Happy New Year!

Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

It finally happened! 2020 is over! Let’s hope 2021 doesn’t go off the rails though.

If you’ve been wondering how to get your pesticide license and fertilizer certificate renewed, don’t worry we have 4 dates lined up in the next few months to keep you current. You can read more details in the newsletter, but ss always, give us a call if you have any questions.

Stay safe and healthy!

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Lee Beers
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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)
Winter into Spring Outlook
By: Jim Noel
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-01/winter-spring-outlook

La Nina remains in full swing, the cooling of the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. Typically the impacts kick in for Ohio by late December or January. You can see the typical wet signal for the Ohio Valley and Ohio in the attached La Nina graphic courtesy of NOAA. You can keep up on La Nina and ENSO at the links below: https://www.climate.gov/enso

https://mrcc.illinois.edu/pubs/pubsElNino.jsp
Therefore, the climate pattern supports big swings for temperatures for the rest of winter through early spring with the tendency toward above normal temperatures. This will also support snow that comes and goes for most of Ohio. This can expose winter wheat to temperature changes with limited snowpack.

As for rainfall and precipitation, expect above normal conditions to ramp back up for later January into February and March. Northwest Ohio subsoils remain drier than normal but the expectation is for wetting up to continue late winter into early spring. Going forward through spring, the wetter conditions typically shutdown at some point and that varies for each La Nina event but often it is by May or June.

We will have to watch an expansive drought area in parts of the central and western U.S. to see if that shifts east for summer. That can happen during La Nina events where we go from wet in winter and spring to dry in summer.

For winter into spring expect wetter in the eastern corn and soybean area while drier in western areas. By late spring and summer that dryness can shift east. Finally, attached is an image of the last 30-years of rainfall trends for spring provided by NOAA. You will see the wetting up in the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes including Ohio.
Precipitation trends

**Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage for the 2021 Crop Year**
By: Mary Griffith, Chris Zoller, Hallie Williams

Enrollment for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2021 crop year opened in October, with the deadline to enroll and make amendments to program elections on March 15, 2021. This signup is for potential payments for the 2021 crop.
If changes are not made by the March 15th deadline, the election defaults to the programs selected for the 2020 crop year with no penalty. While it is optional to make changes to program elections, producers are required to enroll (sign a contract) each year to be eligible to receive payments. So, even if you do not change your program elections, you will still need to make an appointment at the Farm Service Agency to sign off on enrollment for the 2021 crop year by that March 15th deadline.

Producers have the option to enroll covered commodities in either ARC-County, ARC-Individual, or PLC. Program elections are made on a crop-by-crop basis unless selecting ARC-Individual where all crops under that FSA Farm Number fall under that program. These are the same program options that were available to producers during the 2019 and 2020 crop years. In some cases producers may want to amend program election to better manage the potential risks facing their farms during the 2021 crop year.

As you consider amending your program choices, here are some important reminders:

- **PLC payments are triggered by low prices.** PLC is a disaster price program and pays when the marketing year average price is below a reference price. The marketing year average price (MYAP) is an average price calculated using cash prices across the nation over the course of a year. The 2021 marketing year for wheat is May, 2021 – June, 2022 and for corn and soybeans is August, 2021 – September, 2022. This means that the MYAP for 2021 for wheat will not be known until June, 2022 and the MYAP for corn and soybeans will not be known until September, 2022. PLC payments will only be triggered for a covered commodity if the MYAP published at the end of the marketing year are below the reference price. The reference price for corn is $3.70, for soybeans is $8.40, and for wheat is $5.50.

- **ARC-County payments are triggered by low county revenues.** Revenues are calculated using the market year average price times the county average yield. When producers enrolled for 2019 and 2020, they were enrolling after the 2019 crop had been harvested. Yields for 2019 were known at the time of the enrollment deadline for that year. For the 2021 crop year, producers will be enrolling before the crop is planted.

- **Producers have less information about both price and yields for the 2021 enrollment period, compared to the last enrollment period.** When producers enrolled for 2019 and 2020, we were more than halfway through the marketing year for each crop, so there was much more information on price expectation. For the 2021 crop year, producers will be enrolling before the marketing year begins.

