Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

It’s quite a difference in a week from 12” of snow to 50F temps. Despite the wet weather many farms wrapped up their corn harvest for the year, and the county is about 85% complete on corn and 95% on soybeans.

Corn yields are all over the place from below 100 bushels/acre to over 240 bushels/acre. If you are will, please help OSU Extension document the yields this year. You can read more about how to participate in the newsletter.

Stay safe!

Lee Beers
Trumbull County Extension Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County Extension Educator
**Welcome Angie Arnold!**

We are excited to have Angie Arnold as our new ANR educator for Portage and Trumbull counties! She will be spending 75% of her time in Portage, and 25% of her time here in Trumbull County helping with ANR programming. Before starting in extension, she worked for Pioneer as a certified services agent (CSA) providing growers with an input management service. During that time, she was also independent crop consultant servicing Northeastern OH and Northwest PA. Prior to working as a CSA she worked on earning her master’s degree in Horticulture and Crop Science from The Ohio State University. Her masters research was primarily focused on reduced lignin alfalfa. In her free time, she enjoys gardening and spending time with her 2-month-old baby boy. She is excited to be a part of our extension team and looks forward to utilizing her skills and experience.

**Farm Transition Workshop in Mahoning County**

Is your farm ready for the next generation? Before a farm transition, it is important to know the legalities and technical pieces of a smooth and efficient change of hands. In this workshop, OSU Ag Law experts will discuss the basics of farm transition, how to prepare within your family, and how to implement your plans so that your farm can be successful in the years to come.

Join us Friday, November 22 for a one-day farm transition workshop with David Marrison, OSU Extension Educator; Peggy Kirk Hall, OSU Ag and Resource Law Director; and Robert Moore, Wright and Moore Law Co.

The class will begin at 9 a.m. and will end at 4 p.m. Lunch is included in the $25 per person registration cost. Participants will also receive complete succession planning binders filled with resources and legal fact sheets. The class will be held at the Mahoning County Extension Office, 490 S. Broad St., Canfield, OH. More information can be found at [https://go.osu.edu/farmtransitionmaho](https://go.osu.edu/farmtransitionmaho).
Normal planting dates for Ohio range from mid-April to the end of May. This season was quite different when planting for both crops was delayed until late May and stretched into June and even July across many parts of Ohio. We found ourselves grasping for any information we could find including 1) how much of an effect late planting dates would have on yield, and 2) what, if anything, we should change in management of these late planted crops. The historical planting date information we did have was somewhat helpful, but we did not have any data on what could happen when planting is delayed into the second half of June nor July.

While it may be tempting to write off this year as a fluke from which there are no real lessons to be learned, there is a growing body of data from climatologists that suggest that this is a beginning of a trend. What we have is a giant, unplanned and involuntary trial being conducted by Ohio corn and soybean farmers this year. This experiment can help us understand the ramifications of how planting date and hybrid/variety maturity affected overall yields, as well as pinpoint where further research is needed to fill the gaps in knowledge for future management decisions. To accomplish these goals, we plan to collect a small amount of data on a large number of fields, which can be used to provide baseline information to share how to manage these crops under similar weather events in the future.

To do this, we have a simple request: share your information with us. We ask only for the following information from as many fields as possible:  
1. County where the field is located
2. Crop: corn or soybean
3. Planting date
4. Harvest date
5. Maturity rating (corn relative maturity (days RM); soybean maturity group) of crop planted
6. Yield
7. Harvest moisture
8. Test weight

Information on weather or management can be added, but this is optional. The information can be submitted to us in one of two ways: 1. Follow this link, go.osu.edu/yield19, to an online form with which you can report one field at a time or 2. Print or download a paper form at go.osu.edu/yield19form, fill it out for as many fields as possible, and send a copy via email to Elizabeth Hawkins (Hawkins.301@osu.edu). We will collect this data from farmers until December 31, 2019.

Additional notes:
1. Don’t forget to include early or normal planting dates too. This will help us capture the breadth of the crop in 2019. We want data across a wide range of planting dates, not just late plantings
2. If a field has drowned-out spots where there’s no yield, either don’t use the field average or estimate yield from yield monitor data from parts of the field where stands were representative.

