

KNOX COUNTY AGRICULTURAL NEWS

"USDA Farm Service Agency , Natural Resources Conservation Service , Knox SWCD and OSU Extension, Knox County are an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer and Lender "

April / May 2019

Agricultural and Wildlife Scholarships

The Knox SWCD is pleased to announce the board's approval of **FOUR** scholarships for the Ag Scholarship program for 2019. Each scholarship will be for one thousand dollars; three scholarships are designated to students pursuing a degree in Agriculture or Environmental field of study, and the fourth scholarship will be designated to a field in Wildlife due to the support of Pheasants Forever.

This scholarship program is not possible without the support of local participating businesses who generously donated to our Silent Auction. All proceeds from the Silent Auction go to this program along with additional funds from Knox SWCD. The Silent Auction is held at the Knox SWCD annual meeting and banquet in December.

To obtain an application, please see your local high school guidance counselor or download the form from the SWCD website at www.knoxswcd.org. Please contact Amie Allen with any questions at aallen@knoxswcd.org or 740-393-6724. The **deadline for the applications is May 3rd** by 4:00 p.m. in the Knox SWCD office. Past award recipients and applicants are eligible to reapply.



**2019
Scholarships**

Camp Canopy Scholarships

Have you ever wondered what types of trees are in Ohio's forests? Or what kinds of relationships organisms have with the forest? If so, Camp Canopy is the place to be! Camp is held at FFA Camp Muskingum, which is situated on Leesville Lake in the beautiful rolling hills of Carroll County. Any student who has completed 8th grade and is at least fifteen (15) years of age is welcome to participate. The Knox Soil & Water Conservation District is looking for students to send to Camp Canopy.

This week-long camp concentrates on forest ecology & wildlife including silviculture, tree identification, wildlife management and forestry products. It is primarily an academic program but there are excellent facilities for swimming, volley ball, and other recreational activities. Special evening programs are scheduled for social as well as academic value. Cabins are available and all food is provided.

If you are interested in attending The Ohio Forestry Association's Camp Canopy please download the form from the SWCD website at www.knoxswcd.org. Please contact Amie Allen with any questions at aallen@knoxswcd.org or 740-393-6724.

The student must be 15 years of age and have completed the 8th grade. Students will be responsible for transportation to and from camp. The 2019 camp will be June 9th-14th. A completed copy of the Camp Canopy Application must be attached to the application. **The deadline is April 15th.**



Farm Service Agency

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Proper Management of CRP Grass Cover

In the past, aesthetic mowing of CRP grass cover was a widely accepted practice by many participants. Today with more research and understanding, it has been shown that properly managed grass cover will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and is more beneficial to wildlife than annually mowed grass covers.

Wildlife, especially grassland birds including pheasants and quail, and pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, view properly managed CRP cover as a source of food and habitat suitable to raise their young. Wildlife will not be attracted to CRP cover if plants are not allowed to mature. Game birds and bees are disappearing because of habitat loss.

Properly managed grass cover does not include noxious weeds such as thistle and teasel or woody species like trees and multiflora rose. These noxious weeds must be controlled. This can be done in several ways. Mowing of CRP cover, not to exceed 20% of the total CRP acres in a field, is permitted. This activity must be included in your conservation plan and be conducted outside of Ohio's primary nesting season (**March 1st – July 15th**). The location of this mowing shall be changed from year to year. Another option to control noxious weeds is by spot mowing affected areas or spot spraying of an approved herbicide. These treatments will have a minimal effect on the CRP practice cover's ability to meet the purposes of erosion control, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

Unauthorized disturbance of CRP cover is considered a violation of the terms and conditions of the CRP contract and conservation plan. Violations could potentially result in hefty penalties including contract termination and refund of all contract related payments.

Properly maintained CRP cover can be very attractive if noxious weeds and invasive species are controlled and grasses and wildflowers are allowed to mature. Please scout your CRP fields before weeds go to seed. Contact your local FSA office for permission to spot treat your CRP grass cover during Ohio's primary nesting season (**March 1st – July 15th**). Plan to have your CRP cover assessed for the need of mid-contract management activities that are designed to enhance your CRP cover for wildlife. Mid-contract management is a contractual obligation that is outlined in your CRP-1 Appendix and conservation plan.

Contact the FSA office for more information on proper maintenance and management of CRP practice cover.

CRP Participants Must Maintain Approved Cover on Acreages Enrolled in CRP and Farm Programs

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants are responsible for ensuring adequate, approved vegetative and practice cover is maintained to control erosion throughout the life of the contract after the practice has been established. Participants must also control undesirable vegetation, weeds (including noxious weeds), insects and rodents that may pose a threat to existing cover or adversely impact other landowners in the area.

All CRP maintenance activities, such as mowing, burning, disking and spraying, must be conducted outside the primary nesting or brood rearing season for wildlife, which for Ohio is March 1 through July 15. However, spot treatment of the acreage may be allowed during the primary nesting or brood rearing season if, left untreated, the weeds, insects or undesirable species would adversely impact the approved cover. In this instance, spot treatment is limited to the affected areas in the field and requires County Committee approval prior to beginning the spot treatment. The County Committee will consult with NRCS to determine if such activities are needed to maintain the approved cover.

Annual mowing of CRP for generic weed control, or for cosmetic purposes, is prohibited at all times.

Storage and Handling Trucks

Eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) provide low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade facilities to store commodities. Some storage and handling trucks are eligible for the FSFL. These include:

Cold Storage Trucks-A van or truck designed to carry perishable freight at specific temperatures. Cold storage trucks can be ice-cooled or equipped with any variety of mechanical refrigeration systems.

- **Flatbed Trucks**-Truck with an open body in the form of a platform with no side walls for easy loading and unloading. These trucks can be categorized into different sizes which range from light, medium, or heavy duty, compact or full-size, or short and expandable beds.

- **Grain Trucks**-A piece of farm equipment specially made to accommodate grain products and are traditionally truck chassis units with a mounted grain "dump" body where grain commodities are transported from a field to either a grain elevator or a storage bin.

- **Storage Trucks with a Chassis Unit**-Commonly referred to as a box truck, box van or straight truck, is a truck with a cargo body mounted on the same chassis with the engine and cab.

To be eligible for FSFL, the storage and handling truck must be less than 15 years old and have a maximum of four axles with a gross weight rating of 60,000 pounds or less. Pick-up trucks, semi-trucks, dump trucks, and simple insulated and ventilated vans are ineligible for FSFL. The new or used storage and handling truck must not have been purchased before the FSFL request is received by FSA.

FSFL for storage and handling trucks must be \$100,000 or less. FSFL-financed storage and handling trucks must be used for the purpose for which they were acquired for the entire FSFL term.

Eligible commodities include grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, hay, honey, renewable biomass commodities, fruits and vegetables, floriculture, hops, maple sap, milk, cheese, yogurt, butter, eggs, meat/poultry (unprocessed), rye and aquaculture.

For more information or to apply for a FSFL, contact your [FSA County Office](#).

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email at aallen@knoxswcd.org



Farm Service Agency

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USDA Announces Sign-Up Period for Updated Conservation Stewardship Program

WASHINGTON, April 5, 2019 – The next deadline for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications to be considered for funding this year is May 10, 2019. USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plans to invest up to \$700 million for new enrollments and contract extensions in fiscal year 2019. The 2018 Farm Bill made several changes to this critical conservation program, which helps agricultural producers take the conservation activities on their farm or ranch to the next level.

“CSP continues to be a very effective tool for private landowners working to achieve their conservation and management goals,” NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr said. “It is the largest conservation program in the United States with more than 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled.”

While applications are accepted throughout the year, interested producers should submit applications to their local NRCS office by May 10, 2019, to ensure their applications are considered for 2019 funding.

Changes to the Program

The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes NRCS to accept new CSP enrollments from now until 2023, and it makes some important improvements to the program. These updates include:

- NRCS now enrolls eligible, high ranking applications based on dollars rather than acres. For fiscal 2019, NRCS can spend up to \$700 million in the program, which covers part of the cost for producers implementing new conservation activities and maintaining their existing activities.
- Higher payment rates are now available for certain conservation activities, including cover crops and resource conserving crop rotations.
- CSP now provides specific support for organic and for transitioning to organic production activities and a special grassland conservation initiative for certain producers who have maintained cropland base acres.

About the Program

CSP is offered in all 50 states and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups. The program provides many benefits including increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. CSP is for working lands including cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

More Information

For additional information about CSP, contact your local USDA service center.

Maintaining Stored Grain Quality

Bins are ideally designed to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the grain through the term of the loan.

ARC, PLC Acreage Maintenance

Producers enrolled in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) must protect all cropland and non-cropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. Producers who sign ARC county or individual contracts and PLC contracts agree to effectively control noxious weeds on the farm according to sound agricultural practices. If a producer fails to take necessary actions to correct a maintenance problem on a farm that is enrolled in ARC, or PLC the County Committee may elect to terminate the contract for the program year.

A list of Ohio noxious weeds can be found on the Ohio NRCS website:

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/noxious?rptType=State&statefips=39> and the Ohio Department of Agriculture website at: <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/901%3A5-37>.

Dates to Remember

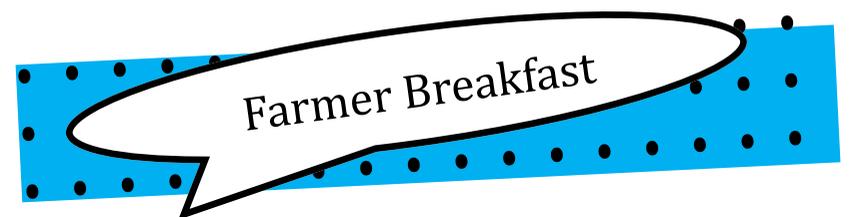
| | |
|--------|---|
| May 27 | Memorial Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed. |
| May 31 | Deadline to apply for 2018 commodity loans and LDP's on |
| July 4 | Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed. |

County Committee Meetings

The 4 member Knox County Farm Service Agency committee meets once a quarterly at 9:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of every 3rd month for each quarterly meeting and uses the Knox County FSA office as its meeting place.

We will post a notice on the county office bulletin board if the committee must reschedule the time or place of its next meeting.

County committee members include. Chairman Ron Elliott, representing Greg Magers, and Dave Mitchem. Jenn Bouton serves as the County Committee advisor.



