

Auglaize County ANR

News from OSU Extension

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We are still very early, but if crop stands are a concern...

Author(s): [Osler Ortez](#), [Laura Lindsey](#), [Alexander Lindsey](#), Edited by Jamie Hampton

We are still early, but if you planted in April or the first few days of May, soil conditions have been wet and cold in many parts of the state. Early plantings, cold air/soil temperatures, and precipitation cause slow progress in corn and soybean. Corn and soybean plants slowly emerge from the ground under wet soil conditions. The pictures were taken during the first week of May—almost three weeks after planting. One of the downsides of planting early is the risk of seeds sitting too long in the field. Seed damage (biotic or abiotic) can lead to reduced stands in planted fields. Factors to consider are imbibitional chilling, frost damage, seed treatment duration/viability, insect/disease damage, soil crusting, and

standing water. These factors (or combinations) can negatively affect seedling vigor, plant growth, crop establishment, ultimately reducing crop stands. If reduced stands are a concern, a [potential solution is to replant fields](#). *However, we are still early to make accurate assessments of crop stands.* Often, hasty decisions are not the best. When replanting decisions on early planted acres are made, one should be careful about getting more plants than necessary in the field. The first set of soybeans was planted early and took a long time to emerge from the ground. So, a replanting decision was made (replanted at an angle). Once the weather conditions turned better, the first planting and replanting came up, in which

case the replant was unnecessary. We suggest caution when replanting decisions are made. According to the USDA-NASS report for the week ending 05/07/23, 11% of Ohio's corn and 16% of Ohio's soybean acres were planted. In 2022, the same period showed 5% corn and 4% soybean planted acres in the state. Only about 2% of corn and soybean were reported emerged in this week's report. Ohio's planting (and emergence) progress has a long way to go. Following the OSU Agronomy Guide recommendations, this article lists key [reminders/considerations for planting season](#) this year. For the full article click [HERE](#)

Pasture repairs after a muddy winter

Author Dean Kreager, Edited by Jamie Hamton

Pugging is the damage to sod created by animals' hooves. Studies have shown that pugging damage can reduce forage productivity by up to 80% or more in severely damaged areas. For those who like to be scientific, there is a published system of scoring the damage based on Australian research and described by the University of Kentucky. A chart is available online. With that system, you can look at the percent of damage within one square foot along with the depth of the damage from zero to over 4 inches. These measurements should be repeated in several locations to find an average. Together these numbers are used to characterize the damage as very light, light, moderate, severe, or very severe.



“Pugging is the damage to sod by animals. “

The repair plan would range from letting nature take care of the damage on its own, for the lightly damaged areas, up to a complete renovation on the very severely damaged areas. Complete renovation would only be needed in areas where almost all the sod was destroyed unless your goal is to establish an improved seed mix to the

pasture. Areas considered moderate to severe in damage may need some combination of harrowing, seeding and cultipacking to level the soil and get new plants started ahead of early summer weed pressure. The goal would be to do this without destroying existing sod. For the full article click [HERE](#)

