

## TUSCARAWAS COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

October 16, 2021

**WINTER FEED COSTS**...are typically the single largest expense in most livestock grazing systems. Dr. Steve Boyles, OSU Extension Beef Specialist, discusses the topic in this OSU Extension Beef newsletter: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/10/06/developing-a-winter-feeding-program/#more-11591>.

Extending the grazing to reduce the cost of feeding stored feed will greatly increase profits. Labor can be reduced 25% or more. Rotational grazing takes about three hours per acre per year as opposed to hay production, which takes seven hours per acre per year. The cost for grazing a cow per day is \$.25 compared to \$1.00 per day to feed hay to a cow.

The first step is to evaluate the potential, available, existing feed. Crop residue can be an abundant winter feed. Corn stalks can maintain a spring calving cow in good body condition for about 60 days after corn harvest. The feed value will decline quickly after the 60-day period. Cattle will select and eat grain, then husks and leaves, and last cobs and stalks. Strip grazing increases utilization, rations the feed, and reduces the need for supplementation. The crop fields should be grazed so that adequate residue remains soil erosion control.

Stockpiled perennial grasses can be grazed in the late fall/early winter. The general recommendation is to clip or make hay in the field during the end of July and apply 30 to 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre. High-producing, clean, well-drained fescue and orchard grass meadows would be a good choice. Let the forage grow until you need it. Strip grazing will increase utilization. Winter annual forage crops can be used to provide grazing. Brassicas are easy to establish, fast-growing, high-yielding, and high-quality and can withstand cold temperatures. Turnips can reach maximum quality in as little as 60 days. The tops can tolerate temperatures down to 20 degrees and the bulbs down to 10 degrees. Cows and sheep will eat both the tops and bulbs.

Grazing and presetting round bales prior to feeding can reduce trampling and extend the grazing season. Setting rounds 20 feet on center in the fall when the weather is fit and moving a temporary electric fence to feed them reduces winter feeding time. Hay should be fed away from drainage ways and near livestock watering sources. Feeding hay in low fertility areas will improve the fertility and future pasture quality.

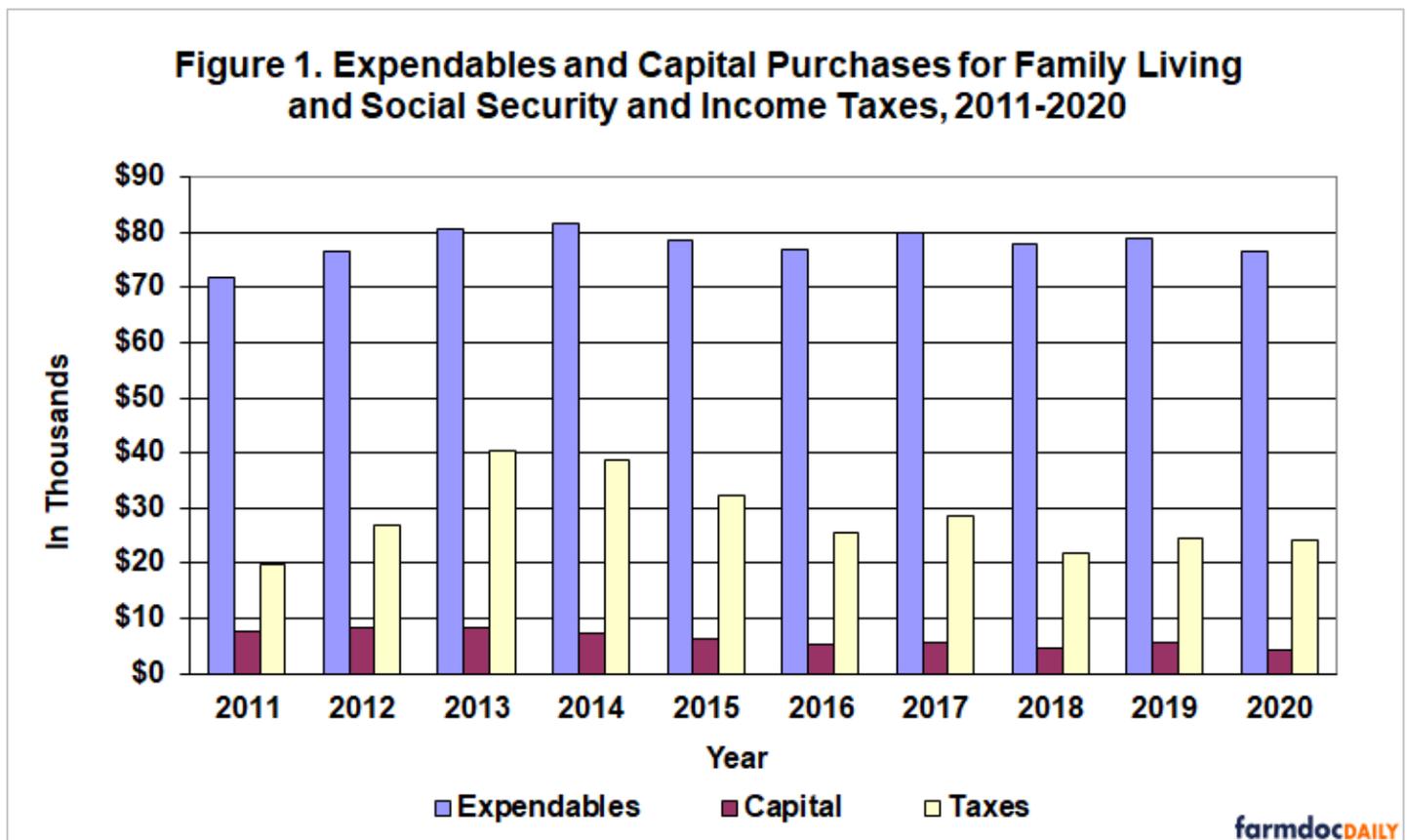
Livestock heavy use areas or pads should be located outside the flood plains. If the pad is located close to a watercourse, run off and manure from the pad should be managed to protect the stream from pollution. These areas should be located at least 300 feet away from neighboring residences and away from wells. A manure management system should be designed to handle any accumulated manure on the pad.

