

January 2023  
Email Volume 2, Issue 1

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

## Gallia County Agriculture Newsletter

Hello Gallia County,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! Looking at the next few months, there are a quite a few key dates that you should know, first is the only way to get your Pesticide renewal credits is to come to Pesticide Recertification on the February 9<sup>th</sup>. Second, the only way to get your Fertilizer renew credits is to come to one of the Fertilizer Recertifications on either February 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are planning on taking the Pesticide Exam which is on February 28<sup>th</sup>, consider coming to the Pesticide Exam Training on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Then on March 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a Beef Quality Assurance and I will be co-teaching with Dr. Stephen Boyles OSU Beef Extension Specialist, this event will be limited to 40 people so please RSVP to make sure you have a spot. All the event's dates, times, and location are listed on the next page. You can also stay up to date with the latest information by checking out either our website [gallia.osu.edu](http://gallia.osu.edu) or by going to our Facebook page [Ohio State - Gallia County Extension](#). If you have any questions, you can reach me at the office, [740-446-7007](tel:740-446-7007) or my cell phone, [740-350-0417](tel:740-350-0417) or E-mail, [penrose.30@osu.edu](mailto:penrose.30@osu.edu).

Happy New Year,

*Jordan Penrose*

Jordan Penrose,  
Gallia County  
Agriculture and  
Natural Resources  
Extension Educator

enclosures

### **In this issue:**

1. Upcoming dates
2. Census of Agriculture Survey
3. Time to Review Estate Plans
4. Increase the nitrogen in your pastures for increased quality and production
5. Don't Forget to Check Your Mirrors
6. Giant Ragweed Still Looms Large

## 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 9<sup>th</sup>** Fertilizer Recertification 5 P.M. to 6 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by February 6<sup>th</sup> there is a Fee of \$5 for this event (This is not your ODA Fee)
- February 9<sup>th</sup>** Pesticide Recertification 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by February 6<sup>th</sup> there is a Fee of \$10 for this event (This is not your ODA Fee)
- February 15<sup>th</sup>** Pesticide Exam Training 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- February 16<sup>th</sup>** Fertilizer Recertification 6:30 P.M. 7:30 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by February 10<sup>th</sup> there is a Fee of \$5 for this event (This is not your ODA Fee)
- February 28<sup>th</sup>** 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 21<sup>st</sup>.
- March 15<sup>th</sup>** Beef Quality Assurance 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- March 15<sup>th</sup>** 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)

## **Census of Agriculture Survey**

In mid-December, a bunch of us received the Census of Agriculture in the mail to fill out. While some of us may have concerns about filling out forms, this is one that I feel very confident about us filling out. The United States National Agricultural Statistics Service attempts to send a census form to every farmer in the country every five years and they encourage all of us to fill it out. Why? The results help to develop new and improved farm programs fit to the needs of farmers in their area. Farmers, businesses, and others can use the data to help make decisions such as where to locate a new processing facility. By law the responses are kept confidential ensuring no individual or operation can be identified but the “grouped results” can provide valuable information that will help us, so I hope you can fill it out. If you do have questions, please contact me.

## **“Time to Review Estate Plans” From the Ohio Ag Law Blog on the Farm Office, Author – Robert Moore**

As 2022 winds down, it’s not too early to start thinking about projects for 2023. One project, if you have not done so in a while, is to review your estate plan. Estate plans should be reviewed occasionally and updated as needed. The following are some items to look at when reviewing an estate plan.

**Health Care Power of Attorney.** Check who you have identified as your health care power of attorney. Is the designated person(s) who you want to act on your behalf and is their address and phone number up to date? It is also good to have a backup power of attorney in case your primary person is unable or unwilling to serve.

**Living Will.** If you have a Living Will, check to be sure the contact person(s) and their contact information is up to date. Remember that a Living Will is the end-of-life directive that gives permission to a doctor or hospital to withhold or discontinue artificial life support.

**Financial Power of Attorney.** You should also check to see who you have designated as your financial power of attorney and make sure their contact information is current. Do you want to make changes to who will serve as your financial power of attorney?

**Wills/Trusts.** These documents determine who will inherit your assets when

you pass away. Review who you have selected for to serve as the executor/trustee and if you should make changes to these designations. For people with minor children, do you have a guardian named for your children and do you want to make any changes? Also, review the distribution plan to see if it will work with your current goals and ideas or should you make some changes.

**Balance Sheet and Assets.** We don't always think about balance sheets with estate plans, but they are a key component of good estate planning. One issue to address is net worth. Is your net worth less than the current \$12.06 million/person estate tax exemption? Will your net worth be less than the exemption in 2026 when the exemption reverts to 2017 values (probably around \$7 million per person\*)? If you answer no to either of these questions, you should make an appointment with your attorney to address your net worth issue.

