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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 you all had a good January. We are starting to get to that busy time of the year for you on the farm and for us here at the extension office. Lambing and kidding starting or soon to be, spring calving about to start, and prep work going to start the upcoming growing season for crops. It is also the busy time of the year for us here at the extension office with ANR programming with pesticides taking the big focus here in February. See the upcoming dates below and the flyers at the very end of the newsletter. Hope you enjoy the articles that are attached! If you have any questions, you can reach me at the office at, [740-446-7007](tel:740-446-7007) or my cell phone, at [740-350-0417](tel:740-350-0417) or by E-mail, at penrose.30@osu.edu.

You can also stay up to date with the latest information by checking out either our website gallia.osu.edu or by going to our Facebook page [Ohio State – Gallia County Extension](#).

Have a great February,

Jordan Penrose

Jordan Penrose,
Gallia County
Agriculture and
Natural Resources
Extension Educator

enclosures

In this issue:

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2. Winter Pasture Management
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6. Frost Seeding

Upcoming Events

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

- February 9th** Fertilizer Recertification 5 P.M. to 6 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by February 6th there is a Fee of \$5 for this event (This is not your ODA Fee)
- February 9th** Pesticide Recertification 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by February 6th there is a Fee of \$10 for this event (This is not your ODA Fee)
- February 15th** Pesticide Exam Training 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by February 10th.
- February 16th** Fertilizer Recertification 6:30 P.M. 7:30 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by February 10th there is a Fee of \$5 for this event (This is not your ODA Fee)
- February 28th** Pesticide Exam start time 10 A.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. **Contact me or ODA for more Information about the Exam.** RSVP by February 21st.
- March 15th** Beef Quality Assurance 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by March 10th.
- March 15th** The deadline to sign up for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Contact the FSA Office for more information (740-446-8687 Ext 2)

**Winter Pasture Management – By Jordan Penrose – Published in the Ohio BEEF Cattle Letter,
(originally published in The Ohio Cattleman Winter 2023)**

Here in Ohio, winter can vary from one part of the state to the other. If I were to ask you, what are a couple of things that we can think of as farmers that comes along with winter? Answers will probably be similar like cold and snow, but another one is likely mud.

In early November you may have thought some mud would be nice because of how dry the fall was. But nevertheless, when it gets cold out and the temperature is hanging around freezing, are you really wanting to deal with mud?

Last year on my family's farm, we were fortunate that the ground remained frozen for much of the winter. Our pasture management made feeding cattle easier compared to other years. As we get closer to winter, we may get a better handle on what mother nature is going to throw at us, but it is almost impossible to predict what will come our way in the terms of the weather. So, what do we do to prepare for winter when it is so hard to predict what mother nature is going to give us? You can come up with a few different plans that may be useful to you. Every farm will be different in how they can handle their pastures for the winter.

One of the first things that should be considered is what are you going to feed during the course of the winter. The reason you should look at this first is you may have some alternative options like hayfields, or stockpiled pastures that you can feed to your livestock compared to the most common options of hay, haylage, or silage. Grazing livestock on hayfields may be a little harder because most hayfields may not be fenced but temporary fence can be installed rather quickly.

For hayfields, if the weather is in your favor it could be a nice option as well because most hayfields will probably have had some sort of growth to them after your last cutting but be aware of "pugging" the ground from hoof action. These two options are nice if you have the resources to do especially if you had to start feeding hay earlier than expected.

As for the last alternative option, stockpiled pastures are probably the most common one that livestock farmers hear about or do. When it comes to stockpiling it is relatively simple practice that can be done although the fall we had this year, probably finds the fields not stockpiled like other years. We have more than likely quite a few fields already grazed due to the dry fall.

When it come to the feeding in the winter, a lot of your pasture management is going to be based off the fact of feed location. Stockpiled pastures are more than likely going to be the easiest feed to get to your livestock, because most likely those fields are already fenced in and near the livestock.

Hayfields and corn stocks may be a little harder, because of where they could be located compared to the primary location of livestock and the possibility of those fields not being fenced in.

Another factor you may need to consider for winter pasture management is erosion. One of the big things that can lead to erosion is everyone's favorite thing, mud. The precipitation that we receive here in Ohio in a typical winter can take a toll on a pasture with the snow, rain, freezing, and unfreezing.

An article from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach "Winter grazing and pasture erosion" explains the best overall erosion management for pasture is to establish and maintain a good sod cover and residual turf. Extended and close grazing and high animal traffic generally lead to weakened plants, thinner sod cover, and the potential for surface erosion, particularly on sloping sites.

