

NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE NEWSLETTER

Your Weekly Agriculture Update for
Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties

June 26, 2024



Is it hay or straw? Pop-up showers surprised a lot of hay producers last week.

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Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

I hope you all managed to stay cool during the heat wave. We were fortunate to receive several scattered storms last week to relieve crop stress. It was unfortunate though if you had hay on the ground. I know many farmers had hay get a rained on. There is a great article in today's newsletter about the impact of rain on hay quality.

Cooler and more stable air is present this week, and a few rain showers are likely. Evaporation rates are high (over 2" last week) and the rain is needed.

We are coming up on disease season so be sure to put a weekly reminder on your calendar to scout.

Stay safe!

Lee Beers
Trumbull County
Extension Educator

The Impact of Rain on Hay Quality

By Ted Wiseman, OSU Extension, Perry County (originally published in Farm & Dairy)

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2024/06/19/the-impact-of-rain-on-hay-quality/>

Did rain damage your hay before it got baled? Hay, a vital feed resource for livestock, needs to be of high quality to ensure animal health and productivity. Unfortunately, when hay gets rained on during the curing process, its quality can be significantly compromised. Understanding how rain affects hay and what can be done to mitigate these effects is crucial for every hay producer.



How Rain Affects Hay

Rain during the hay curing process can lead to several issues. One primary concern is the leaching of nutrients. Rainwater can wash away essential nutrients like carbohydrates, proteins, and minerals, reducing the overall feeding value of the hay. Even a light rain can cause substantial nutrient losses.

Another significant issue is the increased risk of mold and microbial growth. Wet hay creates an ideal environment for fungi and bacteria to thrive. These microorganisms degrade the nutritional quality of the hay and can produce harmful mycotoxins, posing health risks to livestock. Moldy hay can lead to respiratory issues and other health problems in animals.

Nutrient Losses and Dry Matter Reduction

The extent of nutrient leaching depends on the intensity and duration of the rain. Heavy rain or prolonged exposure results in more substantial losses compared to brief showers. Leaching primarily affects soluble components like non-structural carbohydrates and certain minerals, decreasing the overall energy content of the hay. Dry matter losses are also a critical concern. Rain causes physical disintegration of the hay, especially the leaves, which are the most nutrient-dense part of the plant. As leaves break down and fall off, the remaining hay has a higher proportion of stems, which are less digestible and lower in nutritional value. Depending on the severity of the rain event, dry matter losses can range from 5% to 20%.

Mitigation Strategies

To mitigate the adverse effects of rain on hay quality, several strategies can be employed. Timely harvesting and weather monitoring are essential. Producers should aim to cut hay when there is a clear weather window to allow adequate drying time

before baling. Using preservatives and hay conditioners can also enhance the drying process, reducing the risk of nutrient loss and microbial growth. Proper storage is another critical factor. Once baled, hay should be stored in a dry, well-ventilated area to prevent further moisture accumulation. If hay must be stored outside, using covers or tarps can protect it from additional rainfall.

Conclusion

Rain can have a significant impact on hay quality, leading to nutrient losses, increased microbial contamination, and reduced feed value. Understanding how rain affects hay and implementing proactive measures can help producers ensure their hay remains a valuable feed resource for their livestock. By carefully managing hay curing and storage, producers can maintain high-quality hay even in challenging weather conditions.

Take Action Against Combine and Field Fires

By Wayne Dellinger and Dee Jepsen

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2024-20/take-action-against-combine-and-field-fires>

Weather conditions have helped Ohio wheat fields mature a little early this year – but these same conditions can lead to an increase in fires to combine harvesters and crop fields. Unintentional fires are never an enjoyable event. Two recommendations to prevent injuries and property damage include preventative maintenance and pre-planning for fire emergencies.

Ohio ranks fourth in the nation for combine fires. Other states leading the list include Minnesota (1st), Iowa (2nd), Illinois (3rd), Kansas (5th), Nebraska (6th) and South Dakota (7th).

The majority of harvester fires start in the engine compartment. Contributing factors for heat sources include faulty wiring, over-heated bearings, leaking fuel, or hydraulic oil. The dry crop residue makes a ready source for rapid combustion to occur when the machine is operated in the field. Birds and wildlife are known to make nests in the engine compartment or exhaust manifolds – which can add fuel sources for unsuspecting combine operators.