April 16 –Effects of Farm Stress– Join us to learn about the effects of physical, emotional, and financial stress.

May-Oct– Summer Break– We Will resume breakfast in November.

*Monthly meetings will be held on the **3rd Tuesday of the month at 8 a.m.**

Location: Brandon Baptist Church (13513 Sycamore Road, Mount Vernon)

*Please join us to discuss farm topics, Q & A, and general discussion.

- Bring your questions and a friend!
- Breakfast will be at your expense
- Menu will rotate monthly
- Monthly raffle



*Representatives from Knox FSA, NRCS, SWCD, and OSU Ext. will be present with updates
Have a speaker or topic idea? Call Katie 392-0891

*Topics subject to change



Farm Service Agency

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Assistance Now Available to Protect and Restore Privately Owned Wetlands, Agricultural Lands and Grasslands

COLUMBUS, March 26, 2019 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) encourages people and groups wanting to restore and protect critical wetlands, agricultural lands and grasslands to consider enrolling their property into conservation easements. This year, NRCS will provide technical and financial assistance to help private landowners, tribes, land trusts, and other groups protect these valuable lands.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) focuses on restoring and protecting wetlands as well as conserving productive agricultural lands and grasslands. Landowners are compensated for enrolling their land in easements.

“Protecting these lands preserves Ohio’s heritage, natural resources and open space,” said Terry Cosby, NRCS State Conservationist in Ohio. “Easements are an important tool for people who are trying to preserve the land for future generations.”

Applications for ACEP are taken on a continuous basis. The ranking and funding deadline for this year is April 19, 2019.

Wetland Reserve Easements

Through ACEP wetland reserve easements, NRCS helps landowners restore and protect wetland ecosystems. Wetlands are one of nature’s most productive ecosystems providing many ecological, societal and economic benefits.

In the 1700s, wetlands covered 5 million acres of Ohio, primarily in the northwestern part of the State, referred to as the “Great Black Swamp.” Competing land uses resulted in a 90 percent loss of wetlands by the late 1900s. Since 2005, NRCS has assisted landowners in restoring more than 25,000 acres of wetlands in Ohio.

“Wetlands provide many benefits, including critical habitat for a wide array of wildlife species. They also store floodwaters, clean and recharge groundwater, sequester carbon, trap sediment, and filter pollutants for clean water,” said Cosby.

“Seventy-five percent of the nation's wetlands are situated on private and tribal lands,” Cosby added. Over the last five years, Ohio landowners have restored over 5,600 acres of wetlands through ACEP. Landowners can choose either a permanent or 30-year wetland conservation easement.

Eligible lands include farmed or converted wetlands that can successfully be restored, croplands or grasslands subject to flooding, previously restored wetlands and riparian areas that link protected wetland areas. As part of the easement, NRCS and the landowner work together to develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the wetland.

Agricultural Land Easements

Through ACEP agricultural land easements, NRCS provides funds to conservation partners to purchase conservation easements on private working lands. This program helps keep working lands working, especially in areas experiencing development pressure.

Partners include State or local agencies, non-profits, and tribes. Landowners continue to own their property, but voluntarily enter into a legal agreement with a cooperating entity to purchase an easement. The cooperating entity applies for matching funds from NRCS for the purchase of an easement from the land owner, permanently protecting its agricultural use and conservation values. Landowners do not apply directly to NRCS for funding under this program.

Easements are permanent. Eligible lands include privately owned cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland, and forestlands.

Ohio landowners interested in wetland reserve easements and partners interested in agricultural easements should contact their local USDA Service Center.

Youth Loans Available

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Applicants Must:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law
- Comply with FSA’s general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above

Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

To find out more about the FSA Youth loan program, contact your local FSA county office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, call the Knox County FSA office staff, before you HAUL!

Soybean Planting - Does maturity group affect planting date?

Source: University of Illinois

Should later-maturing varieties be planted first in order to take maximum advantage of the longer time in the field? There's no problem with doing that, although early planting moves up harvest date some, so it works counter to the goal of spreading harvest time by using different maturities. In 2018 we ran a trial at Urbana, supported by a seed company, to see how varietal maturity affected response to planting date. The first planting date was April 26, the last was June 6, and varieties ranged in maturity from MG 2.3 (very early for this location) to MG 3.6, which is a little later than average for this location.

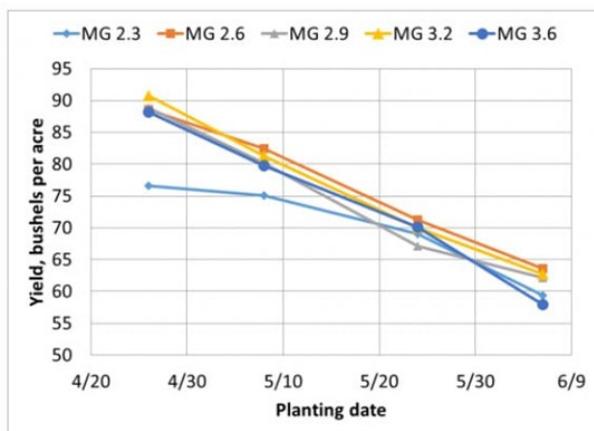


Figure 2. Response to planting date by five soybean varieties differing in maturity. Data are from a trial conducted at Urbana, Illinois in 2018.

