CFAES

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

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OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Gallia County
111 Jackson Pike, Suite 1572
Gallipolis, OH 45631

Gallia County Agriculture Newsletter

Hello Gallia County,

Hope everyone is doing well and got to enjoy the fair last week. August is a good month for planting our forage grasses and legumes like Tall Fescue, Orchardgrass, Timothy, Oats, Red Clover, Crimson Clover, Alfalfa, and others. When planting some of these, look ahead in the weather forecast and try to time your planting so that you can get some moisture to help establish the crop. Dry weather in September and October on a crop is not very well established could make it hard to survive the winter. As for gardening, you can seed fall cucumbers, collards, fall beets, rutabagas, Asian greens, radishes, leeks, bok choy, and turnips by the 20th of the month. Around the middle of the month is the best time to start planting strawberries. Be on the lookout for ticks on livestock and yourself. If you have a tick that you cannot identify you can contact me for help. My information is below. We have some annual programs that are going to be here before you know it, like the Beef and Forage Field Night on August 24th, Farm Science Review on September 19th through the 21st, and A.I. School on September 26th through the 28th. **See the attached flyers for more information**. All the event's dates, times, and locations are listed on the next page.

You can also stay updated with the latest information by checking out our website gallia.osu.edu or our Facebook page Ohio State – Gallia County Extension. If you have any questions, you can reach me at the office, at 740-446-7007 or my cell phone, at 740-350-0417 or by E-mail, at penrose.30@osu.edu.

Have a great August,

Jordan Penrose

Jordan Penrose,
Gallia County
Agriculture and
Natural Resources
Extension Educator

enclosures

In this issue:

Upcoming Events

Please RSVP for the events that you plan on attending by calling the office at 740-446-7007 or e-mailing, at penrose.30@osu.edu.

August 22nd	Woodland Management and Oak Regeneration 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. @ **851 Brohard Rd. Ray, Ohio 45672**. **RSVP by Calling Josh Winters @ 740-688-5029**. See Flyer for More Information.
August 24th	Beef and Forage Field Night 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. @ OARDC Jackson Agricultural Research Station. RSVP by August 21st there is a **cost of $15**. See the flyer to register.
September 19th – 20th	Farm Science Review: 135 OH-38, London, OH 43140, hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday & Wednesday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday. **Presale Tickets are available at the extension office for $10, and General Admission Tickets are sold at the gates for $15.**
September 26th – 28th	Beef Cattle Artificial Insemination School 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. @ OARDC Jackson Agricultural Research Station. **Space is limited to the first 20 applicants with a cost of $150.** See the flyer to register.
September 29th – 30th	Stockmanship & Stewardship program @ OARDC Eastern Agricultural Research Station: 16870 TR 126 Caldwell, OH 43724. 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Using Proven Strategies During Unprecedented Times – By Garth Ruff, Beef Cattle Field Specialist, OSU Extension– Published in Ohio BEEF Cattle Letter, originally published in The Ohio Cattleman – https://u.osu.edu/beef/

Well, this was almost a drought management piece, but thankfully we have gotten some much needed moisture across the vast majority of Ohio. But drought west of the Mississippi is the reason we are facing unprecedented times in beef production, especially with regards to cattle prices. For the first time likely ever, a couple of Ohio auction markets have reported $2/lb. fed cattle. Feeder cattle markets remain historically strong, given the limited supply and smaller national cow herd.

I continue to get several questions from producers about management strategies for calves this summer and fall, with the goal of capturing the top of the market prices. Type and kind of cattle

aside (more on that later), calf management programs that are good practices when cattle prices are low are often good management programs when cattle are selling high. Why not do everything possible to increase profit potential of a calf that generates a onetime revenue for an operation?

Animal health becomes increasingly important when feeder cattle prices are high as the economic toll of death loss is amplified. Vaccination and disease prevention yield positive returns most any time, but in mid mind are a non-negotiable given the current calf market.

Selling bull calves for instance, will nearly always trigger a discount in the marketplace. Much like marketing fed cattle, the goal should be to minimize know discounts before chasing premiums.

Weaning length is another piece of the puzzle that producers need to take a longer look at. Not long ago 30 day weaning programs were considered value added. Today 45 days at a minimum and 60 days have become the norm. Many of our herd management practices are dictated by calving season, I would argue working backwards on the calendar from an intended marketing date could be even more beneficial.

The greatest limitation to calf prices here in Ohio is and will likely always be lot size. With an average cow herd of 17 cows, there are minimal opportunities to increase group size. Having cattle of consistent quality and kind that can be sold together will increase cattle prices. Dr. Kenny Burdine at the University of Kentucky has reported that groups of three to five head generate a premium over a single calf, and the lots of 10 head generate a greater premium than lots of three to five.

