

NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE NEWSLETTER

Your Weekly Agriculture Update for
Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties

July 18, 2023



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Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

We're in the dog days of summer, the sun is hot when it isn't covered with wildfire smoke. This weekend's storm gave us a good shot of rain, especially in Ashtabula County where we saw rainfall totals over 1.5 inches.

While some crops like corn, beans, and hay are busy growing, many local vegetable growers are harvesting and selling their produce at roadside stands and farmer's market. Make sure to eat fresh local produce this summer!

Have a good week and stay safe!

Lee Beers
Trumbull County
Extension Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County
Extension Educator

Corn Yield Forecasts as of July 13, 2023

By: Osler Ortiz

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2023-23/corn-yield-forecasts-july-13-2023>

Corn is progressing nicely across most of the state. For the week ending 07/09/23, [USDA reported](#) close to 70% of corn being good to excellent in the state (**Figure 1**). Simulations of 2023 end-of-season corn yield potential and crop staging were performed on July 13, using the UNL Hybrid-Maize crop model in collaboration with faculty and extension educators from 10 universities.

Forecasts can help researchers, growers, and industry stakeholders make management, logistics, and marketing decisions during the 2023 crop season. Forecasts cover 40 locations across the Corn Belt, including Western (South Charleston), Northwest (Custar), and Northeast (Wooster site) in Ohio. **Table 1** summarizes results for the state of Ohio as of July 13, 2023.



Figure 1. Corn planted on mid-April in Ohio getting close to the tasseling stage.

Summary: the crop is still in vegetative stages for most of the state (**Figure 2**), it is still early to make strong inferences about end-of-season yields. Temperature and rainfall during the rest of July and August will be critical to understanding if the current projections are maintained. The forecasts do not consider yield-limiting factors such as crop stand issues, storm damage, replanting, disease, or nutrient losses. Hence, actual yields could be lower than the estimates provided. Likewise, results can deviate with varying planting dates or hybrid maturities. Additionally, yield forecasts are not field specific and represent an average yield estimate for a given location and surrounding area.

Location		Long-term average yield (bu/ac) §	Range of Yp forecasts as of Jul 19 (bu/ac) ¶ 25th	Range of Yp forecasts as of Jul 12 (bu/ac) ¶ 75th	Probability (%) of 2023 yield to be: Below (relative to the long-term Yp) †	Probability (%) of 2023 yield to be: Near (relative to the long-term Yp) †	Probability (%) of 2023 yield to be: Above (relative to the long-term Yp) †	Simulated crop stage*
OH	Custar	208	214	238	3%	47%	50%	V10
	South Charleston	216	192	246	27%	45%	27%	V12
	Wooster	210	192	225	24%	58%	18%	V8

Table 1. Simulations of 2023 end-of-season corn yield potential and crop stage performed on July 12. Adapted from Grassini et al., 2023.

§ Long-term (last 20+ years) potential yield at each location and surrounding area.

¶ Range of forecasted 2023 potential yields based on average planting date in 2023, indicating the potential yields in the 25th and 75th percentile of the potential yield distribution (associated with respective adverse and favorable weather scenarios during the rest of the season).

† Probability of obtaining a 2023 yield below (<10%), near ($\pm 10\%$), and above (>10%) than the long-term potential yield at each location.

As more corn yield and phenology forecasts become available this crop season, short briefs will be released via the OSU C.O.R.N. Newsletter. The article included below summarizes the complete forecast and simulation across the Corn Belt. A summary of weather conditions during the last 60 days (from May 13 to July 12) is included in that source.

