

May 12, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
David Dugan
OSU Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Adams/Brown/Highland Counties
Ohio Valley Extension Education Research Area

Livestock Predator Control Program

While many are finished calving, there are still many calves to be born in Southern Ohio in the coming months. Calving season can sometimes bring predators. Predators for the most part would be either Black Vultures or Coyotes in this area.

A program will be offered on May 26 in the evening at North Adams High School in Seaman. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. and is scheduled to last a couple of hours. The program will include information about protecting your livestock. The discussion will include effective control measures, what is legal, and who to contact when you have a problem. There will also be a short session on deer permits and other wildlife issues.

Please RSVP by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the program by calling the Adams Co. Soil and Water office at 544-1010, for this free program. The program is a joint effort by OSU Extension and Soil and Water in Adams, Brown and Highland Counties, Farm Service Agency, USDA Wildlife Services, ODNR Division of Wildlife, Adams Co. Cattlemen and Adams Co. Farm Bureau.

10 Tips to Get the Most out of Your Sprayer

The weather has been pretty good for the past 10 days or so, and planters have been rolling. Much of the corn is planted and a significant amount of soybeans are planted. Wheat is progressing and it may be time to be considering a fungicide application.

Spraying season is just around the corner. This recently appeared in the CORN Newsletter and I think it is worth the read. This was put together by OSU Extension Specialist, Erdal Ozkan. Just take a moment to review some common sense ideas I will mention here to get the most out of those expensive pesticides you will be spraying. The following "Top Ten" list will help you improve the performance of your sprayer and keep it from failing you:

1) Applying chemicals with a sprayer that is not calibrated and operated accurately could cause insufficient weed, insect or disease control which can lead to reduced yields. Check the gallon per acre application rate of the sprayer. This can only be determined by a thorough calibration of the sprayer. Use clean water while calibrating to reduce the risk of contact with chemicals. Read OSU Extension Publication AEX-520 for an easy calibration method (<http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/0520.html>).

2) How the chemical is deposited on the target is as important as the amount applied. Know what kind of nozzles are on your sprayer and whether or not their patterns need to be overlapped for complete coverage. Make sure the nozzles are not partially clogged. Clogging will not only



change the flow rate, it also changes the spray pattern. Never use a pin, knife or any other metal object to unclog nozzles.

3) In addition to clogging, other things such as nozzle tips with different fan angles on the boom, and uneven boom height are the most common causes of non-uniform spray patterns. They can all cause streaks of untreated areas that result in insufficient pest control and economic loss.

4) Setting the proper boom height for a given nozzle spacing is extremely important in achieving proper overlapping. Conventional flat-fan nozzles require 30 to 50% overlapping of adjacent spray patterns. Check nozzle catalogs for specific recommendations for different nozzles.

5) Know your actual travel speed, and keep it steady as possible. Increasing the speed by 20% may let you cover the field quicker, but it also cuts the application rate by 20%. Similarly, a reduction of speed by 20% causes an over application of pesticide by 20%; an unnecessary waste of pesticides and money.

6) Pay attention to spray pressure. Variations in pressure will cause changes in application rate, droplet size and spray pattern. At very low pressures, the spray angle will be noticeably narrowed, causing insufficient overlap between nozzle patterns and streaks of untreated areas. High pressure will increase the number of drift-prone droplets.

7) Don't waste your chemical. After all, you have paid for it. Spray drift wastes more chemicals than anything else. Don't spray when the wind speed is likely to cause drift. Don't take the risk of getting sued by your neighbors because of the drift damage to their fields. Keep the spray pressure low if it is practical to do so, or replace conventional nozzles with low-drift nozzles. Use other drift reduction strategies: keep the boom close to the target, use drift retardant adjuvants, and spray in early morning and late afternoon when drift potential is less.

8) Carry extra nozzles, washers, other spare parts, and tools to repair simple problems quickly in the field.

9) Calibrate your sprayer periodically during spraying season to keep it at peak performance. One calibration per season is never enough. For example, when switching fields, ground conditions (tilled, firm, grassy) will affect travel speed which directly affects gallon per acre application rate.

10) Be safe. Read the chemical and equipment instructions and follow them. Wear protective clothing, rubber gloves and respirators when calibrating the sprayer, doing the actual spraying and cleaning the equipment. Be well informed about the specific recommendations for a given pesticide, and follow the laws and regulations on pesticide application. Carefully read the product label to find out the specific recommendations.

Dates to Remember

Southern Ohio Ag and Community Development Foundation planning meetings will be held on July 7 in Cherry Fork and July 9 in Georgetown. I will have more details in the coming weeks.