



## SDN.15.May11

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Boy, were the planters (and other field equipment) in the fields last week!! By Thursday morning, things had dried out from the rain earlier and almost every field I passed had something going on: planting, working ground, drag-lining manure, spraying . . . We had spent those few days getting equipment fixed and ready to go; Stanley was in the field planting corn on Thursday morning, too. Beautiful Weather!!

And, pastures and hay fields are coming on strong! So, too, are the potential for pests. Yes, it's time to be checking for Alfalfa Weevil. All this nice heat helps them develop quickly. (And, no your alfalfa is \*not\* resistant to Alfalfa Weevil; Potato Leafhopper, maybe, but not Alfalfa Weevil.) When you get a chance (or "make the time"), walk those fields. Pull 10 stems from an area. Shake them \*vigorously\* into a bucket (& check the stem tips to see if there are any tiny larva). Count the number of larvae in the bucket. How tall is the alfalfa in that area? Repeat this process in at least three areas of the field.

How many larvae did you have in each area? If the alfalfa height was under 12" and you found 10 (large) larvae in the bucket (average 1 per stem), it's time for a rescue treatment. If the alfalfa was 12" to 16" in height, it can tolerate an average of two to four larvae per stem (20-40, total), depending on the vigor of the alfalfa growth. If you've got more than four larvae per stem and the alfalfa is 16+" tall, plan to harvest soon!!

When looking at changing operations – whether small additions or large adjustments – some of the biggest questions farmers and landowners have is what land uses are subject to zoning or building code regulations and what land qualifies for Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) assessments. Even township and county officials often have questions pertaining to whether they have regulatory authority on certain agricultural land uses.

To help address these needs, Peggy Hall, OSU Extension Ag & Resource Law Field Specialist, is hosting a free webinar to address "Regulating Agriculture at the Local Level: Zoning, Building Codes, and Other Hot Issues," at 1 p.m. this Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

She will explain the unique laws that answer questions about the regulation of agricultural land uses and will also discuss a new bill in the Ohio legislature that would address how agritourism is to be treated under zoning laws and CAUV. Instructions for signing into the live webinar are at [aglaw.osu.edu/webinars](http://aglaw.osu.edu/webinars). The webinar will also be available for viewing at this site after the presentation.

Our Master Gardeners are holding their Hotline every Monday and Thursday from 10a to 1p. Call or stop by with your questions!!



Well, we've had the Fuzzy Kids out in the barnyard all last week. Stanley left most of that area unmown, so they've had plenty to eat!! Of course, that also means there are "cow pies" in the driveway and in the yard, but Stanley doesn't seem to mind. When Skipper was still with us, if she pooped in the barnyard, I had to clean it up immediately! He hasn't commented once about calf poop! I think he's smitten!!

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