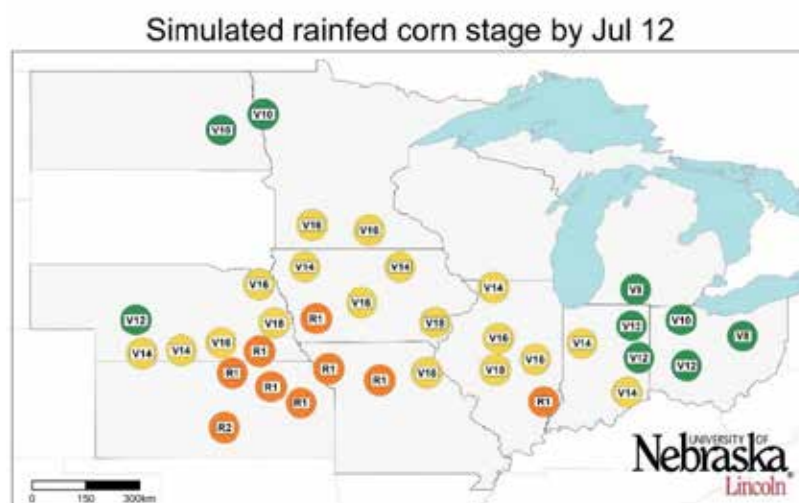


Figure 2. Simulated corn stages by July 12. Source: Grassini et al., 2023. Reference Grassini, P., Andrade, J., Rizzo, G., Yang, H., Rees, J., Coulter, J., Licht, M., Archontoulis, S., Ciampitti, I., Singh, M., & Ortez, O. (2023). Corn Yield Forecasts: Approach and Interpretation of Results. UNL Nebraska

CropWatch. Available from: <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/2023/2023-corn-yield-forecasts-july-13>

What are the Implications of the Black Sea Grain Deal Breaking Down?

By: Ian Sheldon, Professor and Andersons Chair of Agricultural Marketing, Trade, and Policy, Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, Ohio State University and Chris Zoller, Associate Professor and Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Ohio State University Extension – Tuscarawas County

Source: <https://cfaes.osu.edu/news/articles/hot-summer-temps-increase-risk-heat-illness>

The Black Sea Grain Deal So Far

The Black Sea grain export deal signed by Ukraine, Turkey, Russia, and the United Nations (UN) on July 22, 2022 (USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Grain: World Markets and Trade*, August 2022), was originally extended for four additional months in November 2022, followed by further extensions in March and May 2023 respectively, the most recent being for only two months up to July 17, 2023. During that time-period, 32.7 million metric tons of grains and oilseeds have been shipped to 45 countries from the Ukrainian ports of Chornomorsk, Odesa and Pivdennyi (Yuzhny), the percentage breakdown of the cargo totals being corn (51%), wheat (27%), sunflower meal (6%) and sunflower oil (5%), and other (11%) (*Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Center*, July 2023).

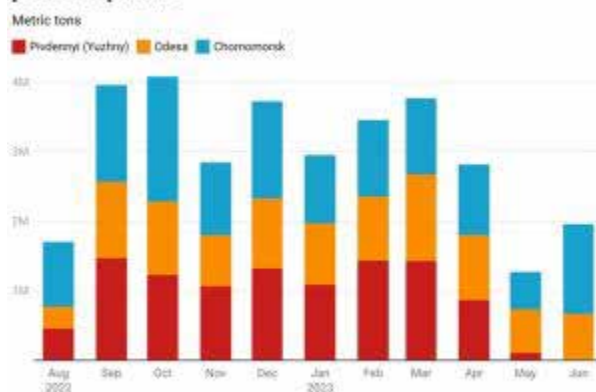
Resumption of Ukrainian sea exports over this time-period has helped in reversing the spike in global food prices that occurred after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the FAO Food Price Index dropping by almost 39% since March 2022 (*World Food Situation*, FAO/UN, July 7, 2023). However, as of July 17, 2023, Russia has ended its participation in the deal, which brings with it increased uncertainty about available global grain and oilseed supplies as well as the potential for greater price volatility and/or increased food prices (*New York Times*, July 17, 2023).

Even before Russia pulled out of the grain deal, the rate of exports from the three Ukrainian ports was already declining (see Figure 1), the latest export tonnage being just over 0.2 million metric tons as of July 7, 2023 (*UN Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Center*). This slowdown in exports also shows up in the average number of ships being cleared under the deal falling from a peak of 11 in October 2022 to 3 in May 2023 (*UN Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Center*). At this point, the Black Sea Corridor is no longer the dominant route for exports, with more crops being shipped through ports on the Danube, as well as by rail and road (*Bloomberg News*, July 6, 2023). Essentially, the deal allowed Ukraine to export the grain stockpiles that it

had accumulated with the closing of its ports post-invasion, but in the view of some observers, the deal was already essentially “defunct” (*Bloomberg News*, July 6, 2023).

Figure 1:

Agricultural exports under the Black Sea Grain Initiative by port of departure



Data as of June 30, 2023
 Chart: Joseph Glauber • Source: UN Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Centre

What are Russia’s Concerns with the Deal?