Tips to prevent combine fires include:

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- **Have a daily maintenance plan during the harvest period.** Keeping the machinery well-maintained plays a large role in preventing fires from these sources. Cleaning up spills, blowing off chaff, leaves, and other plant materials regularly, proper lubrication of bearings/chains, and checking electrical connections should be part of the daily routine. Farmers may choose to do their daily maintenance in the morning while waiting for the dew to burn off the crops. However, performing maintenance at night will highlight any hot spots or smoldering areas as the machine is cooling down. Removing chaff at the end of the day will reduce the amount of debris available to spark a fire.
- **Eliminate static electricity.** A chain may also be mounted on the bottom of the machine to drag on the ground while in the field. This decreases the buildup of static electricity.
- If a fire breaks out, it's important to have an emergency plan in place:
- **Call 911 or your local first responders at the first sign of a fire.** Don't wait to know if you can contain a fire yourself, rapid response is important to saving valuable equipment. Combine fires are often in remote locations where a specific address may not be available, and access is limited. Emergency response times will be longer in these situations.
- **Have (2) ABC fire extinguishers mounted on the combine.** A 10-pound ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher in the cab or near the ladder of the cab is quick access to protect the operator. A second extinguisher (20-pound ABC) is recommended to be mounted on the outside of combines where it is accessible from the ground. One unit may extinguish a small fire; having the second unit will help with any additional flare-ups. Don't forget to check that the extinguishers are fully charged at the beginning of the season. Not having extinguishers ready when needed leads to a helpless feeling of watching one of your most expensive pieces of equipment go up in flames.
- **Have a water truck positioned by the field.** Hot mufflers and catalytic converters from other vehicles driving in the field can pose a risk to the dry field fodder. Smoldering materials may take 15 to 30 minutes before being noticed. A small gust of wind could rapidly turn that smoldering into a fire. In extreme dry conditions, a water truck may help protect against field fires. Never use water on fires that are electrical or fuel-sourced.
- **Have an emergency plan in place and discuss it with the other workers or family members.** Knowing what to do in the event of a fire emergency is important. Knowing the address to the field and how to contact fire departments directly instead of through the 911 system are important safety conversations for the entire harvest crew.

Don't get caught thinking it can never happen on your farm. Take preventative action and be prepared.

Upcoming Dicamba Cutoff Reminder

By Alyssa Essman

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2024-20/upcoming-dicamba-cutoff-reminder>

There has been much uncertainty regarding the use of dicamba for the 2024 growing season and beyond as a result of the vacated dicamba registration in February and the EPA's existing stocks order for dicamba use in 2024 that soon followed. The EPA's order allowed for existing stocks of dicamba products (Engenia, Tavium, and XtendiMax) purchased for use in dicamba-tolerant (DT) soybeans to be sold and distributed through May and to be applied through June. The future of dicamba applications over-the-top (OTT) to DT soybean remains uncertain, but a reprieve from the intense heat experienced last week and growing weeds means that POST applications will continue to take place this week across the state. The last date for OTT applications of dicamba in DT soybean in Ohio is by the labeled soybean growth stage, or June 30th, whichever comes first. The date and growth stage cutoffs for the respective products are as follows:



- Engenia – no later than June 30th
- Tavium – V4 growth stage or through June 30th, whichever comes first
- XtendiMax – R1 growth stage or through June 30th, whichever comes first

At the plant level, soybean is at the V4 growth stage when there are four open trifoliates on the plant. A soybean plant is at the R1 growth stage when there is one open flower somewhere on the main stem. At the field level, a certain growth stage is achieved when greater than 50% of the plants within the field exhibit the designated characteristics. For detailed descriptions and pictures of soybean growth stages, check out this [soybean growth stage guide](#). Information related to POST applications including maximum crop size and harvest intervals for corn and soybean can be found in [Table 8](#) and [Table 18](#) of the weed control guide, respectively. Scouting fields before planning POST applications can help determine management practices including product selection and application timing. As always, be sure to check all herbicide labels before treating fields.

