

KNOX COUNTY AGRICULTURAL NEWS

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June / July 2019

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept applications beginning June 3, 2019, for certain practices under the continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup and will offer extensions for expiring CRP contracts. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized CRP, one of the country’s largest conservation programs.

“USDA offers a variety of conservation programs to farmers and ranchers, and the Conservation Reserve Program is an important tool for private lands management,” said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. “CRP allows agricultural producers to set aside land to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and boost soil health.”

FSA stopped accepting applications last fall for the continuous CRP signup when 2014 Farm Bill authority expired. Since passage of the 2018 Farm Bill last December, Fordyce said FSA has carefully analyzed the language and determined that a limited signup prioritizing water-quality practices furthers conservation goals and makes sense for producers as FSA works to fully implement the program.

Continuous CRP Signup

Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration. Soil rental rates will be set at 90 percent of the existing rates. Incentive payments will not be offered for these contracts.

CRP Continuous (Non-CREP) Signup 52 Practices available for enrollment June 3, 2019 through August 23, 2019
Grass Waterway
Shallow Water Area for Wildlife
Contour Grass Strip
Filter Strip
Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strip
Saturated Filter Strip
Riparian Buffer
Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffer
Saturated Riparian Buffer
Wetland Restoration on Floodplain and Non-floodplain
Farmable Wetlands
Farmable Wetland Buffer
Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer
Duck Nesting Habitat
Farmable Wetland Program (FWP) Constructed Wetland
FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration
FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Signup

FSA will also reopen signup for existing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreements. Fact sheets on current CREP agreements are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-enhancement/index.

Other CRP Signup Options

Fordyce said FSA plans to open a CRP general signup in December 2019 and a CRP Grasslands signup later.

CRP Contract Extensions

A one-year extension will be offered to existing CRP participants who have expiring CRP contracts of 14 years or less. Producers eligible for an extension will receive a letter describing their options.

Alternatively, producers with expiring contracts may have the option to enroll in the Transition Incentives Program, which provides two additional annual rental payments on the condition the land is sold or rented to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

More Information

On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed into law the 2018 Farm Bill, which provides support, certainty and stability to our nation’s farmers, ranchers and land stewards by enhancing farm support programs, improving crop insurance, maintaining disaster programs and promoting and supporting voluntary conservation. FSA is committed to implementing these changes as quickly and effectively as possible, and today’s updates are part of meeting that goal.

Producers interested in applying for continuous CRP practices, including those under existing CREP agreements, or who need an extension, should contact their USDA service center beginning June 3. To locate your local FSA office, visit www.farmers.gov. More information on CRP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/crp.



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When Weather Prevents or Damages Crops

When bad weather prevents planting or damages crops, FSA would like to remind producers to report the acreage to the FSA office within 15 days of the final planting date of the crop. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance, not covered by insurance, or covered by FSA's Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP). Final planting dates vary among counties and crop types.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact the insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Additionally, a CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application, must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

For those crops covered under FSA's NAP, producers should immediately contact the FSA office to report the acres and file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss Application. "Producers with NAP coverage should report their losses within 15 calendar days of crop damage from natural disaster.

With spring planting underway, the Knox County Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages farmers to report failed crop acreage that will not be brought to harvest to their FSA office. **Failed acreage must be reported to FSA before destroying and replanting to allow time for a field check.**

Producers are encouraged to keep good production records on acreage with a low crop yield to document crop losses. To be eligible for crop disaster programs in the future, production records may help support crop loss claims. Crops not covered with a private insurance or NAP policy should still be reported to the local FSA office. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available.

For more information about reporting prevented planting or failed acres, contact or stop in the FSA office.

USDA Announces Buy-Up Coverage Availability and New Service Fees for Noninsured Crop Coverage Policies

USDA's FSA recently announced that higher levels of coverage will be offered through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), a popular safety net program, beginning April 8, 2019. The 2018 Farm Bill also increased service fees and made other changes to the program, including service fee waivers for qualified military veterans interested in obtaining NAP coverage.

When other insurance coverage is not an option, NAP is a valuable risk mitigation tool for farmers and growers. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of commercial crops for which insurance coverage is not available in order to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses or prevent crop planting.

NAP Buy-Up Coverage Option

The 2018 Farm Bill reinstates higher levels of coverage, from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Producers have a *one-time opportunity until May 24, 2019*, to obtain buy-up coverage for 2019 or 2020 eligible crops for which the NAP application closing date has passed.

Buy-up coverage is not available for crops intended for grazing.

NAP Service Fees

For all coverage levels, the new NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producer per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

NAP Enhancements for Qualified Women Farmers, Beginning Farmers, and Military Veterans

The 2018 Farm Bill NAP amendments specify that qualified veteran farmers or producers are now eligible for a service fee waiver and premium reduction, if the NAP applicant meets certain eligibility criteria.

Beginning, limited resource and targeted underserved farmers remain eligible for a waiver of NAP service fees and premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification."

For a NAP application, eligibility and related program information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nap or contact our FSA office.

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USDA Announces March Income over Feed Cost Margin Triggers Third 2019 Dairy Safety Net Payment - Dairy Margin Coverage Program Sign-Up Begins June 17

FSA announced this week that the March 2019 income over feed cost margin was \$8.85 per hundredweight (cwt.), triggering the third payment for dairy producers who purchase the appropriate level of coverage under the new [Dairy Margin Coverage](#) (DMC) program.

DMC, which replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy), offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

The signup period for DMC opens June 17, 2019. Dairy producers who elect a DMC coverage level between \$9 and \$9.50 would be eligible for a payment for January, February and March 2019.

For example, a dairy operation that chooses to enroll an established production history of 3 million pounds (30,000 cwt.) and elects the \$9.50 coverage level on 95 percent of production would receive \$1,543.75 for March.

Sample calculation:

$\$9.50 - \$8.85 \text{ margin} = \$0.65 \text{ difference}$

$\$0.65 \times 95 \text{ percent of production} \times 2,500 \text{ cwt. (30,000 cwt./12)} = \$1,543.75$

DMC premiums are paid annually. The calculated annual premium for coverage at \$9.50 on 95 percent of a 3-million-pound production history for this example would be \$4,275.

Sample calculation:

$3,000,000 \times 95 \text{ percent} = 2,850,000/100 = 28,500 \text{ cwt.} \times 0.150 \text{ premium fee} = \$4,275$

The dairy operation in the example calculation will pay \$4,275 in total premium payments for all of 2019 and receive \$8,170 in DMC payments for January, February and March combined. Additional payments will be made if calculated margins remain below the \$9.50/cwt level.

All participants are also required to pay an annual \$100 administrative fee in addition to any premium, and payments will be subject to a 6.2 percent reduction to account for federal sequestration.

Operations making a one-time election to participate in DMC through 2023 are eligible to receive a 25 percent discount on their premium for the existing margin coverage rates. For the example above, this would reduce the annual premium by \$1,068.75.

Recently, FSA announced the availability of the [DMC decision support tool](#) as well as [repayment options](#) for producers who were enrolled in MPP-Dairy.

For DMC signup, eligibility and related dairy program information, visit the [DMC webpage](#) or contact your [FSA County office](#).

USDA Provides an Update on the Farm Bill Implementation Progress

As Ohio FSA begins to roll out the provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill, farmers are wondering when they will begin to sign up for each program. The new Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program will be the first to roll out, with sign-up expected June 17. USDA recently provided a detailed update on the [2018 Farm Bill implementation progress](#).

Many of Ohio's producers have signed up for text alerts, which is a great way to keep up with those critical FSA deadlines reporting requirements and program updates from your FSA County office. FSA highly encourages producers to consider signing up to receive SMS text alerts. Producers that want to enroll in SMS text alerts for their county, must text a key-word consisting of the 2-letter state abbreviation and the county name OHKnox to FSANOW or the numeric keys, 372669 on their cell phone.

Please contact your FSA County office if you have questions regarding FSA's email news service or the text message option.

Dates to Remember

May 17	Deadline for producers to certify their 2018 production for the Market Facilitation Program.
May 10	Deadline for producers who elected to participate in LGM-Dairy in 2018 to sign up for the limited retroactive MPP-Dairy program .
May 24	Producers have a one-time opportunity to obtain buy-up coverage for 2019 or 2020 eligible crops for which the NAP application closing date has passed.
May 31	Deadline to apply for 2018 commodity loans and LDP's on feed grains, soybeans, pulse crops.
June 15	County Committee Nomination Period begins.
July 4	Independence Day Holiday. FSA Offices Closed.
July 15	Final certification date to report corn, grain sorghum, hybrid corn seed, spring oats, popcorn, and other crops. Report perennial forage crops.
Aug. 1	Last day to file County Committee Nomination forms.

2019 Acreage Reporting Dates

To comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Knox County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Knox County:

May 31, 2019 --- Report Nursery Crop Acreage.

July 15, 2019 --- Report all your **Corn**, Grain Sorghum, Hybrid Corn Seed, **Spring Oats**, **Popcorn**, Potatoes, **Soybeans**, Perennial Forage, and all other crops.

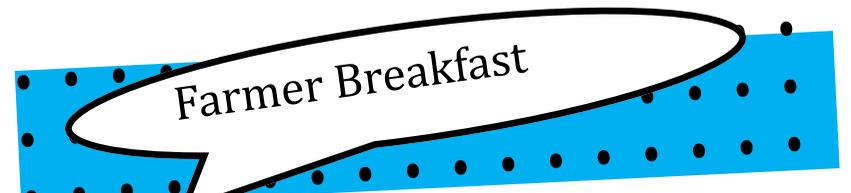
Sept. 30, 2019 --- other **Fall-Seeded Small Grains**.

December 15--Wheat

ARC, PLC Acreage Maintenance

Producers enrolled in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) must protect all cropland and noncropland 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>.



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

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

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



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Final Loan and LDP Availability Date

Producers are reminded that the final commodity loan and LDP availability date for 2018 Crop Year Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans and Sunflower seed **will be May 31, 2019.**

Marketing Assistance Loan Reminders

With spring finally here, producers are reminded to keep an eye on the condition and quality of the stored grain. Remember to contact the FSA office if you notice changes in the condition and quality of the stored grain. Producers with Marketing Assistance Loans are reminded to **CALL BEFORE YOU HAUL!**

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.

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.

Selected Interest Rates for April 2019	
90-Day Treasury Bill	2.375%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	3.500%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.000%
Limited Resource Loans	5.000%
Farm Ownership Loans — Down Payment	1.500%
Emergency Loans	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 3 year	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 5 year	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 7 year	2.500%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 10 year	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loan -- 12 year	2.750%
Commodity Loans	3.500%

FSA Offers Tree Assistance Program for Qualifying Tree, Bush and Vine Losses

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters during calendar year 2019 must submit a TAP application either 90 calendar days after the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent and can sign up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) at the Knox County FSA Office.

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster, plus an adjustment for normal mortality.

If physical evidence of the lost trees, bushes, or vines no longer exists, the owner must provide documentation to determine the eligible trees, bushes, or vines existed and were lost on each stand because of the approved disaster condition.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production purposes as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria, such as clearing any trees to create new cropland. These areas may need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible livestock, honeybee, and farm-raised fish producers who have losses due to disease, adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, not covered by other agricultural disaster assistance programs.

Eligible honeybee losses include loss of purchased feed due to an eligible adverse weather event, cost of additional feed purchased above normal quantities due to an eligible adverse weather condition, colony losses in excess of normal mortality due to an eligible weather event or loss condition, **including CCD**, and hive losses due to eligible adverse weather.

Producers who suffer eligible livestock, honeybee, or farm-raised fish losses from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019 must file:

- A notice of loss within 30 calendar days after the loss is apparent. Producers who were prevented from reporting losses during the government shutdown have until Feb. 14, 2019, to file a notice of loss.
- An application for payment by Nov. 1, 2019

Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally-funded projects before the project is approved.

For all Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions are approved, such as site preparation or ground disturbance. These programs include, **but are not limited to**, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans. If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, this will result in a denial of the request. It is important to wait until you receive approval of your project proposal before starting any actions, including, but not limited to, vegetation clearing, site preparation or ground disturbance.

CFAES



Culinary Herb Make and Take

Thursday, June 13, 2019, 6:30 P.M.

No matter where you live herbs are easy to grow. Through this herb class you will learn home to grow, care and use various culinary herbs. Each participant will make a container with a few herbs and take home recipes to try.

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

Cost: \$15 per person

Contact information: Call 740-397-0401 to register

• **Please call to pre-register by Monday, June 10, 2019**



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Prevent Plant...What's That Again?

Source: Eric Richer & Chris Bruynis, OSU Extension Educators

Wet conditions in Ohio and the Eastern Corn Belt has slowed (halted?) planting progress for Ohio producers. According to the May 20th Crop Progress Report by USDA National Ag Statistics Service, Ohio had only 9% corn planted. Surprisingly that was 'double' what was planted the week before and well behind the 5-year average of 62% planted. In 2018, Ohio was 69% planted by this report date.

Certainly, the Prevent Plant (PP) crop insurance tool has become a hot topic this year. Many of you have had the chance to attend prevent plant meetings or speak with your crop insurance agent. If not, we will try to briefly summarize your options and strongly suggest you talk to your agent or utilize one of the calculators (see associated "Decision Tools" article by Sam Custer) to determine which option best suits your farm operation.

Your first option is to plant the corn crop by June 5, the final plant date for corn (or June 20 for soybeans). Up until the final plant date, you are eligible for your full guarantee at the level you have selected. For example, 80% coverage x 170 bu/ac APH x \$4.00 = \$544/acre. If you elect to plant corn after June 5, you will incur a 1% reduction in your guarantee up through June 25, at which time your corn will crop will become uninsurable. For example, if you plant corn on June 8, the guarantee formula (170 APH, 80% coverage) would be: 80% x 170 bu/ac x \$4.00 x 97% = \$528/acre. Planting dates need to be recorded, as these rules apply on field-by-field and acre-by-acre basis.

Secondly, you can elect to switch your intended corn acres to soybean acres. You will not have the option to file a prevented plant claim (unless you arrive at June 20 unable to plant soybeans). You will be charged for the soybean insurance premium, not the corn premium. The decision tool referenced earlier will be helpful here as this is not an easy decision. June weather (local and regional), supply/demand economics, trade policy and input options increase the complexity.

Your last option is to file for Prevent Plant, assuming you did not get corn planted by June 5. The mechanics of prevented plant deserve a review to ensure understanding. Prevent plant covers Yield Protection (YP), Revenue Protection (RP) and Revenue Protection with Harvest Price Option policies and references the February new crop corn pricing period (aka projected price). The projected price for 2019 corn is \$4.00/bu and \$9.54/bu for soybeans. A corn policy has a 55% Prevent Plant guarantee (buy-up available to 60%) and soybeans a 60% guarantee (with buy-up available to 65%). In order to further be eligible for Prevent Plant, at least 20 acres or 20% of that unit must not get planted (the lesser of the two). Prevented Plant does not affect your yield history as long as you do not plant a second crop. So a quick example (80% coverage, 170 bu/ac APH) for prevented plant corn would be: 80% x 170 bu/ac x \$4.00 x 55% = \$299/acre.

To be sure, there are costs besides the premium that are associated with Prevent Plant. Are there 'restocking fees' associated with returned seed or other inputs? What are the year-long weed control costs? If utilizing cover crops, what will their cost be? What are my land costs or how do I address my land costs? Do I need to pay labor & management costs even though the land wasn't 'farmed'? And finally, are their opportunity costs (marketing) missed because of taking Prevent Plant? We do not have space in this article to address these but they are things to be considering.

The reporting of Prevent Plant acres-should you elect that option-is quite simple. First, the total acres of Prevent Plant corn that you can file in 2019 can be no greater than the greatest number of acres of corn you reported in any of the previous four years (2015-2018). To report Prevent Plant acres, you would first need to turn in a notice (starting June 6) to your insurance agent.

Then report your Prevent Plant to USDA Farm Service Agency to get it on your acreage report. Then you will need to work with your adjuster to finalize the claim, which will generally be paid within 30 days.

Prevented planting insurance payments can qualify for a 1 year deferral for inclusion in income tax. You can qualify if you meet the following criteria:

- You use the cash method of accounting.
- You receive the crop insurance proceeds in the same tax year the crops are damaged.
- You can show that under your normal business practice you would have included income from the damaged crops in any tax year following the year the damage occurred.

The third criteria is the sometimes the problem. Most can meet the criteria, although if you want reasonable audit protection, you should have records showing the normal practice of deferring sales of grain produced and harvested in year 1 subsequently stored and sold in the following year.

There are many additional questions that we could address in this article but these are the basic options to guide your thought process...unless Mother Nature just won't cooperate!

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.

Corn vs. Soybeans in a Delayed Planting Scenario – Profit Scenarios

Source: Barry Ward, Leader, Production Bus Management & Director, OSU Income Tax Schools

Wet weather and planting delays throughout much of Ohio and the eastern Cornbelt have many producers thinking about switching corn acres to soybeans or the taking the prevented planting option of their Multiple Peril Crop Insurance policy. Ohio had 9% of intended corn acres planted by May 19th which is far behind the 5 year average of 62%. Farms with pre-plant nitrogen or herbicides applied for corn production may have no option to switch to soybeans. Seed availability may also limit choice for some. Other factors, such as strict adherence to a crop rotation or landlord considerations may limit farmer choice when it comes to switching from corn to soybean plantings in a given year. Farm leases may contain specifications on crop rotations or even what crops may be grown. There may also be unwritten agreements between parties that limit the possibility of growing soybeans in successive years.

Producers that don't have these limitations may be considering the option of switching acres to soybeans and it will likely come down to expected profit. Field by field budgeting is recommended and with delayed planting the yield expectations change as we move later into the growing season. What will be the likely yields for a given farm for the two crop choices? A recent article, "Delayed Planting Effects on Corn Yield: A "Historical" Perspective" is a good starting point in evaluating potential yield loss due to late corn planting: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2019-12/delayed-planting-effects-corn-yield-%E2%80%9Chistorical%E2%80%9D-perspective>

A recent article highlighting faculty in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences always provides valuable insight into the possible yield swings related to late plantings of corn and soybeans: <https://cfaes.osu.edu/news/articles/late-start-planting-might-not-hurt-yields-much>

Looking at some simple scenarios may get your budgeting process moving for your own fields. These scenarios are based on the 2019 crop enterprise budgets available online at: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/farm-management-tools/farm-budgets>

Scenario 1 – Yield prospects remain unchanged, new estimated revenue based on today's markets:

Corn – 170.2 bu/a & 4.00/bu
Returns Above Variable Costs \$293
Soybeans – 51.5 bu/a & 7.90/bu
Returns Above Variable Costs \$207

Price changes in the last 3 weeks have been favorable to corn and shows some advantage to corn with these assumptions using OSUE Enterprise Budgets.

Scenario 2 – Corn yield 13% lower (per OSU Agronomy Guide, planting date 5-22 through 5-27), soybean yields remain unchanged, new estimated revenue based on today's markets:

Corn – 148 bu/a & 4.00/bu
Returns Above Variable Costs \$227
Soybeans – 51.5 bu/a & 7.90/bu
Returns Above Variable Costs \$207

The choice becomes closer as we see corn still outperforming soybeans (barely) in Returns Above Variable Costs.

Scenario 3 – Corn yield 13% lower (per OSU Agronomy Guide, planting date 5-22 through 5-27), soybean yields 5% lower, soybean seed costs higher due to higher seeding rate (additional 30,000 seeds per acre planted) for late planted soybeans, new estimated revenue based on today's markets:

Corn – 148 bu/a & 4.00/bu
Returns Above Variable Costs \$227
Soybeans – 48.9 bu/a & 7.90/bu
Returns Above Variable Costs \$175

This choice again favors corn as the lower soybean yield due to late planting and additional seeding costs make the choice of corn somewhat stronger compared to Scenario 2.

The recent announcements of another round of Market Facilitation Payments and changes to Prevented Planting Coverage due to the pending Disaster Aid Bill may add further complexity to this choice.

As planting is delayed further into June the potential lower yields of both corn and soybeans due to a later planting window will tend to favor soybeans. These simplified scenarios are just examples and farmers should budget for the different yield, price and cost combinations based on their own numbers.

Prevented Planting Decision Tools

Source: Sam Custer, OSU Extension Educator

We have reviewed two prevented planting decision tools that can serve as a resource in your decision making process with your crop insurance agent. Both tools also provide resources for determining replant decisions.

In a recent *Farmdoc* article Schnitkey, G., C. Zulauf, K. Swanson and R. Batts. "Prevented Planting Decision for Corn in the Midwest." *farmdoc daily* (9):88, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 14, 2019 they highlighted their decision tool.

The *farmdoc* tool can be used to make calculations for expected returns from three options: 1. Take a prevented planting payment and not plant a crop to be harvested or grazed. 2. Plant corn. 3. Plant another crop.

The *farmdoc Prevented Planting Module* is used to aid in making calculations for each alternative. The *Prevented Planting Module* is part of the *Planting Decision Model*, a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet within the FAST series available for download on *farmdoc*. The specific spreadsheet is available.

Iowa State also has an article and tool that can be found at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-57.html>.

The Iowa State model can be used to determine three options also:

1. Go ahead and plant the original crop.
2. Plant an alternative crop 3. Abandon the acres, and plant a cover crop.

The Iowa State model is designed specifically for Iowa but allows you to use your numbers. The *farmdoc* model contains Ohio data but also allows you to use your specific numbers.

Upcoming events for 4-H



June 6– Fair Entries at KCF
Broiler pick up 2:30-6:30pm

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

June 21- Early Judging (by appointment only)

June 26– Food/Nutrition/Miscellaneous Judging– 12:30-4:30 at MVHS Cafeteria

Rocketry Judging-5:30-6:30 MVHS Practice Field

June 29- Market Rabbit Tattooing 8am-11am KCF

July 8- Livestock Interview Judging & Skillathon 11am-5pm MVHS

July 15- Livestock Interview Judging & Skillathon 11am-5pm MVHS

July 21-27- Knox County Fair

Ohio Corn, Soybean and Wheat Enterprise Budgets - Projected Returns for 2019

Source: Barry Ward, Leader, Production Business Management & Director, OSU Income Tax Schools

Production costs for Ohio field crops are forecast to be largely unchanged from last year with slightly higher fertilizer and interest expenses that may increase total costs for some growers. Variable costs for corn in Ohio for 2019 are projected to range from \$356 to \$451 per acre depending on land productivity. Variable costs for 2019 Ohio soybeans are projected to range from \$210 to \$230 per acre. Wheat variable expenses for 2019 are projected to range from \$178 to \$219 per acre.

Returns will likely be low to negative for many producers depending on price movement throughout the rest of the year. Grain prices used as assumptions in the 2019 crop enterprise budgets are \$3.60/bushel for corn, \$8.20/bushel for soybeans and \$4.25/bushel for wheat. Projected returns above variable costs (contribution margin) range from \$150 to \$308 per acre for corn and \$144 to \$300 per acre for soybeans. Projected returns above variable costs for wheat range from \$102 to \$202 per acre (assuming \$4.25 per bushel summer cash price).

Return to Land is a measure calculated to assist in land rental and purchase decision making. The measure is calculated by starting with total receipts or revenue from the crop and subtracting all expenses except the land expense. Returns to Land for Ohio corn (Total receipts minus total costs except land cost) are projected to range from \$23 to \$182 per acre in 2018 depending on land production capabilities. Returns to land for Ohio soybeans are expected to range from \$84 to \$254 per acre depending on land production capabilities. Returns to land for wheat (not including straw or double-crop returns) are projected to range from negative \$2 per acre to a positive \$143 per acre.

Total costs projected for trend line corn production in Ohio are estimated to be \$753 per acre. This includes all variable costs as well as fixed costs (or overhead if you prefer) including machinery, labor, management and land costs. Fixed machinery costs of \$66 per acre include depreciation, interest, insurance and housing. A land charge of \$187 per acre is based on data from the Western Ohio Cropland Values and Cash Rents Survey Summary. Labor and

management costs combined are calculated at \$69 per acre. Returns Above Total Costs for trend line corn production are negative at -\$120 per acre.

Total costs projected for trend line soybean production in Ohio are estimated to be \$518 per acre. (Fixed machinery costs - \$52 per acre, land charge: \$187 per acre, labor and management costs combined: \$45 per acre.) Returns Above Total Costs for trend line soybean production are also projected to be negative at -\$76 per acre.

Total costs projected for trend line wheat production in Ohio are estimated to be \$488 per acre. (Fixed machinery costs: \$52 per acre, land charge: \$187 per acre, labor and management costs combined: \$39 per acre.) Returns Above Total Costs for trend line wheat production are also negative at -\$137 per acre.

These projections are based on OSU Extension Ohio Crop Enterprise Budgets. Newly updated Enterprise Budgets for 2019 have been completed and posted to the OSU Extension *farmoffice* website: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/farm-management-tools/farm-budgets>

More on Switching Corn Hybrid Maturities

Dr. Peter Thomison, OSU Extension

Corn GDD Tool to Identify "Safe" Hybrid Maturities for Late Planting. Dr. Bob Nielsen at Purdue University has written an article describing a powerful decision aid, U2U Corn GDD Tool, which can be used to identify "safe" hybrid maturities for late planting. The GDD Tool is currently available for Ohio and it can estimate county-level GDD accumulations and corn development dates based on current and historical GDD data plus user-selected start dates, relative hybrid maturity ratings, GDDs to black layer, and freeze temperature threshold values. The article can be found here: (<http://www.kingcorn.org/news/timeless/HybridMaturityDelayedPlant.html>).

Silage Corn. Although corn for silage responds to timely planting, it is more tolerant of late planting than is corn planted for grain. Silage growers can generally continue to plant adapted hybrid maturities for silage purposes until late June because silage harvest typically occurs several weeks before physiological maturity. Penn State University researchers have reported yields of more than 20 tons/acre with mid-June plantings in some years. Their studies indicate that corn silage can produce reasonable forage yields in many areas, even when planted in late June. Penn State University studies have shown that energy levels are reduced in later-planted silage, presumably because of lower starch levels due to reduced grain fill.

"Ultra-early" Hybrids. Results of past OSU research indicate that some 100-104 day hybrids are available with yields comparable to hybrids of commonly grown maturities in early and late planting environments. The 100-104 day hybrids showed greater yield potential than the hybrids with maturity ratings less than 100 days (ultra-early hybrids). Grain moisture of the early 100-104 day hybrids were 3 to 5% lower than commonly grown maturities. At test sites with the highest level of stalk lodging, most of these early hybrids showed levels of stalk lodging comparable to those of the commonly grown hybrid maturities. However, our knowledge of early hybrid performance across Ohio production environments is limited. Some shorter season hybrids may not be suitable in terms of their stress tolerance and disease resistance.

Table 1 provides a comparison of grain moisture content at harvest in hybrids ranging from 102 to 113 days relative maturity (days relative maturity) planted in late April/ early May and in early/mid June (unpublished OSU research, 2009-2010).

Table 1. Effects of planting delays and hybrid maturities on corn grain moisture at harvest. * number in parentheses indicates number of studies

Location/Year	Planting Date	Hybrid Maturity (days)			
		102	104	111	113
-----% harvest moisture-----					
S. Charleston 2009 (3)*	Late April/Early May	13.9	14.9	16.6	18.9
	Early/Mid June	16.4	17.3	22.3	28.4
S. Charleston 2010 (3)	Late April/Early May	10.9	11.7	13.0	13.0
	Early/Mid June	14.8	16.3	21.9	23.4
Hoytville 2010 (1)	Late April/Early May	15.7	15.2	22.1	23.0
	Early/Mid June	23.1	24.5	28.8	30.0



Knox Soil & Water Conservation District

Livestock Mortality Disposal

It's an unfortunate reality in the livestock business, but animals die. Producers of all sizes should remember that we have limited options for on-farm/on-premises disposal of livestock mortality in Ohio. Those methods are to burn (incinerate), bury, or compost. Following are a few quick notes/reminders on each disposal method:

- Burning/Incineration – This is really just incineration. Open pit burning is not feasible or acceptable as a means of disposal. Requirements will vary by livestock type and growth stage. Normally this method is used for smaller livestock types such as poultry and early stage swine.
- Bury – Commonly utilized as a disposal method, burial should be considered a “short-term” solution for larger livestock confinement operations. Burial sites must be sufficiently deep to cover the expected mortality AND provide the daily cover. This means that each day's mortality must be completely covered with soil. *From the Ohio Revised Code:*



- » **941.14 Disposal of dead or destroyed animals.**
.... bury it not less than four feet under the surface of the ground, dissolve it by alkaline hydrolysis, remove it in a watertight tank to a rendering establishment, or otherwise dispose of it in accordance with section 939.04 or 953.26....

While not specifically spelled out in the language in the Ohio Revised Code the Knox SWCD recommends that burial sites be on suitable soils so that groundwater contamination issues are not created. Soils shallow to shale & sandstone bedrock, sand, gravel, and soils with high water tables should be avoided for this reason.



- Compost – Probably the most widely used option now for our larger livestock operations and an exceptionally effective disposal method if done properly. There are a few requirements for the livestock producer in the event that they want to be able to use the composting method for on-farm disposal:

- » You must be certified to legally compost livestock mortality in Ohio. The OSU developed training course is now done on-line, the cost is minimal and you can contact the SWCD office for details on how to access the correct training for Ohio.
- » There must not be any discharges to “waters of the state” from the composting system. To have such a discharge is a violation of the Ohio Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program.
- » You must dispose of finished mortality compost on ground under your control. It cannot be sold as manure or as finished compost to any other operations.

We do not see water pollution issues from well operated composting facilities. We do however frequently see issues with odor management. A properly functioning composting system should have very little odor. If you are having odor management issues with a mortality composting system something is not working properly. Give us a call and we'll try to help figure it out. The most common issues are moisture management (both too dry and too wet), and carbon/nitrogen ration problems (a function of the bulking material being used).

Remember that mortality disposal is subject to many of the same pollution abatement provisions under Ohio Law as manure utilization and disposal. In general, any discharge to “waters of the state” is prohibited.

If you have any questions feel free to call the SWCD office.

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Service for Farm & Business Tax Needs
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(Mt. Vernon)
419-253-2767 (Marengo)

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Knox Soil & Water Conservation District

2019 Cover Crop Program

The Knox SWCD Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce that the Muskingum Basin Cover Crop Initiative Program that was so popular the last 5 years will be renewed in 2019. Program guidelines remain basically unchanged for the 2019 cropping season; however, we are going to incentivize new signups for the program by Cost Sharing for NEW signups at \$15 per acre. A NEW applicant will NOT be in name only.

EXAMPLES that are NOT a new applicant:

- Landowner signing up a farm that the producer has signed up before.
- A different producer signing up a farm that has been enrolled before.
- A producer that has been in the program signing up a new farm.
- A farm that is clearly being farmed by a producer that has previously been in the program.

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 or that is located adjacent to either the Kokosing or Mohican State Scenic Rivers. 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. The **deadline for completed applications is Monday June 10th, 2019.**

For further program details, or to sign up for the program contact the SWCD office at 740-393-6724.

East Knox Team Placing 3rd in the Area 3 Envirothon Competition

The Knox SWCD hosted a practice Envirothon on April 8th at Ariel Foundation Park. East Knox, Centerburg, KCCC, and Fredericktown were all represented at the practice. This event helped prepare the students for the Area 3 Envirothon which was held on Wednesday, April 24th at the Broughton Nature and Wildlife Education Area in Marietta Ohio. The Envirothon is a competitive outdoor team event for high school students. The topics of Aquatic Ecology, Current Environmental Issues, Forestry, Soils and Wildlife are covered. Participating students gain a greater awareness of natural resources and environmental issues. Also, they gain a better understanding of interrelationships between living and non-living components of the environment. The program also helps to build cooperative decision making and problem solving skills.

There are five students per team, and they are required to take a test based on each of the five topics covered by the Envirothon program. The students work together to come up with an answer to each question, and they are graded as a team. Team 2 from East Knox placed 3rd out of 34 teams at the Area 3 Envirothon. The top four scoring teams move on to the State Envirothon Competition, which will be held June 10-11 at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Jefferson County. The winning team at the State Envirothon goes on to compete in the National Envirothon Competition.

Congratulations to all the teams representing Knox County at the Area 3 Envirothon and good luck to the East Knox team at the State Envirothon. Knox County will host Area 3 Envirothon next year. Stay tuned.

Forestry Camp Scholarships

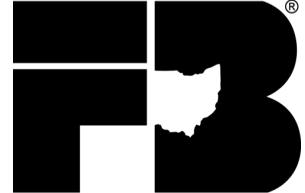
Knox Soil & Water Conservation District awarded Nikki Frazier and Erin Combs with the full scholarships to 2019 Camp Canopy. Nikki will be a sophomore at Fredericktown High School and Erin will be a sophomore at Mount Vernon High School. Forestry Camp will be at Camp Canopy on June 9th-14th.

The district sponsors this event which allows Knox County students an education in forestry and management. If you know of a student who would be interested for the 2020 camp, please contact our office and we will send out the registration forms (when available) or you can visit our website at www.knoxswcd.org for more information.

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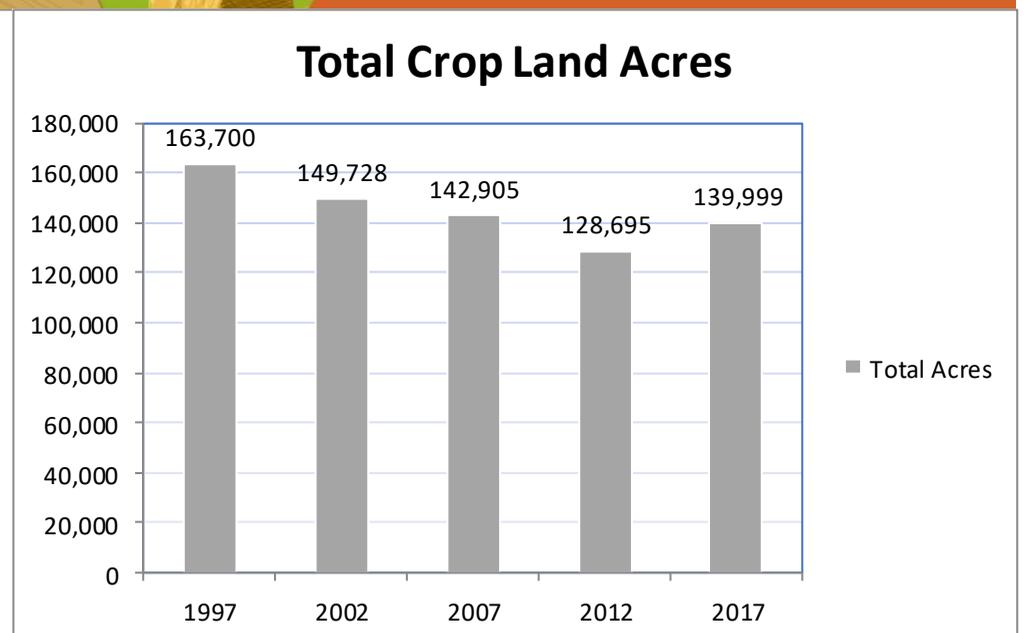
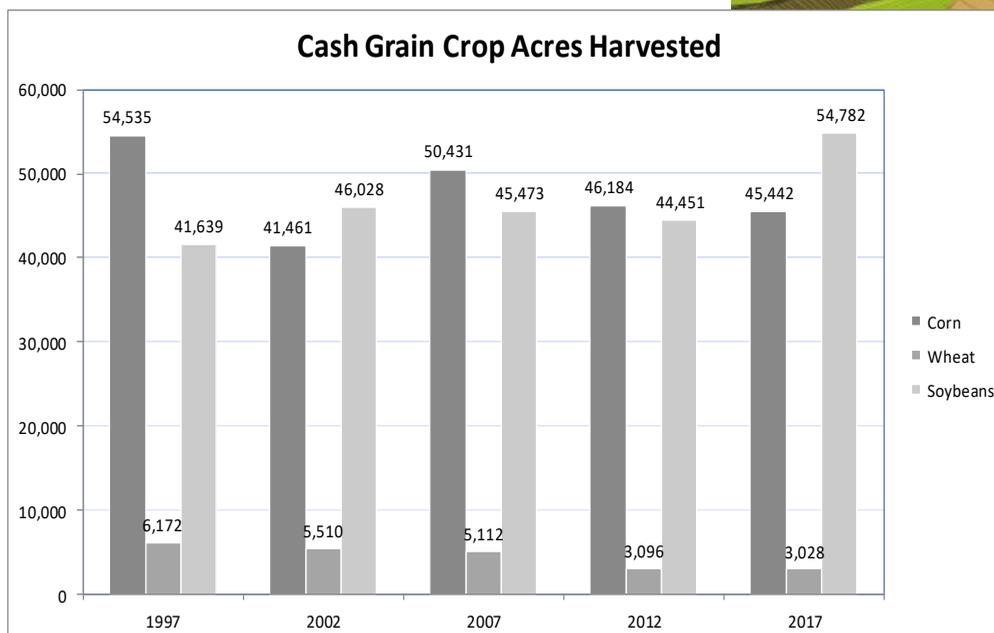
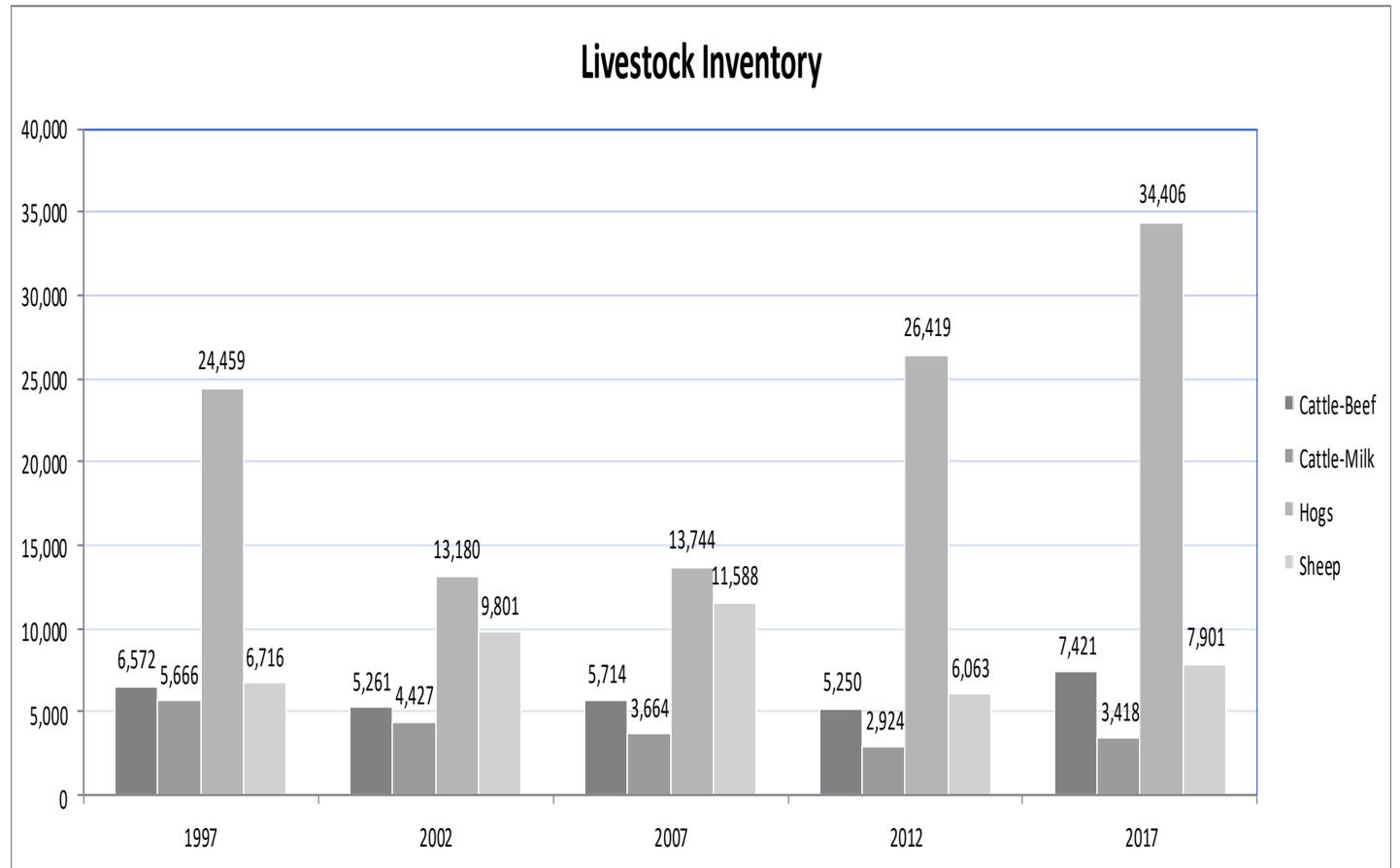
Knox Soil & Water Conservation District

Ag Census Highlights Changes in Local Ag Trends

USDA recently released the data from the 2017 Census of Agriculture. The data, which is available on a county by county basis for the entire nation, highlights the trends in agricultural production. Some of the more interesting data for Knox County is detailed in the graphics provided below.

From a soil and water resource conservation standpoint such data is valuable to local conservation agencies like the Knox Soil and Water Conservation District and local USDA offices. As changes in agricultural land use occur so does the focus for necessary conservation programming. For example, if livestock numbers show a decreasing trend-line over time we could expect that there will also be a corresponding decrease in the overall acres dedicated to hay and pasture. From a soil conservation and water quality standpoint, that is an important transition. Pasture and hay land typically have very low erosion rates and as a result benefit local water quality. While some of the acres that get retired from pasture and hay land might simply be left idle it is more common that they are converted to crop production, a land use with a higher potential for soil erosion issues and resultant water quality impacts.

The Census of Agriculture data can be viewed in its entirety by accessing the following link:
<https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/>





Knox Soil & Water Conservation District

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



Agency Contact Information



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



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