What are a couple ways to avoid erosion happening to pastures? One option is to install a heavy use pad where you can feed your livestock when the conditions for your pastures are bad such as the ground being saturated and unfrozen. Another option could be reducing the stocking density because the more area livestock have access to, the less damage they may do to the field. You can have it so they can move around a little more and not just staying one spot for long periods of time. Have it in one area and water in another area and mineral in another spot so they will move around more.

One thing that could be more of a last resort if conditions are bad and you are not able to do anything like using a heavy use pad or reducing stocking density is to designate an area to be a sacrifice lot. A sacrifice lot is an area where you put your livestock for the duration of the poor conditions. This area should be an area that is relatively easy to get feed to, an area that does not have much slope to it to minimize erosion, and an area that can easily be reseeded if it gets completely torn up by the livestock.

With careful planning and use of one or more of these options, your pastures can make it through the winter and hopefully come back strong for spring grazing.

Safe Use of Heat Lamps and Barn Monitoring System – By Jason Hartschuh, Dairy Management and Precision Livestock, Field Specialist – Published in The Ohio Sheep Team Newsletter

During the winter lambing and kidding seasons, ensuring that lambs and kids get up and dry as fast as possible is critical for survivability and thus operation success. As producers, we can assist with this process by providing a warm area by offering supplemental heat and reducing barn draft while

the young are still wet. For many operations, a heating system is part of their lamb and kid survival strategy with the lower critical temperature for lambs and kids being 50°F. Below this temperature lambs and kids are chilled and either need additional energy or supplemental heat. Unfortunately, heating systems add risk to our livestock barns. Any system has at least a minimal increase in fire risk. Especially the most common way of adding heat with heat lamps over deep bedded straw.

When using heat lamps there are some best management practices to keep in mind.

- Always make sure heat lamps are secured with non-flammable hangers. The best option is to use chains and a locking chain connector to make it very hard for the heat lamp to fall into the straw. Heat lamps should be secured like they are permanent.
- Purchase high-quality heat lamps and thick glass bulbs. While this may increase your costs, heat lamps like the ones made by Premier are designed to withstand a fall and lay in the pen without starting a fire and not allow the glass to fall into the pen if a bulb breaks.
- Heat lamps should plug directly into an outlet and not utilize extension cords.
- Outlet receptacles should be both Ground Fault, GFCI and Arc-Fault, AFCI. An arc fault is an unintended arc created by a current flowing through an unplanned path that could create a fire such as a heat lamp sparking when knocked into the pen. Ground fault trips when there is a sudden change in the amount of current going out versus coming back. These two, together help with fire prevention from a spark and electrocution if an animal happens to chew on the wire.
- An older option is to use to single fuse outlets with a low amperage fuse. Your fuse or breaker box is sized based on the wire used not the individual outlet load. To size, an individual heat lamp fuse use the following calculation: rated watts/volts equals amps (i.e., A 250-watt heat bulb/120v uses 2.08 amps). This is no longer considered the best defense; instead GFCI plus AFCI is a much better option.
- Have a fire extinguisher at each entrance to your barn so that if there is a fire you stand a chance to extinguish it if you are near the barn.
- Invest in a barn temperature or fire monitoring system.

While most commercial buildings have automated fire alarm systems, our livestock barns which often have a greater risk of fire do not. Barns are often not connected to a phone line or internet and the dust and ammonia gases in barns can create challenges for conventional fire alerting systems.

Between cellular network internet access and the ability to create an internet network from your home to the barn fire monitoring is now available. Conventional fire monitoring systems using smoke detection do not work well, but linear heat detection systems that use a wire throughout the barn to sense a temperature rise can work well and be connected to a system that automatically calls the fire department.

Another option is barn monitoring systems that would call you, and then you investigate and call the fire department if needed. Many of these systems now use the internet and once you have internet for them you can also install cameras to monitor your animals. Multiple companies offer barn monitoring systems that allow you to monitor multiple barn zones. Multiple temperature sensors should be placed throughout the area you use heat lamps in so a temperature rise can rapidly be detected. While these systems are better than nothing, they do require the fire to have progressed to the point of raising the barn temperature which is a more advanced fire than a smoke detection system. Systems alert producers based on user inputs such as a maximum temperature and a rate of rise in temperature, when temperature increases at an alarming unnatural rate. Most of these systems are designed for poultry and swine producers but can be used by any producer to monitor temperature, water usage, and humidity. They also collect data that allows for better barn ventilation management. Help producers protect their livestock investment from fire and disease.

