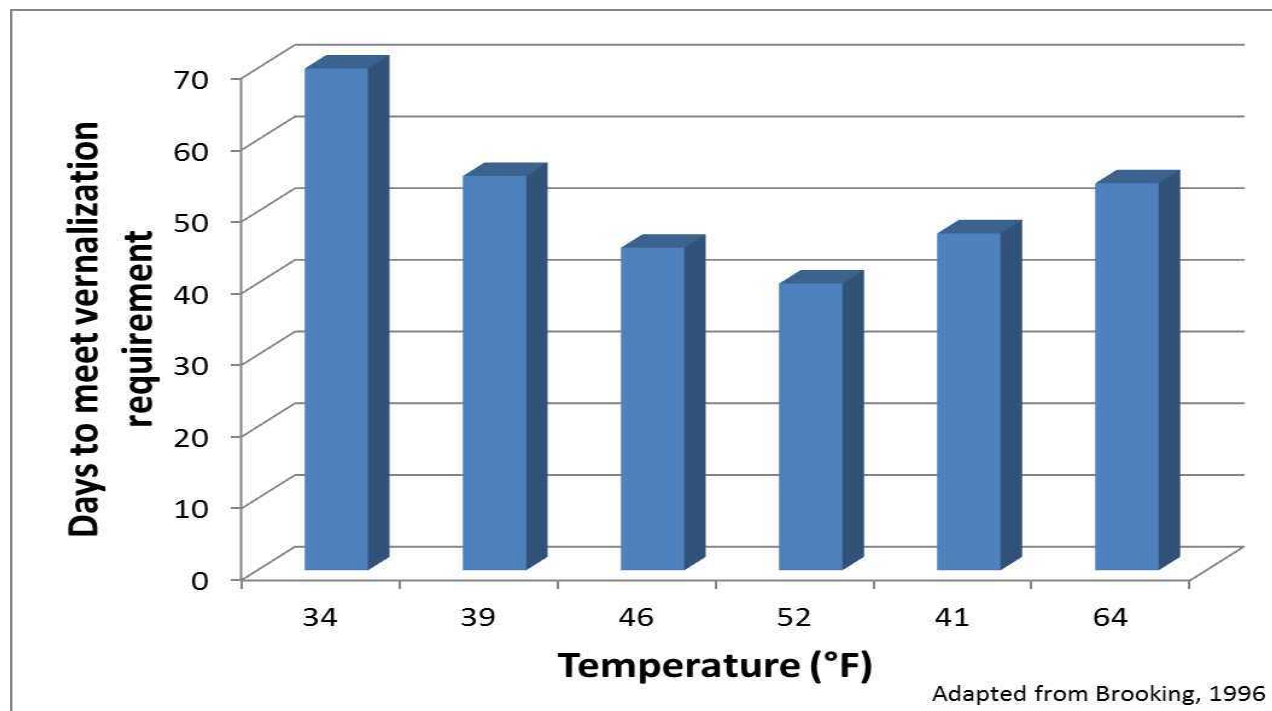


# Auglaize County ANR

News from OSU Extension

February 17, 2023



## 'Warm' Winter Days...What This Means for Wheat

Author Laura Lindsey, Edited by Jamie Hampton

Across Ohio, the average air temperature was 8-10°F warmer in January and February (so far). Due to these warmer winter temperatures, wheat may appear greener than usual and also raises the question, "Will the vernalization requirement be met?" Winter wheat has molecular regulation preventing the transition to reproductive growth until a certain threshold of cold days has been reached. This regulation is called "vernalization." In winter wheat, the vernalization period protects plants from breaking dormancy too early. The vernalization requirement varies among wheat cultivars and is temperature and

day length dependent. In a study conducted on one winter wheat cultivar, it took 40 days for plants to achieve vernalization at 52°F while it took 70 days for plants to achieve vernalization at 34°F (see Figure 1). Temperatures above 64°F were ineffective for vernalization. Although winter wheat is green and the winter temperatures have been above average, the vernalization requirement will be met. Once the vernalization requirement has been met, growth is driven by growing degree units. At this point, exposure to freezing temperatures can be a concern. However, in our research, even at

Feekes 6 growth stage (first node visible & above the soil surface; usually mid to late April), winter wheat yield was not reduced until temperatures reached 14°F for 15 minutes. As the winter continues into spring, we will address this issue in future newsletter articles as needed.