More details on these options can be found in OSU Extension Bulletin 872: [Maximizing Fall and Winter Grazing of Beef Cows and Stocker Cattle](#)

**AGRICULTURAL SALES TAX EXEMPTION**...for Ohio farmers is discussed in this OSU Extension Law Bulletin [https://farmoffice.osu.edu/sites/aglaw/files/site-library/LawBulletins/Ag\\_Sales\\_Tax\\_Bulletin\\_Oct2021.pdf](https://farmoffice.osu.edu/sites/aglaw/files/site-library/LawBulletins/Ag_Sales_Tax_Bulletin_Oct2021.pdf).

**DO NOT FORGET FAMILY LIVING EXPENSES**...when developing budgets for 2022. This topic is discussed in this University of Illinois Farmdoc article: <https://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/fdd151021.pdf>

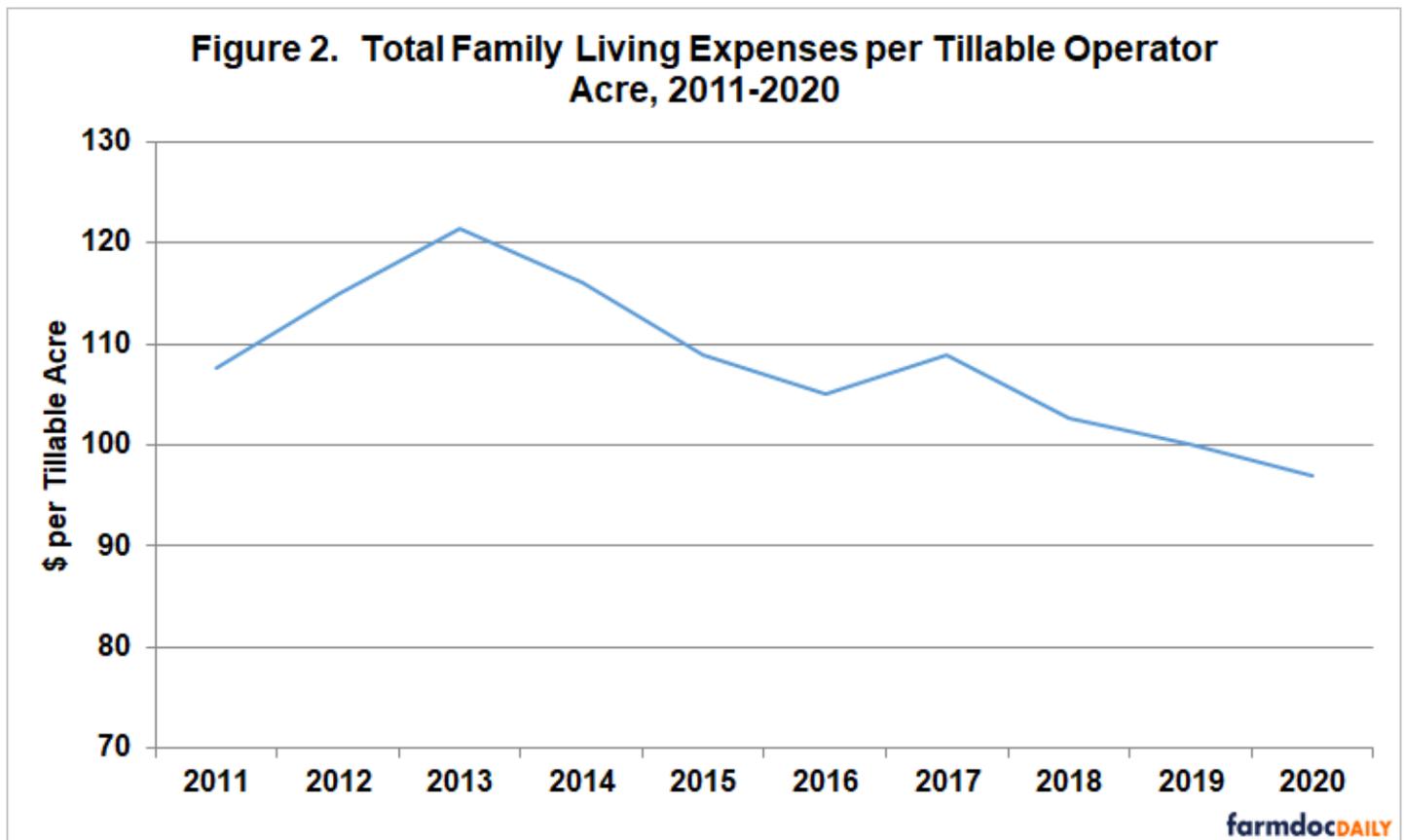
In 2020, the total noncapital living expenses of 1,088 farm families enrolled in the Illinois Farm Business Farm Management Association (FBFM) averaged \$76,672—or about \$6,400 a month for each family (Figure 1). This average was about 2.8 percent lower than in 2019. Another \$4,354 was used to buy capital items such as the personal share of the family automobile, furniture, and household equipment. Thus, the grand total for living expenses averaged \$81,026 for 2020 compared with \$84,340 for 2019, or a \$3,314 decrease per family.



Income and social security tax payments decreased 1.3 percent in 2020 compared to the year before. The amount of income taxes paid in 2020 averaged \$24,214 compared to \$24,525 in

2019. Net nonfarm income increased, averaging \$47,892 in 2020. Net nonfarm income has increased \$12,438, or 35.1 percent in the last ten years.

