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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Planting Seasons is Getting Near

The grass has definitely greened up in recent weeks and now the Opening Day is in the past with a Reds win with a big 5 run eighth inning and one of the most exciting NCAA Finals ever in the books, planting time is not far off.

For those of you who miss David Letterman, I thought this Top 10 list might be good as we near some long days of planting. The Top 10 signs spring planting can't be far off appeared in the Beef Blog.

10. The over-achiever down the road has his planter power-washed, calibrated, hooked-up and pointed toward the first field.

9. USDA's planting intentions report projects more corn acres and fewer bean acres which automatically makes you want to do the opposite.

8. Your seedsman has done the math and is trying to figure out if you're going to be returning more corn, milo or soybean seed.

7. It has just occurred to you that the planter is buried at the very back of the machine shed.

6. Someone sends you an email photo of a tractor exhaust sticking up out of a washed out terrace channel and you decide maybe you ought to do a little pre-plant reconnaissance.

5. Your planter is now tricked-out with so many modifications that it's hard to tell what brand it is anymore.

4. You're trying to decide which 60-day weather forecast you like best.

3. Your lender keeps sending you articles about crop insurance.

2. You've worn out the calculator next to your easy-chair trying to decide whether to plant more corn or beans.

1. Old-timers reminisce that, in their day, auto-steer meant aiming for the oak tree in the south fence-row.

## True Cost of Making Hay

As fertilizer buggies are covering many of our hay fields this first week of April, if they have not already made the traditional spring pass, maybe we should consider the true cost of producing hay. There is a pretty informative article in the Progressive Farmer that appeared in a recent Beef Blog (April 4). The information discusses fertility and the costs associated with hay production. You can find it by going to [www.thebeefblog.com](http://www.thebeefblog.com)

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The information addresses the use of fertilizer, the amount of crop removal, and the use of



manure into the mix of replacing the fertility that is removed. This addresses the cost of all of the different things that go into producing hay. Some of it may be an eye opener for you.

As we all know, fertilizer is not free. Neither is making hay.

### **Controlling Problem Weeds in Hayfields**

When it comes to our hayfields, how often do we actually get over them? Well we may make a couple of cuttings, but for controlling weeds this is too late. When you see the mature, or nearly mature weeds at cutting the damage has been done. The damage has really been done if we are talking about a year like 2015 when much of the hay was cut late. When hay is cut late, the weeds have often gone to seed and the problem has the potential to explode.

So, if you have a mental image of where those weeds were in the fields now might be the optimal time to go and get them while they are “somewhat easy” to control. The other reason to bring this up is that now is probably one of the other times that you may be going over the hayfields as you apply manure or fertilizer. So as you spread the fertility, look for patches of weeds that you may want to pass over with a spot sprayer some day when the wind is not blowing which seems to be the norm here lately.

Try to target weeds like thistles, poison hemlock and other weeds that seem to show up on an annual basis to control them with a broadleaf herbicide. It will improve the quality of your hay and the ability to dry the hay at harvest.

### **GAP for Vegetables**

The OSU Fruit and Vegetable Safety Team will be conducting an educational program for growers of fresh produce regarding Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). This is a very helpful program for fruit and vegetable growers of any size operation. Topics covered will include: water quality, manure and compost application, wildlife intrusion, food safety and risk assessments. Learn the best practices for producing high-quality, and safe produce.

The program will be from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Clermont Co. Extension Office on April 18. To register you can go online at [Clermont.osu.edu](http://Clermont.osu.edu) or call 513-732-7070.

### **Dates to Remember**

April 9                      Adams County Cattlemen’s Banquet at Frisch’s in West Union.

April 11                     Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Pre-register at [www.pested.osu.edu](http://www.pested.osu.edu) or call 800-282-1955.