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Orange County Agri-News

GET THE DIRT ON ORANGE COUNTY AGRICULTURE

October/November 2021

PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Extension - Orange County

From the Office...

As we come into this harvest season, I want to wish everyone the best of luck and even better yields. Don't forget to take care of yourself this season. Everything is replaceable except you! Get plenty of rest and make sure to take some time for your family too. This is no doubt the busiest time of year with everyone running different directions. I try to keep programs to a minimum during the fall because I know y'all won't come - haha!

Keep Growing,
Abby Heidenreich

In the Works

Here are a few of the things going on around Orange County:…..

Harvest of the Month - Every month, Abby teaches a Harvest of the Month lesson either in person or virtually at all the elementary schools in Orange County. You can view the videos she made that go with the lessons on the Purdue Extension - Orange County YouTube Channel!

Text Alerts: Abby has recently set up a system for text alerts to be sent out with seasonal reminders, important information and upcoming events. This is not spam, it's really Abby typing out the info and sending it! The idea is to do short alerts with info rather than long emails or facebook posts that don't get attention. If you'd like to sign up, you can text "EZLIVESTOCK" or "EZCROPTEXT" to (812) 393-2479.

Transition Planning: I'm working on putting together a program for farms that are hoping to pass down operations to next generations. I know of several in Orange County who would benefit from this type of thing so please start thinking about how you're going to approach keeping that farm in your family.

Farmers Market: Abby is planning to have an Extension Office booth at the Orleans Farmers Markets more regularly in the future. The plan is to feature different topics and hopefully have some Master Gardener volunteers there as well to answer gardening questions!

Women's Night Out: October 6th will be the Women's Night Out. We'll be having dinner at Burton's Farmhouse Restaurant and having a few speakers. I'm hopeful we can turn this into an annual event!

Diversification & Niche Marketing: I'm working on putting together a Niche Marketing program for those interested. If you have ideas or topics you'd like to see featured, please let me know!!

Local Foods Database: With our new website launch, we have a lot more freedom to create webpages for our needs. I would like to put together a listing of all local food options - including contact info for those who sell produce, eggs, freezer beef, meats and other ag products. A landing page that would guide people to local food options that they may not otherwise have known about. If you're interested in this, please let me know.

Farm Rescue Training/Safety: Last year, I put on a grain bin rescue workshop. I'd like to offer another topic for first responders and volunteers to learn about. What are some topics you think would be good for first responders to learn about when responding to a farm call?

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If you can't tell by reading this page, *I want to hear from you!!* Let's have a conversation about Orange County Agriculture. Call me at 812-723-7107 or stop by the Exten-sion Office at 205 E Main Street in Paoli.

Hawaiian BBQ Chicken Wraps

Nothing better than a little Hawaiian twist to BBQ chicken, layered inside a tasty wrap! These Hawaiian BBQ Chicken Wraps are EASY, healthy and delicious.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time
5 mins	10 mins	15 mins

★★★★½
4.49 from 41 votes

Course: Main Course Cuisine: American Servings: 4
Calories: 310kcal Author: Lauren Allen

Ingredients

- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts (about 2 breasts), cut into bite-size pieces
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2/3 cup pineapple , chopped (fresh or canned)
- 1/4 red onion , chopped
- 1 romaine heart , chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro , chopped
- 4 large flour tortillas (wheat or white)

Instructions

1. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium high heat.
2. Add chicken pieces to the pan and season with salt and pepper. Cook, flipping once until chicken is cooked through and golden brown.
3. Remove pan from heat. Add barbecue sauce to the pan and toss chicken to coat.
4. Place tortilla on a plate. Layer with a spoonful of barbecue chicken, cheese, pineapple, onion, chopped romaine and cilantro.
5. Roll, burrito style and secure with a toothpick. Serve immediately.
6. Consider serving these with a BBQ side dish.

Nutrition

Calories: 310kcal | Carbohydrates: 35g | Protein: 18g | Fat: 10g | Saturated Fat: 3g | Cholesterol: 47mg | Sodium: 729mg | Potassium: 458mg | Fiber: 2g | Sugar: 16g | Vitamin A: 2670IU | Vitamin C: 15.7mg | Calcium: 130mg | Iron: 1.9mg

TACO TATER CASSEROLE

This Tater Taco Casserole is a Mexican mixture of taco meat, beans, corn, and cheese topped with tater tots and enchilada sauce.

PREP TIME	COOK TIME	TOTAL TIME
15 minutes	30 minutes	45 minutes

INGREDIENTS

1 lb ground beef
1 small onion, diced finely
1 clove garlic, minced
1 (4 oz) can Old El Paso diced green chiles
1 (1 oz) package Old El Paso taco seasoning mix
1 (15 oz) can black beans, rinsed and drained
1 (12 oz) package frozen corn
3 cups shredded Mexican blend cheese
1 (28 oz) package frozen tater tots
1 (10 oz) can Old El Paso red enchilada sauce
Toppings: olives, cilantro, sour cream, tomatoes

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees and spray a 9x13 baking dish with cooking spray. For extra crispy tater tots, bake tater tots for about 10 minutes while preparing the beef mixture - otherwise prepare as follows.

