Hello, Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties!

Another great week across northeast Ohio. Boy did we get our fill of rain at the end of last week. That has given us a brief break. Hoping that we get a couple more weeks of dry weather so that our corn harvest can go as smoothly as the bean harvest did.

We hope to see many of our beef producers at this Thursday’s beef twilight tour. A flyer is attached. We also have about 5 seats left for our Woodlands Program which will be tomorrow evening in Jefferson. Just give us a call if you want to attend! Have a good and safe week.

David Marrison  
Extension Educator  
Ag & Natural Resources  
Ashtabula County

Lee Beers  
Extension Educator  
Ag & Natural Resources  
Trumbull County
Task Force Background - The Northeast Ohio Phosphorus Task Force was initiated by Dr. John Patterson, Ohio House of Representative for District 99, in collaboration with the OSU Extension Offices in Northeast Ohio and the Northeast Ohio Counties of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. The committee was formed to take a proactive approach to the Senate Bill 1 legislation passed in 2015 which created new rules for manure and fertilizer application specifically for Northwest Ohio due to toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie. A concern of this committee was the parameters of this legislation could eventually be expanded state-wide in the future which could hamper animal agriculture in Northeast Ohio. The committee held task force meetings on November 16 and December 14 in 2015 and on February 8, March 7, and November 21 in 2016. Committee membership included farmers, Extension personnel, Farm Bureau and Farmers Union members, and agricultural cooperative members.

Research & Education - At each of the task force meetings, the committee brought in speakers and published reports to educate themselves about the water quality issues in Lake Erie as well as the specific regulatory details of the Senate Bill 1 legislation. Even though the legislation was written specifically for northwest Ohio, the committee felt it imperative to conduct proactive research on the potential impact the new rules would have if it would be implemented state-wide in the future. As a long term goal, the task force will examine ways in which the farm community can adapt to help improve water quality in both the Lake Erie and Ohio River watersheds.

In 2016, the committee conducted its first research project. Farmers were asked to monitor the weather & soil conditions which were present each day from January through the end of March. Cooperators were asked to track two questions each day #1: Is your ground snow covered or frozen? #2: Is the top two inches of the soil saturated? According to the new legislation from Senate Bill 1, no manure or fertilizer can be applied (without incorporation) if these conditions exist in Northwest Ohio. This research was completed to ascertain the percentage of days in our watersheds when it would be permissible for manure or fertilizer application if the legislation was expanded state wide. Seventeen producers in Ashtabula, Geauga, and Trumbull Counties participated in this research project.

Research Results - The data from each cooperating farmer was returned to the Ashtabula County Extension office to be summarized. Each day, the cooperator indicated whether the ground was snow covered or frozen or if the top two inches of the ground was saturated. The committee defined these conditions as the following:

Snow covered – when crop ground has any measureable snow accumulation, it is considered snow covered. 
Frozen- when the crop ground is frozen in that no water can penetrate move through/down the soil profile.
Soil Saturation- when the soil has reached its maximum water content; if any more is added, it will either drain downward or turn the soil into mud. In practical terms, the soil is not conducive to be worked with tillage equipment and planting cannot occur.

For January, 17 cooperators completed and returned tracking data. In aggregate, only 1.33% of the days available for the reporting group allowed for the field application of manure. Fifteen of the seventeen producers (88.2%) reported there were no days in January in which they could have spread manure based on the restrictions provided by the Senate Bill 1 legislation.
For February, 15 cooperators completed and returned tracking data. In aggregate, only 1.15% of the days available for the reporting group allowed for the field application of manure. Fourteen of the fifteen reporters (93.3%) reported there were no days in February in which they could have spread manure based on the restrictions provided by the Senate Bill 1 legislation.

For March, 12 cooperators completed and returned tracking data. In aggregate, 32.26% of the days available for the reporting group allowed for the field application of manure. Only one of the twelve reporters (8.3%) reported there were no days in March in which they could have spread manure based on the restrictions provided by the Senate Bill 1 legislation.

Implications - Given the data, especially from January and February, a concern arose for livestock producers who have no on-farm storage for manure and have to rely on every-day application of their manure. In 2016, very few days were available during the first 10 weeks of the year for manure application in Northeast, Ohio. It is recommended this research be conducted again in 2017 and include the month of December 2016. Additional research is needed to determine how many producers would need to build manure storage structures if the Senate Bill 1 legislation were to be expanded state wide.

