



NEWTON COUNTY NEWS

AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

KATHRYN WEISS, PURDUE EXTENSION — NEWTON COUNTY ANR EXTENSION EDUCATOR

Happy Holidays!

With harvest well underway (now that the rain has decided to slow down), the end of the year is quickly approaching so here are a few things that I would like to highlight!

The Women’s Agriculture Enrichment Series is scheduled and the dates will be December 7th, January 18th, and February 15th! The flyer for this program can be found at the end of this newsletter. Register today!

The ANR Educators of Benton, Jasper, White, and Newton counties are once again holding the Quad County PARP program this year for anyone needing last minute PARP or CCH credits. This year the program will be held at the Remington Library on Monday, December 6th, 2021 with registration starting at 5:30 PM CST. To sign up, please contact me and I will get you on our list.

The Bi-State Extension Team will be holding the annual Crops Conference IN PERSON on Thursday, December 9th at the Beef House. This program will run from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm CST with lunch being served around 11.

Registration is \$40 and PARP, CCH, and CEU credits will be available for anyone needing them. If you’d like to register, please let me know.

Anyone who has a Private Applicator license that resides in Newton County should have received a letter from me regarding your current points as well as information on your license expiration date. If you by chance misplaced it or need an update on your current credits, for any license whether it be private or commercial, please contact our office and I would be happy to help you!

This year, I am joining with other educators to put on a Beginning Farmer program starting in January! This program will walk through a farm planning workbook that will help a farmer determine their mission and vision, define their assets, set goals, and outline activities to achieve those goals. More information will be coming soon. If this is something you are interested in, let me know!

Kathryn Weiss
Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources
Phone: 219-285-8620 ext. 2800
E-mail: weiss44@purdue.edu

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(219)-285-8620 ext. 2800

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FEATURED BUG: WIREWORM

DESCRIPTION: slender, hard bodied brownish larvae

TIME OF ATTACK: April to late June (Stages VE-V8)

DAMAGE: feed on the seed or seedling below ground, causing wilting and often plant death, resulting in gaps along row. A multi-year life cycle for most species means damage can worsen in subsequent seasons

SAMPLING: two to three weeks before planting, set up 5 bait stations in different areas of a field with a suspected infestation.

ECONOMIC THRESHOLD: a seed treatment or planting-time insecticide may be necessary if there is an average of 1 or more wireworms per bait station. No rescue treatments are available. Seed applied insecticides generally protect stands with low to moderate wireworm infestations.

REFERENCE: Purdue Field Crops IPM, <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/fieldcropsipm/>



Photo by: J. Obermeyer

FEATURED WEED: MARESTAIL (HORSEWEED)



Photo by: Purdue University Vegetable Crops Hotline

Marestail leaves are alternate, linear, and simple with entirely or slightly toothed margins.

Mature plants have leaves with no petioles. Leaves get progressively smaller in size toward the top of the plant.

Stems tend to be erect and unbranched at the base of the plant, unless damaged.

Flowers are arranged in a panicle with numerous white ray flowers (1/16 to 2/16 inches long) and 20-40 yellow disk flowers.

Seeds are small achenes (1/16-1/4 inch long) with pappus of tan to white bristles.

Horseweed is often misidentified as whitlowgrass, corn or Persian speedwell.

To learn more, visit: www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/gwc/gwc-9-w.pdf



HERBICIDE SHORTAGE: HOW TO PLAN FOR THE 2022 GROWING SEASON

Written by: Bill Johnson, Marcelo Zimmer, Bryan Young

There is a lot of speculation about a herbicide shortage for the 2022 growing season, which will impact weed management decisions starting with fall applications. The two main active ingredients that we're hearing about right now are glyphosate (Roundup, others) and glufosinate (Liberty, others), both associated with an increase in cost. There will likely be limited supplies of other pesticide active ingredients as well, but in the short term, a shortage of these two active ingredients poses some major challenges for corn and soybean production. The purpose of this article is to discuss ways to minimize the impact of herbicide shortage on corn and soybean production in the Midwest. As you search for alternatives to these two herbicides you may have already determined that weed control guides produced by University Extension and Industry will become your most important tool for planning your herbicide purchases for many years to come. To access the Weed Control Guide for Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, follow this link – <https://extensionpubs.osu.edu/2021-weed-control-guide-for-ohio-indiana-and-illinois/>.

First, what is causing the shortage? There are several different factors which are impacting this issue. In no particular order, the reasons for the herbicide shortage include a decline in number of laborers to unload tanker ships at gulf ports, lack of truck transportation from the ports to get the ingredients to U.S. formulation plants or formulated products to the retailers, reduced supplies of some of the inert ingredients of the formulation, shortages of materials to make containers and packaging, and Hurricane Ida that damaged a glyphosate production plant in Luling, LA (<https://www.agweb.com/news/business/technology/hurricane-ida-idles-largest-glyphosate-production-plant-us>).

Regardless of the cause, it is also important to consider herbicide costs. We are hearing that glyphosate prices will be in excess of \$80/gallon. So, even if there is not a shortage, you should plan your weed control strategies for the next growing season to accommodate a limited availability because of supply or price of these two active ingredients.

It is important to point out that the demand for glyphosate will be considerably less in a conventional till system than in a no-till system. Glyphosate is arguably the most important herbicide that facilitates no-till crop production. It's even more important in systems where cover crops are used and need to be terminated before corn or soybean planting. Therefore, one simple way to reduce reliance on glyphosate is to simply go back to using tillage for fall and early spring weed control. This practice will be very effective for controlling the weeds emerged at the time of tillage, but some farm operations may not be set up for the extra equipment, labor, and fuel needed to do this on a widespread basis. In addition, replacing burndown herbicides with tillage threatens soil conservation practices. Glufosinate demand, on the other hand, will not be impacted as much by choice of tillage system since we don't use glufosinate in our fall or spring burndown application, and not much is used in corn. There is some glufosinate used in delayed burndown situations. However, we mostly use glufosinate postemergence in soybeans after the crop and summer annual weeds have emerged.

If you're not interested in returning to widespread use of tillage, keep in mind that you are looking for ways to control winter annual weeds before planting and control grass weeds with other herbicides to decrease reliance on glyphosate for postemergence grass weed control. Secondly, regardless of tillage system, you want to build a solid residual program as the backbone of your weed control strategy to reduce reliance on using glyphosate postemergence in the crops. In the next section of this article, we will outline some weed control considerations based on the type of tillage system you are in and the weeds to be controlled at different times of the year.

To read the full article that includes information on fall applied herbicides and spring applied herbicides, visit: <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/newsletters/pestandcrop/article/herbicide-shortage-how-to-plan-for-the-2022-growing-season/>