

# Weekly Article

10-5-2021

## Time to Hit the Books!

Hello, my Name is Richard Purdin with OSU Extension, Ag and Natural Resource Educator and Community Development Educator for Adams County. I hope to better inform local producers and the public of the latest news in the world of agriculture. October has officially started. For the most part the beginning of the new month has presented mild and pleasant weather, allowing farmer to get in the fields and start harvest. As I made my rounds around the county, I noticed many producers starting to harvest corn, soybeans, hay, and planting winter wheat. As we look father into October weather forecast are predicting warmer than average temperatures and average precipitation amounts. With the harvest beginning many producers are enjoying slightly higher grain prices for corn and soybeans. Soybean prices are currently being pressured by above average yields and a stalemate shipping issue world shipping port. For the most part higher grain prices should return a slightly higher profit for the year 2021. The question is, what about 2022? Now is the time to hit the production books and start making decisions for next year's growing season.

As many producers know and have experienced in the last year, there is nothing normal about doing business. Used to be if you needed parts, seed, chemicals, fertilizer, or even tires you could call the local dealer and have the product you need within a few days. That is truly not the case in 2021 and expected to get worse in 2022. Uncertainty in getting the inputs that you need to plant a crop is not the only issue, but the price of that input has doubled or even close to tripled in the last year. So don't get caught up in the higher price grain market, make sure to take time and calculate expected cost of production for next seasons crops. Here are some key steps and factors that can used to maintain a profit for next seasons crops.

- Ohio State University's projected cost of production for corn is between \$477-\$583 and soybeans is projected between \$266-\$302.
- After you know your cost of production, watch the markets. Is selling next years crop now too early? (Depends on if you are making a profit).
- Think about pricing inputs now rather than later. Seed and fertilizer are expected to increase in price and decrease in availability as the season presses on.
- Check your soils fertility- with fertilizer prices doubling in price and limited supplies available this is a good time to test your soil and see if addition nutrients are really needed. A \$12-\$15 Dollar soil test could save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

- Do you know your return to land values? To me this is critical because I don't want to farm for nothing, I want to give back to the land to increase value and productivity. Ohio corn return to land values is expected to range from \$54- \$283 an acre based on land productivity. Ohio Soybean return to land is expected to range from \$166-\$393 an acre based on land productivity.
- Crunch your numbers and know which input is draining your profits, once you know, adjust and don't be afraid to change. Machinery cost and input cost are the major profit draining factors and then land rental prices are next, communication between landowners and tenants is critical in time such as this.
- Go to <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/farm-management/enterprise-budgets> to work on your 2022 crop budget!

Some other details to go over.

- USDA is updating the food assistance program or CFAP 2 program, making contract growers, livestock producers, and specialty crop producers eligible to modify their existing application or file for a new one by October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Call the FSA office at (937) 544-2033 for more details.
- October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Cybersecurity and you seminar 8:00 am-11:00am. Hear from professionals about current cyber security trends, how to protect yourself, and Free Resources. Register at [www.ADAMSCOUNTYOHCHAMBER.COM/CHAMBER-EVENTS](http://www.ADAMSCOUNTYOHCHAMBER.COM/CHAMBER-EVENTS)
- BQA Recertification will be held at United Producers in Hillsboro Ohio October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the program will start at 6:30 P.M. RSVP by calling (937)393-3424. Food will be served between 6:00 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

From the field

- Soybean harvest is in full swing with yields ranging from 60-72 bu/ac test weight around 56-57.
- Corn grain harvest has begun, reports of yields hovering around 170-180 bu/ac.
- Last of the hay harvest completed.
- Wrapper tobacco market opens October 19<sup>th</sup> stripping has begun.
- Total of 72 Armyworm moths were collected in 7 days. I will continue to monitor for larvae damage.
- Winter Wheat planting started; best grain yields come from wheat planted within 10-15 days of the Hessian fly free date.
- Soybean grain is drying down, but stalks are staying green.