Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

We have made it to July! Hopefully, you were able to take part in some of the Fourth of July festivities over the weekend with family and friends. The hot, dry weather was perfect for picnics and for those making hay. Looking at the forecast this week, we have chances for thunderstorms that could bring some relief to our crops here in NE Ohio.

Western Bean Cutworm trapping has started around the state, read more about it in the first article.

Have a great week!
**Western Bean Cutworm Monitoring is Underway in Ohio**


Traps were deployed for Western bean cutworm (WBC) monitoring the week of June 14th. The first trap counts were collected from June 21 – 27, and monitoring counties reported a total of 16 WBC adults (0.25 statewide average moths per trap; Figure 1). There are currently no counties at the WBC threshold requiring scouting for egg masses.

Western bean cutworm is a pest of corn in Ohio and has increasingly caused concern for growers since reports of resistance to Cry1F hybrids. Monitoring for WBC is an important tool to track populations and make management decisions for our growers. Monitoring for WBC adults requires green bucket traps set with a pheromone and checked weekly (Figure 2). When trap counts result in an average of more than 1 moth/day (or a county average of 7 or more moths), we recommend scouting for WBC egg masses. While the pheromone is specific to WBC, occasionally other moth species can be found in the trap, such as yellow striped armyworms. It is important to look for identifying features on WBC moths, which include boomerang and dot markings on the wings (Figure 3).
Figure 1. Average Western bean cutworm adult per trap (in blue) followed by the total number of traps monitored in each county (in white) for the week ending June 27th, 2021. Map developed by Suranga Basnagala, Ohio State University, using ArcGIS Pro.

Figure 2. Western bean cutworm green bucket trap deployed at the edge of a cornfield. Photo credit: Amy Raudenbush.

Figure 3. Adult Western bean cutworm moth. To identify, look for boomerang structure and dot on wings. Photo credit: Amy Raudenbush.
USDA ERS Dairy Forecasts for 2021 & 2022

By: Chris Zoller
Source: https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2021/07/05/usda-ers-dairy-forecasts-for-2021-2022/


2021 Dairy Forecast

Recently, milk cow numbers have been trending upward. USDA ERS projects milk cow numbers to average 9.495 million head, an increase of 25,000 from their May projection. Because of low cow slaughter numbers and higher feed prices, USDA ERS projects that cow numbers will level off during the second half of 2021. Extreme heat and its effects on cow comfort and grain production caused USDA ERS to lower its milk per cow slightly for the third quarter, putting annual production per cow at 24,065 pounds.

Reduced cheese prices and higher expected dry whey prices have USDA ERS projecting the following milk prices for 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class III</td>
<td>$17.45/cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class IV</td>
<td>$15.85/cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-Milk</td>
<td>$18.85/cwt.</td>
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</tbody>
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2022 Dairy Forecast

While the number of cows is expected to average 30,000 more than the May projection, USDA ERS puts cow numbers for the year at 9.495 million head, unchanged from 2021. High input costs and lower expected milk price in mid-2021 translates into a decline in 2022 of milk cow numbers from the levels seen in the second half of 2021. Milk per cow is expected to increase slightly in 2022, 24,335 pounds.

A projected stronger economy in 2022 should result into positive news for domestic use. Additionally, international demand for U.S. lactose and whey products is expected to contribute to an increase over the May projection.

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties
USDA ERS makes these projections for milk price in 2022:

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Once again, the dairy farm economy is going to be tight for the remainder of 2021 into 2022. Dairy farmers are encouraged to closely monitor expenses, evaluate inputs, and meet with trusted advisors. The Ohio State University Dairy Excel 15 Measures of Dairy Farm Competitiveness Bulletin [https://dairy.osu.edu/sites/dairy/files/imce/2019%20Measures%20of%20Dairy%20Farm%20Competitiveness%20Final%20%281%29.pdf](https://dairy.osu.edu/sites/dairy/files/imce/2019%20Measures%20of%20Dairy%20Farm%20Competitiveness%20Final%20%281%29.pdf) is an excellent resource that allows dairy farmers to compare performance against established benchmarks.

**Smaller summer harmful algal bloom predicted for western Lake Erie**


NOAA and its research partners are forecasting that western Lake Erie will experience a smaller-than-average harmful algal bloom this summer. A relatively dry spring will lead to a repeat of last year’s mild bloom – this is the first time in more than a dozen years that mild blooms have occurred in consecutive summers.

