

# Auglaize County ANR

News from OSU Extension

March 16, 2023



## What Is Companion Planting?

By Catherine Boeckmann, edited by Jamie Hampton  
An Excerpt from the Old Farmers Almanac

First, a quick explanation; Companion planting is when two plants are grown near each other for the benefit of one of those plants or both—so the benefit can be one way or mutual. Companion planting could be as simple as growing flowers near your crops to attract pollinating insects or growing two vegetables alongside each other to confuse or repel pests.

One well-proven example of companion planting is

**Tomato and Basil**, which are natural companions in the kitchen and garden. Basil repels certain insects and pests such as thrips and also disorients moths which lay tomato hornworms.

As you may know, Aphids severely crimp your crop, what you may not know is that aphids can't stand garlic! With this in mind, plant garlic around crops that are most susceptible to attack. For example, grow **potatoes between rows of**

**garlic** to serve as a pungent bodyguard.

Many flowers are amazing companions in the vegetable garden. For example, **nasturtiums grown close to kale, cabbage, broccoli, and any of the brassica crops** will lure away hungry caterpillars from eating your crops!

*Watch next week for the next section of companion planting with Benefits of Companion Planting. You can access the full article [HERE](#)*

# Topdressing Wheat with Liquid Swine Manure

Author Glen Arnold, Edited by Jamie Hampton

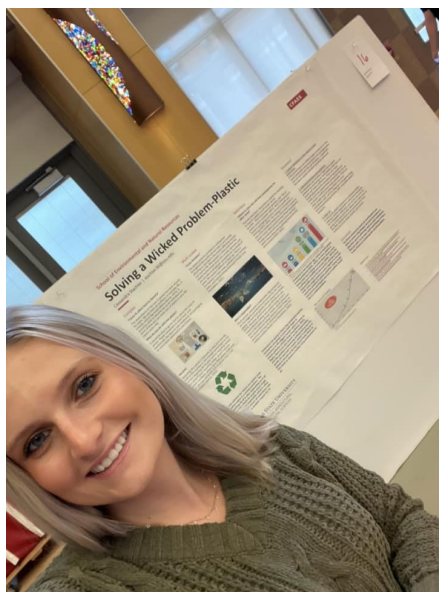
With the month of March moving along, the topdressing of wheat fields with nitrogen fertilizer will soon start. Given the current fertilizer prices more livestock producers may be considering applying liquid swine manure as a top-dress for wheat.

The key to applying the correct amount of manure to fertilize wheat is to know the manure's nitrogen content. Most manure tests reveal total nitrogen, ammonia nitrogen and organic nitrogen amounts. The ammonia nitrogen portion is readily available for plant growth. The organic nitrogen portion takes considerably longer to mineralize and generally will not be available when wheat uptakes the majority of its nitrogen before mid-June. Most deep-pit swine finishing manure will contain between 30 and 40 pounds of ammonia nitrogen per 1,000 gallons. Finishing buildings with bowl waters and other water conservation systems



can result in nitrogen amounts towards the upper end of this range. Finishing buildings with fixed nipple waters and surface water occasionally entering the pit can result in nitrogen amounts towards the lower end of this range. The contents of the ration fed to the pigs can also affect

manure nitrogen numbers. In past years, some farmers have used sow manure to topdress wheat. Just know the nitrogen amount in sow manure will be much lower than swine finishing manure. For the full article click [HERE](#)



Our 2022 summer intern Cassie showing off her research project

## Accepting Applications for College Intern in Auglaize County

The Ohio State University is seeking a student research assistant to be based in the Auglaize County extension office. Duties will include sample collection, data entry, working with our research teams, communicating with participating farmers, and assisting with various extension tasks and events. Position begins in May 2023 with possible part-time extension into the school year this spring or into next fall. Applicant must be a high school graduate enrolled in an Ohio college or university and must have reliable transportation for farm visits. See complete job posting online:

OSU Students:

[https://www.myworkday.com/osu/d/inst/15\\$392530/9925\\$138959.html](https://www.myworkday.com/osu/d/inst/15$392530/9925$138959.html)

Non-OSU Students:

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# Why did Broomsedge move into my field?

**Author Dr. Gary Bates Director and Professor UT Beef & Forage Center, Edited by Jamie Hampton**

Usually a good, thick stand of actively growing tall fescue will not have much broomsedge present. Anything that occurs to make the stand of tall fescue less aggressive will provide an opportunity for broomsedge to move into a field. If pH, potash, or phosphate levels get low, the fescue will be weakened, and broomsedge might get a foothold. If you mow too low or overgraze, the stand might be thinned allowing a spot for broomsedge. In order to keep broomsedge out of a field, or to get rid of broomsedge in a field, the idea is to outcompete it with the fescue. Here are steps to help with this.



Correct soil fertility deficiencies. Step one is to fertilize and lime to make sure the tall fescue can grow and be competitive with the broomsedge. Remember that it isn't always simply pH that is the problem. It could be low phosphate or potash levels. Make sure to provide enough nitrogen to encourage active tall fescue

growth. The only way to know exactly how much lime or fertilizer is required is through soil testing. Contact your local Extension office for information on soil testing. Evaluate if the tall fescue stand needs to be thickened. If the tall fescue stand is thin, there may not be enough plants to cause competition to the broomsedge. If you have a 50 percent or more stand, you may need to simply drill more tall fescue in the fall to thicken the existing stand. If the stand is less than 50 percent, it may be best to spray and kill everything (including the broomsedge) and replant tall fescue in the fall.

Use timely clipping to weaken the broomsedge. If the broomsedge is clipped at the right time, it will weaken the plant and help with the competition with tall fescue. It is best to clip twice, first in mid-July, when you see the brown seedheads, and then again in early September. Doing this will weaken the plants going into winter and cause a certain percentage of the plants to die. It won't kill it all in one year, but over the course of 3 years or so, you should see a dramatic decrease in the broomsedge population.

Remember that the broomsedge did not move into the field in one year, and you won't be able to outcompete it in one year. A sustained approach over several years can help you solve this problem. Click [HERE](#) for the full factsheet



Image from Ohio  
Department of Ag

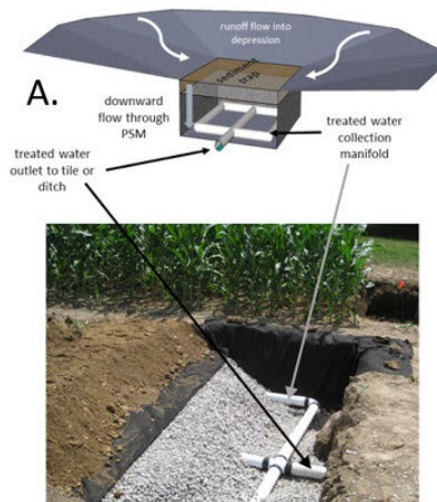
# Phosphorus Best Management Practices Field Day

Author Paige Garrabrant, Edited by Jamie Hampton

Nutrient runoff and algal blooms are a growing problem while fertilizer costs are at an all-time high. Best Management Practice (BMP) Field Day is an event to address these problems and offer solutions for farmers, students, and community members interested in attending. BMP Field Day is a full day event to learn more about Phosphorus usage, the environment, and strategies to save on fertilizer. BMP Field Day will be held in-person March 29th at the Secrest Welcome Center at the Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center in Wooster, Ohio. Sign-in starts at 8:00 am, the event starts at 8:30 am, and ends at 4:00 pm.

This event is provided free for farmers, students, and community members because of generous sponsorship from the USDA NIFA and is co-hosted by Virginia Tech and The Ohio State University. Registration includes a free lunch and tour of OARDC field sites. 4.5 CLM and 5.5 CCA credits will be available for attendees. Registration is free but required by March 20th. For more information and to register, visit

<https://bmpfieldday.carrrd.co>



- A. Surface Blind Inlet with PSM
- B. Surface Bed
- C. Subsurface Tile drain with filter tank
- D. Subsurface tile drain with filter bed

BMP Field Day will feature a variety of extension specialists and research scientists with expertise in Phosphorus and how it relates to soil, water, crop health, and more. The afternoon session will feature a Poster & Demo Symposium to showcase strategies to decrease fertilizer usage and costs while maximizing crop growth and protecting the watersheds. Attendees will also be transported on a tour bus to

view two of OARDC's large-scale BMPs: a Sediment Capture and Reuse field site and Smart Drainage Field demonstration.

Please contact Dr. Catherine Freed ([freedc@vt.edu](mailto:freedc@vt.edu)) with any questions or for additional information regarding the event.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



# March Events



## Auglaize County Events:

- March 20<sup>th</sup>, Saturated Buffer Tour, contact Jocelyn Birt for information.
- 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:



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

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