All too often I hear complaints about how cattle were sorted at a given market. By sorting out any #2 quality cattle, the overall value of the group is increased so long as #1 quality calves make up the majority of a consignment. In many cases those #2 cattle could have been backgrounded a while longer and made into #1's and sold at a higher price. If the cattle are all of #2 quality or lower, that is a calf production issue on the producer side, not a salebarn issue.

It's too easy to get wrapped up in where cattle fall on a market report on a given sale day. Sometimes I have to remind folks that for a group of calves that were raised together that the average price is more important than the high or low. Production costs are often averaged across the herd, and therefore an average price tells a better story about profitability. If possible, keep track of the cows and bulls that produce the highest and lowest sell calves. On the high side, those could be genetics to emphasize in future breeding seasons. On the low end, those cows should be future cull candidates or health and/or nutrition practices need reevaluated.

The key to success is finding the right combination of genetics, nutrition, and management. If you've heard me speak before, it takes proper nutrition and management to optimize the genetic potential of an animal. If that genetic potential can be captured, so too can increased profitability. If management practices have paid for themselves in prior years, there is no reason to think they won't in 2023 and beyond.

Not All Trusts Protect Assets– By Robert Moore – Published in Farm Office BLOG – https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog

A common misperception is that all trusts protect assets from creditors, lawsuits, and nursing homes. While some trusts do protect assets, many trusts do not. In fact, most trusts are not designed to protect assets but instead to only transfer assets at death. Knowing the difference between the different types of trusts is important to ensure that your trust meets your expectations for asset protection.

There are generally two different types of trusts – revocable and irrevocable. A revocable trust is the typical estate planning trust most people use. Because the revocable trust can be changed and assets transferred into and out of the trust, it provides no asset protection. Essentially, if the owner/grantor can access the assets of the trust, then so can creditors. If you can make changes to your trust and transfer assets in and out of the trust, you probably have a revocable trust.

An irrevocable trust can protect assets. The concept of an irrevocable trust is to establish a trust that cannot be changed (with a few exceptions), transfer assets to the trust and then relinquish the right to withdraw the assets back out of the trust. Additionally, someone else serves as the trustee to manage the trust assets. Since the original owner of the assets no longer has access, control, or ownership of the assets, then creditors cannot access them.

It is important to keep in mind the five-year lookback rule for Medicaid. This rule causes ineligibility for Medicaid for gifts that were made within five years of Medicaid application. Due to this rule, establishing an irrevocable trust to protect assets from nursing home costs must be done well before the assets become at risk.

While an irrevocable trust is useful to protect assets, the irrevocable nature of the trust is a significant negative feature. Once the irrevocable trust is established and the assets transferred, it cannot usually be undone. Even if circumstances or goals change over time, the irrevocable trust stays in place and the assets stay in the trust. A revocable trust, on the other hand, is flexible and can be changed as circumstances and goals change.

Sometimes a trust will include "revocable" or "irrevocable" in its name, making it obvious the type of trust. However, many trusts do not indicate in the name if it is revocable or irrevocable. In that case, the trust document must be reviewed to determine the type of trust. Typically, within the first few paragraphs of the trust document, the trust will be clearly identified as either revocable or irrevocable.

Some estate plans include both a revocable and irrevocable trust. Assets to be protected are transferred to an irrevocable trust and assets the owner wishes to retain control over are transferred to a revocable trust. Having two trusts increase the costs of both setup and administration but it is an option for many people.

Anyone with a trust should verify the type of trust they have. It is common that someone believes their assets are protected by their trust only to find out too late that they actually have a revocable trust and their assets are subject to nursing home costs. A revocable trust can be converted to an irrevocable trust at any time prior to death. If there is any doubt as the type of trust, review the trust with your attorney to be sure it meets your estate planning and asset protection goals.

August's Stealthiest Insect Pest: Stink Bugs in Soybean – By Kelley Tilmon and Andy Michel – Published in C.O.R.N Newsletter – https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter

Why are stink bugs the stealthiest insect pest near the end of summer? It's because their method of feeding is so subtle. You won't see damaged leaves or sickly-looking plants with stink bugs. They

have straw-like mouthparts which they poke through the pod directly into the developing seed. If this happens early enough in seed development the seed will simply abort. If it happens later, the seed will be shriveled and shrunken. Either way, this reduces yield and/or reduces seed quality, though you will not see the damage unless you carefully inspect the pods for missing or damaged seed.