Valuing Growing Crops on Your Balance Sheet – By Eric Richer & Clint Schroeder, OSU Extension – Published in the Ohio Ag Manager

With the January USDA Winter Wheat Acreage Report indicating an increase in planted acres up 11% nationally, and more specifically, up 27% in Ohio (USDA-NASS), we thought it might be an opportune time to discuss how to accurately value growing crops (winter small grains and perennial forages) on your farm's balance sheet. If the average Ohio farm increased winter wheat acreage by 20-30%, then that current asset schedule (or account) on the balance sheet should be impacted similarly. When completing the balance sheet after the end of the year, it is quite easy to find precise values for the liabilities side (right side) of your balance sheet. However, we often see farmers taking very quick estimates (guesstimates?) of several current asset accounts. This article will focus on how to accurately and precisely value three current asset schedules on your year-end balance sheet: growing crops, market livestock and crops on inventory.

Growing Crops

As indicated earlier, the growing crops schedule can often be determined with a very rough estimate or ignored completely. Valuing a winter small grain (wheat, barley, rye) that is anticipated for

harvest is quite simple. Simply add all the variable production costs that you have invested into that crop on the current tax year (as of December 31). Generally, those costs include seed, starter fertilizer, fall herbicide, and perhaps, custom seeding. Often a Growing Crops schedule on the balance sheet asks you to include acres planted multiplied by the costs incurred per acre to date.

For late summer or fall seeded perennial forage crops like alfalfa and other hay, you should show a value of the growing crop in the seeding year. In the seeding year, you are likely to incur expenses for starter fertilizer, seed, and perhaps, custom seeding. Once that perennial forage crop has been harvested, it is assumed that the crop is at full production. In subsequent years the acres of the crop should be noted on the balance sheet with no associated cost value unless a fertilizer or crop protection application was made after the final harvest for that calendar year.

For both small grains and perennial forages, do not include future land rent, as that will occur in the next tax year, and you already paid rent in the current tax year.

Market Livestock

For market livestock, getting a precise balance sheet value comes down to counting the head of market livestock and estimating approximate weights. For prices, we encourage you to use your preferred livestock market to place a per pound value on those animals. Some prefer to “use round numbers” to estimate prices, but we would suggest you use exact values at the close of the last trading day (or week) of the year, that is, as of December 31st. Documenting this price in your balance sheet schedule allows you to reference those market prices in the future. It communicates to you “what the price was exactly one year ago”. We acknowledge that marketing on a per head basis may be the standard for some livestock, and in those situations, your judgement and experience should be used to value those livestock at the end of the year.

Crops on Inventory

For grain on inventory, use a similar approach as suggested for market livestock. Determine a good estimate of the bushels you have on inventory (on farm and at the elevator) and use the price at the close of the last trading day of the year from your preferred grain elevator. An exception to this rule would be for any bushels that have a pricing contract in place for the new year. The quantities and values set in the contract should be the numbers used on the balance sheet. If the grain has already been sold, but payment is being deferred until after the first of the year for tax purposes, that number should be reported as Accounts Receivable and not as Crops on Inventory.

For stored forages, we prefer using tonnage of hay and straw for a more universally recognized unit

of measure. In some cases, bales of forage may be the preferred unit. For forage price on December 31st, you can reference your preferred local hay auction yard or use your sales average for the current year.

Summary

When completing your balance sheet at the end of the year, we encourage you to use costs incurred for growing crops (wheat and first-year hay) and inventoried units of market livestock, grain on inventory and forages stored times the closing price at your preferred market on December 31st to arrive at accurate and precise current asset values.

Selling home-baked foods: when do you need a license? – By Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Law – Published in The Ohio Ag Law Blog

The world loves a good baker. If you're one of those good bakers and you want to sell your baked goods, do you need a license? Maybe. Our newly revised law bulletin, "The Home Bakery Registration Law in Ohio," explains when a license or "registration" is necessary for selling home baked goods in Ohio.

Whether you need to register for a Home Bakery license depends on the type of baked good you'll produce. Certain foods are at lower risk of a food safety concern when produced at home, which we refer to as "non-potentially hazardous" foods. Those foods might fall under the Ohio Cottage Food Law, which does not require a license or registration for those who want to produce and sell foods that are on the cottage foods list. When a home baked good does pose higher food safety risks, however, the home bakery law applies to that food and additional practices are necessary to reduce food safety. The producer who wants to sell that type of home baked good must register as a "Home Bakery" with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to help ensure that food safety practices are in place.

Which home-baked foods fall into which category? This chart illustrates the differences between non-potentially hazardous "cottage" foods and potentially hazardous "home bakery" foods. If a food falls into the "potentially hazardous" category, the producer needs to apply for a Home Bakery license.

