

## Newsletter

*Perry County*  
*November 2023*



Dear Friends,

Harvest season is well under way, and I hope things are going well for all of you. Please keep safety a top priority in the field and on the road. Yields have been favorable for what I have heard so far, despite the dry conditions this fall.

The Mississippi river continues to be at historic low levels. Barges must unload 17 tons of cargo for every one-inch loss of water which is 204 tons for every one-foot. This could have severe effects on costs for supplies and grain this fall. I have included an article on how this also affecting cattle markets..

### **Legal strategies can keep farmland in the family**

Long-term care, divorce, and poor estate planning are a few of the risks to keeping farmland in the family, but legal strategies can reduce these risks. Ohio States legal team has a new publication explaining five strategies to keep farmland in the family for future generations.

This is a excellent 24 page resource: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/news/legal-strategies-can-keep-farmland-family>

Sincerely,

Ted Wiseman  
Extension Educator  
Perry County ANR

cc. Pam Montgomery

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**UPCOMING PROGRAMS  
2023-24****November**

- 30 Climate Smart: Farming with Weather Extremes  
Flyer Enclosed
- 23-24 Extension Offices Closed

**December**

- 2 Steer Weigh  
Perry County Fairgrounds  
8:30 to 10:00 am
- 2 Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium  
Wooster, OH. Details enclosed
- 25-26 Extension Office Closed

**January****February**

- 5 Pesticide & Fertilizer Re-certification  
Perry County Jobs and Family Services Building  
5250 OH 37, New Lex  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- 27 Fertilizer Re-certification  
Perry County Jobs and Family Services Building  
5250 OH 37, New Lex  
6:00 pm

**March**

- 11 Pesticide & Fertilizer Re-certification  
New Lexington High School Ag room  
6:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- 14-17 Beef Expo Columbus

**Contact the Perry County Extension Offices for detailed information**  
(Registration Deadlines and Fees, etc.)

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: <http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity>.

## Supply Chain Challenges in Grain Markets: Crop Basis and the Mississippi River

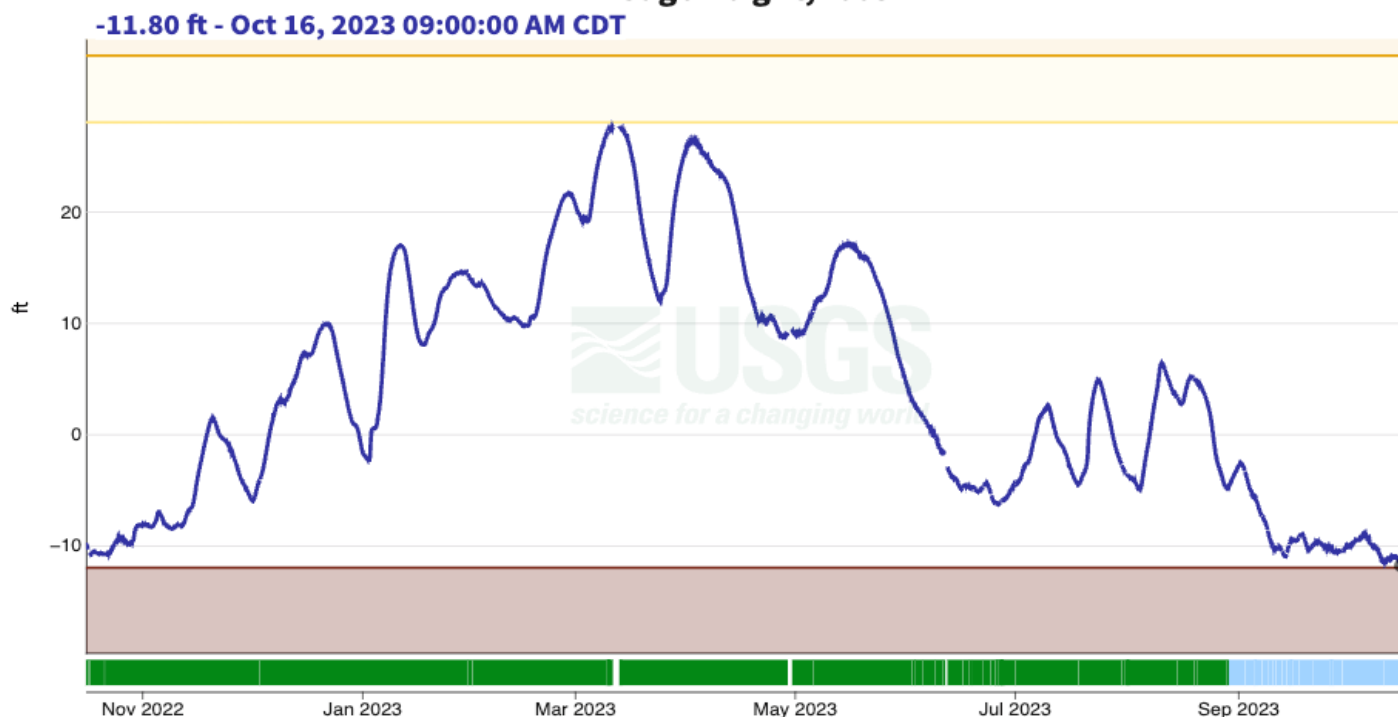
October 18, 2023. James Mitchell, Livestock Marketing Specialist, University of Arkansas

I want to use this week's article to review a recent supply chain disruption to grain markets. It is a particularly relevant topic for all of us in the Southeast. The issue is low water levels on the Lower Mississippi River, transportation costs, and crop prices. This issue draws on familiar economic concepts that we used to describe the pandemic-induced shocks to beef processing. My hope is that this discussion provides a fresh perspective as we think about the future of cattle and beef markets.

### Mississippi River at Memphis, TN - 07032000

October 16, 2022 - October 16, 2023

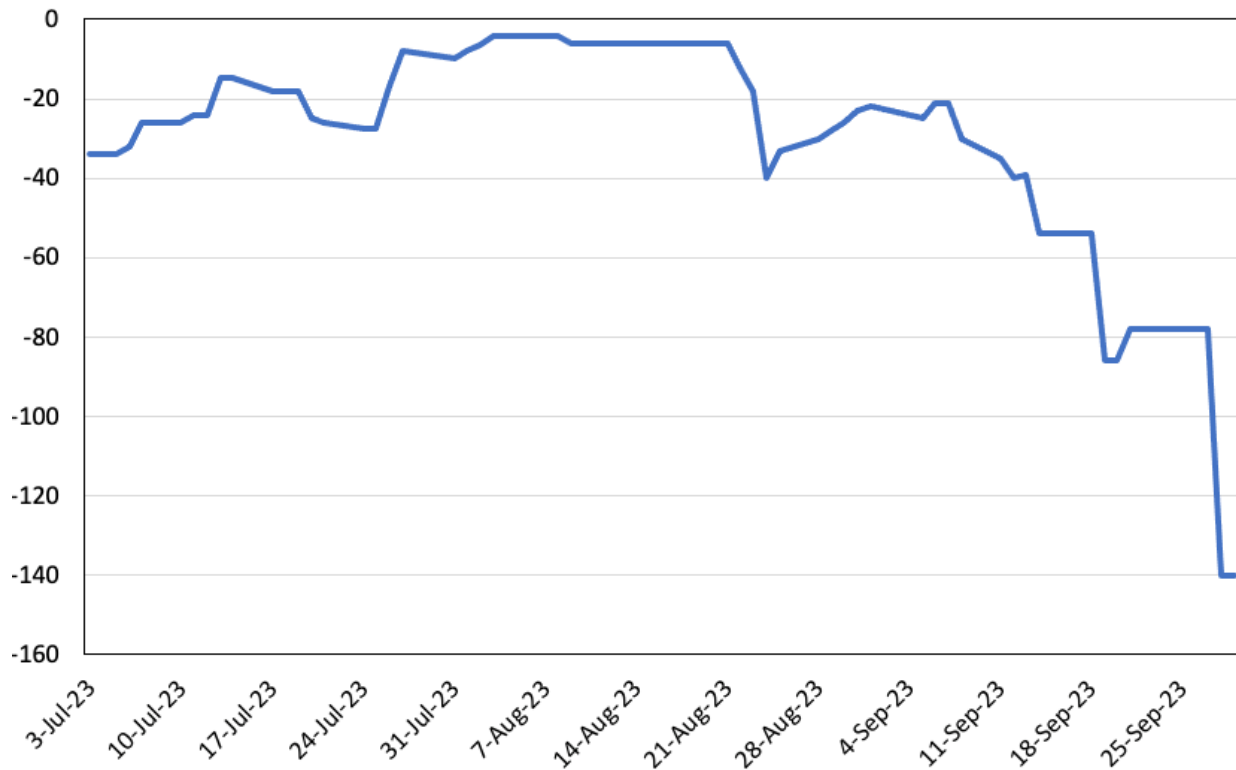
Gage height, feet



The Lower Mississippi River is historically low. The graph above shows stream gauge measurements from the U.S. Geological Survey monitoring station in Memphis, Tennessee. Gage height is a relative measurement of water level and anything below -5 feet is classified as Low Stage. At -12 feet, measurements are no longer reliable. The most recent data shows the Mississippi River at -11.80 feet at the Memphis monitoring station.