You can read the full article [HERE](#)

# Mud Management in the Feedlot

Author Stephen Boyles, edited by Jamie Hampton

Mud could be the biggest environmental problem facing some Corn-Belt cattle feeders right now. Not only does it affect animal performance, but it can also affect feedlot owner behavior. Some cattle feeders may be less inclined to purchase/add cattle to an already muddy feedlot. Mud reduces accessibility to feed bunks for cattle. The general effect of muddy lots is to decrease feed intake, decrease average daily gain, and to require more feed for each pound of gain. As animals are stressed by mud, they eat less, and their maintenance requirement increases. When combined these two factors can cause a loss in animal performance and a corresponding increase in the cost to produce that animal. Feed intake may become more variable, contributing to digestive upsets. This will further reduce animal performance.



In the short term, management may involve bedding and/or scraping. As pens in the feedlot empty, remove excess manure from the feeding apron, loafing, and drainage area. Repair and reconstruct drainage ditches and feeding aprons if necessary. Manure that accumulates beneath the fence line works like a dam and impounds water to the feedlot.

Long-term management involves proper pen construction. The idea is to have a dry place for cattle to lie down close to feed and water. Ideally, cattle should have access to a paved feeding apron accessible from loafing areas. The apron should be 10-12 feet

wide and slope one inch per foot. Continually check drainage ditches to make sure they are open. Pens slopes of 3 to 6 percent are suggested. Avoid steep lots because of the erosion problem and because of the hazard that steep lots create for cattle walking from the bottom of the pen to the bunk, particularly when the lot becomes frozen, rough and slippery. Waterers should be located close to the feeding area, but not so close that the animals will carry feed to it and stagnate the water.

One should also strive to limit water entering the feedlot to that being deposited by cattle as manure/urine and direct rainfall.



CFAES

DATE:  
March 3, 2023

TIME:  
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

LOCATION:  
Speedway Lanes 455 N  
Herman St. New Bremen,  
OH 45869



Western Ohio Extension PRESENTS

## West Ohio Livestock Outlook Meeting

Join Ohio State Extension, Cooper Farms, and Mercer Landmark. And take a look into what 2023 will look like for the dairy, beef, pork, poultry, labor, and feed. OSU Extension and Industry Specialists will be presenting.

A Fish Fry will be provided for lunch by our generous sponsors.

Seats are limited. RSVP at [go.osu.edu/westohiolivestock](http://go.osu.edu/westohiolivestock)

For more questions, contact Taylor Dill at [tdill.138@osu.edu](mailto:tdill.138@osu.edu) or call 937-569-5000.



EVENT SPONSORS: Mercer Landmark, MPS Feed, and Heartland Feed Services



## Western Ohio Livestock Outlook

*Western Ohio Extension Presents the Western Ohio Livestock Outlook Meeting. Join Ohio State Extension, Cooper Farms, and Mercer Landmark and take a look into what 2023 will look like for dairy, beef, pork, poultry, labor and feed. OSU Extension and Industry Specialists will be presenting. A Fish Fry will be provided for lunch by generous sponsors. Seats are limited, please RSVP at [go.osu.edu/westohiolivestock](http://go.osu.edu/westohiolivestock) or call Taylor Dill at 937-569-5000*

# “Tree Tapping Time is Here”

Author Thomas deHass, Edited by Jamie Hampton



I got word that some of my New England friends were looking to tap some sugar bush this next week, so I thought a reminder would be in order. With daytime high temperatures above 32 degrees F, and nighttime lows below 32, now is the time to consider tapping Maples. Most commercial maple syrup producers have begun or are in the midst of tapping maples. At one time, the thought was to only tap Sugar Maples because they tend to have a higher sugar content in the sap, usually between 2 and 3 %. But there is a growing interest to tap Red Maple, Black Maple, Norway Maple, and Silver Maple which can have sugar contents ranging from 1 to 2 %. The lower the sugar content, the more sap is required to make syrup and the longer it can take to boil.

Here are some steps to consider:  
Select “Maple” trees to tap. Maples have opposite buds. Purchase spiles for tapping. The smaller the spile, the better it is to the health of the tree. The preferred spout is the 5/16 in metal or plastic. Purchase “food grade” tubing and buckets. When the sap is running, check every day or 2. Sap is perishable and will spoil if not processed or refrigerated. It will begin to degrade above 32 degrees F. If the sap looks cloudy or has an odor, throw it away! Boiling sap can be done using a turkey fryer and pot. Other evaporators are available for purchase. Don’t boil sap in your kitchen unless you want to repaint your walls or ceiling. Remember, it takes 45 gallons of sap to make a gallon of syrup. A lot of sap makes very little syrup.

