



Pages 2-5: Mud Damaged Pastures
Page 6: Save the Dates
Page 7: Fertilizer Applicator Training
Page 8: Ohio Beef Study Group Tour
Page 9: Beef Quality Assurance
Page 10: Looking for a Hobby?

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Dear Readers,

You are invited to our March Farm Talk Breakfast on Friday, March 15, which will feature a presentation regarding Community Development and Agriculture and Natural Resources about “The Ins and Outs of Brine Injection Wells.”

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Oil and Gas regulates the construction, engineering, data, and permitting of injection wells. Kenny Brown – UIC Manager, Underground Injection Control Section for the Ohio Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management will be our guest at Farm Talk Breakfast. He will provide information on the purpose, construction, use, and regulation of brine injection wells.

Don’t miss this opportunity to learn more about how oil and gas development influences our county and how ODNR works to harmoniously manage our state’s natural resources. Breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. on March 15 at the Noble County OSU Extension Office (46049 Marietta Rd. Caldwell). This event is free to attend, please RSVP to 740-732-5681.

If you have any questions about the material in this month’s newsletter, ideas for future programs, or articles to feature in the future, please give me a call, stop by the office, or send me an email.

Sincerely,

Christine Gelley

Noble County OSU Extension ANR Educator



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Mud Damaged Pastures and What To Do With Them:

The two following articles were written by Mark Landefeld and published in the Ohio Beef Cattle Letter.

We Gotta Play the Hand We're Dealt

Winter always creates challenges for livestock producers. Keeping ice out of water buckets and off our water troughs can be a challenge, especially with sub-zero temperatures like we had a few weeks ago. Of course that did provide solid ground for a few days, something we have not seen much of this fall or winter. Pastures and feeding areas have really taken a “hit” this year causing mud to sprout and grow everywhere it seems. Every livestock owner I have talked to the last few weeks has the same situation, more mud and more tracked-up fields than they can ever recall before.



Mud increases stress for the livestock and the farm manager. The way you manage, or don't manage, muddy conditions affects your livestock's performance and may have a big impact on damaging forage plants in your pastures. Multiple research studies have shown that, when livestock are required to navigate through mud, production losses occur (deeper mud = more loss). While I have not seen studies about the increased stress on a farm manager when dealing with mud issues, I know first-hand stress is there. Even with a heavy use pad to use, the last 15 months have been unlike any of my previous years with livestock production. However, we must deal with the conditions nature delivers. While I would rather put up with wet conditions, than a long drought, I think we are all ready for some soil conditions that will allow grass to grow and support the livestock as they graze it. So, what are we going to do with our pastures and areas, which have taken the “hits” this year? Options range from complete renovation of the area, to doing nothing and allowing nature to take its course. My guess is, that both options, and something in between may be practical on most farms this spring. Even within a paddock, different treatments will probably be necessary because zones closer the water source will likely have more damage than other areas of the paddock.

If we do nothing but give the areas time, forage will grow. What forage grows will be determined by, how badly the area was tracked-up, the variety of seed dormant in your soils and your pastures fertility levels. It certainly seems we all have weed seed waiting and ready to grow if given the opportunity. So, what is a weed? In pesticide classes over the years, I've heard and I've said, “a weed is a plant growing out of place”. Luckily, for us, our livestock can utilize many weeds that grow in our pastures and get a good amount of nutrition from them, but a little extra help may be needed this year.



I think our job now, in these moderately to heavily tracked areas, is to determine, as best we can, what is going to come back in these torn-up fields. Then we can provide assistance where we deem necessary to help retain, or obtain, the species of forage we want in those fields. Where heavily pugged fields and tracking with machinery have occurred, complete renovation is probably going to be needed. Other areas with moderate damage might be smoothed with a drag or other implement when the soil firms enough to get equipment on it and then seed the area with a no-till drill (This can take place on partially frozen ground as well as dry soil). In the lightly tracked areas frost seeding

should prove very beneficial to producers. This would also be a great time to increase the percentage of legumes and or grass varieties in your pastures.

