

## What Is The Difference Between A Comma And A Period?

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When most of us write something, the two most common punctuation symbols we will use are a comma and a period. But when do you use each of them? According to the Bates' Rule of Punctuation, you use a period at the end of a statement and a comma when there is a statement, but there is still something to come. So here is my question – are there things that have happened on your farm where you have to decide which to use?

For instance, maybe you know you have a lot of broomsedge in the pastures. You could end that with a period and just accept always having broomsedge. Or you could use a comma, then decide the thing you need to do is soil test and improve soil fertility. This will help get rid of the broomsedge.

What about other weeds? Do you use a period after “I have buttercup in pastures” and accept it, or do you use a comma and say “so I need to spray a herbicide.” The idea can be used in a lot of situations on the farm. You can say “I don't have clovers” or “my hay is poor quality” and end the sentence with a period. Or you can use a comma and add “I need to plant red and white clover this winter” or “I need to cut a little earlier” and make a positive change in your management.

Don't let the challenges you face be the end of the issue. Find a way to solve the problem. Maybe it will be easy or maybe it will be hard. But work to make the situation better. This will be the mark of true success.

This principal doesn't only apply to agriculture and your farm. It applies to every area of life. Everybody faces difficulties. Most of the time these difficulties are unexpected. They catch us by surprise. When they come, we can use a period and let the problem stop us. It hangs over our head and influences our future. Or we can use a comma, deal with the problem, and work to make the best of the situation.

Is this always going to be easy? Definitely not! Sometimes the tragedy of sickness or death deals a difficult blow to us and our families. But here is a word of encouragement – Don't let this stop you. Don't use a period and let that be the end. Use a comma and work through it, no matter how hard.

Your problems are not the things that define you. Your response to the problems is. No matter how difficult, how heavy, how hard the problem seems. Stand up, straighten your back, lean into it, and take a step, then another. At some point you will be able to look back and realize you have made it through. You will look back and see the problem, the comma, and then what came after.