## Start your Tomato Seeds indoors Now

Jamie Hampton



Starting seeds indoors is the official beginning of gardening season in my mom’s house. Ohio climate usually dictates that May 15<sup>th</sup> is the unofficial safe date to put your tomatoes outdoors without covering them. Mom would spend her time cutting the bottoms out of milk jugs to get that extra week or 2 of having the tomatoes in the ground. With the end of February right around the corner, now is the time to get those seeds started and trays ready.

Seeds should be planted about 1/8<sup>th</sup> and inch into the soil, I prefer to plant 2 seeds per pod, and then when they have grown about 3-4 inches tall, I thin them to 1 per pod. It is important to use clean containers and soil to prevent disease transfer from previous years. Pre wet your starter soil in the pods and then place your seeds. Be sure to place your trays where they will get plenty of sunlight, or light from grow lights. Keep your seedlings moist with a spray bottle to reduce the risk of over watering. As the plants grow be sure to allow for adequate air movement.

Watch for more garden starting tips as we move into the season.



# Now is a good time to start planning your spring grazing patterns.

Author Victor Shelton, Edited by Jamie Hampton

Winter is a good time to be thinking about where you will start your grazing system come spring. It is usually a good thing to not start in the same field each year. If the pasture was grazed fairly close or hard the previous fall it could ideally use more rest to build up reserves. Using the same field year after year will thin down those early pastures. I like to rotate which field is used first and, if at all possible, leave some stockpiled forage on it. There are multiple items to consider when choosing the field to start in. How much forage is left? How dense is the sod? If you can see much bare soil or little residual forage, then grazing should be delayed in the spring until the stand has bounced back and thickened up.



If you run any sheep, you will notice that fields that are utilized earlier in the year by the sheep will usually tend to have less weeds in them later in the growing season. It is certainly easier to keep lambing ewes closer to home and utilize the same fields every year, but if you have weed issues, you might want to consider trying to do

early grazing of sheep in those areas. Goats can also do a good job of weed control but tend to eat from the top down and don't take out the weeds quite as early as sheep do. Grazing a small ruminant with cattle can also work quite well as long as you don't crowd them up too much.



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

EXTENSION

# February Events



## Auglaize County Events:

- **March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Pesticide and Fertilizer Applicator Recertification Training.**  
5:00pm – 9:30pm.  
Auglaize County Administration Building  
209 S. Blackhoof St. Wapakoneta, OH 45895  
Call 419-910-6050 or email [Hampton.297@osu.edu](mailto:Hampton.297@osu.edu) to register

## Nearby Happenings:

- **Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Darke County Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification Class,** contact Taylor Dill at 937-569-5000 to register.
- **Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, Hardin County Beef Quality Assurance,** contact Hardin County Extension to register.



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EXTENSION

### OSU Extension Auglaize County

Jamie Hampton ANR Extension Educator

208 Blackhoof Street

Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

[Hampton.297@osu.edu](mailto:Hampton.297@osu.edu)

419-910-6062

**CFAES**

Thursday  
March  
**23**

5:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

# Auglaize County Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification Training

Auglaize County Extension will be hosting Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification Training on Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm. At the Auglaize County Administration Building.

RSVP to the Auglaize County Extension Office at 419-910-6050 or by mail by March 20<sup>th</sup>, Space is limited. The cost is \$35.00, for pesticide and \$15.00 for Fertilizer and can be dropped off or mailed into the extension office.

**Location:**

209 S. Blackhoof St.,  
Wapakoneta Ohio 45895

**Cost:**

\$35.00 for pesticide  
\$15.00 for Fertilizer  
includes updated  
applicator guide. **This  
does NOT include ODA  
fees.**

**RSVP:**

419-910-6050 or by mail  
to the Auglaize County  
Extension Office.



## Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification Training for March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Pesticide

Fertilizer

Both

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Registration form and fee to:** Auglaize County Extension Office, 208 S. Blackhoof Street,  
Wapakoneta Ohio 45895

Make checks payable to **OSU Extension**

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

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