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OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE NEWSLETTER

Your Weekly Agriculture Update for Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties

July 11, 2023

It's fair week in Trumbull County!! We hope to see you there!

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Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Wheat harvest is in full swing throughout the region and I'm hearing yields are better than expected with dry weather earlier this spring. With rain in the forecast this week and next, we should have adequate moisture as corn begins pollination – as long as the rain falls.

It's fair week in Trumbull! Stop out to see the great 4-H projects, get an amazing milk shake, and visit the grandstand events.

Have a good week and stay safe!

Lee Beers
Trumbull County
Extension Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County
Extension Educator

Smoke from Wildfires Affecting Ohio Agriculture? Or Some Other Stressors?

By Andy Londo, Alex Lindsay, Laura Lindsay, Horacio Lopez-Nicora, Wanderson Novais

Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2023-22/smoke-wildfires-affecting-ohio-agriculture-or-some-other

Wildland fires in Canada this year have so far burned over 20 million acres with approximately 4 million of those acres in Quebec. In spite of these fires being hundreds of miles away from us, smoke generated has been driven by northern winds impacting the northeastern and midwestern US. There has been some growing concern about the impact this smoke will have on agriculture in Ohio. Of particular concern are toxins in the smoke.

Figure 1. Waterlogged soils causing reduced nodulation, stunting, and yellowing. (Delaware County, June 29, 2023)

Wildland fire smoke is made up of small particles, gases, and water vapor. Water vapor makes up the majority of smoke. The remainder includes carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and small amounts of other compounds. Among the particulates in smoke are many compounds which do not turn into a gas during the fire, such as calcium, sodium, and magnesium. As particulates, these substances can be carried down-wind and have a minor fertilization effect. Another compound produced by wildland fire is dioxin. Dioxins are compounds produced as byproducts of some processes including smoking cigarettes, paper production, industrial and structural fires, and wildland fires. Dioxins are known to be cancer causing. The quantity of dioxin produced from wildland fire is highly variable and will depend largely on the population of fungi in the forest.

While the smoke from Canada's fires is reducing air quality and visibility across the Midwest, it is highly unlikely that these fires are going to have any kind of impact on

Ohio agriculture. Ohio is a significant distance from the fire locations, and the smoke has dispersed hundreds of miles in all directions, thereby reducing the quantity of smoke and its various components. Combined with the low quantity of toxins in wildland fire smoke to begin with, we can see that there is very little to worry about in terms the impacts of this smoke on crops or livestock.
Although wildfires are not likely to be the cause, there are several soybean issues popping up in areas of the state:

1. Poor nodulation. Yellow soybeans that can also be somewhat stunted are often indicative of poor nodulation (Figure 1). Nodules are small knots found on roots, often near the top of the root system. Nodules are the result of a symbiotic relationship between soybean and bacteria (*Bradyrhizobium japonicum*). These bacteria convert nitrogen into a form that is usable by the soybean plant. Nodulation and nitrogen fixation by *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* is reduced in wet soils. Plants should be able to recuperate nodule function when normal (aerobic) conditions are restored. To determine if a nodule is actively fixing nitrogen (i.e., converting nitrogen to a usable form), split the nodule with your fingernail and examine the inside. If the inside of the nodule is pink or red, nitrogen is being fixed.
2. Overall slow growth and poor root development. While cooler weather in April and May limited crop stress symptomology to some degree, dry conditions can lead to slow root growth and poor nodulation in soybeans. Root exploration is key to moisture acquisition and nutrient uptake. Dry conditions early (paired with cooler temperatures) may have slowed initial root development and formation. Planting deeper (as may have been done to reach moisture depending on location and planting date) could also affect root development by slowing the accumulation of early GDDs; in corn, soil accumulated GDDs affects early-season growth more than air temperature GDDs.

In many parts of the state the dry conditions were replaced within the span of a few days with the other extreme in the form of waterlogged soils and excess water conditions. Very few studies have been published examining subsequent stresses of drought followed by flood, but one article from cabbage suggests drought followed by flooding was worse for crops than drought alone. In corn, roots will form arenchyma in central cortical cells to cope with waterlogging. Soybean aerenchyma formation, though, requires creation of a new cell layer near the outside of the roots that contain the internal air pockets. This will typically occur near the water line for flooded plants (Figure 2).

Another typical symptom is that when stressed soybeans are removed from the soil the outer cortical layer may easily slough off when handled (see this article from 2021 to help discern flood damage and root rots). The characteristic “rat tail” cortex remaining is a key indicator that flood damage occurred. The rapid change from

drought to waterlogged conditions paired with below average nodulation is a likely contributor toward our yellow soybeans this year.

