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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Corn Problems Showing Up

Last week I received a call from a producer with concerns about being able to harvest some of his corn. The issue seemed to be that the stalks were hollow and simply breaking off at an alarming rate. In fact in some areas in the field the stalks were so weak that they would just snap off and the harvest equipment was not able to take the corn in. It was just piling up in front of the head.

I pulled samples and have yet to get a definite on the problem. We know there was some Southern Rust in corn in the area in the past few weeks. This issue is most likely a stalk rot that is causing the low strength in the stalks.

OSU Extension Corn Specialist Peter Thomison has provided some insight on the situation in this week's CORN Newsletter. The entire newsletter can be found at <http://corn.osu.edu>

While never a recommended practice, this is definitely not the year to “store” corn in the field and delay harvest. Reports of lodging and downed corn are increasing across the state. Stalk rots are largely responsible for the problem which have been promoted by stressful production environments and susceptible hybrids. Affected corn stalks are characterized by internal plant tissue that has disintegrated and often appears “hollowed out”. These symptoms are also often present in the crown of the plant. Severe lodging slows the harvest operation causing delays that expose the crop to less favorable weather conditions, as well as wildlife damage. Another loss may occur if ear rots develop when ears on lodged plants come in contact with wet soils and surface residues. Even certain hybrids that normally exhibit good standability and stalk quality are exhibiting significant lodging. According to some grower accounts, corn that had been standing well, collapsed in the course of a few days. In these extreme situations, growers may face major challenges harvesting lodged corn which is nearly flat on the ground.

“Scout fields to determine where problem areas are and the condition of stalks and ears. Harvest the problem areas first when field conditions are better and before kernels in close proximity to the ground have an opportunity for potential further deterioration. An exception might be made to harvest an area with particularly weak stalk strength that is still standing if the odds of lodging from weather seem high.

The only way to evaluate whether any harvesting aid or technique is helping is to measure harvest losses. Each $\frac{3}{4}$ -pound ear on the ground per 436 square feet equals a loss of one bushel per acre. Detailed instructions for measuring losses are in Profitable Corn Harvesting (<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/Profitable-Corn-Harvesting>). Take a measuring tape to the field at harvest and spend a few minutes behind the combine checking losses.

The full article contains harvesting tips. Check it out on line or stop by the office for a copy.



Gardening Sessions Start Soon

The 2016-17 gardening sessions at Southern State Community College in Mt. Orab are free and open to the public. The programs will be held once a month, on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Here is the planned schedule for the next several months.

Oct. 20 – Faye Mahaffey – Decorating Your Garden

Nov. 17 – Jamie Loudon – Growing Chrysanthemums

Jan. 19 – Danielle Thompson – Rain Gardens

Feb. 16 – Chris Dresel – Gardening for Pollinators

March 16 – Dale Dyer – Heritage Gardens

April 20 – Ron Powell – Pawpaws

May 18 – Christine Tailer – Nutritious and Delicious Weeds (different location TBA)

Hopefully you find several topics of interest in the schedule. The Brown County Master Gardeners provide this program at Southern State Community College. The Master Gardener's make out the schedule and in some sessions will be the presenters. If you would like to become a master gardener please contact your local OSU Extension Office and ask to be added to the list. Training is offered every few years or whenever the demand for the training is high enough to provide the class. To find out more about the Master Gardener program in Ohio go to <http://mastergardener.osu.edu> or contact your local OSU Extension Office and request a call from a Master Gardener volunteer.

Issues with Deer Losses in Southern Ohio

I received a call from someone who raises deer on the morning just before deadlines for this article for many of the papers. He had read my article from last week concerning the losses of cattle to anaplasmosis and said that there was nothing out there informing people about the issues in the deer herds.

This is what I have found to this point. The disease is Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and it often shows up during drought like conditions. I have also been told by the Ohio Department of Agriculture that there are vaccines available. I will find out more and will hopefully have more information in next week.