



Field Notes for The Week Of

1-30-2023

Pesticide and Fertilizer Applicator Training in The Books

Mud, mud, and more MUD! Is there a market for rain and mud? If so, I do not think any southern Ohio farmer would worry about their finances. Last week was another up-and-down weather week with a mixed bag of snow, rain, sleet, and wind. The ups and downs and all-around weather can be very hard on livestock and caretaker or farmer. I talked to a few producers this past week about some of the challenges they were facing and possible ways to overcome those challenges even when the rain pours! One cattle producer was telling me about losing his slip-on boot in the mud and falling down while feeding the cows, another was telling about a cow bumping into him while he was attempting to remove hay wrap from the round bale, and personally, I was happy to have soft soil when a cow stepped on my foot! All these stories of struggles remind me how strong both physically and mentally farmers have to be to wake up each day and face the sometimes-wicked weather 365 days a year. If you see a farmer you know this week thank them for what they do because most don't hear nearly enough thanks for their most important role in feeding a hungry world! This past week was actually a very busy week for me as I prepared and put on my annual fertilizer applicator and Pesticide applicator recertification course. This is a training producer must complete every three years to stay up to date on the latest rules, regulations, technology, and new products, for safe pesticide and fertilizer applications. Safety is a key subject during the training but other topics such as Integrated pest management (IPM) is also a key subject. IPM is the process of evaluating and considering many methods to control the best rather than just depending on one tool such as pesticides. Discussing proper scouting, identification, cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that can be used to control a pest. Identifying the pest is one of the most critical steps to pest control so I grew some of the most important agronomic weed species wreaking havoc in many crop fields in Ohio. Some of the weed species include water hemp, palmer amaranth, redroot pigweed, giant foxtail, and many more. Producers learn the key plant parts and formations to look for at different stages of growth. I also like to take time to give producers key industry updates such as new pests like the Asian Long-horned tick and methods used to scout, ID, and control. These are just a few examples of all the information producers learn at my Pesticide and Fertilizer applicators recertification training. If you are a producer that would like to obtain your pesticide and or fertilizer applicators license, contact me at (937)544-2339 or email at Purdin.19@osu.edu.