For Additional Information - More information about the Northeast Ohio Phosphorus Task Force can be obtained by contacting David Marrison (Task Force Secretary) at 440-576-9008 or marrison.2@osu.edu. Farmers interested in tracking these conditions for 2017 should contact David Marrison at 440-576-9008 or marrison.2@osu.edu so your name can be added to our cooperator list. The next meeting of the task force will be Monday, November 21, 2016 at the Ashtabula County Extension at 10:00 a.m.

**Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District Hiring a District Technician**

The Ashtabula County Soil & Water Conservation District is taking applications until November 29, 2016 for a District Technician position.

The educational requirements for this position are: Bachelor Degree and or two year Associate’s degree in environmental science, agriculture, forestry, conservation, engineering or science related field and or related work experience.
This position is that of a District Technician responsible for performing field and office technical, educational and some administrative duties in the Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District. The technician will provide technical and engineering field assistance to county land users, groups and units of government. The technical/engineering assistance will follow the guidelines established in the NRCS National Engineering Manual and Ohio NRCS Standards and Specifications. The applicant must be proficient in ESRI Arc View GIS and interpreting aerial photographs, topographic maps, and soil survey maps. They must help carry out the responsibilities outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ohio Department of Ag- Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the Ashtabula SWCD as it relates to the implementation of Ohio's Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program, Ag- (Manure, Nutrient and other waste waters). Additionally, they must carry out the responsibilities outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ohio Department of Natural Resources- Division of Forestry and the Ashtabula SWCD as it relates to the implementation of Ohio's Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program (Silviculture & Logging). The candidate must have excellent communication, interpersonal and writing skills. Candidate must possess a valid driver's license and an insurable driving record. The employee must have the ability to traverse rough ground, lift 50 pounds and pass a background check and drug test.

This position is for a full time employee (40 hours) with normal work hours Monday- Friday 8:00am - 4:30 pm. Employee may be required to work outside of the normal work schedule. Employee will be subject to a 3 month probationary period. Salary and Benefits: This position offers health insurance (employee contributes to premium cost), holiday, annual and sick leave pay. The employee will participate in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). Salary will be commensurate upon experience. More information about this position and the application process can be obtained by contacting Nathan Paskey at the Ashtabula County Soil & Water Conservation District at 440-576-4946 or via email at ashtabulaswcd@gmail.com.

November Weather Outlook
By: Jim Noel

The outlook for November calls for temperatures and rainfall above normal. It appears we will see a series of weak weather systems the next two weeks. Most of the state will be at or below normal rainfall into the start of November. However, the far northern tier of Ohio will see normal to above normal rainfall putting pressure on wet conditions and challenge harvest in the far north and northeast part of the state.

After a start to November not really wet except far north, most climate models indicate a return to a more active weather pattern for middle and later November. Along with the wetter pattern will come temperatures several degrees above normal.

Most areas will see the delayed freeze that was forecast for many months come to pass in early November, a few weeks behind schedule. The outlook for winter calls for near normal temperatures and slightly above normal precipitation. Early indications for next planting season in spring call for near normal temperatures and slightly above normal precipitation. Over the next two weeks, as show on the image, the NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center 16-day weather models mean rainfall is around 1 inch in southern Ohio to 3+ inches in far northern Ohio.
Using the New Maple Syrup Grading System as a Marketing Tool
Les Ober, Geauga County OSU Extension

Two years ago this Fall the maple syrup industry completed the adoption of a new system for grading syrup. It took a long time to get everyone on the same page to complete the process that was officially started in 2011. The International Maple Syrup Institute took the old USDA Standard grades that included USDA Grade A Light, Medium and Dark and Grade B and transformed them into four Grade A categories that would include all saleable syrup. Two important additions were the flavor descriptors and the Tc (light transparency) range. This allows consumers to compare grades on flavor and it also opened the door for the use of instruments in the grading process for color determination.