When the Mississippi River is low, it becomes more costly to ship grain by barge. At some point, it becomes unsafe, and barge traffic stops completely. As it becomes more expensive to ship grain by barge, grain elevators will bid down grain prices. If the Mississippi River is closed to barge traffic, grain elevators might stop buying grain if storage is maxed out. It is particularly problematic for farms in states like Arkansas, where most soybeans are shipped by barge for export markets. The graph below shows new crop basis (cash minus November futures) for Arkansas soybeans.

**New Crop Basis for Arkansas Soybeans at Osceola (cents/bushel)**  
**Jul 2023 - Sep 2023**  
**USDA-AMS**



Low water levels on the Lower Mississippi River raise the issue of capacity. When the Mississippi River is low, there is an incentive to store grain. If storage capacity is maxed out, then grain bids will decline to reflect lower derived demand for grain. Other grain elevators can't absorb the shock because they will have limited (if any) excess capacity. As such, grain bids will be lower at most all grain elevators.

There is also the issue of transportation and diverting grain to other markets. One alternative would be to move grain using different modes of transportation, including truck and rail. This could be a viable option, but grain prices will reflect the cost of transportation. Moreover, grain prices will decline as more is diverted to these alternative markets other than the river market. For this to work, these different modes of transportation would need the capacity to divert significant quantities away from the Mississippi River.

There are a lot of similarities between the current issue facing grain markets and beef markets as of the last few years. The most apparent similarity is this concept of capacity. For beef, it was processing capacity. For grain, it is storage capacity. And processing if the conversation is about crush facilities. It will be interesting to be part of conversations about this topic during this year's Winter Production meetings.

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**WEATHER EXTREMES COMMITTEE AND THE STATE  
CLIMATE OFFICE OF OHIO PRESENT**

## Climate Smart : Farming with Weather Extremes

Interested in learning about NRCS, Ohio State, and Central  
State Climate Smart research and activities?

What impacts might increasing temperatures and intense  
precipitation events have on water, manure, and pest  
management in Ohio?

How might changing weather patterns effect crop insurance,  
grain markets, and farmer stress?

**DATE:** Thursday November 30, 2023

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Der Dutchman; 445 S. Jefferson Ave Plain  
City, OH 43064

**COST:** Cost is free, including breakfast and lunch, but  
you must register by November 17, 2023. To register,  
please visit [go.osu.edu/reg-climate-smart23](https://go.osu.edu/reg-climate-smart23).



# CFAES

### TOPICS

Weather and Climate Update  
Federal Climate Smart Landscape  
Extreme Weather and Crop Insurance  
Water Management Challenges  
CSU Applied Climate Research  
Extreme Weather Realities  
Insect Pests Under a Changing Climate  
Weather Risk in the Crop Market

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## 2023 Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium Announced

Posted October 17, 2023. Dr. Brady Campbell, Assistant Professor, OSU State Small Ruminant Extension Specialist. 2023 Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium Flyer

On behalf of The Ohio State University, Ohio Sheep and Wool Program, and Ohio Sheep Improvement Association, we are pleased to announce the date of the 2023 Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium to be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at The Ohio State University Wooster Campus Shisler Conference Center (1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, Ohio 44691). The theme of the 2023 symposium is

Nutrition and Marketing. Throughout the day, we will hear reflections and insights about changes in the sheep, lamb and wool industry. We will discuss nutrition as it primarily relates to sheep flocks including an emphasis on club lamb flock nutrition. We will also hear from speakers on marketing insights of both sheep, lamb and wool. Speakers and discussions will lead to the betterment of the flock and the American Sheep Industry.

Speakers at this years event include: Dr. Francis Fluharty, Allen Johnson, Ty McGuire, ASI President Brad Boner, ODA State Veterinarian Dr. Dennis Summers, OSU Small Ruminant Specialist Dr. Brady Campbell and more...

