Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

It looks like we have a few more wet days ahead, but dryer weather is on its way next week.

Just a reminder, if your pesticide applicator license expired this spring and you did not attend a recertification session you can still recertify until December 1st. Go to pested.osu.edu and select private or commercial recertification and register for the training online. Trumbull county will be hosting a small in-person private recertification later in November for those that still need recertified for 2020.

Have a great week!
COLUMBUS, Ohio—Farmers in Ohio and across the Midwest might have reason to be optimistic this year.

Prices for soybeans, corn, and wheat have risen in 2020, and total net cash income from farms in the United States is expected to be up this year by 4.5%. That’s partly because of an increase in government payments to farmers.

Those payments will make up 32% of this year’s net cash income from all U.S. farms—more than double the portion those payments typically account for, said Ben Brown, an assistant professor of agricultural risk management at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

Traditionally, government assistance to farmers has made up about 14% of the annual net cash income from farms in the United States. Net farm cash income is a measure of profit generated from all U.S. farms by adding all sales of agricultural commodities and farming-related activities, plus direct government payments, and subtracting cash expenses.

Until recently, government assistance to farmers came almost exclusively through the Farm Bill, which is legislation passed by Congress about every five years. However, in recent years, aid given to farmers through the Farm Bill was supplemented with additional government payments.

“More and more people think that the current safety net for farmers is not sufficient,” Brown said regarding the Farm Bill, which funds programs ranging from crop insurance to land conservation programs.

Besides receiving aid through Farm Bill programs this year, farmers also were compensated for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the drop in international demand for certain commodities. That decline in demand came as a
result of tariff increases on those commodities, including on American soybeans sold overseas.

Government payments to farmers will be among the many policy issues that will be discussed at the Agricultural Policy and Outlook Conference Nov. 9–13. The conference will be a series of two-hour online webinars Nov. 9, 10, 12, and 13 hosted by the CFAES Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics. Each day will focus on a different topic. Nov. 9 will be on agricultural finance; Nov. 10, agricultural and environmental policy; Nov. 12, agricultural trade and the health of the U.S. economy; and Nov. 13, grain, livestock, and consumer demand projections.

Agricultural economists from CFAES will speak along with other experts from Washington, D.C., other leading land-grant institutions, and the Federal Reserve System. The webinars begin at noon and include a daily panel discussion that starts at 1 p.m. and invites people in the audience to ask questions.

Speakers at the conference will offer their recap of 2020 and forecasts for 2021 at the national, regional, and local levels, Brown said.

“Our hope is that people who come, gain knowledge to use to influence their businesses.”

To register and for more information about the conference, visit go.osu.edu/aedeconference.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2.0

By: Chris Zoller, Extension Educator, ANR, Tuscarawas County
Source: https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2020/10/21/coronavirus-food-assistance-program-2-0/

Farmers are encouraged to contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2.0 (CFAP 2.0). The application deadline is December 11, 2020. President Trump and USDA Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced an expansion of the original CFAP intended to provide support to farmers who suffered losses because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The following information is sourced from USDA and available at https://www.farmers.gov/cfap.

Eligibility
Any individual or legal entity who shares in the risk of producing a commodity may apply for CFAP 2. Producers must be in the business of farming and producing commercially produced commodities at the time of submitting their application to be eligible. Commodities grown under a contract in which the grower has ownership and production risk are eligible for CFAP 2.

To be eligible for payments, a person or legal entity must have an average adjusted gross income of less than $900,000 for tax years 2016, 2017, and 2018. However, if 75 percent of their adjusted gross income (AGI) comes from farming, the AGI limit of $900,000 does not apply and the person or legal entity is eligible to receive CFAP 2 payments up to the applicable payment limitation.

Persons and legal entities also must:

- comply with the provisions of the “Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation” regulations, often called the conservation compliance provisions; and
- not have a controlled substance violation.

**Eligible Commodities**
Commodities eligible for CFAP 2.0 include: row crops, wool, livestock, specialty livestock, dairy, specialty crops, floriculture and nursery, aquaculture, broilers and eggs, and tobacco.

**Ineligible Commodities**
Commodities not eligible for CFAP 2 include:

- Hay, except alfalfa, and crops intended for grazing are ineligible for CFAP 2.
- All equine, breeding stock, companion or comfort animals, pets, and animals raised for hunting or game purposes.
- Birdsfoot and trefoil, clover, cover crop, fallow, forage soybeans, forage sorghum, gardens (commercial and home), grass, kochia (prostrata), lespedeza, milkweed, mixed forage, pelts (excluding mink), perennial peanuts, pollinators, sunn hemp, vetch, and seed of ineligible crops.