In Figure 2, total family living expenses (expendables plus capital) are divided by tillable operator acres for 2011 to 2020. In 2011, all of the family living costs per acre averaged about \$108 per acre. This increased to \$121 per acres in 2013, but has decreased to \$97 per acre in 2020. \$108 was the 10-year average of total family living expense per acre. If we compare this to the 10-year average of net farm income per acre of \$158, then 68% of the net farm income per acre is family living expense. If we look at the average year over year change for the last ten years for family living per acre, the annual change was *negative* 0.3% per year. The five-year annual change per year would average *negative* 2.2%. Therefore, as you work on your crop budgets, keep in mind that a \$97 per acre family living is equal to a 49 cent per bushel price change on 200 bushels per acre for corn.



When you take total family living expenses minus net nonfarm income this equals \$40 per acre in 2020 and was \$48 per acre for the five-year average. This would be the part of family living that is covered by the farm income. In addition, there is another \$29 per acre in social security and income taxes to be covered by the farm in 2020. The five-year average for these taxes was \$31 per acre. A 20 cent price change on 200 bushels of corn per acre is equal to the 2020 family living cost that

would be covered by the farm. If you added the amount of social security and income taxes that would be a 35-cent price change on 200 bushel of corn per acre.

**SPOTTED KNAPWEED**... is a detrimental weed that shares similarities to many less threatening pasture plants. The color of the flower is like that of red clover, the growth habit is similar to chicory, and the flower shape is similar to Canada thistle and ironweed. However, the combination of growth habit, color, and flower shape is unique to spotted knapweed. Spotted knapweed may possess as many as 200 pink to purple blooms per plant. The mature seed heads resemble Canada thistle, a tight cluster of seeds with a fluffy pappus attached. The pappus helps the seed move with wind, water, animals, and vehicles.



Spotted knapweed (far left) is often confused on first glance with other flowers like red clover, chicory, or ironweed. Growth habits are drastically different between all of these plants. (Photo Sources: Steve Dewey of Utah State University and Christine Gelley of OSU Extension)

Mowing for control is marginally successful. It does help prevent the development of seed, but the plant is able to flower below the height of a mower deck. Biological control using various insects has proven beneficial in western systems but are difficult to secure in the eastern part of the United States. Chemical treatment with readily available broadleaf herbicides and glyphosate for spot treatment has been successful in grass pastures of our region if timed appropriately. Adequately fertilizing pastures can be helpful for increasing the health and competitiveness of desirable plants against the onslaught of this invader.

Some commonly used broadleaf herbicides that are also effective on spotted knapweed include:

- Aminopyralid
- Aminopyralid + 2,4-D
- Clopyralid 3,
- 2,4-D amine or ester
- Dicamba
- Dicamba + 2,4-D
- Picloram 22K
- Others may work as well, but effectiveness is unknown or only considered fair in comparison.

The best control tools for spotted knapweed and many other weeds are early detection and early action. Hand pulling and spot spraying young plants that are few and far between can be effective on



new invasions. However, heavy infestations will likely take a more creative and lengthy approach to treat including a combination of management tactics.

(Source: OSU Extension Beef newsletter: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/10/06/recognizing-the-risks-of-broadleaf-weeds-in-pasture/#more-11478>)

**SENATE BILL 52**...became effective earlier this week. The new laws expand local involvement in the siting and approval of utility-scale solar and wind facilities, as follows:

- County commissioners may designate “restricted areas” where such facilities may not locate.
- County citizens may petition for a referendum to approve or reject restricted area designations.
- Developers must hold a public meeting overlooking a proposed facility in the county where it would locate.
- County commissioners may prohibit or limit a proposed wind or solar facility after learning of it at the public meeting.
- County and township representatives must sit on the Ohio Power Siting Board committee that reviews facility applications.

The new laws also require wind and solar developers to submit decommissioning plans and performance bonds to address removal of a facility at the end of its lifetime.

Additional information about this topic is available from OSU Extension at: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/our-library/energy-law>.



## TUSCARAWAS COUNTY AGRICULTURE &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES

October 21, 2021

**FALL ARMYWORM**...damage is once again being reported throughout the county. Scouting wheat, rye, alfalfa, and cover crops is strongly encouraged.

**COMBINE FIRES**...have been reported in several counties across Ohio. Unfortunately, Ohio ranks fourth in the nation for combine fires. Other states leading the list include Minnesota (1st), Iowa (2nd), Illinois (3rd), Kansas (5th), Nebraska (6th) and South Dakota (7th). This OSU Extension C.O.R.N. newsletter (<https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-36/prevent-combine-fires-during-fall-harvest>) discusses the topic of combine fires. A summary is provided below.

**TIPS TO PREVENT COMBINE FIRES INCLUDE:**

- **Have a daily maintenance plan during the harvest period.** Keeping machinery well maintained plays a large role in preventing fires from these sources. Cleaning up spills, blowing off chaff, leaves, and other plant materials on a regular basis, proper lubrication of bearings/chains, and checking electrical connections should be part of the daily routine. Farmers may choose to do their daily maintenance in the morning while waiting for the dew to burn off the crops. However, performing maintenance at night will highlight any hot-spots or smoldering areas as the machine is cooling down. Removing chaff at the end of the day will reduce the amount of debris available to spark a fire.
- **Eliminate static electricity.** A chain may also be mounted on the bottom of the machine to drag on the ground while in the field. This decreases the buildup of static electricity.

**IF A FIRE BREAKS OUT, IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN IN PLACE:**

- **Call 911 or your local first responders at the first sign of a fire.** Don't wait to know if you can contain a fire yourself, rapid response is important to saving valuable equipment. Combine fires are often in remote locations where a specific address may not be available and access is limited. Emergency response times will be longer in these situations.
- **Have (2) ABC fire extinguishers mounted on the combine.** A 10-pound ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher in the cab or near the ladder of the cab is quick access to protect the operator. A second extinguisher (20-pound ABC) is recommended to be mounted on the outside of combines where it is accessible from the ground. It's possible that one unit will extinguish a small fire; having the second unit will help with any additional flare-ups. Don't forget to check that the extinguishers are fully charged at the beginning of the season. Not having extinguishers ready when needed leads to a helpless feeling of watching one of your most expensive pieces of equipment go up in flames.
- **Have a water truck positioned by the field.** Hot mufflers and catalytic converters from other vehicles driving in the field can pose a risk to the dry field fodder. Smoldering materials



may go by 15 to 30 minutes before being noticed. A small gust of wind could rapidly turn that smoldering into a fire. In extreme dry conditions, a water truck may help protect against field fires. Never use water on fires that are electrical or fuel-sourced.

