

NEWSLETTER

NOBLE COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

JUNE | 2015



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The Rooster Crows at Dawn

My family decided to get some chicks to raise this spring so that we can have our own eggs. I reluctantly agreed but found myself enjoying them, until this week. I had been telling my husband since the chicks were about 4 weeks old that one of them must be a rooster because it's comb was growing much larger than the others and it's body type was changing. Well, sure enough this week it was confirmed as he started to test out his crowing abilities, which are not impressive so far and I'm ok with that! We are trying to decide what to do with him – my husband votes chicken dinner, but I'm not sure yet. Maybe give me a few mornings of hearing him try to crow and I may change my vote.

If you have any unidentifiable insects or plants, bring them by the office or send me a picture to pye.13@osu.edu

I hope everyone is enjoying this more temperate weather and had been productive!



Soil Health

Beef Magazine

A new video released by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is shining a light on how farmers and ranchers manage soil health to help the planet. The 90-second campaign is titled, "Hope in Healthy Soil" and suggests that improving soil health can solve many global issues.

Although soil health isn't as trendy as discussing animal welfare, water usage in a drought or reducing our carbon footprint, the video's producers hope that viewers will have a new-found respect and admiration for how beneficial a healthy soil can be to the planet. The video, which can be viewed on YouTube, is part of USDA's "Unlock the Secrets in the Soil" campaign.

"By farming using soil health principles and practices like no-till, cover cropping and diverse rotations, farmers are actually increasing organic matter in their soil, increasing microbial activity, 'sequestering more carbon, improving wildlife and pollinator habitat—all while harvesting better profits and often better yields,'" says Ron Nichols, the campaign's

communications coordinator. "Off the farm, these practices are improving water and air quality, too."

While the video has been widely viewed by consumers, the campaign is aimed to educate and assist farmers and landowners with the information they need to be better stewards of the soil. It serves as a reminder for farmers to use best management practices whether planting crops or grazing livestock. The video will also air nationwide on public television later this summer.

According to a news release, USDA says, "Ultimately, the goal of the agency's campaign is to increase the adoption of soil health-promoting systems on the nation's farm and ranches."

To view the Unlock the Secrets in the Soil campaign visit :

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/>

A link will also be on the Noble ANR Blog:
u.osu.edu/nobleanr/

Injury Prevention

'Making the Connection' with a reliable hitch pin

AG S.T.A.T Newsletter

Dewey Mann, Research Associate

"A farmer connected a nurse tank of anhydrous ammonia to the rear of the tractor-mounted applicator...When the tractor moved forward, the HITCH PIN FAILED, causing the connected hose to stretch and fail, which released ammonia vapor into the air. There were no injuries reported, but emergency first responders were called to monitor the release of the ammonia vapors (Iowa, 2002)."

During spring planting and field work, think about how many times you install a hitch pin to secure a seed tender, anhydrous ammonia tank, implement, etc. I would venture to guess, if it hasn't happened to you, most farmers at least know someone that has a 'hitch pin story', possibly similar to the one above. Fortunately, most stories are usually similar in nature: no injuries and insignificant property damage. However, for incidents that occur during transportation of equipment on roadways, the consequences can be disastrous, regardless of what is being towed.

Smaller farm equipment may be more susceptible to hitching failure or loss of a hitch pin, due in part to the hitching configuration (size and type of hitch pin used). Small tractors, 150PTO horsepower and smaller, typically have category 0, 1, or 2 drawbar hitches. Larger row-crop tractors, 250-400+PTO horsepower, have category 3 or 4 drawbar hitching systems that typically use a specific hitch pin and locking mechanism. Regardless of tractor size, here are some hitch pin tips to ensure you are making a good connection:

- Use safety hitch pins that have a locking device to keep them in place.
 - Use the largest diameter hitch pin that will fit through the tractor drawbar and implement hitch.
 - NEVER use bolts or fasteners as hitch pins.
 - Hitch pins supplied by the equipment dealer are preferred; low-cost hitch pins may be of inferior strength (currently no standardized testing protocol). Note that hitch pins are sold by shaft diameter and length rather than actual load capacity.
 - ALWAYS attach a safety chain between the tractor and equipment when transporting on the road; this won't stop the hitch pin from coming out or failing, but will minimize damage if the pin does fail.
 - Discard worn or damaged (e.g. bent) hitch pins to avoid the temptation to use them; throw them in the scrap heap, not in the toolbox.
- Safe towing!

