

A supplement of the
Record-Herald

National Ag Day

Wednesday, March 13, 2019



Why celebrate Ag Day?

Americans need to understand the value of agriculture in their daily lives. Here are just some of the key reasons why it's important to recognize—and celebrate—Ag Day each year:

- Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows individuals to make informed personal choices about diet and health.

- Informed citizens will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.

- Employment opportunities exist

across the board in agriculture. Career choices include:

- farm production
 - agribusiness management and marketing
 - agricultural research and engineering
 - food science
 - processing and retailing
 - banking
 - education
 - landscape architecture
 - urban planning
 - energy
 - and other fields.
- Beginning in kindergarten and



Courtesy photo

continuing through 12th grade, all students should receive some systematic instruction about agriculture.

- Agriculture is too important a topic to be taught only to the small percentage of students considering careers in agriculture and pursuing vocational agricultural studies.

- Agricultural literacy includes an understanding of agriculture's history and current economic, social and environmental significance to all Americans. This understanding includes some knowledge of food, fiber and renewable resource production, processing and domestic and international marketing.

Theme for National Ag Day is 'Agriculture: Food for Life'

Courtesy of www.agday.org

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) will host National Agriculture Day on Thursday, March 14. This will mark the 46th anniversary of National Ag Day which is celebrated in classrooms and communities across the country. The theme for National Ag Day 2019 is "Agriculture: Food for Life."

On March 13-14, 2019, the ACA will host major events in the nation's capital including an event at the National Press Club as well as a Taste of Agriculture Celebration. Additionally, the ACA will bring approximately 100 college students to Washington to deliver the message of Ag Day to the Hill.

These events honor National Agriculture Day and mark a nationwide effort to tell the true story of American agriculture and remind citizens that agriculture is a part of all of us. A number of agricultural associations, corporations, students and government organizations involved in agriculture are expected to participate.

National Ag Day is organized by the Agriculture Council of America. The ACA is a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, dedicating its efforts to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.

The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced

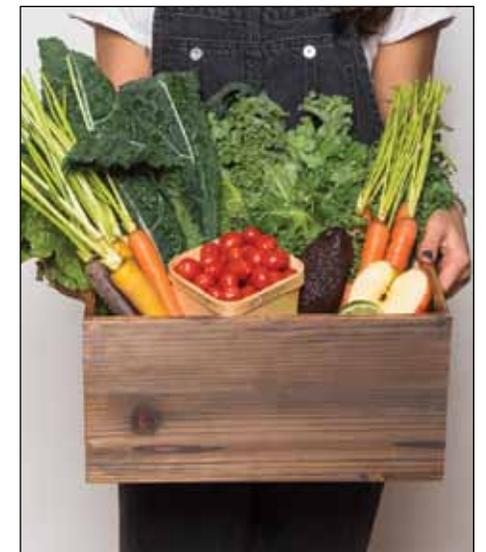
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products

- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy

- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry

In addition to the events in Washington, DC on March 13-14, the ACA will once again feature the Ag Day Essay Contest. The winning essay will be presented on National Ag Day.

Visit www.agday.org for more information on National Ag Day in 2019.



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Showers limiting days for spreading livestock manure

By **Alayna DeMartini**
OSU Extension

COLUMBUS — Rain falls, and that might make some farmers happy, depending on the time of year.

Then, a lot of rain falls, off and on, for months, and not only do fields fill up with water, but so do manure ponds and lagoons, and that might make some farmers a bit nervous.

Ohio had the third wettest year ever in 2018, and there's been little letup since then, leaving farm fields across the state saturated. For farmers with a lot of livestock, spreading manure onto wet land as fertilizer is not an option right now, and manure ponds are filling up fast.

Because manure ponds and lagoons are outdoors and uncovered, they collect not only animal waste from livestock housed inside, but they also collect rainwater. Indoor pits located under livestock holding facilities, such as hog

barns, also collect manure; those are also reaching capacity.

"Week after week and month after month have gone by, and there have been very few opportunities to get the manure applied," said Glen Arnold, a manure management specialist with The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

Typically, farmers with a lot of livestock, such as dairy cows or hogs, pump out their manure ponds and pits in the fall, after harvest. The ponds then fill up through the winter, when farmers are limited in terms of spreading manure on fields as fertilizer due to runoff concerns. But harvest got delayed last year because of rain.

