



Field Notes for The Week Of

1-3-22

Happy New Year in the Field!

Can you believe it is a new year already and a matter of fact it is 2022! As we enter a new year there many different things on the mind of this Extension Educator, from winter programming to exciting new field research, 2022 has a great number of possibilities! Speaking of field research, I am extending an invitation to any farmer who would like to participate in on farm research trials this coming growing season. It doesn't matter if you raise corn and soybeans or raise livestock, there are many different types of research that can be done. The goal of on farm research is not only to get producer involved in extension programming and project, but to learn from the results and share to other producers. On farm research trials can be a great way to try different products, production methods, and technologies that can help improve the sustainability of your farm and many other farmers across the country. If you think you would be interested in conducting on farm research in 2022 give me a call at (937) 544-2339 or email me at Purdin.19@osu.edu.

New field research is great but sometime getting down to the basics is necessary. When it comes to farming many things are learned by basically doing and making mistakes, sometimes mistakes can have long lasting consequences. The new year came in on a slightly wet side, just as 2021 exited. New Year's Day met many farmers with large amounts of rainfall. As I drive by many crop fields, I see active erosion taking place and much of it is on bare ground that was previously planted to soybeans. Don't get me wrong soybeans are an essential part of agriculture and to the farm financially but with the extreme rise in input cost soybeans are becoming the favored crop to plant in 2022 leading to many fields being planted once again in soybeans. Why is this bad you may ask? Soybeans have been notoriously known as a cheap crop to raise compared to corn, wheat, forages such as alfalfa. On average soybeans cost about \$100-\$150 an acre less than corn to produce due to less need for N fertilizer and seed cost. The problem with raising soybeans year after year in the same field is just like any crop that you raise continuously in the same field, disease pressure such as brown stem rot, sudden death, frogeye leaf spot, and other pest such as brown marmorated stink bugs and soybean cyst nematode. With this increase pest and disease pressure meant extra input cost to manage such as fungicide treatments, and more expensive seed treatments. Soybeans provide very little residue and extremely hungry for potassium, meaning soils can be drained easily of nutrients and organic matter if not managed properly. As soils become degraded, erosion is increases meaning money is being washed down the creek literally!

