

Weekly Article

9-20-2021

National Farm Safety and Health Week

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. September is flying by and with the warm weather many of the crops are maturing at a rapid pace. This week looks to be on the wet side at the beginning of the week but finishing up on the dry and cool side for the end of the week. In my field scouting I would guess that many crops will begin to be harvested as soon as the weather allows. I have also taken note of how well pastures are holding up for this time of year. This week will be the beginning of fall and for many producers this means things are about to get busy. The week of September 19th-25th is dedicated as farm safety and health week. Today I wanted to discuss how farmers can remain safe both physically and mentally as harvest season begins.

All too often farmers overlook safety in the pursuit to get crops harvested or even working with livestock. As a farmer myself I understand that harvest season is very important and that when crops are ready to be harvested timing is everything. Other factors such as machinery breakdowns, weather, and or health issues can create additional stress when it comes to getting the crops out of the field and stored. It seems like there is never enough time in the day to achieve everything we want to do and as the days get shorter this is defiantly true but some steps that can be taken to stay safe this week include:

- Operate machinery properly and avoid rushing- Studies show that on a 10-year average, tractors and machinery were the most prevalent cause of death on Ohio farms. From the years 2009-2018 tractors were main cause of injury with livestock related equipment (manure hauling equipment) being the second major cause of injury or death. 53% of fatalities were due to tractor rollovers and 22% was due to runovers.
- Take time to instruct younger workers properly- When it comes to harvesting crops all hands are on deck. When I was younger dad put me in charge of some very important task but not without proper training. Every three days a child dies from a farm accident in the United States and 25% of deaths involve farm machinery. Before allowing young people to operate machinery, make sure to properly show them how machinery works and ride along side them to instruct. Dad often opened a field up for me and then rode along side for a little bit before

leaving me to complete the work. Never assume a young person knows what to do in cases of emergencies so discuss what to do in case something goes wrong.

- Take time for mental health- I have a bad tendency of overworking and not taking time to rest or take my mind off the work. Working long hours without rest can create a load of mental stress. When things get overwhelming some steps to reduce stress include, taking deep breaths, stretching, get plenty of sleep, exercise, have a conversation with a friend or family member.

Some other details to go over.

- USDA is updating the food assistance program or CFAP 2 program, making contract growers, livestock producers, and specialty crop producers eligible to modify their existing application or file for a new one by October 12th, 2021. Call the FSA office at (937) 544-2033 for more details.
- Black Walnut market opens October 4th at Marvin Keim Family Farm located at 848 Tater Ridge Rd West Union Ohio 45693 \$18/100lbs is current market price.
- 170th Brown County Fair September 27th-October 2nd.

From the field

- Corn harvest has begun, moisture levels are still high 20% and average yield after shrink was 190bu/ac.
- Soybeans harvest soon to begin.
- Many producers have finished the last cutting of hay
- Fall calf weaning beginning, stock yards are showing stronger demand for 500-600lb weaned calves
- Burley Tobacco harvest is wrapping up, it is a good feeling to get it in the barn!
- I have set two Fall Armyworm traps in the county. I will report next week on how many moths are collected
- Disease and nitrogen loss has made for weak corn stalks make sure to check your corn and consider early harvest for weak stalked corn.
- Pumpkin harvest is in full swing.
- Pink eye cases in cattle have increased the last few weeks.