

Guernsey County Agriculture News

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Learning has expanded into new Areas of Convenience

Extension continues to reach out in new ways utilizing technology. Face-to-Face programming has been paused for the near future but Extension is utilizing new ways to disseminate educational resources.

A website with science-based information and research on COVID-19 from The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is up and running. The KX COVID-19 Hub provides information from Ohio State University Extension, and the CFAES statewide network of researchers and faculty. Visit <http://kx.osu.edu/covid-19> for a collection of resources, tools, and links to help Ohio communities weather the crisis. The Knowledge Exchange (KX) is a support platform in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences bringing research to the public in an unbiased and interactive way. Every day at 9 a.m., Noon, and 3 p.m. there will be webinars offered through the OSU ANR Madness Tournament of Education. Presentations are organized by brackets (topics) for each day. The full schedule and connection information can be accessed online at www.go.osu.edu/agmadness. Previous talks are all saved and available for viewing on the “videos” tab of the page. *If I can be of assistance please contact me directly* at 740-489-5300 or email at little.16@osu.edu.

Tickborne Diseases in Ohio

Diseases spread by ticks are an increasing concern in Ohio and are being reported to the Ohio Department of Health more frequently in the past decade, with [Lyme disease](#) and [Rocky Mountain spotted fever \(RMSF\)](#) being the most common. Other tickborne diseases such as [anaplasmosis](#), [babesiosis](#) and [ehrlichiosis](#) are also on the rise. Though rare, diseases such as [tularemia](#), [southern tick-associated rash illness \(STARI\)](#) and [Powassan virus](#) may also be carried by Ohio ticks.

The Zoonotic Disease Program tracks and responds to tickborne diseases. They collect and analyze data to detect trends in disease activity, investigate reported cases of tickborne diseases, collaborate with other state agencies and educate Ohioans about disease risks and prevention strategies.

The best way to prevent tickborne diseases is to prevent tick bites. In Ohio, tickborne illnesses are most often transmitted between early spring and late fall since ticks are most active during warm months.

Take action to decrease your risk of infection:

protect against tick bites, **check** for ticks, **remove** ticks as soon as you can, and **watch** for symptoms.

Use tick repellents:

- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) labeled for use against ticks on exposed skin for protection that lasts several hours. Always follow the product label. Parents should apply this product to their children, avoiding their hands, eyes and mouth.
- Treat clothing and gear, such as boots, pants, socks and tents with products containing 0.5 percent permethrin. It remains protective through several washings. Always follow the product label. Pre-treated clothing is available and may provide longer lasting protection.
- Use insect repellents registered by the [U.S.](#) Cover up to keep ticks off your body:
- Wear long pants, long sleeves and long socks.
- Tuck pant legs into socks or boots and tuck shirts into pants to keep ticks on the outside of your clothing.
- Light-colored clothing will help you spot ticks more easily.



Use a removal method that is proven to work:

- The best way to remove a tick is to use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
- Pull away from your skin with steady, even pressure.
- Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth-parts easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.

- Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape or flushing it down the toilet. Never crush a tick with your fingers.
- Wash your hands and the bite area with soap and water.
- Do **not** use petroleum jelly, a hot match, nail polish or any other 'folk' remedies to remove a tick. These methods do not work.

Many tickborne diseases can have similar signs and symptoms. The most common symptoms of tick-related illnesses are:

- **Fever/chills:** With all tickborne diseases, patients can experience fever at varying degrees and time of onset.
- **Aches and pains:** Tickborne disease symptoms include headache, fatigue and muscle aches. With Lyme disease, you may also experience joint pain. The severity and time of onset of these symptoms can depend on the disease and the patient's personal tolerance level.
- **Rash:** [Lyme disease](#), [southern tick-associated rash illness \(STARI\)](#), [Rocky Mountain spotted fever \(RMSF\)](#), [ehrlichiosis](#) and [tularemia](#) can result in distinctive rashes.

Tickborne diseases can result in mild symptoms treatable at home to severe infections requiring hospitalization. Although easily treated with antibiotics, these diseases can be difficult for physicians to diagnose. However, early recognition and treatment of the infection decreases the risk of serious complications. So see your healthcare provider immediately if you have been bitten by a tick and experience any of the symptoms described here.

Pesticide and Fertilizer Licensing

ODA is extending the applicator deadline for pesticide and fertilizer. With the signing of House Bill 197, Ohio's COVID-19 emergency response legislation, the March 31, 2020 deadline for private pesticide applicators (farmers) and the May 31, 2020 deadline for agricultural fertilizer certificate holders to renew their license and get training has been extended. The deadline is now 90 days after the state of emergency Executive Order ends or December 1, 2020, whichever comes first. If you are still in need of continuing education courses, please check <https://pested.osu.edu/> for more information on when courses will resume.

Backyard Poultry Production

Timothy McDermott DVM an Extension Educator, Franklin County has created a website post that collects a good bit of the information needed to assist clients who have questions about keeping backyard poultry. This site has a webinar, fact sheet lists, link to vets who see poultry, and the selling/washing/handling egg fact sheet as well. Click on the link below to access the information.

[Backyard Poultry Production](#)

How is COVID-19 Impacting Ag Markets?

By David Marrison, Coshocton County Extension Educator, ANR Source: Ben Brown, Presentation on Farm Office Live on April 6, 2020

The coronavirus pandemic has altered our lives with the stay home directive in Ohio. Our national news has been quick to note the economic impact felt especially with regards to the stock market and the oil & gas industry. The S&P 500 has declined by 25% and the West Texas Intermediate Crude prices have dropped by 46%. But what impact has COVID had thus far to the industry of agriculture?

Ben Brown (Assistant Professor of Professional Practice- Agricultural Risk Management for OSU's Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics) addressed the impact that COVID-19 has had thus far on agriculture through the lens of the Future Prices for Agricultural Commodities since the first confirmed case of Coronavirus in the United States on January 21, 2020.

The biggest drop in future prices have been in feeder cattle and ethanol as both are down 36% followed by hogs down 35%. The dairy industry has also been hit as the Class IV futures price is down 32% and the Class III prices down 25%. Cotton prices have also declined by 26%.

Traditional row crops have seen smallest decline in

future's prices with corn prices down 15% followed by soybeans at 7% and wheat at 6%.

The coronavirus pandemic is one of uncertainty. Ben Brown anticipates the strong retail surge is coming to an end with sporadic prices anticipated going forward. We may also see increased bottle necks at the packer and processor level which could impact retailer availability. Several of the nation's largest processors have announced plans to spread out workers and slow down lines to increase worker safety. This reduces throughput of meat. Saudi Arabia and Russia negotiators are expected to meet on Thursday to consider reducing production of oil which should provide financial relief to the market driven US crude oil industry. This would not increase US consumption of gasoline as consumers limit driving and therefore ethanol. It should be noted that this meeting of the world's largest oil producers has already been delayed once.

Farm Management experts from Ohio State will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and will be sharing information on a weekly Farm Office webinar on Mondays from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. More details can be obtained about these updates at:

<https://farmoffice.osu.edu/farmofficelive>



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