- **The maximum ARC-IC payment is triggered in cases where an FSA Farm has 100% Prevent Plant acres.** At the time of enrollment for the 2019 crop year, producers knew if they had FSA Farms that fit this description and were able to use that information to decide if ARC-IC was a good fit for a FSA Farm.
For the 2021 crop year, producers will need to decide by March 15th if ARC-IC is still the right choice for those farms without knowledge of how many acres they will have in Prevent Plant. While some FSA Farms triggered large payments for ARC-IC in 2019, producers may want to re-assess this program election for the 2021 crop year if they do not expect to put those farms in 100% Prevent Plant in 2021.

- For most producers, the number one consideration driving program election is the markets. What are markets going to do? We will not know the MYA price for corn or soybeans until September of 2022, and a lot could change in that time.

OSU Extension and the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics (AEDE) are offering several webinars between now and the March 15th enrollment deadline for producers to get up to date market outlook information. For information about AEDE’s 2021 Winter Outlook Meetings, visit https://aede.osu.edu/research/agricultural-policy-and-outlook-conferences/county-meetings.

Additionally, OSU Extension will be offering two webinars this winter focused specifically on the ARC/PLC decision, reviewing decision-tool calculators available to evaluate options, and current market outlook. The dates for these webinars are January 13th from 1:00-3:00pm and February 25th from 9am-11am. Both programs are free to attend, but registration is required. Register online at: http://go.osu.edu/arcplc2021.

**Water Quality Wednesday**

By: Boden Fisher, Matthew Romanko, Jordan Beck, Rachel Cochran, Brigitte Moneymaker

Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-01/water-quality-wednesday

Water quality concerns continue to be at the forefront of environmental-impact discussions across many industries. Since agriculture occupies much of the land area in Ohio, adapting farming operations to include "best management practices" has been an area of focus for agricultural producers, governmental agencies and other stakeholders working to contribute to solutions. As water quality concerns remain, so do opportunities for reviewing the current research and considering adopting practices that work for your situation. Join The Ohio State University Extension-Water Quality Team and guest speakers for a webinar series discussing several timely topics in preparation for the 2021 growing season. Register for specific events or the entire series at: http://go.osu.edu/wqw.

**First Event:**

January 13th 10-11:30am

Manure & Nutrient Management

Northeast Ohio Agriculture
Northeast Ohio Agriculture  
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

Following Events

**February 10th 10-11:30am**
Cover Crops and Water Quality: Sarah Noggle, Jason Hartschuh, Rachel Cochran

**February 24th 10-11:30am**
Best Management Practices for Water Quality

**March 3rd 3-3:30pm**
Lake Erie Water Quality Litigation Update: Peggy Hall

**April 14th 10-11:30am**
Water Quality in the Western Lake Erie Bas

Future WQWs: Jan 13th, Feb 10th, Mar 3rd, Apr 14th
2020 SH2 Sweet Corn Trial Results – Gastier, Hofelich and Gahler
By Mike Gastier, Matthew Hofelich, Allen Gahler

Summary

Sweet corn is an important crop in both the fresh market and shipping market in North Central Ohio, where a significant percentage of Ohio vegetables are grown. Many different varieties of sweet corn are grown by producers with fresh market roadside stands, and still others are grown for early, mid, and late season shipping and processing markets, meaning growers demand a diverse selection of sweet corn varieties and maturities. Growers have indicated this diversity should focus on SH₂ varieties with different stages of maturity, and variance in other traits. Many new varieties are becoming available to meet these grower demands, and this study sought to determine which ones would perform acceptably in Northern Ohio, and which would have the desired traits growers are seeking. For this trial, 34 SH₂ varieties were grown in 4 replicated plots at the Ohio State University’s North Central Agricultural Research Station near Fremont, Ohio.

For the full report and results as a PDF, click here.