- **Have an emergency plan in place and discuss it with the other workers or family members.** Knowing what to do in the event of a fire emergency is important. Knowing the address to the field and how to contact fire departments directly instead of through the 911 system are important safety conversations for the entire harvest crew.

Don't get caught thinking it can never happen on your farm. Take preventative action and be prepared.

**DARK DUST CLOUDS**...during harvest operations are not unusual, but some are reporting that the dust is thicker and darker than normally experienced. One possible explanation for this could be the fact that leaves in several corn fields died prematurely because of mid- to late-season diseases such as tar spot, gray leaf spot, and particularly, northern corn leaf blight. These leaves were then exposed to wet, humid conditions which caused them to produce lots and lots of fungal spores. For instance, under wet conditions, northern corn leaf blight lesions produce large amounts of dark-colored spore that are easily suspended in the air once the plants are disturbed by the combine. In addition, saprophytic fungi such as *Alternaria*, which also produce dark-colored spores, may also grow on dead plant tissue exposed to wet, humid late-season conditions, adding to the number of dark particles in the dust cloud during harvest.

**Respiratory Alert – Harvesting fields with dry, moldy leaves may expose farmers to dust.** Dust in grain harvested from fields that were severely affected by foliar disease contain a mixture of tiny pieces of diseased leaves and fungal spores, all of which may cause irritation and allergic reactions. Breathing dust can have adverse effects on the human respiratory system. For field with ear rots, dust (pieces of moldy cobs and husks) may also be contaminated with mycotoxins.

Wearing a disposable, 2-strap N95 mask (respirator) helps protect the worker from breathing in dusty, moldy and toxic substances. This type of personal protection equipment will filter out at least 95% of the dust and mold in the air. The 1-strap mask does not have this level of protection and is basically worthless in agricultural environments.

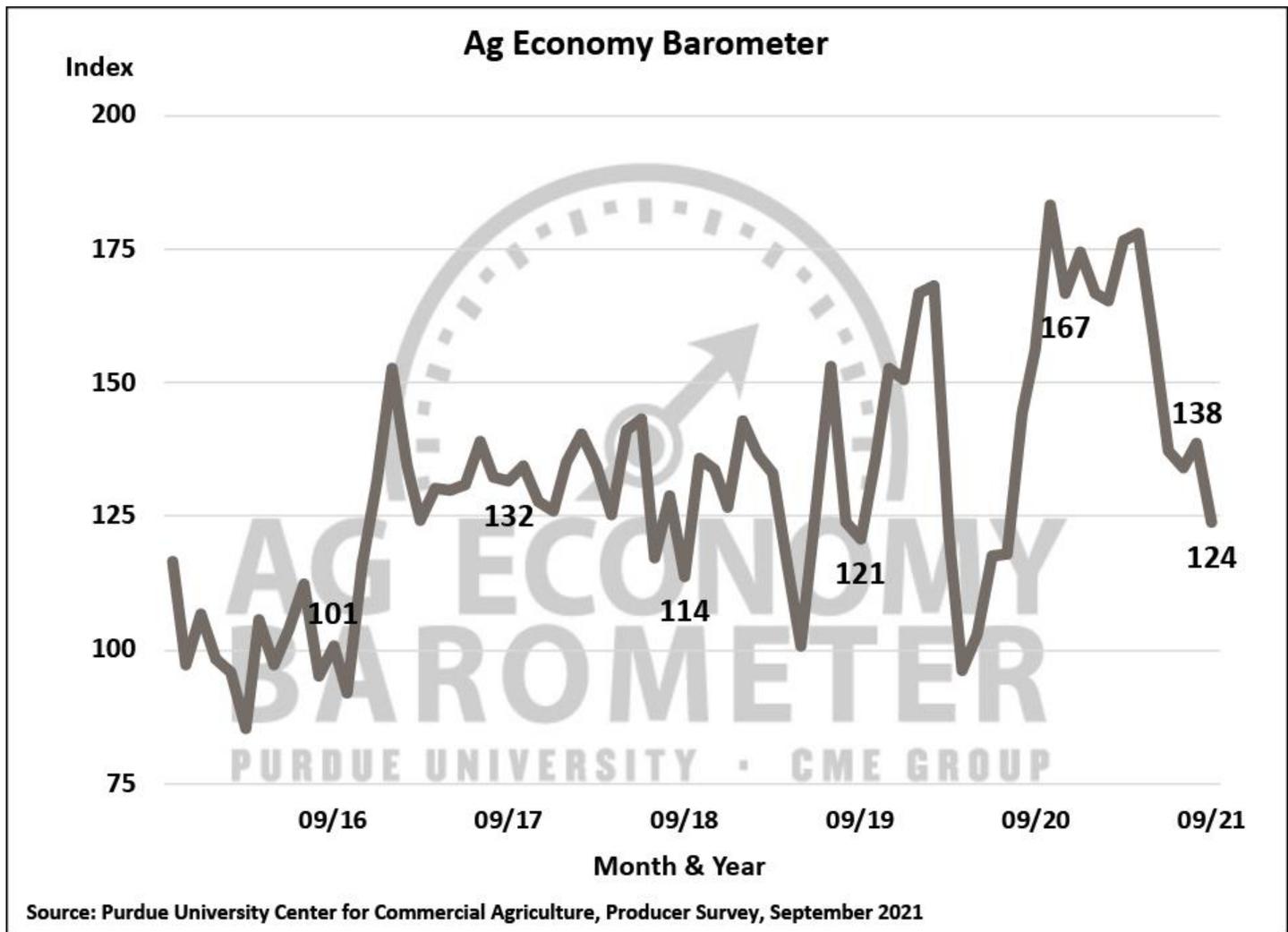
For additional information about respiratory protection, please see this OSU Extension C.O.R.N. newsletter: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-36/harvesting-corn-fields-moldy-leaves-and-stubble>.