The four Grade A categories are Golden Delicate, Amber Rich, Dark Robust and Very Dark Strong. You will find that Golden Delicate parallels the old Light Amber Category. Amber Rich includes all of the old medium and the very top of the Grade A Dark Category. Dark Robust includes the rest of the of the Grade A Dark category and the very Top of the old Grade B Category. The Very Dark Strong Category includes the rest of the syrup that was formally classified as cooking syrup. Most very dark syrup that is produced and does not have an off flavor or a density problem will fall in this category. If syrup has an off flavor or does not meet the above minimum of 66 brix, or the below maximum 68.9 brix density standard it will be sold as commercial syrup and priced accordingly. It should be pointed out that the retail price in most markets does not change for any of the top 3 grades and many producers sell their very dark syrup for the same price.

The new grading system allows us to not only sell syrup on color but also on flavor and after all, flavor is what sells maple syrup. Flavor is a component of maple syrup judging that is very subjective. Everyone has their own idea of what maple syrup should taste like. It is almost unfair to put maple syrup in a jug that has not been graded. It would be like labeling a cut of meat as beef. You as a consumer would be buying the package of meat and not know if it was a Porterhouse Steak or Stew Meat. That type of marketing went out the window with the anticipation of finding out what the prize was in a box of Cracker Jacks. Today’s consumers are getting smarter about what they buy. Why would you try to sell them syrup that could be Very Dark Strong, Golden Delicate or something in-between? If you are just putting syrup in a jug you are missing out on an important part of marketing, interrupting and understanding what the consumer truly wants. You maybe marketing high grade of Golden Delicate syrup when the consumers is looking for a darker more robust flavor. The comment you often hear about Golden Delicate is that it is very sweet with little or no maple flavor. If this were case, do you think you will have a return customer; even though you put what you believe is your best product in the container?

There is however, one caution about selling graded maple syrup; it had better be graded right. That is where spectrophotometry comes in. Today for 60 to 80 dollars you can buy a Hanna Checker. There is also a more accurate and expensive model available for commercial packers, contest and grading fanatics. It is all based on the transmission of a beam of light through the sample. As the product darkens the percent light transmission drops. Once you have a reading you match the %Tc light transmission reading on the device to the %Tc range of one of the new grades. Each grade has a % Tc range. The end results are similar but a lot more reliable than a temporary grading kit. Over the last two months putting, together my maple syrup evaluation programs, I have had a chance to look at dozens of samples of maple syrup, some graded and some not. Many times these samples were so close it would be impossible to grade accurately on a hand held temporary grading kit. This new instrumentation makes it easy to grade syrup. This proves once again that maple syrup production is pure science from start to finish.

Generally overall the new grading system has been well received at various locations where we introduced it to the public. At many fairs and shows we have been able to stimulate conversation about the characteristics of
each individual grade. Using sample tasting is a great way to interact with your customers. Generally overall potential consumers liked Amber Rich but more and more are trying and enjoying Dark Robust. This has been a learning experience for both the producer and the consumers alike. Ultimately I think many of the producers end up learning a little more about consumer preferences and the product they are selling. Grading in many states is not mandatory and Ohio is one of them. The other factor here is that consumers are really not familiar with how maple syrup is graded. The only thing they can compare it to is your average table syrup which has no identity. This is where maple producers can take a lesson from the wine and craft beer industry. They have built a whole marketing program around identifying the various characteristics of their product. Is it out of the realm of reality that we might someday include a tasting room in our sugarhouses where potential customers could sample the various grades of syrup and other value added products? Think about it, this could add a whole new dimension to the way we market maple syrup.

If you want to learn more about how you can use the new grading system to improve your marketing and your production practices I will be teaching a 4 hour workshop at the Lake Erie Maple Expo on Friday November 11th in Albion Pa. For more information on the workshop contact www.pamaple.org

Intercropping: Intersection of Soil Health & Production
By Rossie Izlar
Source: https://www.agronomy.org/science-news/intercropping-intersection-soil-health-production

Plant scientist Ann Bybee-Finley says her first field experiment was humbling. "I felt like a very small scientist in a very big world," she said.

Bybee-Finley researches intercropping at Cornell University. Intercropping is a complex practice of farming where different plant species are grown in the same space. Most conventional farmers only plant one crop per field or plot. This practice, called monoculture farming, is more convenient for farmers, but it can make the plants more vulnerable. For example, if one plant gets a disease, the others are likely to catch it. Weeds are more likely to find a home in spaces that are very similar. As a result, monoculture farming can be dependent on expensive synthetic chemicals to ward off weeds and diseases.

