

March 2023

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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,

I hope you all are doing well. I have a few key important dates for some programs that I would like to share with you. The first is on **March 15th** 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. The next date is **April 13th** and there will be a program talking about **Veterinary Oversight for Antibiotics**. I will be there to go over some information and some of our local Veterinarians will be there as well so that any questions you have can be answered. **Then at the end of April on the 29th** there will be **Small Farm Ruminant Production Field Day** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Jackson County Extension Office and will be limited to the first 50 registrations. **See the attached flyers for more information.** There are also some dates from the FSA and Soil & Water offices as well. All the event's dates, times, and locations 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 or by going to 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 March,

Jordan Penrose

Jordan Penrose,
Gallia County
Agriculture and
Natural Resources
Extension Educator

enclosures

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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**.

March 15th Beef Quality Assurance 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by March 10th. Will be limited to the first 40 people. **See attached flyer for more!**

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)**

April 13th Veterinary Oversight for Antibiotics 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by April 10th. **See attached flyer for more!**

April 28th Fish Sale deadline. **Contact Gallia Soil and Water Conservation District for more information (740-446-6173)**

April 29th Small Farm Ruminant Production Field Day 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Jackson County Extension Office. Limited to the first 50 Registrations. **See attached flyer for more!**

Grass Tetany...Time to Prepare and Prevent – By Ted Wiseman, OSU Extension, Perry County – Published in The Ohio BEEF Cattle Letter

Although we haven't had much of a winter so far, and I hope I'm not jinxing us by mentioning it here. We have had above-average temperatures for January with February 5 to 10 degrees above the long-term average for the state. To date we are currently 60 growing degree days above last year. Regardless of what weather conditions encountered until spring officially arrives, many plants are already breaking dormancy. This includes pastures, so adjusting our mineral program now will be cheap insurance to prevent grass tetany.

Preparing for the early grazing season it is important that your mineral program complement the feeds you are feeding now. One of the major problems livestock producers encounter in the early spring is grass tetany, also known as grass staggers, spring tetany or lactation tetany. So what causes grass tetany? Grass tetany typically occurs in the spring, but can occur in the fall or when you have rapidly growing, succulent, cool season grasses. This condition is a metabolic or nutritional condition in dairy, beef cattle and sheep with low blood levels of magnesium. Lush green grasses are generally low in magnesium, but is made worse by having high potassium and protein levels. Mineral imbalances of high potassium and nitrogen along with low calcium, sodium and phosphorus levels can tie up magnesium in the soil making the problem worse. This is another reason for soil sampling and why you should apply fertilizer based on results, use no more potassium than needed since grasses are luxury consumers of potassium.

Feeding high magnesium mineral supplements is a preventative measure to reduce or prevent grass tetany. Cows require 20 grams of magnesium daily which can be accomplished through consuming 3 to 4 ounces per day of a mineral mix containing 12 to 15 percent magnesium. Just because you provide high magnesium mineral mix doesn't mean your livestock are in the clear. You need to monitor mineral intake and make sure all animals are consuming desired amounts. Magnesium alone can result in decreased palatability, and decrease consumption. If livestock do not consume adequate levels from a free choice mineral mix, the supplemental magnesium can be combined with more palatable feeds such as dried molasses or soybean meal. In addition, adding salt may help increase mineral intake but also ensure sodium requirement is being met. This is NOT replacing magnesium it is critical you are monitoring magnesium intake. Commercial mixes are available, and a few University Specialists have provided home-made mineral mixes online. The high magnesium mineral supplements should be provided prior to turning livestock out onto lush pastures.

Recommendations that I have found suggest provided these supplements 2 weeks to 30 days prior to turning out livestock onto pastures. High magnesium supplements do not need to be provided year round, but will not create any problems you feed it too early or late into the season.

Females are more prone to the disease especially the older heavy lactating females. Steers, heifers, dry cows and growing calves are less susceptible, but can still contract tetany in the right conditions. Symptoms often include going off feed, nervousness, show muscle spasms, convulsions, irritability, lapse into a comma, aggressiveness and lastly death. Producers should keep a close eye on livestock in the early grazing season, since these symptoms often occur rapidly. Should you suspect grass tetany contact your veterinarian immediately.

The Ag Law Roundup: leases, zoning, line fences, milk insurance, and popcorn – By Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Law – Published in The Ohio Ag Law Blog

Yes, you read it right: our roundup of agricultural law questions includes a question on popcorn--not one we often hear. Below is our answer to it and several other legal questions we've recently received in the Farm Office.

A farm lease landlord didn't notify a tenant of the intent to terminate a verbal farm lease before the new September 1 deadline. What are the consequences if the landlord now tries to enter into a new lease agreement with another tenant operator?

