

# Weekly Article

4-13-2021

## Getting the Sprayer Ready

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. As the old saying goes, April showers bring May Flowers. With the recent rainfall many of our pastures and hayfields are really starting to grow, the trees are also starting to leaf out at a rapid pace. My hopes are that this continues, and old man winter does not want to show his ugly face until his properly allotted time. For the first time since last summer I complete my farm chores with a T-Shirt on, not only did I feel 20 pounds lighter, but I got a suntan in the process. I am not the only one that enjoys all this nice warm weather, the annual weeds and cover crops are growing at a rapid pace. So, the question for producers today is, is your sprayer ready to go!

Today I want to discuss some critical steps that you can take now that will help you make a better application of pesticides this growing season. The sprayer is one of the most important and highly used pieces of equipment on the farm. With today's adoption of conservation practices like No-till and the use of cover crops, the sprayer stays very busy throughout the season. The following are a few steps that can be taken now to reduce time during a busy planting season.

1. Make sure to buy extra replacement nozzles.
2. Rinse tanks, lines, and filters out with clean water.
3. Make sure pressure gages and control valves work properly.
4. Calibrate your sprayer.

Calibrating your sprayer could be the most important step you can take this season to ensure a successful pesticide application, reduce waist and prevent environmental pollution. Calibrating your sprayer can feel like a monumental task but it can be done in 30 min or less, here is a quick rundown on how you can calibrate your sprayer for a broadcast application.

- Fill the sprayer with clean water.
- Measure the distance between your nozzles in inches. Knowing the distance between nozzles will tell you what distance must be traveled to cover 1/128 of an acre. So, let's say your nozzle spacing is 18 inches, this means you would have to spray 227 ft to cover 1/128 of an acre.
- Measure the distance in the field and record the time it takes to travel the distance. This step should be done at least 2 times for accuracy.

- Park the sprayer and run, collect the output in a measuring jar for the same amount of time that was recorded to travel the distance of 1/128 of an acre. This step should be repeated for multiple nozzles and then calculate the average.
- The collected fluid in the measuring jar should be measured in ounces and this will equate to gallons per acre (15oz = a 15gal/ac rate).
- <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/fabe-520> is a good resource to follow.

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 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 FSA will open a sign-up period for CFAP #2 Assistance program for Livestock, row crop, and specialty crop producers effected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Call (937) 544 -2033 for assistance.
- April 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Local Jobs Fair 12:00pm to 5:00 pm, located at 600-day road, Mt Orab, Ohio
- July 15<sup>th</sup> is the set deadline to report acreage planted to spring crops such as corn, soybeans, oats, alfalfa, Tomatoes, Potatoes and more. Contact the FSA Office to report once crops are planted.

From the field

- Starter fertilizer being applied for corn and soybeans. Soil Temperature is around 51-52 °F
- Some soybeans and corn acres have been planted.
- Watch for creeping yellow buttercup in pastures.
- Winter wheat has reached growth stage Feeks 5 (starting to elongate)
- Cover crops are growing fast, think about termination steps in the coming weeks ahead
- Cool season perennial forages are being sowed.
- Many cool season vegetables are being planted in the garden.