Planning for Future of Farm Workshop to be held in Cortland, Ohio

The OSU Extension offices in northeast Ohio invite you to participate in a **Planning for the Future of Your Farm** workshop on August 22, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Trumbull County Extension office in Cortland, Ohio. This workshop is designed to help farm families learn strategies and tools to successfully create a succession and estate plan that helps you transfer your farm's ownership, management, and assets to the next generation. Learn how to have the crucial conversations about the future of your farm.

[Click here for registration flyer](#)

Workshop topics include: Developing Goals for Estate and Succession; Planning for the Transition of Control; Planning for the Unexpected; Communication and Conflict Management; Legal Tools and Strategies; Developing Your Team; Getting Your Affairs in Order; and Selecting an Attorney.

Our teaching team will help answer the following questions and much more!

- Who should we leave the farm to?
- How do we prepare the next generation to manage the farm in the future?
- How can we overcome family communication issues?
- How do we value sweat equity?
- What is the difference between a will and trust?
- Will I lose my farm to estate taxes or to the nursing home?
- What do we need to do to be better prepared to meet with an attorney and other professionals?
- What resources does OSU Extension have to assist us as we develop our plan?

Event sponsors include OSU Extension – Ashtabula, Trumbull & Geauga Counties, Farm Financial Management & Policy Institute and the Hertzner Family Trust. The featured speakers will be David Marrison (OSU Extension Field Specialist, Farm Management), Robert Moore (Attorney, OSU Agricultural and Resource Law Program) and Lee Beers (OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resource)

The registration fee is \$25 per person which includes lunch, refreshments, and course materials. Registration deadline is August 16, 2024. This program is made possible at a discounted rate due to the generous support from the Hertzner Family Trust.

More information can be obtained by contacting Lee Beers at the Trumbull County Extension office at 330-638-6738 or via email at beers.66@osu.edu.

County Probate Rates

By Robert Moore

Source: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/county-probate-rates>

Those familiar with serving as an executor or navigating probate understand the daunting nature of the task. The process often entails numerous filings and can extend over several months or even years. Consequently, seeking legal counsel is frequently necessary to navigate this complex procedure and ensure the estate is managed appropriately. One common question concerning the engagement of attorneys for probate concerns their fees: what are their charges?



The Ohio Revised Code allows attorneys to receive "reasonable fees" for their services in aiding with estate matters. However, Ohio law doesn't offer a specific definition of what constitutes reasonable fees, nor does it prescribe a straightforward formula for determining them. Ultimately, it falls upon the county probate judge to decide whether an attorney's fees are reasonable for overseeing estate administration. Given the potentially burdensome task of assessing fees for each estate, many county probate courts set standardized rates that estate attorneys can charge, thereby streamlining the process.

The probate rates vary from county to county but generally range from 1% - 5% of the total value of the estate. As an example, the following are the probate rates for Brown County, Ohio:

For all personal property:

- 5.5% on the first \$50,000;
- 4.5% for \$50,000 - \$100,000;
- 3.5% for \$100,000 - \$400,000;
- 2.0% above \$400,000.

For real estate:

- 1% for all real estate transferred to a spouse;
- 2% on the first \$200,000 transferred to a non-spouse;
- 1% over \$200,000 transferred to a non-spouse.

Let's examine the potential probate fees for a medium-sized farm located in Brown County. This farm comprises \$1,000,000 worth of real estate, \$500,000 of

machinery, \$300,000 in crops/livestock, and \$200,000 in savings/investments. Under these circumstances, an attorney could charge up to \$37,500 in legal fees, which would be automatically approved by the probate court.

Probate fees work well for smaller/simpler estates. In fact, attorneys are sometimes justified in asking for more than the county rates to cover their fees. However, for farm estates, especially with significant real estate, the county probate rates can cause permissible legal fees to become very high. For example, a large farm estate in Brown County with \$5 million of land and \$2 million of equipment/crops/livestock would result in permissible legal fees of \$97,500.

To tackle the issue of high legal fees in farm estates, two strategies can be employed. Firstly, opting out of using the county rates to determine legal fees can be beneficial. The county rates represent the maximum fees that the court will approve but are not obligatory for attorneys to charge. For farm estates, billing on an hourly basis often leads to substantially lower legal fees compared to using the county rates. Therefore, when engaging an attorney for estate assistance, inquire about their estimated fees based on both the county rates and an hourly basis. If the hourly rate proves to be less expensive than the county rates, simply proceed with hiring the attorney based on their hourly rate. It's crucial to recognize that you always retain the option to request an attorney to bill on an hourly basis instead of using the county rates.