The other reason to review your balance sheet and assets is to try to make everything non-probate. All titled assets can be made non-probate through titling. Did you buy a new truck or trailer and forget to title it non-probate? Avoiding probate is relatively easy but it must be done prior to death. If you have any questions about probate, contact your attorney and review your assets with them.

If you get a chance before 2023 gets too busy, take an hour or two and review your estate plan. You might be surprised that you have forgotten some of the details of your plan. Having a good, up-to-date plan is important to make sure that you can pass along assets to your beneficiaries in the most efficient and practical way you can.

*\*Unless extended by Congress, the estate tax exemption will revert to the 2017 exemption amount which was \$5 million. The amount is indexed for inflation so an exact number cannot be known for 2026 but a reasonable estimate is \$7 million.*

**“Increase the nitrogen in your pastures for increased quality and production”  
From the OSU Sheep Team, Author – Kelli Boylen, Freelance Writer,  
Progressive Forage**

Balancing nitrogen for the benefit of both [livestock] and the pasture can yield

higher-performing pastures with the right management steps.

Nitrogen is necessary for high production, but what if you are looking to increase the production of pasture? Steve Norberg, Ph.D., regional forage specialist at Washington State University, has some guidance.

To best understand how to manage nitrogen, you must first understand what affects nitrogen. Nitrogen circulates in nature in several different forms known as the nitrogen cycle. Nitrogen changes into different forms through microbial transformations. The steps of the cycle, which are not necessarily sequential, include nitrogen fixation, nitrogen assimilation, ammonification, nitrification and denitrification.

Nitrogen fixation by a bacteria known as rhizobia and nitrification are parts of the nitrogen cycle desired by plants and those who grow them. Nitrification is carried out by nitrifying bacteria, transforming soil ammonia into nitrates which plants can utilize. Fixation of nitrogen can come from atmospheric nitrogen to inorganic fertilizers such as nitrate form or ammonia forms and by rhizobia, which converts soil nitrogen gas (nitrification and ammonification) to a form used by plants.

Saturated soils, such as those with standing water for more than two days, undergo denitrification and nitrogen goes back into the atmosphere as a gas, which is unusable by plants, or leaches deeper into the soil profile, where it is unusable and can end up in groundwater.

Ideally, you want nitrogen to leave your pastures in the form of plants consumed by the animals grazing on them, says Norberg. Increased nitrogen in pasture soil increases the amount of crude protein (CP) available to the animal. Since legumes such as alfalfa, clovers, trefoil or vetches can create their own nitrogen, having a legume-grass mix can significantly improve forage quality and quantity of production compared to a grass-only pasture without needing to apply a synthetic fertilizer. But Norberg says good overall pasture management is needed to maintain the legume-grass ratio you desire.

Norberg says to not only assess the protein needs of the animal you are grazing but also consider the life cycle stage of the animal to make sure their protein nutritional needs are being met.

Fertilizer nitrogen can also be used to manage the legume and grass ratio. He

explains, “How much nitrogen is applied and the timing of it will influence what plants thrive. If the soil is nitrogen-deficient, legumes will have an early advantage. If nitrogen fertilizer is applied early, then the grasses will do better.” The slump that cool-weather grasses face midsummer in many areas of the country will require careful management to maintain the desired legume-grass ratio. “Legumes will do better than grasses during this time, and [livestock] will prefer this new, fresh growth. Graziers will need to maintain longer rest periods when rotating their paddocks in order to maintain legumes, as they will have heavy grazing pressure,” Norberg says.

He shared a rule of thumb: For example, if you can see the cows’ noses when they are grazing, it’s too short; if you can’t see their eyes, you waited too long. Norberg says if you let your pastures be grazed to less than 4 inches, the plants will have a harder time recovering.

If you want to increase the production and the amount of CP in your pastures, Norberg says the place to start is with a soil test, and if you want a second opinion you can visit with a local Extension office.

Although legumes can be interseeded into an existing grass pasture, Norberg says the most effective way to get a good legume-grass pasture is to seed them together.

If a grazier wants to attempt to interseed legumes into grass pasture, Norberg says the best methods are to allow the [livestock] to graze the pasture very short in the late fall – breaking the rule to always leave at least 4 inches – and then interseed in clover or other legumes in the spring. This gives the legumes a chance to germinate before the grasses start growing in the spring.

Another effective method is to spread red clover seed on top of the last snowfall of the year and let the melting snow incorporate the seeds into the soil. This will not work well in a dryland pasture if it is a dry spring.

