

# Guernsey Co. Agriculture News

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*It is a busy time of year. The growing conditions have been less than ideal this past spring and we are making hay while the sun shines. This summer we have a few programs which I hope you'll find useful and organized at a time when you'll be able to attend. For now be safe and we hope to see you at the next program.*

Clif Little, Extension Educator, Agriculture/Natural Resources, OSU Extension Guernsey County

## Hay Weight vs Bale

Recently, a local hay producer asked what hay was worth. Of course, each forage producer will have a different cost of production. After he told me his price, I asked the weight of his bales. He was not exactly sure

but guessed 1000 pounds. He went on to say that, most hay is bought and sold by the bale. He stated that, most articles he reads mentioning price or cost are on a per ton basis. This farmer's comment provoked a couple of pertinent questions. First, what

***"...Buy weight, not bales."***

is the cost of not knowing the weight of a bale? Second, what is forage value based on current feed prices?

To answer the first question, I went to the USDA Farm Service Agency. In the past couple of years, they have been weighing many large round bales due to the forage quantity and quality loss programs and conducting yield checks. The weight of large round bales checked in Noble and Guernsey counties ranged from approximately 750 pounds to 2100 pounds. Obviously, bales vary in size, moisture content, and tightness. If we guess the weight of a bale at 1000 pounds and overestimate its weight by 100 pounds per bale, and purchase 50 bales at \$65 per bale what did it cost?