**How to Apply**
To complete the CFAP 2 application, producers will need to reference their sales, inventory, and other records. However, since CFAP 2 is a self-certification program, this documentation will not need to be submitted with the application. Because applications...
are subject to County Committee review and spot check, some producers will be required to provide documentation. Producers should retain the records and documentation they use to complete the application.

Applications can be completed online, manually, or through your local FSA office. Additional information about the application, including a calculator, is available here https://www.farmers.gov/cfap.

**Aphids in Small Grain or Grass Forage Field**

By: John Tooker, PH.D., Professor of Entomology, Penn State University

Source: [https://extension.psu.edu/aphids-in-small-grain-or-grass-forage-fields](https://extension.psu.edu/aphids-in-small-grain-or-grass-forage-fields)

Perennial-grass forage crops and fall-seeded small grains are easy to ignore this time of year, but I encourage folks to walk these crops periodically to check them for insect infestations, particularly aphid populations. There is a suite of species commonly referred to as grain aphids that can infest small grains and forage grasses, including timothy (Figure 1). Small populations of aphids, no matter the time of year, are usually not a problem, because these small, sedentary, soft-bodied insects are sitting ducks for many common predators like lady beetles and damsel bugs. But in fall, natural-enemy populations reduce their activity because of colder temperatures, and even a few frosts (depending on where you are in Pennsylvania), while aphid populations are more resilient and able to withstand the cold temperature longer, providing them a window of predator-free time.

If conditions are right, aphid population growth can be strong and economically damaging populations may develop. In some cases, these large populations can induce a color change in the crop, causing small grains to turn yellow, brown (Figure 2), or even purple at the tips of leaves and then this color will slowly spread down the plant. This color change is often the clue that aphids are in the field, revealing populations that should have been detected earlier with scouting. Beyond the threat of small aphid populations becoming large, aphids can also be a risk for spread of barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV). This pathogen may not be evident until spring, but may be acquired by small aphid populations feeding in fall.
I recommend walking small grain and grass hayfields in autumn to check for aphid populations. If populations exceed 25 aphids per foot of row, it would be wise to treat that portion of the field with an appropriate insecticide. See the Agronomy Guide for treatment options.

Figure 2 Timothy field in Montgomery County browning from aphid feeding. Photo by Andrew Frankenfield, Penn State Extension

Best Farming Practices for Soil Health Vary By Region
By: Emily Matzke

Farmers can use a variety of practices to keep their soils healthy. Some of these practices include not tilling the land, planting cover crops between growing seasons and rotating the type of crop grown on each field.

However, research published in Agricultural & Environmental Letters, notes that information regarding soil health is often too generalized.

No-till is a beneficial practice for soil health. In a no-till system, farmers plant directly into crop residue left behind from previous growing seasons. Here, soybeans are planted into a field where corn was previously grown. Credit: R. Schutte
“Soil health is difficult to define, measure and track over time, although methods are improving,” says Grace Miner, a member of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America. “Linking changes in soil health to farm management is complex.”

Not all outcomes are equal amongst farms. While one practice may benefit one, it may bring challenges to another depending on location. These challenges stem from the U.S. having diverse geography.

“We recognize there are potential benefits with soil health, but caution against blanket statements,” says Miner. “The best farming practices, in terms of costs and benefits, need to be understood at the regional level. What works for someone in Colorado may not work in Wisconsin.”

Farmers worldwide are faced with the challenge of producing high-quality food while using practices that minimize environmental impacts. They are encouraged to practice conservation while producing enough nutritious food to feed a growing population.

"There is positive momentum and commitment surrounding soil health from the agriculture industry, conservation groups and policy makers,” says Miner. “However, when they provide too generalized of statements, information is lost.”

There are many factors that affect the outcomes of soil health management on a farm. Soil health improvement is often a lengthy process that depends on things like soil type, climate, cropping system and available tests.

“Healthy soils are the foundation for food production,” says Miner. “We need to pursue the most sustainable and economical forms of production. But outcomes need to be understood over a long range of time at regional levels.”

Researchers evaluate a field of radish cover crop. Among other benefits, cover crops protect soil from wind and water erosion. Matt Ruark
Researchers emphasize the importance of identifying the pros and cons of different farm management systems. Consideration of soil health, yield and nutritional quality need to be taken. For some, decisions may need to be made in terms of farmer goals.

Miner notes that generalizations are useful to a point. But to answer questions about how farm management practices impact soil health, yields and other outcomes, practices need to be tested at a regional scale for multiple years.

“Locally sourced data will help farmers use the best practices for their land,” says Miner. “The investment and outcomes involved over time is a complex, yet worthwhile challenge.”

The question of whether healthier soils will lead to a better nutritional value of crops is another area of research. Improving the soil health doesn’t automatically mean the crop yield and nutritional quality will increase.