For all but the earliest-maturing variety in this trial, the planting date response was almost perfectly linear, with the loss of nearly 7/10ths of a bushel per day of planting delay—a total of more than 27 bushels—over the 41 days from the first to the last date (Figure 2). This loss rate accelerated a little for the latest-maturing variety between May 24 and June 6. The earliest-maturing variety lost only 17 bushels from first to last planting, but only because its yield

at the earliest date was so much lower than yields of the later-maturing varieties.

The month of May 2018 was much warmer than normal, and this got the soybean plants off to a very fast start. Warm nights are conducive to early flowering, and this was especially notable in 2018. In the early-planted crop, first flowers appeared in early June, well before the longest day of the year, and unlike the interruption of flowering that often takes place under normal night temperatures for about a week before and after the longest day, flowering was early and continuous in 2018. As a result, nearly half of the Illinois soybean crop was flowering by July 1. The warm May probably affected the yield response to planting date as well; with warm temperatures, early-planted soybeans grow as fast as late-planted ones, and this widened the developmental gap between the different plantings.

Planted on April 26, the earliest variety reached first flower on June 9 and matured on August 28, compared to June 15 and September 17 for the latest-maturing variety. When planted on May 24, the earlier and later varieties flowered on June 15 and July 2, and matured on September 12 and September 25, respectively. So when planted late, both varieties flowered very early in their life cycles, both spent less time in reproductive stages than when they were planted early, and they ended up yielding about the same. While in this case it's accurate to say that the later-maturing variety benefitted more from early planting, that's only because the early-maturing one was physiologically less able to use the longer growing period allowed by early planting to produce high yield.

Read more at <http://u.osu.edu/knoxcountyag>

Mom and Me DIY Fairy Garden

CFAES

Mom and Me DIY Fairy Garden

The Ohio State University Extension

A gardening event for the young and old! Learn about the history of fairy gardens, then create a small fairy garden container to take home. Children are welcome to attend and create with an adult. You do not have to be a mother in order to attend.

Wednesday, May 22, 6:30P.M.

Location: OSU Extension Office: 160 Columbus Road, Mount Vernon

When: May 22, 6:30pm

Cost: \$15 a person (mother and daughter creating together will be charged for 1 person)

Details: Registration Required by May 17, 2019



Reducing Soybean Planting Rates Can Increase Income

Source: Michael Staton, MSU Extension (edited).

Michigan soybean producers have consistently identified planting rates as the highest priority topic to evaluate in on-farm replicated trials. Furthermore, the producers wanted to evaluate the effect of low planting rates on soybean yield and income. The two factors driving the increased interest in reducing soybean planting rates are seed cost and white mold. To help Michigan soybean producers make planting rate decisions, the SMaRT (Soybean Management and Research Technologies) program conducted a total of 40 on-farm replicated trials from 2015 to 2018. Please see Figure 1 for the trial locations.

Eleven planting rate trials were conducted each year from 2015 to 2017 and seven trials were conducted in 2018. Four target planting rates (80,00, 100,000, 130,000, and 160,000 seeds per acre) were compared at all but one location where the lowest rate was not included. Stand counts were taken to determine actual final plant stands at each location in all years. To calculate the income (gross income – seed cost) generated by each planting rate, we used the USDA projected prices and average seed costs for treated seed for each year. None of the varieties planted in the trials were straight line or thin line plant type and a complete seed treatment was used at 33 of the locations.

Table 2. Planting rate effects on average yield and income (all 40 locations)

| Planting Rate | Average Yield (bu/ac) | *Gross income – seed cost (\$/ac) |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 80,000 | 60.3 | \$519 |
| 100,000 | 61.8 | \$524 |
| 130,000 | 62.4 | \$515 |
| 160,000 | 62.5 | \$503 |

*Using 2018 figures for seed cost (\$63/140,000 seed unit) and market price (\$8.60 per bushel).

Using 2018 figures for seed cost (\$63/140,000 seed unit) and market price (\$8.60 per bushel).

| Year | Average stand loss for all planting rates (percent) |
|------|---|
| 2015 | 12 |
| 2016 | 18 |
| 2017 | 22 |

Because we conducted the trials over four years, we learned how the planting rates performed over a range of growing conditions. Planting conditions were nearly ideal in 2015 but were much more challenging in 2016, 2017 and 2018 as evidenced by the average stand loss shown in Table 1. Statewide record yields were achieved in 2015 and again in 2016. However, yields declined significantly in 2017 due to excessive early rains and a lack of rain in August and September. Yields rebounded in 2018.

The effects of soybean planting rates on yield and income are shown in Figure 2. The bars represent yield and the lines represent income. The figure clearly shows the year-to-year variability in yield and income. It also shows that the lowest two planting rates were the most profitable in 2015 and 2018 and the highest planting rate was the least profitable each year. Table 2 shows the average yield and income for all 40 locations.

When all 40 sites were combined, the yields from the highest two planting rates were identical and they beat the 100,000 seeds per acre planting rate by less than one bushel per acre and the 80,000 rate by only 2.2 bushels per acre. The 100,000 seeds per acre planting rate generated the most income.