Even after harvest, there were few days when manure could be applied to fields because the land was already saturated with rainwater. And in Ohio counties with tributaries that flow into

Lake Erie or Grand Lake St. Marys, state laws limit when farmers can apply manure or other fertilizer to prevent the nutrients from getting into the water.

With so few opportunities to spread the manure, many manure ponds, lagoons and pits didn't get fully emptied before winter arrived. And since then, opportunities to spread the manure have been few. It is very unusual for farmers to have so few days to apply manure, Arnold said.

"You're sitting there with a large amount of manure that needs to be applied to the land, and all you're seeing is rain. I would say it's a top concern," said Sam Custer, Ohio State University Extension educator in Darke County, which has a significant number of hog producers. OSU Extension is CFAES' outreach arm.

Arnold and Custer are working with farmers to consider options and find additional times during the growing



Courtesy of CFAES

The frequent rain is filling up manure ponds and lagoons across the state.

season to apply manure. Last year, they field-tested a method found to be effective for applying manure in the spring on fields with growing corn.

For now, farmers can pay the expense of pumping and transporting their manure to other ponds with more space; expand their ponds; or just wait, hope the rain stops, and then begin spreading their manure onto drier fields.

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Ohio Farm Bureau centennial marked on Ohio State campus

Ohio Farm Bureau news release

COLUMBUS – A historical marker commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation is now on display on the campus of The Ohio State University (OSU). The plaque is located outside Jennings Hall, the former Botany and Zoology building, where in 1919 representatives of 76 county Farm Bureaus, with the assistance of university and county Extension leaders, established the organization.

“The fact that the meeting took place on the campus of The Ohio State University was appropriate,” said Ohio Farm Bureau President Frank Burkett III, during the presentation of the new marker. “At that first annual meeting, Ohio Farm Bureau pledged its support to its friends at Ohio State, and as you can see, Ohio State University, its extension service and Ohio Farm Bureau are lifelong partners.”

The marker displays Ohio Farm Bureau logos, past and present, and highlights Farm Bureau’s first resolutions to support farm legislation, press for organization of a national Farm Bureau, support expansion of county extension agent work and cooperate with OSU’s College of Agriculture and Experiment Station.

“The work of the College of Food, Agricultural and

Environmental Sciences is crucial to the success of farmers and to every link in the food chain across Ohio, the nation and the world,” said Adam Sharp, executive vice president of Ohio Farm Bureau. “Today, just like 100 years ago, Farm Bureau knows the value of Ohio State’s teaching, research and extension efforts, and we are proud to support those efforts by communicating with lawmakers, the public and others about the importance of that work.”

Dr. Cathann A. Kress, OSU’s vice president of Agricultural Administration and dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, highlighted the ability to work collaboratively for the betterment of their organizations and their communities.

“Farming and its related industries have always been fraught with challenges, and you can’t easily accomplish something so ambitious as harnessing the only energy source for our planet, the sun, and converting it to use for the collective human species, who want it cheaply, fast, sustainable, delicious and high in value,” Kress said. “We have our own set of challenges today but we also have resources, technology and communications that our predecessors would have envied. That is why our partnership with Ohio Farm Bureau is so important. It was 100 years ago, it was 50 years ago and it is today.”

Another partner of both Ohio Farm Bureau and The Ohio State University is Nationwide. In 1926 OFBF formed the Ohio Farm Bureau Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, which in 1955 changed its name to Nationwide.

Mark Berven, Nationwide’s president and COO, said the values shared by the company and Farm Bureau helped grow Nationwide into one of the nation’s largest insurance providers. Brent Porteus also represented Nationwide and exemplified the links between the organizations and OSU. Porteus is a past president of Ohio Farm Bureau, is a current trustee for The Ohio State University and is on the board of directors at Nationwide.

Also on hand was Ohio Sen. Bob Peterson, another former Ohio Farm Bureau president. He presented a proclamation from the Ohio Senate recognizing the achievements of Ohio’s largest farm organization over the past century. Proclamations were also given by the Ohio House of Representatives and on behalf of U.S. Congressman Steve Stivers and the Ohio delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Additional information about Ohio Farm Bureau’s year-long centennial celebration can be found at ofbf.org/centennial.

Ohio Farm Bureau’s mission is working together for Ohio farmers to advance agriculture and strengthen communities.



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Who's In YOUR Back Yard?