*Scientists expect this year’s bloom to measure 3 on the severity index. The 2020 bloom had a severity of 3 as well.*
This year’s bloom is expected to measure 3, with a potential range of 2 – 4.5, out of 10 on the severity index – among the smaller blooms since 2011 – whereas last year’s bloom was measured at a 3. The index is based on the bloom’s biomass – the amount of algae – during the peak 30 days of the bloom. An index above 5 indicates more severe blooms. Blooms over 7 are particularly severe, with extensive scum formation and coverage affecting the lake. The largest blooms occurred in 2011, with a severity index of 10, and 2015, exceeding the scale and measuring at a severity index of 10.5. Lake Erie blooms consisting of cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae, are capable of producing microcystin, a known liver toxin, which poses a risk to human and wildlife health. Such blooms may result in economic impacts for cities and local governments that are forced to treat drinking water, close beaches, and prevent people from enjoying fishing, swimming, boating, and visiting the shoreline, and harm the region’s vital summer economy. These effects will vary in location and severity due to winds that may concentrate or dissipate the bloom.

“Communities along Lake Erie rely upon clean, healthy water to support their community’s well-being and economic livelihoods,” said Paul Scholz, acting deputy director for NOAA’s National Ocean Service. “The Lake Erie harmful algal bloom forecast is another example of NOAA’s ongoing efforts to provide timely, science-based information to water managers and public health officials as they make decisions to protect their communities and visitors.”

The size of a bloom isn’t necessarily an indication of how toxic it is. For example, the toxins in a large bloom may not be as concentrated as in a smaller bloom. Each algal bloom is unique in terms of size, toxicity and ultimately its impact on local communities. NOAA is actively developing tools to detect and predict how toxic blooms will be.

**Bloom expected to be later and more patchy**

With cool lake temperatures in May and early June, the cyanobacteria are currently present only at low concentrations. NOAA expects a more typical start of the visible bloom in mid-to-late-July. While the bloom typically produces some toxins, we cannot predict how toxic the bloom will be when it starts. Even with a small bloom, calm winds tend to allow the bloom to form patchy scums which can concentrate toxins near the lake’s surface, and possibly near the shore. The duration of the bloom depends on the frequency of September wind events, which cannot be predicted this far in advance. The bloom will remain mostly in areas of the Western basin. The Central and Eastern basins of the lake are usually unaffected, although localized blooms may occur around some of the rivers after summer rainstorms.

“Thanks to our partnerships with governmental agencies, academia, and state research initiatives like the Ohio Department of Higher Education’s Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative and Governor DeWine’s H2Ohio initiative, we are continuing to...
address the challenges of harmful algal blooms from all angles, ranging from providing Ohioans with safe drinking water and studying toxin impacts on human health and food safety, to nutrient runoff prevention,” said Christopher Winslow, Ph.D., director of Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory.

The Lake Erie forecast is part of a **NOAA Ecological Forecasting** initiative that aims to deliver accurate, relevant, timely and reliable ecological forecasts directly to coastal resource managers, public health officials, and the public. In addition to the early season projections from NOAA and its partners, NOAA also issues **HAB nowcasts/forecasts** during the bloom season. These forecasts provide the current extent and 5-day outlooks of where the bloom will travel and what concentrations are likely to be seen, allowing local decision-makers to make informed management decisions.

“Both last year and this year, relatively mild rainfall in the spring has led to less phosphorus being carried into the lake, which means smaller blooms,” said Richard Stumpf, Ph.D., NOAA’s National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science’s lead scientist for the seasonal Lake Erie bloom forecast. “While this is good news, the concentration of phosphorus still remains the same as recent years. Until we begin to see reductions in the concentration of phosphorus, the next year with above-average rainfall will have a more severe bloom.”

**Gathering data, refining models**

NOAA now routinely uses **high-quality satellite imagery** from both of the European Union’s **Copernicus Sentinel-3 satellites**, which were designed to detect blooms in large lakes and estuaries. While this imagery is critical to the forecast model, it only shows how concentrated the algal bloom is on the surface of the lake. The cells that cause the bloom can float and sink in the water, allowing them to move to sunlight near the surface and collect nutrients through the water column. The newly updated **Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast website** provides more accurate predictions and visualizations of where the bloom is located **within the water column**. This information is especially of interest to water treatment plant operators because intake structures are usually located below the surface, so the risk of toxins in their source water may be greater when these cells sink.

