

NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE NEWSLETTER

Your Weekly Agriculture Update for
Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties

Sept 6, 2023



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Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Soybean diseases previously hiding in the canopy became easily visible over the past week. White mold and SDS were the most frequent issues I have found while scouting.

If you are seeing large patches of yellowing beans, it may be SDS. Symptoms include brown necrotic lesions between the leaf veins, and the roots have a grayish-brown color when cut along the length of the taproot.

If you have suspected disease, you can call us or drop off a sample for identification.

Lee Beers
Trumbull County
Extension Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County
Extension Educator

Harvest Season Climate Outlook

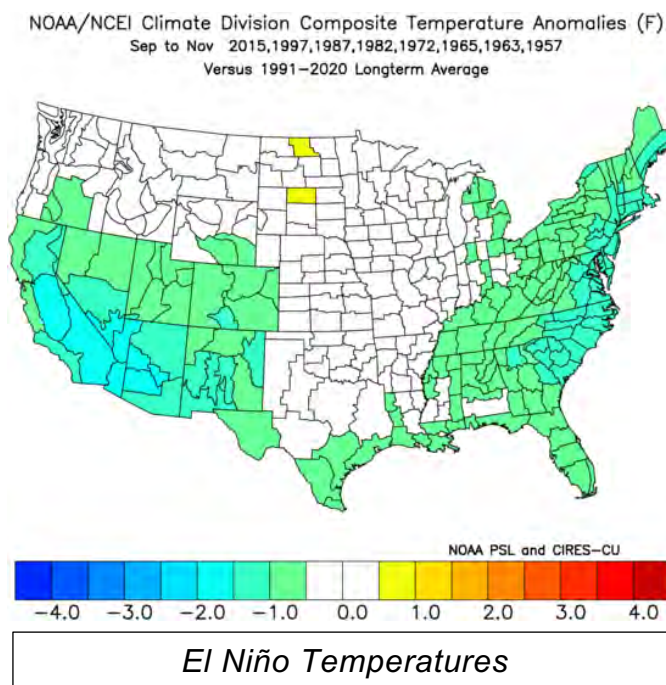
By Jim Noel

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2023-30/harvest-season-climate-outlook>

The summer growing season has played out just like a typical El Niño year would. Temperatures averaged about one degree below normal across the state for summer with rainfall below normal in the western parts of Ohio and slightly above normal in the eastern parts of Ohio. For rainfall it was some extremes that made up that average though with a really dry May and June followed by a wet July and early August then a dry late August and early September overall. Those rainfall swings spell weed central.

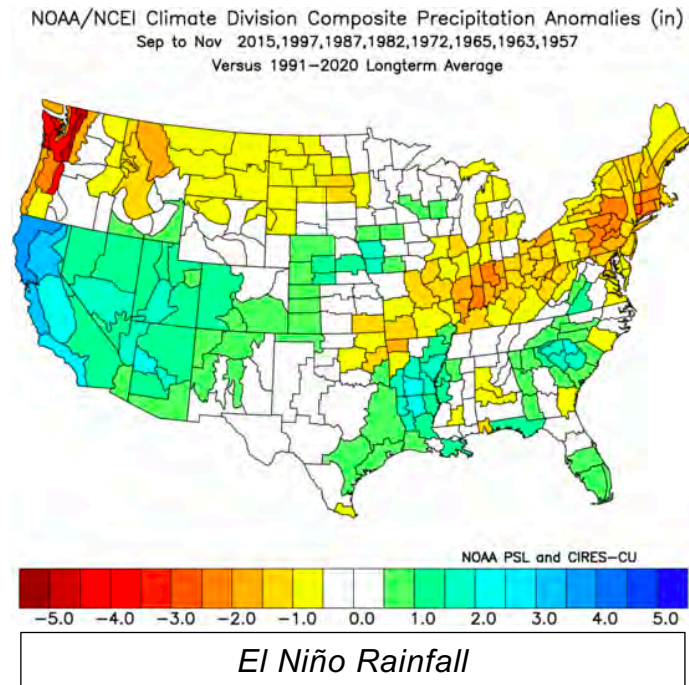
There are a few changes to the harvest climate outlook from what we published back in late May. El Niño is the driving factor. It is creating wind shear in the atmosphere keeping most of the tropical activity off the U.S. East Coast. This is likely to persist overall into October meaning rainfall in the Ohio Valley will be limited by tropical activity.