3. Potassium deficiency. Potassium deficiency may be observed when soil test K levels are low or could be induced by dry weather (Figure 3). Yes, it's strange to discuss both waterlogging and drought conditions in the same article, but various areas of Ohio have seen one (or both) of these extremes this year. [We reported more on potassium and drought in this article.] Soil testing will help determine if a potassium deficiency is due to low soil test potassium or dry weather. If the cause is dry weather and soil moisture is replenished, these symptoms should go away with time.

Figure 2. Soybean roots from plants exhibiting yellowing in 2023, showing adventitious root formation and symptomology consistent with

4. Diseases. We will expand on diseases in an upcoming article. However, there have been several disease issues noted within Ohio. Many plants have been collected and sent to the Department of Plant Pathology and are currently being tested for pathogens.

Figure 3. Yellowing around leaf margins is an indication of potassium deficiency (Madison County, July 5, 2023)

Be sure to watch the weather and crops over the next few weeks to see how they respond. Many soybean plants may start to create new roots as the soil dries, and it would be good to check for new nodule formation. If corn height still allows for sidedress N application to supply the remaining seasonal N budget still plan on making that

application once soil moisture allows. In recent work from Ohio State, corn still responded positively to N sidedress application after 3 days of flooding or after repeated 3 day floods (3 days flooded, 3 days drying followed by 3 additional days flooded).

Manure and Sulfur Management, Accounting for all Sources

By Jason Hartschuh
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2023/07/05/manure-and-sulfur-management-accounting-for-all-sources/

Sulfur and nitrogen are an important component of crop production. They often come from multiple sources and can be lost to the environment or immobilized during decomposition. Accounting for all sources of these nutrients can improve farm profitability by reducing application needs or accounting for shortfalls with additional commercial fertilizer. Although the release of some sources of these nutrients are harder to predict than others. Currently, the corn nitrogen rate calculator has the most profitable nitrogen rate based on a nitrogen price of $0.70 per pound and corn price of $5.50 per bushel ranging from 156 to 182 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Manure is a valuable source of soil nutrients including sulfur.

Nitrogen availability from manure

Manure is an excellent source of nitrogen but the way it is applied greatly affects how much of the manure test nitrogen will be plant available. When liquid or solid manure is incorporated at application or shortly after for a pre-plant or sidedress application 95% of the Ammonium-N will be available for this year's crop. The incorporation of manure also reduces the odor as part of manure's odor in ammonium nitrogen escaping. One day after application, the available Ammonium-N decreases to 50% for solid manure and 70% for liquid manure. Two days later solid manure falls to 25% and liquid 45%, by a week after application without incorporation the amount of Ammonium-N for this year's crop is 0% for both solid manure and liquid manure if temperatures are above 50 degrees F. Organic nitrogen is not affected by incorporation but is slowly released as soil bacteria break down the organic matter. For most manures, 40% of the organic nitrogen is plant available with 20% released the next year, 10% the year after, and 5%

on the 4 years. If your fields are receiving manure nitrogen every year or even every other year this slowly release organic nitrogen can be a major source of nitrogen. For example, if 100 pounds of organic nitrogen from dairy manure is applied each year 40 pounds of nitrogen would be supplied from this year's application, and an additional 35 pounds from the previous application would become plant available for this crop. Glen Arnold's research has shown that corn sidedressed in liquid swine manure can yield as well or better than commercial fertilizer.

Nitrogen and cover crops

Cover crops can be both a source and a sink for nitrogen. Legume cover crops are a source of nitrogen, the longer the crop grows the more nitrogen it produces. A two- to three-ton red clover crop frost seeded into wheat produces 70 to 150 pounds of nitrogen for the following crop. But legume crops that grow for less time will produce less nitrogen. Other cover crops that are nitrogen sinks such as grasses and brassicas scavenge nitrogen that is left over from the previous crop. As these cover crops decompose, they may release nitrogen for the next crop if the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio is less than 20 to 1. Cover crop mixes can either be a source or sink of nitrogen depending on what the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of the cover crop is at termination. As the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio increases, research has shown a benefit to an additional nitrogen application to overcome the decomposition penalty as soil microbes utilize other nitrogen sources to be able to decompose the cover crop. Purdue researchers studying corn planted into headed cereal rye needed an additional 50 to 70 pounds of nitrogen over corn without that cover crop. The utilization of precision ag technology such as NDVI sensing for crop nitrogen status can be a good tool to determine at tassel if more nitrogen is needed for your crop.

