

# NORTHEAST OHIO AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

Your Weekly Agriculture Update for  
Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties

June 11, 2024



*Now is the time to scout for waterhemp!*

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## ***Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!***

Decent hay making weather has arrived! I have seen a lot of hay down over the past few days and it looks like dry weather will persist into next week. While it is great news for hay producers, the dry weather will bring about tough growing conditions for row crops. There are large portions of the NE Ohio that could use a decent amount of rain to boost crops.

I will be out of the office this week to enjoy time with family (and make some hay), but I will return to the office on Monday if you need assistance.

Stay safe!

**Lee Beers**  
**Trumbull County**  
**Extension Educator**

## ***Slug Management Considerations and Statewide Slug Monitoring Report – Update #4***

By Amy Raudenbush, Maddie Brillhart, John Barker, Nic Baumer, Frank Becker, Lee Beers, CCA, Amanda Bennett, Pressley Buurma, Dirk Dempsey, Amanda Douridas, CCA, Ken Ford, Seth Kannberg, Kendra Stahl, Jacob Winters, Ted Wiseman, Kelley Tilmon

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2024-18/slug-management-considerations-and-statewide-slug-monitoring>

We have been receiving more reports this season than usual of slug damage in corn and soybeans, either through plant feeding or through seed feeding in open seed trenches (Figure 1). Emerging corn plants are less susceptible to lasting damage than soybean plants because the growing point of corn is below the ground when the plant emerges, so the corn will continue to put out new leaves, even if defoliated. In soybean, the growing point is within the emerging cotyledons – feeding here can damage the growing point, killing the plant. On the other hand, soybeans can tolerate more stand loss than corn without losing yield, because the existing plants bush out and become larger, up to a point. For advice on soybean replant decisions, visit <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/14-2021/soybean-stand-evaluation-and-re-plant-decisions>

Not many treatment options are available for slugs in corn and soybean. The most effective treatment to date is baited pellets containing metaldehyde. Look for a concentration between 3.24 and 4%. The application rate for most metaldehyde-containing poisonous baits is 10 pounds per acre for soybeans and 25 pounds per acre for corn. Both uses are labeled in Ohio but are not labeled for both crops in all states. Spread pellets at a rate of 5 – 12 pieces per square foot.

The other alternative active ingredient, iron phosphate, has lower effectiveness but has the advantage of being organic-approved. In either case, the slugs must eat the pellets for the product to work. The pellets break down when wet, so try to





apply them to ground that isn't sopping wet, and with at least a few days before the next predicted rain.

The baits appear to work better when slugs are small so there is less value to applying later in the season when the spring juveniles have grown. Slugs are nocturnal so they're harder to spot during the day. To get a feel for your slug population look for the adult slugs by carefully examining the soil surface, and brushing aside residue and debris (Figure 2). You can put down square-foot sections of plywood at a few locations in the field (marked with flags) and check under them periodically in the morning. Unfortunately, we do not have a threshold recommendation for slugs, but monitoring the population will give you a feel for whether the problem is increasing or decreasing. Slugs will be present in the field all season, but at a certain point, the plants will have grown past being susceptible to meaningful damage.



*Figure 2. Slug found in leaf litter.*

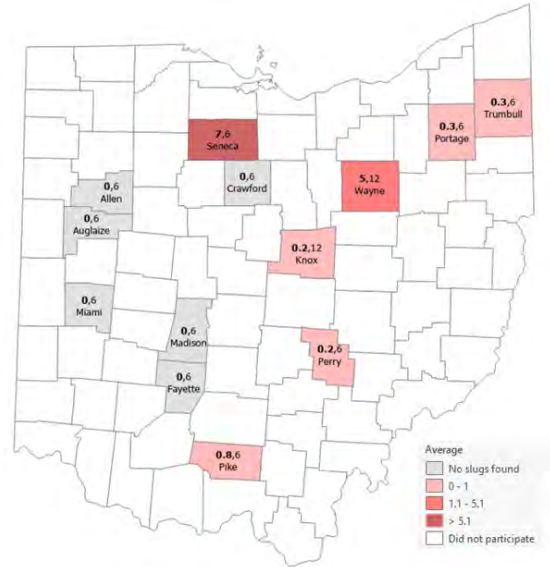
For more information on slug management, visit our field crop slug factsheet at <https://aginsects.osu.edu/sites/aginsects/files/imce/Slugs%20on%20Field%20Crops%20%20Ohioline.pdf>

This season we are conducting slug monitoring in 13 Ohio counties in a United Soybean Board-funded project to better understand slug populations across the state and region.