The autumn El Niño events most like this year includes 2015, 1997, 1987, 1982, 1972, 1965, 1963, and 1957. The attached images show the summary of historical El Niño events like the 2023 one for the period of September through



November for both temperatures and rainfall courtesy of NOAA's Physical Science Laboratory. Temperatures are not far from normal and precipitation is slightly drier (with drier first 2/3rds and wetter last 1/3rd).

September is forecast to be slightly warmer (but with swings in those temperatures from warm to cool to warm) along with rainfall at or below normal. Even though temperatures are forecast to be slightly warmer than normal, we do not see a really hot late September which has been a theme in recent years.



October looks to swing into a cooler than normal month with rainfall again near or below normal. Unlike many of the recent early Octobers which have been hot, this October may be cooler with some lows down into the 30s or lower 40s. Current projections indicate the first freeze to likely be within a week or so from normal so not a lot of deviation from normal.

As harvest season kicks in, the one concern to monitor is a switch to a warm and wetter November. Historical El Niño events and the climate models have been suggesting a wetter November for some time. Harvesting earlier than later may be in the cards this autumn.

Finally, the winter season will continue to feature El Niño meaning a slightly warmer winter with precipitation near or slightly below normal.

Conventional and Organic Enterprise Net Returns

By Michael Langemeier

Source: <https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2023/09/conventional-and-organic-enterprise-net-returns-4.html>

Information pertaining to the relative profitability of conventional and organic production is often lacking. A previous article compared net returns for conventional and organic crop enterprises using FINBIN data from 2017 to 2021 (Langemeier, 2022). This article uses FINBIN data from 2018 to 2022 to update comparisons of crop yields, gross

revenue, total expense, and net returns for conventional and organic alfalfa, corn, oats, soybeans, and winter wheat. The organic enterprise data represents farms that have already transitioned to organic production, and thus do not include information pertaining to the transition phase.

Crop Yields

Table 1 shows the average conventional and organic crop yields for alfalfa, corn, oats, soybeans, and winter wheat. The ratio illustrated in the last column of the table was computed by dividing the organic crop yield by the conventional crop yield. Alfalfa exhibited the smallest difference in crop yields (13 percent) between conventional and organic crops. The yield drags for corn, oats, soybeans, and winter wheat were 26 percent, 34 percent, 27 percent, and 41 percent, respectively.

Table 1. Average Conventional and Organic Crop Enterprise Yields, 2018 to 2022			
	Organic	Conventional	Ratio
Alfalfa (tons/acre)	3.89	4.45	0.874
Corn (bushels/acre)	136.0	183.7	0.741
Oats (bushels/acre)	45.5	68.5	0.664
Soybeans (bushels/acre)	34.8	47.6	0.732
Winter Wheat (bushels/acre)	36.2	61.5	0.588
Source: FINBIN Database			farmdocDAILY

Gross Revenue, Total Expense, and Net Return to Land

Gross revenue, total expense, and net return to land per unit (per acre) for alfalfa, corn, oats, soybeans, and winter wheat are presented in Table 2 (Table 3). Gross revenue includes crop revenue, crop insurance indemnity payments, government payments, and miscellaneous income. Total expenses include all cash and opportunity costs, other than those associated with owned farmland. Farmland costs included in the total expense reported in Table 2 and Table 3 were comprised of cash rent, real estate taxes, and interest, which would be lower than the full opportunity cost on owned land. Just to give the reader some idea as to how large this excluded cost may be, you would need to add an estimated \$0.28 per bushel (\$0.90 per bushel) to the total expense for conventional corn (conventional soybeans) if you wanted to account for the full opportunity cost on owned land. Also, note that the per unit and per acre net returns

presented in Table 2 and Table 3 represent a net return to land rather than an economic profit.