Russia’s unwillingness to renew the grain deal has been brewing for some time, Ukraine previously accusing it of trying to undermine the deal by dragging out and even preventing the required restrictions of Black Sea shipments before two previous renewals of the deal (*Financial Times*, March 19, 2023; *New York Times*, May 18, 2023). Even though U.S. and European Union (EU) economic sanctions against Russia exclude trade in agricultural commodities such as grain fertilizers (*Congressional Research Service*, December 13, 2022), Russia has repeatedly complained about the Black Sea grain export deal since its inception (*New York Times*, July 17, 2023). Even though the UN struck a deal with Russia in July 2022 to help it overcome obstacles to grain and fertilizer shipments, Moscow claims that restrictions on payments, logistics and insurance have been a major barrier to its agricultural exports (*Reuters*, June 16, 2023).

However, since the grain deal was last renewed in May, Russia’s concerns seem to have intensified, Moscow expressing two main demands as a pre-condition for renewing the grain deal (*Reuters*, June 16, 2023). The first relates to reconnection of the Russian agricultural bank Rosselkhozbank to the SWIFT international payment network (*Reuters*, July 12, 2023). Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the EU cut off Russia from the SWIFT network in June 2022, placing a major constraint on the processing of grain export payments to Russia (*Reuters*, July 13, 2023). It has been reported that the EU has been considering allowing a subsidiary of Rosselkhozbank to connect to SWIFT, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres asking President Putin to extend the grain deal, thereby giving the EU time to make the connection (*Reuters*, July 12, 2023).

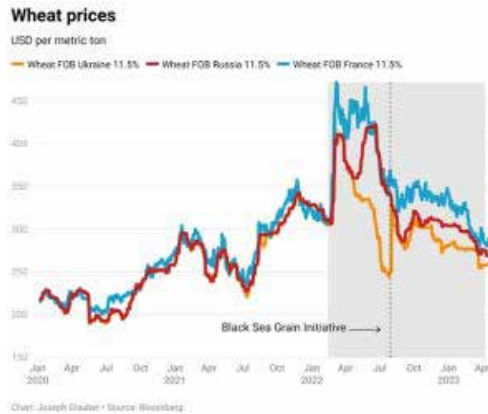
The other Russian demand relates to the ammonia pipeline from Tolyatti to the Ukrainian port of Pivdennyi (Yuzhny) (*IFPRI*, June 13, 2023). The pipeline has been closed since the Russian invasion and has reportedly suffered war damage. Given the significant impact of the closure on Russia's exports of anhydrous ammonia, it is perhaps not surprising Russia has tied recent restrictions on the registration of grain shipping at Pivdennyi to reopening of the pipeline (*IFPRI*, June 13, 2023).

Breakdown of the Deal

Despite the best efforts of the UN Secretary-General Guterres and Turkey's President Erdogan, Russia has not renewed the grain deal, its Foreign Ministry issuing a statement that, "...Only upon receipt of concrete results, and not promises and assurances, will Russia be ready to consider restoring the deal..." (*New York Times*, July 17, 2023). Not surprisingly, the markets reacted to the deal not being extended, wheat futures rising 4.2% on the Chicago Board of Trade (*Bloomberg News*, July 17, 2023), but what are the longer-term implications of the breakdown?

Even though the grain deal has been critical to relieving pressure in the world market over the past year, Ukrainian grain and oilseed production are expected to decline in 2023/24 due to the ongoing impact of the war, with disruption of ongoing planting and harvest of multiple crops including wheat, barleycorn, rapeseed and sunflowers. The latest estimates for Ukraine's major crops indicate significant reductions are expected in harvested acreage in 2023 compared to 2021 – wheat (-42%), sunflower seeds (-20%), corn (-38%), and barley (-33%) (*USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service*, June 2023). It should be noted these data do not include those parts of Ukraine either in the war zone or occupied by Russian Forces (*UC-Davis ARE Update*, May/June, 2023). In terms of the potential impact on world food prices, Ukrainian grain shipments are forecast to decline by about 36% in the 2023/24 marketing year (*Bloomberg News*, July 6, 2023). With expected declines in Ukrainian grain production, and the closing of the Black Sea Corridor, two price effects can be expected: world grain prices will increase with the reduction in Ukrainian exports, but at the same time Ukrainian domestic grain prices will likely fall. This is precisely what happened after the Russian invasion: in the case of wheat, when Ukrainian ports were blockaded, a wedge was driven between other comparable and Ukrainian prices, the wedge declining after the grain deal was struck in July 2022 (see Figure 2). Since then, Ukrainian wheat prices have tracked other wheat prices, although a gap was starting to open-up again recently, and it can be expected to widen, reducing Ukrainian farmers' incentives.