**Grass Awns Can Cause Significant Medical Problems to Animals**

By Tim McDermott DVM, OSU Extension

It seems like foxtail grass has taken over every pasture and hay field in Ohio in 2019. My good friend and Extension colleague, Clif Martin, wrote an excellent article detailing “How to Fight Foxtail in Forages” in the October 3rd, 2019 All About Grazing column in Farm and Dairy. I highly recommend you review this article to learn strategies to manage this weed. If his article is not enough to get you motivated, then hopefully this article will.
Foxtail is not only a weed competitor and invader of your hay and pasture fields, but it also can cause some significant medical problems for grazing livestock, horses and companion animals. Take a close look at the picture of a foxtail awn. It is very tiny as you can see in comparison to the dime placed for reference. Note that its shape is similar to a lawn dart, which means that it can only travel in one direction, point first. Depending on what species variety of foxtail grass present, this places the seed heads with grass awns very close to the feet, mouth, ears, eyes and nostrils of grazing animals, livestock guard dogs, and horses as they move through fields either walking, running or grazing. That puts these species of animals at risk for a medical condition called a foreign body which means that the awn has lodged somewhere and may need medical or surgical care in order to remove it safely and positively impact the health of the animal.

A foreign body is a serious medical problem, if the awn is lodged in the foot, either in the pad of a canine or inter-digitally (between the toes) of any species, it can fester and cause infection. Compound this problem from mud and feces and this can worsen the infection. A grazer than cannot walk or a dog that cannot run is a problem for the producer. Grass awns can become ocular foreign bodies as well. The grass awn can become lodged in the tear ducts, under the main eyelids or behind the third eyelid. This can cause discharge, swelling, increased tear production, conjunctivitis and corneal ulceration. The signs are usually unilateral but both eyes can become infected at the same time. This presentation of ocular signs may resemble pinkeye to producers. Grass awns can also become lodged in the nares (nostrils) of each of these listed species. Presentation signs may include discharge, facial swelling, and sneezing.

If hay is made off a field that is contaminated with foxtail grass, it increases the chance that the animal may contact the grass awn at any point that the hay is fed. An oral grass awn foreign body can lodge and cause mouth ulcers or hay blisters in multiple species. If the infection becomes severe, it can cause decreased feed intake that will negatively impact the growth of the animal. Some signs of a problem may include drooling, decreased appetite, bad smell and discharge.
Grass awns can also become lodged in fleece of small ruminants as they move through a field and if enough contamination is present, can decrease the value of the fleece. So check your fields and your hay carefully to make sure you are not setting yourself for a problem down the road. If you suspect that your grazing animal, horse or livestock guard dog may have a grass awn foreign body, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. The earlier that a problem can be diagnosed, the earlier that treatment can be attempted and the greater the chance of a successful outcome.

**Poor forage quality spurs concerns over malnutrition this winter**


WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - A Purdue University Extension specialist is warning livestock owners that forage they harvested earlier this year likely has lower-than-usual nutritional quality. Without proper supplements, there could be serious consequences for their animals.

“This is a very unusual year, and the quality is extremely low for this late-harvested forage,” said Keith Johnson, a professor of agronomy and Extension forage specialist. “We have less energy and protein with a more mature crop. There’s a crisis potentially brewing if people don’t pay attention to quality.”

Nutrition issues will be significant with cool-season grasses such as tall fescue, orchardgrass, smooth bromegrass, timothy and perennial ryegrass, as well as legumes such as alfalfa or red clover. Growers usually harvest these forages for the first time in mid- or late-May, but this year’s particularly wet spring kept them from the fields until late June to early July.

As forage crops mature, they increase fiber and lignin content, making them less digestible. Less digestible forage crops result in reduced nutrient supply to the animal. Dry matter intake potential is also compromised with high fiber content. Improper nutrition can lead to weight loss, weakness, poor lactation, poor conception or a lengthened birthing period. Proper nutrition is important for any animal, but it is especially critical during late gestation and lactation.
A laboratory analysis of tall fescue harvested in late June verified significantly high fiber content. A cow, ewe, or doe in early lactation cannot consume enough of the tested hay to meet her needs because rate of passage through the digestive tract is slowed by the high fiber content. If not supplemented with other feedstuffs higher in energy and protein, these livestock will be starved of nutrients.