In a large skillet, brown the beef and the onion. Add the garlic towards the end of the browning process and cook for 1 minute. Drain.

Add the green chiles, taco seasoning mix, black beans, corn, and 2 cups of the cheese. Stir together to combine. If your skillet isn't big enough you may need to stir it together in a bowl.

Pour mixture into the prepared 9x13 pan. Arrange tater tots on top of the mixture in a single layer.

Pour the enchilada sauce on top of the casserole as evenly as you can.

Bake uncovered for 30-40 minutes or until tater tots are nice and crispy. Sprinkle the remaining 1 cup of cheese on top and place back in the oven for 2-3 minutes or until cheese has melted.

Top with olives, cilantro, sour cream, tomatoes when serving if desired.

Field Meals On Wheels

Prevent stored grain pest issues before winter

Anthony Hanson, Extension Educator - Field Crops Integrated Pest Management David Nicolai, Extension Educator - Institute for Ag Professionals Program Coordinator

Late summer and early fall is time ensure infested and spoiled grain in bins from previous harvests won't cause more problems for this year's harvest. Over the summer, insect infestations may have grown in grain bins, especially in areas where spoiled grain accumulated even after being mostly emptied (Fig. 1). Keeping good sanitation practices prior to putting the next harvest into storage will help break pest cycles and reduce the likelihood of issues with spoilage or price docking at the elevator. Once grain is in the bin, options to manage existing insects are very limited, especially grain that is going to be stored through the following spring or summer.

Integrated pest management for insects in stored grains is closely tied to sanitation to also prevent grain from spoiling and overheating. Clean bins and equipment, maintain temperatures that are not ideal for insect development as long as possible, and consider residual insecticides when insects have continued to be an issue in previous years. Common insect species can include: saw-toothed grain beetle, grain weevils, and India meal moth. Many of these species are generalists, so they can infest corn, soybeans, wheat, and other grains. Direct feeding damage can be a more obvious symptom of insect issues with hollowed out seed and exit holes from beetles or webbing from moth larvae that causes grain to clump (Fig. 2). Immature stages of many of these species live within the seed and will not always be readily visible. This also offers them some protection from transport, augering, or bin stirators.

Clean bins and other equipment - Reducing the amount of material insects can use as shelter or to reproduce is key for stored grain pest management as small amounts of infested or moldy material can infest clean incoming grain. At least a few weeks before filling a bin, vacuum or sweep out old material. Accumulations of chaff, fines, and broken kernels are preferred habitat for stored grain insects. While a bin may appear clean, don't forget about areas where these materials may accumulate out of sight, such as underneath slotted flooring. Once a bin is cleaned out and checked for cracks or openings where insects might gain entrance, check any harvest or transport equipment where old grain may not have been cleaned out last year. An unused auger or corners of a grain truck that were not entirely cleaned out can harbor insects over the summer that will reinfest your harvest and rebuild pest populations.

Maintain cool temperatures - During summer and fall insects will be near the surface of the grain mass, while in winter they will move to the center of the pile where infestation may not be noticeable until temperatures rise. Insect feeding can cause temperatures in a bin to rise to 110°F, which can cause issues both for spoilage and make the grain mass even more ideal for insect development. When grain temperatures are below 50°F, insect development slows, and at 25°F, insect activity mostly stops. Some mortality can also occur at colder temperatures, though this is highly dependent on species, the actual temperature experienced in the grain, and the length of cold exposure. From both a grain quality and insect management approach, it is important to take advantage of cold Minnesota nights to run fans and move cold air across the entirety of the grain mass.

Insecticides - Insecticides will not be effective if grain still has to be dried. Running grain through augers and especially heat will degrade insecticides, so this option should be reserved for final storage rather than a drying bin. While fumigants are available for already filled and infested bins, these can be difficult to use to ensure coverage across the entire grain mass. Instead, prevention through sanitation and residual insecticides two to three weeks before putting new grain in a bin will typically be the easier and less expensive option.

Residual insecticides can be applied in a few different manners as a protective strategy. Surfaces of bins can be treated to target adult insects that do manage to enter through openings in the bin or remain wandering the bin after food sources have been removed. These treatments need to dry over at least 24 hours to be effective, and there should be at least a two week period after application until the bin is filled. Other strategies include treating the entire grain mass as it passes from the auger into the bin, or a top dressing treatment to protect against insects entering from the roof as long as the top layer is not disturbed. Always follow pesticide label requirements and guidance for specific uses and insect species.

