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Well, I saw my first corn being planted last week. To be sure, it was in southern Miami County (on my way to a meeting in Dayton). But, there have been a *lot* of spray rigs and fertilizer buggies moving in this county, too!! To say “It’s time to be in the fields” seems a bit late, but we’re still good! Here’s what our OSU Extension Corn Specialist Peter Thomison has to say:

If you want to make sure you get your corn crops off to a good start this season, make sure you perform tillage only when necessary and under the proper soil conditions. While the proven practice of getting corn planted before May 10th is preferred, if the weather forecast calls for cold, wet weather conditions, you may want to hold off on planting. Yes, the potential for optimal yields usually declines after that May 10th date, but yield reductions from mudding in the corn can be more costly than delayed planting.

Other tips that Peter offers include 1) avoid working with wet soil and reduce secondary tillage passes that could cause shallow compaction and reduce crop yields; 2) adjust seeding depth according to soil conditions – corn should be planted between 1.5 and 2 inches deep, which provides protection against frost and allows for adequate root development; and 3) adjust seeding rates by field; for example, high yield-potential sites with high soil-fertility levels and water-holding capacity can benefit from higher seeding rates, while lower seeding rates may work better with droughty soils or in late planted crops.

Peter also recommends planting a mix of early-, mid-, and full-season hybrids among fields, which reduces damage from diseases and environmental stress at different growth stages. Using this method also spreads out harvest time and workload. By planting full-season hybrids first, followed alternately with early-season and mid-season hybrids, this allows late-season hybrids to get the most benefit from maximum heat unit accumulation.

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 1p on May 15th. 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. The webinar will also be recorded and available for viewing at this site after the presentation.

Unless there's been rain over the weekend, I expect to see a number of fields planted by today! I know we won't have ours in yet, but I still haven't noticed that "earthy smell" that says the soil is warm enough, that the microbes and other organisms underground are working. We've still got time . . . and that corn seed seems to *really* germinate fast in warm soil!!

Farmers: Be sure your SMV emblems are in place, clean, and visible!! You want to be sure you can be seen!!

General Public: Our Busy Season is beginning!! Expect slower traffic on the roadways as farmers move equipment.

Be SAFE!!!

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