Sulfur

Sulfur comes from many sources manure, atmospheric sulfur, elemental sulfur, organic sulfur, gypsum, and sulfate sulfur. The best way to know how much sulfur is coming from manure is through a manure test but liquid dairy manure has approximately 4.2 pounds per 1,000 gallons and liquid swine manure contains about 7.6 pounds per 1,000 gallons. Solid beef manure contains 1.7 pounds per ton and poultry 3.2 pounds per ton. Just like nitrogen, not all the sulfur in manure is available in the first year. Approximately 55% of the sulfur in manure will be available in the first year. The sulfur that is bound in the manure organic matter goes through bacterial oxidation transforming it to sulfate-sulfur, which is plant available.

Atmospheric sulfur levels have been decreasing across Ohio. There are still 10 to 20 pounds of sulfate-sulfur deposited each year. Other forms of synthetic sulfate sulfur that may be applied are ammonium sulfate, ammonium thiosulfate, magnesium sulfate, and potassium sulfate which will all be available for the crop year of application. If elemental sulfur is used, it will require soil bacteria to transform it to sulfate-sulfur that is plant available. The rate of this transfer depends on soil temperature, sulfur particle size, and

the amount of incorporation into the soil. Elemental sulfur is a good sulfur source as long as a delayed release is acceptable. Response to sulfur fertilization in Ohio has been most common on sandy soil with only minimal responses on clay loam soil. A 60-bushel soybean crop or 200-bushel corn crop each removes about 10 pounds of sulfur in the grain while additional sulfur is left in the fodder to be returned to the field.

Hot summer temps increase risk of heat illness

By Tracy Turner
Source: https://cfaes.osu.edu/news/articles/hot-summer-temps-increase-risk-heat-illness

COLUMBUS, Ohio– Farmers, producers, and anyone who works outdoors should beware: When the weather is warmer, you're at a higher risk for heat illness, which can come on suddenly with many people unaware they're in danger.

Even experienced workers are vulnerable to heat-related illness, said Dee Jepsen, state leader, Ohio State University Extension Agricultural Safety and Health Program. OSU Extension is the outreach arm of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

One reason is that, often, some are unwilling to admit that heat affects them. Or they don't recognize the symptoms.

In fact, almost half of heat-related deaths occur on a worker's first day on the job. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, over 70% of heat-related deaths occur during a worker's first week.

"There seems to be a stigma associated with being affected by heat illness," Jepsen said. "Some of the typical responses from some as to why they're unwilling to acknowledge the risk of heat illness include, 'I don't need a break,' 'I need to prove I can work hard,' or I don't usually need to drink a lot of water."

Signs of heat illness can include headache; nausea; weakness; dizziness; heavy sweating or hot, dry skin; elevated body temperature; thirst; and decreased urine output. Signs of a potential medical emergency include abnormal thinking or behavior, slurred speech, seizures, or loss of consciousness.

Steps to prevent heat illness include drinking water every 20 minutes; taking breaks in shady or cool locations; wearing a wide-brimmed hat and light-colored, loosefitting breathable clothes; and monitoring oneself and others for signs of heat illness.

“Some tips to help lessen the potential for heat illness in agricultural workers include increasing general ventilation in barns and outdoor structures or installing cooling fans and misters under tents during outdoor field work and vegetable crop activities,” Jepsen said. “Other strategies include reducing manual labor, increasing the use of mechanized systems, and taking frequent breaks during peak heat hours.

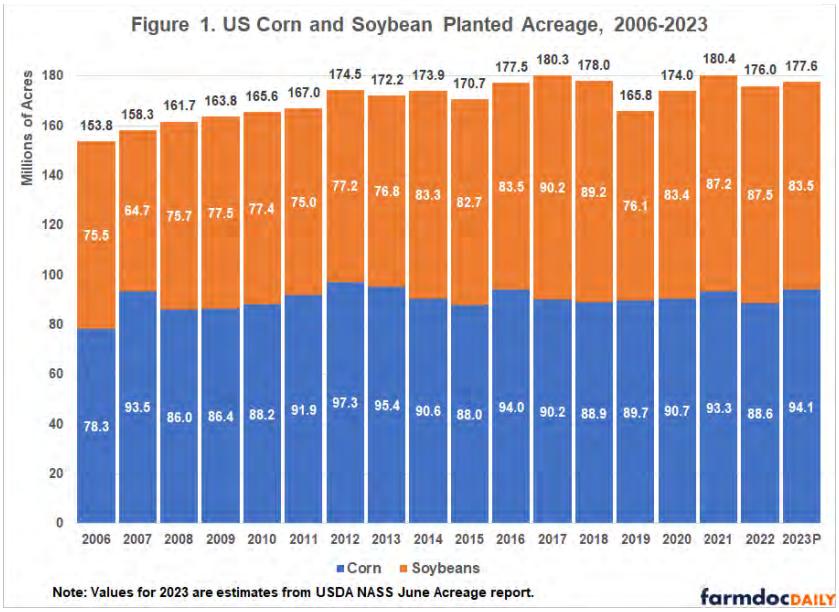
Corn and Soybean Moving in Opposite Direction

