



News and Views

From the Kitchen Table to the Truck or Tractor Seat

How to Contact Us:

Carroll County Extension Office

613 North High St,
Carrollton, OH 44615
Phone: 330-627-4310

Website:

carroll.osu.edu

Sandy Smith:
ANR Educator

Email: smith.10015@osu.edu

Cell: 330-417-6322

Brittany Weaver:
Office Associate

Email: weaver.1236@osu.edu

Katrina Nitz:
4-H Educator

Email: nitz.11@osu.edu

Corinna Gromley
SNAP-Ed Program Assistant

Email: gromley.8@osu.edu

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday
8:00am – 4:00pm

Greetings,

Covid is not over but our Carroll County Ag and Natural Resource Newsletter is Back!. Fall has arrived and the soy beans and corn seem to be drying down quickly. We could really use more rain before we go into the winter months.

The January edition of the newsletter will contain all the winter programming scheduled for Carroll County. We will be holding pesticide and fertilizer re-certification classes as well as hosting pesticide certification testing with the ODA in our office again next year. Plus we will be doing BQA Re-Certification. If you have any suggestions on programs that you would like to have in the county, now is the time to let me know. Please feel free to call in or email me with your ideas.

As always the following pages of this newsletter contain timely articles and information on events and opportunities happening in Carroll and the surrounding counties.

I hope that you will make plans to attend at least one program over the next couple of months. My goal is to provide you with topics and subjects you find interesting as well as providing you with current, up to date information in areas that affect your daily lives. If you have questions about any of the events or programs mentioned in this newsletter, please contact me at 330-627-4310 or feel free to email at smith.10015@osu.edu.

We would like to offer a sincere thank you to the Carroll County Commissioners Jeff Ohler, Robert Wirkner, and Christopher Modranski for their continued support of OSU Extension in Carroll County.

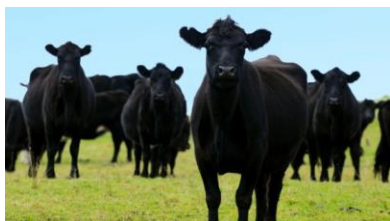
Sandy Smith

Until next time,
Sandy Smith
ANR Educator



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



We gratefully acknowledge the continued help and financial support of our Carroll County Commissioners;
Jeffrey Ohler, Robert Wirkner and Christopher Modranski.

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Beef Quality Assurance Certification

In today's market, it is important to take advantage of any and all opportunities that make our cattle more desirable to the buyer sitting in the stands. As of now, Wendy's restaurant, Tyson Foods and multiple auctions have announced that they will require producers to be certified in BQA in order to market their cattle or serve their product. To learn become certified or recertified, join us on **October 20th** at 7 pm, **October 25th** at 6:30pm, **November 16th** at 7pm or **December 7th** at 7pm at the Extension Office. Cost will be \$5.00 per participant. Please call to register at 330-627-4310. Space is limited to 20 people per class.



34th Annual Ohio Beef Expo



Ohio Beef Expo will be March 17-20, 2022 at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus. The Expo has long been the premier event for the Ohio beef industry and this year will continue that tradition with many new and exciting opportunities. There will be over 140 exhibitors at the Trade Show along with the Sales and Junior Show. For more information go to: www.ohiobeefexpo.com

Carroll County Youth to Celebrate National 4-H Week October 3-9

The anticipation is building for National 4-H Week, during which millions of youth, parents, volunteers and alumni across the country will be celebrating everything 4-H. Carroll County 4-H will observe National 4-H Week this year by showcasing the incredible experiences that 4-H offers young people, and will highlight the remarkable 4-H youth in our community who work each day to make a positive impact on those around them.

Please visit Carrollton Tractor Supply October 3-9 and purchase your paper clover to show your support towards the youth in Carroll County. The funds raised will be used for educational purposes.

Pesticide Applicator Test Dates

October 20th at 9:00am

December 9th at 9:00am

Do you need your Pesticide Applicator License? The Carroll County Office will be hosting the test offered by the ODA 1 more time before the end of the year. The following link will take you directly to the registration page for the test:

<https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/go/v/oda/divisions/plant-health/pesticides/exam-registration>

If you would like additional information, or assistance signing up on line for the test, please feel free to call the office.