Frost seeding is a relatively inexpensive and quick way to incorporate new seed varieties or cultivars into a paddock. Light tracking from our livestock's hoof action has provided the openings needed for the seed to make good contact with the soil in many pasture this year. Any producer wanting to use the frost seeding technique needs to put the seed on now, or in the next couple of weeks. As the name implies, frost seedings need freeze and thaw cycles after seed application to work properly. I always get producers asking me in mid/late March if they can still do frost seedings. My answer is generally, yes, you can still put the seed down, but if you don't get several frosts after seeding, the results are probably not going to be what you want. So, if you have areas you want, or need to frost seed, do it now!

Getting back to our moderately damaged areas where complete renovation may not be needed, but we feel we still need to do something to reduce weed pressure, introducing a quick germinating variety of seed such as Italian ryegrass can be beneficial. These seeds start quickly and may help shade out unwanted weeds. This seed may be introduced by frost seeding methods we just discussed or by no-till drilling the seed into the soil.

Finally, as growth begins in the spring, new legume and grass seedlings will have a better chance to survive if they have help competing against the established plants. Frost seeded pastures should be grazed lightly or clipped in the spring at regular intervals when grass plants are ± 8 inches in height. This will allow sunlight to enter the canopy so new legume seedlings are not shaded out. However, do not allow animals to graze newly seeded areas so heavily (to heights < 3 inches) that they ruin the seeding before adequate roots are developed. Temporary electric fence may be needed to control livestock and prevent overgrazing. Strict grazing management to allow plants an adequate rest period after each grazing pass must be implemented to produce strong root systems and maintain healthy plant growth. If continuous unmanaged grazing is allowed to occur, your frost seeding efforts will be pointless.

If legume frost seeding's were made in hay fields, do not apply high rates of nitrogen fertilizer to first cutting hay. Established grass plants, in mixed grass/legume stands, will out-compete the newly seeded legume plants and shade them out. Plan to make first cutting hay, on any frost seeded fields, early in the season (mid-May) if weather and field conditions permit. Grass height in second cutting hay will not be as much of a problem and new legume plants will be further development to compete better with the grasses.

Other articles on this Ohio Beef Cattle Letter site can help producers with seeding rates, fertility requirements, legume inoculation needs, as well as specie and variety suggestions that perform well in Ohio. The weather forecast for next week shows high temperatures just above freezing during the day and teens to low 20's at night. Conditions are not going to get better than that. So, look at your fields, determine your needs and intentions for them, and get started on those repairs and frost seedings.

For more on rehabilitating mud damaged pastures, seed selection, and frost seeding, watch February's Forage Focus podcast with Mark Landefeld and Christine Gelley: https://youtu.be/Nu_CPMYPZ_8.



Frost Seeding Tips

Last article, we discussed how this year many producers have more than normal amounts of pasture that has been moderately to heavily tracked-up by livestock due to the extensive wet soil conditions. Many of these pastures can use a little help in recovering by adding grass and or clover seed to these fields. Spending a few minutes to calibrate your seeder will help you get the desired amount of seed on the pasture. This will be particularly helpful if you have large areas needing seeded.

Calibrating a hand held seeder or broadcast seeder mounted on an ATV is not too hard to do. You will need a scale to weigh the seed, a few plastic bags, a measuring wheel or tape measure and maybe a calculator to help with calculations.

First we must determine the average width our seeder will spread the seed. Grass seed will not throw as far/wide as clover seed because it is lighter and fluffier. So if you plan to seed both types of seed, a calculation for each will be needed. Spin a little seed from the seeder (with no wind blowing) and mark the outer edges where seeds land with flags or stakes. Measure the width and write it down (the hand seeder I'm using throws grass seed in a 10 foot swath). Next, determine the pounds of seed per acre you want to apply and multiply that number by 16 to determine the ounces per acre needed. (Ex. 5 lbs./A x 16 oz. = 80 oz./A)

For calibration purposes we only want to use a small amount of seed and acreage while determining the correct size opening to set our seeder. I use 1/32nd of an acre for this calculation. To determine the amount of seed we need for 1/32nd of an acre, take the 80 oz. $\div 32 = 2.5$ oz. seed needed. An acre is 43,560 ft² therefore, $43,560 \div 32 = 1361$ ft². Since my seeder throws grass seed 10 ft. wide (the number we wrote down before), $1361 \text{ ft}^2 \div 10 \text{ ft.} = 136$ ft. linear feet. This is the distance I need to use for calibration of this seeder.

Weigh out a few (4-6) 2.5 oz. bags of seed for the calibration. Measure 136 ft. in a pasture and place flags at each end. Estimate the size opening needed for your seeder and set it. Close the bottom, pour one of the 2.5 oz. bags of seed into the seeder and align yourself with the flags. I always begin a few feet before the first flag, to get my average walking and cranking speed, and then as I pass the first flag I open the seeder to the preset opening and proceed to the second flag (do the same if using an ATV). Adjust your seeder opening size, if needed, so you run out of seed just as you pass the second flag (that's why I weigh 4-6 bags).

Now your seeder is calibrated and should be delivering 5 lbs. of seed per acre as long as you keep the proper spacing width and speed as you make passes back-and-forth in the paddock. I have found that taking just a little more time to place a few markers in the pasture really helps keep me on track. Depending on the size area to be seeded, more than one row of flags and stakes



Round bales had been fed here and the area was very rough from unusually wet conditions. Paddock before being lightly disc and drag one morning when the overnight temperature was 24°F.



Adjust the seeder opening for correct amount of seed to be delivered.

may be helpful. With the measuring wheel, start on one edge where seeding is to begin, then place a flag or post every 10 ft. (the width my seeder throws seed).

Alternate color of flag and posts for 80-100 ft. in width. I use two different markers or flag colors because it's much easier to tell which marker I am heading toward after the initial pass. (Note: keep the same flag and stake pattern if using more than one row to minimize confusion during the seeding process). Once the area is seeded, move flags and stakes, if needed, to the next area to be seeded.

The time is right for Frost Seeding and repair of torn-up paddocks. Calibrate your seeder and get the seed on the ground so good soil to seed contact is made with the freeze and thaw cycles in the next few weeks. You'll be glad you did!



Knowing the weight of various seeds is important for calibration.

Upcoming Forage Field Days:



SATURDAY, APRIL 27th • TIME 9:00am – 3:00pm
FREE Pasture and Forage Management Clinic

Registration 8:45 a.m.
 Class starts promptly @ 9:00 a.m.

Lunch @ NOON provided by:
 Morrow County Cattlemen

Afternoon session 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Topics for the day will include:

- Soils and Fertility
- Seeding: rates, variety, quality, timing
- Poisonous weeds and management
- Hay making
- Alfalfa management
- Fence and Water

Field Day Will Be At:
C.A.B.B. Farms
 8888 State Route 314,
 Lexington, Ohio 44904

Please RSVP to the
OSU Extension Office
419-947-1070 or
Jagger.6@osu.edu
by April 19th

OSU EXTENSION MORROW COUNTY MORROW.OSU.EDU
 AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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APRIL 27-28, 2019
CHILLICOTHE, OH

Topics include:

- Rotational, management-intensive grazing
- Business planning and farm finances
- Branding and marketing techniques
- And so much more!!

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www.pasturedprovidence.com/school
 740-851-3883

Stay Tuned for information about the
East Central Grazing Alliance and
sponsored pasture walks scheduled in
May, June, July, And August!
ECGA is a grazing interest group in Ohio
with the mission of promoting best
management practices of natural
resources in grazing systems.

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/eastcentralgrazingalliance>

ODA Private Applicator Initial Pesticide License Test 2019:

Local Test Host: Guernsey County OSU Extension

Test Offered on Tuesday, March 20, 2019 at 10 am

Guernsey County OSU Extension Office

335-B Old National Rd. Old Washington, Ohio 43768

Email: little.16@osu.edu Phone: 740-489-5300

Customer Appreciation Events at Tractor Dealers

March 21: Lashley Tractor Sales will host their spring customer appreciation event on Thursday, March 21st beginning at 6 p.m at the Quaker City location (24821 Lashley Road, Quaker City, OH 43773). Noble County Extension Educator, Christine Gelley will be present to speak about forage maturity and moisture content when making high quality hay. Call Lashley Tractor to learn more: 740-679-2141

April 5-6: Baker & Sons Equipment Co. will host their spring customer appreciation event on Friday, April 5th from 8 a.m- 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 6 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 45381 State Route 145 Lewisville, OH 43754. Lisa Pfeifer from the OSU Extension Ag Safety Program will be a guest speaker on Friday to cover state laws for operating farm equipment on roadways. Call Baker & Sons to learn more: 740-567-3317

2019 Farm Tax Update Meeting- March 26

Belmont County will be hosting a 2019 Farm Tax Update Meeting presented by David Marrison covering topics that include: the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, equipment depreciation, like-kind exchanges, and the new Section 199A deduction for Qualified Business Income. The meeting will be held on March 26 at the Barnesville Library Annex (611 N. Chestnut St. Barnesville) from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pre-registration for the class is required and is \$5 per person. Light lunch will be provided. Call 740-695-1455 to RSVP.

Farm Talk Breakfast-April 19 & May 17

Save the date for these upcoming Farm Talk Breakfast Programs! Both begin at 8:30 a.m., include breakfast, and will be at the Noble County OSU Extension Office (46049 Marietta Rd. Caldwell, OH 43724):

Friday, April 19, 2019- "Spring Preparations for Farmers' Markets"

Friday, May 17, 2019- "Generation Rx for the Workplace- Drug Risks, Recognition, and Management"

Ohio Sheep Shearing School- April 12 & 13

The Ohio Sheep Improvement Association will be offering a spring sheep shearing school scheduled for April 12th and 13th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at the Dave Cable Farm in Hebron, Ohio. Students will learn how to properly shear a sheep using the Australian shearing method. Those in attendance will be taught by veteran shearers as they walk through each step and demonstrate how to properly position the sheep and shearing hand piece in the correct location. Attendees will also learn to appreciate fleece quality by ensuring that their work station is clear of debris and how to keep the animals fleece all in one piece. This shearing session is open to any and all sheep producers, regardless of your shearing experience. Registration is due by Monday, April 8th. The cost to attend is \$50, which includes a boxed lunch for each day. Call Christine at 740-732-5681 for a registration form or print one from this link: <http://go.osu.edu/spring2019shearingschool>.

Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019 • 6-9 P.M.

Fertilizer certification is **REQUIRED** if you apply fertilizer (other than manure) to more than 50 acres of agricultural production land grown primarily for sale.

If you hire a custom applicator to make fertilizer applications, you do not need the certification.

This 3-hour course will meet the initial certification requirements for applicators. Topics will revolve around best management practices for applying fertilizer.

Thursday, March 28, 2019 6-9 P.M.

**OSU Extension Operations Office
(Former Southeast Region Office)**

16714 Wolf Run Rd.

Caldwell, OH, 43724

NO COST. RSVPS REQUIRED.

CALL: 740-732-5681 by March 21

Have additional questions about the certification requirements?
Contact your county ANR Extension Educator or visit <https://pested.osu.edu/FACT>.

BELMONT COUNTY: 740-695-1455 | lima.19@osu.edu

GUERNSEY COUNTY: 740-489-5300 | little.16@osu.edu

MONROE COUNTY: 740-472-0810 | turner.1630@osu.edu

NOBLE COUNTY: 740-732-5681 | gelley.2@osu.edu



**BELMONT, GUERNSEY, MONROE, & NOBLE
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JUNE 13-15, 2019

OHIO BEEF STUDY GROUP TOUR

*Guernsey, Muskingum, Belmont,
Harrison, & Jefferson Counties*

Join the Ohio Beef Study Group for a bus tour through Guernsey, Belmont, Harrison, Jefferson, and Muskingum Counties this summer. Stops include livestock farms, a vineyard, The Wilds, The Living Word Outdoor Drama, and more. Enjoy good company, good food, and interesting stops along the way.

A \$75 deposit is due by March 30, 2019 to confirm your attendance. The Ohio Beef Study Group is a privately run organization collaborating with OSU Extension to offer this unique trip.

Location:

Pick-Up & Drop-Off Locations in Mt. Gilead, Zanesville, and Cambridge.

Contact information:

Contact Christine Gelley at the Noble County Extension Office for more information at **740-732-5681** or **gelley.2@osu.edu**.



BELMONT COUNTY: 740-695-1455

GUERNSEY COUNTY: 740-489-5300

MUSKINGUM COUNTY: 740-454-0144

JEFF/HARRISON COUNTY: 740-264-2212

A photograph of two black cows in a barn. The cow in the foreground is looking towards the camera, while the one behind it is looking to the right. They are standing near a wooden feeding trough. The barn has a high ceiling with wooden beams and red metal railings in the background.

Beef Quality Assurance Training

THURSDAY, April 4, 2019 • 6:00-7:30 P.M.

The BQA program has been developed from research backed best management practices, with one of the goals being developing consumer trust with transparency. **This certification is not mandated by law.** However, it is being requested by some of the links that make up the beef supply chain, including auction barns, feed lots, packers, retailers, and consumers. We encourage all cattle producers to get BQA certified.

**OSU Extension Operations Office
(Former Southeast Region Office)**

16714 Wolf Run Rd.

Caldwell, OH, 43724

NO COST. RSVPS REQUIRED.

CALL: 740-732-5681 by March 28

Have additional questions about the certification requirements?
Contact your county ANR Extension Educator or visit <https://www.bqa.org/>.

BELMONT COUNTY: 740-695-1455 | lima.19@osu.edu

GUERNSEY COUNTY: 740-489-5300 | little.16@osu.edu

MONROE COUNTY: 740-472-0810 | turner.1630@osu.edu

NOBLE COUNTY: 740-732-5681 | gelley.2@osu.edu



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Looking for a Hobby? Try some of these:

Maple Syrup Production: Late winter and early spring is maple season; that time of year when maple producers in Ohio and other parts of northeastern North America tap maple trees to collect sap. This sap is boiled down to produce maple syrup, or further processed into maple sugar, fudge, nougat, cream or other products. Maple syrup production is unique to North America and specifically the area between Minnesota in the west, Kentucky in the south and the eastern Canadian providences in the north. If you have access to a few maple trees, whether growing in your yard or in a woodland, you can produce your own maple syrup and perhaps even have enough to use as gifts for family or friends. It's easy, great fun and a very educational family activity.

Learn more here: <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/f-36>.

Backyard Poultry: There are various reasons people raise chickens: for eggs, meat, show and exhibition or simply to enjoy caring for and watching chicks grow. For some, raising chickens is a hobby while others see it as a sustainable part of living. Before selecting the breed of chick to purchase, you need to ask yourself several questions. The first one is: What are your needs for your flock? This is important because you are looking at a commitment of potentially seven to eight years, which is the average lifespan of a chicken. Other questions include: What is your end goal for raising chickens? Do you want a certain type of egg, or are you looking for meat production chickens? Is your goal egg production, egg and meat production, or just meat production? Are you interested in raising chickens for show purposes and production is not important? Each breed of chicken has traits that make them better suited for exhibition, egg, meat or dual purpose production.

Learn more here: <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-60>.

Bee Friendly: When asked where bees live, a human-constructed hive teeming with honey bees is typically the first thing that comes to mind. However, the European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, is just one of 400+ species of bees found in Ohio! These pollinators exhibit a wide range of nesting strategies. Our wild bees can be grouped as cavity nesters or ground nesters. Ground nesting bees make up a surprising percent of the bee diversity—70 percent of the 20,000 species of bees worldwide! The remaining 30 percent of bees are considered cavity nesters. Cavity nesting bees construct their nests in a variety of locations including stems and branches, stumps, fence posts, siding, rock crevices, and even snail shells!

Learn more here: <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ent-85>.

Volunteer: There are many ways to become a helpful volunteer in our community. Whether you choose to volunteer through a club, a school, your church, or a formal organization, the ripple of your positivity can make big impacts. The Noble County Master Gardener Volunteers are an example of a group that works together utilizing the resources of Ohio State to deliver programs and beautification programs in our community. We welcome you to join us.

Learn more here: <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/>.

Another way you can volunteer in Noble County: *The Noble County Historical Society will be having a collaborative garage sale to benefit the society on April 13th at the Ball-Caldwell Barn starting at 8 a.m. Vendors are welcome. Call Judy McMullen at 740-732-4188 for more details.*