By Joe Janzen
Source: https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2023/07/corn-and-soybean-moving-in-opposite-directions.html

Corn and soybeans planted acreage estimates released by the National Agricultural Statistics Service on Friday, June 30 led to a sharp divergence in new-crop corn and soybean futures prices. Corn acreage estimates exceeded all analysts’ expectations and the December 2023 corn futures price dropped more than 33 cents per bushel on Friday to settle near a one and half year low at $4.95 per bushel. In contrast, soybean acreage was far below analysts’ expectations and the November 2023 soybean futures price rallied, ending the day up a whopping 77 cents per bushel at $13.43 per bushel. On the heels of a six-day slide in both corn and soybean prices on favorable weather and improving yield prospects, Friday’s price action extended losses for corn and reversed price declines in soybeans.

For corn, higher acreage, improved yield prospects due to Corn Belt rain forecasts, and dismal old-crop demand numbers create a burdensome new-crop supply and demand balance. It is hard to envision a scenario where corn prices can increase much from current levels unless we observe poor weather over a wide swath of the US Midwest between now and the fall. For soybeans, the situation is reversed. Fewer soybean acres make the new-crop supply and demand balance look tight unless yields are much poorer or demand weaker than expected.

Going forward, the acreage estimates given by USDA set up fundamental tension between corn and soybean prices. Current USDA price forecasts and post-report futures prices both indicate relative price levels that heavily favor soybeans. That new-crop corn prices fell 'only' 33 cents following the report release may be evidence that high soybean prices are supporting a weak corn market. Below I review the acreage numbers in more detail and consider what they mean for new-crop balance sheets. I conclude with thoughts on what might resolve this divergence in corn and soybean markets.



Reviewing the Acreage Numbers

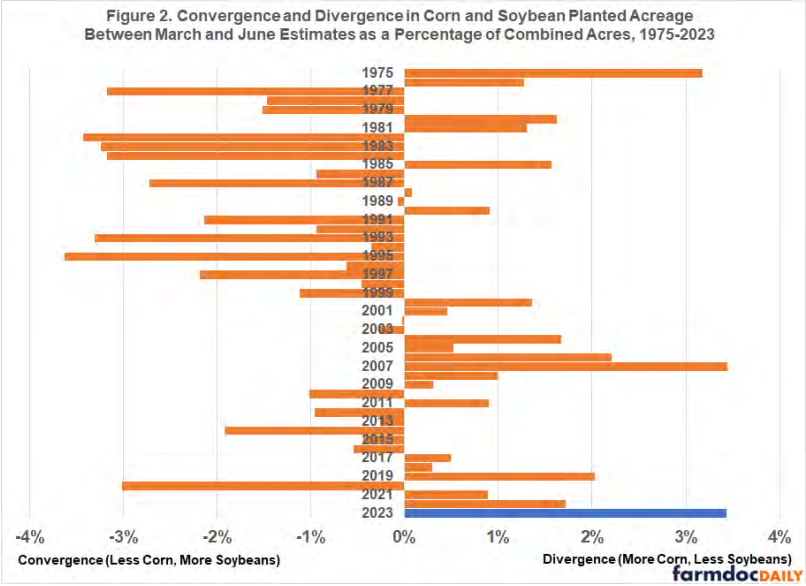
Figure 1 shows numbers for corn and soybean acres from the June Acreage report with historic acreage since 2006 for context. USDA projected 2023 US corn planted acreage at 94.1 million acres. This was up 2.1 million acres from the earlier estimate of 92.0 million acres released in the Prospective Plantings report at the end of March. It far exceeded the average of market analysts pre-report forecasts of 91.9 million acres. If realized, this corn acreage figure would be the third highest since World War II. Corn acreage increases were observed in nearly all major producing states. Illinois corn acreage estimates were up 500,000 acres from 11.0 to 11.5 million acres between March and June.