**ALTERNATIVE ON-FARM GRAIN STORAGE**...options are discussed in this OSU Extension C.O.R.N. newsletter: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-36/alternative-options-farm-grain-storage>.

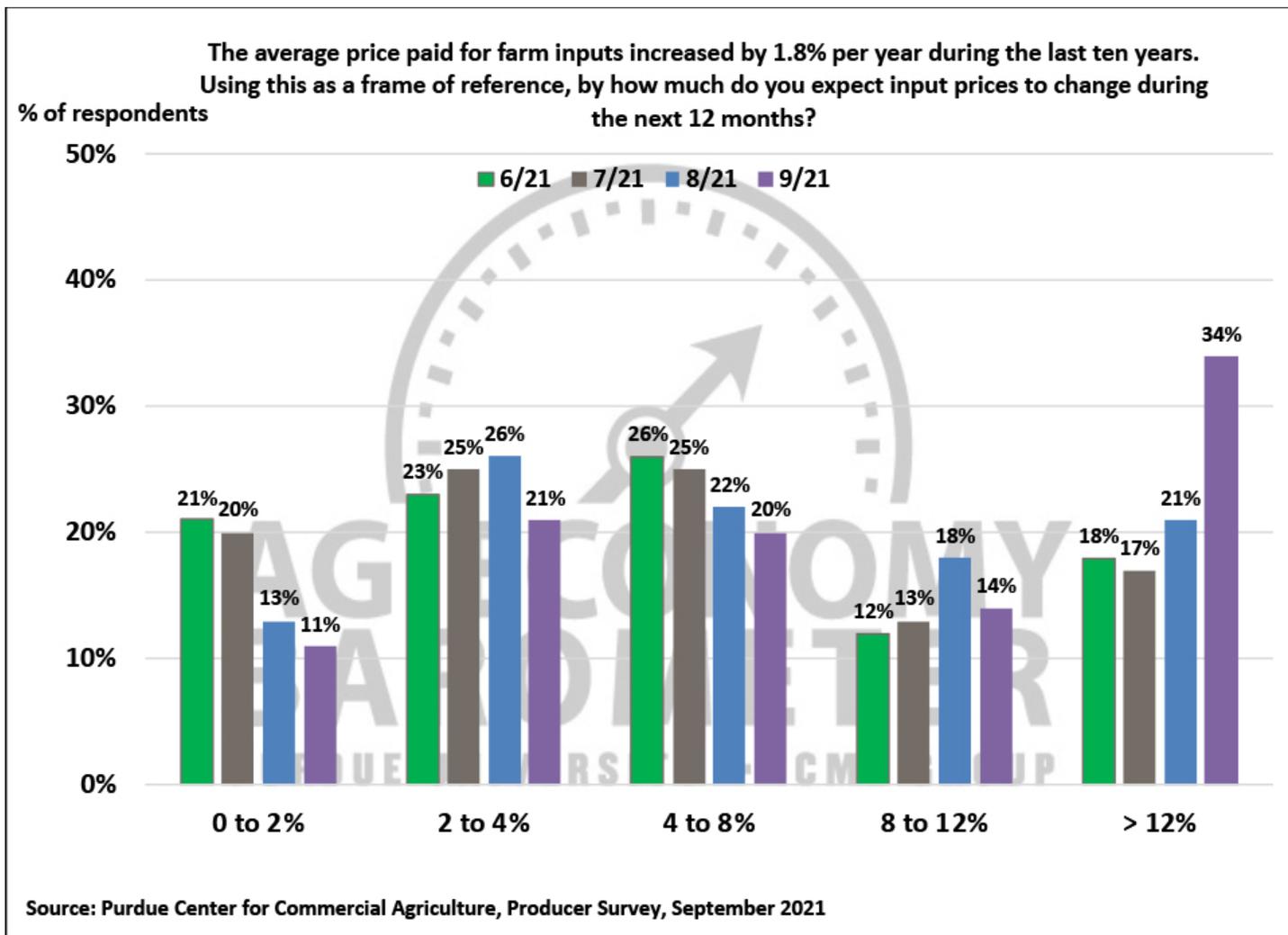
**FARMER SENTIMENT DECLINED**...in the September Ag Economy Barometer published by Purdue University. Sentiment among agricultural producers weakened in September as the *Ag Economy Barometer* declined 14 points to a reading of 124. This is the weakest farmer sentiment reading since



July 2020 when the index stood at 118. Producers were less optimistic about both current and future conditions on their farms and the agricultural sector than they were a month earlier. Selected highlights are provided below. The entire report is available here: <https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/ageconomybarometer/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/September-2021-Ag-Economy-Barometer-1.pdf>.