## A quick guide highlighting the days events include:

- OSU Sheep Research Update/OSU Sheep Facility and Production Update
- •Nutrition
- •Dr. Francis Fluharty, Chair of Animal Sciences, University of Georgia, Sheep Flock Nutrition
- •Allen Johnson, Purina/Johnson Show Lambs, Club Lamb Flock Nutrition
- •Ty McGuire, Biozyme Nutrition, Sheep Flock Nutrition
- •Sheep and Lamb Marketing
- •Dr. David Anderson, Agricultural Economist, Texas A&M University, via ZOOM
- •Additional Events at the Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium
- •8:00 a.m. – 2023 OSIA Annual Membership Meeting
- •Breakfast and Lamb Lunch included with Registration
- •Industry Awards Program
- •OSIA Scholarship Silent Auction
- •Trade Show

Of additional importance, the Young Shepherd's Assembly will also be meeting again this year the evening before the symposium for fellowship and discussions related to all things sheep. Those that are 18-40 years of age (physically or at heart) are welcomed to join for food and drinks at JAFB Wooster Brewery, 120 Beall Ave., Wooster, OH 44691. Cost: FREE. Sponsored by Open Roads Renewables. Pre-registration required. For those interested in registering for this years program, please do so by completing the online for at <https://www.ohiosheep.org/osia-programs.html#symposium>. Please complete your registration by November 18th.

Scan here to register:



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## Prevent Combine Fires During Fall Harvest

Dee Jepsen, Extension State Safety Leader and Wayne Dellinger, ANR Educator Union County

Autumn weather conditions have led to an increase in combine fires. Two recommendations to prevent injuries and property damage include: preventative maintenance and pre-planning for fire emergencies.

Ohio ranks fourth in the nation for combine fires. Other states leading the list include Minnesota (1st), Iowa (2nd), Illinois (3rd), Kansas (5th), Nebraska (6th) and South Dakota (7th).

The majority of harvester fires start in the engine compartment. Contributing factors for heat sources include faulty wiring, over-heated bearings, leaking fuel or hydraulic oil. The dry crop residue makes a ready source for rapid combustion to occur when the machine is operated in the field. Birds and wildlife are known to make nests in the engine compartment or exhaust manifolds – which can add fuel sources for unsuspecting combine operators.



### TIPS TO PREVENT COMBINE FIRES INCLUDE:

- **Have a daily maintenance plan during the harvest period.** Keeping machinery well maintained plays a large role in preventing fires from these sources. Cleaning up spills, blowing off chaff, leaves, and other plant materials on a regular basis, proper lubrication of bearings/chains, and checking electrical connections should be part of the daily routine. Farmers may choose to do their daily maintenance in the morning while waiting for the dew to burn off the crops. However, performing maintenance at night will highlight any hot-spots or smoldering areas as the machine is cooling down. Removing chaff at the end of the day will reduce the amount of debris available to spark a fire.
- **Eliminate static electricity.** A chain may also be mounted on the bottom of the machine to drag on the ground while in the field. This decreases the buildup of static electricity.

### IF A FIRE BREAKS OUT, IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN IN PLACE:

- **Call 911 or your local first responders at the first sign of a fire.** Don't wait to know if you can contain a fire yourself, rapid response is important to saving valuable equipment. Combine fires are often in remote locations where a specific address may not be available and access is limited. Emergency response times will be longer in these situations.

**Have (2) ABC fire extinguishers mounted on the combine.** A 10-pound ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher in the cab or near the ladder of the cab is quick access to protect the operator. A second extinguisher (20-pound ABC) is recommended to be mounted on the outside of combines where it is accessible from the ground. It's possible that one unit will extinguish a small fire; having the second unit will help with any additional flare-ups. Don't forget to check that the extinguishers are fully charged at the beginning of the season. Not having extinguishers

- ready when needed leads to a helpless feeling of watching one of your most expensive pieces of equipment go up in flames.
- **Have a water truck positioned by the field.** Hot mufflers and catalytic converters from other vehicles driving in the field can pose a risk to the dry field fodder. Smoldering materials may go by 15 to 30 minutes before being noticed. A small gust of wind could rapidly turn that smoldering into a fire. In extreme dry conditions, a water truck may help protect against field fires. Never use water on fires that are electrical or fuel-sourced.
- **Have an emergency plan in place and discuss it with the other workers or family members.** Knowing what to do in the event of a fire emergency is important. Knowing the address to the field and how to contact fire departments directly instead of through the 911 system are important safety conversations for the entire harvest crew.

Don't get caught thinking it can never happen on your farm. Take preventative action and be prepared.