Though conventional and organic crops face different market phenomena, it is common to compare conventional and organic gross revenue per unit and crop prices, and net return to land on a per acre basis. Comparing organic to conventional gross revenue per unit reported in Table 2, the smallest ratio of organic to conventional gross revenue per unit was for alfalfa (1.13) and the largest ratio (2.23) was for soybeans. Organic oats and winter wheat gross revenue per unit were 1.55 and 1.79 times their conventional counterparts, while the organic corn gross revenue per unit was approximately 1.99 times higher than the conventional corn gross revenue per unit. It is important to note that the gross revenue per unit ratios reported in Table 2 represent five-year

averages. The gross revenue per unit and crop price ratios for individual crops vary from year to year. For example, during the 2018 to 2022 period, the corn price ratio ranged from 1.65 in 2021 to 2.70 in 2018, and soybean price ratio ranged from 1.81 in 2019 to 2.36 in 2021.

It is important to note that the net returns reported in Table 2 are on a per-unit basis. Given the differences in crop yields between conventional and organic crops, it is often more relevant to examine differences in per acre net returns than per-unit net returns. The average difference in net returns to land between the organic and

Table 2. Average Conventional and Organic Gross Revenue and Total Expense per Unit, 2018 to 2022

	Gross Revenue	Total Expense	Net Return to Land
Alfalfa (\$ per ton)	153.36	107.73	67.30
Organic Alfalfa (\$ per ton)	173.68	121.19	70.97
Corn (\$ per bushel)	4.83	4.14	1.45
Organic Corn (\$ per bushel)	9.63	6.15	4.54
Oats (\$ per bushel)	4.73	4.27	1.25
Organic Oats (\$ per bushel)	7.33	7.70	1.46
Soybeans (\$ per bushel)	11.88	9.67	4.75
Organic Soybeans (\$ per bushel)	26.53	16.48	14.50
Winter Wheat (\$ per bushel)	6.37	6.44	0.84
Organic Winter Wheat (\$ per bushel)	11.41	13.43	0.35

Source: FINBIN Database

farmdocDAILY

Table 3. Average Conventional and Organic Gross Revenue and Total Expense per Acre, 2018 to 2022

	Gross Revenue	Total Expense	Net Return to Land
Alfalfa (\$ per acre)	682	479	300
Organic Alfalfa (\$ per acre)	676	471	276
Corn (\$ per acre)	887	761	267
Organic Corn (\$ per acre)	1,310	837	617
Oats (\$ per acre)	324	292	86
Organic Oats (\$ per acre)	333	350	66
Soybeans (\$ per acre)	565	460	226
Organic Soybeans (\$ per acre)	924	574	505
Winter Wheat (\$ per acre)	392	396	52
Organic Winter Wheat (\$ per acre)	413	486	12

Source: FINBIN Database

farmdocDAILY

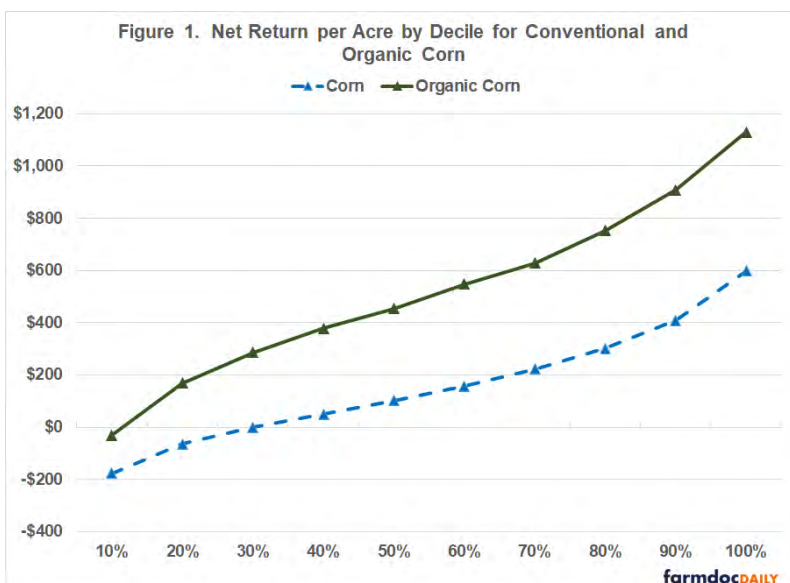
conventional crops was \$110 per acre. The largest difference was \$350 per acre for corn. The difference for soybeans was \$279 per acre. The differences for alfalfa, oats, and winter wheat were -\$23, -\$19, and -\$39 per acre, respectively, indicating that the conventional alfalfa, oats, and winter wheat enterprises were more profitable than organic alfalfa, oats, and winter wheat. The lack of profits for the organic small grains and forages has important implications for organic crop rotations. Most organic crop rotations include a small grain or a forage such as alfalfa in the rotation. Market opportunities for organic small grains and forages vary substantially by region, and it can be difficult to find markets for these crops.