Droughts and other weather events can also damage entire monoculture fields. Bybee-Finley says a bad drought in 2012 shaped her vision of agriculture. “The stories of crop failure made me want to understand how to make farming practices more resilient, especially as climate change makes extreme weather events more frequent.”

Intercropping gives farmers more options if one of their crops fails. “It’s like a diversified stock portfolio,” said Bybee-Finley. Plant diversity leads to more diversity below ground too. Plants that add organic matter and
nutrients when they decompose replenish the soil.

In her experiment, Bybee-Finley planted four cover crops, which are plants that add fertility to the soil and protect it from erosion. She planted two grasses, pearl millet and sorghum, and two legumes, cowpea and sunn hemp. The grasses are well known for their ability to add organic matter to tired soils whose nutrients have been depleted by years of farming. Legumes are also good for the soil because their roots release nitrogen when they decompose. These cover crops are also a feed source for cows and other livestock, providing farmers another source of income.

In her experiment, Bybee-Finley found the grasses and legumes that grew at the same pace were more productive because they weren’t competing for space and resources as much as plants that grew at different rates. On the other hand, she found that some plant combinations grew more, while others had more nitrogen.

“I’m sure there’s a sweet spot,” said Bybee-Finley, “There’s so many unexplored avenues and questions to ask: Which species should I plant together? And how many of each?” Bybee-Finley said the next step for this experiment is to see which plant combinations were the most nutritious for animals.

For experiments with lots of variables like this one, Bybee-Finley says you end up with a complex set of conclusions. “When you’re looking at an entire system it makes it harder to have an immediate take-away,” she said. “It takes longer to come up with a definite conclusion.”

But Bybee-Finley is comfortable with complexity. “Diversity begets diversity,” she said. “Agricultural science is beginning to look beyond the simplified strategy of planting only one crop per rotation. For Bybee-Finley, intercropping is full of tradeoffs, and the life lesson of agriculture is that plants don’t always behave the way you expect them to. “The miracle of biology is that plants, no matter what you do, will do exactly what they want to do.”

Read more about this research in Crop Science. Cornell University, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hatch Project 2013-14-425: Expanding the role of cover crops in sustainable cropping systems, and NE SARE Graduate Student Project GNE14-073 funded this research.
UPDATE – Changes to OSU Extension’s Timber Classes
By Lee Beers

Northeast Ohio and Northwest Pennsylvania contain large amounts of forested land, with many land owners unaware of the value or health of their forested property. OSU Extension in Northeast Ohio will be offering several events over the next few months to help forest owners determine the value of their forest for timber, maple syrup production, or other non-traditional uses. The goal of these events will be to teach participants forest management practices that promote and maintain healthy working forests that are free of invasive species and that will continue to produce for many generations.

Three informational “Timber Harvesting and Forest Management” classes are currently scheduled to help landowners determine the value in their forest BEFORE someone knocks on your door asking to harvest your timber. **Classes scheduled for October 12th in Trumbull County, and October 19th in Geauga County have been CANCELED due to low registration numbers. We will be holding one class for NE Ohio on October 26th in Ashtabula County from 6-9pm at the OSU Extension office in Jefferson, OH.**

To register for the Timber Harvesting and Forest Management class on October 26th, call 330-638-6783 or email Lee Beers (beers.66@osu.edu).

Remember ARC-CO Payments Are Not Contingent on Planted Acres
By: Paul Neiffer

I was reading a comment a farmer had regarding their 2017 planting intentions. In the comment, they indicated that they were leaning toward soybeans partly due to the fact that soybeans ARC-CO for their county would pay more than corn ARC-CO. This, is in fact, wrong.

ARC-CO payments for corn, soybeans and all other crops are based upon your base acres at the time that you sign up. It does not matter what crop you plant, you will be paid the same amount. Therefore, base your 2017 planting intentions on the economics of what you plant, not any money you may get from ARC-CO. That number will always be the same.