Ohio's new "statutory termination law" requires a landlord to provide written notice of termination of a verbal farmland lease by September 1 of the year the lease is effective. The law is designed to prevent a tenant from losing land late in the leasing cycle, after the tenant has made commitments and investment in the land. The new law now establishes September 1 as the deadline for a valid termination, unless a lease provides otherwise. If a landowner terminates after September 1, the consequences are that a tenant could either try to force continuation of the lease for another lease period or seek damages for the late termination. Those damages could include reimbursement for work already completed, such as fall tillage, nutrient applications, and cover crops; reimbursement for input costs such as seed and fertilizer that tenant cannot use or return; and lost profits from the tenant's loss of the crop. Find our law bulletin on the new statutory termination date for farm leases on the Farm Office website.

A farmer plans to build a barn and grain bins close to the property line of a neighbor. Does the neighbor have a legal right to stop the farmer from building so close to the boundary?

No, probably not. Because the neighbor lives in a rural area, Ohio's "agricultural exemption" from local zoning regulations applies to the situation. The agricultural exemption law states that except in limited circumstances, agricultural land uses and structures used for agriculture, like barns, are not subject to township or county zoning regulations and building permit requirements. If this township has building setback requirements in its zoning resolution, for instance, the farmer is not subject to the regulations and can build the barn closer to the property line than the setback provisions require and farmer is not required to obtain a zoning or building permit for the barn. One exception is that if the farmer's land is less than five acres and is one of at least 15 lots that are next to or across from one another, the agricultural exemption would not apply to the farmer's land.

Find the agricultural exemption from zoning in Ohio Revised Code 519.21.

In replacing a line fence, a landowner entered a neighbor's property and cleared 10 feet from the fence of all brush and trees, even though the neighbor warned the landowner not to do so. Did the landowner have a right to cut and remove the neighbor's trees and vegetation?

No. Ohio law in Ohio Revised Code 971.08 does allow a person to enter up to 10 feet of an adjacent neighbor's property for the purpose of building or maintaining a line fence, but it is only a right of entry for the purpose of working on the fence. It allows a person to access the neighbor's property without fear of legal action for trespass. But the law does not allow a person to remove trees or vegetation within the 15 foot area. In fact, the law specifically states that a person will be liable for any damages caused by the entry onto the neighbor's property, including damages to crops. Additionally, since the neighbor stated that the trees should not be removed and the landowner removed them anyway, the landowner could be subject to another Ohio law for "reckless destruction" of trees and vegetation. That law could make the landowner liable for three times the value of the trees that were removed against the neighbor's wishes. Find the reckless destruction of vegetation law in Ohio Revised Code 901.51.

Would a milk contamination provision in an insurance policy address milk that could be contaminated as a result of the East Palestine train derailment?

Probably not. Milk contamination coverage provisions in a dairy's insurance policies typically only apply to two situations: unintentional milk contamination by the dairy operator and intentional contamination by a party other than the dairy operator. Contamination resulting from an unintentional pollution incident by a party other than the dairy operator would not fit into either of these situations. But insurance policies vary, so confirming a farm's actual policy provisions is important when determining insurance coverage.

A grower of popcorn wants to process, bag, and ship popcorn. Does the grower need any type of food license?

No. Popcorn falls under Ohio's "cottage food law." Popcorn is on the list of "cottage foods" identified by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) as having lower food safety risk than "potentially hazardous foods." A producer can process and sell a cottage food without obtaining a food license from the ODA or the local health department. However, the producer may only sell the food within Ohio and must properly label the food. Labeling requirements include:

- Name of the food product

- Name and address of the business of the cottage food production operation
- Ingredients of the food product, in descending order of predominance by weight
- Net weight and volume of the food product
- The following statement in ten-point type: "This product is home-produced."

Read our law bulletin on Ohio's Cottage Food Law on the Farm Office website.

Grazing Season is Close, Will You Be Ready? – By Chris Penrose, OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Morgan Co. – Published in The Ohio BEEF Cattle Letter

Spring is just around the corner and it will soon be time to graze our livestock. Think it is too soon? I might be cheating, but I will start grazing my spring calving cattle on stockpiled fescue in a couple weeks and if things go right, I will be done feeding hay to them. In reality, I plan on officially grazing new growth in late March (on some warmer springs, I have started around March 21). After teaching pasture and grazing programs for over 30 years and trying to “practice what I preach”, here is what I try to do.

First, we need to start off with healthy pastures, ones that can take an early grazing without hurting re-growth too much. Next, I try to estimate when the spring “flush” of new rapid growth will start. In most years, it is around April 10 in Southeast Ohio. Then I try to figure how long it will take to do a fast rotation of my paddocks and hay fields that I can “early graze”. On my farm and through experience, this is about 14 days. So if I start grazing and rotating late March and the spring “flush” of growth starts around April 10, I should be in good shape. Maybe you can figure out how long it would take you to do a fast rotation before you expect the “flush” of new growth in your area.