Difference in Net Returns Among Farms

The results above focus on differences in average net return to land. Economists have long pointed out the large differences in financial performance among farms. To account for the differences among farms, we used the FINBIN database to examine net returns for conventional and organic corn and soybean enterprises.

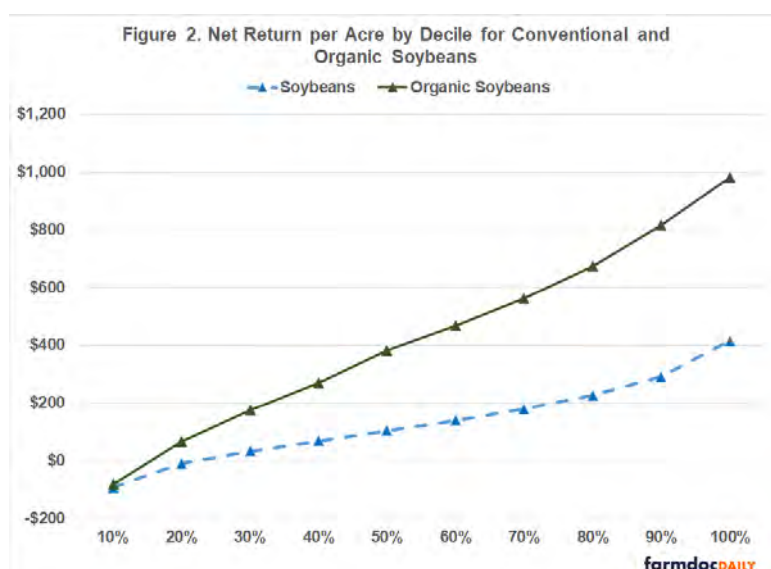
Figure 1 presents the comparisons among enterprise deciles (ten equal groups) for conventional and organic corn using 2018 to 2022 FINBIN data. Net return in this figure was computed by subtracting land expenses from net return to land, and excluded government payments, operator labor, and a management charge. The median net returns per acre for conventional corn and organic corn were \$128 and \$495, respectively. The difference in net return per acre for the bottom and top deciles was \$775 for conventional corn and \$1,160 for organic corn. Despite the larger median net return, it is important to note that there were quite a few organic farms with lower net returns for corn than their conventional counterparts in the top deciles.

Comparisons among enterprise deciles for conventional and organic soybeans are presented in Figure 2. The median net returns using FINBIN data for the 2018 to 2022 period for conventional soybeans and organic soybeans were \$120 and \$429, respectively. The difference in net return per acre for the bottom and top deciles was \$508 for conventional soybeans and \$1,062 organic soybeans. Even though the median net return for organic soybeans is higher than the median net return



for conventional soybeans, the organic producers in the lowest decile had net returns that were very similar to those for conventional soybean producers in the lowest decile.

What can we make of the results in figures 1 and 2? First, there is a larger difference in net returns between the organic producers than there is between the conventional producers. This result could be due to learning effects or the more complicated rotations associated with organic crop production. Second, obtaining a boost in net returns from organic soybean production appears



to be much more difficult than it is for organic corn. This could be due to weed control issues often encountered when producing organic soybeans. The results in figures 1 and 2 stress the importance of examining the sensitivity of budgeted net returns for organic crops to changes in price, yield, and cost assumptions before transitioning acres.

Summary and Conclusions

This article compared crop yields, gross revenue, total expense, and net returns for conventional and organic corn and soybeans. FINBIN data (Center for Farm Financial Management, 2023) were used to make the comparisons in this article. Consistent with previous work, organic corn and soybean enterprises had lower crop yields, higher crop prices and gross revenue, and higher net returns. However, there was a much wider difference in enterprise net returns among organic corn and soybean enterprises than there was among conventional corn and soybean enterprises. It is also important to note that on average alfalfa, oats, and winter wheat grown conventionally had higher net returns than alfalfa, oats, and winter wheat grown using an organic cropping system. This article summarized net returns for conventional and organic crop enterprises. It did not examine net returns during the transition period nor account for the fact that unlike many conventional rotations, organic crop rotations tend to include small grains and/or forages. Thus, it is very important to not just compare net returns for corn and soybeans grown conventionally and organically. For comparisons of conventional and organic crop rotations see Langemeier et al. (2020) and Langemeier and O'Donnell (2021).