The map below shows the average number of slugs found under the shingle trap in each county from June 3<sup>rd</sup> – June 9<sup>th</sup> (Figure 3). Over the past week, the average number of slugs in some counties increased. Seneca County had the highest average of 7.0 slugs/shingle over the past week, followed by Wayne County with 5.0 slugs/shingle. The majority of counties in Ohio continue to report low numbers of slugs under the shingle traps; however, slug activity varies greatly from field to field, and all no-till fields planted recently should be scouted for slugs.

## Slug Monitoring in Ohio June 3<sup>rd</sup> – June 9<sup>th</sup>

Figure 3. Average slugs captured from June 3<sup>rd</sup> – June 9<sup>th</sup>. The bold number on the left indicates the average slug count for the week, followed by the standard number on the right which indicates the total traps set up in that county.



## Breeding season: Know performance and history; cull when necessary

By Garth Ruff, Beef Cattle Field Specialist, Ohio State University Extension

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2024/06/05/breeding-season-know-performance-and-history-cull-when-necessary/>

Knowing the pregnancy status of a cow allows for timely decision-making. Pastures are in their prime, and for many spring-calving cow herds, breeding season is either here — or soon to be here.

As we progress through this cow breeding season, there are several economic drivers to consider when we evaluate reproduction within the beef herd:



**Monitor cow performance.** The start of breeding season is a good time to monitor cow production. Recording body condition scores (BCS) at breeding is an indicator of cow performance. If a cow is struggling to maintain body condition, is it because she is

heavily lactating and nursing an above-average-weight calf, or are there underlying factors to consider?

Make note of cows with smaller-than-average calves. Whether late calving, or a lack of nutrition and milk, the poorest performers of the herd can often be identified at this time. Don't be surprised if they are also the cows that are later breeding or open at the pregnancy check.

**Pregnancy checking.** Consider checking for pregnancy early, especially if using fixed-timed artificial insemination to breed your herd or at least a portion of it. If utilizing AI to breed cows, we can detect pregnancy as soon as 28 days post-breeding using either a blood test or by having a technician ultrasound those inseminated females.

Knowing whether a cow is bred early in the breeding season allows for timely decision-making. One option would be to group all the "open" cows together for the remainder of the breeding period. By doing so, cows will already be sorted into calving groups based on who should calve early versus later.

If you're not pregnancy checking early, a later pregnancy check 30 days after the conclusion of the breeding season should identify open cows, which should be up for a culling decision.

**Timely culling.** We all have heard by now that the U.S. cow herd is the smallest it has been since 1960. The cattle markets are still historically high, including cull cows. Cull cows and bulls can be responsible for up to 25% of the revenue generated by a commercial beef operation. Once open females are identified, a decision has to be made: Do you give the female a second chance? Or do you send them to town and collect a check?

With many cull cows selling for north of a dollar per pound locally, that open heifer or cow had better have outstanding genetics or some reason to justify not culling her from the herd. Keeping open cows are a profit drain. Not only do you not have a calf to market, but there also is expense in keeping her for the next year.

**Records and facilities.** All of the above is contingent on good production records and the ability to effectively handle cows. Knowing a calving date, breeding date and previous cow performance hinges upon good record-keeping.

To know if a cow is in the bottom x% of weaning weight, that we have determined is a performance threshold, an accurate set of scales is a must. Weaning is another opportune time to record observations such as BCS, udder confirmation, and feet or claw scores.

Use this breeding season to make improvements to the genetics of your herd while making timely cow management decisions that can have a positive impact on the economic standing the beef enterprise.

## ***USDA wants farmer input on rules for a voluntary carbon market***

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

Source: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/wed-06052024-1105am/usda-wants-farmer-input-rules-voluntary-carbon-market>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA) is asking the agricultural community to weigh in on a new program aimed at the voluntary carbon market in the U.S. The agency has published a Request for Information seeking input on what the agency should consider

in developing rules for the new “Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program.” The purpose of the new program, created by the passage of the Growing Climate Solutions Act last year, is to facilitate farmer, rancher, and private forest landowner participation in voluntary carbon markets by: (1) publishing a list of widely accepted protocols designed to ensure consistency, reliability, effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of voluntary credit markets; (2) publishing descriptions of widely accepted qualifications possessed by covered entities that provide technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners; (3) publishing a list of qualified technical assistance providers and third-party verifiers; and (4) providing information to assist farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in accessing voluntary credit markets.