BuckeyePropane.com

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Integrated Pest Management (IPM); Chemical Control

By Sara Creamer

Fayette County Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a proactive process that uses many techniques to keep pest damage levels under an acceptable threshold. We have considered cultural and biological control; they emphasize prevention first. The next weapon in our arsenal is chemical control, also known as pesticides. They are often used only after an unacceptable threshold of damage has been reached.

If you look at the word pesticide, it means to kill pests. The pest can be weeds (herbicide), insects (insecticide) or disease organisms (fungicide and bactericide). IPM principles use chemicals that control only the target pest, do not affect or kill other organisms, do not last in the environment, and have low toxicity to humans and other mammals. A spot treatment is best. The correct use of pesticides reduces or eliminates

resistance to the pesticide. Follow label rates and rotate the Mode of Action (MOA) of the pesticide.

It is important to identify the pest you are targeting. This has been a common theme of our discussion of IPM. It is hard to target a pest if you do not know what it is. Our previous discussion of IPM concentrated on insect pests. We will continue to do so here.

Knowing the way an insecticide kills a pest is critical to selecting an insecticide. Contact insecticides usually disrupt the respiratory system and must be sprayed on the pest to be effective. An insect must consume a stomach poison. Insects that are not actively eating are not susceptible. Good plant coverage is essential. Systemic insecticides are absorbed by the plant roots and are moved throughout the plant. This type of insecticide is effective against insects that suck fluids from the plant. Read the label. If the insect is not on the list of insects killed

by the product, you are potentially wasting your time and money.

The first line of defense for IPM is insecticidal soap and horticultural oil. Insecticidal soap is not the same as your household soaps that may damage or kill plants. It is a contact insecticide and works well against soft-bodied insects. Horticulture oil is highly refined oil that clogs breathing tubes and smothers eggs. Do not confuse it with dormant oil.

Insecticides derived from plants are another type of pesticide. They include pyrethrums, pyrethrins, citrus oil extracts, capsaicin and neem. An advantage of these types is that they can be applied to edible crops much closer to harvest. The label will give how many days you must wait to harvest after spraying.

Synthetic pesticides may be the only option in some cases. Organophosphates and carbamates are in this category. The old standbys malathion and Sevin® are effective

but should be used according to the label. They are much more toxic to humans, mammals, wildlife and the environment.

I cannot emphasize pesticide safety too strongly. Read the entire label before mixing and applying. Always mix and spray pesticides according to the label. The only legal and safe way to use pesticides is according to the label. Eliminate drift. One should wear the protective equipment listed on the label. The label gives information on how to store and dispose of the insecticide.

The label has three signal words that indicate toxicity. CAUTION is the least toxic, WARNING is moderately toxic, and DANGER means highly toxic or corrosive. The label will give environmental hazard warnings for bee, environmental and aquatic toxicity.

If you have any questions about IPM or pesticide safety, contact your county OSU Extension professional or Sara Creamer at 740-335-1150 or creamer.70@osu.edu.

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Feral honey bees fighting back against mites

Propolis leads Ohio feral honey bee project

By **Amanda Rockhold**

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Imagine you had a mite the size of your fist attached to your back; that's a Varroa mite to a honey bee.

These mites are called Varroa destructors, an external parasitic mite that attaches to honey bees, causing disease and weakening honey bees and their colonies. According to recent studies, feral honey bees in Ohio are adapting to fight back against these mites.

"Good news from the world of feral honey bees," said Dwight Wells, president of the West Central Ohio Beekeepers Association and project manager of a feral honey bee project through Propolis Projects, LLC (Propolis). Propolis is an effort developed by the Levin Family Foundation and its mission is to combat the recent decline of pollinators in the



Courtesy photo

This feral honey bee colony has a 74 percent chewing rate and was tested as part of the Propolis feral honey bee project.

Midwest and restore healthier honey bee populations in Ohio.

"The [feral honey bee project's] results show that survivor feral honey bees are winning the war with Varroa," said Wells. "[The feral honey bees] are gradually building the tolerance and chewing behavior to where the mites' populations are very low." Some of the feral honey bees will bite the legs or head off the mites, causing them to die.

Several organizations and experts are working together on this feral honey bee project to study the mite-biting behavior of feral honey bees in Ohio, including Wright Patterson Air Force Base (where Wells is beekeeper), Purdue University, Central State University, Penn State, The Ohio State University and others.

The project includes testing feral honey bees, not commercial or packaged honey bees. Feral colonies come from wild swarms, which were trapped, caught and kept as a stationary colony in bee boxes.