*For example, assume you have 1,000 base acres of corn and 1,000 base acres of soybeans. You expect to receive zero corn ARC-CO payments for the 2017 crop (paid in 2018) and $75,000 of soybean ARC-CO payments. Whether you plant 2,000 acres of corn, 1,000 of each or 2,000 acres of soybeans, you will receive $75,000.*

Science of Industrial Hemp: On the Leading Edge of a Growing Industry
By Tracy Hmielowski
Source: [https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/csa/articles/61/10/8](https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/csa/articles/61/10/8)

Industrial hemp is a cultivar of the *Cannabis sativa* plant and falls under stricter regulations than most crops. However, those working with industrial hemp see the crop as an opportunity to be on the leading edge of research in a growing industry. CSSA and ASA recently sponsored a conference on The Science of Industrial Hemp in Denver, CO in July, bringing together almost 200 researchers, producers, and policymakers interested in industrial hemp from more than 34 states and five countries.

Based on the needs related to industrial hemp production discussed and clarified at the conference, organizers
are in the process of writing a paper which will soon be published and presented on Capitol Hill. Several of the conference speakers shared information about the work they presented and their experience at the conference with CSA News magazine.

The genetic distinctions between hemp and marijuana, both cultivars of *C. sativa*, are not well understood. The trait of concern for the DEA is that marijuana plants have high concentrations of THCA (tetrahydrocannabinolic acid), which is converted into psychoactive THC, whereas hemp has high concentrations of CBDA (cannabidiolic acid), which is converted into non-psychoactive CBD. Industrial hemp is defined as plants that are less than 0.3% THC by weight, so determining which genes control THCA and CBDA would be useful for screening, breeding, and developing hemp cultivars for the industry.

New research from Dr. George Weiblen at the University of Minnesota suggests that the difference between cultivars may be determined by what is essentially a single gene with a major impact. In a paper published in *New Phytologist*, Weiblen and colleagues examined the genetic differences between hemp and marijuana. Much of the earlier genetic work has focused on the loci relating to THCA. But for this study, Weiblen and colleagues looked at both THCA synthase and CBDA synthase.

“What our work suggests is that, in fact, it’s this other, related gene that explains the difference in drug content between hemp cultivars and marijuana cultivars. That was a huge surprise—totally unexpected,” Weiblen says. Their findings show plants that are homozygous for functional CBDA synthase meet the definition of industrial hemp and lack the ability to produce more THC than the 0.3% threshold. The paper also reports that plants with at least one copy of the non-functional CBDA synthase allele will produce THC in quantities over 0.3%. This genetic distinction could lead to the development of a new way to screen seeds and plants. But first, Weiblen cautions, “Others need to verify our predictions.”

Attending The Science of Industrial Hemp Conference, Weiblen was able to interact with individuals associated with, “basic research, industry perspective, policy perspective, and activists.” And he says, “It’s really very interesting to see where those different perspectives intersect—where they have common ground but also very strong differences.”

Certified seed sources are important for many crops, including grains, grasses, and soybeans. Certification processes were established in 1919 to ensure genetics and varietal integrity of the seeds farmers were planting.

“Certified seed is a verification of the seed source, the growing process in the field, and finally, the analysis of the final product—the seed that’s going to be marketed,” says Rick Novak, Extension Seed Specialist and Director of Seed Programs at Colorado State University. “The whole goal that we have is to provide a quality product.”

Novak has been working on seed production for more than 30 years and says hemp is the perfect example of why certified seed is needed. “[Producers] don’t want to be growing plants that have a chance or tendency to have levels of THC that are above the standards that are set forth by the federal and the state [governments].”

Hemp seeds. Photo courtesy of University of Kentucky College of Agriculture
But growing certified industrial hemp seed has its challenges. “The hemp plant is a very aggressive out-crosser,” Novak says. “So the pollen is very light and there is a lot of it. It moves quite readily from plant to plant.” With this high potential for out-crossing, isolation distances for certified seed range from ~650 ft to more than 3,000 ft depending upon the crops grown nearby (distances for Registered and Foundation seeds are up to 16,000 ft). These distances are greater than many other certified seeds. For example, alfalfa has a minimum isolation distance of 165 ft, and in Colorado, certified grass seed isolation distances range from 15 to 165 ft.

