

October 9, 2018
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 David Dugan
 Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
 and Community Development

Fall Temperatures and the Grazing Risks

As I type this on Tuesday morning we have had a short stretch of dry, very warm days for October. However, the forecast is calling for rain and a huge drop in temperatures. I have seen several fields of hay cut over the past week, but also saw quite a bit of rain in some of those areas. I realize many did not see much rain in the past week, but I know Ripley, Decatur, West Union and Bentonville had a downpour sometime in the past week. I heard that the Ripley area had an inch and three fourths on Friday and Saturday. I saw water running over SR 41 on Friday afternoon. I live between those two and had a half inch total over Friday and Saturday.

The risks that I am talking about with falling temperatures are hopefully a couple of weeks away, but time will tell. The wet conditions along with 80 degree plus temperature has created lush growth of forages. The forages in many locations have also seen competition from weeds this summer. Some of those weeds, like Johnsongrass, can be a problem in grazing areas once the temperatures drop to around the freezing mark. That is not the only time Johnsongrass can be a problem.

With the lush growth and the amount of hay being harvested into October, there is another risk for Johnsongrass. The risk is if you are baling hay and feed some of it immediately. The Johnsongrass risk with frost is the plant cells are damaged and release a toxic gas. This is the same issue if freshly cut and baled without being completely dry. The plant was damaged in the harvest process and until completely dried it is not safe to feed.

Light frost are more dangerous because the frost might damage the plant, but not kill it until we have a more severe frost. The light frosts can keep the plant damaged for an extended time, so to be safe, make sure the plant is completely dried out before turning livestock into a grazing situation with Johnsongrass.

Other concerns are frost conditions include clover and alfalfa. When these forages are wilted following a frost they can cause issues. These conditions, especially when wet in the morning, can cause animals to be susceptible to bloat.

So with the change of seasons comes the need for more grazing management. From what I have seen, most local farms have tons of forages this fall. The grazing season could extend into December and beyond.

Crop Issues Continue

The rain that has provided for lush forages has been a major problem for other crops. Tobacco is a mess. Many acres will most likely not be harvested due to the crop rotting in the field. Corn and soybeans are having issues, too. Both are sprouting on the plant. Dr. Anne Dorrance points out some of the issues in this week's CORN newsletter, which can be found online at <http://corn.osu.edu>



This is portion of what she has to say: Let's face it – we've had historic rains in parts of Ohio during 2018 and we are now observing many late season issues that come with this. Seed quality is one of them and the symptoms or warning signs that there could be issues are on the stems. The stems in some fields are heavily colonized with a mix of disease pathogens that cause Anthracnose, Cercospora, and pod and stem blight (Figure 1). The bottom line is that all of these diseases can be better managed with higher levels of resistance but ultimately during 2018 – we had a perfect storm, lower levels of resistance combined with higher than normal rainfall conditions and add in the presence of a new insect pest, stink bugs.

Dates to Remember

- October 15 Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon.

- October 25 Beef Quality Assurance Training at the United Producers Stockyards in Hillsboro at 6:30 p.m. Call 393-3424 to register prior to the event. Meal starts an hour prior.