultural best management practices, stream restoration, coastal wetlands, management of invasive species, and clean-up of contaminated sediments in Ohio’s four targeted “areas of concern,” which include the Ashtabula, Black, Cuyahoga, and Maumee Rivers. Ohioans can expect to see more of these and other projects in the coming years.
For more on the GLRI, visit this link.

Go to this page to view the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2019.

**Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification Update**

Happy New Year! I’m sure some of you have received your private pesticide license renewal from the ODA, and are wondering how to get recertified. Admittedly, we are behind this year as we try to navigate changing guidelines from the state, county, and OSU on holding meetings. Hitting a moving target is a little challenging! We will make sure that everyone will get recertified one way or another.

While we prefer in-person programs, that is not possible in the near future. We have been granted permission by the ODA to hold virtual live meetings for pesticide recertification, and we have four sessions scheduled for the upcoming months. You can find those dates below, and registration links as well. These are live events and not recorded. We realize that not everyone has a computer, or reliable internet so we are working on some in-person events later this spring. We will provide updates on those in-person events when those are available.

Thankfully, the deadline for applicators with an expiration in 2020 and 2021 has been extended to July 1, 2020. We hope with the option of having recertification in warmer weather, we can move outside and get together in person. If you have any questions please give us a call and we will answer any questions you have.

- **Horticulture Specialization - New for 2021!**
  - Date: February 4, 2021, Time: Daytime 10AM – 2PM
  - Categories CORE, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Fertilizer
- **Normal/Agronomy**
  - Date: February 16, 2021, Time: Evening 5PM – 9PM
  - All categories, CORE and Fertilizer
- **Normal/Agronomy**
  - Date: March 10, 2021, Time: Daytime 10AM – 2PM
  - All categories, CORE and Fertilizer
- **Normal/Agronomy**
  - Date: April 7, 2021, Time: Daytime 10AM – 2PM
  - All categories, CORE and Fertilizer

You can register now at [https://go.osu.edu/NEOPAT21](https://go.osu.edu/NEOPAT21)
Do You Have any Trumbull County Ag History?

Trumbull County Historical Society is putting together an exhibit titled "Trumbull County A-Z" that will open in April 2021 and we are looking to the Trumbull County community for help! The exhibit will be structured so that each letter of the alphabet will represent a topic that relates to Trumbull County history. The topics can be events, celebrations, milestones, places, people, or something else that represents diverse groups in our area. We know that the OSU Extension Office is a major part of the agricultural community and we hope that you can help us begin the process of finding topics related to the agricultural community in Trumbull County.

If you have any ideas you would like to pass on, contact Annie Talmadge at annie@trumbullcountyhistory.org.

Sponsors for 2021 AG Day Sought

Every spring around 1,000 first graders from all Ashtabula County Schools descend on the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds to participate in Ashtabula County’s “Ag Day.” Coordinated by OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Farm Bureau, the primary goal of Ag Day is to educate first graders on where their food comes from and to showcase the different types of agricultural commodities which are being produced in Ashtabula County. Due to the pandemic, last years Ag Day was postponed, with the plan of offering this years Ag Day to two classes. As the pandemic continues into 2021 there are still decisions that will be made to ensure both safety and great agricultural education is provided.

What will Ag Day 2021 look like? Currently there are some unknowns, but we are excited to be serving both Ashtabula County’s first and second graders. Due to the unknowns when it comes to in person gatherings, we are working hard to be prepared for any situation. Our first choice would be to have all schools attend the event in person at the fairgrounds. This would be accomplished over two days (May 13 & 14, 2021). While we are preparing for in person, we know that for many reasons this may not be possible. That is why we are creating an Ag Day- classroom edition that can be done in classrooms or virtually online. This will include videos we are making from stations we would normally have and supplies that will be sent to the schools to provide the hands-on activities. Regardless of if we hold Ag Day online or in person, the online content and activities will enhance the Ag Day experience for years to come and offer the ability to educate students about agriculture beyond our one-day event. We plan on making a final decision in March and will continue to prepare for any situation.
Ashtabula County’s Ag Day program has become a community supported effort as over 300 volunteers and donors help to make this day a reality for the students. The cost of hosting this event is nearly $22,000 (both monetary and in-kind) and without the support of many this program would not be possible.