Dewey Mann, research associate for agricultural safety and health, and lecturer for agricultural systems management, can be reached at (614) 292-1952 or mann.309@osu.edu.

Scenario and foundational information referenced from: Deboy, G.R., Knapp, W.M., Field, W.E., Krutz, G.W., Corum, C.L. (2012). Establishing the Need for an Engineering Standard for Agricultural Hitch Pins. Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health, 18(2): 141-154.

Program Information Online

You can now access information that has been presented at current programs online a week or two after the program has occurred. This mostly includes the PowerPoint's that were distributed. In some cases, it might not be applicable to post information, especially if the participants have a fee to obtain a large amount of information.

You can also view the newsletter online as well as flyers for current programs that are happening in the area. Please be sure to note registration deadlines.

Things sometimes come up in between newsletter mailings so check the blog for more information :

u.osu.edu/nobleanr/

2015 Sheep Day

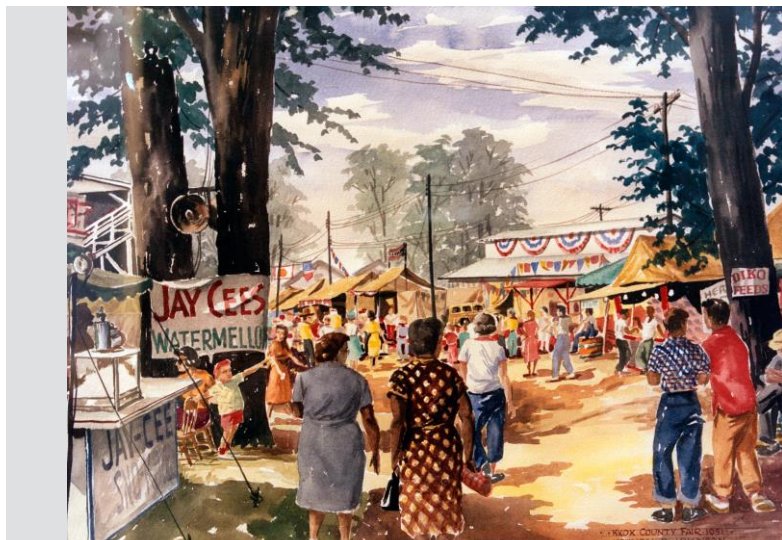
Mark your calendar, the 2015 Ohio Sheep Day will be held Saturday, July 11. It is being hosted by Schoolhouse Shropshires, Jim and Denise Percival located at 961 Hoop Rd., Xenia, OH 45385. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.

This year's program is being finalized with the focus on programming to increase and improve the productivity and profitability of sheep and other small ruminant operations. Ohio Sheep Day will offer visitors the opportunity to visit a successful sheep farming operation dedicated to sheep production in a profitable way. Sheep farmers and anyone interested in sheep management is cordially invited to attend. Details will be made available on the Sheep Team Web page <http://sheep.osu.edu>

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- *Noble Co. Multi Agency Building Open House – June 13, 10a-2p*
Come take a tour of our new office!
- *Rain Barrel Workshop – June 20, 9a-11a*
OSU Extension/Noble County SWCD
Noble Co. Multi Agency Building
Registration limited to 15
- *Morgan – Noble Pasture Walk Series #2 of 4 – Morgan County*
August 3 – starting at 6pm
There will also be a sprayer nozzle and calibration demonstration
- *Ohio State Fair*
July 29-August 9
- *Noble County Fair*
August 31-September 5
- *Farm Science Review*
September 22-24

For more information or to register call the office at 732-5681 or email pye.13@osu.edu





Black Cutworms, Armyworms Becoming Active

News from the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

WOOSTER, Ohio — Warmer weather and newly emerging corn coupled with reports of large populations of black cutworms and armyworms reported last month in Indiana and Kentucky means Ohio growers could start to find larvae from these pests in their fields over the next few weeks.

Now that the region is experiencing more suitable planting days, growers could see some fields with heavy feeding by these pests as soon as the second or third week of May, an entomologist with the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University said.

Black cutworms, which are migratory pests, have been reported in the neighboring states of Indiana and Kentucky in significant numbers in traps set up by entomologists to determine the number of moths migrating up from the South, said Andy Michel, an Ohio State University Extension pest expert. Large numbers of armyworms have also been caught in the Kentucky traps, Michel said.