National Beef Quality Audit – The Report Card on US Beef Quality

Garth Ruff, Beef Cattle Field Specialist, Ohio State University Extension (originally published in Ohio Farmer on-line)

The recent Beef Quality Audit suggests eating quality is a market expectation and is directly attributed to high quality genetics.

Every five years a group of university animal and meat scientists, Extension specialists, in conjunction with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Beef Checkoff complete the National Beef Quality Audit. The audit consists of two main parts, interviews with supply chain partners (packers, retailers, food service, and further processors) and live animal/carcass evaluation in the major packing plants across the United States. Audits are completed for both fed steers and heifers as well as cows and bulls. Findings from the 2022 audit were recently released. I would like to share the highlights of those findings as well as some take home messages and room for improvement in live cattle production.



A variety of questions were asked on the topics of beef quality factors including; How and Where the Cattle were Raised, Lean Fat and Bone, Weight and Size, Visual Characteristics, Food Safety. Eating Satisfaction, Cattle Genetics, sustainability, impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, and strengths and weakness of the fed cattle industry.

Some conclusions from the fed steer and heifer interview portion of the audit include:

- Branded beef programs continue to increase in popularity.
- Food Safety has become part of companies' business model, and they associate food safety with product quality.
- All market sectors believed that traceability translates to "back to the ranch," and many want a stronger traceability system in the U.S.
- Uniformity of the weight and size of products is most important across sectors.
- American produced beef continues to excel both domestically and abroad, largely due to the high-quality product.
- Eating quality is a market expectation and is directly attributed to high quality genetics.

Any surprises there? I really don't think so. Perhaps the one worth noting is the point on traceability. This is a topic that has been tossed around for 20+ years in the beef industry. It would appear that we are moving towards some sort of national traceability system, the details of which remain to be seen.

Some thoughts on cows and bulls from the audit include:

- The image of the Market Cow/Bull sector has improved over the past 5 years.
- The Market Cow/Bull industry has made strides in increasing animal well-being; however, increased producer education on animal well-being (e.g., timely culling, birdshot) is warranted.

Really no big surprises here as cull prices have been historically high over the past half decade. Timely culling remains a challenge in cows with poor muscle scores and full udders. In the Beef Quality Assurance era, I am a little perplexed that birdshot in cull animals is an issue, that certainly does not fall under proper animal handling.

Auditors also completed on-rail carcass measurements and evaluated live cattle characteristics as they entered the harvest floor. While I would be more than happy to take a deep dive into the details of the audit someday, the major fed beef conclusions were made when compared to previous audits:

- Marbling scores and the percentages of Prime and Choice all increased.
- Back fat, muscling, and carcass weights all increased.
- Increases in fat thickness and heavier weights contribute to large increases in percentages of YG 4 and 5 carcasses.
- Increased usage of electronic identification.
- Increase in black-hided cattle, followed by a decrease in Holstein pattern.
- Total dairy carcasses observed in-plant and through instrument grading are much lower when compared to NBQA-2016

What does this all mean? First, I think it shows that we as an industry are doing a better job selecting beef cattle genetics that have the capacity to produce high quality beef. In the first audit in 1991, beef quality was one of the great concerns identified.

It would also appear that there has been some incentive in the market to feed cattle longer. Covid certainly had an impact on carcass weights due to the backlog of cattle we saw in 2021. However, the lack of supply due to the reduction of the western cow herd can also be attributed as a cause for heavier cattle. At some point I wonder do we get them too heavy? What is the cost and impact on red meat yield in these heavy fed steers and heifers?

Along with feeding and marketing heavier cattle, carcass bruising was recorded at its highest rate since 2005, with 47.7% of cattle being unbruised. The majority of bruises were minimal in size ranging from the size of a quarter to a deck of cards. The loin was

the most often location of bruising. While our fed cattle have gotten larger and heavier, our primary mode of transporting cattle, the possum belly trailer hasn't been changed in terms of design. Cattle have been observed hitting their backs (loin) as they enter the belly of those trailers.