The good news is that soybeans are relatively easy to scout and are susceptible to the insecticides labeled for them. There are many species of stink bugs that feed on soybean including brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), green, red shouldered, and brown stink bugs. It's not necessary to distinguish between them for threshold purposes.

Stink bug sweep net threshold levels

Seed usage	Average / 10 sweep set
Food grade or seed	2
Grain	4

Begin scouting for stink bugs when the soybean plant reaches the R2 stage (full bloom, when the plant has an open flower at one of the two upper-most nodes on the main stem). Stink bug feeding can cause economic loss from the R3 stage (pod set) to the R6 stage (full seed set). Using a sweep net, sample in at least 5 locations in smaller fields, more in larger fields. Stink bugs tend to be more numerous on field edges so sample throughout the field for the overall picture. At each location take a set of 10 sweeps, taking a step with each sweep of the vegetation. Count the number of stink bugs captured in your sweep net for each 10 sweep set. All pest stink bug species, both adults and nymphs, should be counted together. In soybeans grown for grain the threshold is 4 bugs per 10-sweep. In soybeans for seed or food the threshold is 2 bugs per 10-sweep (because the reduction in seed quality is more important).

Biosecurity for Your Flock – By Dr. Kenneth M. Andries, Former Livestock Specialist, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, originally published in online with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension: Livestock) – Published in OSU Sheep Team – https://u.osu.edu/sheep/

Biosecurity is a three step procedure designed to help you protect your flock from disease. Producers that implement and maintain this three step program will reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of an infectious agent on their farm. Unfortunately, no program can totally prevent disease, so a good biosecurity program also includes treatment programs along with the prevention to maintain a healthy flock.

Start by getting your veterinarian involved with this program and putting together a total flock health plan. The health plan needs to include both vaccinations and treatment options for your flock.

The three steps of the biosecurity program are isolation, resistance, and sanitation. These steps work with and should be part of your flock health plan. You also need to consider these when

planning the layout of your facilities.

Considerations for a quarantine facility for animals entering and leaving the flock and flow of feeding and cleaning activities need to be considered.

1. **Isolation** is one of the most critical parts to preventing the introduction of a disease agent into your flock. Because diseases have varied incubation periods, healthy appearing animals may be carriers of disease.

- All purchased or returning animals should be isolated in a quarantine area for one month before being put with the flock. This will give you time to observe for signs of disease and treat any problems that may be occur.
- You should also use the quarantine pens to hold animals to be picked up by others, this prevents possible exposure of your flock to other animals and animal waste from the trailer.
- The quarantine pen needs to be located away from the flock where there can be no nose to nose contact between animals in quarantine and the rest of the flock.
- There should also be a separate water and feed source for this pen. Drainage and cleaning paths, from the quarantine pens, should not cross the area where the main flock is housed.
- Feeding and cleaning paths should never cross.

2. **Resistance** is very important to your flock health and the biosecurity of your animals.

- We need to build resistance in our animals to all the common diseases we may be exposed to through normal activities.
- Vaccinations that are part of the herd health program and use of foot baths are a big part of this resistance program. The other parts are nutrition and environment.
- Animals need proper nutrition to help prevent disease. Minerals play important roles in antibody production so make sure you have a good mineral mix that is providing trace minerals in the proper amounts for your animals.
- The environment is also important to prevention of disease. A clean dry environment reduces stress on the animals and this will help them fight off disease.
- Providing protection from strong wind, rain/snow, and heat is important to your animals health. We can help prevent these problems by providing appropriate shelter to the animals. This shelter can be natural shelter or the use of sheds of proper sizes for the flock. Check the local laws on animal care to prevent legal problems associated with shelter. While shelter needs to be provided, we must be very careful when keeping animals in barns for long periods of time.
- Conditions deteriorate rapidly in confinement and without regular cleaning and proper ventilation animals can become more stressed.

3. Sanitation. Research has found that most disease causing organisms can survive for a set period of time outside a host. It has also found that the presence of organic matter increases this time period. This fact makes sanitation vital to a biosecurity program and it plays a role in reducing of stress on the animals.

- Keep holding pens, wintering grounds, lambing pens and jugs as clean as possible. You

should also disinfect pens and holding areas between uses. Lambing pens need special care because newborns are the most susceptible to disease.

