

# Auglaize County ANR

News from OSU Extension

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## Fungicide and Insecticide at Flowering: Is This Really Warranted?

Authors Pierce Paul and Kelley Tilmon, Edited by Jamie Hampton

The wheat crop is flowering or will soon begin to flower in southern and central Ohio. Flowering will continue in the northern half of the state over the next two weeks. This is the growth stage as which the crop is most susceptible to infection by *Fusarium graminearum*, the fungus that causes head scab. Consequently, questions are being asked about applying a fungicide at flowering to control head scab, and at the same time, mixing in an insecticide to control cereal leaf beetle. According to the scab forecasting system (<https://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/>), the risk for head scab development has been low across the state over the past week. This is likely due, at least in part, to the cool, relatively dry conditions we have experienced across most of the state. The

extended forecast suggests that dry (rain-free) conditions will persist over the next week or so. Warm and consistently wet or humid conditions are required for head scab to develop. In fact, humid/wet conditions are also necessary for the development of most of the other economically important diseases of wheat such as *Septoria*, *Stagonospora*, and rust. When conditions are as consistently dry as they have been over the last few weeks, fungicides are not warranted. However, do continue to monitor the weather, and if it begins to rain, use the scab forecasting system to determine if the risk for scab is increasing as the crop continues to flower in the northern half of the state. We specifically do not recommend tank-mixing an insecticide with a

fungicide application if the insect populations do not legitimately warrant it. Not only will it kill pollinators, but it also can eliminate the beneficial parasitic insects that attack cereal leaf beetle. Insecticide is warranted for cereal leaf beetle control if there are 3 larvae per stem up to the boot stage, followed by a threshold of 1 larva per stem or flag leaf at boot stage and thereafter. As the wheat begins to mature and grain fill has progressed, the need for spraying diminishes as it will not provide a return on investment. For the CORN article click [HERE](#).

# Overhead line Safety

Author John Keimig, SDSU Extension, Edited by  
Jamie Hampton



*“Every year 62 farm workers in the United States are electrocuted.”*

Every year farmers are injured or killed in electricity-related accidents. According to the National Ag Safety Database, every year 62 farm workers in the United States are electrocuted. To raise an additional cause for concern, 3.6% of deaths among youth under 20 years of age are caused by electrocution. The changing face of agriculture has raised the need for concern regarding electric safety. Equipment continues to get larger and taller. Grain Spouts on combines are becoming longer to get past the headers. Chisels often span forty plus feet to cover many acres on a timely basis. Larger equipment raises the risk for increased electrical line awareness. Accidents with electrical lines can happen any time of the day, but working in the dark or in low light can increase the potential for contact with electrical lines.

If the pieces of equipment you are operating makes contact with an overhead electrical line, there are things the equipment operator should do:

- Remain in the vehicle.
- Warn others in the surrounding area to stay away
- Call 911 and wait for emergency professionals or utility works to say it's safe to exit
- In case of fire, jump out and clear and don't touch the equipment and ground simultaneously
- Land with both feet together and keeping both feet on the ground , shuffle away in small steps to avoid shock or electrocution.
- For the full article click [HERE](#)

## Reducing Risks



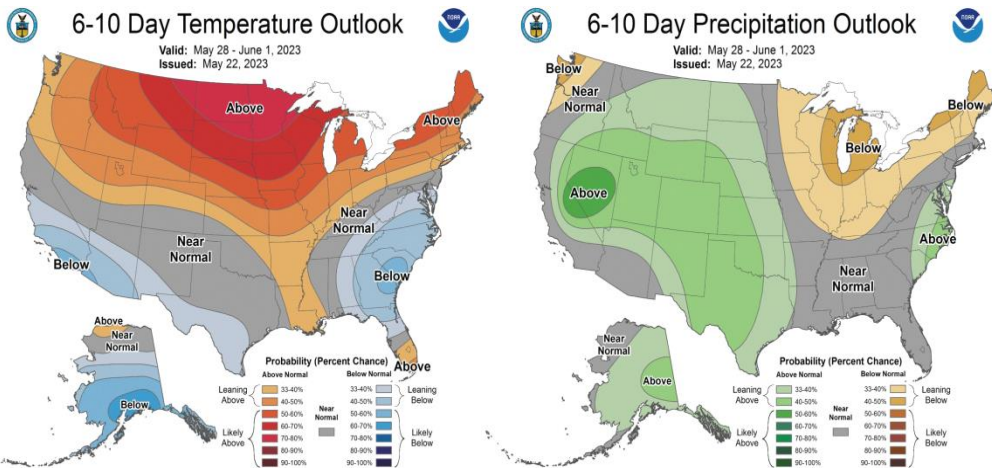
*As an agricultural producer, you can reduce your risk of electrocution by doing some simple practices.*