Although hemp research in the U.S. has been limited since the 1930s, Novak and his colleagues benefit from research from other countries that produce industrial hemp. “The information, or the processes that we use, we’re adapting what’s been used in Canada [and Europe] for maintaining genetic purity.” Novak also points out that working with this new crop brings people from different facets of the industry together. “We’re all working together. Certification agencies along with growers to be good stewards.”

Attending the conference, Novak was able to interact with people who are knowledgeable about different aspects of industrial hemp, including fellow researchers and growers. Although many hemp researchers feel that there is not enough research on hemp, by being together for a conference Novak realized “collectively there’s a very large wealth of information.” And, as a member of the organizational committee, he says, “It’s pretty exciting because what we’re trying to do is bring science together so research can be somewhat unified and not duplicated.”

As the industry develops, and more hemp is grown across the U.S., hemp will face the same challenges as other crops. Dr. Janna Beckerman, a professor at Purdue University, says “This is actually a problem with hemp because if you read all of the literature, everybody says that it’s this wonderful, disease-resistant plant that has no pest problems. [But] every living thing has disease and insect problems.”

Beckerman’s hemp research started about two years ago. “We’ve had problems both years—there’s a learning curve involved for planting it out in the field.” But they have been successful in finding pathogens, having two very wet years in Indiana. “We had no problem finding diseases,” she says.

There was also the problem of sourcing seed to establish this research project. “There were no seeds available to purchase in the United States,” Beckerman says, so she had to source seeds from Canada. Using seeds from Canada has shown the need for developing locally adapted varieties of hemp. “[These varieties] might work fine in northern regions of the U.S. but [are] not well-adapted here in Indiana.” And Beckerman would anticipate poor performance further south as well.

Ultimately, Beckerman hopes to understand what pathogens and pests hemp plants are susceptible to, under...
what conditions these problems are likely to develop, and the best practices for controlling them. Part of this process would involve pesticide registration, which takes time for any new crop, "It's not anything that's unique to hemp." However, the strict hemp regulations are likely limiting the research and development of new products.

As with any conference experience, attendees like Beckerman were able to discuss the ups and downs of their research. "The problems that we had are very similar to the problems that they were experiencing in Colorado State and other universities involved in trying to do hemp research." She also appreciated the opportunity to talk directly with growers and for everyone in attendance to realize that there are a lot of scientific and logistical hurdles in their future. "You don’t just get the seed to plant it and develop a supply chain. I think making people aware that the supply chain didn’t exist was really important."

**Conneautville Farmers Exchange Exits Bulk Feed Business**

By Katy Mumaw


The Conneautville Farmers Exchange will no longer be selling bulk feed, according to a letter dated Oct. 4 the company sent to customers. The letter announces that their last delivery day will be Oct. 28 and their plans to remain open as a bagged feed and farm supply store. It also notes their intentions to expand hours and product lines.

Customer Mark Creacraft of Centerville, Pennsylvania, received the letter from Conneautville Farmers Exchange and is scrambling to find a new feed source for his dairy herd. "They did all of our rations work and we got soy and mineral mix from them," said Creacraft, a 15-year patron. "I also stored grain there and used it as a grain bank. I'm not sure what I'm going to do now."

"My cows were milking very well with them and now to be forced to make a switch, I'm worried about how my cows are going to react to a new ration," said Creacraft, who milks about 60 head with a total of 150 including replacement heifers and steers.

"There are other places, even closer places, but I know they will be more expensive and a two weeks’ notice just isn’t enough time," he said. "I know some neighbors and some in the western part of the county [Crawford County] that are really scrambling to figure out where they will store grain and get feed." "It would have been one thing to let us know they would be done, like at the end of the year, given us time to plan and switch, but I don't know what is going on," he said. Owner Cameron Wright declined to speak with the *Farm and Dairy* newspaper.

**Northeast Ohio Beef Twilight Tour to be Held This Thursday October 27, 2016**

OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association invite area beef producers to attend the 2016 Northeast Ohio Fall Beef Twilight Tour on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at Pyma Love Farm located at 16183 Phelps Road just over the Ohio border in Linesville, PA. The Love Family has been operating this farm since 1953. This multi-generation farm family manages 70 Angus cows and their calves. They farm 100 acres of hay and manage 15 rotationally grazed paddocks spread over 107 acres.
During the tour, participants will learn more about the 40’ by 144’ pack barn built in 2014 and how a 12’ covered feed alley added in 2015 has reduced hay waste by almost 50%. See the new 40’ by 104’ manure storage building built in 2015.

