

Ag and Natural Resources Newsletter

Winter 2020-2021

Issue 1

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Temple Grandin on Livestock Alternatives	Page 2
Forage Research	Page 3
Winter Manure	Page 3
Tax Form Update	Page 4
Extension + Covid-19	Page 4
Backyard Garden	Page 5
Call Before You Cut	Pages 5-6



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

News for the Scioto River Valley!

Welcome to this joint newsletter from Extension educators and specialists in Pickaway, Ross, Vinton and Pike Counties as well as Ohio State University. We have gathered valuable agricultural and natural resource information for residents of those counties and beyond!

Please see the contact information located on the last page of this newsletter if you would like more details concerning any of the stories found within. We look forward to hearing from you!

Temple Grandin Offers Alternatives to Livestock Farmers

- submitted by Mike Estadt

Temple Grandin (right inset), Professor at Colorado State University and world-renowned animal welfare specialist and contributor to Forbes Magazine recently authored an article “**Alternative Business Models That Farmers Should Consider**” The full article can be found at:

https://www.forbes.com/sites/templegrandin/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=follow&cdclid=5eb5ad3af414222e4126b169&sh=cebb10433a73

First and foremost, small processing plants will never, let me repeat that, never compete with the large plants on cost efficiency. But a series of smaller plants will be less susceptible to the disruptions that happened in the spring of 2020. Grandin offers the following points that have been synthesized into a few sentences.

Use the Craft Beer Industry as A Model: Go Niche

During the restrictions placed upon restaurants and bars, craft brewers innovated and moved their dining outside so they could still sell their draft beers. More importantly craft brewers have been able to coexist with the Anheuser-Busch InBevs because they offer beers that the large brewers do not. That is the definition of a Niche. And you must have one to justify the higher prices you charge to cover your production costs. Locally Raised by Farm Families is your niche.

Keep Start Up Cost Low

Avoid the high overhead of brick and mortar plants. Grandin’s opinion on the feasibility of purchasing portable slaughter units that are self-contained systems capable of processing 8-15 head of cattle and 20-40 sheep or pigs per day.



Dealing with Inspection

Getting federal inspectors to staff smaller units and facilities is a hurdle. When meat is sold across state lines federal inspection is mandatory. State inspections vary from state to state. Custom-exempt is an option but limits the scope and reach of your sales.

Could A Cooperative Work?

Should a group of ranchers or livestock producers band together to get some efficiency of scale, especially important to maintain constant and consistent supply to a smaller plant. Three challenges exist from her experiences when she designed plants for this type of business structure. First, disagreements between producer board members on how the operation should be run. Second, one big member of the coop sells out their shares and the cooperative gets taken over by a bigger company. Third and most importantly, having a sufficient supply of product to meet demand. If your brand is “grass-fed”, it ALL must be grass-fed. It is always better to be a small, honest business. This sets you apart from the Anheuser-Busch InBevs of the meat packing industry.

Forage Research in Southern Ohio

- submitted by Will Hamman

Many livestock producers in southern Ohio are utilizing cover crops in their crop rotation to take advantage of their many benefits. To optimize their effectiveness some producers will harvest the cover crop in late spring/early summer for forage. A research trial at the Jackson Agricultural Research Station in 2019 evaluated the best time to harvest the cover crops for forage quality. Harvests occurred on 2 dates based on growth stage: first at feekes 10.0 (head in boot) and then at feekes 10.5 (flowering). The results below indicate that harvesting at the boot stage results in lower yields but had higher crude protein as well as higher total digestible nutrition (TDN). Additionally, harvesting at the feekes 10.0 stage also allowed for earlier planting of a second crop in that field to generate additional revenue for that farm. This trial is currently in year two of the study at the Jackson Agricultural Research Station. For any questions about the trial, please contact Will Hamman at hamman.41@osu.edu.

2019 Cover Crop Trial Results				
Treatments	Yield Ton/ac	Crude Protein	TDN	NDF
Cereal Rye 10.0	1.49 bcd	10.2 a	69.98 a	44.33 e
Triticale 10.0	1.26 cd	9.38 ab	66.33 c	48.44 d
Wheat 10.0	1.23 cd	9.31 bc	67.7 b	43.53 rf
Hybrid Rye 10.0	1.09 d	9.73 ab	70.68 a	41.525 f
Cereal Rye 10.5	1.8 ab	7.55 d	56.93 f	68.9 a
Triticale 10.5	2.19 a	7.4 d	58.3 e	66.13 b
Wheat 10.5	1.7 abc	8.9 bc	62.5 d	54.23 c
Hybrid Rye 10.5	1.9 ab	8.05 cd	58.4 e	65.08 b
LSD:	0.53	1.09	1.29	2.19
CV (%):	22.86	8.48	1.38	2.77

The letters next to the results in the columns represent statistical differences. If a letter is next to multiple numbers in that column, they are statistically the same.

