THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Ohio State University Extension
Auglaize County
Top of Ohio EERA
208 South Blackhoof Street
Wapakoneta, OH 45895-1902

419-739-6580 Phone
419-739-6581 Fax
www.auglaize.osu.edu

Auglaize County OSU Extension Weekly Agriculture Newsletter – September 8, 2020

Scouting and Latest Information

Soybean field

Corn field

Hello!! Good Afternoon! I pray you are well!

This is the last newsletter. I want to thank everyone for your hospitality and support while I have been in this position!! As a recap, I will be leaving Auglaize County for Griggs County, ND as the Agriculture and Natural Resources and 4-H Youth Development Agent. My last day is noon on September 9th.

Joke: Did you hear about the magic tractor??

Rain fell **2** days in the last week somewhere in the county. Most of the county is very dry, at least until Monday. Now we have moisture, just a little late for most crops! Rainfall on early Wednesday morning, September 2nd ranged from a 0" near Kossuth to 0.22" near Santa Fe-New Knoxville and Shelby-Fryburg roads. Rainfall on Monday into early Tuesday morning ranged from 2.7" near Kossuth to 4.7" near Tri-Township and Lock Two roads. Rainfall for the week ranged from 2.7 near Kossuth to 4.78" near Tri-

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Township and Lock Two roads. Rainfall for the week averaged 3.73", 3.38" more than last week. There is at least a 51% chance of rain Thursday, otherwise it will be dry.

The average high temperature now is 78 degrees F, 1 degree less than last week. Temperatures were above normal for **5** days in the past week and below normal for **0** days in the past week. The range in high temperature for the week was 79 to 86 degrees F. The average high temperature for the week was 81.7 degrees F, which is 1.3 degrees F cooler than last week and 3.7 degrees F **warmer than** the current normal high temperature of 78 degrees F. Temperatures will fluctuate this week from above normal to below normal for the week.

Answer to joke: It turned into a field!!

Results of Annual Soybean Weed Control Survey

Thank you and congratulations to farmers and retailers in and near this county! Weed control in soybean improved again in the county since I started conducting the survey in 2015! On September 3, 2020, I drove my normal route around the county to evaluate weed control in soybean. I started my route at the county line south of Egypt and made a loop around the perimeter of the county traveling about 92 miles.

The percentage of weed free fields in the county this year is 27.3%, a 15% increase from last year's 12.3%! This is awesome and amazing! When I mean weed free that means no plants in the field of any type. The poorest weed control in the county during my tenure was 5.4% in 2018. What a change! The last time weed control was this good was in 2013 when 27% if fields were weed free. I also evaluated nearly clean fields which I indicate as three or fewer broadleaf plants in a field. If we take these nearly clean fields of 19.2% and add it to the weed free fields we end up with 446.5% of fields having few or no broadleaf weeds compared to 33% of fields in 2019, 20.1% in 2018 and 26.0% in 2017.

The number one most prevalent weed species in the county was waterhemp again at 47.5% of fields. This is a decrease of 5.5% compared to last year's 53% of fields. We are headed in the right direction! This is the first decline of waterhemp observed in the county since I have been here!! In 2018, waterhemp was in 51% of fields, in 2017 it was 47%, in 2016 it was 32%, and in 2015 it was 21%. In previous years the amount of waterhemp west of interstate 75 is higher than east of interstate 75. In 2018 waterhemp was observed in 64% of fields west of interstate 75 and 33% of fields east of interstate 75. In 2019, waterhemp was observed in 49% of fields west of interstate 75, while waterhemp was observed in 46% of fields east of interstate 75. In 2020, waterhemp was observed in 54.2% of fields west of interstate 75, a 5.2% increase over last year while

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only 35% of fields had waterhemp east of interstate 75, an 11% decrease from 2019. In 2018 and 2017 giant ragweed was the most prevalent at 65% and 56% respectively and in 2016 marestail was the number one weed at 51%.

We evaluate the presence of a species on a scale of zero, no plants to a three, the most plants. The average scale of waterhemp infestation level in 2020 was 1.51, which is 0.15 greater than last year. This means that 16.2% of fields were evaluated a two or three compared to 83.8% a zero or one. Therefore everyone in the county must come up with a comprehensive waterhemp control strategy and if you do not have waterhemp then work very hard to keep it out. I can't believe that the messiest field in the county with waterhemp last year is nearly spotless this year, so proper management can be accomplished!

The second most prevalent weed in the county in 2020 was giant ragweed at 29.3% of fields! That is a decrease of 2.7% compared to last year at 32%. This is excellent news!!

The third most common weed was volunteer corn. It was observed in 23.2% of fields, a 7.8% decrease from last year's 31% of fields! There are ways to get volunteer corn controlled in soybean.

The fourth most prevalent weed in the county this year was marestail at 10.1% of fields, a 9.9% decrease from last year's 20% of fields. This is another substantial decline over the last couple of years! The presence of marestail peaked in 2016 at 51%. We are making great strides in controlling marestail! Keep it up!

The fifth most prevalent weed in the county this year was velvetleaf at 8.1% of fields. Velvetleaf is most prevalent in dry years.

The sixth most prevalent weed in the county in 2020 was giant foxtail at 7.1% of fields.

All other species observed were present in less than 10% of fields. These species included lambsquarters, morningglory, common ragweed, wild carrot, barnyardgrass and fall panicum.

Thank you for your diligent efforts in improving weed control in the County!! This is excellent news. Let's continue to improve weed control in the county.

Prepared by Jeff Stachler
Ohio State University Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator, Auglaize County
stachler.1@osu.edu and 701-541-0043