We are asking you to considering becoming a donor for the 2020 Ag Day and are offering 5 levels of sponsorship:

- **Platinum Sponsorship** - $1,000 and over
- **Gold Sponsorship** - $500 to $999
- **Silver Sponsorship** - $250 to $499
- **Bronze Sponsorship** - $100 to $249
- **Friends of Ag Day** - $1 to $99

For 2020, we are asking all Ashtabula County farms, agribusinesses, and supporters of Ashtabula County Agriculture to consider donating to help us educate our youth about agriculture. Your gift to this program is 100% tax deductible. Donors are recognized in a variety of manners.

A sponsorship letter can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula office at 440-576-9008 or emailing Andrew Holden at Holde.155@osu.edu. If you are interested in volunteering at this year’s program or would like to be a sponsor, please contact Abbey Averill at 440-576-9008.

If you have never experienced Ag Day, please check out this short video from Ag Day 2019: [https://youtu.be/3Aw_P2-fi8k](https://youtu.be/3Aw_P2-fi8k)

**Woodland Wednesdays presents: “A Virtual Walk through Working Woods”**

Making decisions about land management can be difficult if you haven’t seen what the results actually look like in the woods. Join us on Wednesday, February 17th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm for this virtual field tour of Working Woods, the demonstration forest at the Holden Arboretum, where you'll get to experience management sites through 360 photos, videos, and maps. Whether you have an interest in conserving your woods, performing a timber harvest, or managing invasives, gain a vision for your own woodland management by seeing these real-world demonstrations. Our featured speaker is Jessica Miller, Community Forester with Holden Forests and Gardens. Collaborators include Natural Resources Conservation Service, Geauga, Lake, Ashtabula, Portage, and Trumbull Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Division of Forestry, Farm Bureau, and Ohio Division of Wildlife.
This online program is free, but registration is required by February 16th. To register visit woodlandwednesdaysfebruary2021.eventbrite.com or for more information contact Geauga SWCD at gprunty@geaugaswcd.com or 440-834-1122.

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Enrollment for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2021 crop year is currently open. The deadline to enroll and make amendments to program elections is March 15, 2021. Producers have the option to enroll covered commodities in either ARC-County, ARC-Individual, or PLC. These are the same program options that were available to producers during the 2019 and 2020 crop years, but in some cases, producers may want to amend program elections to better manage the potential risks facing their farms during the 2021 crop year. There is no cost to attend these meetings, but registration is required: https://go.osu.edu/neofb21

Location: Online via Zoom Cost: Free Time: 1:00 PM
Contact information: Any questions can be directed to Andrew Holden at 440-576-9008 or email Holden.155@osu.edu
To view the recorded video of this presentation contact Andrew Holden
Corn College & Soybean School
February 11, 2021

Join OSU Extension’s Agronomic Crops Team for the 2021 Virtual Corn College and Soybean School. CCA CEUs are available. There is no cost to attend.

Register at go.osu.edu/agronomyschools

CORN
9:00am – 12:00pm
Corn Management
Peter Thomison 1.0 CM CCA CEUs.
Meeting Nutrient Needs
Steve Culman 1.0 NM CCA CEUs.
Disease Management
Pierce Paul 1.0 PM CCA CEUs
Insect Management
Andy Michel 1.0 PM CCA CEUs

SOYBEAN
1:00pm – 4:00pm
Soybean Management
Laura Lindsey 1.0 CM CCA CEUs.
Weed Management
Mark Loux 1.0 PM CCA CEUs
Disease Management
Anne Dorrance 1.0 PM CCA CEUs
Insect Management
Kelley Tilmon 1.0 PM CCA CEUs

Location: Zoom webinar
CCA CEUS Available. Free to attend.
Register: go.osu.edu/agronomyschools

We Sustain Life