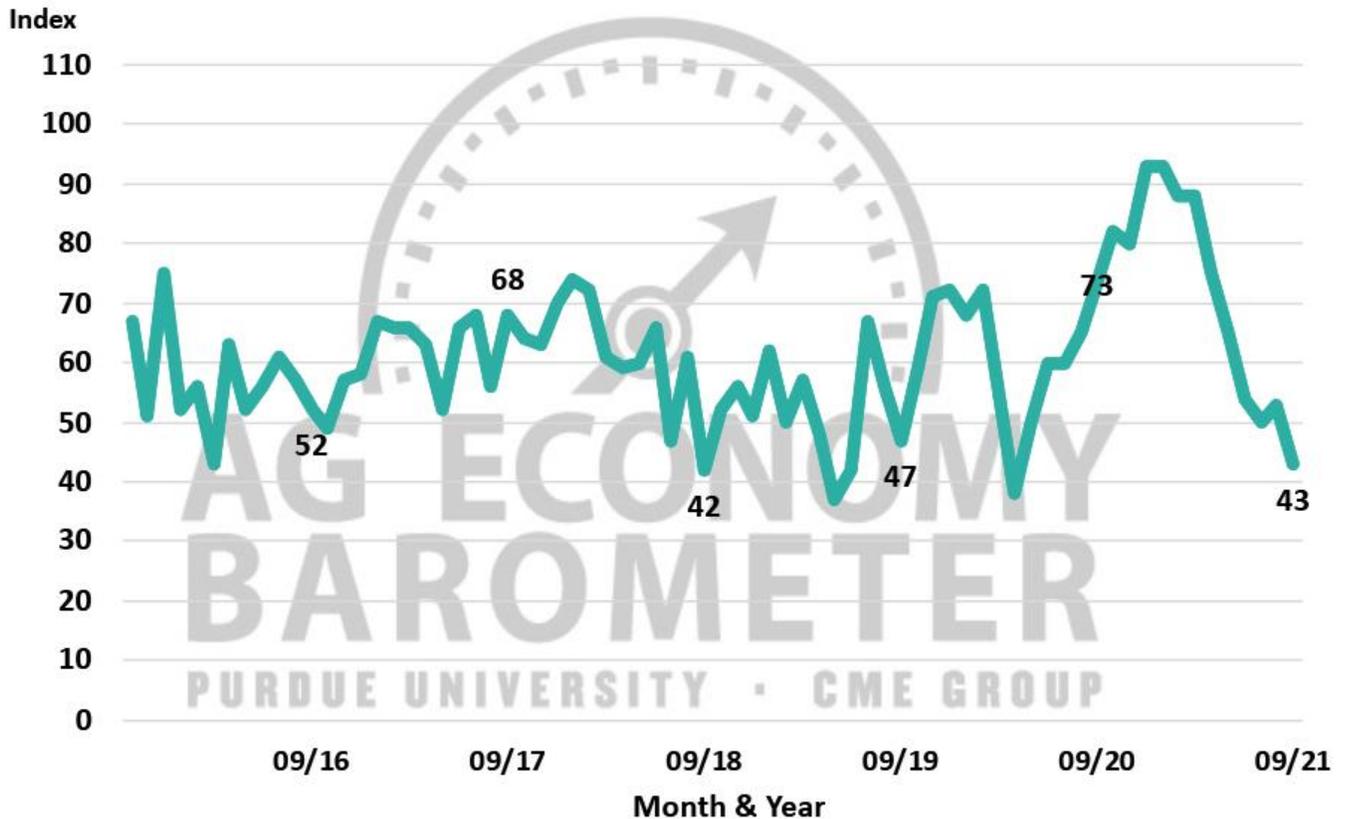
Concerns about rising input costs rose sharply in September, contributing to the weakness in farmer sentiment. This month, just over one-third of respondents said they expect farm input prices to rise by more than 12% in the upcoming year, which is more than 6 times the average farm input inflation rate of the last decade. Moreover, inflation expectations were higher this month across the board. The percentage of respondents expecting input inflation to rise above 12% jumped from 21% last month to 34% this month, while responses to all of the lower inflation categories provided on the survey declined. Notably, the percentage of producers expecting input inflation to rise above 12% has doubled since July.



The decline in farmer sentiment was reflected in a weaker *Farm Capital Investment Index*. The index declined 10 points to a reading of 43, which was the lowest value for the investment index since April 2020. Moreover, the investment index is now down more than 50 percent since the beginning of the year. Farmers' plans for machinery purchases were somewhat weaker than in August with just 8 percent of respondents planning to increase purchases in the upcoming year, down from 10 percent last month. This month's survey included a new question to capture the impact of supply chain challenges in the farm machinery industry on investment plans. Nearly half (45%) of respondents said that their farm machinery purchase plans have been impacted by low farm machinery inventories, which helps explain weak sentiment regarding whether or not now is a good time to make large investments in their farm operation. One bright spot was an improvement in farmers' plans for new construction. New construction plans rose this month with 13 percent of respondents expecting to increase construction of grain bins and farm buildings compared to 8 percent expecting those purchases to rise on the August survey.



## Farm Capital Investment Index



Source: Purdue University Center for Commercial Agriculture, Producer Survey, September 2021

**CASH RENT QUESTIONS**...are being asked by farmers and landlords. Ag Lease 101 (<https://aglease101.org/>) is a product of the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee that provides detailed information about leasing and includes sample lease documents.

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service collects cash rent data by county. The table below summarizes average cash rent for selected counties as of October 2020.

County	Average Cash Rent/Acre (Cropland)
Carroll	\$51
Coshocton	\$97.50
Guernsey	\$42
Harrison	\$33.50
Holmes	\$105
Stark	\$90
Tuscarawas	\$68



**CROP PROGRESS**...for the week ending October 17, as provided by Ohio National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

### Crop Progress: Week Ending 10/17/21

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This week	Last week	Last year	5 Year average
Days Suitable for Fieldwork ....	4.7	4.5	-	-
Corn Mature .....	95	87	85	85
Corn Harvested for Grain.....	25	19	23	29
Soybeans Dropping Leaves.....	95	90	96	94
Soybeans Harvested .....	54	33	63	57
Alfalfa Hay 4th Cutting .....	83	82	90	89
Other Hay 4th Cutting .....	75	65	NA	NA
Winter Wheat Planted .....	59	42	81	69
Winter Wheat Emerged.....	29	9	34	36

