

July 19, 2016  
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 David Dugan  
 OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources  
 Adams/Brown/Highland Counties  
 Ohio Valley Extension Education Research Area

## Communication is Key to Honey Bees

This year has been a crazy year for getting crops out and with the moisture that we have had, it seems to be a good year for insects. If you are out at dusk you will know what I mean. From the CORN Conference Call for the C.O.R.N. newsletter, it sounds like some of the traps throughout the state are seeing high populations, too.

If the high populations of damaging insects to crops happen, there may be need to spray insecticides to protect the crops. Several insecticides are harmful to honey bees, especially if the crop is flowering because bees will be active on the crop. Good communication is the key to protecting the bees. If you have a hive it is critical that you let neighboring farmer's know. Remember honey bees have been known to travel a half a mile, so you may need to contact several farmers. You can also register your bees with the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 800 282-1955. While registering them may be a good thing, it is still not like a friendly visit to let your neighbor's know. This might also be a good time to share a small container of honey with your neighbor so you can explain how they can help you protect your bees in the future, as the crop producer protects his crop.

## Scouting Weeds

Now that the crops are in the ground, scouting needs to be done for problems. Remember the issues that we have discussed about some of the problem weeds in recent years. The member of the pigweed family that has taken the south by storm, Palmer Amaranth needs to be identified and destroyed quickly. OSU Extension has several factsheets concerning this problem weed that has been found in isolated areas in Ohio. You can find the information at <http://u.osu.edu/osuweeds/super-weeds/palmer-amaranth/>

## ARC County Looking Forward: Making County of Payment Choice for 2016-2018

A couple of years ago we held several meetings explaining some of the options and changes that were in the Farm Bill. At that time Chris Bruynis, OSU Extension Educator, Ross County, was heavily involved in presenting this information throughout the state. The following is information about the Farm Bill and your election as we move forward that Chris has put together.

Farmers with the administration of their farms consolidated at one FSA office may want to examine their ARC-CO projected payments for 2016 – 2018. If no decision to change is made, ARC-CO payments will be calculated on the average yields for the administrative FSA office county, regardless of where the land is physically located. Earlier in the year, FSA announced that farmers could elect to have the 2014 and/or the 2015 ARC-CO payments calculated on the county in which the land is physically located. For some farms this was financially beneficial. However, do not expect 2016 to be like previous years since the high yields that reduced payments in a few locations (Defiance County 2014, and Ross County 2015) are now included in the formula to determine the payment.



Visual maps for farmers to reference for the 2016 - 2018 payment projections have been created. With the assumption that corn and soybean yields will average 5% above the county Olympic average for 2016 and wheat yields will average 10% above the county Olympic average for 2016. The Market Year Average (MYA) price is currently estimated by USDA to be \$3.50 for corn, \$9.50 for soybeans, and \$4.00 for wheat. Lower prices and/or lower yields could improve the ARC-County payment while higher prices or higher yields could erode the projected payment.

These maps give a quick visual for ARC-CO corn, soybean, and wheat payments by county with payments rounded to the nearest dollar. The maximum potential payment for each county is listed followed by the expected payment based on the above assumptions. Farmers can quickly look to see if the land in a neighboring county, that is not their administrative county, had a significantly different payment. Based on this information, they can decide if they want to elect to be paid based on the farm land's county or keep it in their current county of administration. Check with FSA to determine the process you will need to follow to make any changes.

Farmers may also want to consider potential payments for 2017 and 2018 into this decision. Using the assumption that we will have average yields and the same MYA prices as used for 2016, there will not be ARC-County payments for corn and soybeans those years. Most of this is due to a significantly lower revenue guarantee as the high price years of 2012 and 2013 are no longer in the Olympic average or are thrown out as the high year in calculating the Olympic average. Significantly lower actual prices or yields could generate some level of payment, but the maximum will be reduced by 50% from 2016 projections. Wheat is the only crop that which may make some payments, but they will be smaller with the 2017 and 2018 payments combined running in the \$30 to \$45 range per base acre with an estimated 2/3<sup>rd</sup> paid for 2017 and the other 1/3<sup>rd</sup> paid for 2018.

The prices listed on the maps are the best guess estimate of the actual payment rate per acre. However, if farmers want to estimate ARC-CO payments for their farm, they would need to make two adjustments. First the program pays on 85% of the base acres, one would need to multiply the amount by 85% to adjust for this reduction. Secondly there would need to be an adjustment if Congress creates a sequestration deduction. Farmers with land in more than one county have until August 1<sup>st</sup> to make the permanent decisions for 2016 through 2018's ARC-CO payments. This does not affect farms enrolled in ARC-Individual or the PLC program. The 2016 and beyond estimates are based on current best information provided by Farm Services Agency and the National Agricultural Statistics Service. These numbers can change in the coming months and are provided as a guide only. Please use your own judgement and assumptions when making the determination for the 2016 ARC-CO payment county decision.

## **GMO Labeling Mandatory Soon**

Congress has passed a law that will soon make it a requirement for labeling foods with GMOs or bioengineered. This is expected be signed by the President soon. *Definition of "bioengineered" food*, which is food intended for human consumption that contains genetic material that has been modified through in vitro recombinant DNA techniques and for which the modification could not otherwise be obtained through conventional breeding or found in nature. Within two years of the bill's enactment, the Secretary of Agriculture must establish a mandatory national bioengineered food disclosure standard and the procedures necessary to implement the national standard.

Peggy Hall, OSU Extension Ag Law attorney, has summarized the Bill on her blog. You can read about what the Bill covers and what is exempt. To go the Blog go to: <http://aglaw.osu.edu/blog> or stop by the OSU Extension Office and we can print a copy.

## **Dates to Remember**

July 23            HOPS Open House at various locations.  
Aug. 3-4         Manure Expo at Farm Science Review in London, OH <http://www.manureexpo.org/>

Aug. 8 Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant – register at <http://pested.osu.edu>  
Aug. 9 Adams Soil and Water / Farm Bureau Annual Meeting  
Aug. 16 Southwest Corn Growers Field Day in Washington C.H.  
Aug. 26 Beef and Forage Field Night at Jackson Research Farm