Study guides are also available for purchase at the office

4-H Benefit Auction and Dinner to be Held November 13th.

Make your plans now to attend the 2021 Carroll County 4-H Advisory Benefit Auction. The Benefit will be held **Saturday, November 13th** at the Atwood Yacht Club. There will be a wonderful dinner and of course our always competitive but friendly Silent and Live Auctions. Tickets are available pre-sale. This is the event that provides the Carroll County 4-H Program with the funds need to offer assistance to those in need for activities like 4-H Camp, Leadership Camp and 4-H Conference. The college scholarships are also a result of this night of fundraising. Honors such as Outstanding Court and Best of 4-H Night are funded through this benefit. The 4-H Committee is always looking for new ideas for games and activities as well as local businesses who would like to donate to this worthwhile cause. Please call the office if you would like to assist!



Cover Crop Seeding Rates

-Alyssa Essman, Mark Loux

Cooler temperatures and maturing crops indicate the start of harvest season. For those growers using cover crops to protect soil and suppress weeds over the winter, it also means the time to establish fall-planted cover crops is imminent. When it comes to cover crops that are used for the suppression of weeds, one species stands alone in effectiveness, affordability, and simplicity of management. Cereal rye is the most popular species planted in the state and in the Midwest for these and many other reasons. Increasingly unpredictable fall weather can delay harvest, and rye can tolerate later fall planting in comparison with some other more frost sensitive species. Rye germinates and grows in lower temperatures than other species and resumes growth with robust biomass production in spring. We know that for the suppression of weeds by cover crops, there are two main drivers – ground cover and biomass production – both of which rye excels at. Beyond planting time and method, rye seeding rate is another factor that requires some consideration when planning establishment. But what is the effect of seeding rate on weed suppression?

If biomass production and ground cover are the main drivers of weed suppression, it would be logical to assume that increased seeding rates would optimize both of these factors and increase the weed suppression potential of a cover crop. Studies have shown that increased seeding rates often lead to higher levels of biomass production. However, the data are less clear in how that translates to differences in weed suppression. When compared to other factors such as spring termination timing, the seeding rate of rye tends to have less of an effect on weed density. Consider the following:

- A study in Ohio comparing spring marestail density in rye planted at 0, 45 or 90 lb/A found an increase in rye biomass at the higher seeding rate and higher marestail density where no rye was planted. However, there was no difference in marestail density between the two seeding rates of 45 and 90 lb/A.
- Similar marestail suppression was provided by a wheat and cereal rye cover crop drilled at 60 and 120 lb/A before no-till soybeans in a Michigan study.
- In Missouri, researchers saw no difference in biomass among rye seeding rates of 30, 50, 70, 90, and 110 lb/A, and only incremental increases in waterhemp suppression at the higher rates, which they contributed to increases in ground cover.

Results of these and other studies in the Midwest suggest that when cereal rye is used to suppress weeds, increases in seeding rate above 50 lb/A may have less influence than other factors such as spring termination timing. Rates lower than 50 lb/A may also suppress weeds well, but the uniformity of the rye stand and biomass can be more variable. Weed suppression may therefore also be more variable.

For more information on cover crops for weed suppression, visit: <https://iwilltakeaction.com/news/cover-crop-fact-sheet-series>. This series of four fact sheets covers species selection, establishment, herbicide persistence and carryover, and termination, and how these different factors influence the weed suppression potential of cover crops.



Do's and Don'ts of Local Beef

– Garth Ruff, Beef Cattle Field Specialist, OSU Extension

If you just glanced at the title of this column, you maybe surprised as to how the next few paragraphs unfold, however there are a couple of points that I want to make, and feel are warranted after seeing some misleading/untruthful advertisements for local/freezer beef here recently.

First off, I am a big supporter of local food production and direct marketing. When done properly in some production systems there are opportunities to capitalize on demand for locally produced food, serve as a direct link for consumer education, enhance economic sustainability of the farm enterprise, among other benefits.

I have taught dozens of programs on local foods and direct marketing in the last five or so years. In each of those programs I remind participants of these two things with regards to labeling and direct marketing;

1. Do not misrepresent your product and
2. Do not misrepresent or make false statements about the product of other producers.