Both insects can cause significant stand loss in corn, while armyworms can also be a significant pest of wheat, said Michel, who also has an appointment with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. Black cutworms are especially attracted to chickweed and other broadleaf weeds, he said.

OSU Extension and OARDC are the statewide outreach and research arms, respectively, of the college.

“Although black cutworms aren’t a widespread problem throughout Ohio, growers whose fields were covered in weeds last week are the ones who should start scouting now soon after corn emergence,” Michel said. “Black cutworms tend to infest fields with significant ground cover and weed presence.”

“Growers who have fields with a history of black cutworms are more likely to have cutworms in their fields this year.” Corn from the V2 to the V6 stage is vulnerable to damage and cutting by armyworms and black cutworms, he said. Females tend to lay eggs in fields with heavy weed cover, and as these weeds are killed by tillage or herbicide, the larvae move on to feed on emerging corn, Michel said. Black cutworms can cause severe cutting of the plant. The resulting stand loss in corn is generally associated with below- or at-ground-level feeding injury, which occurs below the growing point, he said.

“Recently emerged corn could start exhibiting pinhole-sized feeding very soon,” Michel said. “With the warm weather we’ve had, and if there is enough extra material such as weeds on the field, we can expect to see armyworm and cutworm eggs hatching with some development in the larvae, leaving it easier for growers to scout.”

“Usually when corn is in the V2 stage, it is really vulnerable to cutworms, and the larvae could be large enough to see.” Growers should scout their corn crops until the plants reach the V6 growth stage, Michel said. To scout, growers should check 20 plants in five locations throughout the field for larvae or signs of injury to the plants. Signs of injury include cutting of the leaves or cutting of the plant and pinhole damage to the plant.

“If you do have an infestation, you could have some significant stand loss, with areas that may need replanting or rescue treatments,” Michel said. “Growers who find more than 3 percent of plants damaged in their fields that are in growth stages V2 to V6 with larvae that are less than 1 inch in length can consider spray applications.”

“Growers who find black cutworm infestations may find that rescue treatments are more effective than preventive treatment, including insecticidal seed treatment. However, certain varieties of Bt corn (those with Cry1F or Vip3a) will offer control of black cutworm.”



Talkin' 'bout that (Millennial) Generation

from Stan Ernst, Business & Marketing Specialist/Ag Economist, Specialty Crops Business Program Manager

Baby Boomers have controlled marketing culture, diets and food product development for, well, a generation or so. Those Americans born between 1946 and 1964 changed the food world in many ways with their interests in variety, convenience and healthy eating, with the money to make markets. Produce growers benefitted from Boomer's year-round grocery expectations for fresh veggies their development of related technologies and supply chains. Plus, there were various waves of specialty crop demand, produce-oriented diets, vegetarianism, immigration shifts and other Boomer trends that pushed produce expansion.

They're still around. They're still spending. But if your marketing plan is based on Boomers, you might reconsider. Enter the Millennial Generation. They're hard to define. Harder to target. And they're the emerging market power.

Millennials were born sometime between the early 1980s and the early 2000s, depending on who you ask, and are currently 42% of the U.S. population. In the next few years, they'll be over half the working population and control more than 1-in-3 retail dollars. We've been talking about how cynical these consumers are ever since their spending power started showing up a decade or so ago. They don't believe advertising. They're not brand conscious or loyal. Their food preferences are consistent, but they're big experimenters too. Millennials are starved for time and use technology to be more efficient. But they take time for what's important to them.

On the whole, I think Millennials will be good for the vegetable industry. They may have grown up on fast food, but 72% claim to enjoy cooking and want to learn how to cook more. Most surprising to some, these 20- and 30-somethings are preparing fresh food at home more than other age groups. They're the leaders of the fresh-and-less-processed food movement, with fresh produce a cornerstone. This is a generation that, because friends may be more important than family, seems to have rediscovered food-centered gatherings and experimentation. Because they especially like information technologies, Millennials are bound to share and promote whatever (and whoever) they're "into."

What's the catch? It's in the attitude...Millennials are often cynical and self-focused. They vote their favorite trends with their dollars (regardless of income), and can turn on you the minute you or your product doesn't suit them or what they think is important. And they tell their friends. This is the generation that has thoroughly embraced the blog, other social media, and food activism. Despite not being very brand-loyal in general, Millennials want "brand relationships" when it comes to fresh and local foods and other products they see as part of their lifestyle image. They respond to companies' cultural and lifestyle behaviors and likely base what brand loyalty they have on that.

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CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: <http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity>.

