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# Farmer's Newsletter

## October, 2007

Greetings from OSU Extension, Butler County!

We have had a very busy summer and early fall. The drought has made a lot of extra work for many of you. Just finding feed for your animals has been a task. I hope you have read my articles in the newspaper with suggestions to help. If not, go to [butler.osu.edu](http://butler.osu.edu). The latest article was on feeding corn stalks and the prior two were on fish kills in ponds and stretching your horse's hay supply. We have six suppliers on our hay list now. Click *Agriculture and Natural Resources*, then *Hay Hotline*, then *Hay List*.

Steve Bartels  
 Extension Educator  
 Agriculture & Natural Resources

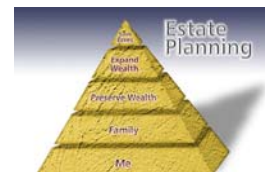
### Basic Estate Planning—What to Do Unit I 2011

For many people estate planning is only for those who have enough wealth to worry about paying estate tax. Everyone has an estate, some are just larger than others. So everyone needs a plan.

Estate planning does include minimizing the tax we pay but it is much more. It is a plan to insure that you have enough resources to pay for your needs while you are alive. It includes arranging for the well-being of your loved ones after your death. An objective may also be to maximize the size of the estate you are passing on to your heirs.

So, your estate plan should have at least five points: 1) taking care of your needs; 2) providing for loved ones; 3) maximizing the value of inheritance to heirs; 4) preserving wealth; 5) minimizing tax.

We have planned a two-part Basic Estate Planning course we hope you will consider. The first part consist of two sessions, November 13th and November 27th and the second part will be held in February. Attend only the classes that interest you. A flyer for part 1 is enclosed; return your registration to our office at 1810 Princeton Road, Hamilton 45011 by November 6th. Registration and agenda for part 2 will arrive later.



## Livestock Feeding

The Butler County Cattlemen's Association has planned an evening seminar for you if you have cattle, sheep, goats, or any ruminant animal. Dr. Francis Fluharty, Beef Specialist, will teach a class on ruminant digestion, alternative feeds to get through the shortage, and using distillers grains. The program will be held on Thursday, November 15th beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Collinsville Community Center. The cost is \$7.50 per person for Cattlemen's Association members and \$10 per person for non-members. Reservations should be called to Jim Booker at 513-738-1147 or you can send

your name, address and number of reservations with a check made out to Butler County Cattlemen's Association to 7900 Schradin Road, Okeana 45053. We would like to have reservations by November 8th so we have enough refreshments.



## CASH RENTS

According to USDA Statistics Service, cash rents rose \$5.50 per acre or 6.9% for 07 crop land and \$1.50 per acre for pasture land. Crop land in Ohio increased to \$91 per acre from \$86 in 06 and pasture increased from \$30 to \$31.50 this year.

## FEEDING CORN STALKS

Corn stalks are low quality feed and therefore will need supplementation in almost all situations. Table 1 shows the nutrient requirements for a dry 1200 pound cow, the same cow at peak lactation, and a developing replacement heifer gaining 1.5 pounds per day.

**Table 1. Nutrient requirement of a 1200 pound cow.**

Animal	<sup>a</sup> DMI, lb	TDN %	CP%	Ca%	P %
Dry Cow, 1200 lbs.	24	52	8	0.25	0.16
Lactating Cow, 1200 lbs.	28	60	11	0.31	0.21
Heifer, 600 to 800 lbs. gaining 1.5 lb/day	17	63	11	0.38	0.20

<sup>a</sup>DMI = dry matter intake, TDN = total digestible nutrients, CP = Crude Protein, Ca = calcium, P = phosphorus

Example rations were balanced using two scenarios. In the first situation there are abundant corn stalks so they are fed free-choice to the cows. In the second situation corn stalks or other forage is limited, so they are fed at 10 pounds per cow daily for the cows and 5 pounds per heifer daily.

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**Feeding Corn Stalks, Continued**

Concentrate supplement is either corn gluten feed or corn/soybean meal. Other concentrates may be more economical so they should be considered. Also, it is critical that before you start feeding a nutrient analysis on the corn stalks is done to develop a balanced ration.

Example rations:

Free-Choice Corn Stalks Supplemented with Corn Gluten Feed:

Animal	Corn Stalks, lb	Corn Gluten Feed, lb	Limestone, lb
Dry Cow	26	5	-
Lactating Cow	22	12	0.5
Growing Heifer	13	8	0.3

Limited Corn Stalks Supplemented with Corn Gluten Feed:

Animal	Corn Stalks, lb	Corn Gluten Feed, lb	Limestone, lb
Dry Cow	10	10	-
Lactating Cow	10	16	0.5
Growing Heifer	5	11	0.3

Free-Choice Corn Stalks Supplemented with Corn and Soybean Meal

Animal	Corn Stalks, lb	Ground Corn, lb	Soybean meal, lb
Dry Cow	31	-	2
Lactating Cow	27	5	3.5
Growing Heifer	15	5	2

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### Feeding Corn Stalks Continued

#### Limited Corn Stalks Supplemented with Corn and Soybean Meal

Animal	Corn Stalks, lb	Ground Corn, lb	Soybean meal, lb
Dry Cow	10	9	1.5
Lactating Cow	10	12.5	3.5
Growing Heifer	5	9	2.5

An important question is, “how much are the baled corn stalks worth?” The answer is that it depends on the cost of other feeds. Relative to corn and soybean meal (corn at \$4 per bushel and soybean meal at \$250 per ton), corn stalks are worth about \$85 per ton and medium quality grass hay is worth about \$100 per ton. However, other ingredients such as corn gluten feeds have good feed values relative to corn and soybean meal. If you value the corn stalks relative to the gluten (valued at \$130 per ton) then the value is closer to \$65 per ton. Given an expected weight of about 600 to 800 pounds, a 4x5 foot round bale should be worth about \$20 to \$25 per bale.