Read more at <http://u.osu.edu/knoxcountyag>

These results are very similar to the 2018 Knox County Soybean Seeding Rate Trials shown below.

| Seeding Rate | Agronomic Data | | | | | | | Economic Data | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------|------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------|----------|------|
| | Plot 1 3 Reps | | Plot 2 3 Reps | | 2 Plot Average 6 Reps | | Yield Rank | Income | Expense | Net Return | | Rank |
| | Bu./A | Moisture | Bu./A | Moisture | Bu./A | Moisture | | Cash Price ¹ \$8.23/Bu. | Seed Cost ² /A .428/1000 | To Seed | | |
| 125000 | 78.59 | 13.4 | 67.05 | 14.6 | 72.82 | 14.0 | 4 | \$599.30 | \$53.50 | \$545.80 | | 1 |
| 145000 | 77.54 | 13.5 | 70.07 | 14.7 | 73.80 | 14.1 | 2 | \$607.39 | \$62.06 | \$545.33 | -\$0.47 | 2 |
| 165000 | 79.08 | 13.5 | 68.37 | 14.8 | 73.72 | 14.2 | 3 | \$606.75 | \$70.62 | \$536.13 | -\$9.67 | 3 |
| 185000 | 78.57 | 13.4 | 69.16 | 14.8 | 73.86 | 14.1 | 1 | \$607.89 | \$79.18 | \$528.71 | -\$17.09 | 4 |

¹ Farmers Co-op Fredericktown Jan 2019 Cash Bid (10/3/18)

² OSU Soybean Production Budget 2018



Ohio State University Extension

Hydrangea School

April 25, 2019 • 1 P.M.

Join Mahoning Extension Educator Eric Barrett to discover the world of hydrangeas. Learn which varieties will work best in your garden and landscape, and learn how to properly care for and maintain a successful plant.

You will receive educational materials as well as your own hydrangea plant to take home.

Location: OSU Extension Office
160 Columbus Road
Mount Vernon , Ohio, 43050

Cost: \$30 per person

Questions call: 740-397-0401



Registration includes program and handouts. Please mail to P.O. Box 1268, Mount Vernon, OH 43050 or drop off the registration to the OSU Extension Office in Mount Vernon (160 Columbus Road). The program is filled on a "first come, first served basis."

Name(s): _____

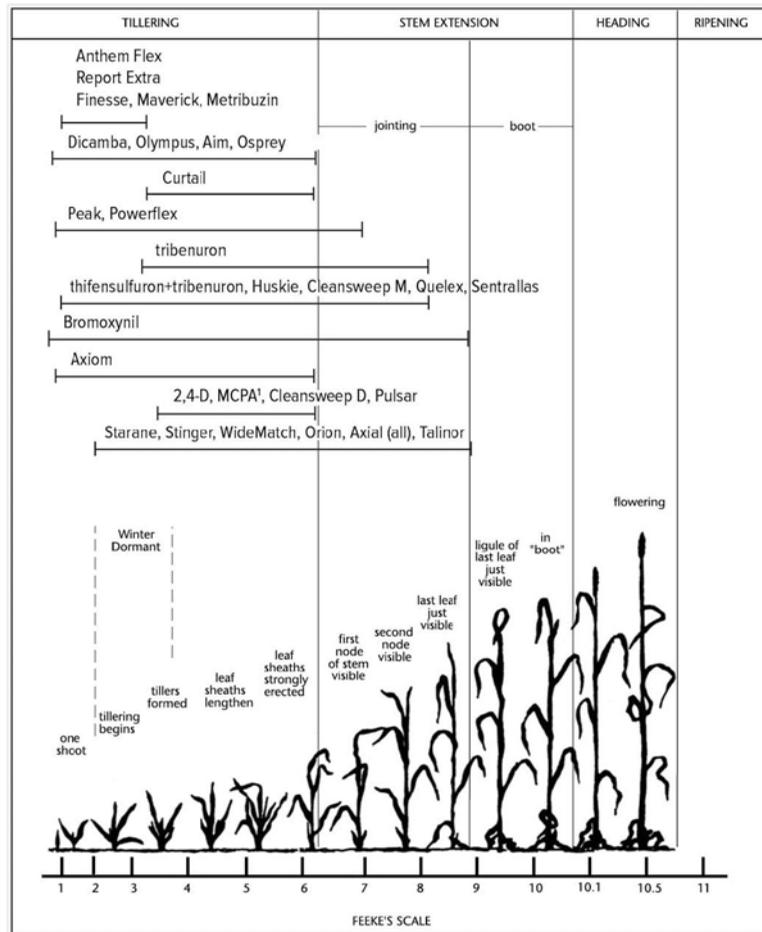
Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number Attending: _____ X \$30 = \$ _____

Spring Herbicide Applications on Winter Wheat - Part 1 Growth Stages

Source: Purdue University (Edited)



The winter is finally winding down and we are bound to have warmer days and spring in the near future. As we look towards the warmer weather there a few field activities that are going to start quickly, including winter wheat greenup herbicide applications and winter annual weed burndown applications in no-till fields. There are few things to keep in mind as these activities are added to the calendar. Many wheat producers, especially in the southern regions of Indiana will soon be or already are topdressing their wheat. Those looking into topdressing need to also be scouting for weeds and determining if a herbicide application is necessary on any existing winter annual weeds. The following information will outline winter annual weeds to look out for, weed scouting tips, crop stage restrictions, and herbicide recommendations.