Figure 2:



It is also likely grain price volatility will be exacerbated, markets already being very sensitive to regional shocks even before the deal ended. When the Nova Kakhova dam in southern Ukraine was destroyed in early June, wheat futures prices immediately rose 2%, raising concerns of an escalation in the war between Russia and Ukraine (*Reuters*, June 6, 2023), which was followed by a second market shock in late-June after the armed uprising in Russia, wheat futures prices increasing by 3% (*Bloomberg*, June 23, 2023). (For a detailed discussion of price volatility see the companion

article to this one on *Ohio Ag Manager*: “What factors are driving the current grain market volatility?” by Seungki Lee).

There is a sense that it may be very difficult to revive the Black Sea deal at this point, with the likelihood grain and oilseed prices will rise, which will then impact the number of undernourished people globally (*The Guardian*, July 17, 2023). At the same time, even though grain continues to be exported westwards from Ukraine through Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, and Slovakia, this has created political tensions in those countries, farmers facing lower prices and reduced revenues. (*Bloomberg News*, April 1, 2023). Even though the EU suspended its tariffs and quotas on imports from Ukraine after the Russian invasion, Poland and Hungary blocked imports from Ukraine in April in a response to farmer protests (*New York Times*, April 20, 2023). This was followed on May 2 by the EU introducing a temporary ban on grain imports by these countries from Ukraine until June 5, while maintaining transit routes into the rest of the EU, the restrictions being subsequently extended until September 15 of this year (*Reuters*, June 5, 2023).

What Factors are Driving the Current Grain Market Volatility?

By: Seungki Lee, Assistant Professor, Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, The Ohio State University

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2023/07/18/what-factors-are-driving-the-current-grain-market-volatility/>

During the last few weeks, grain futures markets have showed significant swings in response to several events: the expanding drought, USDA’s June Acreage Report, and the looming Black Sea Grain deal. The heightened uncertainty in the commodity market is causing concern among US growers about market prospects. Given the current influence of multiple variables on prices, relying solely on price indices may lead to a misinterpretation of the market outlook. Therefore, in this article, we will look into three

primary factors individually that have the potential to impact the market in the upcoming months.

1. Expanding Drought Conditions and USDA's July WASDE Report

The first and very perceivable force that raises uncertainty is the domestic growing condition – the expanding drought in the Midwest. A striking example is that 98% of Minnesota's crop land are currently experiencing drought (Brown, 2023). USDA's July WASDE report adjusted down corn yield to 177.5 bushels per acre, 4 bushels down from last month, whereas soybean yield forecast was not changed. However, a substantial change in the acreage projection (corn up and soybean down) in the June USDA's Acreage Report mainly determined the overall production estimates. This indicates that the market has not fully accounted for the potential yield reduction caused by the drought. Despite the undeniable impact of the drought, the exact extent of harvest reduction remains uncertain, further contributing to market unpredictability. Even though commodity prices hold steady, growers can be largely worse off (Probert et al., 2023). **Table 1** provides a quick summary of July WASDE updates for new crop corn, soybean, and wheat.

Table 1. Summary of July WASDE Estimates

	Corn			Soybean			Wheat		
Marketing Year	23/24F	ΔJun	Δ22/23	23/24F	ΔJun	Δ22/23	23/24F	ΔJun	Δ22/23
Yield (bu/acre)	177.5	-4.0	+4.1	52.0	**	+2.5	46.1	+1.2	-0.4
Production	15,320	+55	+1,590	4,300	-210	+24	1,739	+74	89
Total Supply	16,747	+5	+1,615	4,575	-185	0	2,449	+51	-21
Feed & Residual	5,650	—	+225						
Ethanol	5,300	—	+75						
Crush				2,300	-10	+80			
Domestic Use	12,385	—	+305	2,426	-10	+85	1,132	+20	+1
Exports	2,100	—	+450	1,850	-125	-130	725	—	-34
Total Use	14,485	—	+755	4,276	-135	-45	1,857	+20	-33
Ending Stocks	2,262	+5	+860	300	-50	+44	592	+31	+12
Price (\$/bu)	4.80	—	-1.80	12.40	+0.30	-1.80	7.50	-0.20	+1.33

Note: The default unit is a million bushels if not specified.

2. An Official Termination of Black Sea Grain Deal

On July 17, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov announced that Russia is pulling out of the Black Sea Grain Deal agreement, yet leaving the door open for resuming the deal if Russia's demands were fulfilled. Since the agreement was established in July last year, this is the first time that we have seen an official stop of the deal. As we have witnessed the international connectivity in the commodity market, what's happening in Black Sea will likely fluctuate US grain markets.