When seeding, it is not only important to apply a rhizobial bacteria specific to the legumes you are planting, but you must also take good care of the bacteria. “Rhizobial bacteria is a living organism and needs to be treated as such,” he says. Putting it on the dash of your truck or letting it freeze will usually kill it. It needs to be kept in a healthy state to work, and a cool but not freezing location, such as a non-food refrigerator, works well.

Norberg says sometimes legume seed is purchased with the rhizobial bacteria applied, and this can be difficult to maintain correct conditions to keep it alive and sometimes impossible to know the conditions the seeds were kept at before arriving on the farm to plant. “Apply inoculant to it again for insurance that the bacteria are alive and well,” says Norberg.

The only time producers should consider adding inorganic nitrogen to pure stands of legumes, such as alfalfa, is when a field has significant dry matter decomposing. “In this case, the microorganisms in the soil compete with the legumes for the nitrogen. Since the symbiotic relationship between rhizobia [soil bacteria that infect the roots of legumes to form root nodules] and the legumes is not established yet and the legumes have small root systems, the legumes are at a disadvantage,” Norberg says.

The most common form of nitrogen fertilizer applied to pastures is urea.

Ideally, applying nitrogen prior to a rainfall of less than 1 inch incorporates it into the soil so its benefits are not lost to denitrification.

Norberg recommends talking to your local county Extension agent to learn more about what legumes and nitrogen applications would benefit your soil and animals the most.

### **“Don’t Forget to Check Your Mirrors” From the Ohio BEEF Cattle Letter, Author – Garth Ruff, Beef Cattle Field Specialist, OSU Extension**

From time to time, I will jump in the farm truck to go to town and pick up supplies or run some errands. Typically, I am not the primary driver of the vehicle, and the seat and mirrors are almost always set for someone of much small stature. While I must move the seat back to get in the truck, I often forget to adjust the mirrors until I am going down the road as I am more focused on where I’m going.

As we go into 2023, I think we need to check our mirrors to remember where the cattle business has been in the past couple years. While both feeder and fed cattle markets look to be rather favorable in 2023 and likely again in 2024, it is easy to loosen the reins and become a more relaxed in providing daily Vitamin M[anagement]. Good management decisions made when cattle prices were lower are still good management decisions when the markets are more

favorable.

Having wrapped up the OCA Replacement Female Sale, demand for replacement females remains strong, partly influenced by sustained strong cull cow prices and optimism in feeder calf prices looking ahead to the next marketing year.

While I am optimistic about what the next year or two can bring to the cattle industry but, we should not let a rising market be an excuse for not dialing in cost of production, efficiency, and ultimately beef quality. Also while input cost maybe slightly lower, they are still high compared to pre-pandemic.

A few thoughts as I recap the year that was 2022.

The year started with some uncertainty as the intensity of the COVID pandemic waned and we returned to a mostly familiar semblance of normal.

Drought was probably the word of the year in agriculture across certainly the western half of the country, but even in pockets close to home as well. Regional long-term drought is a double-edged sword as the have and the have-nots with regards to moisture are often in two different trajectories. This current market is fueled by a drought limited supply as record numbers of beef cows were culled in 2022.

Farmers and ranchers are resilient, and some moisture in the form of rain or snow in the West should add even more optimism to the feeder cattle markets moving forward in the near term.

There have been a number of discussions with regards to beef packing capacity in this country. Based on recent fed cattle slaughter numbers, combined with a smaller calf crop in 2023 and 2024, I think we can put those discussions to bed. A foremost concern of mine and many others going forward is labor. How can we make meat production a more labor efficient process both locally and nationally?

Ohio has invested nearly \$40 million dollars into existing meat production facilities across the state to address that very question and from what I have seen in my travels, the results have been a good investment.

Stay tuned for winter Extension beef programs. We have several meetings planned as we work to meet education needs of Ohio Cattlemen. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



## “Giant Ragweed Still Looms Large” From the Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (C.O.R.N. Newsletter) Author – Alyssa Essman

Each fall just before harvest, the OSU weed science program conducts a statewide driving survey evaluating the frequency and distribution of problematic weed species in Ohio. Diagonal transects are driven through the top 45-50 soybean producing counties. Visual ratings are given for ten weed species in each soybean field encountered. The weeds evaluated during this survey were: marehail, giant ragweed, common ragweed, waterhemp, Palmer amaranth, redroot pigweed, volunteer corn, common lambsquarters, grasses/foxtail spp., and velvetleaf. In 2022 over 4200 fields were surveyed. Roughly 57% of fields were clean, or at least free of the ten weeds evaluated. The most common weed in 2022 was giant ragweed, present in 12% of fields when combined across rating levels. Waterhemp was the second most frequent weed, in 11% of fields, followed by marehail in 10% of fields. Grass/foxtail spp. were found in 9% of fields and volunteer corn in 8% of fields.