Soybean acres were pegged at just 83.5 million acres. This was down 4.0 million acres from the March estimate of 87.5 million and well below average analyst pre-report estimates of 87.7 million acres. Similar to corn, soybean acreage changes from previous estimates were not concentrated in any particular state or region. Estimates for soybean acres in Illinois were down 800,000 acres from 10.8 to 10.0 million between March and June.

Combined corn and soybean acreage was projected to rise slightly from 2022's level of 176.0 to 177.6 million acres. The earlier March estimates had combined acres at 179.5. That combined acres did not increase in spite of historically high price levels continues a theme observed in the past decade. The response of aggregate acres (whether corn

plus soybeans or all principal crops) to price is somewhat sluggish. Response of aggregate acreage is certainly less responsive that acreage of individual crops.

The swing toward corn and away from soybeans is notable in historic terms. Relative to earlier projections in the March Prospective Plantings report, corn and soybean acres diverged by 6.1 million acres (= 2.1 million increase in corn + 4.0 decrease in soybeans). As a percentage of combined corn and soybean acres, this corn-soybean divergence between the March and June acreage numbers is the second largest for which figures are available from NASS online records (since 1975). Figure 2 shows in percentage terms the size of the divergence or convergence in corn and soybean acres between the end-of-March and end-of-June acreage estimates beginning in 1975. Only in 2007, when the US planted a then post-World War II record 93.5 million acres has such a large swing been observed between the March and June reports.



There are several explanations for this massive swing in acres toward corn:

- New-crop price ratios favored corn slightly in the period leading up to planting and moved further in favor of corn by the end of May.
- Relatively mild planting season weather allowed farmers throughout the Corn Belt to plant corn without delays that might have shifted some acres to soybeans.
- The Corn Belt crop mix in 2022 skewed toward soybeans relative to historic acreage splits seen in Figure 1. Crop rotation benefits favor a return to corn.
- Nitrogen fertilizer prices declined from previous years favoring corn, a more fertilizer intensive crop.
- Finally, there is the old saw about the US farmer just flat out preferring to plant corn.

Regardless of the specific causes, higher corn acres and lower soybean acres have big implications for new-crop supply and demand conditions and price movement between now and harvest.

New-crop Balance Sheets

Table 1. Projected 2023/24 Marketing Year Balance Sheets for Corn and Soybeans

	Corn			Soybeans		
Quantity (mil bu unless noted)	June WASDE	June + Acreage	+ Yield Decline	June WASDE	June + Acreage	+ Yield Decline
Area Planted (ac)	92.0	**94.1**	94.1	87.5	**83.5**	83.5
Area Harvested (ac)	84.1	86.2	86.2	86.7	82.7	82.7
Yield per Harvested Acre (bu/ac)	181.5	181.5	**177.2**	52.0	52.0	**50.8**
Beginning Stocks	1,452	1,452	1,452	230	230	230
Production	15,265	15,645	15,275	4,510	4,300	4,199
Imports	25	25	25	20	20	20
Total Supply	16,742	17,122	16,752	4,760	4,550	4,449
Feed and/or Residual	5,650	5,650	5,650	25	25	25
Other Domestic Use	6,735	6,735	6,735	2,411	2,411	2,411
Exports	2,100	2,100	2,100	1,975	1,975	1,900
Total Use	14,485	14,485	14,485	4,411	4,411	4,336
Ending Stocks	2,257	2,637	2,267	350	139	113
Stocks-to-Use Ratio (%)	15.6%	**18.2%**	**15.6%**	7.9%	**3.2%**	**2.6%**

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Increasing planted acreage relative to previous estimates for corn and decreasing it for soybeans significantly changes the projected supply and demand balance as measured by the ending stocks-to-use ratio. Table 3 shows a series of supply and demand balance sheets for corn and soybeans for the new-crop 2023/24 marketing year. The first column for each commodity displays the estimates given in the most recent WASDE report released on June 9. These estimates use the earlier acreage projections of 92.0 million acres for corn and 87.5 million acres for soybeans. Corn ending stocks-to-use was projected to be 15.6%. This level was already viewed as burdensome. Historically, corn prices need to be below $5 per bushel to sustain this level of availability. Soybeans stocks were also project to increase year-over-year. The soybean stocks-to-use ratio was previously estimated at 7.9%.