Nutrient load data for the forecasts came from **Heidelberg University** in Ohio, and the various forecast models are run by NOAA’s National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, the **University of Michigan, North Carolina State University, LimnoTech, Stanford University, and the Carnegie Institution for Science**. Field observations used for monitoring and modeling are done in partnership with a number of **NOAA services**, including its **Ohio River Forecast Center, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory**, and **Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research**, as well as **Ohio Sea Grant** and **Stone Laboratory** at **The Ohio State University, The University of Toledo** and **Ohio EPA**.
The Ag Law Harvest
By: Jeffrey K. Lewis, Attorney and Research Specialist
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/fri-07022021-113pm/ag-law-harvest

Did you know that the Florida Panther is the last subspecies of Mountain Lion found east of the Mississippi River? The Florida Panther is an endangered species with an estimated population of under 100 panthers. As bleak as it may seem, things may be looking up for the Florida Panther to make a roaring comeback (which is ironic because Florida Panthers can’t roar).

Like the Florida Panther, we have prowled agricultural and resource issues from across the country. Topics include a historic move by Florida to protect its wildlife and natural resources, agritourism getting a boost in Pennsylvania, Colorado’s livestock industry receiving a lifeline, and USDA efforts to expand broadband and water quality initiatives.

Florida makes conservation history. Florida has recently enacted a new law known as the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act (the “Act”). The Act creates a wildlife corridor that will connect Florida’s large national and state parks and create an unbroken area of preserved land that stretches from the Alabama state line all the way down to the Florida Keys. Specifically, the Act looks to protect about 18 million acres of habitat for Florida’s wildlife. The Act seeks to prevent wildlife, like the Florida Panther, from being cut off from other members of its species, which is a main driver of extinction. The Act also aims to protect Florida’s major watersheds and rivers, provide wildlife crossings over and/or under major highways and roads, and establish sustainable practices to help working ranches, farms and, forests that will be vital to ensuring the success and sustainability of the wildlife corridor. The Act goes into effect July 1 and provides $400 million in initial funding to help purchase land to create the corridor.

Pennsylvania provides protection for agritourism operators. Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Wolf, signed House Bill 101 into law. Like Ohio’s law, House Bill 101 shields agritourism operators from certain lawsuits that could arise from circumstances beyond their control. House Bill 101 prevents participants in an agritourism activity from suing the agritourism operator if the operator warns participants of the inherent risks of being on a farm and engaging in an agritourism activity. An agritourism operator must: (1) have a 3’ x 2’ warning sign posted and notifying participants that an agritourism operator is not liable, except under limited circumstances, for any injury or death of a participant resulting from an agritourism activity; and (2) have a signed written agreement with an agritourism participant acknowledging an agritourism operator’s limited liability or have specific language printed on an admission ticket to an agritourism activity that notifies and warns a participant of an agritourism operator’s limited liability. House Bill 101, however, does not completely shelter agritourism operators. An agritourism operator can still be liable for injuries, death, or damages.
arising from overnight accommodations, weddings, concerts, and food and beverage services. The enactment of House Bill 101 will help to protect farmers from costly and unnecessary lawsuits and provide additional sustainability to Pennsylvania’s agritourism industry.

**Colorado Supreme Court strikes proposed ballot initiative seeking to hold farmers liable for animal cruelty.** The Colorado Supreme Court issued an opinion removing Initiative 16, also known as the Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation Initiative (“PAUSE”), from voter consideration. Initiative 16 sought to amend Colorado law and remove certain agriculture exemptions from Colorado’s animal cruelty laws. Initiative 16 intended to set limitations on the slaughter of livestock and to broadly expand the definition of “sexual act with an animal” to include any intrusion or penetration of an animal’s sexual organs, which opponents of the initiative have argued would prohibit artificial insemination and spaying/neutering procedures. The Colorado Supreme Court found that the initiative violated Colorado’s single-subject requirement for ballot initiatives and therefore, was an illegal ballot initiative. The court argued that the central theme of the initiative was to incorporate livestock into Colorado’s animal cruelty laws. However, because the initiative redefined “sexual act with an animal” to include animals other than livestock, the court concluded that the ballot initiative covered two subjects, not one. The court reasoned that because the initiative addresses two unrelated subjects, voters could be surprised by the consequences of the initiative if it passed, which is why Colorado has single-subject requirement for ballot initiatives.