There are other considerations you should think of when trying to price this material. To properly feed cows, you must have some roughage to maintain the health of their digestive tract, so that should be kept in mind. Also, many producers will have to use expensive labor to feed concentrates. Feeding round bales of corn stalks would utilize the feeding system they normally use. To pay, or charge a fair price for the material, a sampling of bales should be weighed and the price based on the ton rather than the bale.



### **SOYBEANS STAYING YELLOW**

I had a friend tell me at church a couple weeks ago that most of his beans were dry and the leaves had fallen but areas of the field still had yellow leaves and stems.

You would think this might be in the areas where there was more soil moisture. He said the opposite was true. It was occurring in the areas where the soil was less productive and the beans more stressed. In the last corn newsletter, I got the answer.

Jim Beuerlein, State Soybean Specialist, said the condition occurs as a result of poor pod set at some nodes. The pods that did set filled without using up the nutrients in the leaves at these nodes, so they hang on and don't drop properly. You may think the beans are not dry and delay harvest. Beuerlein says to check moisture closely. The first time a bean dries to 13% is when you get the best test weight. Moisture content of between 13 and 17 percent is the area where there is the least harvest damage to the grain.

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### **Soybeans Staying Yellow, Continued**

Check the pods of yellow plants carefully. If the seed is loose inside the pod and the pod will crack open, then harvest should begin even if the leaves make the combine groan.



### **FERTILIZER VALUE OF CORN STALKS**

From a pure fertilizer value, corn stalks contain little phosphorus,  $P_2O_5$  and moderate amounts of nitrogen and potassium. According to Robert Mullen, State Crop Fertility Specialist, corn stalks have 16 pounds of N, 6 pounds of  $P_2O_5$ , and 25 pounds of  $K_2O$  per ton. If you took 4 tons of stalks off per acre, that would be 100 pounds of  $K_2O$ . If you need to put on replacement potash that would be just over 165 pounds per acre of 0-0-60. That would cost you more than \$23 in addition to about \$34 per acre for the nitrogen and phosphorus that was hauled out of the field in the corn stalks. Corn stalks also contain organic matter which is valuable. It is difficult to put dollars to this value however. If you took the stalks off every year it would have negative results for soil health and yields. In this extreme drought, buy the fertilizer to replace the nutrient and feed your ruminant animals.

### **FALL AN EXCELLENT TIME TO LIME**

Don't lime without a soil test. Even if the lime was free it would not be wise to use it without knowing your pH. Last year I received a call from a farmer who had applied wastewater lime, excessively. He raised the pH into the high 7's and low 8's. At these pH levels certain nutrients are limited and the productivity of the soil is reduced. The problem is not easily or cheaply solved.



Proper soil pH is important for nutrient availability, herbicide activity, and crop development. For most soils, additional lime is not needed every year. Generally a laboratory recommends lime when the soil pH drops two to three units below the desired value. The desired value depends upon the crop and the pH of the subsoil.

In western Ohio, generally the subsoil pH for mineral soils is greater than 6.0 and lime is not needed until the soil pH drops below 6.0 for corn and soybeans, and 6.2 for alfalfa. Private laboratories may not take into account the subsoil pH and use recommendations based on a subsoil pH less than 6.0 possibly recommending lime applications several years earlier than needed.

Do I need magnesium (Mg)? Several parts of the state are historically low in soil magnesium, including Butler County. Adequate soil magnesium is important to reduce the risk of such problems as grass tetany for grazing animals. Soil test magnesium levels need to be greater than 50 ppm (100 lbs.) for optimal corn, soybean, wheat, and alfalfa production. Often areas low in magnesium also need lime, which has made the application of dolomitic lime an economic solution for both concerns. Unfortunately, some producers have been led to believe that magnesium levels in dolomitic lime may be undesirable.

### **Fall An Excellent Time to Lime, Continued**

The Ohio State University has shown that crops yield the same over a wide range of calcium to magnesium ratios and is not critical as long as a lime source contains more calcium than magnesium. Thus the level of magnesium is unimportant as long as the calcium level is above magnesium. The focus should be selecting lime on its Effective Neutralizing Power (ENP).



What is the Effective Neutralizing Power of my lime? An important item from a lime analysis report is the Effective Neutralizing Power (ENP) value, which is required for material sold as lime for agricultural purposes in Ohio. This value allows a producer to compare the quality among lime sources because ENP considers the purity, neutralizing power (including fineness) and moisture content. In other words, the ENP tells you how much of that ton of lime actually neutralizes soil acidity. The unit for ENP is pounds/ton of lime (be careful not to use %ENP, which may also be on a lime analysis report). The ENP allows a producer to compare different lime sources because they can now determine price per pound or ton of actual neutralizing material.

#### ***Mission***

***Growing crops, children,  
families and communities  
through education***

#### ***Vision***

***To be recognized as a premier  
educational organization in Butler  
County for Agriculture and Natural  
Resources; 4-H Youth Development;  
Family & Consumer Sciences; and  
Community Development.***

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