

Weekly Article

8-26-20

Hello, my Name is Richard Purdin with OSU Extension Ag and Natural resource Educator for Adams County. I hope to better inform local producers and the general public of the latest news in agriculture that not only effects the farmer but at the end of the day effects everyone. In today's world of Agriculture farmers are being faced with many challenges from low commodity prices to backlogs in livestock markets due to the coronavirus. Farmers are very determined people and have made it through hard times before and believe the same will be true during this very uncertain time. I hope to serve the farmers as a resource that brings a shining light in this cloudy and uncertain time in agriculture.

I want to remind producers that the Farm Service Agency is still accepting applications for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, also known as (CFAP). This program was developed to provide a direct payment to farmers or ranchers impacted by Coronavirus pandemic. Producers should call the Farm Service Agency to get information regarding the program and what information is needed to apply. The Adams county FSA office number is (937) 544-2033 for the West Union office. The Deadline to apply is September 11th, the way time flies that will be here before you know it.

Some other details to go over is

- The Highland county Soil and water District is taking pre orders for their fish sale and annual meeting that is going to be held September 19th. The fish will be handed out the day of the meeting from 10am to 1pm Check out our web site (adams.osu.edu) and Facebook page for details, you can also call the Highland county soil and water conservation district at (937) 393-1922.
- It is hard to believe but harvest season is almost here. For those who are considering harvesting your corn for silage this year, keeping an eye on plant maturity is critical. As the corn plant matures the % dry matter increases. As DM increase, the risk of storage loss due to spoilage and mold also increases. It is recommended to harvest corn silage at 32-40% DM for Silage Bags and 32-38% for up right silos and 30-35% DM for a Bunker type silo. Testing the corn moisture is a good practice before harvest begins. Checking the ear maturity is not always reliable but should be considered. When the corn ear reaches late dough and early dent stage it is time to start checking moisture %.
- The Farm Science Review is virtual this year and can be viewed by going to fsr.osu.edu. September 22-24 is the set date and the theme of this year's show is **Measure What Matters**.
- Other factors to consider this harvest season is farm safety. As farmers gear up for harvest, it is a great time to run equipment through the shop and make sure equipment is not only ready to perform the harvesting task but also safe to operate. Making sure all

safety signage and shields are in place, making sure lighting is up to date especially road signals and caution lights. And for farmers working in or around silos, bunkers, and grain bins, you really have a good reason to wear a mask! Farmers often are diagnosed with a condition called green lung or farmers lung. This is created by dust, mold spores, and gasses created by fermenting forages or moldy grains. The Harvest season can be a busy and hectic time of year, but it is important to take care of your health. Remember we only make up 1.3% of the US population the other 98.7% of the population depends on us to provide a safe and healthy supply of food, so stay safe and healthy!