- When considering sanitation, remember that we cannot disinfect organic matter, so we must clean surfaces of all dirt, feed, manure, etc before disinfecting.
- When cleaning don't forget your shoes and clothing. Coveralls should be warn around the barn and removed to help keep your clothing clean. Clean and disinfect boots or use disposable plastic boot covers to protect your shoes. You should do this and require visitors and helpers to clean and disinfect their shoes. Shoes should be clean before entering a farm and should be cleaned again before leaving.
- Other objects being used to handle animals or clean facilities should also be cleaned between uses. This includes scrapers use for manure removal.
- Disposal of dead animals is another part of sanitation. We need to remove all dead animals as soon as they are found. Use a scoop or gloved hand to move these animals and clean and disinfect the area. Disinfect the scoop, your hands, change coveralls, and clean and disinfect shoes after removing the animals.
- Animals to be removed include dead rodents and birds as well as livestock in this manner. Dispose of the carcasses in an appreciative manner as required by state law.

When planning for a biosecurity program you will need to evaluate the risk of disease facing your flock. There are many different diseases out there. Be sure to ask questions before purchasing animals.

- Ask what vaccinations the animals have received and how recently. Ask about foot rot problems and look over the entire flock, not only the animals you are considering purchasing for signs of problems.
- Talk to your veterinarian and learn what disease are common in your area and where you are purchasing from. This will help reduce the chance of bringing something into your flock.
- Keep track of major outbreaks of disease in your area to be prepared but be sure to evaluate the risk, remember all the facts may not be presented on the daily news. Work closely with your veterinarian and practice a sound flock health plan.

Biosecurity is a practical, do-able program involving three steps of isolation, resistance, and sanitation to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases in your flock.

- Isolation of new and returning animals helps prevent disease introduction.
- Resistance is built through proper feeding and reducing environmental stress along with a sound flock health program including vaccinations and treatment programs.
- Sanitation is the anchor of the program. Through proper sanitation we prevent contamination of water, feed, and the spread of disease causing agents through the herd.

We can not prevent animals from becoming ill, however a good prevention program is better than the best treatment available.

The Ag Law Harvest – By Jeffrey K. Lewis, Esq., Program Coordinator, OSU Income Tax Schools & ANR Extension – Published in Farm Office BLOG – https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog

It's getting hot! And we are here to bring you even more heat. This month's Ag Law Harvest takes you across the country and even across our northern border as we highlight some interesting court cases, a petition to the USDA, and some legislation coming across the desks of Governors from Maine to Oregon.

Ohio Court Determines That Dairy Farm Did Not Intentionally Harm Employee.
In 2019, a dairy farm employee sustained serious injuries after getting caught in a PTO shaft while operating a sand spreader. After his injury, the employee filed a lawsuit against his employer for failing to repair or replace the missing safety guards on the PTO shaft and sand spreader. In his lawsuit, the employee alleged that the dairy farm's failure to repair or replace the missing safety guards amounted to a "deliberate removal" of the equipment's safety features making the dairy farm liable for an intentional tort. In other words, the employee was accusing his employer of intentionally causing him harm. Normally, workplace injuries are adjudicated under Ohio's workers' compensation laws, unless an employee can prove that an employer acted intentionally to cause the employee harm.

For an employer to be held liable for an intentional tort under Ohio law, an employee must prove that the employer acted with the specific intent to injure an employee. An employee can prove an employer's intent in one of two ways: (1) with direct evidence of the employer's intent; or (2) by proving that the employer "deliberately removed" equipment safety guards and/or deliberately misrepresented a toxic or hazardous substance. Because there was no direct evidence to prove the dairy farm's intent, the employee could only try his case under the theory that the dairy farm deliberately removed the safety guards, intentionally causing him harm.

The case went to trial and the jury found the dairy farm liable and ordered it to pay over $1.9 million in damages. The dairy farm appealed to the Twelfth District Court of Appeals arguing that its failure to repair or replace does not amount to a "deliberate removal" of the safety guards from the PTO shaft and sand spreader. The appellate court agreed.

The Twelfth District decided to apply a narrow interpretation of the term "deliberate removal." The court held that a "deliberate removal" is defined as the "deliberate decision to lift, push aside, take off, or otherwise eliminate." The evidence presented at trial showed that the shaft guard may have simply broken off because of ordinary wear and tear. Additionally, the evidence could not establish who removed the connector guard or if the connector guard did not also break off due to ordinary wear and tear. Thus, the Twelfth District found that the evidence presented at trial did not support a finding that the dairy farm made "a careful and thorough decision to get rid of or eliminate" the safety guards. Furthermore, the Twelfth District reasoned that an employer's "failure to repair or replace a safety guard is akin to permitting a hazardous condition to exist" and that the "mere knowledge of a hazardous condition is insufficient to show intent to injure. . ." The Twelfth District vacated and reversed the $1.9 million judgment and entered summary judgment on the dairy farm's behalf.

