

November 2023

Email Volume 2, Issue 11

**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 getting ready for the holiday season. Harvest season is continuing around the state. Larger farm equipment will be on the roads, so please stay cautious when driving around in rural areas, especially with the time change that just occurred. This time of the year is a great time to take soil samples of crop, hay, and pasture fields, along with your garden and lawn, to get a handle on what your soil quality is like and see if anything needs to be added for the next year. A couple of things you can do to help prepare for spring if you have roses, you can tie the canes together then pile eight to ten inches of soil around the canes, cover the mound with straw, mulch, or sawdust (no walnut or butternut) up to 18 inches. Remove in late March when the weather breaks then prune as needed. For other perennial plants, mulch applied around Thanksgiving will keep the plants dormant, the soil cool and reduce heaving. Again, removing mulch around late March or when it warms up. We have some programs coming up in the next couple of months. The first I would like to share is **Planning for Winter and Spring Mud on December 11th**. In **January on the 11th** there will be a program on **Making Quality Hay**. Then on **February 1st**, we have **Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification**. We also have full-day programs planned on **February 19th**, **Cow-Calf School**, and **February 21st**, **Weeds University**. More information will come out about those in the future. **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 November,

Jordan Penrose

Jordan Penrose,
Gallia County
Agriculture and
Natural Resources
Extension Educator

enclosures

In this issue:

1. Upcoming dates
2. Time to Plan a Winter Feeding Program
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8. Making Quality Hay Flyer

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**.

- November 11th** **Hunter's Education Class** 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the Jackson County Extension Office. **For more information contact Josh Winters @ 740-688-5029**
- December 11th** **Planning for Winter and Spring Mud** 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. **For more information see attached flyer or contact the Gallia County Extension office @ 740-446-7007**
- January 11th** **Making Quality Hay** 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. **For more information see attached flyer or contact the Gallia office @ 740-446-7007**
- February 1st** **Fertilizer Recertification** 5 P.M. to 6 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by January 30th. **There is a Fee of \$5 for this event (This is not your ODA Fee)**
- February 1st** **Pesticide Recertification** 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. at the Gallia County Extension Office. RSVP by January 30th. **There is a Fee of \$10 for this event (This is not your ODA Fee)**
- February 19th** **Cow-Calf School Save The Date.** This event will be hosted in Gallia County. More information to come. **If you have any questions, contact the Gallia County Extension office @ 740-446-7007**
- February 21st** **Weeds University Save The Date.** This event's location will vary across the state. **If you have any questions, contact the Gallia County Extension office @ 740-446-7007**

Time to Plan a Winter Feeding Program – By Garth Ruff, Beef Cattle Field Specialist, Ohio State University Extension – Published in Ohio BEEF Cattle Letter, originally published in Ohio Farmer online– <https://u.osu.edu/beef/>

As we slide into autumn, harvest season is among us, and it is fairly dry here in Ohio's cow country. Several folks are beginning to feed hay early, begging the question: Do you have enough hay? If not, what are your plans for winter feed?

Unlike most years the hay season across the southern two-thirds of Ohio was relatively timely. A large percentage of first cutting hay was made three to six weeks ahead of a "normal" schedule. While first cutting hay quality is better on average than the past few years, tonnage was reduced. Second and third cuttings of mixed grass hay were also fairly timely as the weather pattern turned dry in mid-August.

Being short on hay for the winter isn't a make or break decision as there are several options available to feed cattle.

Buying Hay

The most obvious solution is to buy more hay to make up for any shortages in supply. If looking to buy hay the time is likely now as hay prices should continue to rise throughout the late fall and winter months.

When buying any volume of hay having a forage analysis should be non-negotiable as not all hay is worth the asking price. Knowing the nutrient content of a lot of hay is the only surefire way to know the value of the forage that is being purchased.

Upon receiving a forage analysis, important numbers to look for are Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN), Crude Protein, and Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF). A hay sample with a TDN value of less than 60, will not provide sufficient energy to a 1200 beef cow. Crude protein can have a great range depending on forage type and cutting. The value for NDF is an indicator of forage digestibility, the lower the number the better. Grass hay with an NDF above 60 percent is often mature grass with lower digestibility. Visual appraisal and smell are good indicators to evaluate spoilage and weathering more so than forage quality.

I get a couple questions each year about purchasing individually wrapped bales of Baleage. Once again, a forage analysis should be in hand and knowing whether or not the forage was baled at the right moisture is key. Properly made baleage is between 45 and 60 percent moisture.