The second option is to avoid probate. The same \$5 million dollars of land that can cost \$50,000 to probate can be transferred for a few hundred dollars using a transfer on death affidavit. It is relatively easy to transfer any titled asset outside of probate. Bank accounts, investments, vehicles and business entities can all be transferred using transfer on death or payable on death designations. Especially for financial accounts, an attorney may not even be needed to transfer the asset to the beneficiaries. Let's consider this point using an example:

Farmer owns \$5 million of land and \$2 million of equipment and crops in Brown County, Ohio. As already provided above, county probate rates would allow legal fees for probating the estate to be up to \$97,500. Before death, Farmer executes a transfer on death affidavit transferring his land at death to his children. Farmer also sets up a single-member LLC for his farming operation and transfers his equipment and crops into the LLC. He then makes his LLC ownership transfer on death to his children. Now, when Farmer dies, his \$7 million of assets can be transferred outside of probate with only a minimal amount of paperwork needed.

By spending perhaps a few thousand dollars on a transfer on death affidavit, an LLC and minor paperwork at death, Farmer can save his heirs up to \$97,500. Avoiding probate is a great way to minimize legal fees for an estate. For

more information on avoiding probate, see the *Legal Tools for Avoiding Probate* bulletin available at farmoffice.osu.edu.

Farm estates are not obligated to adhere to the county probate rates. In fact, it's possible to title many, if not all, assets in a manner that bypasses probate altogether. For assets that do undergo probate, it's advisable to inquire with the estate attorney about the fees based on both the county rates and an hourly rate. While some extensive and intricate farm estates may still incur substantial legal fees even if probate is avoided and hourly rates are applied, for many farm estates, the legal fees could be significantly lower than those dictated by the county rates.

Rural childcare an important topic at Farm Science Review

By Sherrie Whaley

Source: <https://cfaes.osu.edu/news/articles/rural-childcare-important-topic-farm-science-review-0>

Photo: Adobe Stock

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Talking to farmers is one way that Shoshanah Inwood gathers her research data at The Ohio State University. She quickly found that childcare, or the lack of it, was often a topic of conversation.



As one Ohio farmer told her, “Lack of childcare has been the primary impediment to growing my farm.” Inwood, an associate professor of community, food, and economic development in Ohio State’s College

of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) has spent the last 10 years building a national reputation related to the issue.

Inwood discovered that the Ohio farmer was far from alone in his opinion when she collected data for the 2023 National Farm Families Childcare Survey. Along with co-author Florence Becot from Pennsylvania State University, they surveyed farm and ranch families in 47 states.

They found that nationally, three quarters of farm families (74%) experienced childcare challenges within the last five years — most often due to cost and availability, followed by distance to and quality of childcare.

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“Access to affordable childcare is tied to keeping children safe, farm viability, and economic development,” Inwood said. She will staff an in-person childcare photovoice exhibit at the 2024 Farm Science Review in London, Ohio, Sept. 17-19, to prompt discussion around this important topic.

The Douridas family of Madison County knows all too well the costs and challenges of childcare in agriculture. Nate and Amanda are parents to Madi, 4, and Max, 7. Both have worked in agriculture for around 20 years. He serves as FSR farm manager, responsible for 1,500 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat. She is an Ohio State University Extension educator, agriculture and natural resources, in Madison County.

They do have a day care available in London, and her parents live about 15 miles away. Even so, on days when day care is closed and, in the evenings, “things can become hectic with the biggest challenge being schedule management and figuring out how to prioritize what each of us has to get done,” Amanda said.

Her advice for other farm families is that while rural day care might be available, it’s very hard to get into and there might be limited choices. She counsels to find childcare as soon as possible, even before the child is born. Get on their day care lists very soon.

“Childcare is a huge issue for everyone, but it’s exacerbated on the farm due to hours and time commitments,” Amanda said. “It’s most challenging in the evenings. When I have evening meetings and Nate is working on the farm, it can get real difficult. My Master Gardener group, which meets in evenings, know my children well.”