For more guidance on grain storage additional options to prevent losses, and potential insecticide use, visit: https://extension.umn.edu/corn-harvest/managing-stored-grain-minimize-storage-losses

Hidden in the Leaf Pile: Luna moths, woolly bears, and swallowtails all need a safe place to “hibernate”

By: Elizabeth Barnes

Wandering fall caterpillars promise the presence of pollinators, bird food, and flashes of fluttering color in your yard next spring, but overly enthusiastic yard cleanup can make you lose out on these benefits. These insects can provide your spring plants with pollination and migratory birds with a snack. You can help them by changing the timing of your yard clean up.

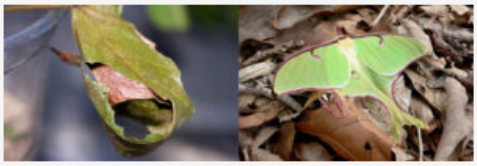
Woolly bear caterpillars construct shelters like this one made from pine needles to protect themselves from the winter elements. They also commonly use leaf litter and other yard debris. Image by batwrangler on flickr.

Fall: Caterpillar Watching Season

Caterpillars are encountered more frequently in the fall for two reasons: their size and their hunt for a home. Many large caterpillars require a full growing season to reach their final stage. Come fall, caterpillars that might have easily blended in with a twig or leaf, are more likely to stand out to the human eye because of their sheer size. In addition, many of these caterpillars spend the winter in cocoons or chrysalises (pupae) or as caterpillars. They have adaptations to help resist the cold, but most still need a shelter to tuck themselves away in to stay safe. Caterpillars often cross paths with people when they go looking for these shelters. The most famous of these wandering fall caterpillars is the woolly bear caterpillar (aka the Isabella tiger moth), but many others like tussock moths, silk moths (e.g. Luna, Io, and Polyphemus moths), and sphinx moths are also commonly encountered.

Caterpillars and Your Yard

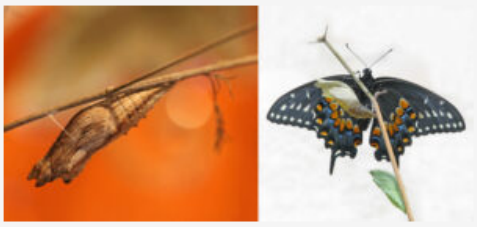
In addition to turning into some of the most charismatic insects (Luna moths, monarchs, swallowtails, etc.), caterpillars play a complex and pivotal role in the ecosystem. Many bird species rely on caterpillars during their nesting period. These insects are tiny packets of protein and other nutrients that growing birds need to survive. Encouraging a healthy crop of caterpillars can be just as effective at drawing birds to your yard as a bird feeder. Once caterpillars turn into moths or butterflies, they play another key role in the garden. Many butterflies and moths are important pollinators. Keeping them alive over the winter helps ensure they’ll fill these roles in the spring.



Luna moth cocoons are often difficult to see because they are generally wrapped in dead leaves. If the cocoon survives the winter, it will emerge in the spring as a soft green, 3 to 4.5 inch moth. Images by Greg Gilbert and wanderingnome on flickr.

“Hibernating” Caterpillars

Caterpillars and other insects (e.g. solitary bees) often tuck themselves away in places that would be perfectly safe in an unmanaged field or forest but are dangerous for them in a yard or landscaped area. Many insects use dead plant matter like dead leaves, fallen tree trunks, or standing dead vegetation for insulation and camouflage during the winter. Luna moths, for example, bind together leaves to make themselves a crunchy sleeping bag to spend the winter. The dead leaves can help hide the moth’s cocoon from hungry animals and insulate them from the winter weather. They are so well camouflaged that they can be raked into a leaf pile without being noticed. As long as they are not diseased, putting fallen leaves in mulch piles or in the woods rather than burning or throwing them away can help ensure Luna moths and other beneficial insects survive into the next year.



Swallowtail caterpillars often attach their chrysalises to dead plant material in the fall. The chrysalises are brown and resemble dead leaves. In the spring, the swallowtail butterflies emerge and look for flowers to drink from. They are just one of many butterfly and moth pollinators. Images by Vicki DeLoach.

Caterpillars and solitary bees both use dead plant stocks to overwinter. Many hide inside the stems, but other attach themselves to the outside. Some species of swallowtail butterflies spend the winter as a chrysalis that looks like a dead leaf. They attach themselves to twigs, dead plants, and tree trunks. Removing dead stems in gardens in the fall runs the risk of killing these butterflies and other pollinators. With some careful planning, you can keep your yard butterfly, moth, and bee friendly while also making it tidy and disease free (Learn more here: https://www.purduelandscapereport.org/article/protect-pollinators-and-plants-with-a-balanced-fall-garden-cleanup-plan/).