Some common broadleaf weeds to scout for in your winter wheat are dandelion, purple deadnettle, henbit, chickweed, Canada thistle, and wild garlic. These winter annual species that emerge in the fall can remain relatively inconspicuous through the winter and become competitive and troublesome during the spring if not controlled early in the spring. Summer annual weeds such as ragweed will be of less concern in the early spring and will be outcompeted by the wheat crop if managed properly. Grass weeds to be aware of and scouting for are: annual bluegrass, annual ryegrass, cheat, and downy brome.

Determining the severity of weed infestations in your wheat fields is key in determining the necessity of a herbicide application. As with all agronomic crops, you should scout your entire field to determine what weed management practices need to be implemented and determine any areas of severe weed infestations. Wheat fields that contain uniform infestations of at least one broadleaf weed and/or three grass weeds per square foot should be taken into consideration for a herbicide application to avoid yield loss and harvest interference problems. Some fields that have less uniform infestations, but rather pockets of severe infestation should be managed to reduce weed seed production and future infestations.

Read more at <http://u.osu.edu/knoxcountyag>

Upcoming events for 4-H

April 15-Quality Assurance at Fredericktown HS 5:50-7:30pm

May 1- Possession Date for most Animal Projects

May 3- Broiler Orders Due 5pm

May 4- Tagging at Fairgrounds 8am-11am

Goat, Market Lamb and Dairy Market Feeders

May 9- Quality Assurance at Mount Vernon High School 5:50-7:30pm

May 16- Quality Assurance at Danville High School 5:50-7:30pm

May 17- Contest Day & Pre-Fair judging forms due 5pm

May 27- Office Closed

June 1- Quality Assurance deadline for Knox County

June 1- Beef Feeder tagging & weigh in 8-10am @ Fairgrounds



Knox County Agriculture News Blog

For the most up-to-date information on Knox County Agriculture and 4-H issues visit Web Blog at:

<http://u.osu.edu/knoxcountyag>

This blog contains timely agronomic, livestock, horticulture, 4-H and fair information. All meeting notices will also be posted here. The calendar page will list all the important dates, deadlines and meeting times for all Extension events. This site will be updated weekly and even sometimes daily throughout the year. If you choose to subscribe to this blog you will get an email once a week listing all new information posted during the week. Check it out and let us know what you think.



Knox Soil & Water Conservation District

Don't Forget to Schedule No-Till Drills for Spring Planting

Producers interested in renting the Knox SWCD's no-till drills to establish pasture/hay or plant soybeans this spring should contact the SWCD office as soon as possible. Early sign-up for the SWCD's no-till drill rental program allows our staff to plan ahead in the scheduling and maintenance of the equipment and helps insure (weather permitting) that you will have the equipment when it is needed.



As usual the SWCD will have available one 10' Truax no-till drill suitable for warm season grass establishment, and 2 10' John Deere 1590 drills with grass-seed attachments. The John Deere no-till drills may be used for hay, small grain and soybean plantings. **A rental agreement must be signed before the drills can be used. For your convenience we can mail these out to you in advance. Please contact the office for a copy if you think you will be utilizing the equipment.** All drills rent for \$10.00 an acre; the renter is responsible for reporting equipment acres. For more details on rental, tractor requirements, or operation of the drills you may contact the SWCD office at 393-6724.

Wet Weather Creates Tile Discharge Questions and Concerns

It's no secret that when it rains, especially when it rains a lot, the phone at the SWCD office rings! Recently, we have been getting a number of inquiries regarding the outlet of subsurface drainage systems in watercourses, specifically where that outlet is immediately upstream of a neighboring property owner. The question that arises is: can the upstream owner install sub-surface drainage and simply outlet the drains in the natural watercourse before reaching the property line?

Before getting too far into this issue in print, a little disclaimer is in order. The opinion published here is based on the considerable experience of the SWCD technical staff. **HOWEVER**, it is not a substitute for sound legal advice. Water rights and drainage law in Ohio are complex and constantly changing issues. In cases where personal property damage or other serious concerns may be an issue, legal counsel should be consulted (preferably legal counsel that has experience with rural drainage issues).

So... can the landowner upstream just dump his tile outlets in the watercourse above my property line? Well... probably yes, but there are a few conditions. First of all, they need to be outletting the tile to a natural watercourse. That might be a grassed waterway, drainage channel, stream, or river. They also need to be returning the subsurface drainage water to the natural watercourse **BEFORE** it gets to the property line. Finally, the subsurface drainage system must not be collecting water from any drainage area other than that which would normally flow to that point via surface flow. Still, a downstream landowner who feels that they are negatively impacted by such an installation may file suit and have the matter decided in court. In the end, court decisions in Ohio tend to be based on the "Reasonable Use Doctrine" which generally says that that a landowner may make reasonable use of their land (and water), even though the flow of waters could be altered and potentially cause harm. The landowner does not have liability for that harm unless the harm is deemed unreasonable. In the case of civil litigation, a judge will ultimately decide whether any harm caused by a landowner's action was "reasonable or unreasonable".

There are other considerations though, downstream erosion, excess wetness downstream of the outlet, and negatively impacted land uses can all be problems. That's why our advice to owners installing drainage projects is, and has always been, to work with downstream landowners if at all possible to extend and install good drainage outlets where it is practical. It's just the neighborly thing to do. For more information, or an on-site visit & consultation with SWCD staff please call the SWCD office at 393-6724.

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Knox Soil & Water Conservation District

All Weather Paddocks a Great Option for Horse Owners

It's been a long, wet, nasty winter, and local pastures and horse exercise areas show it! All of those areas took a beating this winter due to somewhat higher than usual precipitation and temperatures that allowed normally firm pasture and exercise lots to stay squarely in the "quagmire" stage.

All-weather horse paddocks allow horse owners to protect local water resources while improving the overall health and integrity of their own horse pastures and exercise areas. Not only are all-weather horse paddocks environmentally friendly, they are aesthetically pleasing and relatively simple and inexpensive to install.



All-weather paddocks (corrals) are small, non-irrigated, non-grazable holding pens or exercise lots, often adjacent to horse stable areas. They are made up of a combination of a geotextile material and limestone. The combination of these products creates a surface area which stays relatively dry and mud free. All-weather paddocks help protect soil and water resources by reducing the erosion and transportation of sediment into rivers and streams which often results from heavy use areas during wet weather. These paddocks can also allow for rotation of pastures to enable establishment of more mature and dense vegetation, which aids in reducing mud, erosion, and sedimentation.

Representatives from the Knox SWCD can visit your property upon request to provide technical assistance on proper design of a paddock base. We can also discuss effective storage and utilization of manure resources. Technical assistance received during these site visits is voluntary and confidential, and will help ensure that the operation is resource-friendly.

Cover Crop Program Renewed for 2019

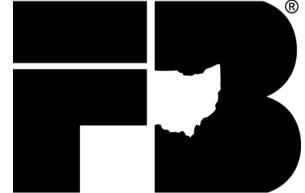
The Knox SWCD is pleased to announce that the Muskingum Basin Cover Crop Initiative Program that was so popular the last several years will be renewed in 2019. Program guidelines remain basically unchanged for the 2019 cropping season. Growers may enroll up to 200 acres with an expected cost-share rate of **\$12.00** an acre for the establishment of a cover crop. Eligible cover crop types include a wide variety of small grain, grass, legume and brassicas. All cropland is eligible for submission, but priority scoring will be directed to ground that will be in corn for silage and/or soybeans in 2019, and, ground that will be used for manure disposal in fall 2019/spring 2020. Scoring for program eligibility will be based on a field by field assessment. Growers are urged to provide specific USDA Farm and/or Tract numbers as well as field numbers with their application. The application forms and agreements can be obtained by contacting the Knox SWCD office.

New applicants **that have not participated in the program before** can qualify for an extra \$3.00 per acre making the total per/acre incentive \$15.



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Knox Soil & Water Conservation District

Low Interest Commodity Loans Provide Cash Flow Now

Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL's) are marketing tools available to producers beginning upon harvest and provides interim financing at harvest time to help meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities until favorable market conditions emerge.

With the current market conditions producers who have access to on-farm storage or warehouse storage should consider a Marketing Assistance Loan (warehouses must be able to issue acceptable warehouse receipts. Contact the county office for additional information on warehouse loans).

Producer Eligibility

To be eligible for a MAL the producer must:

Comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements;

Submit an acreage report for all cropland on all farms;

Have and retain beneficial interest until the loan is repaid or Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) takes title to the commodity;

Meet adjusted gross income limitations. If a Marketing Loan Gain (MLG) is earned and prices fall below the loan rate, then the MLG is subject to AGI provisions.

Commodity Eligibility

To be eligible for a MAL the commodity must:

Be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC;

Meet specific CCC minimum grade and quality standards.

Beneficial Interest

A producer retains beneficial interest in the commodity if he/she maintains control of the commodity and title to the commodity. Some marketing decisions may cause a producer to lose control and/or title to the grain so review specific concerns with the county office.

Final Availability Dates

May 31, 2019 is the final availability date for a corn or soybean loan.

Loan Rates

Loan rates for Knox County are \$1.98 per bushel for corn and \$5.12 per bushel for soybeans.

Interest

The interest rate charged for commodity loans is set at one percentage point above CCC's cost of borrowing from the U.S. Treasury at the time the loan is made. After a loan is made, the rate is fixed except the interest rate for loans outstanding on January 1, 2019 is adjusted to reflect CCC's cost of borrowing on January 1st, plus one percent. **The interest rate for the month of March is 3.500%.**

Loan Settlement

MAL's mature on the last day of the ninth calendar month following the month in which the MAL is approved. A producer may settle an outstanding MAL:

Before maturity period by repaying the MAL or;

Upon maturity by forfeiting the commodity to CCC.

For loan eligible commodities a producer may repay an MAL any time during the loan period at the lesser of the:

Loan rate plus interest or;

Alternative loan repayment rate determined by CCC. Prices would have to drop more for this option to be viable and can be discussed further by calling or visiting the Knox County FSA Office.

Required Signatures

In cases where individual producers are applying for MAL's, spousal signatures are now required on loan documents to protect the interest of all parties in the loan making process. In the past producers could sign on behalf of spouses but this option is no longer available. Spouses have the option of waiving interest in the crop to avoid signing loan documents. FSA has a document that can be completed to waive interest.

Lienholder Waiver

If you have a lien on the crop FSA has a lien waiver document that lienholders can sign so that loan proceeds can be issued directly to the applicant or issued jointly. Applicants are encouraged to visit with crop lienholders before applying for a MAL.



Delaware • Knox • Marion • Morrow Solid Waste District

Spring Collection Events

April 27th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Electronics & Tires
Morrow County Fairgrounds
195 S. Main St., Mount Gilead
419-946-6400 for more information
Fees Apply

May 18th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Hazardous Waste & Paint
Marion County Fairgrounds
220 E. Fairgrounds St., Marion

Fall Collection Events

August 24th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Hazardous Waste & Paint
Knox County Fairgrounds
125 Fairgrounds Rd., Mount Vernon
740-393-6704 for more information
Fees Apply

October 12th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Electronics & Tires
Delaware County Fairgrounds
236 Pennsylvania Ave., Delaware
740-368-1700 for more information

For more details visit www.dkmm.org

KOKOSING STATE SCENIC

Date: September 21st

Location: 501 S. Main St

Registration: 9am-9:45am

Cleanup: 10:30am-12:30pm

Lunch: 12:30pm-1pm

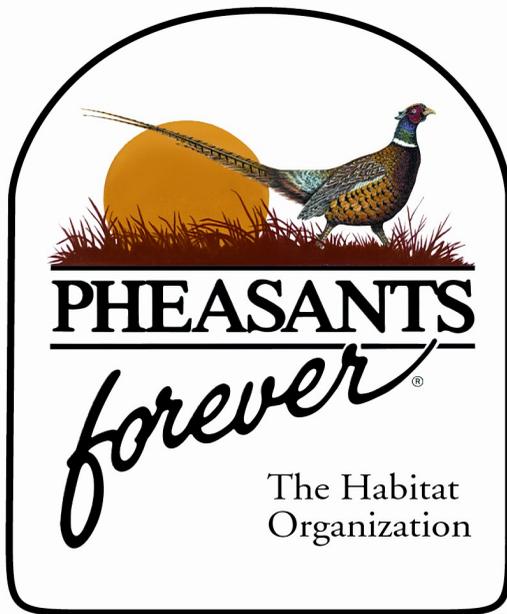


The Kokosing River runs through the heart of Knox County and Mount Vernon and is one of just fifteen Scenic Rivers in Ohio. Celebrate this community treasure with a river cleanup and free lunch. Free t-shirts will be distributed to the first 90 participants. Participants are invited to walk or canoe the river from Riverside Park to Mt. Vernon Ave. ODNR Scenic River staff will provide a limited number of canoes (first come, first served) as well as a shuttle ride back to the C.A. & C. Depot. Old sneakers are recommended for walking in the water. Open toe shoes are not permitted! Bring your canoes as well. Come and enjoy the splash and get your feet wet!

For more information contact: Randy Canterbury
740-393-6704 randycanterbury@co.knox.oh.us



Knox Soil & Water Conservation District



11th Annual
 Knox County
 Pheasants Forever
 Youth Field Day
 Saturday, April 13, 2019
 Campbell's Range
 22430 Coshocton Road
 Howard OH 43028
 9:00 – 4:00
 Sign in begins at 8:00 AM

"No Child Left Indoors"

Events: 4-H Shooting Sports (including archery, rifle & shotgun shooting), Build A Birdhouse, Make a hummingbird feeder, GPS, Leather Crafting, Master Naturalist, Pine Cone Feeders, Living History, Pet Care, Fur Pelt Demonstration, Food Plot Demonstration, Photo IDs, First Aid, Fly Tying, Dog Demonstrations, Fishing, Tree Stand Demonstration, Muzzle Loaders, KCSWCD, Conservation, Face Painting, Panning for Gold, Duck Hunting, Tomahawk Throwing, Sling Shot, Parachute Games and MORE.

Partnering with the Knox County Pheasants Forever are: ODNR, Division of Wildlife, Ohio Division of Watercraft, US Sport Fish Restoration Fund, Knox County Fish & Game Association, Centerburg Youth Shooting Sports, KCSWCD, OSU Extension, Knox County Park District, East Knox Lions Club, Brown Family Environmental Center, The Kent Family, Ohio Valley Muzzle Loader Gun Club, Boy Scout Venturing Crew #333, EKCJFD, Danville Outdoors, Rick's Sporting Goods, Knox County Visitors Bureau, Ariel Corp, Pat Catan's, Legends Fly Fishers, The Mount Vernon News, Homemade Ice Cream-Steph Campbell, Knox County Victims Assistance, Antler Scoring-Todd Fogress and Tree Planting-Division of Forestry, Knox County Jr. Anglers.

Important:

- >Register on site on April 13!
- >For Boys and Girls age 3 - 17.
- >All Children **MUST** be accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- >**NO PETS -PLEASE!**
- >**DO NOT bring firearms, fishing rods or archery – WE SUPPLY ALL EQUIPMENT.**

Agency Contact Information



Knox Soil & Water
 Conservation District
 160 Columbus Road
 740-393-6724



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