Farmers haven’t engaged in the voluntary carbon market to the extent some predicted several years ago, when “carbon agreements” began circulating through the agricultural community. A carbon agreement is a private contract that compensates a farmer for adopting practices that sequester carbon, with one ton of sequestered carbon creating a “carbon credit.” Those who pay farmers for the carbon credits can retain the credits or trade the credits through a carbon market. The owner of the carbon credits can use the credits to offset their greenhouse gas emissions, with the goal of reducing their “carbon footprint.” According to USDA Secretary Vilsack, “high-integrity voluntary carbon markets offer a promising tool to create new revenue streams for producers and achieve greenhouse gas reductions from the agriculture and forest sectors. However, a variety of barriers have hindered agriculture’s participation in voluntary carbon markets and we are seeking to change that by establishing a new Greenhouse Gas

Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program.” In its Request for Information, the agency seeks responses to eight questions:

*Question 1:* How should USDA define the terms “consistency,” “reliability,” “effectiveness,” “efficiency,” and “transparency” (see 7 U.S.C. 6712(c)(1)(A)) for use in protocol evaluation?

*Question 2:* What metrics or standards should USDA use to evaluate a protocol's alignment with each of the five criteria to be defined in Question 1? What should USDA consider as minimum criteria for a protocol to qualify for listing under the Program?

*Question 3:* In general, after a new protocol is published, how long does it take for a project to use the protocol and be issued credits ( *i.e.*, what is the lag time between protocol publication and first credit generation)?

*Question 4:* Which protocol(s) for generating voluntary carbon credits from agriculture and forestry projects should USDA evaluate for listing through the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program?

*Question 5:* Additional information for any protocol(s) identified under Question 4.

*Question 6:* How should USDA evaluate technical assistance providers (TAP)? What should be the minimum qualifications, certifications, and/or expertise for a TAP to qualify for listing under the Program?

*Question 7:* Should the qualifications and/or registration process be different for entities and individuals that seek to register as a TAP?

*Question 8:* What should be the minimum qualifications and expertise for a third-party verifier to qualify for registration under the Program?

The agency will accept comments on the questions until June 28, 2024.

### **Part of a broader policy initiative**

USDA announced the Request for Information on the same day that Secretary Vilsack, Energy Secretary Granholm, and Treasury Secretary Yellen, published a Joint Statement of Policy and Principles for Voluntary Carbon Markets, which outlines seven principles for the government’s approach to advancing “high-integrity voluntary credit markets,” summarized in a White House Fact Sheet:

- Carbon credits and the activities that generate them should meet credible atmospheric integrity standards and represent real decarbonization.



- Credit-generating activities should avoid environmental and social harm and should, where applicable, support co-benefits and transparent and inclusive benefits-sharing.
- Corporate buyers that use credits should prioritize measurable emissions reductions within their own value chains.
- Credit users should publicly disclose the nature of purchased and retired credits.
- Public claims by credit users should accurately reflect the climate impact of retired credits and should only rely on credits that meet high integrity standards.
- Market participants should contribute to efforts that improve market integrity.
- Policymakers and market participants should facilitate efficient market participation and seek to lower transaction costs.

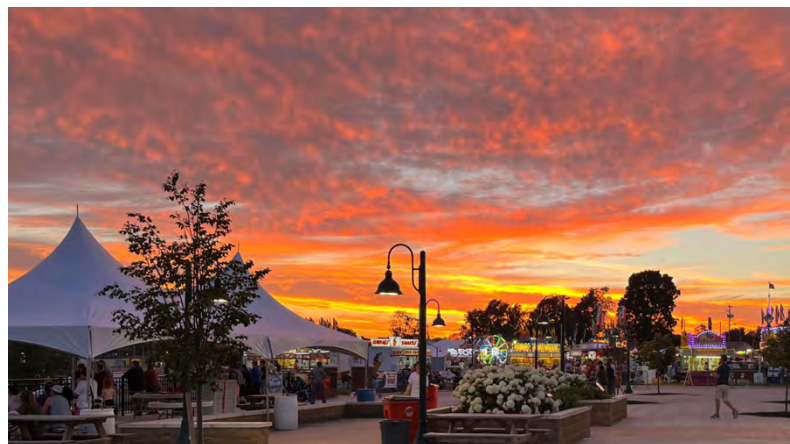
The recent USDA announcements once again suggest that there are many issues for farmers considering engaging in the carbon market. Caution is usually warranted when dealing with a new, developing market. For farmers who do want to enter into the carbon market, be sure to refer to our posts on **Carbon as a commodity for agriculture?** and **Considering carbon farming? Take time to understand carbon agreements.** The Farmers Legal Action Group also has an excellent publication on **Farmers Guide to Carbon Market Contracts in Minnesota**, also useful for Ohio farmers.