Winter Manure Management

- submitted by Will Hamman

As winter approaches, livestock producers have limited opportunities to apply manure on their fields. Even though we do not live near the Lake Erie water shed, nor do we have the same restrictions that producers have in the Lake Erie water shed, we do have natural resources we want to protect. Applying manure in the winter can be challenging but, it can be done if proper protocols are followed. Although not required by law, winter manure application should follow the NRCS 590 standards, which limit solid manure application amounts to five tons per acre and liquid manure application amounts to 5,000 gallons per acre. These have 200-foot setback distances from ditches, streams and creeks and must be on slopes of less than 6% and less than 20-acre areas in size without additional buffers. For liquid manure applicators, examine fields for tile blowouts, monitor tile outlets before, during, and after manure application and any other situations that might allow manure to reach surface waters. If a producer needs to stockpile manure to spread later, special precautions need to be taken to ensure the storage area is fit for manure piling. As manure sits it will begin to break down and create water soluble nutrients that can be easily leached, run off, or volatilize. If the nutrients are lost the manure will have less fertilizing value for the field it is spread on. If you have questions about designing an area to properly store manure please contact Will Hamman at hamman.41@osu.edu.



Manure spreader preparing a field

Tax Form Changes in Place for Filing 2020 Taxes

- submitted by Chris Bruynis

Most farmers are used to filing 1099 MISC form for custom work and other non-employee compensation. Starting in tax year 2020, Form 1099-NEC will be used to report compensation totaling more than \$600 annually paid to a nonemployee for certain services performed for your business.

If the following conditions are met, you must generally report a payment as nonemployee compensation on Form 1099-NEC. You made a payment of \$600 or more: 1) to someone who is not your employee; 2) for services in the course of your trade or business; 3) to an individual, partnership, estate, or in some cases, a corporation. Examples of “nonemployee compensation” could include hiring a neighboring farmer to harvest, spray, or plant your crops or independent contractors such as crop consultants, mechanics, accountants, and veterinarians. Payment for parts or materials used to perform the service is included in the amount reported as nonemployee compensation.

Reporting is needed for payments made to unincorporated businesses (i.e. sole proprietorship or LLC). Generally, payments to a corporation do not require a 1099-NEC to be issued or payments made to LLC which have elected to be taxed as a corporation. One exception that should be noted is that payments over \$600 to an attorney, regardless of business entity, need to be reported on the Form 1099-NEC. A 1099-NEC can be issued even if the payment is below the \$600 threshold or if you are unsure the form is required. There are no penalties for filing when not needed, but the penalties for not filing can be significant.

If you are required to file a Form 1099-NEC, you must furnish a statement to the recipient and to the IRS by January 31 of each year or the next business day, if the due date is on a weekend or holiday. For the tax reporting year of 2020, the form is due February 1, 2021.

Sample of 2021 IRS 1099-NEC



- submitted by Jess Bowen

The year 2020 has been one of challenges, hardships, and adaptations. Extension has worked hard to honor our mission by continuing to provide quality information and research to our clientele. Educators have used creativity to meet the needs of clientele while ensuring the safety of everyone. In March, OSU Extension quickly transitioned all employees to working from home in compliance with the Governor’s orders. During that time, clientele needs were met digitally. Beginning in July, Extension employees began to safely transition back to in-office working. With that transition, came precautions to continue to keep both employees and clientele safe. Offices are operating with limited staff present physically, while others remain working from home on a rotating basis.

Ohio State Extension is utilizing Governor DeWine’s recommendations and county color coded map to help guide their operating decisions as well as University guidelines. At this time, if your county is categorized as a level 4 or purple county, the county office will be closed to personnel and any appointments. Employees of those level 4 counties will be working from home and still available by phone, email, or video conference. Counties that are red, or level 3, will have offices open by appointment only with limited staff. Appointments can be made to meet with educators in person using masking and social distancing. Orange and yellow, or level 1 and 2 counties, are open to the public with limited staffing using masking and social distancing. Guidance was released in early December halting all in person programming for Extension in all counties until January 15 due to the rise in cases.

For the safety of our employees and clientele, most programming has transitioned to digital formats. Due to this transition, programming has continued with only mild interruptions since March. This has been done through live meetings or webinars, recorded videos or lectures, or newsletters. In person consultations are available on a limited basis in most counties with a scheduled appointment, requiring a mask and following social distancing. While things seem to be ever changing, Extension is committed to continuing education and programming, even if the format must be different. For more information on how your county office is operating please visit their website (countyname).osu.edu, call or email your educator.

CALL BEFORE YOU CUT – YOUR TIMBER

-Submitted by Dave Apsley



How many farmers would allow someone to come onto the farm, select and load the best cattle with a verbal promise from the buyer to pay ½ of whatever they were sold for at the market? Sounds ridiculous doesn't it? Why should selling timber be any different? Selling timber can be one of the most important financial decisions that you make in your lifetime, and an improper timber sale can cause long-term damage to your woodland, which greatly reduces your forest's potential to provide future benefits.

With proper planning and assistance "you can have your cake and eat it too." It is possible to get significantly more income from your timber sale while keeping the potential of your woodland to produce future benefits in place.

Call Before You Cut, a program sponsored by the ODNR-Division of Forestry, Ohio State University Extension and partners, is the place to go to get the information that you need to make informed decisions about the management and harvesting of your forest resources. So if you are planning to sell some of your timber, be sure to call (1-877-424-8288) or click (<http://callb4ucut.com>) before you cut and the Division of Forestry will send you this free guide to a successful harvest. For a video on things to consider before harvesting your timber visit: <http://go.osu.edu/callb4ucutvideo>

(continued on page 6)

BACKYARD NOTES

- Submitted by: Ross Meeker

For our first edition I want to set everyone up for a successful garden in 2021 and keep you busy for the first quarter. This backyard notes section hopes to tackle issues, tasks, and advancements in the areas of home gardening, landscaping, and turf and serve to connect you to broader state-wide resources and support communities. Despite being in the heart of winter and wanting nothing to do with garden work; it is time to start planning, ordering supplies, and preparing materials.

The first task for next year's success may be starting seedlings indoors. For our ANR crowd this should come naturally. As a topic, starting plants indoors could easily warrant a class of its own. Today I will stick to the basics so we can all be successful and possibly spark the interest of a newbie or a youngster. Starting your own plants can benefit your backyard budget and is a skill most should learn.

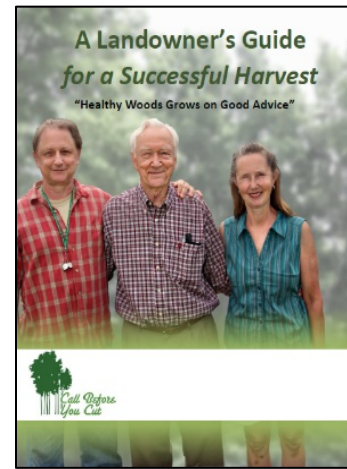
As always, different species present different challenges, but there are many shared principles. As you dig through your catalogues making seed selections, pay attention to the variety trials and their temperament. Most seed providers want you to be successful and will note which of their products take well to starting indoors. Read and follow seed packet recommendations for timing and seeding strategies. Some species are less temperamental than others. Pick your battles and know your skill level.

Start by cleaning tools, containers, and media as they can be sources of frustration. Bacteria, viruses, and fungi can be transferred and survive on improperly cleaned tools. A quick wipe down with a 10-1 solution of bleach will save a lot down the line. Re-using potting soil, or backyard soil can cause more issues than the dollars it might save. Seedlings are fragile so you should use seed starting media. Other blends are meant for established plants and may be too massive or salty for tender plants. Keep soil moist but not damp. Seedlings must respire, meaning they must have airspace around their very limited root body. Keep them warm, a consistent 80 degrees will keep things moving. Subsurface or radiant heat is the preferred source as overhead lamps or moving heat can dry out young sprouts. Once seedlings emerge, temperatures can be reduced to 70 degrees. Media prior to planting and throughout growth should resemble sponge cake, anything packed tighter or looser would be inefficient or harm root development.

Hopefully, this is enough to pique your interest and help you get started in your 2021 garden. Stay tuned for articles in future newsletters and Facebook page as I will be offering more classes and lessons over the 2021 garden season. My colleague Timothy McDermott has put together an excellent webinar with an in-depth look at seed starting. A must view for beginners. Find the recording at: <https://u.osu.edu/growingfranklin/2020/04/10/seed-starting-virtual-class/>

“TOP 10” Reasons to Call Before You Cut

10. Learn if harvesting is right for you & your woods
9. Harvest the proper trees
8. Receive expert advice from a professional forester
7. Save \$\$\$ on taxes
6. Find the best logger for the job
5. Develop a harvest contract to protect you & your forest
4. Assure a healthy & diverse forest for the future
3. Protect your soil & water resources, and learn about Ohio’s resource protection laws
2. Maximize profit from your timber harvest
1. Ensure your overall satisfaction with the harvest!



Contact information for contributors to this newsletter:

	Dave Apsley	Jess Brown	Chris Bruynis	Mike Estadt	Will Hamman	Ross Meeker
	State Specialist	Vinton County	Ross County	Pickaway County	Pike County	Ross County
	740-286-5044	740-596-5212	740-702-3200	740-474-7534	740-289-4837	740-702-3200
	apsley.1@osu.edu	bowen.279@osu.edu	bruynis.1@osu.edu	estadt.3@osu.edu	hamman.41@osu.edu	meeker.81@osu.edu



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES