

Auglaize County ANR

News from OSU Extension

February 24, 2023



USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Signup for 2023

Fsa.org

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin applying for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup starting **February 27 through April 7, 2023**. CRP is a cornerstone voluntary conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris administration's effort to address climate change and help agricultural communities invest in the long-term well-being of their land and natural resources. "The Conservation Reserve Program is one of the largest private lands conservation programs in the United States, offering a range of conservation options to farmers, ranchers

and landowners," Vilsack said. "CRP has and continues to be a great fit for farmers with less productive or marginal cropland, helping them re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitat. Under this administration, we have made several updates to the program to increase producer interest and enrollment, strengthen the climate benefits of the program and help ensure underserved producers can find a pathway to entry into CRP." Producers and landowners enrolled more than 5 million acres into CRP through signups in 2022, building on the acceptance of more than 3.1 million acres in the [largest Grassland CRP signup in history](#). There are currently 23 million acres enrolled in CRP,

with 1.9 million set to expire this year. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is aiming to reach the 27-million-acre cap statutorily set for fiscal year 2023. Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) to learn more or to apply for the program before their deadlines. Producers with expiring CRP acres can use the Transition Incentives Program (TIP), which incentivizes producers who sell or enter a long-term lease with a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land.

Gardening Zones in Ohio

Garden Almanac, Edited by Jamie Hampton

What garden zone am I in? This information will tell you what plants are hardy in your area and therefore can be grown with assurance that they will have the best chance of surviving and even thriving in your local environment. By starting with your garden zone and then evaluating for the micro-climates in your yard, you can identify areas where individual plants will do better... you may even find a sunny spot against a south-facing wall where you can grow a plant variety that is normally rated for a warmer zone. The USDA published its updated plant hardiness zone map in 2012, in which they incorporate improved accuracy and detail, along with recent warming trends. Besides the general garden zone, additional information available to define the gardening region includes the Koppen-Geiger Climate Classification, which divides climates into five main climate groups:



“Auglaize County is firmly in zone 6a.”

A (tropical), B (dry), C (temperate), D (continental), and E (polar), along with the seasonal precipitation type and level of heat. Auglaize County is firmly in zone 6a. This means that we should be starting plants indoors in

March and April and transplanting in late May . Cold hardy plants can be sown directly in the ground as early as march. This includes such plants as lettuce, radish and peas.



National FFA Week



FFA provides the next generation of leaders who will change the world. As the nation's top school-based youth leadership development organization, FFA helps young people meet new agricultural challenges by encouraging members to develop their unique talents and explore their interests in a broad range of career pathways. FFA members are our future leaders, food suppliers, innovators and more! Whether through service projects or community gatherings, National FFA Week is a time for FFA members to raise awareness about the National FFA Organization's role in developing future leaders and the importance of agricultural education.

National FFA Week always runs from Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Feb. 22, George Washington's birthday. This year, the week kicks off on Feb. 18 and culminates on Saturday, Feb. 25. I believe in the future of agriculture, in a faith born not of words but of deeds. I took this to heart when I was in High School. I was the

president of my chapter in 1996-1997 in Leesburg Ohio. I competed in public speaking in the extemporaneous division. I remember the experience fondly and know that FFA is a driving force in my life, and I look forward to watching my kids on their FFA journey.

-Jamie Hampton

FFA allowed to me to foster connections within my local communities of which I have carried over into my professional career. Public speaking, parliamentary procedure, soil judging, and other activities are all items I use on a daily basis and would not have gotten the head start I needed without my involvement in FFA. Volunteer opportunities and community service projects are still highly ranking in my life due to the FFA Moto "Living to Serve" that has carried with me throughout my life. Thank you to the St. Mary's FFA Chapter and to the Coldwater Tri-Star FFA Chapter for everything you provide to young adult's lives. FFA really does shape the future generations.

-Jocelyn Birt

Equine worming schedules and management



In the last couple of weeks, I have gotten a few questions about controlling parasites in horse pastures. There is no pesticide that can be applied to pastures to control equine parasites. There are some management practices that you can take to help break the parasite cycle. If you have an infestation, you should rotate your horses out of the pasture. To break the parasite cycle horses need to be off the pasture that is infested for 3 months. Another practice that will help to keep the parasite population under control is to use some integrated management practices. Rotating other livestock into the pasture can help to reduce the number of parasite eggs in the pasture. I also use chickens in my pasture. They naturally spread out the manure and eat the worms in the feces. dragging your pasture will help by spreading out the manure and allowing it to dry. Scheduling your worming practices to coincide with seasons that the parasites do not survive is very beneficial, Late fall and late spring is my schedule.

Selecting your Replacement Heifers to Meet Long-term Herd Goals

Author Carol Ihde, Edited by Jamie Hampton

As the seasons come and go, the production cycle of the beef herd also changes. Cows calve, calves grow, and replacement heifers are selected. Selecting replacement heifers using production records, herd goals, and available resources can ensure the correct females are staying in the production system. Just as purchasing a new herd bull can directly impact genetic improvement, selecting replacement heifers that match your production goals and available resources can impact the bottom line. Heifers born from dams needing assistance with calving and nursing because of teat or udder defects or poor temperaments should not be retained.



Knowing 50% of a replacement heifer's genetics come from the dam, analyzing the dam's collective data before you head out to sort heifers into the "keep" or "feedlot" pen can make decisions easier at the sorting gate. Select the oldest heifers that meet your criteria. Early-born heifers conceive earlier in the breeding season and therefore calve earlier in

the calving season. This in turn results in early-born heifers having older and heavier calves at weaning as well as improved reproductive performance in subsequent breeding seasons. Thus, helping to maintain a tight calving window to produce a more consistently sized calf crop in the following years. For the full article click [HERE](#)



Gardening in small Spaces, a glimpse into container gardening

Spring is right around the corner and gardening is going to be the topic of the month. We will be planting a container garden at the office for all to see and the seed starting time is now. Visit the newsletter to see how are seeds are sprouting and the planting progresses.



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February Events



Auglaize County Events:

- **March 23rd, 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 to register

Nearby Happenings:

- **Feb. 28th, Hardin County Beef Quality Assurance, contact Hardin County Extension to register.**



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