**USDA announces dates for Conservation Reserve Program (“CRP”) signups.** The USDA set a July 23 deadline for agricultural producers and landowners to apply for the CRP General and will also be accepting applications for CRP Grasslands from July 12 through August 20. Through the CRP General, producers and landowners establish long-term conservation practices aimed at conserving certain plant species, controlling soil erosion, improving water quality, and enhancing wildlife habitat on cropland. CRP Grasslands helps landowners and producers protect grasslands including rangeland, pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining grazing lands. To enroll in the CRP, producers and landowners should contact their local USDA Service Center.

**USDA expands CLEAR30 initiative nationwide.** The USDA announced that landowners and agricultural producers currently enrolled in CRP now have an opportunity to sign a 30-year contract through the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers Initiative (“CLEAR30”). CLEAR30 was created by the 2018 Farm Bill to address water quality concerns and was originally only available in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay watersheds. Now, producers and landowners across the country can sign up for CLEAR30. Eligible producers must have certain water quality improvement practices under a continuous CRP or under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (“CREP”) and contracts that are set to expire on September 30, 2021. The USDA
hopes that by expanding the initiative, it will enable more producers to take conservation efforts up a level and create lasting impacts. CLEAR30’s longer contracts help to ensure that conservation benefits will remain in place longer to help in reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and reducing algal blooms. To sign up, producers and landowners should contact their local USDA Service Center by August 6, 2021.

Three federal agencies enter into agreement to coordinate broadband funding deployment. The Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”), the USDA, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”) entered into an agreement to coordinate the distribution of federal funds for broadband development in rural and underserved areas. In an announcement released by the USDA, Secretary Vilsack stressed the importance of broadband in rural and underserved communities. Lessons learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic have made access to broadband a central issue for local, state, federal and Tribal governments. The goal is to get 100% of Americans connected to high-speed internet. As part of the signed agreement, the agencies will share information about existing or planned projects and identify areas that need broadband service in order to reach the 100% connectivity goal. Visit the USDA’s Rural Development Telecom Programs webpage to learn more about the USDA’s efforts to provide broadband service in rural areas.

*Dairy Awards to be Presented July 27th - Extension*
Banquet, but this year they will be awarded at the Ashtabula County Farm Bureau’s Ice Cream Social. The social is to be held July 27th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds, at the Holstein Club Building. If you don’t know which building the is the Holstein Club’s, it is where you get your milkshakes at fair, across from the grandstands. Speaking of dairy treats, the Ice Cream Social will have plenty of ice cream, and fresh local milk courtesy of Denmandale Dairy. In addition to the awards, ice cream, and milk, the event will also host guest speaker Brandon Kern, Senior Director of State and National Policy for Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. On behalf of the Dairy Service Unit and the Ashtabula County OSU Extension office, I encourage everyone to come and celebrate agriculture and our county’s dairy industry. The event is free to the public and a Farm Bureau membership is not required.

As a reminder, the Dairy Service Unit planned on combining with the Farm Bureau Ice Cream Social last year but were unable to do so due to the pandemic. The group wants to continue to offer an event that properly recognizes our local dairies hard work and achievements and offer a time where we can join as a farming community and celebrate. The decision was made in order to have a larger audience celebrate the achievements of our great dairies and to make the banquet a larger community event to promote the industry. The awards will remain the same as previous years but for 2021 we will not be holding the Dairy Princess competition with hopes to resume the following year. We hope that this change will allow more recognition and attract a broad audience.

The awards will begin at 7:00 PM with the event starting at 6:00 PM. We hope to see you on the 27th!

For more information about the awards program contact Andrew Holden (DSU Secretary) at 440-576-9008 or Holden.155@osu.edu
2021 ODA Clean Sweep: Portage County

DATE: Tuesday August 17th
TIME: 9 AM - 3 PM
LOCATION: Deerfield Ag Services, 9041 US-224, Deerfield, Ohio 44411

Do you have old unwanted or unused pesticides? This year the NE Ohio Clean Sweep Program is being held at Deerfield Ag Services. This is a FREE service but is intended for farm chemicals only. Paint, antifreeze, solvents, and household or non-farm pesticides will not be accepted.

For more information: Scan the QR code, go to https://go.osu.edu/portagecleansweep
or call the Portage County Extension Office at 330-296-6432

Portage.osu.edu