Recently several friends of mine have shared with me several instances of both of the above scenarios. In one such instance a freezer beef producer's (who shall not be named) attack on beef produced by other producers and the beef industry was egregious enough to get me wound up; and I try not to get too wound up about things seen on social media. Spreading falsehoods about the wholesomeness of beef is something as an industry we should not tolerate, and I hope that you as producers feel the same

To hopefully prevent another rant on this very topic let's review some examples of what not to do when putting together a direct marketing plan. Do not misrepresent your product. This is the less aggravating of the two offenses but is an offense that can be misleading to consumers. In most cases the misrepresenting one's own product, standard, commonly used terminology is being used to describe quality are being used without verification.

In simpler terms, one cannot market beef as Choice, Prime, or Certified Angus Beef® if that beef carcass has not been graded by an USDA grader. Grading is optional, and the service comes with an associated cost.

Per the Ohio Department of Agriculture web page: *Companies can choose to have the meat and poultry that they sell graded by USDA; it is not mandatory. This is the only mark of identity you have for knowing the quality of the product. If a meat or poultry product is graded by USDA, there must be a USDA grade shield or mark on the carcass, package or product label. Only the official USDA grade can be used as a guide to the quality of the meat. If the company claims it is selling Choice beef, for example, it must be proclaimed on the package or product label within the USDA shield or another approved marking.*

I truly believe that these fouls are often unintentional, due to a lack of awareness of the rules. It is the second type of foul where producers misrepresent or make false statements about the product of other producers that are intentional and gets me fired up. While these comments are fewer in number, they are more damaging to the industry, often pitting direct marketed product against producers of commodity beef. Keep in mind with regards quality, that most commodity beef has been graded by USDA can the above-mentioned quality based claims can be made.

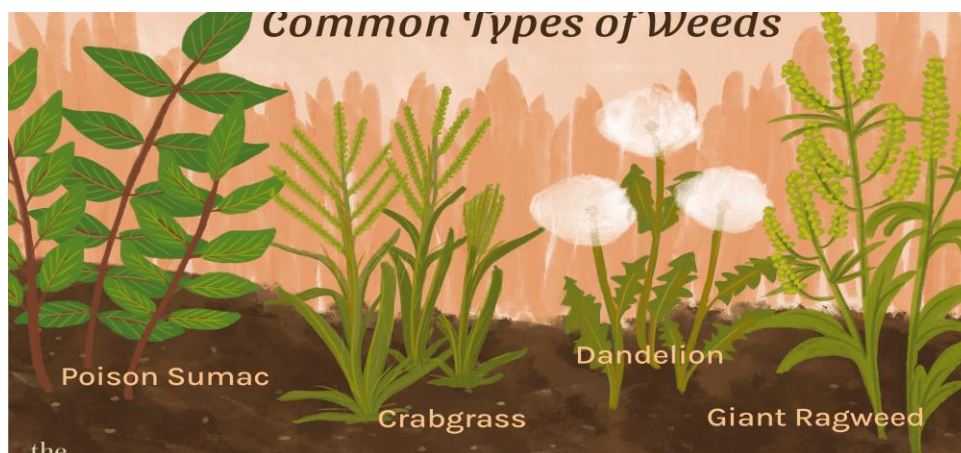
Keep in mind that there are several reasons to why one would want to distinguish locally produced, direct to the consumer, beef in the marketplace. However, falsehoods about the wholesomeness, safety, and quality of commodity beef should not be made unless there is scientific data to back it up.

In the beef industry there are multiple lanes for producers and consumers to drive in. Not every lane fits every producer or consumer, which makes for the opportunity to make decisions both in production and purchasing of beef. That opportunity to choose, is one of many reasons that make the beef industry unique. Lastly, regardless of which lane we are in as producers, we should all continue to drive towards a common goal of producing a high demand product with a positive consumer eating experience.

Scout Now For Cressleaf Groundsel And Other Winter Weeds In Hayfields And Pastures

Mark Loux

The next month and a half or so is an ideal time to control a number of weeds that cause problems in hayfields and pastures, and also certain weeds in fencerows and other areas adjacent to fields. We discussed scouting and fall control of cressleaf groundsel in a C.O.R.N. [article](#) last fall, to avoid problems with the toxicity of this weed in hay next year. Many of these weeds are most problematic in new hay and forage seedings, since the crop may not yet be dense enough to suppress them without the help of herbicides. A number of winter annuals fit into this category – mustards, marestail, pennycress, chickweed. For biennials such as wild carrot, poison hemlock, burdock, and teasel, the low growing plant after the first year of growth, which is present now, is more susceptible to control with herbicides compared with plants with elongated stems in spring. And it's certainly a good time to go after dandelion, Canada thistle, and curly dock. Fall herbicide options for grass hay and pastures, and non-crop areas, are considerably greater in number and often also effectiveness than those labeled for use in a first-year legume or legume/grass stand. For example, herbicides for a new stand of pure alfalfa include 2,4-DB (Butyrac), Pursuit, Raptor, and clethodim. The mixture of grasses and legumes removes all of these options except 2,4-DB, which we have sometimes characterized as “almost an herbicide on a good day”. A bit of an exaggeration, but it has a very limited spectrum of control and weed size range. In an established stand, dormant application of metribuzin or Velpar can also be an effective option. Glyphosate is of course an option in a stand of pure RR alfalfa (if you can get it). There are a number of more effective options in grass hay and pasture. Most of the herbicides in the pasture section of the OH/IN/IL Weed Control Guide can be used for grass hay also, as long as they specify a minimum interval between application and cutting for hay. The absence of legumes allows use of products and premixes containing 2,4-D, dicamba, metsulfuron, triclopyr, and aminopyralid. Be sure to understand the restrictions on feeding or grazing aminopyralid-treated hay or areas prior to use. Poison hemlock deserves specific mention here because it got a lot of press in Ohio this year. While it has substantial toxicity when ingested, and can cause reactions on skin of sensitive individuals, it's otherwise fairly benign. It has been fairly endemic to southern Ohio for a while, and is apparently creeping north. In addition to toxicity to animals when ingested, cressleaf groundsel and poison hemlock share the property of being weeds that appear to “all of a sudden” show up in spring, when they were really present the previous fall. Herbicides are more effective on these weeds in the fall, but there is a general lack of awareness and scouting for them at that time of the year. Waiting until spring to control them, when they become clearly evident, increases the difficulty of control. And killing sizable plants in spring results in dead plants that are still toxic, which does not resolve issues in hay. Herbicides containing triclopyr (Remedy Ultra, Garlon, numerous others) or triclopyr plus 2,4-D (Crossbow) are most effective in controlling poison hemlock. Other herbicides that provide adequate control when applied at the proper timing are dicamba (Clarity, numerous others), metsulfuron-methyl (Escort XP), metsulfuron-methyl plus dicamba plus 2,4-D (Cimarron Max) and clopyralid plus 2,4-D (Curtail).



Ohio Crop Enterprise Budgets - Projected Returns for 2022

By: Barry Ward

Each year, preliminary crop enterprise budgets are unveiled at the Farm Science Review which reveals our best estimates for costs and returns for the main row crops in Ohio for the upcoming year. With continued high crop prices projected for 2022 there is some optimism, however, higher costs will likely decrease profit margins to levels lower than 2021 margins. Production costs for Ohio field crops are forecast to be higher compared to last year with higher fertilizer, seed, chemical, fuel, machinery and repair costs leading the way.

Variable costs for corn in Ohio for 2022 are projected to range from \$477 to \$583 per acre depending on land productivity. Variable costs for 2022 Ohio soybeans are projected to range from \$266 to \$302 per acre. Wheat variable expenses for 2022 are projected to range from \$213 to \$262 per acre. These are increases over last year of 19%, 18%, and 25% for corn, soybeans and wheat, respectively.

If the current grain prices and costs endure through next year, profit margins will likely be positive although higher costs may create losses for some producers. Grain prices currently used as assumptions in the 2022 crop enterprise budgets are \$4.80/bushel for corn, \$12.20/bushel for soybeans and \$6.90/bushel for wheat. Projected returns above variable costs (contribution margin) range from \$226 to \$472 per acre for corn and \$288 to \$529 per acre for soybeans. Projected returns above variable costs for wheat range from \$191 to \$344 per acre.

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 \$54 to \$283 per acre in 2022 depending on land production capabilities. Returns to land for Ohio soybeans are expected to range from \$166 to \$393 per acre depending on land production capabilities. Returns to land for wheat (not including straw or double-crop returns) are projected to range from \$99 per acre to \$242 per acre.

Total costs projected for trend line corn production in Ohio are estimated to be \$919 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 \$78 per acre include depreciation and other overhead. A land charge of \$207 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 \$82 per acre. Details of budget assumptions and numbers can be found in footnotes included in each budget.

Total costs projected for trend line soybean production in Ohio are estimated to be \$619 per acre. (Fixed machinery costs: \$62 per acre, land charge: \$207 per acre, labor and management costs combined: \$53 per acre.)

Total costs projected for trend line wheat production in Ohio are estimated to be \$541 per acre. (Fixed machinery costs: \$36 per acre, land charge: \$207 per acre, labor and management costs combined: \$48 per acre.)

Current budget analyses indicates favorable returns for soybeans compared to corn or wheat but crop price change, harvest yields and other factors through fall and into summer of next year may change this outcome. These projections are based on OSU Extension Ohio Crop Enterprise Budgets. Newly updated Enterprise Budgets for 2022 have been completed and posted to the **Farm**

Office website: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/farm-mgt-tools/farm-budgets>

Tis the Season... For Fresh Picked Apples!

Author: Erik Draper

I love this time of year in Northeast Ohio because it is apple picking time! Just a little over a week ago, the customer favorite 'Honeycrisp' apples were being picked and sorted. Due to the May 25th & 27th freeze/frost events creating light to non-existent crops, the 'Gala', 'Jonamac', 'Holiday' and 'Macintosh' apples were quickly picked in the previous three weeks. I'm looking forward to tasting the purplish-burgundy colored 'Macoun' apples with their brilliant white flesh and unique flavor.

Everyone wants to know which apple is the best for eating or baking. Since taste is very subjective and based on individual preferences, I'm not even going to suggest anything about taste. I will recommend however, that you get out to your local orchards and try the apples that they are growing. Fully ripened, freshly picked apples right off the tree have a fuller, richer and more robust flavor, in my opinion. I know that locally in my area, most orchards have at least 15-20 different apples varieties they produce and one orchard has over 50 different varieties! Again, bear in mind that many varieties may be sparse or non-existent this crazy year.

Now the best baking apples are another issue entirely which is determined by what texture of fruit that you like in your apple pie! What do I mean by texture of fruit? When they are baked in the oven, do they hold their shape and remain relatively firm or do they turn soft, lumpy and go to mush? Flavor in baking is also a critical aspect for the perfect pie. You want to offset the sweetness (sugars) of the apple with a little "kick or zing" of tartness (acid). The best way to achieve this is to experiment and find the right mix of apples by matching of different varieties that work for your tastebuds! And while you're experimenting, I'm sure many around you will offer to help you "evaluate" your apple mix... if not, I know an Extension office that would literally "eat those experiments up"!

Well, I personally like my apple pies with firm chunks and slices of apples after they are through baking. Therefore, I like 'Granny Smith' for the tart, firm slices with 'Honeycrisp' for the sweet, slightly firm slices and a lesser amount of 'Golden Delicious', 'Ginger Gold' or 'Jonagold' to break down a little more, just to fill in the gaps. Don't be afraid to try a "new" or "unknown" variety that you have never tasted. The only way to really know if you like the apple, is to literally stick it in your mouth and take a bite. So get out to your local orchards and try some apple varieties that you have never heard their names... It just might be a very delectable experience!



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BEEF CHILI

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound Ground Beef (96% lean)
- 1 can (15 ounces) reduced-sodium black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) unsalted beef broth
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) unsalted diced tomatoes
- 1 can (4 ounces) diced green chilies or sliced jalapeño peppers
- 2 tablespoons chili powder



Toppings:

- Sour cream, chopped fresh cilantro, sliced green onions, shredded Cheddar cheese, sliced avocado (optional)

COOKING:

1. Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add Ground Beef; cook 8 to 10 minutes, breaking into 3/4-inch crumbles and stirring occasionally. Pour off drippings.
2. Stir in beans, broth, tomatoes, green chilies and chili powder; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 20 minutes to develop flavors, stirring occasionally. Garnish with Toppings, as desired.