Reader's Digest—

The Steer-Bull Price Differential: A Historical Perspective

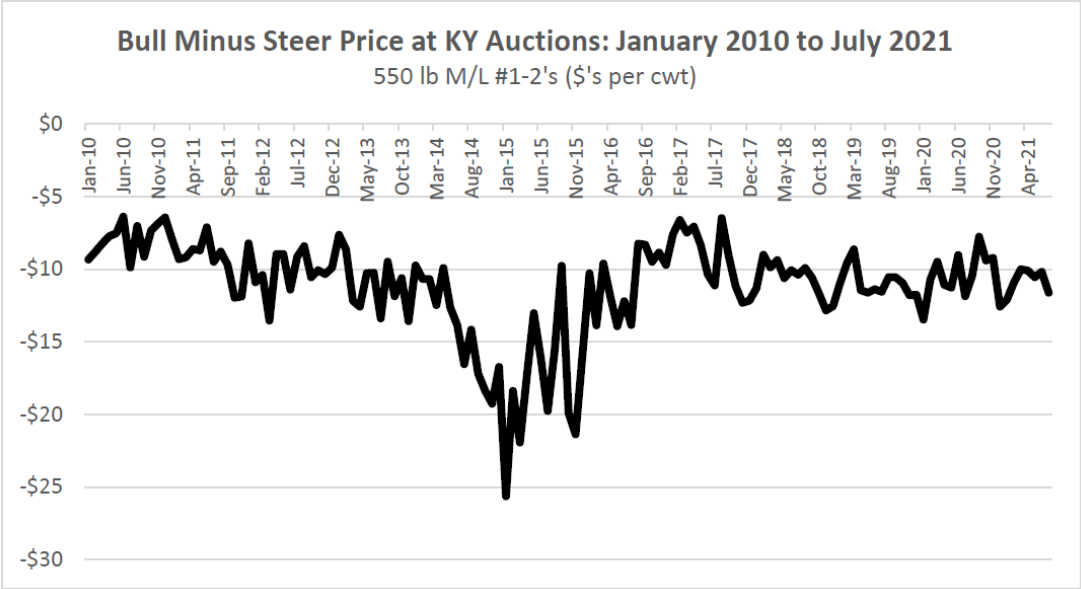
Dr. Kenny Burdine, Livestock Marketing Specialist, University of Kentucky

In extension settings, I am often asked whether I think it pays for a cow-calf operator to castrate bulls and sell steers. Castration is not without cost as it requires time and facilities and does stress calves for a period of time. Like so many management decisions, there are numerous ways that one can look at this decision and there is more to be considered than economics alone. But it had been about three years since I wrote an article on this topic, so I thought it was likely a good time to revisit it.

When examining historical prices, it is difficult to argue that there is not a price advantage to selling steers. Sure, there will be times when a group of bulls will outsell a group of steers, but I view those times as the exceptions, rather than the norm. Sometimes those exceptions may be due to quality or lot size differences. Other times it may be as simple as a buyer needing to fill out a load of bulls and bidding the price of a group up beyond what would have been expected. But, going back to January of 2010, there has not been a single month when the average price of 550 lb bulls exceeded that of 550 lb steers. The figure below plots this data by month from January 2010 to July 2021. The bull discount got very wide at times during 2014 and 2015, but otherwise has been running in a range of $7 to $14 per cwt. Over that entire period, the bull discount averaged $11.12 per cwt.

A logical follow up question would involve the likely weaning weight differences between steers and bulls. In the figure above, I tracked the price differential at the same sale weight. On a 550 lb calf, that $11.12 per cwt historical price difference amounts to a little more than $60 per head, but also ignores potential weight differences between the two. I like to frame this discussion by asking how much more a bull calf would have to weigh at weaning to make up for that difference. To answer this question, we have to understand the value of additional lbs (value of gain) and not confuse this with sale price. Price slide refers to the decrease in price per cwt that occurs as the weight of cattle increases. Because of price slide, the value of additional lbs is typically less than the sale price. This is a key concept in cattle marketing that impacts most all decisions that producers make. I will walk through a quick illustration.

The average price of a 550 lb bull calf from 2010 to 2020 in Kentucky auction markets was $150 per cwt or $825 per head. If the price slide in the market were $10 per cwt, for each 100 lb increase in the bull's weight, his price would decrease by $10 per cwt. So, if a bull weighed 600 lbs, rather than 550 lbs, his price would have been $145 per cwt ($5 per cwt less) and his total value would be $870. This is $45 more dollars than the 550 lb bull, which means that those additional pounds were worth roughly $0.90 each. At that rate, the bull's weight would need to exceed the weight of the steer by 67 lbs to make up for the roughly $60 difference in value from the price discount. As price slide increases, the value of additional lbs decreases. Using a larger price slide of $15 per cwt would make the value of those additional lbs worth only about $0.60, which would mean that the bull would need to outweigh the steer by roughly 100 lbs for his value to be comparable. Similarly, a smaller price slide would result in higher values of gain and fewer additional lbs needed to offset the price differential.



