

# Weekly Article

12-19-2022

## 12 Gifts of Christmas for 2023 Continued

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. This big day is almost here and as usual, I am running behind! I did manage to get my star put up on my silo this past weekend (after 3 trips up the silo) so I won't be a complete scrooge this Christmas season. The weather might be the biggest story this holiday season with expected cold weather and maybe even some snowfall. This past week has been a slow week in the field with damp and cool weather that has seemed to persist but believe it or not the month of December is actually running above normal on temperatures compared to the past December. Future forecast models are showing a wet trend persisting into the new year and even into the spring planting season. With arctic air expected to reach the area late this week, this is a good time for livestock managers to check watering systems and maintain bedding for livestock. Unrolling older bales of hay or straw on pastures can be a good place for cattle or other livestock to lay on rather than the frozen ground and this is also a good way to distribute nutrients across the pasture. Sometimes it can be easy to assume our livestock will be ok during the cold weather, but the cold weather does have quite an effect on the growth and maintenance of health. With this weather front expected rain turns to snow and then to bitterly cold air meaning animals' hides will be wet and then cold. This is a bad combination and body heat loss can be very high. According to OSU Dr. Steve Boyles cold weather can increase the feed intake of a mature beef cow by as much as 1.16% when temperatures fall below 5°F this is due to the metabolic response to the cold including muscles shivering, increased heart rates, increased breathing, and increased urination. Supplementing dry hay/forages with energy supplements such as shelled corn, distillers, and soybean meal can be a good way to keep animals' energy reserves in check during the bitter cold. When temperatures fall below 5°F, 4-6lbs per head a day can be sufficient.

I wish I could give the gift of sunny and warm weather this Christmas season but unfortunately, that is a service the ANR/CD Educator cannot provide. But here are the last 4 gifts of Christmas waiting to be unwrapped this holiday season.

**#9 Consumers continue to want fresh off the farm-** USDA ERS shows that an increase of 39% of consumers are looking to purchase food directly from the producer. This is a great opportunity for small and medium-sized Gav farm operations to market

their value-added products directly to the consumer. In many cases, this can decrease costs and increase the value of the products farmers produce on the farm.

**#10 Precision agriculture is increasing productivity-** As farmers continue to adopt precision agriculture practices crops yield trends continue to increase as well. Research from 1996-2012 showed an increase of 10% in soybean yield as precision agriculture adoption increased. In 2020 Auto Steer guidance increased by +66% yield monitored = +65%, GIS field mapping by +57%, and variable rate fertilizer/pesticide application = +57%, and electronic record keeping on the cloud = +29%.

**#11 Crops are becoming more efficient-** Agriculture producers are seeing a positive sign that crops are becoming more efficient when it comes to nutrient and water use. After 300 on-farm research trials on 39 different farms nutrient removal from crops are trending down. Corn showed a decrease of almost 27% in potassium used to produce the same yields 20 years ago and wheat uses 35% less potassium. To learn more, check out this factsheet <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-74>

**#12 Beef is still the winner for dinner-** In the last few years beef producers have been told by the main street to be prepared to find a new occupation because alternative plant protein or even cultured meat is taking the consumers by storm! NCBA reports that this news is just as fake as the meat itself. Alternative protein sources only make up .39% of the retail market share and consumers are still willing to buy beef even at higher retail prices as high as \$9.50/lb. 42% of consumers still have a positive view of beef production and 62% prefer Beef as their number one protein source.

### Dates to remember

- 2023 Crop Year safety Net enrollment has begun, and coverage for ARC/PLC coverage will be open until March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, contact the USDA FSA office for more information.
- 1-11-2023, first night of the OSU beef team virtual Beef School with updates on Beef inputs and marketing outlook for 2023 and beyond. To register go to [go.osu.edu/beefschool23](http://go.osu.edu/beefschool23). The webinar begins at 6:30 pm.
- 2023 Pesticide/Fertilizer Applicator recertification training 1-26-2023 at The Ohio Valley Career and Technical School 175 Lloyd Road West Union, Ohio 45693 5:00 –9:00 pm Call to register (937) 544-2339
- Dairy Margin Protection coverage sign-up date extended to 1-31-2023.

**Ag Educator Words of encouragement** – “God goes to those who have time to hear him- and so on this cloudless night he went to the simple shepherds” – **Max Lucado**