While the 2022 National Beef Quality Audit was large positive with regards to food safety and beef quality, there is still room for improvement in our industry. We can continue to improve cattle health, reduce instances of foreign materials in cattle, and continue to optimize efficiency throughout the beef production system as it relates to sustainability as defined by our partners.

Lee's Monthly News Column

Hello Trumbull County! As summer comes to an end our gardens and farms are producing an abundance of produce. I'm sure you're all tired of finding new and creative ways to sneak zucchini into foods. My personal favorite is to thinly slice it then add just enough olive oil so it slides easily into the trash can, but that's just me. Despite that, my wife has made lemon zucchini muffins, zucchini brownies, zucchini bread, and probably several other zucchini-based recipes without my knowledge.

My wife and I love to garden, and we put a lot of time and money into producing fresh fruit and vegetables for our family. When disease, insects, deer, or racoons beat you to the harvest it can ruin your enthusiasm quickly. Our cucumbers were lost to downy mildew, racoons are eating our sweet corn, deer are nibbling on the squash, and Japanese beetles ate everything they landed on. Based on the recent samples brought into our office, it's safe to assume that many of you are having similar issues.

We will always have to contend with harvest bandits, but there are practices you can implement to keep the thievery to a minimum. Planning is key to securing your harvest. When it comes to plant disease, selecting resistant varieties will provide the best defense. I know, heirloom tomatoes are pretty and have a great taste, but they do not have a lot of resistance to disease. Heirloom varieties have very little genetic variability compared to a hybrid variety. Hybrids generally also provide a wider range of disease prevention, better nutrient and water use efficiency, and are more vigorous.

If you do choose the tried-and-true heirloom varieties, protection with a fungicide can prevent many diseases. As I mentioned back in June, integrated pest management (IPM) should be an integral part of disease management. Proper plant spacing, don't allow standing water, good soil fertility, and site selection can also help reduce disease.

Insects can be more of a challenge due to their ability to fly from your neighbor's property and magically appear on your squash vines. Scouting and trapping will provide an early

detection notice that treatment may be needed. Treatment can be hand picking Japanese beetles, smushing squash vine borer eggs, or using an insecticide if needed. I know picking up insects is not fun for many people – I should make a collage of the faces when I recommend that strategy – but it is an effective strategy for many low-density insect pests.

You've probably seen a myriad of pest repellent products at the garden centers to keep squirrels, birds, snakes, deer, and any other kind of animal you can imagine. In addition to products you can purchase, I have heard of many different methods to repel animals. Some are strange, and others are downright gross and cause concern for human health. Please do not shave your hair off or urinate on your plants. The only method that will reliably keep animals out of your garden is a physical barrier such as a fence or netting.

Wire mesh fencing works well for most of the animals in our area but choose the correct size of opening. A standard 2"x4" wire mesh fence will work great for deer and raccoons, but something like chicken wire will work better for squirrels and rabbits. Choose both if you have a lot of animal pests. Electric fences are popular, and effective, but be sure to consult your local zoning office to know the rules (if any) that apply. They may not be the best option if you have young children or adventurous pets.

Don't lose your enthusiasm because of garden pests. Learning how to manage them is part of the process to becoming a great gardener, or at least better than you were last year. If you are struggling with any of the above issues, or need assistance identifying a disease, insect, or damage to your garden, we are here to help. You can send pictures by email to beers.66@osu.edu, or you can drop off a live sample to our office at 520 West Main St., Cortland, OH 44410. Live samples showing the issue are preferred to help with a proper diagnosis.

Take care, have a great rest of your summer, and enjoy your harvest!
Lee Beers can be reached at beers.66@osu.edu or 330-638-6738

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Video & Townhalls for CAUV Increases offered by Ashtabula County Auditor's Office

Source: <https://auditor.ashtabulacounty.us/dnn/Announcements/ArtMID/518/ArticleID/1421/State-Mandated-CAUV-2023-Values-Released>

The Ashtabula County Auditor's Office is offering multiple opportunities to learn about the upcoming increase to CAUV 2023 values. A recorded webinar is
Northeast Ohio Agriculture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

available as well as 4 scheduled meetings around the county. Those with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Auditor David Thomas anytime at 440-576-3785 or djthomas@ashtabulacounty.us

Video Recording:

Click here: [Watch a Townhall video from Auditor Thomas explaining the CAUV Value changes](#)

Townhalls:

1. Tuesday, September 26th 6pm Colebrook Townhall Community Center, 682 US Rt. 322 Colebrook, OH 44076
2. Tuesday, October 3rd 6pm Kingsville Public Library Simac Welcome Center 6006 Academy St Kingsville, OH 44048
3. Tuesday, October 10th 6pm Childs-Williams-Ducro Funeral Home Community Room (at the former Pierpont Elementary School) 1071 St. Rt. 7 Pierpont, OH 44082
4. Monday, October 16th 6pm Austinburg Township Hall 2794 St. Rt. 307, Austinburg, OH 44010

Tools to calculate your Ashtabula County CAUV value can be found [HERE](#).

What Should I Say?

By: KATE HOMONAI

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/farmstress/2023/09/>

Starting some conversations is easy: “How’s the farm?” “Did you see the game last week?” “Can you believe the weather?!” They’re simple questions, pleasantries really, that start conversations about things most of us are experiencing together.

But how do you start an uncomfortable conversation? How do you tell a friend or family member that you’re concerned about their wellbeing? This is the second in a series of posts for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and today we’ll discuss some of the ways we can start conversations about mental health.

1. **Consider your approach.** Choose a place and time where the person won’t feel like they’re being ambushed or put on the spot.
2. **Use “I” statements.** Let the person know what why you’re bringing up this subject by saying things like, “I’ve noticed that...” or “I’m concerned about...” This can make the person feel less likely to feel defensive, and more likely to want to address your concerns.
3. **Listen.** Now is not the time to dole out advice or pass judgment. Ask questions when appropriate, but simply let the person talk. Pauses in the

conversation can be helpful as well, as they may give you or the other person time to collect your thoughts before responding.

What comes after the conversation? There are different ways a conversation can play out, and it's helpful to think about possible next steps.

1. **Your friend is okay right now.** Sometimes people go through rough patches, and while they're tough to navigate, people can bounce back with a little time and support. If this is the case, maybe offer some help (a meal, run their kids to practice, etc) and give yourself a reminder to check in again in a few days or weeks.
2. **They want help now.** Maybe they have been struggling and are grateful for help. In crisis situations, calling 911 (for suicide emergencies) or 988 (for suicidal thoughts or other mental health concerns) is appropriate for immediate help. In non-crisis situations, you can also contact 211, check out the [Ohio Mental Health Resource Guide](#), or the [Farm Stress Certified directory](#) for other contacts.
3. **They don't want your help.** Not everyone is ready to accept help or recognize that they need support. Let the person know that you're there to support them now or in the future, and keep the lines of communication open. You never know when someone might need you down the road!

Starting certain conversations can be difficult, but it's worth feeling the discomfort if it means reaching out to someone who may need your help!

Extension Talk – What did you say?

By: Andrew Holden, ANR Educator – Ashtabula County

Hello Ashtabula County! September has arrived and we finally got some dry weather! Hay is being made around the county and crops are ripening well for harvest. Corn, soybeans, grapes, and apples will be ready to pick before we know it!

Today I want to discuss protecting ourselves from dangers on the farm. Particularly, protecting our ears (the ones on your head not in the field) from hearing damage. Sometimes overlooked, hearing damage can have a long term effect on one of important senses and there are steps everyone can take to avoid damage.

A Buckeye guide to dangerous noise levels

Extended exposure above 85 dB can cause hearing damage



Farming can be loud. Tractors, chain saws, hay balers, firearms, vacuum pumps, and most other farm equipment have the tendency to emit a lot of noise. But how much noise is too much? What can these noises do to our hearing? And how can we work to avoid damage and future hearing loss?

Loudness is measured using decibels (dB). The decibel scale is logarithmic, which means that an increase of sound from 70 dB to 80 dB is 10 times louder and another increase of 10 dB, to 90 dB, is 100 (10 x 10) times louder. Prolonged exposure to noise above 85 dB can cause permanent hearing loss or tinnitus. One off higher dB events can also cause similar harm. Hearing damage is often gradual and painless, which means that many people won't realize when the damage happens.