New acreage numbers dramatically change the supply and demand balance in the absence of further changes to yields or use. The second column for each commodity in Table 1 uses the updated acreage numbers and assumes the difference between planted and harvested acreage remains the same. With use unchanged in this scenario, the stocks-to-use ratio increases to 18.2% for corn and decreases to 3.2% for soybeans. This divergence in supply and demand balance would be relatively uncharted territory.

Obviously, much market chatter will continue to center on the effect of weather on yield expectations. Price volatility in June was mainly a function of the lack of rainfall in the Corn Belt. July promises to see the focus on weather news continue. The market will pay considerable scrutiny to yield estimates released on July 12 in the next WASDE report. As a ‘what-if’, the third columns in Table 3 consider the corn yield decrease necessary to get back to the projected stocks-to-use ratio for corn observed in the June report. The soybean yield decrease is proportional to this corn yield decrease. This exercise shows it would take relatively large cut in corn yield of more than four bushels per acre to return to the projected supply and demand balance expected prior to the June acreage report. Any cuts to soybean yield at this point would make a tight soybean supply and demand situation that much more severe.

Discussion

The June Acreage report featured a historically large divergence in corn and soybean acres relative to previous expectations. Markets reacted as one would expect to this news with new-crop soybean prices up and corn prices down. At these new-crop price levels, soybeans are expensive relative to corn. Can this price divergence persist through to harvest? As US acreage is now fixed, there are a limited set of economic responses to the current market situation that would bring corn and soybean prices closer to historic parity conditions:

- Any yield decreases caused by the volatile weather observed in the Corn Belt would need to be larger for corn than soybeans. This seems reasonable but the magnitude of these yield decreases would need to be large given the huge shift in acres (as shown above).
- Corn demand would need to respond to lower prices. However, new-crop use projections already appear fairly optimistic, especially for exports given the slow corn export pace in 2022/23. It is widely expected USDA will have to drop exports further in the July WASDE.
- Expected corn production in South America to be harvested in early 2024 would need to be much larger with a substantial rebound in yield in Argentina following the current drought there.

Each of these responses can be viewed as possible, but definitely not probable. The bigger danger for new-crop corn marketing is a scenario where the current situation of high soybean prices relative to corn is resolved by declines in the value of both crops.

OSU Agronomic Crops Team and the State Climate Office of Ohio to Host "Climate Smart: Farming with Weather Extremes"

Source: https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2023/07/10/osu-agronomic-crops-team-and-the-state-climate-office-of-ohio-to-host-climate-smart-farming-with-weather-extremes/

Weather is almost always a challenge for agriculture, from too little or too much rain, late season freeze conditions, and severe weather impacts. Yet, having good management strategies for dealing with water, weeds, pests, diseases, and stress is all part of being climate smart.

After a short hiatus, the Climate Smart Conference is back! This year's conference brings Ohio State and Central State Extension specialists and local producers together to discuss these important interactions between weather, climate, and agriculture. The event will occur on July 20, 2023, at the Der Dutchman located at 445 S. Jefferson Ave

in Plain City, Ohio. The event will open at 8:30 AM and run until 3:30 PM with both a continental breakfast and lunch provided.

Speakers and topics include:

- Weather and Climate Update – Aaron Wilson
- Federal Climate Smart Funding Landscape with NRCS –
- Extreme Weather and Crop Insurance – Margaret Jodlowski
- Ag Water Management – Vinayak Shedekar
- CSU Applied Research in Climate-Focused Areas – TBA
- Panel – Local Producers, CSU Specialist, Glen Arnold (Manure), Bridget Britton (Farm Stress), Elizabeth Hawkins (Precision Ag)
- Insect Pest Management – Andy Michel and Maggie Lewis
- Economics and Grain Market Considerations – Seungki Lee

The event is free thanks to the following sponsors: Platinum – Ag Resource Management; Carbon by Indigo; Gold – AgCredit, Leist Mercantile, Ohio Corn & Wheat, and Ohio Soybean Council. Registration is required. Please register by Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at go.osu.edu/reg-climate-smart23.

Budget bill includes many non-budget changes for ag

By Peggy Kirk Hall, Attorney and Director, Agricultural & Resource Law Program
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/tue-07112023-218pm/budget-bill-includes-many-non-budget-changes-ag

While Ohio's "budget bill" is important for funding our agencies and programs, it always contain many provisions that aren't at all related to the state's budget. The budget bill provides an opportunity for legislators to throw in interests of all sorts, which tends to add challenges to reaching consensus. Though many worried about having the current budget approved in time, Ohio lawmakers did pass the two-year budget bill, H.B. 33, just ahead of its deadline on June 30.