This discussion is quickly summarized in the table below. In the table, I work through these calculations for price slides of $5, $10, and $15 per cwt. Ordinarily, I would not include a price slide as low as $5 per cwt for calves, but we are in a unique market right now with relatively high feed costs. Generally speaking, high feed prices tend to result in smaller price slides as preference shifts towards the placement of heavier feeder cattle into feedlots. Conversely, price slides for calves will typically be larger in the spring when grass demand supports lighter calf prices. Price slides also tend to increase as overall price levels increase. For example, we saw price slides exceed $20 per cwt during 2014 and 2015 when calf prices exceeded $2 per lb. So, the table below is largely for illustration purposes, but provides a framework from which producers can make similar calculations based on calf prices and price slides in any market.

Price Slides and Value of Additional Weight

	$5 / cwt price slide	**$10 / cwt price slide**	**$15 / cwt price slide**
Value of 550 lb bull, initial price of $150 per cwt	$825 per head	$825 per head	$825 per head
Value of 600 lb bull	$885 per head	$870 per head	$855 per head
Value of each additional lb	$1.20	$0.90 per lb	$0.60 per lb
Lbs needed to add $60 of value per head	50 lbs	67 lbs	100 lbs

Finally, I would mention that implants likely need to be considered as part of this discussion too. While I leave implant specifics to my animal science colleagues, implanted steers have the potential to see much better rates of gain and narrow that weight difference considerably. So, unless a producer is selling into a market that does not allow implants, they may offer the potential to receive steer prices, but also see improved rates of gain.

Every producer must decide for themselves whether castrating bulls makes sense for their operation. I am fully aware that there is a cost to working calves and some producers may choose not to do this due to facility or time limitations. I have not attempted to delve into those additional costs in this article, but rather have focused on the value differences so that producers can weigh those against the additional costs they would incur. There is consistent evidence that bulls will sell at a discount to steers in the marketplace and the additional lbs needed for bulls to offset that discount can be significant. I would also point out that there are individuals in the marketplace who make money by purchasing bulls, castrating them, backgrounding them for a period, and re-selling them. I just mention this as evidence that this is a way that value is commonly added to cattle in the market. So, producers who typically sell bulls may want to consider the potential value that can be added to their calves through this practice as they look for ways to increase profitability in the future.

Want to learn more? Contact Abby at the Extension office! 812-723-7107

Are Your Fields at Risk for Lodging? Now is the Time to Identify High Risk Fields, What is Causing the Reduced Stalk Integrity, and Management Decisions for Harvest.

Darcy Telenko, Ph.D.,Extension Field Crops Pathologist, Purdue University, Dan Quinn, Ph.D., Extension Corn Specialist

There are many factors that can contribute to stalk decline. There are both plant pathogenic causes and abiotic stresses factors that can play a role in reduced stalk integrity, such as drought and flooding. Either way, as stalk tissue becomes compromised below the main ear the stalk may become brittle or weak and be prone to lodging.

As the corn plant loses photosynthetic leaf area due to different stresses such as foliar disease and hot and dry conditions, the amount of carbohydrates available for dry matter deposition into the kernels is also decreased. Therefore, plants respond by remobilizing non-structural carbohydrates from the stalk to supply the demand required by the developing kernels on the ear. This response causes stalk strength and integrity to decrease, and increases a corn plant's risk of lodging and infection from pathogens that cause stalk rot. Fields with large ear sizes and strong kernel set, which have a high kernel fill demand, may also be at the greatest risk. There are a number of pathogens that can cause stalk rot including Anthracnose, Bacteria, Charcoal, Diplodia, Fusarium, Gibberella, and Pythium. Some of these stalk rots have very characteristic symptoms that can help identify the specific problem, while others may require laboratory diagnosis. In addition, our research has shown that fields severely blighted by tar spot may also have increased risk for lodging. One, two, or many factors in a field may lead to this risk. Therefore, it is important to get out and scout your fields.

What can you do now – check fields by using the Push or Pinch Test by evaluating 20 plants in at least five random areas in a field.

- Pinch Test – grab the stalk somewhere between the lowest two internodes and pinch between your fingers to see if the stalk is strong enough to handle the force – if the stalk collapses, it fails.

- Push Test – push the stalk to a 30 degree angle – if it pops back up when released, it passes the test. If not, it fails.

Threshold: If 10% or more of the stalks (2 out of 20 stalks) fail, then consider early harvesting to avoid risk for lodging.

In addition, for those stalks that fail the push or pinch test, it is time to cut them open and determine the root cause, which could be one or many issues. I was just in a field with severe tar spot, but when I cut open the stalks, every one had pink and/or white discoloration in the pith indicating most likely a Gibberella and/or Fusarium infection (the samples are currently being processed for confirmation).

Figure 1. Severe lodging many stalks with symptoms of Fusarium and Gibberella stalk rot in addition to the field having severe tar spot. Photos Darcy Telenko.