During the tour, participants will see a demonstration of the Hustler Bale Processor which allows for the easy feeding of the herd both in the barn and in the pasture. This method of pasture feeding is more efficient than in round bale feeders. Learn how this feeding method is reducing pasture damage, increasing pasture quality, and allows the entire herd equal access to quality feed. Learn how water is being provided to each of the paddocks.

Participants will also learn about the farm’s handling center complete with a calf processing table. Learn more about “Bud Box” cattle movement system. Learn more about their feeding program and how an all-natural mineral program (Thorvin Kelp and Salt Mix) is utilized. Learn how offspring are raised to become replacements, sold as bulls, or raised as grass fed or grain feed freezer beef. This tour will provide a lot of great ideas for beef producers to take back to their operations.

The farm is located at 16183 Phelps Road. The farm is 1.1 mile south of Footville-Richmond Road. Phelps Road is 1.2 miles east of the Pymatuning Lake Road and Footville Road intersection. Dress for the weather as the tour will be held rain or shine! To ensure biosecurity, all participants will be asked to wear protective plastic boots (provided). All-beef hamburgers and hotdogs prepared by Cherry Valley Processing will be served at the conclusion of the program. All northeast Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania beef producers and industry people are invited. This twilight tour is sponsored by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association, OSU Extension, and Pyma-Love Farm. No reservations are needed. For more information or for directions call the OSU Extension office (Ashtabula County) at 440-576-9008. A program flyer can be also be found at: [http://go.osu.edu/ne-events](http://go.osu.edu/ne-events)

**Apply Now for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced Friday, November 18, 2016, as the deadline to submit applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Ohio.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that offers financial and technical assistance to applicants selected for funding who would like to apply conservation practices that benefit both the environment and their agricultural operation. Producers select to submit an application under one of several different funding categories, including the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Initiative, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, organic farming, pollinator habitat development, the Cleveland High Tunnel Initiative, and many others listed on the Ohio NRCS website under “EQIP Application Deadlines.” The ranking questions for each category, payment rates for conservation practices, and eligibility criteria are also available on-line.

Agricultural producers, including urban farmers, and non-industrial private forest land owners now have two options for submitting a signed EQIP application, either in person at their local NRCS office or electronically.
Applications signed and submitted to NRCS by the November 18 deadline will be evaluated for funding this fiscal year.

Applications for EQIP submitted by entities, such as agricultural producers applying as a corporation, must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number and an active SAM (System for Award Management) registration status when applying, a process that may take several weeks. Applications cannot be processed without this information. Information on obtaining a DUNS number and registering with SAM is posted at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill.

Agricultural producers and forest owners may apply for EQIP at any time. Applications submitted after the November 18 deadline will be considered with all other applications submitted by the next ranking deadline announced by NRCS.

For more information about EQIP or other technical or financial assistance programs offered by NRCS, please contact your local service center: http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs

For Trumbull or Portage County producers, contact Kara MacDowell at 330-637-2046 x 109 or Dee Waters at 330-297-7633 x114

27th Annual Ashtabula County Beef Banquet to be held on November 12, 2016 in Lenox, Ohio

OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association will be holding their 27th annual banquet on Saturday, November 12 at the Lenox Community Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. Banquet activities will include a prime rib dinner; business meeting; election of two members to the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s board of directors; entertainment; door prizes; and fine fellowship.

Tickets for the banquet can be purchased from the Directors of the Cattlemen’s Association. Directors are: Bob & Tyler Brown, Dorset Township; Bart Kanicki, Pierpont Township; David Nye, Hartsgrove Township and Zach Ward, Austinburg Township. Tickets are $25 per person. Call the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008 for more information. Pre-reservations should be made by November 4, 2016. A program flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

New Ashtabula County Master Gardeners Sought

The Ashtabula County Extension office is taking applications from Ashtabula County residents for the 2017 Ashtabula & Lake County Master Gardener training program. If you have a strong interest in gardening and enjoy helping others, you are invited to apply to become an Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener volunteer for Ashtabula County.