Sound Levels in dB(A)		
	General	Agriculture
0	Threshold of hearing (Weakest sound)	
40	Quiet office, Library	
50-60	Normal Conversation	
55-70	Dishwasher	
74-112		Tractor
77-120		Chainsaw
79-89	Riding mower	
80-105		Combine
81-102		Grain dryer
83-116		Crop dusting aircraft
85-106		Orchard sprayer
85-115		Pig squeals
88-94		Garden tractor
93-97		Grain grinding
110	Leaf blower	
110-130	Rock concert	
125	Jet plane at ramp	

Protecting yourself from hearing damage can be reduced to two main options: noise reduction and noise protection. Noise reduction often deals with maintenance of machinery. As parts get wore out, loosen, or get lost, the noise level can increase. Scheduled maintenance, repairs, and replacement of equipment can cut down on high level sound. Often newer equipment is designed with sound level in mind and can be quieter than its older equivalent. Noise protection is done by using personal protective equipment that includes earplugs and earmuffs. Just make sure that what you use has the proper rating! Some are rated for higher dB than others. Ideally you take both options into consideration and protect yourself and other from hearing loss on the farm.

For more information check out these two helpful pages where some of the information above came from!

- Penn State Extension <https://extension.psu.edu/noise-induced-hearing-loss-in-agriculture>
- Ohio State University, Wexner Medical <https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/ear-nose-throat/audiology/hearing-protection>

Do you have a home, yard, or garden question? Need expert advice but don't know where to turn? **Call the Ashtabula County Master Gardener Hotline at 440-576-9008**

The hotline is open from May 2nd until October 31st, Every Monday, 9 AM to Noon and every Thursday, 1 PM to 4 PM. Call during listed hours to speak with a volunteer or call anytime and leave a message. The hotline can also be reached via email at Ashtabula.1@osu.edu and in person by stopping in at the Ashtabula OSU Extension Office – 39 Wall St. Jefferson, Ohio 44047.

For your home horticultural question call the Master Gardener Hotline today!

Andrew Holden is an Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator for Ohio State University Extension. Andrew can be reached at 440-576-9008 or Holden.155@osu.edu

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Reflecting on One Year of 988

By Bridget Britton Behavioral Health Program Coordinator

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2023/09/06/reflecting-on-one-year-of-988/>

As we transition into National Suicide Prevention Month, there was a milestone marking one of the launch of 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Nationwide. This switch allowed for youth and adults to go from memorizing a 1-800 number to the easy-to-remember 988.

What is 988?

- Think the equivalent of 911 only 988.
- Simply call, text, or chat 988 when you or someone you know is experiencing a
- mental health challenge or thoughts of suicide.
- A mental health professional will answer the call and it is completely anonymous, available 24/7.

What have the benefits been?

- Almost 5 million people have contacted the line in the last year, 2 million more than the previous one.
- The average answer time went from 2 minutes and 39 seconds to 41 seconds.
- There are specialized options for Veterans, Spanish subnetwork, and LGBTQI

youth.

- It is available in all 50 states.

Where can the work continue to improve when it comes to 988?

- The message change is still not widely known. 988 is still new, and advocacy for the change is still crucial. There is an amazing toolkit available with free resources for people to use.
- Breaking down the stigma that it is “okay to not be okay”, and talking to someone about mental health in the moment reduces the need for future services.
- Ongoing improvements to the infrastructure of 988 calling centers. Currently, the call centers are statewide and cover regional areas, but the goal is to make them more localized in each county to mimic 911 services.

Remember, you or anyone you know can call 988! Help spread that word to reach out for support anytime anywhere.

More information can be obtained at the Rural and Farm Stress Blog at: <https://u.osu.edu/farmstress/get-help-now/>

2023 FARM PESTICIDE DISPOSAL COLLECTION

Do you have unwanted, unused, or unknown FARM chemicals? Bring them to a collection and disposal event coordinated by ODA and EPA - at no cost to farmers.

All events are 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

To pre-register, or for more information, contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 614-728-6987.

Wednesday, August 9

Morgan County Fairgrounds
2760 South Riverside Drive | McConnelsville

Thursday, August 10

Putnam County Fairgrounds, Gate 5
1206 East Second Street | Ottawa

Tuesday, August 22

Miami County Fairgrounds, North Gate
650 North County Road 25A | Troy

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