Andrew’s Monthly News Column
By: Andrew Holden, Ashtabula ANR Educator

Happy New Year Ashtabula County! We made it to 2021! While there are many things we are glad to leave in 2020, I know one thing many local farmers can be thankful for was a decent harvest. Yields were up in 2020, thanks to better than average weather, with corn doing especially well! Hopefully that trend continues into the new year. Looking ahead to 2021, if your resolution is to attend more educational ag programs,
OSU Extension Ashtabula County is ready to help. We already have many events planned, with even more in the works. Stay up to date on all our program offerings by following my column, and following our Facebook, at https://www.facebook.com/AHolden440. While our programs will be offered online, we plan on bringing the same great information to NE Ohio this year. If you have any questions or request for programming this year please contact me at the Extension Office. I also encourage everyone to fill out my needs assessment to share their interest and availability for future programs, please go to www.go.osu.edu/AshtabulaAg2020 to fill out the survey. As we welcome in 2021, I have a couple different topics and upcoming programs to share.

First, the OSU Extension Agronomy Team has a few new programs that are being offered online this winter. Main topics include Investing in Soil Health, Crop Diversity to Improve Your Bottom Line, and Farming in Weather Extremes. These programs and more can be found at https://agcrops.osu.edu/events. Registration is required so check it out and sign up today! CCA education credits will be offered for many of the programs as well.

Next, the Pastures for Profit program is being offered online this winter, starting January 13th, 2021, and running through March. Topics include, Soil Health & Fertility, Species Specific Tips, Stocking Densities, Forage Sampling and Analysis, Winter Feeding Strategies, Conservation Practices, Genetic Traits of Forages, Pasture Layouts, Farm Economics, Pasture Walks/Virtual Tours. There will be prerecorded videos and information in addition to the three zoom meetings that will be offered at 7pm for 90-minutes on January 13, February 3, and March 3. Cost of the course will be $50, which includes the Pastures for Profit manual. Current and new members of the Ohio Forage and Grasslands Council are eligible for a $10 discount on registration. Register for the course at https://afgc.org/ofgcwebinar.

Finally, if your pesticide or fertilizer license is expiring in 2021, the deadline to renew has been moved from March 31st, 2021 to July 1st, 2021. This gives you more time this year to get your recertification hours. In addition to the extension, we have a few different options for earning recertification credits this year. As of now the offered trainings are all online, with live and prerecorded sessions as options. If your license expires this year, you should have received a letter from the ODA already to remind you. Additionally, I am sending all 2021 applicators a letter outlining the recertification options available. If you have any questions about recertification, or when your license expires, please contact me. You can call 440-576-9008 or email Holden.155@osu.edu.

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
Lee’s Monthly News Column

Happy Holidays Trumbull County! I have been waiting for this moment since March – the end of 2020! I’m looking forward to 2021 and hopefully a return to some sense of normalcy. Until then, I’ll enjoy the snow as much as possible.

Your woodlands can be a great source of recreation, beauty, and possible income. If you are thinking about selling your timber there are a few key things to know, so if someone knocks on your door or sends you a letter offering to cut your timber, you know how to respond. The best and easiest way to get the resources you need is to contact “Call Before You Cut” at callb4ucut.com or 1-888-424-8288.

The first thing I want you to know is that if someone says they are interested in your woodlot, there are several other people who are also interested, so you will have options. Before you agree to a logging contract (and, yes, you want a contract) you need to know what you want your woodlot to look when the logging is complete. Do you want all the valuable timber taken out, with only small trees left? Do you want a mixed stand that can be harvested again in a few years? I get several calls a year from landowners unhappy with the state of their woodlot after logging is complete because this wasn’t discussed ahead of time. Once the trees are gone, so is your negotiating power.

I’m going to reiterate this point again – never accept the first offer. The difference between one logging company and another could be tens of thousands of dollars. The best way to know the value of your timber is to work with a consulting forester. These folks are skilled and knowledgeable, and can walk your lot with you to discuss the value of your timber and some options. They can also solicit bids and find a logging company that closely matches your expectations for both prices paid and expected outcomes. Many times people balk at the idea of working with a consulting forester because there is a cost to do so, but from my experience the happiness of woodlot owners working with a forester is much higher than those who do not. Generally speaking, working with a consulting forester will likely pay for itself in either the money you get in the end, or time you will have to spend cleaning up a mess from a bad logging contract.

