

Health Points: Flooding and your water well/septic system

The Douglas County Health Department would like to share some information on flooding, particularly for those with water wells, going into this year's rainy

season. Your water well is a potential source of contaminants such as E-coli and coliform bacteria. Regular maintenance and testing can ensure safe drinking water

for your family. Water wells can be a source of contamination through overloading of the ground water supply. Floods can bring in contaminates

from septic systems, agricultural dangers such as pesticides and fertilizers, and other sources that could get into your drinking water. In addition, coarse sediment

and debris can cause physical damage to your well. Electrical components, such as the pump, also run the risk of electrical shock when flooded. In this case, do not use rubber boots. Instead turn off the pump if able and contact a professional electrician.

Wells should be considered contaminated until they have been properly tested. It is recommended to use boiled or bottled water following a flood until the water has been tested. This includes drinking, cooking, and bathing. You can pick up a kit for free water testing at the Douglas County Health Department. Results will be given back with disinfecting procedures if required.

Besides being a source of contamination to your groundwater, special precautions also need to be made for your septic system:

- Do not use the sewage system until water in the soil absorption field is lower than the water level around the house.
- Plug all basement drains.
- Limit water usage.
- Have your septic tank professionally inspected and serviced if you suspect damage.

• Only trained specialists should clean or repair septic tanks because of possible dangerous gases.

• If sewage has backed up into the basement, clean the area and disinfect the floor using a chlorine solution of a half cup of bleach to each gallon of water.

• Examine electrical connections for damage before restoring electricity.

• Do not compact soil over the absorption field by driving equipment or vehicles over it.

• Be sure the tank's manhole cover is secure and that inspection ports have not been blocked or damaged.

• Check vegetation and repair as necessary to provide turf grass cover.

• Have your system pumped once safe levels have been reached. Your servicing contractor should know when this is.

Water and sewage safety are extremely important in the event of a flood. Follow all necessary precautions and if you have any questions contact the health department at (217) 253-4137. We are located at 1250 E US Hwy 36 in Tuscola if you would like to have a free water test kit.

Douglas County Farm Bureau April Update

Planting started early this April in Douglas County. Several people hit the field the day after Easter. The temperatures were warm and the soil conditions good. It seemed like a great chance to get started. The recent wet springs are fresh in farmer's minds. Good weather will be taken advantage of.

We planted corn first, then some soybeans later in the month. Others followed a recent trend and concentrated on getting their soybeans planted. Only a few years ago agronomists were experimenting with planting soybeans at the same time as corn, or even ahead of corn planting. At least in this area early planting of soybeans is now widely accepted.

The soybean plant is light-sensitive. They start to flower around the longest days of the year in late June and start to mature when days get short in September. The theory is that early beans will flower longer and set more pods for a bigger yield. Plot work and farmer experience show that this will work.

Soybeans are proving to be more cold-tolerant than originally thought too. Any seed put onto the soil will begin to draw in water in preparation to germinate. If a corn seed draws in a bunch of cold water, it can damage or kill the seed. Some agronomists advised that we stop planting soybeans 24 hours ahead of the cold weather and snow the third week of April, so they are not immune to the cold-water uptake problem. Corn can be frozen off and

still grow back if the growing point is still in the ground. When an emerged soybean freezes off, it is done.

Traditionally soybeans were planted almost as an afterthought when corn planting was completed. They were a rotational crop that put nitrogen into the soil and broke up the disease cycle of corn after corn. The soybeans were supposed to use the nutrients leftover from the corn crop the year before. Now we use pricey seed treatments to protect the seed and often fertilize specifically for the soybean crop.

The soybean seed we planted 30 years ago was often a public variety developed by a university and usually saved by the farmer from the harvest of the crop the previous year. Most of us plant newly purchased seed each year now. The patent protection for the traited seed we use forbids the planting of the saved seed. Our non-genetically modified soybean contracts specify new seeds each year.

We still have the small wagons we saved seed in back then. It was a little bit of a tradition to fill them each fall with a variety of soybean that had yielded well, then pull them out in late winter to have the beans cleaned to condition them for planting. Some friends from Tolono had a seed cleaner they pulled from farm-to-farm cleaning soybeans, oats, and wheat. I filled the planter with buckets then, instead of the motorized seed tender we now use. Now soybean seed comes in boxes with

roughly 40 acres of seed in them.

Nationwide planting is just getting started. The southern states that ordinarily have a lot of acres planted by now have seen heavy rain that kept them out of the field. Southern farmers need to plant well ahead of our ideal time so that the corn can pollinate before the hottest weather. The upper Midwest is cold and dry. One market advisor said that in the Dakotas some farmers are seeing if they can take prevent plant. It is so dry they see no reason to even try planting. Even with normal rain the rest of the year, they do not think they can grow a crop.

That same market advisor also spoke about the variety of crops that are planted in the Dakotas up into southern Canada. We grow mostly corn and soybeans in Illinois. These fit our climate and soil types well. The less humid upper Midwest historically grew a lot of spring wheat. They also grow dry beans, pulse crops like lentils and canola. These are short-season crops that prefer drier conditions than we have. Plant breeders have developed short-season corn and soybean varieties that produce well in northern regions, so that area has a lot of choices.

The US Department of Agriculture came out with its prospective planting report on March 31st. The acres for corn and soybeans came out well below the trade guesses, which expected that acres would go up substantially because of the higher prices.