- *Always assume all electrical lines and electric equipment is energized. Never touch a power line.*
- *Be aware of the location of overhead power lines on your farm and choose a route for your equipment that avoids those lines.*
- *Avoid using ladders, portable augers, or irrigation equipment around power lines.*
- *When you are using ladders, use fiberglass with non-conductive side rails, when working near overhead lines.*
- *Tools should be carried horizontally.*
- *Maintain 10 feet of clearance space between the power lines and your equipment. Contact your power company to determine the height of power lines on your farm.*
- *Review safety measures with all individuals working on your farm, whether full-time, part-time, voluntary, or family.*
- *Remember that even nonmetallic objects such as tree limbs, ropes, and straw, can conduct electricity.*
- *Stay at least 30 feet away from downed electric lines and equipment.*

*Don't have an unfortunate planting or harvest season and become a farm accident statistic. Assessing your electrocution hazards around your farm and fields while developing a plan, may save a life this year.*

# Spring Weather & Soil Conditions

Author Aaron Wilson, Edited by Jamie Hampton



Air temperatures in Ohio ran 2-5°F below average over the last 7 days. In fact, locations across northwest and northeast Ohio fell below freezing on the morning of May 18<sup>th</sup>, with unofficial reports as low as 26°F in Sandusky County. Daily average soil temperatures cooled late last week with the colder temperatures but have rebounded back into the low 60s across the north and mid 60s for central and southern locations. Two main paths of showers and storms dropped 1-2" of rain this past week over portions of west central to north central Ohio, as well as counties in eastern Ohio and along the Ohio River. Despite this rainfall, the western half of the Buckeye State is running 50-75% of normal precipitation over the last 30 days. Cool conditions have kept evaporation at a minimum however, and soil moisture

remains adequate across the state. For more complete weather records for CFAES research stations, including temperature, precipitation, growing degree days, and other useful weather observations, please visit <https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weather1/>.  
**Weather Forecast**  
High pressure will dominate the forecast this week, with very few opportunities for rain across the region. A few light scattered showers may brush the state on Tuesday, then again on Friday and Saturday with a passing system coming up the east coast. Most of the state will remain dry with only up to 0.10" expected for the southeastern half of the state. Temperatures will remain mild as well, with highs mostly in the 70s to low 80s and overnight lows in the 40s and 50s. For the full article click [HERE](#).

## We Have a New Intern!!



Lauren Thornhill graduated from Anna High School. She was a freshman this past year at The Ohio State University studying agricultural education. She has a passion for agriculture that stems from her experiences in FFA and her 4-H projects. In her free time, she enjoys reading, working with sheep, and spending time outside.

Lauren has recently been selected as the Ohio FFA Vice President at large. We are very excited to have her as part of our team for the first part of the summer.

# Insect Monitoring is in full force

The Ohio LEP Network is continuing to monitor moth pests across Ohio. For our third week of monitoring, we are reporting the numbers for black cutworm (BCW), true armyworm (AMW), and European corn borer (ECB) IA & NY moths across Ohio. These insects' larval stages are common pests in Ohio for crops and can cause problems for farmers. If you are looking for more resources on these pests, check out our website: <https://aginsects.osu.edu/>

Black cutworms are an early season pest that migrate from southern regions into Ohio as temperatures increase and can cause various issues in crop emergence and have been our most significant pest this week. Black Cutworms can be identified by a dagger-like marking on their wings



We have entered our third week of monitoring for the true armyworm (AMW). These moths are similar to BCW, as they do not overwinter in Ohio, and migrate from southern regions in April and May. These moths are attracted to fields with grasses, winter wheat, barley, and rye cover crops. AMW are a light tan moth with a white dot near the bottom of both wings.

