

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.

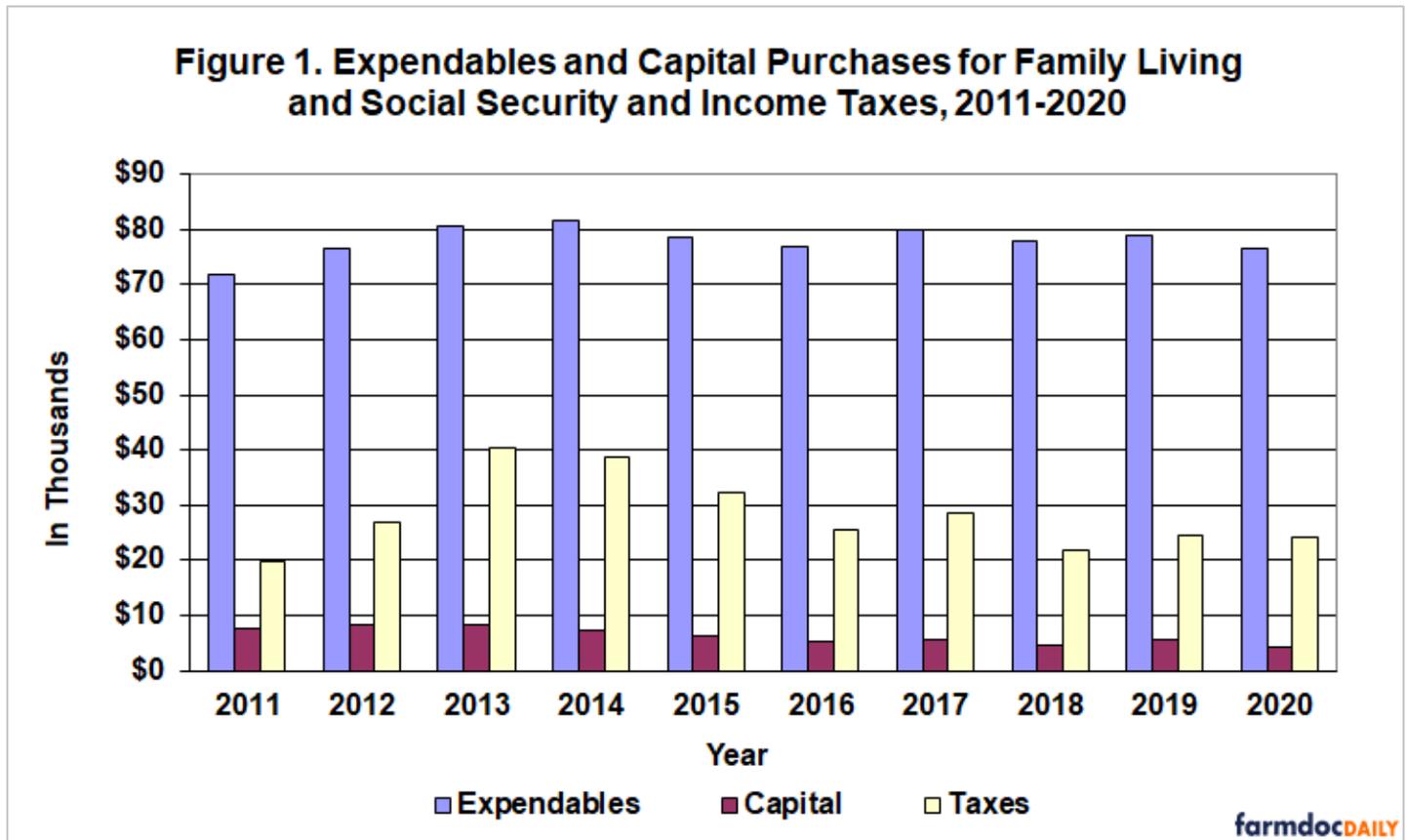
Livestock heavy use areas or pads should be located outside the flood plains. If the pad is located close to a watercourse, run off and manure from the pad should be managed to protect the stream from pollution. These areas should be located at least 300 feet away from neighboring residences and away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