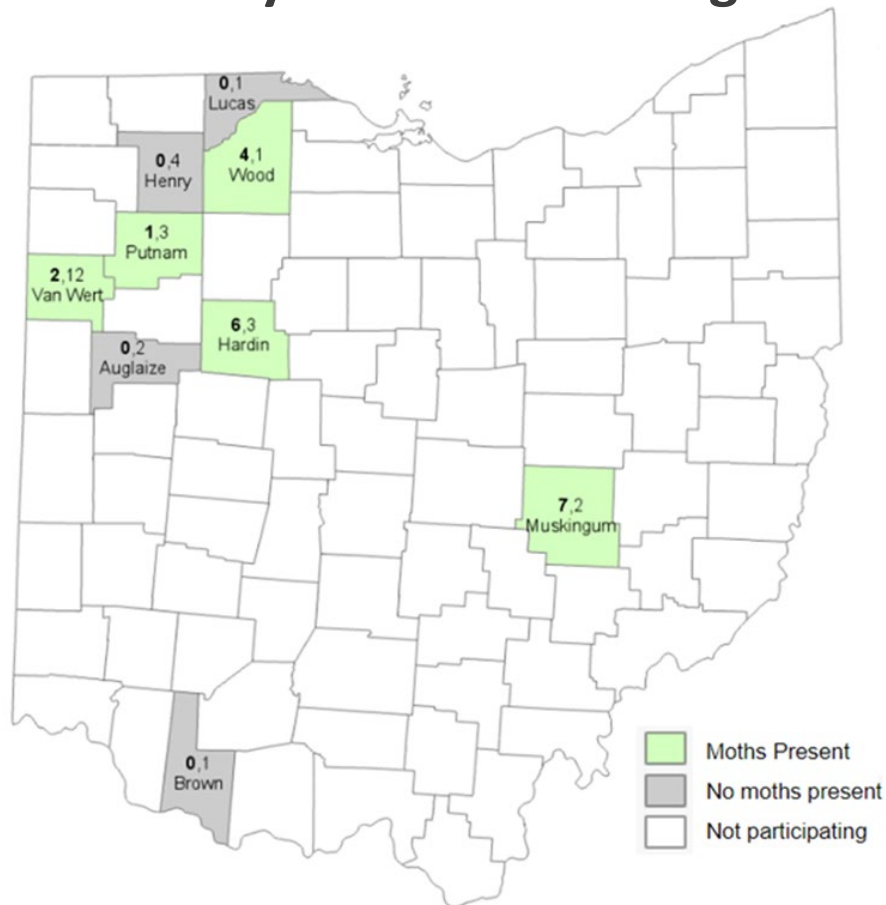
Asparagus

Author Christine Gelley, Edited by Jamie Hampton



Asparagus is one of the first spring vegetables ready to harvest in Ohio. The enticing green stalks begin to pop out of the ground in early April and asparagus lovers start to get excited. Harvest time typically stretches through June. Did you know that a successful patch of asparagus can produce a crop for up to (and beyond) 20 years? pick it when the stalks are about the length of your hand (7-9 in). You can snap the stalks off at the soil, or to avoid cutting the tough part of the stalk off later, leave an inch or two sticking out. Harvest every week or two until 75% of the stalks are about the circumference of a pencil. To store fresh asparagus, place the ends upright in a shallow tray of water to keep them sweet and tender (if you buy fresh asparagus at a market, look for bunches that have been stored this way to get the best taste and texture). Once the harvest period has passed, let the remaining stalks grow out into ferns again to store energy for next year.

Lep Monitoring Network – Ohio Black Cutworm and True Armyworm Monitoring



The Ohio Lep Network is back for a second year of monitoring Lepidopteran (moth/caterpillar) ag pests in 15 Ohio counties. To start off our season, wing traps with lures to attract black cutworm and true armyworm were deployed the week of April 24th. Traps were checked between May 1st – 7th and results are reported below. Over the past week, we monitored 29 traps in 9 counties for BCW. Counties with the highest averages were Muskingum and Hardin counties (7 and 6 moths, respectively). Black cutworm is an early season pest that is not able to overwinter in Ohio.

The moths migrate from southern regions as temperatures begin to increase. Over the past week temperatures started off low but increased towards the end of the week. The moth numbers reported in this newsletter were likely from the warmer nights that occurred at the end of the week. Black cutworm adults are a brownish color and can be identified by a single dagger shape on each forewing. Adult moths are attracted to fields with broadleaf weeds, such as chickweed and purple dead nettle, to lay eggs. For the full report click [HERE](#)

Mental Health Awareness Month



Overbooking and overpromising is a hard habit to break, but it can have real implications to your health, especially if you have anxiety and/or a stress-related disorder. Everyone, however, can benefit from setting healthy boundaries. When you establish healthy boundaries, you allow others to be seen and heard while respecting your own needs and wants. Setting healthy boundaries is something you'll likely need to revisit in different seasons of your life (which is why it's good to write them down). Making your mental wellbeing a priority and demonstrating how to do so through your actions allows you to set an example for family, friends and coworkers. To read more about creating boundaries click [HERE](#). Auglaize County Extension will be offering a Mental Health First Aid training on June 13th. Watch future issues for more information on the class and other resources for mental health.

Mooove over K9s, cows assist in North Carolina arrest

By Agdaily Reporters

What started as a traffic stop by the Town of Boone Police Department on suspicion of reckless driving turned into a police chase and ended in a bovine-assisted arrest.

Yeah, you read that right.

According to a police department Facebook post, the motorist, a 34-year-old male, abandoned his vehicle, fleeing into an underdeveloped area in Deep Gap. While officers searched the area, they were tipped off by some local residents.

“Apparently, cows do not want suspected criminals loitering in their pasture and quickly assisted our officers by leading them directly to where the suspect was hiding,” the Boone Police Department wrote.

If anyone has ever watched cows after a bear or when a coyote is in the pasture, it turns out, it looks similar to the Boone incident. The cattle worked closely with the Boone officers and with deputies from the Watauga County Sheriff’s Office to communicate (in their own bovine way) where the suspect was hiding.

“We want to express our gratitude to the cows for their assistance,” shared the department. “This opens all kinds of questions as to bovines’ role in crime fighting.”



While cattle may be larger, more difficult to transport, and more prone to defecate whenever and wherever they want than your traditional K9, could cow cops, or a Bovine Tracking Unit, be in the department’s future? But what considerations are important when looking to employ cow cops? Calling itself “a progressive, forward-thinking,” small-town law enforcement agency, Boone Police Department is already asking the right questions:

How adaptable are cows to a variety of police work? Or are they better suited to tracking and finding hidden suspects? With the steep price tag of K9s (\$15,000-\$65,000), could cows be a more cost-effective option? How will the department

transport cattle to the scenes? Perhaps the department should consider updated, larger vehicles for this purpose.

How do cattle fit into the town’s sustainability goals?

Where can the department order cow-sized ballistic vests and other protective gear?

At the end of the day, the department reports that Joshua Russell Minton was charged with felony fleeing and eluding arrest with a motor vehicle, driving with his license revoked, and disorderly conduct.

Minton was reportedly taken before the magistrate, receiving a \$20,000 secured bond with a court date scheduled for June 28 in Watauga County.



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Delphos Nutrient Reduction Project

Description and Goals



The Ohio State University started monitoring water quality in the Little Auglaize Watershed in 2020 to help determine when nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus, are present and in what amounts. This information will create a baseline for understanding how implementation of best management practices can improve water quality. Through a special grant, NRCS is providing funding for implementing agricultural management practices within this watershed. Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about this funding.

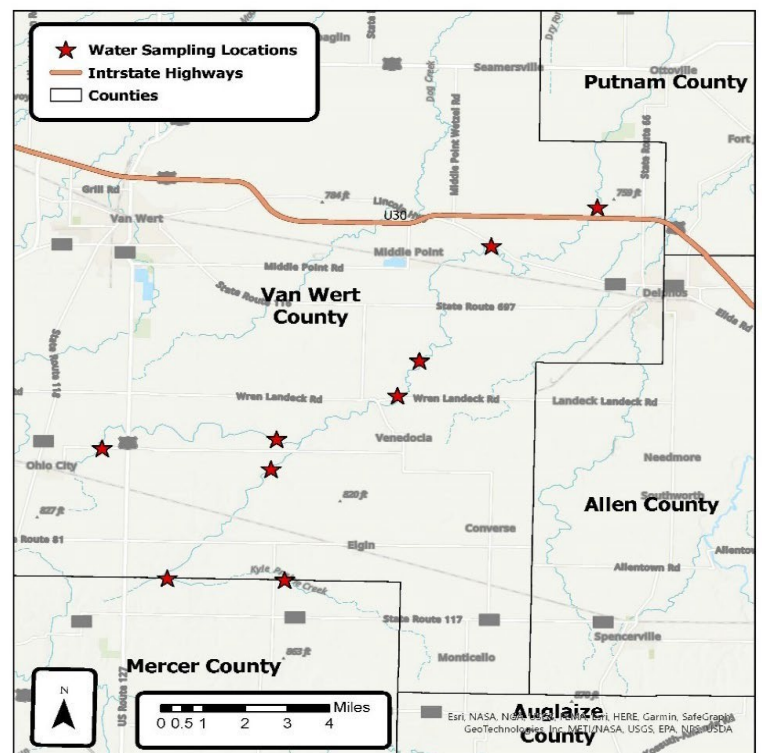
This area was selected because it is the source of drinking water for the City of Delphos and this source water is currently impaired for nitrates and harmful algae. The community continues to provide safe drinking water to their customers, but they can only pump water into their reservoir when nitrates are low, and it is often difficult to time. The water system has increased costs to remove cyanotoxins from harmful algal blooms that result from excess nutrients.

The goal is to reduce nutrient loss from fields and improve source water quality for the City of Delphos. Reducing nutrient losses can also provide an economic benefit for farmers, especially in times when nitrogen costs are high.

Our OSU Extension Water Quality team is working with the City of Delphos to monitor nutrient levels at the Delphos reservoir intake, including use of a real-time nitrogen and phosphorus auto-analyzer, as well as at eight upstream sites within the Little Auglaize Watershed. The eight additional sampling sites are scattered around Mercer and Van Wert Counties. Water sampling at multiple points allows us to develop a nutrient loading baseline and identify fluctuations. Fluctuations can be seasonal, due to weather patterns, the result of activities in the watershed, or changes in the stream condition. With the baseline established, water quality improvements from using agricultural management and conservation practices can be evaluated for their impact on decreasing nutrient loading. This will help improve overall drinking water conditions.

You may periodically see individuals pulling samples from the eight sampling locations (plus the reservoir intake) denoted with red stars in the graphic to the right. We selected the representative sampling locations at sites where historic monitoring had occurred. Water samples are collected from bridges over streams, using a bucket on a rope. The water samples are placed in bottles and taken off-site for analysis.

OSU Extension Water Quality Team Sampling Locations



If you have any questions about the project, please reach out to the OSU Extension Water Quality Team via email at waterqualityassociates@osu.edu or by calling Heather Raymond, project lead, at (614) 202-8773. For regional questions, contact Jocelyn Birt, Water Quality Extension Associate for Allen, Auglaize, and Mercer Counties at (419) 910-6057.

May Events



Auglaize County Events:

- May 12th, Cover Crop Roundtable, Happy Daz Restaurant in Wapakoneta, 8:30 am
- Insect and Field monitoring

I will be out weekly, if you need me to check a specific field or crop send me a message or give me a call.

- **Have a safe and successful planting season.**

Nearby Happenings:



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