Due to the war situation and Russia's political instability, the new deal is likely to fall into a labyrinth. Even putting the recent political turmoil in Russia aside, both sides have been complaining about the deal for months. Russia claimed that its own agricultural products and fertilizers also should be allowed to be shipped to the global market through the Black Seas (i.e., lifting the sanction on Russian crops). Ukraine claimed that Russia is using the inspection for sabotage (Malsin, 2023). The current situation is a sort of "Chicken Games," because the negotiation time will be costly to both countries. The Black Sea Grain Initiative can possibly resume in months, but, Ukraine has already been attempting to mitigate risks by exploring alternative export channels. This development has created political tensions within the European Union, resulting in a temporary ban on grain imports from Ukraine (Sheldon and Zoller, 2023). All of these factors contribute to increased market uncertainty. As illustrated in **Figure 1**, China and EU countries have been major recipients of Ukraine crops through the Black Sea. The partnership and friendship of these countries will potentially play a key role in reviving the Black Sea Corridor.

Figure 1. Black Sea Grain Initiative exports to Top 5 partners and ROW

Note: the numbers in brackets indicate the rank of each country based on the total crop delivered.

Source: United Nations, as of July 17, 2023

3. El Niño and Uneven Impacts Worldwide

El Niño is having an increasingly pronounced influence on global crop production (Witze, 2023), and this impact is being actively reflected in commodity markets (Currie, 2023). It is noteworthy that the effects of El Niño are expected to vary significantly across different regions. For example, Australia is currently experiencing drier weather patterns attributed to El Niño, leading to anticipated reductions in wheat production (Jackson, 2023). On the other hand, Argentina is likely to benefit from El Niño as it brings increased rainfall, replenishing soil moisture during the current growing season. This divergence in the impact of El Niño on crop production among countries will further contribute to market fluctuations. Over the past three years, Latin American countries have suffered from agricultural production setbacks caused by La Niña-induced droughts. This suggests that the transition to El Niño conditions can work favorably for countries such as Brazil and Argentina, posing an additional challenge to US exports in the future.

Register for Drainage Field Day

By: Nic Baumer

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2023-23/register-drainage-field-day>



The Ohio State University at Lima will host a Drainage Installation Field Day on the campus farm on Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

Field demonstrations by the Ohio Land Improvement Contractors of America, or OLICA, will begin at 9 a.m. and will continue in an open-house-style format throughout the day. The event is free and open to the public. Parking will be available off Thayer Road. Maps of the campus with parking and registration areas marked are available as part of the registration

process.

Lunch will be provided at noon. Bruce Clevenger, a farm management field specialist with OSU Extension, will make a short educational presentation about crop yields and the economic benefits of drainage and drainage water management. Space is limited for lunch, so RSVP by July 16. [Register here](#) or visit go.osu.edu/limadrainageday for more information.

Schedule

- 9 a.m.-noon: field demonstrations
- Noon-1:30 p.m.: lunch and educational presentation
- 1-3 p.m.: demonstrations continue in the field

The field day is brought to the area by The Ohio State University at Lima; Ohio State's Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering; and OSU Extension, in cooperation with the Ohio Land Improvement Contractors Association, and OLICA Associate members.

The rain date is Tuesday, August 1, 2023.

Remember the Soybean Aphid?

By: Kelley Tilmon, Andy Michel

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2023-23/remember-soybean-aphid>

Soybean aphids on the underside of a soybean leaf. Photo by Daren Mueller, Iowa State University



You know how at the end of the horror movie there's always some hint that the monster may come back? We don't know if this year will be "Soybean Aphid 11: The Return," but there are some hints that you might want to pay attention to your beans and keep an eye out for this pest. We have been hearing reports of unusually high numbers of various aphid species on various types of plants – fruits, vegetables, weeds. This trend appears to be regional, and is being detected in other states as well. Why? It's probably due to the unusual late spring/early summer weather which was very dry. Wetness is the enemy of aphids because it creates conditions that favor the insect-killing fungi that help keep them in check. We suspect that aphids got off to a great [great for them] start early this season because of the dry conditions, and now they're unusually abundant in many settings.

Soybean aphid never really went entirely away. When we look hard enough for research purposes we can usually find a few here and there. While we don't know if we will see soybean aphid problems in soybean this season, the general happiness of other aphid species this summer suggests that vigilance is appropriate.

