

# Weekly Article

## Herbicide Use in The Pasture

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. The last week of March is here and April 2021 is here. The weather outlook for the next 10 days looks very favorable with mild temperatures and near normal precipitation. I would say for the most part producers are sitting well ahead of schedule for their to-do list, now the trick is to stay patient and not jump the gun on planting!

With the warmer weather, pastures have really started to grow. On the other hand, weeds like Yellow Buttercup, Henbit, Poison Hemlock, Cress leaf Groundsel, Multifloral Rose, and many more have begun to grow at a rapid pace. These are very common weeds that take hold of pastures early in the spring season and now is a good time to control those weeds. Weeds not only reduce yield of forages, but they also reduce quality of forages. Weeds can also be toxic to livestock if consumed in large amounts. The most common approach to controlling weeds today is with the use of herbicides. There are many new formulations of herbicides that can be sprayed on pastures and do a very good job in controlling these weeds. Herbicides are very good tools for producers to utilize but with CAUTION. Today I want to just discuss a few factors to consider before filling up the sprayer and heading to the pasture.

1. ID the weed- If you do not know the weed and life cycle it is hard to choose the correct herbicide and timing of application for the job.
2. Are there other options- in today's world of agriculture is it common to look for a solution in a jug? Ask yourself, is there other means of control such as mechanical grazing management, mowing, and other livestock species.
3. What is the formulation and Preharvest Interval (PHI) of the herbicide? PHI is the time allocated between application and harvesting the crop (Grazing or mechanical harvest). Every herbicide is different some PHI's are longer than others. Commonly used Herbicides like 2-4-D have restricted grazing periods of 7 days, glyphosate has a 14-day grazing restriction and then Dicamba or Banvel can have a grazing restriction between 10-60 days depending on rate.
4. Consider residual effects in manure and bedding. Some herbicides such as GazonNext HL have 0 days of grazing restrictions. This is a great tool; producers can spray and allow animals to graze the same day. The problem with herbicides like this is that animal's manure and urine will contain the residue of the herbicide. So many of these forages will have

restricted crop rotation or restrictions from rotation of animals to newly seeded legumes like alfalfa and clovers. If you are a soybean farmer make sure to read the label for restrictions on manure applications to the crop field.

5. READ THE LABEL – The label of any pesticide is the Law and is a violation to apply or handle any pesticide in a way that goes against what the label says. Before applying any pesticide read and follow the label, this will allow for a better application and keep you, your pasture, and your animals safe.

Some other details to go over:

- Youth planning to show livestock at the 2021 Adams county Jr Fair or Ohio State Fair Must complete Quality Assurance training. This year's training will be offered via Zoom upcoming training will be March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m., April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 5 P.M. and May 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 P.M. to Register go to <https://go.osu.edu/21QA>
- USDA will continue taking applications for the Quality Loss Program to April 9<sup>th</sup>. This program assists producers who suffered crop quality losses due to qualifying 2018 and 2019 natural disasters, call (937) 544-2033 for information.
- CRP Grasslands signup will begin March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and conclude April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 contact the farm service agency for assistance in signing up for these programs.
- Next Farm Office webinar presented by OSU Extension Farm Office team April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 7:00 – 8:30 PM, discussion will be on the economic outlook for agriculture. This is a free webinar event. Go to [farmoffice.osu.edu](https://farmoffice.osu.edu) to register for the event.

From the field

- Fertilizer applications to pasture and hay fields taking place.
- Soil Temperature is around 45-46 °F
- Poison Hemlock rosettes have broken winter dormancy, time for an herbicide treatment.
- Multiflora rose has begun to bud and make small leaves, time for a basal herbicide application.
- Presence of slugs in cover crops like rye.
- Manure applications continue.
- Tobacco seeding is wrapping up.
- Spring calving in full swing some producers are finished.
- Winter annuals like Purple Deadnettle are turning crop field purple.
- Potatoes are being planted (good Friday is a week away).