<i>Non-potentially hazardous (cottage food)</i>	<i>Potentially hazardous (home bakery)</i>
Cookies, brownies, cake, bread, fruit pie, cobbler. * <u>And</u> other baked goods specifically stated in the cottage food law: granola, granola bars, unfilled baked donuts, waffle cones, pizzelles.	Cheesecake, cream pie, pumpkin pie, fry pie, filled donuts, waffles, Belgian waffles, raw dough, egg noodles, cream cheese frosting, pepperoni rolls.

What's required for the Home Bakery registration? Our law bulletin explains the registration and inspection process and labeling requirements. Read more about those parts of the Home Bakery Registration Law in our bulletin, available on the Farm Office Food Law Library at <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/our-library/food-law>.

Frost Seeding – By Jordan Penrose

Frost seeding is an option to try to renovate your pastures before making the big decision of a “traditional” reseeding of an entire pasture. With the Winter that we have had this could be an easy way to fix up some of the fields that livestock has stayed on. Frost seeding is also a cheaper option and less time-consuming as compared to “traditional” reseeding. Frost seeding is the process of spreading seed on an already-established pasture or hayfield while the ground is still frozen. With frost seeding, there is a limited time that it can be done, and the recommended time is between early February to mid-March. We have entered this time frame now. The constant freezing and thawing of the ground during this time is what helps frost seeding succeed. The seed will work its way to a shallow coverage to protect the seed through constant freezing and thawing.

The key to succeeding with frost seeding is being able to see bare ground when you spread the seed so there can be good seed-to-soil contact. This will give you the best chance of germination. If you have a heavier sod, then you may want to gaze it down first before you try seeding. During the recommended time of the year to frost seed, there is always a good chance that there could be snow on the ground. If that is the case it is recommended that you wait to seed, because when the snow melts it could carry the seed away.

When it comes to choosing a seed mixture to use for frost seeding, legumes work better as compared to grasses. Legume seeds tend to be a little heavier in weight as compared to grass seed and may

help get down to the soil better than grass seed. There is an advantage to frost-seeding legumes because they “fix” nitrogen which is typically more than their own needs. The existing grass plants that are already established in the pasture can use that excess nitrogen and improve its quality as a forage. Once a pasture is about 25-30% legumes there is no need to apply supplemental nitrogen. You have found a way to reduce costs, as this portion of fertilizer is taken care of. The seeding recommendations are anywhere from 2-10 pounds per acre. If you are frost seeding every year, then you want to be more around that 2-3 pounds per acre range. If you are doing it more as a one-time thing, then you may want to go up to the 8-10 pounds per acre range.



Gallia County February Programming Events

Pesticide Recertification, Fertilizer Recertification, Pesticide Exam Training, and Pesticide Exam

For the month of February there will be Four different event involving Pesticide Recertification, Fertilizer Recertification, Pesticide Exam Training, and Pesticide Exam. There are a few things to keep in mind when looking at these dates. First, the only way to get your Pesticide renewal credits is to come to pesticide recertification on the February 9th. Second, the only way to get your Fertilizer renew credits is to come to one of the Fertilizer recertifications on either the 9th or 16th. If you are planning on taking the pesticide exam which is on February 28th, consider coming to the Pesticide Exam Training on the 15th. **Please RSVP by calling the office at 740-794-7007 or email penrose.30@osu.edu.**

RSVP for Pesticide & Fertilizer Recertification by February 6th

RSVP for Pesticide Exam Training by February 10th

RSVP for Fertilizer Recertification by February 10th

RSVP for Pesticide Exam by February 21st

LOCATION: All Events will be taking place at the Gallia County Extension Office



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

CFAES

Pesticide & Fertilizer Recertification

Date: February 9th

Time: 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Fee: \$10 for Pesticide and \$5 for
Fertilizer

(This is not your ODA Fee)

Pesticide Exam Training

Date: February 15th

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 PM

This training is for those who will
be taking the pesticide exam on
February 28. This will not count
for Renewal Credits.

Fertilizer Recertification

Date: February 16th

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Fee: \$5 for recertification

(This is not your ODA Fee)

Pesticide Exam

Date: February 28th

Start Time: 10 AM

This will be limited to the first 30
people, so act fast. To register
contact me or contact ODA

Jordan Penrose

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CFAES

**Wednesday
March**

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6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Gallia County
Extension Office

Beef Quality Assurance

Come join Dr. Stephen Boyles OSU Beef Extension Specialist and me at the Gallia County Extension Office for Beef Quality Assurance. We will be limiting to 40 people, so if you plan on attending, please RSVP by calling the office at 740-446-7007 or email penrose.30@osu.edu. Please RSVP by Friday, March 10!



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