“In some crops, the mineral nutrient quality goes down as yields go up,” explains Miner. “It’s dependent on the type of crop and the growing environment, among other factors.”

There is a lot left to be understood about this complex subject, which is why Miner and her team are continuing their research. Ultimately, their goal is to understand the most regionally appropriate farm management practices.

“Meeting future global food demands while responsibly caring for the land is a grand challenge before us,” says Miner. “There are important questions to answer in terms of soil health, crop production and nutritional quality. By investing time, energy and funding into these questions at the regional scale, we can determine the benefits of soil health management practices for farmers.”
2020 Ashtabula County Beef Banquet Tickets

The Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association will be holding the 31st Ashtabula County Beef Banquet on Saturday, November 7th at the Williamsfield Community Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. The event will be following all social distancing guidelines. This year you have the option to eat in person or take the meal as carry out. Banquet activities will include an excellent prime rib dinner, entertainment; ticket drawing prizes; and fine fellowship. Tickets for the banquet can be purchased from the Directors of the Cattlemen’s Association. Directors are David Nye, Hartsgrove Township; Zach Ward, Austinburg Township; Dr. Bryan Elliott, Cherry Valley Township, Garret Love, Linesville, PA, and Evan Flack, Williamsfield Township. Tickets are $25 per person. Call the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008 for more information. Pre-reservations should be made by October 31st, 2020.

Lee’s Monthly News Column

Hello Trumbull County! It’s amazing how fast a crop can be harvested with good weather. When I last wrote for the Tribune about a month ago, soybean harvest had not yet started because the crop wasn’t ready. That quickly changed toward the end of September, and despite a few wet spells the weather really was perfect for harvest. No rain, low humidity, and a good breeze to get the soybeans dried down. Here we are in the third week of October, and the beans are mostly finished, and I’m hearing good yields too. There are a few double crop fields out there waiting to be harvested, but even our wetter fields were dry enough to harvest this year.

The dry harvest weather has been a nice change of pace compared to our wet falls of 2018 and 2019 where the harvest season dragged on for months. Beans will soak up moisture each morning from the dew, and if it rains the moisture will go even higher. A moisture of 15% or less is preferable for beans, as they will store better, maintain quality, and will not need any additional drying which is expensive. With our wetter pattern coming in this week, we can count our blessings on the dry days we had.

With beans done, we will quickly be shifting our focus to corn harvest. Dry weather is still preferable for corn, but the corn kernels do not take up moisture the way soybeans will. As long as the corn stalks aren’t too wet, and the moisture below 20%, corn will likely be harvested. Moisture at harvest is a little more complicated for corn. If the corn is too dry, you will get ear shattering in the head and lose yield, and if it is too wet it will cost more to dry to get to the 15% for storage. I have heard current moisture levels up to 30% for corn in Trumbull county. Wet corn, or corn that is not drying down fast enough, is a concern this year due to our drier weather in the summer that could have delayed kernel development. Grain that is at physiological maturity will dry faster than
developing grain, so if kernels were delayed this summer and continued to mature into September, the grain will still be wet. Couple that with our hard freeze last week, and any corn that was still developing or maturing likely stopped further delaying corn dry down. On the upside, propane prices are down to keep drying costs low.

Corn harvest can include some cold mornings, and this year I will be offering Corn Harvest Coffee – coffee delivered to your combine! You read that right, I will bring coffee to you, free of charge, to help you along with your harvest. If you, or someone you know, would like a delivery call our office at 330-638-6783 with a time, and location. Keep an eye on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/OSUExtensionTrumbullCounty) for updates on days that coffee will be available, and you can even send a request through Facebook messenger. While I am there, I will be happy to talk about your growing season and try to answer any questions that you may have.

As always, OSU Extension Trumbull County is still here to serve you during the pandemic. If you have questions about soil testing, plant disease, farm bill, or generally anything about agriculture give us a call. We are working remotely to answer your calls, but our office is open on Monday and Thursday from 8:30-4:30 if you need to drop off samples, buy soil test kits, or say hello. We hope you all stay safe and healthy!
Ashtabula County

31st Annual Beef Banquet

November 7th, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Williamsfield Community Center
5920 US-322, Williamsfield, OH 44093

Tickets for prime rib dinner are $25 per person. This year you have the option to eat in person or just take the meal as carry out. Ticket includes your farm’s 2020 membership into the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association.

Social distancing guidelines will be followed. Banquet will include the election of live entertainment, ticket drawing prizes, and a great Prime Rib Dinner!

To purchase/reserve banquet tickets, call a director:
David Nye 330-559-9846   Bryan Elliot 330-240-5533
Zach Ward 330-666-3793    Garret Love 419-566-6570
Evan Flack 440-221-1668   OSU Extension Office 440-576-9008

Ticket reservations are required by October 31, 2020 so that adequate meal preparations can be made.