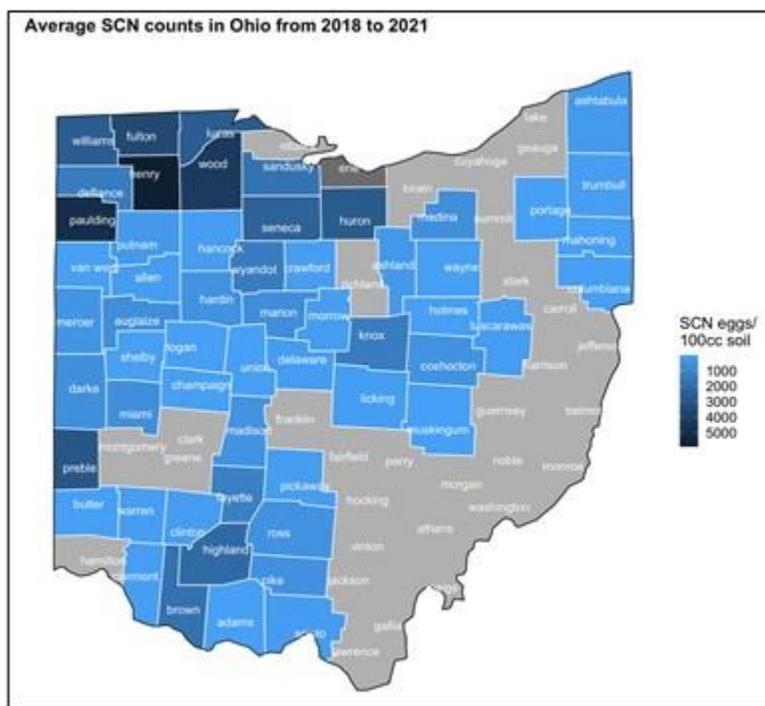


## TUSCARAWAS COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

October 27, 2021

**SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE (SCN)**... remains the most economically important pathogen of soybean and can cause yield loss between 15 and 30% with absolutely no visible symptoms. Resistance to SCN remains the most effective management strategy when rotating to a non-host crop is not an option. The predominant source of resistance in most commercially available soybean cultivars comes from Plant Introduction (PI) 88788, which confers resistance to SCN Type 0 (formerly race 3). Soybean varieties labeled 'SCN-resistant' most likely have resistance from PI 88788. The use of the same source of resistance over the past 20 years has placed selection pressure on SCN populations resulting in a shift in virulence, leading to adaption to now infect PI 88788-derived resistant soybean cultivars. In other words, nematodes reproduce at higher levels than before on soybeans developed with PI 88788 resistance.

Since 2018, with funding from the soybean check-off through the [Ohio Soybean Council](#) and [The SCN Coalition](#), and in collaboration with OSU Extension Educators and growers, we extensively sampled soybean fields in Ohio. To date, a total of 741 soil samples from 57 counties in Ohio were submitted for SCN testing (Fig.1).



Soybean cyst nematode is silently gaining territory in Ohio as SCN numbers are rising. The ability to reproduce on soybean cultivars with 'SCN-resistance' will lead to an imminent loss in our battle to



protect Ohio soybean production. To take action, we need to know our numbers. Managing SCN begins with an adequate and correct soil sample. Fall is a great time to sample for SCN and we are excited to help with this task by processing up to **TWO soil samples, per grower, to be tested for SCN, free of charge.**

If you are interested in having a field (or two) sampled, please contact me. I will collect and submit soil samples to the lab for SCN analysis.

(Source: OSU Extension C.O.R.N. newsletter: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-37/take-test-beat-pest>)

**TIME STILL AVAILABLE...**for herbicide applications (<https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-37/still-big-window-fall-herbicide-treatments>). In OSU weed science plots, we have typically applied most of our fall herbicides in early to mid-November but have occasionally applied into December and maintained effectiveness on winter annuals and dandelion. When we get a period of very cold weather in later November, there is typically a decline in dandelion and thistle (change from green to purplish) so that control decreases, but we seem to still control the winter annuals. So, we should still have up to 6 weeks yet to apply herbicides, although we may be up against increasingly wet field conditions.

Following our previous article on fall herbicides, where we discussed how to proceed without glyphosate, we were told that 2,4-D prices have increased considerably, and supply may be short. There are apparently some ongoing adaptations of fall herbicide programs to minimize use of 2,4-D and glyphosate both, and we are getting questions about using dicamba as the base for treatments instead of 2,4-D. Among all the herbicides we have used in fall, dicamba seems to be affected by cold weather the most and require considerable help from another herbicide to obtain comprehensive control. Some considerations based on our research:

- Do not apply dicamba alone – it won't be effective enough and misses some key weeds (same can be said for 2,4-D which misses chickweed)
- When using dicamba as a base to mix with lower rates of 2,4-D or glyphosate, use a dicamba rate of at least 0.5 lb ai/A. In the mixtures mentioned below, use a rate between 0.25 and 0.5 lb ai/A, depending upon how effective the mix partner is.
- Mixtures of dicamba and metribuzin can be "good enough". Our most typical mix has been 0.25 lb ai dicamba plus 0.38 lbs ai metribuzin. We have not tested mixtures of dicamba with simazine.
- We have not tested mixtures of dicamba with ALS inhibitors containing rimsulfuron, tribenuron, and/or chlorimuron (e.g. Basis, Express, Canopy), but our assumption is that these should work.
- In our research, we do not use adjuvants with dicamba/2,4-D. If they are mixed with glyphosate, we add AMS. Treatments containing metribuzin, simazine, and the ALS inhibitors are usually applied with crop oil concentrate.



**Different topic** – the shortage or anticipated shortage of various products has caused some growers to buy and take possession of herbicide this fall, including filled shuttles, for use next spring. Be sure to know the storage requirements for situations like this – minimum temperature, etc. Also be aware that changes in the product – separation or settling out of certain components – can occur over time, and there may be recommended procedures to prevent this or restore the integrity of product at the end of long storage. Check with manufacturer and distributor representatives for the appropriate information.

**CROP ENTERPRISE BUDGETS**...for 2022 are available from OSU Extension at: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/farm-management/enterprise-budgets#2022>. Production costs for Ohio field crops are forecast to be higher compared to last year with higher fertilizer, seed, chemical, fuel, machinery and repair costs leading the way.