Inwood reported some additional findings from the 2023 national survey:

- Eight in 10 farm families (88%) reported that someone in their household has felt more stress and anxiety since the arrival of the children.
- Eight in 10 farm families (86%) take care of children on the active farm worksite due to the lack of alternative childcare — paid or unpaid — options.
- Nine in 10 farm families (97%) are concerned that their children could get hurt on the farm. Having and raising children can be a source of mental health challenges.

Childcare is a definite national agricultural policy issue, Inwood said, and she has worked tirelessly to get it added into the 2024 Farm Bill. She has given testimony before Congress and has worked with various committees to have childcare recognized as the important issue that it is.

Inwood shared that three quarters (76%) of farm families surveyed believe that farm organizations should represent their needs in national childcare policy discussions, and 71% believe the U.S. Department of Agriculture should represent their needs.

The good news is that for the first time in history, the two largest farm organizations, the American Farm Bureau and the National Farmers Union, included childcare in their policy priorities for the federal Farm Bill that passes every five years.

The House recently released their version of the Farm Bill, also including childcare in the Rural Development Title. When Congress passes the final Farm Bill, the USDA might have a new suite of tools to address rural childcare needs by prioritizing projects that address the availability, quality, and cost of childcare in rural and agricultural communities.

“As land-grant university scientists, our responsibility is to conduct public research to inform public policy and meet the needs of America’s farmers and ranchers,” Inwood reflected.

DATE:
August 22, 2024

TIME:
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
Trumbull County Extension
520 West Main Street
Cortland, Ohio 44410



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For more information, visit go.osu.edu/farmsuccession.

EVENT SPONSORS: OSU Extension - Ashtabula, Trumbull & Geauga Counties, Farm Financial Management & Policy Institute and the Hertzler Family Trust



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Maintaining Farm Family Legacy Through Farm Transition and Estate Planning

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- *How do we prepare the next generation to manage the farm in the future?*
- *How can we overcome family communication issues?*
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- *Will I lose my farm to estate taxes or to the nursing home?*
- *What do we need to do to be better prepared to meet with an attorney and other professionals?*
- *What resources does OSU Extension have to assist us as we develop our plan?*



*David Marrison,
OSU Field
Specialist, Farm
Management*



*Robert Moore, Attorney,
Agricultural and
Resource Law Program*



*Lee Beers, Ag &
Natural Resources
Extension
Educator*

Planning for the Future of Your Farm Workshop Registration Form

Name(s) of Attendees _____
 Phone Number _____ Email address _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____
 County _____

	Registration Fee Required	
\$25 Base Registration		\$ _____
Number of Attendees	x	_____
Total Due		\$ _____

Pre-registration is requested as seats are limited. Registration deadline is August 16, 2024.
 Mail form and check payable to OSU Extension
 Trumbull County Extension Office
 520 West Main Street
 Cortland, Ohio 44410

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- Beef Grass Feed-Lot
- Bio-Enhanced Forage Fertility
- Commercial Hay Storage
- Bale Baron Demonstration (*Weather Permitting*)

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July 30th

1:00 - 5:00pm

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RSVP is appreciated by 7/23/24



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Topics



Beauveria Bassiana and Plant Health

Ben Arends

VP of Production and Market Development, JABB of the Carolinas

Damping-off Diseases in Forages

Alex Cochran

Chief Technology Officer, DPH Biologicals

Neem and Plant Health in Forages

Alex Hilday

Owner, Green Dance World Organics

Soil Health Transformation with Forages and Biologicals

Gary Campbell

Field Agronomist, AgriEnergy Solutions

How N-fixing bios work in non-legumes and how stress-reducing enzymes increase plant performance

Steve Vistad

VP Sales & Marketing, DakotaBIO

Grubs & other pests that damage grass crops

Lee Beers

Asst. Professor, Ohio State University Extension

Forage grass and legume species identification, benefits, limitations and management

Bob Hendershot

Retired USDA-NRCS State Grazing Specialist, OFGC

Benefits of novel endophyte in soft-leaved grasses

Adam Probst

Northeastern Sales Manager, Barenbrug

How Lacto Bacillus stimulants benefit hay producers

Steve Heath

Sales Agent, Dyna-CURE / Pacer Technology

Forage Equipment
Dealers will
be present

Lowe & Young
Preferred Grain Systems



MASSEY FERGUSON