USDA Receives Petition Over "Climate-friendly" Claims.
The Environmental Working Group (EWG) has petitioned the U.S. Department of Agriculture ("USDA"), asking the USDA to: (1) prohibit "climate-friendly" claims or similar claims on beef products; (2) require third-party verification for "climate-friendly" and similar claims; and (3) require a numerical on-pack carbon disclosure when such claims are made. The core legal issue is

whether such "climate-friendly" labels and numerical carbon disclosures are protected and/or prohibited by the legal doctrine of commercial speech, which is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. EWG argues that the USDA has the authority to regulate such speech because commercial speech is only protected if it is not misleading. Additionally, EWG claims that requiring numerical carbon disclosures advances a substantial governmental interest by protecting consumers from fraud and deception. Although EWG has the legal right to petition the USDA, the USDA does not have to grant EWG's petition, it must only consider the petition and respond within a reasonable time.

Maine Governor Vetoes Ag Wage Bill.
Earlier this month Maine Governor, Janet Mills, vetoed Legislative Document 398 ("LD 398") which required agricultural employers to pay their employees a minimum wage of $13.80 and overtime pay. Governor Mills stated that she supports the concept of LD 398 but was concerned about some of the bill's language. The Maine legislature had the opportunity to override the Governor's veto but failed to do so. After the legislature sustained her veto, Governor Mills signed an executive order establishing a formal stakeholder group to develop legislation that will establish a minimum wage for agricultural workers while also addressing the impacts the future legislation will have on Maine's agriculture industry.

A Big Thumbs Up!
A Canadian judge recently found that a "thumbs-up" emoji is just as valid as a signature to a contract. In a recent case, a grain buyer, South West Terminal Ltd. ("SWT"), sent through text message, a deferred grain contract to a farming corporation owned and operated by Chris Achter ("Achter"). The contract stated that Achter was to sell 86 metric tonnes of flax to SWT at a price of $17 per bushel. SWT signed the contract, took a picture of the contract, and sent the picture to Achter along with a text message: "Please confirm flax contract". Achter texted back a "thumbs-up" emoji. When the delivery date came and passed, Achter failed to deliver the flax to SWT which prompted SWT to file a lawsuit for breach of contract. SWT argued that Achter's "thumbs-up" meant acceptance of the contract. Achter, on the other hand, claimed that the use of the emoji only conveyed his receipt of the contract.

The Canadian court ultimately ruled in favor of SWT. The court relied on evidence that Achter and SWT had a pattern of entering into binding contracts through text message. In all previous occurrences, SWT would text the terms of the contract to Achter and Achter would usually respond with a "looks good", "ok", or "yup". This time, Achter only responded with a "thumbs-up" emoji and the court concluded that an objective person would take that emoji to mean acceptance of the contract terms. Achter was ordered to pay over C$82,000 ($61,442) for the unfulfilled flax delivery. As the old saying goes: "a picture is worth a thousand words or tens of thousands of dollars."

Oregon Governor Signs Agriculture Worker Suicide Prevention Bill into Law.
Earlier this month, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek signed a bill that creates a new suicide prevention hotline for agricultural producers and workers into law. Senate Bill 955 ("SB 955") provides $300,000 to establish an endowment to fund an AgriStress Helpline in Oregon. Proponents of the bill believe the AgriStress Helpline will be able to specifically address the needs of agricultural producers and workers which "[s]tatistically . . . have one of the highest suicide rates of any occupation." Oregon becomes the 7th state to establish an AgriStress Hotline joining Connecticut, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wyoming.

What are the Implications of the Black Sea Grain Deal Breaking Down? – By Ian Sheldon, Professor and Andersons Chair of Agricultural Marketing, Trade, and Policy, Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, Ohio State University and Chris Zoller, Associate Professor and Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Ohio State University Extension Tuscarawas County – Published in Ohio Ag Manager – https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/

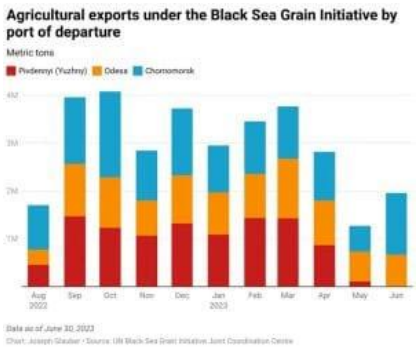
The Black Sea Grain Deal So Far

The Black Sea grain export deal signed by Ukraine, Turkey, Russia, and the United Nations (UN) on July 22, 2022 (USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Grain: World Markets and Trade,* August 2022), was originally extended for four additional months in November 2022, followed by further extensions in March and May 2023 respectively, the most recent being for only two months up to July 17, 2023. During that time-period, 32.7 million metric tons of grains and oilseeds have been shipped to 45 countries from the Ukrainian ports of Chornomorsk, Odesa and Pivdennyi (Yuzhny), the percentage breakdown of the cargo totals being corn (51%), wheat (27%), sunflower meal (6%) and sunflower oil (5%), and other (11%) (*Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Center*, July 2023).