We've been digging through the bill's 6,000+ pages of budget and non-budget provisions and the Governor's 44-item veto. Some of the provisions are proposals we've seen in other legislation that made their way into the budget bill. Not included in the final package were Senate-approved changes to the Current Agricultural Use Valuation law that would have adjusted reappraisals in 2023, 2024, and 2025. Here's a summary of items we found of relevance to Ohio

agriculture, not including the agency funding allocations. We also summarize three vetoes by the Governor that pulled items from the budget bill.

Township zoning referenda – ORC 519.12 and 519.25
There is now a higher requirement for the number of signatures needed on a petition to subject a township zoning amendment to referendum by placing it on the ballot for a public vote. The bill increased the number of signatures from 8% to 15% of the total vote cast in the township for all candidates for governor in the most recent general election for governor.

Legume inoculators – ORC 907.27 and 907.32
The bill eliminated Ohio's annual Legume Inoculator's License requirement for businesses and individuals that apply inoculants to seed. All other requirements for legume inoculants remain unchanged.

Agricultural commodity handlers--Grain Indemnity Fund – ORC 926.18
Ohio's agricultural commodity handlers law provides reimbursement to a grain depositor if there is a bankruptcy or failure of the grain elevator. The bill revises several parts of the law that provide a depositor with 100% coverage of a grain deposit when there's a failure:

- If a commodity handler's license is suspended and the handler failed to pay for the commodities by the date suspension occurred, the new law increases the number of days by which the commodities had to be priced prior to the suspension-- from 30 to 45 days.
- If a commodity handler's license is suspended and there is a deferred payment agreement between the depositor and the handler, the new law:
    - Requires that the deferred payment agreement must be signed by both parties.
    - Increases the number of days by which the commodities had to be priced prior to the suspension -- from 90 to 365 days; and
    - Increases the number of days by which payment for the commodity must be made pursuant to the deferred payment agreement -- from 90 days to 365 days following the date of delivery.
- Requiring 100% coverage when commodities were delivered and marketed under a delayed price agreement up to two years prior to a handler's license suspension. The delivery date marked on the receipt tickets determine the two-year period. The bill also states that the Grain Indemnity Fund has no liability if the delayed price agreement was entered into more than two years prior to the commodity handler's license suspension.

Two circumstances for 100% of loss coverage from the Grain Indemnity Fund remain unchanged by the bill: when the commodities were stored under a bailment agreement and when payment was tendered but subsequently denied. For all

other losses, the new law will reduce the fund payment to 75% of the loss. Current law covers 100% of the first $10,000 of the loss and 80% of the remaining dollar value of that loss.

Office of the Migrant Agricultural Ombudsperson – ORC 3733
Current law establishes an Office of the Migrant Agricultural Ombudsperson under the authority of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS), but the new law eliminates the Ombudsperson. Instead, a currently existing State Monitor Advocate in ODJFS will be responsible for migrant issues and needs, such as collecting and reviewing data on living and working conditions, receiving complaints and alleged violations, conducting on-site reviews, monitoring the provisions of employment services, and connecting job seekers to employers through the Agricultural Recruitment System.

Commercial driver's license waiver for farm-related service industries – ORC 4506.24
The bill increases the validity period for the CDL waiver for farm-related service industries. Current law limits the total number of days a person may operate under the farm-related service industries waiver to 180, and the bill extends that period to 210 days per calendar year. The bill also allows online renewal of CDL licenses, revises several requirements for third-party CDL skills test examiners, and establishes several prohibitions and penalties for fraudulent acts related to CDL testing.

Income tax – ORC 5747.02
The law includes changes to Ohio's income tax tables. For the 2023 taxable year, the bill combines the two lowest tax brackets into one and reduces the marginal tax rates. For tax year 2024, the bill further combines tax brackets and reduces the highest tax rate. The Legislative Service Commission provides this chart that summarizes the changes:

Drainage assessment fund – ORC 6133.15
A designated fund for holding funding from the legislature to cover the state's share of any assessments for drainage improvement projects will be abolished. The change removes only the fund and does not remove the duty of the state to pay its share of any drainage improvement assessments.