The European Corn Borer (ECB) is a common corn pest in Ohio that bores into corn stalks which causes disrupts the flow of nutrients in the corn stalks; which can increase corn stalk disease and stalk breakage, resulting in reduced corn yield. Unlike BCW and AMW, European corn borers overwinter in Ohio in corn stalks, and then emerge as moths in the springtime. These moths then deposit eggs on the underside of corn leaves, where the larvae will then hatch and feed on the corn foliage, before entering the stalk. The ECB moth is a white, with a darker head and body area.



This week in Auglaize County I found 6 BCW, 2 AMW, and 0 ECB.

For the full article click [HERE](#).



## Forage Maturity Across Ohio

Authors Jason Hartschuh, Ed Lentz, and Allen Gahler. Edited by Jamie Hampton



Many forage fields were harvested this past week with many more to be harvested this week with the excellent weather ahead. This past week alfalfa fields grew 6-10 inches but didn't rapidly progress through the maturity growth stages. In general, alfalfa varieties with lower fall dormancy ratings will be smaller and slower growing in the spring. With the continuing maturity of forages and insect pressure from alfalfa weevil and armyworm, harvest may be the best option instead of insecticide application. Much of the forage grasses across the state are now headed-reducing digestibility and crude protein. In Ottawa County, the farthest north county in our survey, orchard grass is fully headed and Timothy and Festolium are both in the boot stage, which is at the balancing point between maximum tonnage and quality. Mowing more forage than you can harvest each day carries more risk of quality decline most years than it continuing to mature. The current forecast though which could change any day shows a greater risk of continued maturity than rain.

# Reminders About Residual Herbicides

Author Mark Loux, Edited by Jamie Hampton



It's always fun when rainfall is feast or famine. Dry periods such as the coming week are great for about everything except weed management. From the perspective of making sure residual herbicides work, we like to see a decent rain about once a week. Residual herbicide treatments need to be applied and receive a half to one inch of rain within a week or so after tillage or an effective burndown treatment, to control weeds that will start to emerge at that time. More time than this allows for weeds to emerge before herbicide can be moved down into the soil, reducing the degree of control that residual herbicides are capable of providing. This is especially important for shoot uptake herbicides, such as group 15 – acetochlor, metolachlor, pyroxasulfone, and dimethenamid. Weeds are germinating and emerging more rapidly now compared with a month ago, so timeliness of the rain is more important. Under less-than-optimal rainfall conditions, it's possible that herbicides may control the small-seeded weeds that emerge at or just below the soil surface, but not larger-seeded weeds that can emerge from deeper. Herbicide on the soil surface will usually become active once enough rain occurs, even if it doesn't control the weeds that have already emerged. Residual herbicides do vary in the relative amounts of rain needed for "activation", or movement into the soil to reach germinating seeds. Most growers are applying mixtures or premixes of several products, so we're not sure these differences are as important as the overriding principle here. In a tilled situation, a timely rotary hoe can be used to remove some of the weeds that are about to emerge and buy some time for rain. The rotary hoe is most effective when weeds are in the "white stage". This refers to weeds that have germinated but not emerged yet, and still lack green color. Waiting until weeds have emerged is not the correct strategy here. Two passes with the rotary hoe, spaced a week or so apart, are more effective than one, if rainfall continues to be scarce. It is advisable to avoid the crook stage of soybean development, when the equipment will cause the most damage to emerged soybean.

The good news here is that we have effective POST herbicides to remedy many situations where the residual herbicides are not completely effective. Be aware that lack of residual herbicide activity is likely to result in overall reduced control of the more difficult to control weeds, and a generally higher weed population earlier in the season than is desirable. This may lead to early application of POST herbicides, when weeds are small, and an opportunity for later emerging weeds to go uncontrolled. A two POST application strategy may therefore be most effective for season-long control, where residual herbicide performance is initially reduced. For the CORN newsletter article click [HERE](#).

# May Events



## Auglaize County Events:

- June 9th, 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:



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

EXTENSION

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