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As I write this, the day is beautiful! The drive in was refreshing . . . and a bit distracting: All that Green!! Wheat fields, hay fields, lawns; even cover crop fields are starting to “fill out.”

If you've got nothing else to do (Yeah, right!), now's a good time to get out and take a walk around your wheat fields. In addition to a bit of fresh air, exercise, and sunshine, you can take a look at what's going on: weed pressures, early diseases, stage of growth, etc. Growth Stage will indicate when to apply nitrogen and when it's too late (for the wheat) to apply herbicides.

You can read more about determining wheat stages of growth at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/agf-fact/pdf/0126.pdf>. We also have the newly updated Corn, Soybean, Wheat, and Alfalfa Field Guide available at the office. In addition to explaining growth stages for these crops, there are pictures of insects, diseases, damages caused. Cost: \$13.41 (including tax).

Our Cover Crop Strategies Field Day sponsored by OSU Extension of Shelby, Mercer, and Auglaize Counties and VanTilburg Farms will be this Wednesday, April 22nd. This follow-up to last fall's field day will allow us to see what's happened *below* the soil surface.

Some of the specific points to be discussed will include managing cover crops in the spring, preparing to plant the next crop, and year-round tips for effective cover crop use. As previously planned, the “Open House” is from 2p to 7p with informational tours scheduled at 2:30p, 4:30p, and 6p.

Other features of the Field Day include Crop insurance implications of Cover Crops and possible EQIP Funding through NRCS. Light refreshments will be provided. This Field Day will be held southwest of St. Marys on SR 364, about one-half mile north of SR 219. Look for the signs! There is no cost to attend.

And, then there are the weeds: They're comin' too. We didn't get much of a chance to do a fall burn-down, so spring control of winter annuals (especially marestail) is really important. Our weed specialist Mark Loux has some suggestions in the CORN Newsletter from last week. Go to <http://corn.osu.edu/newsletters> and look for “2015-08.”

We have printed copies of the updated Weed Control Guide for Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois for sale at the Extension office. This Weed Control Guide offers specific tips for several individual crops such as corn, soybeans, popcorn, sweet corn, small greens, forages, and grazing pastures. The new guide includes expanded sections on Palmer amaranth and marestail and is updated with new herbicides and their control recommendations. Cost: \$15.82, including tax. (You can also order an interactive PDF e-book online at <http://estore.osu-extension.org/>, product code e789.)



Interested in learning how to get some great pictures of the great outdoors?? Well, the Ohio Woodland Stewards Program is hosting a “Capturing Nature’s Wonders” workshop on Saturday, May 9th at the OSU Mansfield Campus. The cost is \$90; space is limited. Visit <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/workshops/capturing-natures-wonders> for a complete description and registration information.

We’ve had the “Fuzzy Kids” out on grass the past couple weeks, as the weather has allowed. Well, Stanley got the chance to move them into a new section of the pasture a few days ago. He told me he learned a couple things in the process: a) It’s easier to walk in front and lead them than to try to drive them from behind, and b) Once they hit that new grass, he saw “That’s what those long, rough tongues are for!!” as the calves wrapped them around the grass and pulled. Maybe we’ll make a Cattleman out of him, yet!

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