

## Weekly Article

### The Harvest To-Do List

9-29-20

Hello, my name is Richard Purdin with OSU Extension, Ag and Natural Resources Educator for Adams County. I hope to better inform local producers and the general public of the latest news in the world of Agriculture. Fall looks like it is here, the cooler weather, tree leaves turning and beginning to fall the woolly caterpillars are starting to move, and the crops are drying down fast and almost ready to harvest. Speaking of harvest, I have put together a survey for crop producers in the county to partake in if they are interested. This survey will ask for your average yield from different varieties grown on the farm. My goal is to compile the information and have a resource for farmers to use next spring on their farm as they make critical input decisions. The survey will be on OSU Extension Adams County Facebook page and on our web page at [adams.osu.edu](http://adams.osu.edu). Currently there is a survey asking about climate change and its effect on the farm operation, I would appreciate your input on that subject too.

The fall harvest season is a season most farmers look forward to. This is the time to experience the reward for all the hard work they put into their crops throughout the growing season. Harvesting season is a very busy season and adding more to the to-do list is not very exciting but well needed. This is a time to get one step a head of next season. Here are just a few things to think about doing as you prepare for 2021.

1. Do not just harvest the crop, harvest the data. Some of the smallest records recorded on the farm can save or even make the most money in the long run. As you harvest your crops compare hybrids, note diseases, stalk quality issues. For livestock producers, make note of open cows or poor condition cows that need culled, why feed them all winter?
2. Protect your land – After crops are harvested is there a window of opportunity to seed cover crops? There are many benefits to soil.
3. Do not put away the sprayer yet! In my travels I have seen a lot of soybean field with marestail. This is a winter annual weed; this means it starts growing in the fall. Fall applications of 2-4-D have done well in controlling this weed for the following growing season.
4. Take soil samples- this is a good time of year to take a soil sample to see what your soil is lacking. Making a fertilizer application without a soil test result is just guessing which can turn out to be a very expensive guess in the long run.
5. Test for Nematodes- this yield robbing pest can decrease soybean yields especially in a soybean on soybean rotation.
6. Wean Calves 45 days before selling- preconditioning your feeder calves show the buyers that you care about your cattle, and they will pay extra for that!

Some other details to go over is

- Farmer Safety-Net program sign up deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 you should call before coming to the office. The phone number to call is (937) 544 2033.
- Consignment Entry for the 2020 Ohio Cattleman Association fall female replacement sale is October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Adams Soil and Water Conservation District is collecting Common Milkweed Pods throughout the month of October, call (937) 544-2033 or go to [adamssoilandwater.org](http://adamssoilandwater.org) for details.

## From the Field

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

1. Some corn has been harvested for grain
2. Tobacco harvest is almost complete.
3. Great amount of hay has been harvested and wrapped up for the season.
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. Fall weaning feeder calf weaning is taking place on the farm and the yards.
6. Late season soybeans are being hit hard by grasshoppers.
7. Gardens are slowing down most cucumbers have died back, pumpkins are ripening.