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>

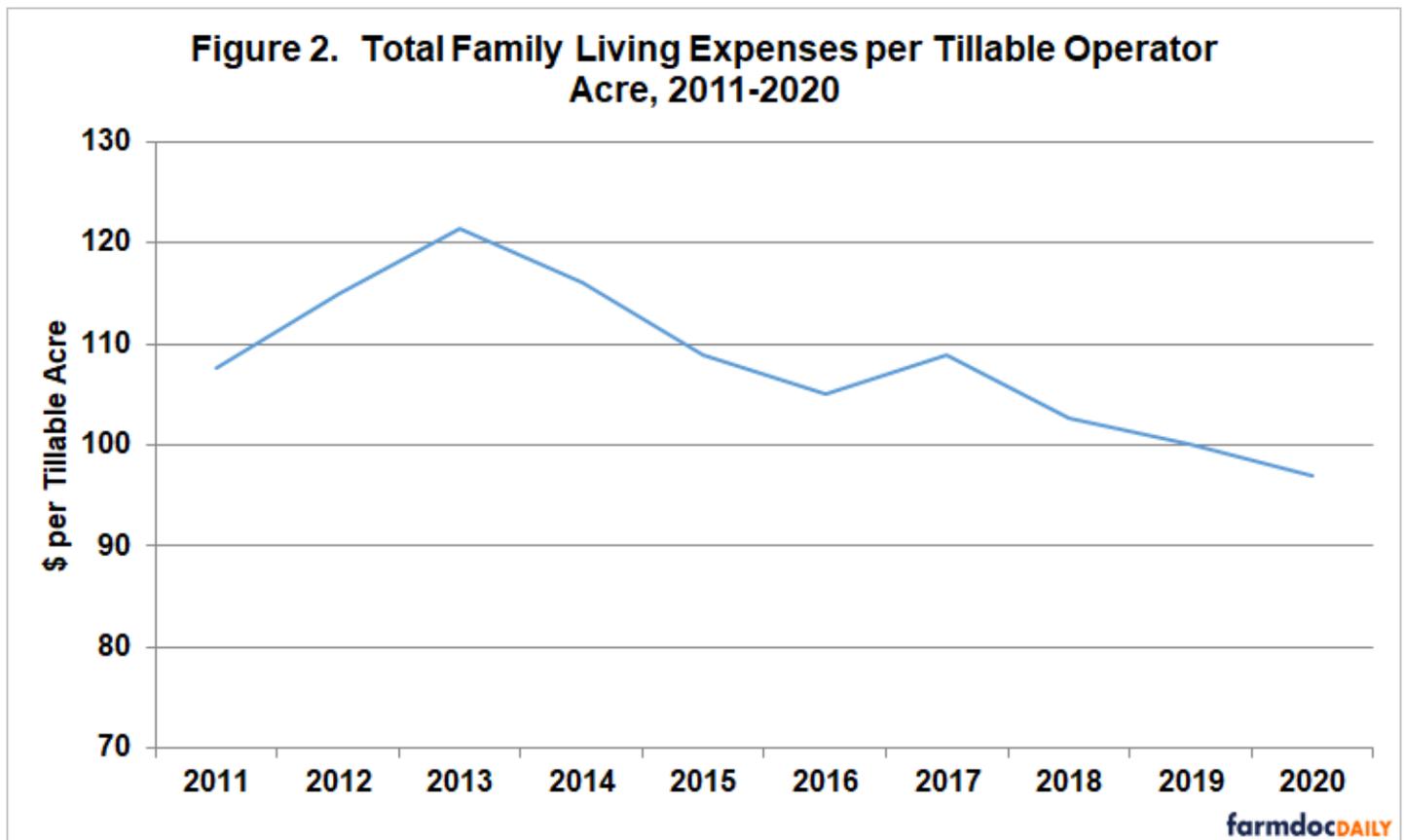
In 2020, the total noncapital living expenses of 1,088 farm families enrolled in the Illinois Farm Business Farm Management Association (FBFM) averaged \$76,672—or about \$6,400 a month for each family (Figure 1). This average was about 2.8 percent lower than in 2019. Another \$4,354 was used to buy 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 overviewing 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>.