What can you do in the future – management options will depend on the specific disease (see table 1). Production practices that promote good plant health including balanced fertilization, appropriate plant populations, and good water management can reduced stresses that might predispose corn to stalk rot. In addition, these key management tools can help mitigate future stalk rot issues.

- Properly diagnosis the stalk rot pathogen. (Samples can be submitted to the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab (https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-89-W.pdf has a more detailed description of each stalk rot)
- Select hybrids with resistance if available.
- Crop Rotation – rotating to non-host crop will help reduce stalk rot potential in a field. Note that Charcoal rot and Gibberella stalk rot can infect other rotational crops in Indiana
- Tillage – burying infected crop residue will encourage more rapid desiccation and help reduces risk of overwintering in crop residue.
- Good soil drainage and reduced compaction.
- Foliar Fungicides – applying foliar fungicides can help protect crop from foliar diseases that could predispose plant to stalk rot when present, but devoid of foliar disease pressure fungicides applications have not consistently been found to help reduce stalk rot

Marketing as Part of the Plan

Author(s): Garth Ruff, Beef Cattle Field Specialist, OSU Extension

While summer is winding down there is no shortage of things to keep a beef producer busy this time of year. Depending on the calving season of choice, we are either approaching fall calving or wrapping up the breeding season for some spring calving herds. There is still hay to be made and corn silage harvest is not too far away. Now is the time to manage some pesky pasture weeds and perhaps sneak in that last minute summer vacation.

I mention all the above in an effort to encourage producers to begin thinking about fall and making those management decisions that have positive impacts on the 2021 spring calf crop. So, before we think about kicking back and watching the Buckeyes on the gridiron, consider practices that will add value to the calf crop about to be marketed.

Feeder cattle prices continue to be strong, perhaps better than predicted during our cow-calf outlook program around the first of the year. While I am not an economist, my colleagues across the Land-Grant system contribute the strong prices in part to the slight contraction we have seen to the national cow herd.

In July, USDA reported the largest midyear reduction in cow inventory, in large part due to the extreme drought in the western US and the northern plains. At the time of writing this there are nearly 100 wildfires burning in the West, with little relief in sight. Locally, high selling cull cows and several retirements from the cow-calf business, have helped shorten the supply of feeder cattle.

When feeder cattle are in short supply, there is even greater opportunity to capitalize on premiums in the marketplace, but planning should be underway, as adding value to feeder cattle doesn’t just happen overnight.

An ideal plan is to have calves weaned for at least 45 days before marketing. “But, I don’t have a place to keep calves separate for 45 days.” I understand for many producers this is an obstacle for many cattlemen in the state, however it is one that can be overcome with we look at return on investment. A simple corral, a good fence to split a pasture, and alley with headgate are more than enough to get the job done.

With workable handling facilities, vaccination and castration are less limiting factors to increasing calf value as well. As part of Beef Quality Assurance reach out to your veterinarian to develop a vaccination plan that fits your target market.

Sale data is pretty clear that preconditioned cattle, that have been weaned for 45+ days, outsell cattle that are weaned off the cow the day they are sold. It does take time, a little bit of feed, and some workable handling facilities, but the revenue generated from the improved management will cover that cost over time.

Remember to market the value that you have added to your cattle. If selling at auction, the market needs to have recorded exactly what you have done in order to announce it to the potential buyers in the seats. It doesn’t make sense to go through the extra work and put he cattle through the chute if you aren’t able to take a few moments to market what you have done. A beef cow has only limited opportunities to generate revenue in her lifetime, once a year when she as a calf, and once when she is culled. We might as well make the most out each of those opportunities.

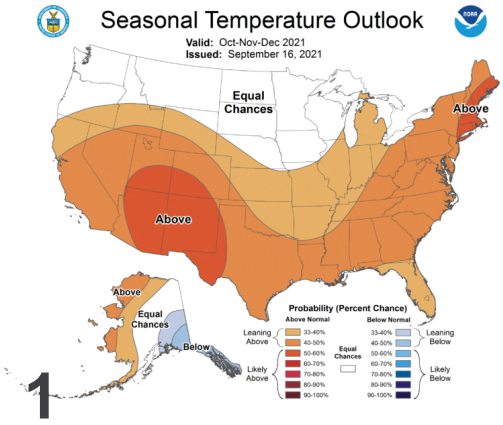
Will La Niña return again this winter?