The report gave prices a nice boost. The world demand and stocks report in early April kept prices moving up. The stocks of grain around the world are at diminished levels and the projected planted acres are not enough to bring them back to levels the traders feel comfortable with. After dissatisfaction with government reports the last two years, farmers have some numbers they like right now.

That dissatisfaction prompted Illinois Farm Bureau to put together a working group to discuss the credibility of the National Agricultural Statistics Service numbers. Ten farmers met with representatives from the USDA, universities, and market analysis firms trying to find out why the government reports had been so inaccurate. To their credit, NASS was receptive to the discussion and the recommendations Farm Bureau made.

Guessing crop size is an inexact science and growers are aware of that. I think the statisticians do not give enough credit to weather problems. The corn hybrids we use and the soybean varieties we plant are light years ahead of what we planted when I started farming. They are not bulletproof. A month delay in planting or three weeks without rain can make a big difference in yields. The numbers people tend to make broad assumptions that do not take that into account.

Actual acres planted to each crop seem to be an elusive number every year, but we report planted acres to the local Farm Service Agency by mid-June each year. It should be simple to find out those numbers. In 2019 it was harvest time before the government figured out the upper Midwest had huge prevent plant numbers.

So, after a deep dive into crop reports, thank you for reading about agriculture this month. Remember we will still be on the roads to finish putting this crop in and watch out for us.

Larry W. Dallas
District 12 Director
Illinois Farm Bureau

Girls Varsity Soccer
Michael Robey,
Head Coach
Arthur Christian Girls
Varsity Soccer -
5/5/21-5/7/21
NACA (National
Association Christian
Athletes) Girls Soccer
National Tournament
Location: Camp Jordan,
East Ridge, TN
Game One Final Score
Arthur Christian 0
James River (Powhatan, VA) 2
GK Saves: Halie Rhoades 9; Liana Kauffman 8
Game Two Final Score
Arthur Christian 0
Virginia Academy (Ashburn, VA) 4
GK Saves: Halie Rhoades 4; Liana Kauffman 3
Game Three Final Score
Arthur Christian 0
Providence Athletic Club (Lexington, SC) 6
GK Saves: Halie Rhoades 17
Game Four Final Score
Arthur Christian 0
Beach Breakers (Chesapeake, VA) 4
GK Saves: Liana Kauffman 5; Libby Henry 5

Record: 1-4-2
Tournament Recap: "I am extremely proud of how hard our girls competed. We knew the level of competition would be very high with multiple past National Champions on our game schedule and these teams were definitely elite. Our team did a really good job of dealing with completely different styles of play than we are use to in our area and I feel like we did a good job of adapting and learning from game to game. We also quickly learned that all of these teams had played a full season prior to this tournament so that made the challenge even greater with us only having 3 games under our belt for the past two years. Our defense did a great job under relentless pressure especially our goalkeepers and unfortunately our offense just did not get the ball enough to get a rhythm going. We are very thankful for this experience and look forward to the rest of our season." Coach Robey

STORE CLOSING OUT SALE

Prairie View Discount is Closing on May 22, 2021

Marble & Colbi Mini Horns

\$2.69 per lb. (while supplies last)

10% Off Storewide from May 17 to May 22

Thank You For Your Business!

1720 CR 1900N, Arthur, IL (2 mi. S & 3/4 mi. W of Arthur. Just west of The Great Pumpkin Patch 217-543-2008 • Hours Monday-Friday 8-5:30 • Saturday 8-3 • Closed Sunday

PUBLIC AUCTION

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021

AT 5:30 pm

118 n. Main, Atwood, Illinois

Tools, collectibles, furniture & household

Tools: Craftsman Tool Box-Top and Chest(Like New); **New in Box Blitzer 30 Mile Solar Fence Charger; 3-New Rolls of Electric Fence Rope (600' each), and misc. connectors and posts;** Winpower 8500 Gas Generator w/Electric Start; Honda Gas Powered Pressure Washer; Almaco Seed Cleaner; Electric Industrial Oven; Other Miscellaneous Tools.

Collectibles: Set of Johnson Brothers China (Friendly Village), 12 Dinner, 12 Salad, 12 Soup, 12 Berry, 12 Cup & Saucer, 1 Serving Bowl (Very Nice); 2 Gal Dispenser Crock; Over 25 Longaberger Baskets; Leaded Crystal Pieces; Small Slot Machine; Log Cabin Display; and more.

Furniture & Household: Kitchen-Aid Mixer; Unique Lamp Table; 7 ½" Meat Slicer (Like New in Box); Lots of New Tupperware; 2-Very Nice Wicker Porch Chairs; Usual Household Small Appliances; and much more.

Miscellaneous: **Barnett Crossbow w/Scope (Like New w/Box & Arrows);** Lots of Gun Cases (Pistol and Long Gun); Like New HP and Canon Laser Printers; and many more items.

Terms: Cash, Good Check or Credit Card w/3% Convenience Fee; Viewing at 3 PM Sale Day or by appointment.


Norm Willoughby Auction

Atwood, Illinois

217-494-0315 or normcibr@gmail.com

See Photos @ www.auctionzip.com Auctioneer #36270

Sports Physicals / \$20




9 am to 4 pm

Wednesday, June 2

SBL Arthur Clinic

211 South Walnut • 217 543-3444

Sarah Bush Lincoln

Trusted Compassionate Care

Each \$20 fee will be donated to the Arthur Athletic Booster Club.

Immunizations will not be given.

Cash or check only will be accepted. Insurance will not be billed, nor will insurance co-pays be collected.

Parent must sign medical history form or be in attendance.