Now, we need to discuss what should be in your logging contract. As with all contracts, make sure you read it thoroughly and understand it well. If a contract says that all trees will be taken that are 6” diameter or less at breast height (4.5 feet from the ground) I would suggest going out to your woods yourself to check how many trees actually fit those measurements. Once the tree is cut, there is no way to measure how big it was at the time.
breast height because only the stump is left behind. Adding a stump provision, or a minimum diameter for the stumps left behind, is one way to help ensure that the trees that are harvested were of the agreed-upon diameter. If the stump diameter is only 6”, it’s unlikely the tree was 6” at breast height. Another piece of advice is to never agree to sell timber based on shares or percentages, because then what you get out of it will be based on market fluctuation, and the cost of labor, trucking, fuel, etc.

There are lots of reputable loggers who can provide you with an income from your woodlot, while being sure to leave it in a good state when they are done. Do your research before you sign a contract, and if you have questions please contact me at 330-638-6783 or beers.66@osu.edu, or Luke Walters, ODNR Service Forester, at 614-309-6096. We can help point you to the resources you need about not only selling your timber, but understanding tax laws, timber contracts, and more.

As always, OSU Extension Trumbull County is still here to serve you during the pandemic. If you have questions about soil testing, plant disease, farm bill, or generally anything about agriculture give us a call. We are working remotely to answer your calls, but we anticipate that our office will be open on Monday and Thursday from 8:30-4:30 starting on Jan. 4. We hope you all stay safe and healthy!
ARC/PLC for the 2021 Program Year

January 13, 1:00-3:00pm
February 25, 9:00-11:00am

Location: Zoom Webinar Cost: Free
Register: go.osu.edu/arcplc2021

Join OSU Extension for a webinar on the ARC/PLC decision for the 2021 program year including updates on current market outlook and decision-tool calculators available to evaluate options. There is no cost to attend these meetings, but registration is required.

Register: go.osu.edu/arcplc2021

For more information contact: Mary Griffith, Griffith.483@osu.edu or 740-852-0975

Photo Credit: Elizabeth Hawkins
The virtual Pastures for Profit course will consist of three 90-minute webinars offering a variety of pasture and grazing topics. Once registered, attendees will be granted access to the online course including the webinars and complementary resources. Participants that attend all three webinars will have the opportunity to earn a certificate of completion. Registered participants will also receive their choice of a curriculum binder or USB drive of the traditional course by mail.

**Wednesday, January 13th 7:00 p.m.  Webinar 1:**  
Core Grazing Education: Evaluating Resources and Goal Setting, Getting Started Grazing, Soil Fertility

**Wednesday, February 3rd 7:00 p.m.  Webinar 2:**  
The Science of Grazing: Understanding Plant Growth, Fencing and Water Systems, Meeting Animal Requirements on Pasture

**Wednesday, March 3rd 7:00 p.m.  Webinar 3:**  
Meeting Grazing Goals: Pasture Weed Control, Economics of Grazing, Creating and Implementing Grazing Plans

Cost of the course is $50, which includes the Pastures for Profit manual. Current and new members of the Ohio Forage and Grasslands Council are eligible for a $10 discount on registration. **Register by visiting:** [https://afgc.org/ofgcwebinar](https://afgc.org/ofgcwebinar).
Stay warm at home and think spring with these great winter Wednesday webinars.

February 3rd

- “Why Native Plants Matter to Bees and Other Wildlife”
  presented by Denise Ellsworth, Program Director of Pollinator Education, OSU

February 17th

- “Invasives-Identification, Eradication, and Native Alternatives”
  presented by Rees Davis, Master Gardener, and Andrew Holden, Educator, Ag & 
  Natural Resources for CFAES Ashtabula County OSU Extension

March 3rd

- “Who are the (Non Bee) Pollinators in Your Neighborhood?”
  presented by Judy Semroc, CMNH Conservation Specialist

March 17th

- “Harvesting and Planting Native Seeds”
  presented by Red Beet Row, Agroecology Education Farm

March 31st

- “Specific Plants for Specific Pollinators”
  presented by Carol Blake, Master Gardener
  and Encie Moroski, Master Gardener

Register now at go.osu.edu/neops