Supplementing Grain

Cereal grains, especially corn are often more cost effective sources of energy than forage. As harvest continues and corn futures hover near or below \$5 per bushel, corn coupled with some lower quality, cheaper forage may be an option to help get cattle through the winter months.

Feeding 2-3 pounds of corn per head, per day to fall calves or gestating cows will stretch short hay supplies.

Grazing Corn Residue

Stan Smith, not too long ago had an article in the Ohio Beef Letter on feeding corn stalks. Although baling corn stalks is an option, I would agree with Stan that grazing corn residue is by far the most economical way to utilize them as a feed source. Consider principles of rotational grazing when

doing so, allowing cattle to optimize the available dry matter and to redistribute nutrients more evenly across the crop field.

Back Up the Truck

Cattle prices remain historically strong. Pencil out purchasing supplemental feed versus culling a few of the lower performers in the herd.

Culling productive females is a tough decision (ask ranchers in the West), especially as the national cow herd continues to contract, leading to an even smaller 2024 calf crop than what we had this year. Short calf supply will lead to continues strength in the cattle market going forward.

Economics and moisture going into winter will dictate what Ohio cattle producers decide to do with regards to over wintering cows. There isn't a one size fits all answer to making up for feed shortages but having a plan can save some headache when the weather turns cold.

Managing small ruminants to reduce complications at parturition – By Michael Metzger, Michigan State University Extension Educator – Published in OSU Sheep Team, originally Previously published on MSU Extension, Sheep & Goat: October 12, 2018 – <https://u.osu.edu/sheep/>

Kidding/Lambing is a very stressful time for small ruminants. Proper management leading up to delivery can help to reduce complications.

Pregnant animals have a few very important needs that are different from other livestock. The start of care for a pregnant animal should begin well before the actual breeding takes place. Does and ewes need to have an acceptable body condition score (BCS). Body condition scores in sheep and goats range from 1-5. They need to be neither too fat nor too thin to be able to have a heat cycle, become pregnant, and continue to support a fetus or multiple fetuses. This means that producers must have an adequate nutritional program in place for their breeding herd or flock.

Michigan State University Extension recommends that does and ewes have a BCS of 3.5 at the time of kidding or lambing. Signs of pregnancy toxemia are initially subtle and can include depression, lethargy, poor appetite, and low fecal output. Urine can be tested with ketone test strips and the animals often have a sweet or acetone smell, although not all people can detect this smell. Early detection and treatment result in the best outcome of this disease.

As the end of fall approaches most does and ewes are pregnant with parturition (kidding or lambing) occurring in winter and spring. Goat and sheep fetuses add 70% of their final birth weight in the last 6-8 weeks of gestation. Twins and triplets are common in most breeds of sheep and goats. A single fetus can increase the dam's nutritional requirements by 1.5-2 times during the last trimester. Twins and triplets increase the demands even more.

Daily observation of animals and good records are management practices that will help producers to have a successful lambing and kidding season. Early gestation nutrition is low maintenance. As long as hay or adequate pasture is available, no additional nutrition is usually needed. During the third month of pregnancy check females for body condition score (BCS). On a scale from 1-5, provide supplemental feeding if doe/ewes are at a BCS of 2.5 or lower. Also at this time animals should be checked for worm load either using FAMANCHA® scores or by fecal egg counts.

As the pregnant female's nutritional requirements increase, her physical capacity for feed intake is reduced by the rapid expansion of her pregnant uterus. At this time, supplemental nutrition in the

form of grain or concentrates is often required or the dam will be unable to ingest the calories needed to support herself and her fetuses. The release of stored energy because of a negative energy balance will address her low blood glucose issues but not without side effects: by-products of fat mobilization called ketones can accumulate to toxic levels and suppress appetite. Once the animal goes off feed, death of the dam and fetuses from pregnancy toxemia can come quickly without veterinary intervention. Lack of adequate feeder space, timid animals, lameness or other health issues that keep animals from getting adequate feed and nutrition can also result in pregnancy toxemia. With proper management throughout gestation, pregnancy toxemia can be avoided.