## ***Fairgoers Encouraged to Practice Good Hygiene During Fair Season***

Source: <https://agri.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/fairgoers-encouraged-to-practice-good-hygiene>

As millions of visitors prepare to enjoy any of Ohio's 94 county and independent fairs across the state, leaders at the Ohio Departments of Agriculture (ODA) and Health (ODH) are encouraging guests and exhibitors to practice good hygiene when visiting livestock exhibitions this summer.

Visitors are advised to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after petting or touching any animal. Health  
Northeast Ohio Agriculture



OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION  
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experts discourage eating or drinking or putting anything in your mouth in areas where there are animals. Visitors should also avoid touching their faces, particularly their eyes, nose, and mouth. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to closely supervise young children to ensure they do not put anything in their mouths, as this is a common way for germs to enter your body and cause illness.

ODA works with the Ohio Fair Managers Association and county fair boards throughout the fair season to increase access to hand sanitizers and hand-washing stations. In addition, educational signage is provided to be placed in and out of barns to encourage good hygiene and best practices. Frequent handwashing can lower the risk of getting sick from many illnesses including respiratory viruses, like influenza, and stomach bugs, like Salmonella and E. coli.

Ohio's fair veterinarians are trained to closely monitor fair livestock and poultry for clinical signs of illness. Exhibitors who believe their animal may be sick should immediately contact their barn manager and fair veterinarian. Fair guests who experience illness should contact their local healthcare provider.

## ***Ohio State to host Manure Science Review in August***

Source: <https://fabe.osu.edu/news/ohio-state-host-manure-science-review-august>

The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) will host the 24th annual Manure Science Review on August 6, 2024 at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center in London, Ohio.

Aimed at farmers, crop consultants, soil conservation workers and others, the Manure Science Review will feature speakers and field demonstrations from Ohio State and other qualified companies and institutions.

The morning's speakers will begin with representatives from the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), presenting H2Ohio updates as well as best practices for manure application by Frances Springer. Will Osterholz from the Natural Resources Conservation Service will then discuss the effects of manure placement on subsurface drainage, followed by a panel discussion about the 360 Rain Unit for liquid manure application, featuring Justin Koch of 360 Yield Center, Taylor Pulver from Rooted Agri Services, Andrew Klopfenstein from the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (FABE), and Ryan Schmitmeyer of Owl Creek Dairy.



All demonstrations will feature members of Ohio State, beginning with a manure spill mitigation by Springer and Ohio State Extension professional Glen Arnold. FARE professor and chair Scott Shearer will join Klopfenstein for an autonomous tractor display, and Extension educator Amanda Douridas will show an easy method for calibrating a dry manure applicator

The final two demonstrations of the day will highlight the collaborative effort between Ohio State, ODA, and 360 Yield Center, demonstrating in-season animal nutrient and water application as a unified strategy to reduce nutrient losses while improving profitability with increased grain yields.



*360 Rain hardware*

The demonstrations will feature the 360 Rain hardware, designed to improve upon traditional irrigation methods by delivering water, nutrients, fungicides, and more directly to the base of the plant. Shearer, Koch, and Schmitmeyer will show the 360 Rain base station, well, and injection site. Klopfenstein and Pulver will close the day with a field demonstration of the 360 Rain unit.

The Manure Science Review will cost \$25 per person through July 19 and \$30 per person after July 19 as well as walk-ins. The cost includes the program, coffee & donuts, and lunch.

To register for the 2024 Manure Science Review, go to <https://go.osu.edu/msr-2024>.



**CFAES**

Thursday

**JUNE**

**13**

at 6:00 PM

**Bloomfield Livestock Auction**  
2211 Kinsman RD NW  
North Bloomfield, OH 44450

## **BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE (BQA)**

This program offer the opportunity to earn your certification or renew you expiring one. The certification cycle is 3 years.

Haley Shoemaker and Noelle Barnes will cover a multitude of topics, including carcass quality, injection protocol, and animal handling, that will provide your BQA certification and ultimately impact your success at marketing.



**BLOOMFIELD  
LIVESTOCK  
AUCTION LLC.**

**Call 330-638-6783 to RSVP**

**Please arrive at least 10 minutes  
prior to 6:00 PM**

This free program is made possible by a generous donation from the Hertzner Family Trust.



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EXTENSION