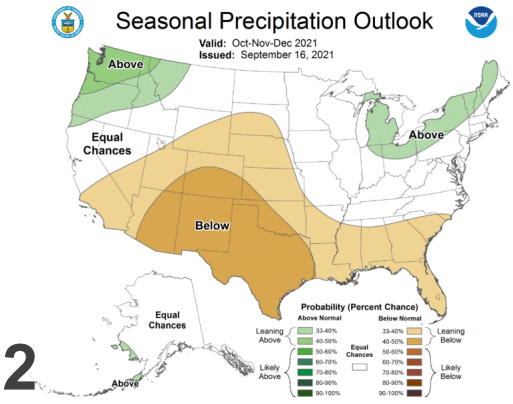
BY: BETH HALL

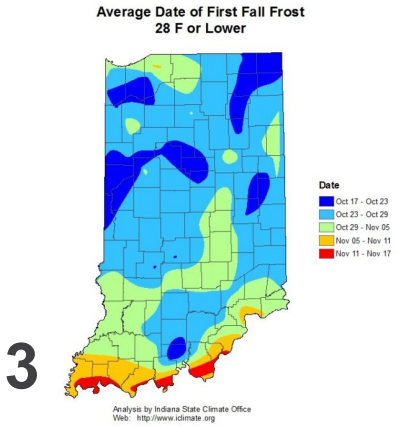
Last winter, earth was in a La Niña phase. While the relationships between El Niño – Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phases and Midwest climate are not strong, historically the La Niña phase has been weakly associated with milder and wetter winters. Timing is everything, though, and winters are climatologically defined as December, January, and February. When that 3-month season is broken down further during La Niña events, this tends to favor and milder (i.e., warmer and drier than normal) December and early January and more active (i.e., snowier and colder than normal) late January and February. The 2020-2021 winter seemed to follow this pattern where the greatest snowfall events occurred in February, December and January were warmer than normal, and February ended up being significantly colder than normal. Will the 2021-2022 winter season be the same? While a La Niña is predicted to peak sometime around November or December, most models have its strength being relatively weak. This suggest much more uncertainty on whether or not classic La Niña impacts will prevail again this winter. We will just have to wait and see.

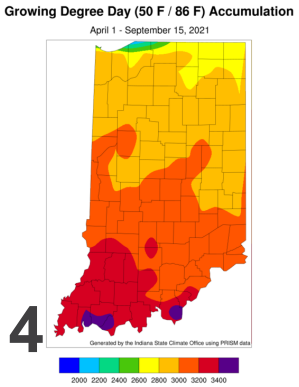
The most recent climate outlooks for the October through December period is slightly favoring above-normal temperatures (Figure 1) with equal chances for above-normal, below-normal, or normal precipitation across Indiana (Figure 2). The climate outlooks for October are more strongly favoring above-normal temperatures across the state with precipitation being only slightly favored for the northeastern part of the state. The rest of Indiana's precipitation outlook was too uncertain to favor either above- or below-normal conditions. Given these outlooks, it may be tempting to assume that the first hard freeze will be late this year. However, short-lived, yet damaging freeze events can pass through and not be picked up in the longer period climate outlooks. Therefore, at this point it is too uncertain when the first hard freeze event will occur. Figure 3 illustrates the average date of the first hard freeze (28° F) across Indiana.

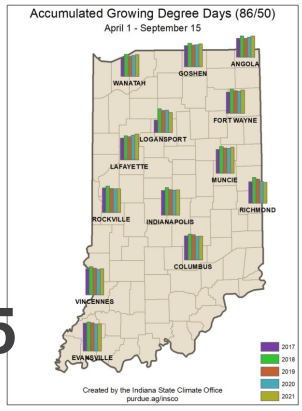
Accumulated modified growing degree-days (MGDDs) for April 1 through September 15, 2021 range from around 2700 units in northern Indiana to around 3400 units in southern Indiana (Figure 4). This is slightly ahead of climatological normal accumulations for the northern two-thirds of the state and slightly behind in the southern part of the state. Figure 5 compares this year's accumulated MGDDs to recent years.











Don’t Let Your Guard Down On Fall Armyworm, Just Yet

Author(s): Andy Michel, Curtis Young, CCA, Aaron Wilson, Kelley Tilmon, Mark Sulc - Ohio State University

Last week, we discussed the possibility of a cold snap limiting any future fall armyworm outbreaks. We did have some fairly low temperatures last week—most areas had 40 to 60 straight hours of temperatures below 65oF (this was the temperature when mortality significantly impacted fall armyworm larvae). Today, several OSU extension educators have noticed a very large number of adult moths caught in our expanded trap network. As adults are migratory (often flying with winds in the atmosphere), they may be more cold-tolerant than the larvae, so it may not be surprising to still see some moths. However, we do not yet know how the cold snap affected the larvae. Fields should continue to be scouted for the presence of fall armyworm larvae at least for this week and likely until we get a significant frost. Check alfalfa, forage, cover crops, winter wheat, and even turf for damage and small larvae. As we get closer to the winter, we want to protect against any further damage that could compromise winter survival and regrowth in the spring.

