

AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTION FOR OPEN BURNING

There are definite times when burning of crop debris and other agricultural waste is not permitted unless certain conditions are met.

- Ohio's wildfire laws limit open burning in rural areas during the months of March, April, May, October and November, when wildfire risk is highest due to dry vegetative conditions and dry winds. **During these months, open burning in rural areas is completely prohibited between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.** An exception to this prohibition applies to farmers under the following conditions:
 - Open burning may occur in a *plowed field* or garden, *if the burn pile is at least 200 feet from any woodland, brush land or field containing dry grass or other flammable material.* If a farmer can't meet this 200 foot buffer zone requirement, the farmer should wait until after 6 p.m. to conduct the burn.
 - Open burning should only occur when atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate any smoke and potential contaminants. If weather conditions are foggy, rainy or causing air inversions, smoke and contaminants will not readily disperse and the farmer should not burn the materials.
 - Even if all other legal requirements for open burning are met, open burning is not allowed when air pollution warnings, alerts or emergencies are in effect.