The project's feral colonies are located throughout Ohio, including: 6 in Miami County; 30 in Logan County; 11 in Clark County; and 3 in northern Ohio, for a total of 50 feral colonies. The three feral colonies in a northern Ohio have kept the Varroa mites under a healthy level for 14 months, according to Wells. Varroa mites under 1 mite per 100 honey bees is considered a safe level for a colony. Some of the colonies are 1 Varroa mite per 400 honey bees, depending on the area of Ohio in which the colony is located.

Overall the chewing rate of the 50 colonies is about 60 percent, according to Wells. The percentage of mite-biting behavior by colony runs between 47 to 77 percent.

Four years ago, Wells and his team tested for chewing behavior on 10 feral colonies, and the chewing result was 40 percent, as compared to the 60 percent for the 50 colonies, "indicating that the colony chewing behavior percentage is getting better over the years," said Wells.



Courtesy photo

Feral honey bees that are showing an increase in mite-chewing behavior as part of the Propolis feral honey bee project.

Wells began studying mite-biting behavior in feral honey bees in 2015, when he was working with the Heartland Honeybee Breeder Co-op out of Purdue University.

How do they test?

The Propolis team places screen bottom boards at the bottom of the honey beehive boxes. Beneath the screen is a solid tray that catches mites that have been bitten. The screen keeps the honey bees from getting through, but allows the mites to fall through onto the tray beneath. They add vegetable oil on the tray so that mites cannot move. The hive boxes are placed on the screen bottom board all year.

"We take those mites and examine all those mites and determine what the percentage of chewing behavior is," said Wells, adding that they use a microscope and a camera.

No one else is doing this type of research in the United States, according to Wells.

"[The bees] are getting better genetically. Their genes are being expressed better — evolving or

adapting to become a natural enemy of the mites, just like they did in Asia many years ago," said Wells. Asian honey bees have adapted the ability to groom the mites off their backs. They have had these mites for many years and have become more mite-resistant.

Propolis has another 150 colonies to test for mite-biting behavior, but Wells said they need warm weather in 2019 to test them.

Commercial honey bees

At Central State University (CSU), Dr. Hongmei Li-Byarlay, researcher within the College of Engineering, Science, Technology & Agriculture, is leading the university's first apicultural program, emphasizing the importance of beekeeping and pollination in Ohio and the United States. Li-Byarlay helps lead the Propolis feral honey bee testing efforts.

Li-Byarlay did research on commercial honey bees, finding that their mite-biting behavior was between 3 and 10 percent. This is low compared

Pelanda, sworn in as 39th ODA director

First female to serve as director in ODA history

By Amanda Rockhold

arockhold@aimmediamidwest.com

COLUMBUS — Every day Dorothy Pelanda looks at her great-great-uncle's portrait at the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), reminding her to be humble, hard-working and to follow in his footsteps.

Her great-great-uncle, Gideon Liggett, served eight years (six as treasurer) on the Ohio Board of Agriculture (the precursor to ODA) in the early 1900s. And on Jan. 14, Pelanda followed in his footsteps and was sworn in as the 39th director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture by Gov. Mike DeWine. Pelanda is the first woman to serve as director in the department's history.

"I bring to this job my good working relationship with Capitol Square so to speak," said Pelanda, referring to her eight years as a legislator. Capitol Square refers to the Ohio Statehouse. "Our focus right now is the budget and I will argue with a passion for the things we need to do in our budget to make sure ODA is serving citizens of Ohio."

Pelanda's family members have been farmers since the 1800s. She lives on the small family farm on which she grew up in Union County. She served in the Ohio House of Representatives from 2011-2019, serving on the Agriculture and Natural Resources

Committee. Pelanda practiced law in private practice for nearly 30 years, representing hundreds of clients from Union County and the surrounding area. She is a graduate of Marysville High School, Miami University and the University of Akron School of Law.

"The most important thing is to recognize the humanness of what we're doing. The most important job I will ever have is being a mother," said Pelanda, emphasizing the many multi-generational farms in Ohio. Pelanda is married to Sam Gerhardtstein and has three adult children.

In the future, Pelanda plans to travel throughout Ohio to "sit around kitchen tables and bring interested parties together in the spirit of negotiation."

Tackling the issues

"We've inherited some critical issues," said Pelanda, referring to water quality issues, House Resolution 6 and others. Some significant issues Pelanda plans to tackle in 2019 include the meat industry, amusement ride safety, industrial hemp, and water quality.

She emphasized the importance of providing safe and clean food to Ohio families, adding, "We may be looking at a new meat processing facility."