Let me explain this further. If I can slow down growth a little bit by early grazing, maybe we can spread out the “flush” of spring growth. Since about 70 % of our forage production is in the spring, it would be nice if we could lengthen or more evenly spread out the production of our pastures. So, I may graze early at the expense of some of my paddocks, but they are fairly healthy. I also do a couple early light grazings of a few of my hay fields (making sure the cattle do not “pug” up the fields in wet weather). I try to stop grazing hay fields before stem elongation and make hay from them a little later as the grazing will set the maturity and yields back a little. This will give my regular paddocks a longer chance to rest and recover, and then they can be grazed more frequently during the fast growth when the hay fields are not grazed. Depending on pasture and hay needs, I can graze or make hay on one or several of the hay fields later in the summer.

As we get later in the summer and if a paddock or two needs attention, we can fertilize or add manure to the paddocks and give them extra rest.

If our pastures are not in the best of shape, I would consider letting the forages grow for a while before grazing which will also reduce weed pressure. The initial growth will be from root reserves and as the grass and legumes grow, the plants will start putting some energy into the roots and into seed production. Later in the spring, when seed heads have been produced, I encourage a clipping of the pastures to allow the plants, especially grass to focus primarily on leaf production and building root reserves.

Fertilizing is an option and I recommend that you have an adequate pH to best utilize the nutrients (for most pastures a 5.5-7.0 pH is ideal). Avoid too much nitrogen as this may make the pastures grow faster, but in the spring, it can also weaken the root reserves since the plant is moving nutrients up to make seed heads.

Mother Nature does not always cooperate. Some years when it is unusually cool and I started to graze in late March, but grass did not grow as fast, I had to go back to feeding hay for a week, but it finally warms up and everything was fine. A lot of grazers like to see how long they can go until they feed hay in the winter, but you can save feeding hay on the other end...this end.

Every year, I seem to have a paddock that takes an extra beating in the winter. It is usually one that needed extra fertility, and I fed a lot of hay in that field and got trampled up a little too much. This is a perfect candidate to frost seed if there is still time. In this field, I may skip a rotation or two to let it re-cover and establish the frost seeding. If grass gets too far ahead of the new clover, I may graze the field for a very short time to set the grass back a little and give the clover more sunlight to get established. I will lose some clover from trampling, but the remaining clover will be better able to compete with the established grass.

Don't forget to plan, every year is different. Some years we may have an early warm spring which indicates a probable dry summer. Then some years we have a cold slow spring and a wet summer. What will this year bring? I do not know, but a key to successful grazing is trying to predict what is down the road so we can be prepared for it. I recall in 2012, I tried to get up as much extra hay as I could in case the summer turned dry and it did. I had plenty of hay but not water, so I had two springs re-worked so we would have more water. Whatever the growing season brings, hopefully we can be as ready as possible.

CFAES

Beef Quality Assurance

**Wednesday
March**

15

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Gallia County
Extension Office

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!



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
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College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

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CFAES

**Thursday
April
13**

6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
Location: Gallia
County Extension
Office

Veterinary Oversight for Antibiotics

In June of this year all medically important antibiotics currently available at most feed or farm supply stores will now require veterinary oversight (written Rx) to be used in animals, even if the animals are not intended for food production. Examples of affected antibiotics include injectable penicillin and oxytetracycline. In addition, some retail suppliers who were able to sell these drugs/products in the past may no longer sell them after June of 2023. To continue using medically important antimicrobials, you may need to establish a veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR).

Come join me and a couple of the local Veterinarians at the Extension Office to learn more about this!

Register by Monday April 10th, to do so Call 740-446-7007 or Email penrose.30@osu.edu



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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DATE:

April 29, 2023

TIME:

9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.
Registration 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION:

Jackson County Extension Office
17 Standpipe Rd.
Jackson, OH 45640



**THE OHIO STATE
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Small Farm Ruminant Production Field Day

Have a small herd of beef cattle, goats, or a flock of sheep? Are you a new or beginning ruminant livestock producer? If yes to either of these questions, this program is for you!

Join OSU Extension educators and state specialists for an all-day workshop covering topics every ruminant livestock producer needs to know from grazing and nutrition, livestock marketing, facilities and housing.

After lunch, afternoon training sessions will be species-specific that include hands-on training in animal care and handling, basic animal health, livestock evaluation, and much more.

Cost: \$30 per person lunch Included.

Limited to first 50 Registrations.

Register at <https://go.osu.edu/smallfarmslivestock>

Or Call OSU Extension Jackson County at 740-286-5044

OARDC
oardc.osu.edu

OSU Extension Beef Team
beef.osu.edu

OSU Extension Sheep Team
sheep.osu.edu