Resumption of Ukrainian sea exports over this time-period has helped in reversing the spike in global food prices that occurred after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the FAO Food Price Index dropping by almost 39% since March 2022 (*World Food Situation*, FAO/UN, July 7, 2023). However, as of July 17, 2023, Russia has ended its participation in the deal, which brings with it increased uncertainty about available global grain and oilseed supplies as well as the potential for greater price volatility and/or increased food prices (*New York Times*, July 17, 2023).

Even before Russia pulled out of the grain deal, the rate of exports from the three Ukrainian ports was already declining (see Figure 1), the latest export tonnage being just over 0.2 million metric tons as of July 7, 2023 (*UN Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Center*). This slowdown in exports also shows up in the average number of ships being cleared under the deal falling from a peak of 11 in October 2022 to 3 in May 2023 *UN Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Center*). At this point, the Black Sea Corridor is no longer the dominant route for exports, with more crops being shipped through ports on the Danube, as well as by rail and road (*Bloomberg News*, July 6, 2023). Essentially, the deal allowed Ukraine to export the grain stockpiles that it had accumulated with the closing of its ports post-invasion, but in the view of some observers, the deal was already essentially "defunct" (*Bloomberg News*, July 6, 2023).

Figure 1:



What are Russia's Concerns with the Deal?

Russia's unwillingness to renew the grain deal has been brewing for some time, Ukraine previously

accusing it of trying to undermine the deal by dragging out and even preventing the required restrictions of Black Sea shipments before two previous renewals of the deal (*Financial Times,* March 19, 2023; *New York Times,* May 18, 2023). Even though U.S. and European Union (EU) economic sanctions against Russia exclude trade in agricultural commodities such as grain fertilizers (*Congressional Research Service,* December 13, 2022), Russia has repeatedly complained about the Black Sea grain export deal since its inception (*New York Times,* July 17, 2023). Even though the UN struck a deal with Russia in July 2022 to help it overcome obstacles to grain and fertilizer shipments, Moscow claims that restrictions on payments, logistics and insurance have been a major barrier to its agricultural exports (*Reuters,* June 16, 2023).

However, since the grain deal was last renewed in May, Russia's concerns seem to have intensified, Moscow expressing two main demands as a pre-condition for renewing the grain deal (*Reuters,* June 16, 2023). The first relates to reconnection of the Russian agricultural bank Rosselkhozbank to the SWIFT international payment network (*Reuters,* July 12, 2023). Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the EU cut off Russia from the SWIFT network in June 2022, placing a major constraint on the processing of grain export payments to Russia (*Reuters,* July 13, 2023). It has been reported that the EU has been considering allowing a subsidiary of Rosselkhozbank to connect to SWIFT, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres asking President Putin to extend the grain deal, thereby giving the EU time to make the connection (*Reuters,* July 12, 2023).

The other Russian demand relates to the ammonia pipeline from Tolyatti to the Ukrainian port of Pivdennyi (Yuzhny) (*IFPRI,* June 13, 2023). The pipeline has been closed since the Russian invasion and has reportedly suffered war damage. Given the significant impact of the closure on Russia's exports of anhydrous ammonia, it is perhaps not surprising Russia has tied recent restrictions on the registration of grain shipping at Pivdennyi to reopening of the pipeline (*IFPRI,* June 13, 2023).

Breakdown of the Deal

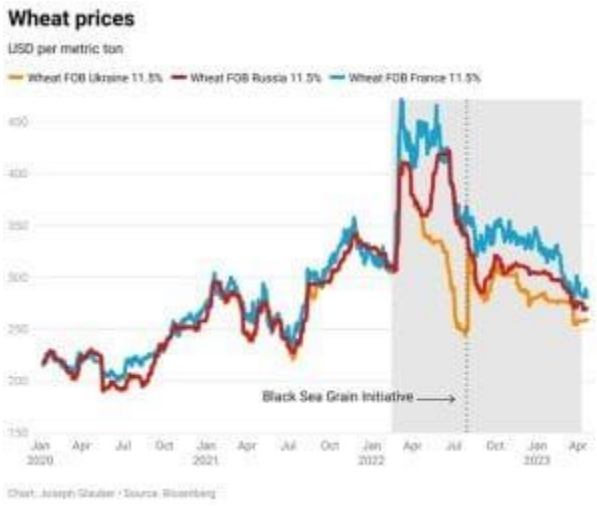
Despite the best efforts of the UN Secretary-General Guterres and Turkey's President Erdogan, Russia has not renewed the grain deal, its Foreign Ministry issuing a statement that, "…Only upon receipt of concrete results, and not promises and assurances, will Russia be ready to consider restoring the deal…" (*New York Times,* July 17, 2023). Not surprisingly, the markets reacted to the deal not being extended, wheat futures rising 4.2% on the Chicago Board of Trade (*Bloomberg News,* July 17, 2023), but what are the longer-term implications of the breakdown?

Even though the grain deal has been critical to relieving pressure in the world market over the past year, Ukrainian grain and oilseed production are expected to decline in 2023/24 due to the ongoing impact of the war, with disruption of ongoing planting and harvest of multiple crops including wheat, barleycorn, rapeseed and sunflowers. The latest estimates for Ukraine's major crops indicate significant reductions are expected in harvested acreage in 2023 compared to 2021 – wheat (-42%), sunflower seeds (-20%), corn (-38%), and barley (-33%) (*USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service,* June 2023). It should be noted these data do not include those parts of Ukraine either in the war zone or occupied by Russian Forces (*UC-Davis ARE Update,* May/June, 2023). In terms of the potential impact on world food prices, Ukrainian grain shipments are forecast to decline by about 36% in the 2023/24 marketing year (*Bloomberg News,* July 6, 2023).

With expected declines in Ukrainian grain production, and the closing of the Black Sea Corridor, two price effects can be expected: world grain prices will increase with the reduction in Ukrainian exports, but at the same time Ukrainian domestic grain prices will likely fall. This is precisely what happened after the Russian invasion: in the case of wheat, when Ukrainian ports were blockaded, a

wedge was driven between other comparable and Ukrainian prices, the wedge declining after the grain deal was struck in July 2022 (see Figure 2). Since then, Ukrainian wheat prices have tracked other wheat prices, although a gap was starting to open-up again recently, and it can be expected to widen, reducing Ukrainian farmers' incentives.

Figure 2:



It is also likely grain price volatility will be exacerbated, markets already being very sensitive to regional shocks even before the deal ended. When the Nova Kakhova dam in southern Ukraine was destroyed in early June, wheat futures prices immediately rose 2%, raising concerns of an escalation in the war between Russia and Ukraine (*Reuters*, June 6, 2023), which was followed by a second market shock in late-June after the armed uprising in Russia, wheat futures prices increasing by 3% (*Bloomberg*, June 23, 2023). (For a detailed discussion of price volatility see the companion article to this one on *Ohio Ag Manager*: "What factors are driving the current grain market volatility?" by Seungki Lee).

There is a sense that it may be very difficult to revive the Black Sea deal at this point, with the likelihood grain and oilseed prices will rise, which will then impact the number of undernourished people globally (*The Guardian*, July 17, 2023). At the same time, even though grain continues to be exported westwards from Ukraine through Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, and Slovakia, this has created political tensions in those countries, farmers facing lower prices and reduced revenues. (*Bloomberg News*, April 1, 2023). Even though the EU suspended its tariffs and quotas on imports from Ukraine after the Russian invasion, Poland and Hungary blocked imports from Ukraine in April in a response to farmer protests (*New York Times*, April 20, 2023). This was followed on May 2 by the EU introducing a temporary ban on grain imports by these countries from Ukraine until June 5, while maintaining transit routes into the rest of the EU, the restrictions being subsequently extended until September 15 of this year (*Reuters*, June 5, 2023).

CFAES

Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Do you want to learn more about plants and gardening? Do you want to participate in a practical and intensive training program? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge with others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Master Gardeners may be just the thing for you! If you have an interest at all, come to Extension Office and learn more about the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

If you have an Interest or want to learn more contact us at the Extension Office. (740-446-7007) We would like to have more people interested to start the classes in the fall for the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.Contact us no later than the 25th of August!

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Woodland Management and Oak Regeneration

A place[a]based woodland owner outreach effort offered in partnership with the Ohio Interagency Forestry Team

Your woodlands can provide a widearray of benefits ranging from wildlife viewing and hunting to periodic income to supplement your farming operation. This program is designed to help you better understand the programs and people who are available to help you to set and achieve realistic goals for your woodland property.

DATE: August 22nd, 2023

TIME: 5:00pm – 8:30pm

Cost: FREE!

LOCATION: 851 Brohard Rd. Ray, Ohio 45672

Please RSVP by calling: Josh Winters: 740 -688-5029

CFAES

TOPIC ONE

Invasive Species Control

TOPIC TWO

Development of Advance Regeneration of Oaks Prior to Timber Harvesting

EVENT SPONSORS:

Thank you, Jackson-Vinton Farm Bureau, for sponsoring the evening meal!

OHIO FARM BUREAU EST. 1919 JACKSON-VINTON

The Ohio State University Extension

Division of Forestry, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

USDA United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

Ohio Division of Wildlife

Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Central State University

Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

CFAES

BEEF AND FORAGE FIELD NIGHT

August 24, 2023
4:30 – 8:30 p.m.
19 Standpipe Road, Jackson, OH

Pre-registration is required!

COST: $15/person (includes meal)
DEADLINE: register by August 21

Social Hour starts at 4:30 p.m. with introductions and dinner at 5 p.m. Program will begin at 6 p.m.

Register via the QR Code below or visit go.osu.edu/beefandforage23

You may also mail a check to:
Ohio State University
19 Standpipe Rd
Jackson, OH, 45640.
(Include "Beef and Forage" in the memo line).

INFORMATIONAL TOPICS INCLUDE:

Station One: **"All about Cattle Fencing"**
- *Eric Miller, Stay Tuff*
- *Ted Wiseman, OSUE Perry County, ANR*

Station Two: **"Cattle Grazing Management"**
- *Jordan Penrose, OSUE Gallia County, ANR*
- *Dirk Dempsey, OSUE Pike County, ANR*

Station Three: **"Genetic Management"**
- *Garth Ruff, OSUE Beef Field Specialist*
- *Brian House, Select Sires Beef Reproductive and Research Specialist*

Station Four: **"Technology and Applications"**
- *Jason Hartschuch, OSUE Dairy Management and Precision Livestock Field Specialist*
- *Trevor Corboy, OSUE Brown County, ANR/CD*

For more information, contact:
Scott Payne, JARS Manager: 740-286-3803
Garth Ruff, OSUE Beef Field Specialist: 740-651-7140
Dirk Dempsey, OSUE Pike County, ANR: 740-289-4837

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Beef Cattle Artificial Insemination School

Are you looking to implement more effective reproductive strategies to your cattle herd? This Artificial Insemination School is for you!

Each day Ohio State University Extension educators and faculty members will share information and instruction critical to the process. **Space is LIMITED to the first 20 applicants**! Registration fees are non-refundable. Registrants will be notified when they are accepted into the class.

- **DATE:** September 26,27,28, 2023
- **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.
- **LOCATION**: Jackson Agriculture Research Station, 17 Standpipe Road, Jackson, OH, 45640
- **Cost:** $150 per person (includes program materials and meals)

Scan the QR code to register, or simply visit go.osu.edu/jarsai

*For more information, visit **pike.osu.edu***

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

CFAES

September 26th
Session Includes:
Basic AI Instruction and Equipment, Semen Handling from Tank to Cow, Preparing for Calving, Value of Reproduction Management, Intro to Reproductive Tract Anatomy

September 27th
Session Includes:
Advanced Reproductive Tract Anatomy and Physiology, Estrous Synchronization, Pasture Management, AI Hands-On

September 28th
Session Includes:
EPD's, Select Sires, AI Hands-On

OSU Extension Contacts:
Dirk Dempsey, Pike County
P: 740-289-4837
E: dempsey.106@osu.edu

Jordan Penrose, Gallia County
P: 740-794-6009
E: penrose.30@osu.edu

STOCKMANSHIP STEWARDSHIP

2023

SEPTEMBER 29 - 30
Caldwell, OH

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Join us for an outstanding two day event sponsored by Merck Animal Health!

- Hear from world renowned stockmanship clinicians and other industry experts.
- Session highlights include chute-side trainings, herd health planning, cattle handling, and a chance to get BQA certified!
- Full registration includes all events and meals, student pricing and one-day registration options available!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

- Breakout sessions covering biosecurity, nutrition, and industry hot topics
- Live cattle handling demonstrations

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

- BQA Certification and industry updates
- Classroom demonstrations
- BQA Certification and dive deeper into BQA principles

Eastern Agricultural Research Station
16870 TR 126 | Caldwell, OH

stockmanshipandstewardship.org

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