Fall Army Worm Caterpillars, photo Courtesy of Mark Badertscher

Figure 1. Fall armyworm has been as unpredictable as it is devastating to alfalfa, often hitting one field while leaving others a short distance away untouched. (Photo: Ric Bessin, UK)

Fall Armyworm Update

By Ric Bessin and Jonathan Larson, Entomology Extension Specialists

Fall armyworm reports continue to come in with a wide range of crops attacked, including pasture grasses (crabgrass, Bermuda grass, orchard grass, sorghum-Sudan grass), alfalfa, clover, soybean, sorghum, and cabbage. The pest has a wide host range including over 80 species of plants. We feel that we are dealing with the rice strain rather than the corn strain based on host plants attack. At this point, most producers are well aware of the problem across the State and are monitoring their fields regularly. We think of fall armyworm as a tropical pest that migrates into the state each summer from its southern overwintering sites, builds up in numbers, and is killed out with the first fall frost/freeze. While this pest cannot tolerate freezing weather, we will have to continue to manage it until that first freeze.

Fall armyworm is continuing to lay eggs, and we can expect to have another generation of larvae. However, with the cooler weather, development will be slowed compared to what we had last month. As was reported last week, there is fall armyworm nucleopolyhedrosis virus active in some areas but do not expect this to give much relief.

We recommend that producers continue to monitor fields and be prepared to treat if levels approach economic thresholds.

Upcoming Events

October 6th - Women's Night Out

October 7th - Extension & 4-H Inc Board Annual Meeting

October 28th - Master Gardener Meeting

November 9th - Area 2 PARP

November 13th - Cattlemen Meeting

November 18th - Master Gardener Meeting

SEE FLYER

Master Gardener News

Upcoming Meetings:

Oct 28th—6:30pm

@Orange County Community Center

Nov 18th—6:30pm

@Orange County Communty Center

Cattlemen News

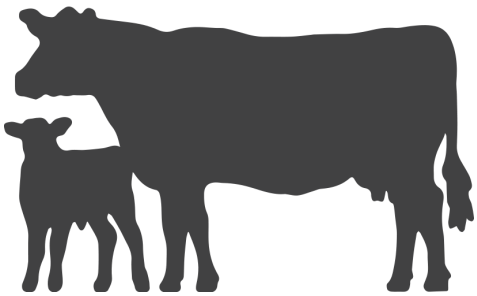
Upcoming Meetings:

November 13th - 4pm

Orange County Fairgrounds Block Building

Quarterly Meeting - Cull Considerations

If you are a beef producer in Orange County, please join the Cattlemen!



Flyers and Info

PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Extension -

AREA 2 EXTENSION EDUCATORS

presents

FALL PARP PROGRAM

•TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 •

3 LOCATIONS • DEADLINE TO REGISTER: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021

9:00 am -11:00 am
Clark County
Community Building on the fairgrounds, 9608 Hwy 62
Charlestown, IN
To RSVP Contact:
Tom Springstun
(812) 752-8450

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Lawrence County
Otis Park Bath House
607 Tunnelton Road
Bedford, IN
To RSVP Contact:
Ophelia Davis
(812) 275-4623

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Crawford County
Crawford Co. Extension Office
527 W Old State Road 62
Leavenworth, IN
To RSVP Contact:
Molley Scott
(812) 338-5466

Topics:
Update and Outlook on Crop Diseases;
Dr. Darcy Telenko
Weed Science;
Dr. Marcelo Zimmer

Credits Available:
Priv ring
TBD

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution.

Flyers and Info

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Extension

Strengthening The Farm

WEBINAR SERIES

SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Register at:
https://bit.ly/2XD6b4r

TOPICS:

December 8th - Recordkeeping
January 12th - Farm Stress
February 9th - Succession Planning
March - No Webinar
April 13th - Marketing your Products

Flyers and Info

4-H GROWS HERE

Orange County 4-H

Orange County's LARGEST YOUTH PROGRAM is open for enrollment!

It's EASY and AFFORDABLE!

Grades K-2 FREE, Grades 3-12 $15

Head ✸ Heart ✸ Hands ✸ Health

The following are tips to help you through the enrollment process:

- The 4-H enrollment target period is October 1st - January 15th.
- Enroll online at v2.4honline.com Save the password that you create so that you can access your 4-H enrollment information in the future (to drop/add projects, change contact information, re-enroll next year, etc.). If this is not your first year in 4-H you will use the same password as last enrollment.
- When you are done enrolling, you may choose to pay your $15 enrollment fee online or in the Extension Office. Please keep in mind that you are NOT enrolled until payment is received.
- *If you need assistance you may contact the Extension Office (812-723-7107)*, any 4-H Club Leader or 4-H Volunteer. We are SO excited to have YOU as part of our 4-H program!!!

First time 4-H'ers will need to select a club. Here is a list of the clubs meeting in Orange County.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
Orange County
County Office Building
205 East Main Street, Suite 4
Paoli, IN 47454-1596
Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture

PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Extension - Orange County

August/September 2021

Orange County Agri-News

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