Pelanda also said she looks forward to working with Sen. Brian Hill on introducing legislation regarding hemp soon.

Regarding water quality issues in Lake Erie, Pelanda said there are new players with open minds and expertise in relationship-building.

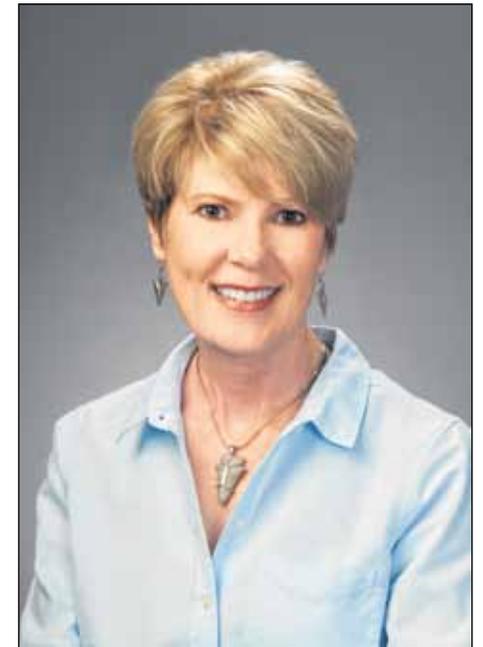
"Many of the things we will do will have results that we will not see, but we know are the right things to do. Loyalty only to the right solutions," said Pelanda.

There is a two-year term limit for Ohio General Assembly members, which Pelanda said limits the amount of change that can be done in two years. That's why she said relationship-building is important.

"When you try to tackle a big issue, eat the elephant one bite at a time," said Pelanda. "Term limits affect change in a two-year term. That's where the relationships come into place, and those who will follow you."

Her goal for young farmers is to help them understand the importance they have in Ohio's future and become engaged statewide. Pelanda said she will promote some of the programs in existence now that focus on young farmers, encouraging farmers to become politically active and to "empower them to help them know their voice matters and we need them at the table."

She said that farmers becoming politically active in local organizations, such as Farm Bureau and Soil and Water Districts, is critical for legislators to truly understand what needs to be done. "Take on leadership roles so we can understand what your concerns are



Courtesy photo

Dorothy Pelanda, new Ohio Department of Agriculture director

and how we can help you have the most successful business you can have," said Pelanda.

"Farmers are the boots on the ground," she said.

Food and agriculture is the No. 1 industry in Ohio, adding more than \$124 billion to the economy each year. In addition to providing leadership for the agricultural industry, the Director of Agriculture administers numerous regulatory, food safety and consumer protection programs for the benefit of all Ohioans.



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Bees

From page 6

to the feral honey bees.

The feral honey bees are stationary and, "don't get mixed up with the ones out there in the Almond fields," according to Wells.

In February and March, 2.4 million colonies are shipped to California to provide pollination to crops, such as Almond fields. Chemicals are used to treat the mites in these colonies, said Wells, adding that many of these honey bees often lack nutrition.

"Not sure where the commercial guys are going to go," said Wells. He explained that Drones (male bees) that aren't fed properly aren't strong enough to penetrate the egg, and don't have good, healthy sperm to reproduce.

"I don't know where that industry is going to go in the next twenty years," said Wells.

According to Wells, the 11 feral colonies in Clark County have not been chemically-treated to kill mites for five

years and the bees are chewing and keeping a safe level.

"We collected Drones from the best percent of chewed mite colonies to harvest semen from," said Wells, explaining that with 50 tested colonies, they have enough resources to do selection and insemination of queens, the mother of all the bees in the colony.

Wells added that feral honey bees in Pennsylvania are beginning to show adaptations similar to those bees in western Ohio. Wells traveled to Armstrong County, PA at the end of January to teach a group of 40 people how to trap and catch wild honey bee swarms. "[Pennsylvania beekeepers] will do the same thing Ohio is doing in a couple of years," said Wells, adding that he is working with Penn State on this project.

The Ohio State University has 21 honey bee colonies at its research farm. This summer OSU will transition 3 acres into prairie habitat for honey bees.

For more information visit: www.propolisprojects.org



Courtesy photo

Screened bottom board with the tray pulled part way out. The screen is used to prevent bees getting to the tray, but allows mites to fall through the screen on to the tray when they are chewed or groomed off the worker bees. The hive boxes are placed on the screened bottom board all year.

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