Giant ragweed continues to be one of the most common and troublesome weeds in Ohio. It has a fast growth rate and is an extremely competitive plant. One of the first weeds to emerge each spring, giant ragweed can germinate through early summer. Continuous no-till practices and comprehensive herbicide programs can reduce populations over time. Ohio giant ragweed populations have been identified with resistance to group 2 (ALS inhibitors) and group 9 (glyphosate) herbicides, and multiple resistance to both group 2 and 9 herbicides. Resistance to these herbicides decreases control options for giant ragweed, especially in non-GMO soybeans. Effective giant ragweed control programs include a combination of herbicide modes of action and both pre- and postemergence applications. Weed scientists from OSU, Purdue, and across the corn belt have some general recommendations for management of giant ragweed:

- Effective burndowns reduce giant ragweed pressure at the time of planting. Examples of effective burndowns include a group 4 (2,4-D or dicamba) herbicide plus either a group 9 (glyphosate) or 22 (paraquat) herbicide. Check labels for restrictions on plant-back intervals for 2,4-D

and dicamba.

- An effective residual product with the burndown application or at plant can reduce population pressure through the time of the post application. Full rates of chlorimuron or cloransulam (group 2) containing products tend to be most effective. Where giant ragweed is resistant to group 2 herbicides, fomesafen (group 14) can be used, but can be more variable and will restrict fomesafen use postemergence.
- Giant ragweed will likely require multiple postemergence applications. Two pass programs should include an initial application based on weed size followed by a second application 3-4 weeks later.
- Soybeans tolerant to glufosinate, dicamba, or 2,4-D can receive applications of these herbicides postemergence. Glufosinate followed by glufosinate is an option in the LibertyLink system. In the Xtend or Enlist systems, the second application may need be a group 14 herbicide (or glufosinate for Enlist) based on label restrictions for application timings.
- In non-GMO soybean production, group 14 herbicides (fomesafen, lactofen) can be used postemergence. Control can be variable and overuse increases selection pressure for resistance. OSU research has shown that fomesafen followed by lactofen 3-4 weeks later is the most effective approach.

For more recommendations regarding the management of giant ragweed, visit the Management of Herbicide-Resistant Giant Ragweed fact sheet or the Giant ragweed section in the “Control of Problem Weeds” portion of the Weed Control Guide [ANR-789].

A huge thanks goes to Tony Dobbels, Anna Skubon, and Axle who spent a great deal of time this fall looking at soybean fields. The 2022 survey would not have happened without this crew!



## 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 9<sup>th</sup>. Second, the only way to get your Fertilizer renew credits is to come to one of the Fertilizer recertifications on either the 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are planning on taking the pesticide exam which is on February 28<sup>th</sup>, consider coming to the Pesticide Exam Training on the 15<sup>th</sup>. **Please RSVP by calling the office at 740-794-7007 or email [penrose.30@osu.edu](mailto:penrose.30@osu.edu).**

RSVP for Pesticide & Fertilizer Recertification by February 6<sup>th</sup>

RSVP for Pesticide Exam Training by February 10<sup>th</sup>

RSVP for Fertilizer Recertification by February 10<sup>th</sup>

RSVP for Pesticide Exam by February 21<sup>st</sup>

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



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

**CFAES**

### Pesticide & Fertilizer Recertification

**Date:** February 9<sup>th</sup>

**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 15<sup>th</sup>

**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 16<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 6:30 – 7:30 PM

**Fee:** \$5 for recertification  
(This is not your ODA Fee)

### Pesticide Exam

**Date:** February 28<sup>th</sup>

**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**  
Extension Educator,  
Agriculture & Natural  
Resources

**Gallia County Extension**  
111 Jackson Pike, Suite 1572  
Gallipolis OH 45631  
Phone: 740-446-7007  
E-mail: [penrose.30@osu.edu](mailto:penrose.30@osu.edu)

**CFAES**

Thursday  
**March**  
**15**

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](mailto:penrose.30@osu.edu). Please RSVP by Friday, March 10!



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
EXTENSION

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Jordan Penrose, Extension Educator,  
Ag & Natural Resources  
Gallia County Extension  
111 Jackson Pike, Suite 1572  
Gallipolis OH 45631  
Phone: 740-446-7007  
E-mail: [penrose.30@osu.edu](mailto:penrose.30@osu.edu)

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis.  
For more information, visit [cfaesdiversity.osu.edu](http://cfaesdiversity.osu.edu). For an accessible format of this publication, visit [cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility](http://cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility).