



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### **Hardin County Extension News Release**

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### **Did you Plant Compaction?**

*Hardin County* – 2017 was a “wet” spring for planting which also can cause compaction issues; side-wall and pinch-row compaction. Side-wall compaction includes all soil compaction in and around the seed furrow and can restrict root growth and reduce crop yields. Pinch rows are the middle 6 rows of the planter next to the transport tires. Compaction of any kind can lead to emergence issues and possible yield loss. Identifying compaction is the first step in understanding the consequences during the growing season and at harvest while also beginning to consider options for mitigating if long-term consequences appear to be in place.

Today, many central-fill planters operate in Ohio with some carrying fertilizer tanks mounted at the center portion. This equates to a lot of weight being carried at the center of the planter and possibly by the tractor. Wet soil conditions at planting increase the risk of side-wall and pinch-row compaction. It is important as corn and soybeans emerge, to not only scout for pest, disease and nutrient issues, but also look for compaction issues caused during planting.

Once compaction has occurred, whether side-wall or pinch-row, no solutions exist for this season since the damage is done. Expect to see side-wall compaction when scouting. However, it is recommended to scout and pay attention to areas where compaction exists to determine the impact. Pinch-row and side-wall compaction can have a negative consequence to getting crops off to the right start. Issues that can occur due to side-wall compaction include poor germination, non-uniform emergence, limited crop development and restricted root establishment and growth. Restricted root growth will negatively impact nutrient uptake even when soil test values indicate sufficient nutrition.

If you are interested in finding out more about soil compaction and other soil health issues, Dr. Steve Culman, Soil Fertility specialist at The Ohio State University will be the guest speaker at an event being held Tuesday, August 1 at Mid-Ohio Energy Cooperative Community Room located at 1210 West Lima Street in Kenton. The program will begin at 6:30 pm with a catered meal, followed by a presentation by Culman. This event is co-sponsored by the Hardin County Farm Bureau and OSU Extension. Cost for the meal and program, followed by a Farm Bureau annual meeting will be \$10 for Farm Bureau members

and \$15 for non-members. Anyone interested in learning more about soil health and compaction issues is encouraged to attend. Please RSVP by calling 419-447-3091 so that an accurate meal count can be assured.

*Article written by Dr. John Fulton, Precision Agriculture Specialist-The Ohio State University and revised by Mark Badertscher, OSU Extension-Hardin County.*