Soybean aphid damage is not visually apparent until populations are much higher than you want them to be; plants must be examined closely to find early populations. Starting near the end of July, walk a zig-zag through your field and carefully inspect the undersides of leaves on at least 20 plants. The aphids are sometimes attended by ants, so ant activity is one tip-off to look more closely for aphids. Keep count of the number of aphids per plant – if at least 80% of the plants you examine have 250 aphids or more, a spray is warranted. We really don't recommend spraying an insecticide before this point – not because we are tree-hugging hippies, but because (a) extensive research has shown that it does pay off even with a low-cost generic product, and (b) it can actually cause non-problematic aphid populations to flare when it kills beneficials like ladybeetles that help suppress them (aphid produce a lot faster than ladybeetles, and a few remaining aphids can turn into many a lot faster than a few remaining ladybeetles to rebound).

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For more information about soybean aphid scouting and biology based on soybean-checkoff funded Land Grant research, visit <https://soybeanresearchinfo.com/soybean-pest/soybean-aphid/>

Ohio Supreme Court decision explains eminent domain procedures

By: Peggy Kirk Hall, Attorney and Director, Agricultural & Resource Law Program

Source: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/tue-07182023-900am/ohio-supreme-court-decision-explains-eminent-domain-procedures>

When a landowner legally challenges an agency's use of eminent domain to appropriate property, Ohio law requires a trial court to hold a hearing to determine the agency's right to make the appropriation, according to a recent decision by the Ohio Supreme Court. The Court held that an appeal to a higher court is not permissible until the trial court holds such a hearing and rules on the issues raised in the hearing. For landowner Diane Less, the ruling means the trial court--the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas--must hold a hearing to determine whether Mill Creek MetroParks had the right to make the appropriation of her land and whether that appropriation is necessary.

The case is one of [several lawsuits](#) and [long-running controversies](#) over Mill Creek MetroPark's use of eminent domain to appropriate land for a bike path. The Mahoning County disputes are one reason behind a [current legislative proposal](#) to revise Ohio's eminent domain laws, which includes a prohibition against the use of eminent domain for recreational trails. The legislation is at a standstill, however, with many opponents lining up against the recreational trails and other provisions of the bill.

Basis for the decision

The current *Mill Creek MetroParks v. Less* case made its way to the Ohio Supreme Court after the Seventh District Court of Appeals reversed the Mahoning County court's summary judgment decision that MetroParks was authorized to use eminent domain to take Less' land. MetroParks appealed that decision to the Ohio Supreme Court. But rather than addressing the issue of authority to take the land, the high court focused on the procedures outlined in Chapter 163 of the Ohio Revised Code. The statutes "provide a uniform eminent domain procedure for all appropriations sought by public and private agencies," including procedures for when a property owner contests an appropriation. The Court reviewed the statutory requirements in [ORC 163.09](#), which require a trial court to hold a hearing when:

1. A property owner files an answer to a petition for eminent domain that specifically denies the right to make the appropriation or the necessity for the appropriation,
2. The answer alleges sufficient facts in support of the denial, and
3. The appropriation is not sought in a time of war or other public exigency or not for the purpose of making or repairing roads.

When MetroParks filed the eminent domain action against Less, she did file an answer that denied the Park District's right to make the appropriation and the necessity for the appropriation. Less also filed a motion for summary judgment, asking the court to rule in her favor and dismiss the case because there were no genuine issues of material fact in the case. The trial court denied her motion, however, and Less filed an appeal of that denial to the Seventh District Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court points out that the appeal should not have occurred, however, because the statutory procedures required the trial court to hold a hearing after it denied the summary judgment motion by Less. Nevertheless, the Seventh District ruled on the appeal, reaching a decision that agreed with Less' argument that the Park District did not have authority to take her land.

The Supreme Court accepted the case for review, but its purpose was not to rule on the issue of whether there was authority for the use of eminent domain. Instead, the Court held that it had no jurisdiction to hear MetroPark's appeal of the Seventh District's decision, and that the Seventh District Appeals Court did not have jurisdiction to review the decision of the trial court. Because the trial court had failed to follow the statutory procedures for a hearing and decision on the authority and necessity of the appropriation, there was no "final appealable order" that either party could appeal to a higher court.

What happens next?

The Supreme Court vacated the decision of the Seventh District Court of Appeals and sent the case back down to the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas. The county court must now hold a hearing to review the landowner's arguments on the authority and necessity for the park's appropriation. The court's decision after that hearing will be an order that either party may choose to appeal to the Seventh District. The best answer to the question of what happens next, most likely, is that case will continue to roll on for quite some time.

[Read the Supreme Court's Decision in Mill Creek MetroParks v. Less.](#)

Is a Handwritten Will Valid?

By: Robert Moore

Source: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/thu-07132023-127pm/handwritten-will-valid>

You may have seen the news story this week about Aretha Franklin's will. Aretha, the famous singer, died in 2018. A will executed in 2010 was originally thought to be her last will and the document that controlled the distribution of her assets to her heirs. The 2010 will appears to have been a formal will, prepared by an attorney, and properly executed by Franklin. However, a 2014 handwritten will was later found in a notebook in Franklin's couch. Some of the heirs of Franklin's estate disputed the validity of the 2014 will. The 2010 left Franklin's home to three sons while the 2014 will left her home to only two sons. The issue was recently resolved by a Michigan jury. The primary issue was: can a handwritten will be a valid will?

The answer in most states, including Ohio and Michigan, is yes. Known as a holographic will, a person can write their own will and the will can be valid provided it is signed and witnessed by two adults. Generally, the holographic will must be in the person's handwriting to confirm that they did, in fact, write the will themselves. So, even a will written by hand on notebook paper found in someone's couch, like Aretha's will, can be valid. Presumably, two witnesses were present when Franklin signed the handwritten deed. A few lessons can be learned from

Aretha Franklin's situation:

- Revoke the prior will. When executing or updating estate planning documents, the new or updated documents should clearly revoke the prior relevant documents. If Aretha's 2014 will would have expressly revoked her 2010 will, the matter may not have gone to court because her intent to use her 2014 will would have been much clearer.
- Every requirement of a will matters. If Aretha's will would not have been signed, it would not have been valid. The law vigorously enforces the technical requirements of estate planning documents. An unsigned will is typically not enforceable even if it is clear the person intended to use the will but did not sign it in error. Aretha's will met all the requirements of a holographic will in Michigan and was deemed valid.
- Secure your estate planning documents in a safe location and make sure someone knows where they are. Whether a desk drawer, safe or filing cabinet, your estate planning documents should be held in a protected location and the executor and/or heirs should be aware of the location of the document for easy access. Also, the law firm drafting the documents usually retains a copy in their files.
- Put a "No Contest" clause in your will. A No Contest clause disinherits any heirs who challenge the validity of a will. If Aretha's 2014 will had included a

No Contest clause, the son disputing the will may have not initiated the lawsuit in fear of losing his inheritance in her valuable song royalty rights.

- Every change in an estate planning document should be a formal change. Scratching out a line on a will or adding a provision by hand will likely not be effective. If a change needs to be made to a document, a formal amendment should be drafted and executed or the document should be changed and re-executed.
- Casual execution of documents can cause conflict among heirs. Because Aretha took a more casual approach to her 2014 will, her heirs ended up in a lawsuit and family relations are likely strained. Have an attorney assist with your documents so that formalities are followed and conflicts among heirs are minimized.
- Take the time to visit with an attorney for your documents. No one likes spending money on legal fees but a modicum of legal fees preparing estate planning documents can save heirs many thousands of dollars in litigation fees.

Options for Short Season Summer Fall Forages

By: Bill Weiss, Mark Sulc, Jason Hartschuh, CCA

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2023-23/options-short-season-summer-fall-forages>



Short-season forages planted in late summer can be sources of highly digestible fiber in ruminant livestock rations. There are several excellent forage options that can be considered for no-till or conventional tillage plantings in the late summer or early fall planting window. These forages can be a planned component of the overall forage production plan. They can be utilized on land that would otherwise sit idle until next spring, such as following wheat or an early corn silage harvest.

Oat or Spring Triticale silage

These cereal forages can be planted for silage beginning the last week of July and into early September. Dry matter yields of 1.5 to 3 tons per acre (about 5 to 5.5 tons at 30 to 35% DM) of chopped silage or Baleage are possible if planted in late July to early August. Harvesting between late boot, or early heading, will optimize quality. Yields will be lower for plantings made in early September, in which case late autumn grazing would be a more viable option. Our research utilizing oats

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planted on September 1st versus September 15th showed about a one-ton difference in yield.

Liquid manures, if available, can make a very economical source of nitrogen for these late-planted oats. While earlier planting dates of oats have seen yields plateau with about 100 pounds of nitrogen, our later planting in September has seen significant yield increases at the 138- and 184-pound nitrogen treatments. These September plantings are often not ready for harvest until after a killing frost.

The potential feed value of oat silage can be similar to mid-bloom alfalfa. As a grass, maximum inclusion rates in diets for animals with high nutritional demand (e.g. lactating cows) are less than those for alfalfa, but it is a very acceptable feed. Spring triticale is a biotype of the hybrid cross between cereal rye and wheat (there is also a winter biotype that acts like winter wheat). In our research, oat averaged slightly higher fall yields than spring triticale, but this varied across years. If cut at the proper maturity, spring triticale forage has a higher feed value than oat, similar to early-bloom alfalfa. Seed cost for spring triticale is usually higher than oat, but it is later maturing than oat or barley and will maintain its forage quality for an extended harvest window.

About 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre will be needed to optimize yield potential of these cereal forages following wheat when planted in late July early August. Following corn silage harvest, and especially if manure is applied before planting the short-season forage, there likely will be no need for additional nitrogen application.

Check herbicide rotation restrictions from the previously planted crop. Other potential challenges include rust infection, especially with oat. Rust could impact yield and feed quality, depending on when during the growing season infection occurs. Our research has shown a significant yield and quality advantage to treating July and early August planted oat with a fungicide to control rust.

Oat or Spring Triticale and Winter Cereal Mixed Silage

Planting mixtures of oat or spring triticale with cereal rye, winter wheat, or winter triticale will allow a fall harvest or grazing as well as a harvest or grazing of the winter cereal next spring. Keep in mind that the window for harvesting rye silage in the spring to obtain high quality forage is usually very early and very short. Winter wheat and winter triticale mature later and more slowly in the spring than winter rye. Forage yields in the spring will be 2.5 to 3 tons of DM per acre of high quality forage when harvested in boot stage. In the fall, the oat/winter cereal or spring triticale/winter cereal mix should yield slightly more than oat or spring triticale

alone, with the potential for the spring cereal harvest. Corn silage or soybean can be then planted after the winter cereal harvest in the spring.

Italian Ryegrass Silage

This grass emerges as fast as oats and could produce up to a ton of dry matter per acre in the fall if planted in August, and less yield if planted into September (it should be planted by mid-September at the latest). This crop would also be available for additional cuttings next year, starting in late April or early May and then every 25-30 days into June or early July. In our research, a fall harvest and three additional harvests the following year have shown total yields between 3 to 5 tons of dry matter across all the harvests, when improved varieties of Italian ryegrass are planted and winter survival is good. Italian ryegrass can winterkill in severe winters. It is important to not allow a lot of growth going into the winter to avoid mold growth that damages the stand. To avoid this, make a late fall cutting or graze to a height of 3 inches late in the year.

This crop will shut down by mid- to late-summer the year after a fall establishment. It would fit best in a rotation with sorghum-sudangrass or forage sorghum planted in early July. Harvesting Italian ryegrass before heading optimizes quality, as with all grasses. When planted in September and harvested in late fall, the quality will be superb (NDF around 48% and NDF digestibility about 80%). August plantings harvested in late fall will be slightly lower in quality with crude protein in the mid-teens and NDF in the mid-50s. Next year, the crop will head out quickly at each harvest, and will be a medium quality forage. But with proper diet formulation, it can be used in even in lactating cow rations.

Sorghum, Sorgumsudan, and Pearl Millet

Compared to oats or spring triticale the warm season grasses like sorghum, sudan grass, sorghum sudan and pearl millet need to be planted sooner and carry more risks. These crops should be planted as early in July as possible to maximize growth. Some producers even prefer to just grow more corn silage on the ground with research from Wisconsin suggesting August's first planted corn silage can yield 1.5-2 tons of dry matter. In that study, Mid July planted corn silage yielded 4-5 tons of dry matter. The benefit of corn silage is that it is familiar and has more weed control options. Sorghum and sorghum sudan have yielded between 2-6 tons of dry matter but usually contain less energy than corn silage. One advantage to sorghum and sorghum sudan is that it can be made as baleage.

Summary

Utilizing short-season forages can provide excellent quality forage to supplement other forages such as corn silage and alfalfa or perennial grasses, while also increasing land use efficiency. Maintaining forage cover year-round protects the soil from erosion and contributes to building soil organic matter over the long-term.

**CFAES**

The Ohio State University Portage County Extension Office

Starts September 7th
from 1:00-4:00pm

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.

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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.



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.



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



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!

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Marshy Meadows

Alexa Sandella
Backyard Garden

Lois Wright Morton
Outwash Terrace

Save the date! Rain or shine!

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

Windsor, OH
Sunday, May 7th
from 2-4 p.m.

Kingsville, OH
Sunday, July 30th
from 2-4 p.m.

Pierpont, OH
Sunday, August 27th
from 2-4 p.m.

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



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