Johnson said it’s important for livestock producers to have their forage professionally tested, and then use the results to work with a trained nutritionists to develop a nutrition plan. Nutritionists may recommend adding soybean hulls, soybean meal, corn, distillers grains, corn gluten feed or other supplements to raise nutritional quality.

“It’s critical that you work with certified laboratories and trained nutritionists who have the expertise to really dial in the proper nutrition for your animals,” Johnson said.

Certified forage testing laboratories in Indiana listed on the National Forage Testing Association’s website include Sure-Tech Laboratories in Indianapolis and A&L Great Lakes Laboratories in Fort Wayne. He also said that the National Forage Testing Association’s website should be reviewed for proper sampling methods before sending anything to a lab. Many county Purdue Extension offices have a hay probe to loan for sampling hay. Ron Lemenager, Purdue Extension beef specialist, and Nick Minton, Purdue Extension beef systems specialist, can discuss dietary requirements for beef cattle. Sheep and goat requirements can be provided by Mike Neary, Purdue Extension small ruminant specialist.
County Extension educators may be trained to offer guidance on animal nutrition or could suggest reliable livestock nutritionists in the area. Feed resource companies may also be able to help, too. Johnson stressed that advice should come from someone trained in developing cost-effective rations that meet animal needs.

**Trumbull County Farmer Lunch Series Returns for 2020**

OSU Extension, Trumbull SWCD, and USDA-NRCS have teamed up again to offer a series of educational luncheons in 2020. We'll kick off the series on January 15th with a discussion on the agronomic and legal requirements for growing industrial hemp. On February 19th we'll be talking about how to implement grass waterways to prevent erosion which is highly relevant with our recent bouts of heavy rains creating washouts throughout the region. We will be taking a break in March and hope you attend our NE Ohio Agronomy School on March 11th, but we'll be back on April 15th with a farmer discussion on cover crops and what works in our region, and what does not. Each of these events is $5/person and this includes lunch. Lunch is again sponsored by the Trumbull County Holstein Club to keep costs down. The programs start at 11:30A.M. and will conclude by 1:00P.M. If you would like to register or have further questions, please call 330-638-6783 or email beers.66@osu.edu.
Upcoming Events

November 18, 2019 1:00pm or 6:00pm
ARC/PLC Public Meeting – Trumbull Co.

November 19, 2019 1:00pm or 6:00pm
ARC/PLC Public Meeting – Portage Co.

December 9, 2019 1:00pm
ARC/PLC Public Meeting – Ashtabula Co. Extension Office

January 15, 2020 11:30AM
Trumbull Farmer Lunch Series – Hemp: What You Need to Know

February 12, 2020 11:30AM
Trumbull Farmer Lunch Series – Grass Waterways for Erosion Control

March 11, 2020 9AM to 3PM
Northeast Ohio Agronomy School – Bristolville, OH

April 15, 2020 11:30AM
Trumbull Farmer Lunch Series – Cover Crops – A Farmer Discussion
TRUMBULL COUNTY FARMER LUNCH SERIES

JANUARY 15, 2020  11:30A.M. – HEMP: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
FEBRUARY 19, 2020  11:30A.M. – GRASS WATERWAYS FOR EROSION CONTROL
APRIL 15, 2020  11:30A.M. – COVER CROPS: A FARMER DISCUSSION

The Trumbull County Farmer Lunch Series returns for 2020! This series of education events is brought to you by OSU Extension Trumbull County, Trumbull County SWCD, and the USDA NRCS. Sponsoring lunch again this year is the Trumbull County Holstein club. We request reservations one week in advance for an accurate count for lunch. To register call OSU Extension at 330-638-6783.

Location: Trumbull County Ag and Family Education Center, 520 West Main St, Cortland, OH 44410

Cost: $5/person
Contact information: 330-638-6783 or beers.66@osu.edu