Total costs projected for trend line corn production in Ohio are estimated to be \$919 per acre. This includes all variable costs as well as fixed costs (or overhead if you prefer) including machinery, labor, management, and land costs. Total costs projected for trend line soybean production in Ohio are estimated to be \$619 per acre. (Fixed machinery costs: \$62 per acre, land charge: \$207 per acre, labor and management costs combined: \$53 per acre). Total costs projected for trend line wheat production in Ohio are estimated to be \$541 per acre. (Fixed machinery costs: \$36 per acre, land charge: \$207 per acre, labor and management costs combined: \$48 per acre).

With expected increases in input costs, I encourage you to review these budgets as you plan for 2022.

**OCTOBER BEEF OUTLOOK REPORT**...released October 18 by USDA is summarized and available on the OSU Extension Farm Office website: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/news/usda-october-beef-outlook-report>. Price projections from the report:

### **Cattle Price Forecasts – 2021**

The five-area marketing region report for the first week of October put live steer prices at \$122.56 per cwt. This is \$15 higher than the same week in 2020. Large supplies of fed cattle pushed the fourth-quarter 2021 price forecast down \$4 to \$127 per cwt.

Feeder steer prices (750-800 pounds) at Oklahoma City National Stockyards averaged \$152.55 per cwt for the week ending October 4, 2021. This is more than \$8 above the average price from the same week last year. Based on the expectation of higher placements, the fourth-quarter price was lowered to \$151 per cwt from the previous month's estimate. The annual forecast for feeder steer prices for 2021 came in at \$144.80 per cwt.

### **Cattle Price Forecast – 2022**

USDA-ERS raised the fed cattle price for the second half of 2022, based on demand and tighter supplies.



It is anticipated that feeder cattle supplies will be tighter in 2022. Based on this, USDA-ERS increased the annual forecast for feeder cattle to \$155.50 per cwt.

**OHIO FARM BUSINESS ANALYSIS & BENCHMARKING PROGRAM**...at Ohio State University Extension has released the 2020 Crop Enterprise and 2020 Dairy Enterprise Business Summaries. The reports are available here: <https://farmprofitability.osu.edu/business-summaries>.

**FALL IS AN EXCELLENT TIME**...to collect and submit soil samples for nutrient analysis. Sampling is particularly important with the high costs of agricultural inputs. *If soil test P and soil test K levels are within the maintenance range it is extremely unlikely that there will be a yield response with additional fertilizer application.* For more information on the state soil fertility guidelines, see the newly revised 'Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, and Alfalfa available here: [https://agcrops.osu.edu/FertilityResources/tri-state\\_info](https://agcrops.osu.edu/FertilityResources/tri-state_info)

This OSU Extension C.O.R.N. newsletter (<https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-37/fall-soil-fertility-sampling>) provides additional information.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**...of winter feeding areas is discussed in this OSU Extension Beef newsletter: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/10/27/environmental-assessment-of-winter-feeding-areas/#more-11596>. Outdoor wintering can be a tremendous cost-saving tool, but the environmental risks must be carefully evaluated. Time taken to properly locate the outdoor winter-feeding area is time well spent. Highlights from the article are provided below:

**Site Selection for Winter Feeding Areas:** Care needs to be taken when deciding which areas of the farm are to be utilized as winter pastures or feeding areas.

**Basic Needs of the Livestock:** Basic needs such as access to water, adequate feed, shelter from high winds, and relatively dry soil conditions are all critical when selecting the area where the livestock will be placed.

**Topography:** Topography is important for three major reasons: drainage, risk of erosion, and protection from high winds. In general, higher ground drains best. However, high ridge tops are prone to experience high winds and should generally be avoided unless a tree line or windbreak is available. Look for natural land features (such as knolls) that can be excellent locations for practices such as heavy-use pads. These slightly elevated areas provide positive drainage and are naturally protected from surface water flow from adjoining areas. Low-lying areas should also be avoided.

**Soil Characteristics:** Soils vary greatly in their ability to drain water, support weight, and hold nutrients. Before selecting your livestock wintering area, it is essential that you know the characteristics of the soils on your farm.



**Aspect:** Ideally, outdoor winter-feeding areas should have southern or southeastern exposure to the sun. Sunlight helps to reduce soil moisture, increase soil temperature, and improve animal comfort.

**Environmental Sensitivity of the Area:** On a given farm, there can be a wide array of environmentally sensitive areas. These may include areas such as stream corridors, springs or seeps, subsurface drainage tiles, ditches, wellheads, etc. Care should be taken to insure that animal waste is not allowed to accumulate in and around these sensitive areas.

**Aesthetics:** Non-farm neighbors may not understand your goals and why you have chosen outdoor wintering. Keep in mind that their opinion of your environmental ethic will be greatly influenced by what they see. When all other factors are equal, choose winter feeding locations that are well away from adjoining property lines and public roads.

For additional information related to this topic, please see:

[https://agmr.osu.edu/sites/agmr/files/imce/pdfs/Beef/GrazingEnvironmentalAssessment\(1\).pdf](https://agmr.osu.edu/sites/agmr/files/imce/pdfs/Beef/GrazingEnvironmentalAssessment(1).pdf).

**CROP PROGRESS**...for the week ending October 24 is provided by Ohio National Agricultural Statistics Service:

### Crop Progress: Week Ending 10/24/21

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This week	Last week	Last year	5 Year average
Days Suitable for Fieldwork ....	4.4	4.7	-	-
Corn Harvested for Grain.....	41	25	31	41
Soybeans Harvested.....	70	54	72	72
Alfalfa Hay 4th Cutting.....	86	83	92	NA
Other Hay 4th Cutting.....	80	75	NA	NA
Winter Wheat Planted.....	75	59	91	85

**FARM & RURAL STRESS RESOURCES**...are available from OSU Extension. See <https://u.osu.edu/farmstress/get-help-now/> for resources, information, and contacts.