Vetoes by Governor DeWine
Save our Farmland and Protect our National Security Act
The Governor removed a provision that required the Secretary of State to compile a registry of individuals, business, organizations, and governments that constitute a threat to the agricultural production or military defense of Ohio or the U.S. and prohibited anyone on the registry from acquiring agricultural land or acquiring real

property located within 25 miles of a military base or land under the jurisdiction of the armed forces. The Act also required property acquired in violation of the bill to escheat to the state, to be sold at public auction. The Governor stated that while "restricting ownership of Ohio farmland protects Ohio's rich agricultural tradition from adverse interests," the bill could create unintended economic development consequences by including other non-agricultural property in the foreign ownership restriction.

Auctioneer laws
Governor DeWine vetoed several revisions to Ohio auctioneer law, stating that the revisions removed consumer protections recently enacted in HB 321, which went into effect in 2022. The primary purpose of the revisions was to further exempt internet auctions, including auctions that involve sales of real or personal property through an auction mediation company platform.

Commercial Activity Tax exclusions
The budget bill would have increased the $150,000 threshold for filers subject to the Commercial Activity Tax (CAT) to $3 million in 2024 and $6 million in 2025. The Governor pointed out that the language in the bill was unclear, stating that "a technical veto is needed to clarify that the stated excluded amounts represent yearly tax periods," and also noted that the veto would close an unintended potential loophole, open to exploitation through tax planning.

Urban Farmer Youth Initiative Pilot Program
A new Urban Farmer Youth Initiative Pilot Program will provide relevant programming and support on farming and agriculture to youth living in urban areas. The bill directs the Chancellor of Higher Education to collaborate with Ohio State University Extension and Central State University Extension to offer programming in two to four Ohio counties and to partner with local entities. Funds may also be used to expand programming to urban youth by existing agricultural organizations. Visit this page on the Ohio General Assembly's website for more information on the budget bill, HB 33.

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Course

The mission of the **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN)** program is to build awareness of Ohio's environment and natural resources through science-based education and community stewardship.

The OCVNs role is to support partners in meeting the needs of our citizens in the area of natural resources by assisting with educational programs.

Activities Include:

- Identifying and educating the public about invasive species
- Diagnosing plant problems
- Giving public presentations relating to nature
- Hosting events for the public
- Staffing educational booths and other various opportunities

Program Benefits:

- Learn about the biology, ecology and natural history of Ohio from many of the state's leading experts.
- Become part of a local and statewide network of dedicated volunteers.
- Apply your talents and passion to protecting, restoring and understanding Ohio's natural treasures.

If you have a strong interest in nature and enjoy helping others, you are invited to apply to become an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist.

OCVN Training

The course sessions are taught by faculty and staff with The Ohio State University along with conservation and naturalist professionals throughout Ohio.

Topics include:

- Soil, Geology and Watersheds
- Ecology and Stewardship
- Botany & Forests
- Entomology & Herpetology
- Ornithology & Mammals
- Working with the public & communication skills

You will learn how to contribute to community science efforts, restore and protect critical habitats, and communicate effectively about Ohio's' environment while exploring parks and natural areas near you.

Certification Requirements

To become an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, you must:

- ✓ Complete 40 hours of combined classroom and field instruction
- ✓ Perform 40 hours of approved volunteer service within the first year
- ✓ After certification, 20 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training are required annually

Application Process

- Spaces in the class will be viewed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Class size is limited to 25 participants.
- You must be at least 18 years old to apply.

You can find the application at **https://go.osu.edu/portageocvn2023**

Registration is $225.00 due within two weeks of admission to the program. The price includes a binder manual, additional handouts, state fees and related costs for conducting the program.

For payment:
http://go.osu.edu/portageextensionpayment
or scan the QR code.
Return applications by August 29th to Portage County Extension Office, 705 Oakwood St. Suite 103, Ravenna, OH 44266. Please make checks payable to Portage County OSU Extension.

CFAES



Women in Agriculture

Ashtabula County Farm Tours

Beef, a Backyard Garden, & Berries

Join us for one or all of this 3-part series featuring women owned farms!

Mardy Townsend	Alexa Sandella	Lois Wright Morton
Marshy Meadows	Backyard Garden	Outwash Terrace
Windsor, OH	Kingsville, OH	Pierpont, OH
Sunday, May 7th	Sunday, July 30th	Sunday, August 27th
from 2-4 p.m.	from 2-4 p.m.	from 2-4 p.m.

Save the date! Rain or shine!

Please wear boots, bring water, and be prepared for walking

New Date

To RSVP, call or email Julie Wayman 440-576-9008 or wayman.31@osu.edu

ashtabula.osu.edu

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES