

Weekly Article

3-6-2023

Ag Has an Impact on the Economy Too!

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. Some would say that March came in like a lamb, and I would agree to an extent. With the warmer-than-normal temperatures, one would think it was April rather than March. A part of me actually believes that March came in like a lion, with fierce winds that caused major damage across the county. From trees uprooted, shingles torn from roofs, and many barns and structures destroyed. The March 3rd storm had a great impact on the landscape. With the warmer weather fieldwork will ramp up very soon. Last week between the rain and wind I managed to make a few field visits to producers, from looking at feeder calves, new hay seedings, pastures, and even planting some flowers it was still a very busy week. Getting out to talk to producers is by far the most enjoyable part of my job. During my visits with producers, I seem to always learn something new from farmers and I always like to hear the good the bad, and even the ugly parts of agriculture. Farming is not an easy occupation and often farmers' impact on the economy (local, state, and national) is overlooked. One of my many inquiries of the week was, what is the actual impact of agriculture on the economy? How would one know the actual impact?

Agriculture is very diverse and complex, there are many factors that drive the economy, but I truly believe that agriculture is the heart, fuel pump, generator, or whatever else term that describes the continued operation. This past winter many farmers spent time looking over and filling out the 2022 Farm Census, this is a data collection document that the United States Department of Agriculture mails to farmers every five years. The purpose of the census is to collect farm data from across the nations and give a grand picture of how farm operations are changing over time. The USDA will then take this data and prioritize farm programs that will better help producers operate their farm businesses. An example of this is the program like Dairy Margin Protection program can be adjusted to meet a growing national herd size with fewer actual dairy farms. But what about local impacts? The census covers that too. I would imagine that USDA Census workers are still compiling the million data points for the 2022 census the next best reference is the 2017 data. Some interesting data from Adams County Agricultural impacts on the economy are as follows.

- 1,194 farms in Adams County

- 165, 947 acres In Adams County are used for Agricultural use (cover forestry as well)
- The average farm size is 139 acres.
- 54% of the cropland is used for row crops, 17% for pasture, 24% for woodland, and 5% for miscellaneous.
- 63% of farm income is derived from crop production and 37% from livestock.
- Market value of farm products sold per farm = \$33, 599
- Total Market value of agricultural products sold (total farm) equates to **\$40,118,000!!!**

As you can see by the numbers above, Farming does have a great impact on the economy as a whole, unfortunately, that is something often overlooked. Agriculture also provides a reliable and consistent job source, In Ohio alone, Agriculture provides 540,000 jobs, and nationally over 21 million jobs are created by the Agricultural industry. March 21st is National Ag Day, make sure to take some time to thank a farmer that you know for all they do.

Other information:

- Horse Clinic will be held at the seaman Community center 17806 State Route 247, Seaman, Ohio 45697, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm. Call the office at 937-544-2339 to register or email me at Purdin.19@osu.edu.
- Agronomy Update Meeting – March 28th. 6:00- 8:30 pm at the Cherry Fork Community Center, 14815 State Route 136 Winchester, Ohio 45697 Sponsored by Erwin Family Farms and Pioneer Hybrids.

Ag Educator Words of encouragement – “Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven’t planted”. **David Bly**