Fall-applied Herbicide Considerations – By Alyssa Essman, State Specialist, Weed Science, OSU Extension – Published in C.O.R.N Newsletter – <https://agcrops.osu.edu/>



Harvest is progressing in much of Ohio, though recent rains have slowed field activities in some areas. As crops continue to come off it's a good time for a reminder about the value of fall-applied herbicides. Rains this past week may stimulate winter annual weed emergence to some extent. This is the best time of year to control winter annuals and some of the more difficult to manage overwintering weed species. Biennial and perennial plants are now sending nutrients down to the root systems in preparation for winter. Systemic herbicides like glyphosate and 2,4-D applied at this time will be translocated down into the roots more effectively than if applied in spring when nutrients are moving upward. This results in better control. In addition, the increasingly unpredictable spring weather patterns we have experienced in recent years can influence the timing and efficacy of spring burndown applications. Fall-applied herbicides can lead to weed free situations going into spring until early emerging annuals begin to appear in April, and are an essential component in the control of marehail and other overwintering species.

Here are some reminders when it comes to fall-applied herbicides:

- Evaluate weed emergence and growth post-harvest to help determine if an application is necessary.
- Fall-applied herbicides should primarily target weeds that are emerged at the time of application.
- Species present in large quantities late-season that would necessitate the application of an herbicide include (but are not limited to): marehail, dandelion, wild carrot, poison hemlock, common chickweed, purple deadnettle, henbit, annual bluegrass, and cressleaf groundsel.
- OSU research has not found much of a benefit from adding metribuzin or other residual products late in the fall. The exception to this is chlorimuron, which can persist into the spring. The recommendation here has generally been to keep costs low in the fall and save those products for spring when you will get more bang for your buck.
- Herbicides generally work across a range of conditions, though activity can be slower as

temperatures drop. Foliar products are most effective when daytime temperatures are in the 50s or higher and nighttime temperatures remain above 40.

[Table 1](#) in the [Weed Control Guide for Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri](#) provides ratings for various overwintering weed species in response to fall-applied herbicides. For questions related to the identification and control of weeds, reach out to Alyssa Essman at Essman.42@osu.edu.

Agricultural easements can address farmland preservation and farm transition goals (Part 1) – By Peggy Kirk Hall, Attorney and Director, Agricultural & Resource Law Program – Published in Farm Office OUR BLOG – <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog>

Questions from farmers and farmland owners about agricultural easements are on the rise at the Farm Office. Why is that? From what we're hearing, the questions are driven by concerns about the loss of farmland to development as well as desires to keep farmland in the family for future generations. An agricultural easement is a unique tool that can help a farmland owner and farming operation meet goals to protect farmland from development or transition that land to the next generation. Here are answers to some of the questions we've been hearing.

What is an agricultural easement? An agricultural easement is a voluntary legal agreement by a landowner to use land primarily for agricultural purposes and forfeit the right to develop the land for other purposes, either permanently or, less often, for a term of years. In an agricultural easement, a landowner grants an easement "holder" the legal right to enforce the easement against a landowner or other party who attempts to convert the land to a non-agricultural use. A written legal instrument details and documents this agreement between a landowner and the easement "holder." The agricultural easement instrument must be recorded in the county land records, and the agricultural easement is binding on all future landowners for the duration of its term.

A state legislature must authorize the use of the agricultural easement instrument, and Ohio's legislature did so in 1999. At that time, the legislature adopted a detailed legal definition of "agricultural easement" in Ohio Revised Code 5301.67(C):

"Agricultural easement" means an incorporeal right or interest in land that is held for the public purpose of retaining the use of land predominantly in agriculture; that imposes any limitations on the use or development of the land that are appropriate at the time of creation of the easement to achieve that purpose; that is in the form of articles of dedication, easement, covenant, restriction, or condition; and that includes appropriate provisions for the holder to enter the property subject to the easement at reasonable times to ensure compliance with its provisions.

The legislature also required in Ohio Revised Code 5301.68 that a landowner may only grant an agricultural easement on land that qualifies for Ohio's Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) program under Ohio Revised Code 5713.31.

Is an agricultural easement the same as a conservation easement? No, not in Ohio, but they share the same legal concept of dedicating land to a particular use. Ohio also allows a landowner to grant a conservation easement, which is a promise to retain land predominantly in its natural, scenic, open, or wooded condition and forfeit the right to develop the land for other purposes. A conservation easement might allow agricultural land uses, and an agricultural easement might allow some conservation uses. The terms used in federal law and some other states vary from Ohio, and include "agricultural conservation easement" or "agricultural land easement."

Who can be a "holder" of an agricultural easement? Ohio law answers this question in Ohio

Revised Code 5301.68, which authorizes only these entities to enter into an agricultural easement with a landowner:

- The director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture;
- A municipal corporation, county, or township;
- A soil and water conservation district;
- A tax exempt charitable organization organized for the preservation of land areas for public outdoor recreation or education, or scenic enjoyment; the preservation of historically important land areas or structures; or the protection of natural environmental systems (generally referred to as a “land trust” or a “land conservancy.”)

What kinds of land uses would be inconsistent with keeping the land in agricultural use? That depends on the terms in the written deed for the agricultural easement. Activities that might violate the agreement to maintain the land as agricultural include subdivision of the property, commercial and industrial uses, major surface alterations, and oil and gas development. It’s typical to identify the homestead or “building envelope” area and allow new buildings, construction and similar activities within that area, but those activities might not be permitted on other parts of the land. Review the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s current Deed of Agricultural Easement through the link on this page: <https://agri.ohio.gov/programs/farmland-preservation-office/landowners>.

Can a landowner transfer land that is subject to an agricultural easement? Yes. An agricultural easement does not restrict the right to sell or gift land, but it does carry over to the new landowner. That landowner must abide by the terms of the agricultural easement.

Are there financial incentives for entering into an agricultural easement? Yes. There are several financial incentives:

- The Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Office of Farmland Preservation oversees the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, which provides Clean Ohio grant funds to certified local sponsors to purchase permanent agricultural easements in their communities. It’s a competitive process that requires a landowner to work with an approved local sponsor to apply for the program and to donate at least 25% of the agricultural easement’s value if selected. A landowner can receive up to 75% of the appraised value of the farm’s “development rights,” with a payment cap of \$2,000 per acre and \$500,000 per farm per application period.
- Federal funds are also available through the Natural Resource Conservation Service’s Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. This program is also competitive and requires a landowner to work with an approved partner to determine eligibility and apply for easement funding. NRCS may contribute up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.
- There are also federal income tax incentives for donating a portion or all of an agricultural easement’s value to a qualified charitable organization. Internal Revenue Code section 170(h) allows a landowner to deduct the value of the easement up to 50 percent of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in the year of the gift, with a 15-year carryover of excess value. That AGI percentage increases to 100% for a “qualified farmer” who earns more than 50% of their gross income from farming.

- There can also be federal estate tax benefits for land subject to a permanent agricultural or conservation easement. The land is valued at its restricted value, which lowers the estate value. Additionally, Section 2055(f) of the Internal Revenue Code allows donations of qualifying easements to a public charity to be deducted from the taxable value of an estate. Up to 40% of the value of land restricted by an agricultural or conservation easement can be excluded from the value of an estate if the easement meets Internal Revenue Code section 2031(C) provisions, limited to \$500,000.

How can a family use an agricultural easement to enable farm transition goals? Here's an example. John and Sue are fourth generation owners of 250 acres of farmland they plan to leave to their child Lee, and they want the land to remain as farmland into the future. Lee is committed to farming and wants to farm, and John and Sue would like Lee to have more land to improve the viability of the farming operation. They find a local sponsor and apply to Ohio's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, offering to donate 25% of the agricultural easement value to the program. They are selected for the funding and receive a payment of \$2,000 per acre for the agricultural easement. They use the \$500,000 in easement proceeds to purchase additional farmland for Lee. John and Sue receive a federal income tax credit for the portion of the easement value they donated to qualify for the program, and carryover the amount until it is fully used, up to 15 years.

What are the drawbacks of agricultural easements? There are challenges and drawbacks of agricultural easements, and we'll discuss those in our next blog post.

Agricultural easements require legal and tax advice and careful planning. Our short Q&A doesn't address all of the nuances of agricultural easements. It's a big decision, and one that should align with current goals and estate and transition plans. To determine if an agricultural easement works for your situation, seek the advice and planning assistance of knowledgeable legal and tax professionals.

Agricultural easements can address farmland preservation and farm transition goals (Part 2) – By Peggy Kirk Hall, Attorney and Director, Agricultural & Resource Law Program – Published in Farm Office OUR BLOG – <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog>

An agricultural easement is a legal instrument that can protect farmland from non-farm development and preserve the legacy of family land for the future. An earlier blog post explains how an agricultural easement works and answers common questions about agricultural easements. As we explained, an agricultural easement not only preserves farmland but can also be a valuable financial and tax tool that can enable a transition of the farm to the next generation. But are there drawbacks to agricultural easements? Here's a summary of potential negative implications of easements that landowners should also consider.

It's difficult to forecast the future of a farm. The very nature of the easement requires a best estimate of how the farmland might be used for agriculture into the future--a challenging task. The Deed of Agricultural Easement the parties agree to must predict agricultural activities that are consistent with the easement and those that would violate the easement. There could be future problems if the predictions and forecasting aren't flexible enough to accommodate agriculture in the future.

