

Weekly Article

National Farm Safety & Health Week

9-22-20

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 the world of Agriculture. The past week has been a refreshing change with fall like weather covering the state of Ohio. Morning lows in the mid to low 40's and daytime highs in the mid 70's have been very pleasant to get some field work done.

Speaking of field work, this time of year farmers are starting to do more and more field work, from harvesting crops to working with livestock. September 21- 25th is National Farm Safety and Health Week. The theme of this year's awareness campaign is EVERY FARMER COUNTS. It is no secret that farming is a very dangerous occupation and farmers can be under a lot of stress to get work done. Not only do farmers face the same challenges the common person has to deal with on a day to day basis, paying bills, providing for the family, and keeping up with off farm work. The farmer is also trying to make their farm profitable while dealing with extreme weather events that can prevent harvest or planting. Farmer are sometimes pushed to work very long hours placing them in dangerous situations around equipment. Today's farmers are farming multiple acres that are in different areas of the county or even state. This means that farmers must travel the roadways with large equipment like combines and tractors. It is important that the public be aware that this time of year there is a higher chance of meeting or following a large slow-moving vehicle. It is important to be patient when deciding to pass a large implement, passing when the roadway is safe and clear is important. Be respectful to the farmer when passing or following by keeping a safe distance and avoiding accidents, they are just like you, they want to get home and spend time with their family after a hard days work too. Farmers should make sure that equipment is in proper working order before driving on public roads. Make sure SMV emblems are clean and easily view up to 500 ft away. Check that all caution and road lighting is working properly. Tighten wheel lug nut and checking tire pressure is a good precaution to take before hitting the road. Make sure mirrors are adjusted to see as much as possible. REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD, just because you are driving a farm implement does not make you exempt from the rules. This can be a very stressful time of year for farmer but on the other hand it can be very rewarding. Accidents happen, but put a good plan in place the harvest season to avoid accidents and stay safe.

Some other details to go over is

- Farmer Safety-Net program sign up deadline is September 30th This is a program that allows producers to update yield date for the PLC or the ARC program. If you have questions, contact West Union FSA at (937) 544-2033.
- USDA will be providing direct assistance to farmers impacted by Corona virus for the second time this year. Producers can contact the FSA office to sign up for their second round of payments for 2020. Sign up begins September 21st, 2020 you should call before coming to the office. The phone number to call is (937) 544 2033
- Ask the Expert Sessions for the farm science review have been released. Check our web page or go to <https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2020/09/08/ask-the-expert-sessions-to-be-held-live-during-2020-farm-science-review/> to see the topics up for discussion.

From the Field

In scouting field conditions for Adams County, the following is things I have noticed.

1. Soybeans harvest is near.
2. Tobacco harvest is almost complete.
3. Corn Field are maturing rapidly, and many fields have reached black layer
4. Keep any eye on late planted or double crop soybeans, soybean rust is moving north due to tropical storms moving from the south.
5. Tomato harvest is slowing down, and pumpkin harvest is beginning.
6. More presence of soybean aphids on late planted soybeans