The "perpetuity" requirement. While it's possible to draft an easement that lasts only for a certain term of years, most agricultural easements remain on the land "in perpetuity," or permanently. The programs that pay a landowner to grant an agricultural easement and the federal income and estate

tax benefits for donating all or part of an easement require that the easement is perpetual. This differs from the conservation programs we're accustomed to in agriculture that require shorter term commitments, and it can be a deterrent to a landowner who wants future generations to have a say in what happens to the land. These concerns might be addressed in the deed of agricultural easement, however, which may provide sufficient flexibility to address those future concerns.

Termination can be difficult and costly. Hand in hand with the perpetuity issue is the difficulty of terminating an agricultural easement once it's in place. Typically, both parties must agree on a termination and a court of law must determine that conditions on or surrounding the land make it impossible or impractical to continue to use the land for agricultural purposes. Attempts to terminate without following the stated procedures can result in penalties for the current landowner. If there was a payment for the agricultural easement, a deed of easement will likely require the landowner to reimburse the paying party for the proportionate share of the fair market value of the land with the easement removed and will also require the party receiving the reimbursement to use the funds only for similar conservation purposes.

Eminent domain can be an issue. As one Ohio farm family has learned, an agricultural easement might not protect the farmland from an eminent domain proceeding. In *Columbia Gas v. Bailey*, 2023-Ohio-1245, the Bailey family was forced to litigate an attempt by Columbia Gas to use eminent domain for the construction of a gas pipeline across their farmland. Their predecessor had placed an agricultural easement on the farmland in 2003, and the family argued the easement prevented the taking of land for the pipeline under the doctrine of "prior public use." That doctrine prohibits an eminent domain action that would destroy a prior public use. The court agreed that the agricultural easement did create a prior public use on the land, and the court shifted the burden to Columbia Gas to prove that the pipeline would not destroy the established prior public use. Rather than doing so, Columbia Gas withdrew its eminent domain proceeding and moved the location of the pipeline. The court's decision to recognize an agricultural easement as a prior public use might provide some protection from eminent domain for future owners of agricultural easement land but, like the Baileys, landowners may have to fight a long, expensive battle to prove that an eminent domain action would destroy an established prior public use.

Lenders and other interests must be on board. A landowner must deal with any existing mortgages, liens, leases, or easements on the farmland before entering into an agricultural easement. The State of Ohio's agricultural easement, for example, requires a lender to subordinate a mortgage to the rights of the easement holder. Renegotiation of the mortgage might be necessary, and the lender might require a paydown of the outstanding mortgage if the property's value could reduce below that amount. Without subordination and other approvals, a landowner will not be able to enter into an agricultural easement.

Local governments must be on board. Ohio's program for purchasing agricultural easements requires a landowner to submit a resolution of support from the township and county where the land is located. This means the local governments must agree that committing the land to agriculture is consistent with local land use plans. An early conversation with local officials is necessary to ensuring consistency with the community's future plans.

There will be monitoring. An easement holder has the responsibility of ensuring there is not a violation of the easement or conversion of the land to non-agricultural uses. This means there will be a baseline or "present condition" report of the easement property upon easement creation and monitoring of the property "in perpetuity." An annual visit to the property and completion of an

annual monitoring report by the easement holder is common.

It's a lengthy process. Agricultural easements don't pop up overnight. Especially when applying for funding from competitive programs like Ohio's Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program or the NRCS Agricultural Land Easements Program, it can be a year or more before an agricultural easement is in place.

Planning and integration with plans is necessary. An agricultural easement is one piece of what can be a complex plan addressing a landowner's expansion, retirement, estate, and transition needs. A landowner would be wise to work with a team of professionals—financial planner, tax professional, attorney—to ensure that an agricultural easement integrates with all other parts of the plan.

Still interested? Ohio landowners interested in learning more about agricultural easements may want to consider these steps:

- Review the resources on the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Office of Farmland Preservation.
- Talk with other landowners who have entered into easements. Refer to the Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts landowner resources and landowner stories.
- Visit American Farmland Trust's Farmland Information Center.
- Talk with a "local sponsor" or land trust in your area. The Office of Farmland Preservation provides a list of local sponsors for the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program on its website.
- Talk with your attorney, financial planner, and accountant about the implications of entering into an agricultural easement.

**Wild Turkey in Ohio – By Dylan Darter, School of Environment and Natural Resources –
Published in OHIO Woodlands, Water, & Wildlife Newsletter Fall 2023 –
<https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/>**

The wild turkey is a fascinating animal. The bird provokes a wide range of memories and emotions. You might think of the iconic gobbling that many yearn to hear, or that feeling of excitement upon seeing a hen with poults. For some the bird may bring back a childhood memory of finding feathers or tracks in the mud. No matter how you have interacted with a turkey, it is likely to have left an impression. One of the common ways to quantify turkey interactions is reported hunter harvests. This information is gathered and reported by the Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODW). In recent years, ODW observed a dip in these numbers, suggesting wild turkey abundance was declining. In response, ODW decreased the spring bag limit to one bird starting in spring 2022. In addition to the new regulations, a new study is underway that seeks to shed more light on the possible causes of the declining trend in turkey numbers.

The ongoing Ohio wild turkey project is a joint effort between the ODW and Ohio State University. Turkey reproduction and survival are the main focuses of the study. Current sites are in the vicinity of Waterloo Wildlife Area, Zaleski State Forest and Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area. The team will establish an updated nesting chronology for the state, determine survival rates and causes of mortality. To do this, we capture turkey in the winter and early spring using rocket nets. After body measurements are taken, hens are outfitted with transmitters. These transmitters record GPS

locations, activity data, and put out ultra-high frequency (UHF) radio waves for telemetry. Crews track the birds using a receiver and antenna tuned to the UHF waves, then download data from the transmitters using a basestation. We download each bird's data at least twice a week during the nesting season. Data downloaded from these transmitters enables us to determine where and when the hens start to incubate. The median date of nest incubation is used by the ODW to set the start of spring turkey hunting. In using the median incubation date, we avoid taking males off 3Ohio Woodlands, Water, and Wildlife Newsletter An Ohio Woodland Stewards Program Publication 4 the landscape before they play their reproductive role. Researchers will also take vegetation measurements at nesting sites after the hen has moved on. If a nest is successful, teams conduct poult counts at 2- and 4-weeks post-hatch to track poult survival rates. The information gathered will help determine what habitat types that hens are using to nest in and raise their broods.

At the time of writing, the first nesting season is coming to an end. Even this early in the project, there have already been some interesting findings. Our average hen nested 2.1 miles from the site where they were trapped just a month or two prior. The longest distance from trap site to nest was 5.9 miles as the turkey flies. Approximately 96% of tracked hens attempted to nest at least once. With some birds reaching 3 attempts after prior nests failed. Of all nests detected 78% of them were first nest attempts, 15% second nests, and 7% were third attempts. Nesting attempts occurred well into the summer with the latest recorded incubation happening on June 24th. Most of the confirmed poults came from second attempts. Out of the hens that successfully raised broods 80% were adults. While checking on nests we realized that many nests were placed near some sort of corridor, such as a game trail, road or maintained path. As the study continues into its second year and more data is gathered, we will ultimately be able to determine the status of the wild turkey in Ohio with more certainty.

CFAES

Saturday
November
11th

8a.m.–5pm

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

Hunter's Education Class

Do you plan to go hunting this year? Join the Gallia County Conservation Club as they teach a Hunters Education Class to better prepared you to be safe this hunting season! This class is free!



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

**For more information
please contact:**

Josh Winters

740-688-5029

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

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For more information, visit cfaes.ohiostate.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.ohiostate.edu/accessibility.

CFAES Planning for Winter and Spring Mud

**Monday
December**

11

6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Location: Gallia County
Extension Office



Here in Ohio, we tend to experience a lot of different variations of weather in the winter and springtime. This leads to everyone's favorite thing, mud! Come join me at the Extension Office to brush up and learn new strategies for handling mud in pastures and managing livestock in muddy conditions.

Snacks and drinks will be provided!

Please RSVP by Friday, December 8th. To do so Scan the QR Code, or Call 740-446-7007 or, Email penrose.30@osu.edu



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

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CFAES

**Thursday
January**

11

6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Location: Gallia County
Extension Office



Making Quality Hay

Here in southeastern Ohio, one of the bigger agricultural commodities is Hay. Come join us at the Extension Office as we cover topics that go into Making Quality Hay. Topics will include weather, equipment, harvesting, quality, safety, value, storage, and feeding.

Snacks and drinks will be provided!

Please RSVP by Friday, January 10th. To do so Scan the QR Code, or Call 740-446-7007 or, Email penrose.30@osu.edu



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