To become an OSU Extension Master Garden volunteer, you must attend 11 training sessions held from January to April 2017 and volunteer 50 hours of horticultural service to the community through Extension educational programming after the training. Such service could include teaching adults and youth about gardening, planting and maintaining Extension demonstration gardens, answering gardening questions from the public, judging flower and vegetable projects at local fairs, or assisting community garden participants. As a benefit of becoming a Master Gardener, you will increase your knowledge and understanding of such varied horticultural topics as best cultural practices for growing flowers and vegetables, house plant care, plant disease, lawn care, and insect pest identification and control and much, much more.
Course topics include: history of OSU Extension, plant physiology, soils, composting, fertilizers, herbs, houseplants, plant propagation, plant pathology, diagnostics, entomology, integrated pest management, vegetables, lawns, woody ornamentals, fruits, landscape maintenance, and making effective presentations.

The dates for this year's training program are: January 25; February 1, 9, 15 & 22; March 1, 8, 15 & 22 and April 5 & 19. This program is taught in conjunction with the Lake County Master Gardener program. Five of the sessions will be taught at the Ashtabula County Extension Office in Jefferson and five will be taught in Lake County. All courses will be taught from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. There is a $210 course fee that covers course materials, refreshments, and speaker travel costs. Registration is limited and all applications are due by November 1, 2016. Please call the Ashtabula County Extension Office at 440-576-9008 for more information or for a complete application packet.

David's Weekly News Column
Published on October 26, 2016 in the Jefferson Gazette & October 30, 2016 in the Star Beacon

Hello, Ashtabula County! I cannot believe that it is the end of October already! Mother Nature has provided some great colors this fall. A lot of brilliant oranges and reds in the trees! What a great benefit to living in Northeast, Ohio. As we move into the month of November, I would like share details on our November 17 pesticide re-certification and fertilizer certification sessions and give a reminder of the application deadline for the 2017 Ashtabula County Master Gardener Training program.

As we creep into the month of November, it means that the S word (snow) will be getting closer. For the farmers who head south to skip out on the white fluffy stuff, it always conflicts with getting their private pesticide applicator license renewed before the end of March. To help our snowbird farmers with this predicament, we have planned a special private pesticide applicator session for November 17, 2016 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon. This session will be held at the Trumbull County Extension office in Cortland, Ohio. This session is open to any private pesticide applicator who wants to get their re-certification completed before the snow flies.

This workshop will offer 3 credits for re-certification for CORE and All Categories (1-7). The registration fee of $35/per person is required by November 8, 2016. Registration includes refreshments, speaker travel expenses, and program handouts. Make checks payable to OSU Extension and mail to OSU Extension-Geauga County, PO Box 387, Burton, Ohio 44021. Late registration will be $60 per person, so make sure to get your registration before the end of next week.

Following the morning pesticide re-certification session, a lunch will be offered for $10 per person. After this lunch, a commercial fertilizer applicator certification session will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Due to Ohio’s new legislation, any farmer who applies commercial fertilizer to 50 acres or more must be certified by September 20, 2017. This session will allow farmers to complete this new requirement. Best of all this session is being offered free of charge.

More information about either of these sessions can be obtained by calling the Geauga County Extension office at 440-834-4656. Additional sessions will be held in 2017 on January 13 in Williamsfield, January 27 in Burton, and February 8 in Cortland, Ohio.

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To close, I would like share a quote from Hal Borland who stated, "Two sounds of autumn are unmistakable, the hurrying rustle of crisp leaves blown along the street or road by a gusty wind, and the gabble of a flock of migrating geese. Both are warnings of chill days ahead, fireside and topcoat weather." Have a good and safe day!
Join us for the **2016 Northeast Ohio Fall Beef Twilight Tour** as we visit Pyma Love Farm just over the Ohio border in Linesville, PA. The Love Family has been operating this farm since 1953. This multi-generation farm family manages 70 Angus cows and their calves. They farm 100 acres of hay and manage 15 rotationally grazed paddocks spread over 107 acres.

During the tour, participants will learn more about the 40' by 144' pack barn built in 2014 and how a 12' covered feed alley added in 2015 has reduced hay waste by almost 50%. See the new 40' by 104' manure storage building built in 2015.

During the tour, participants will see a demonstration of the Hustler Bale Processor which allows for the easy feeding of the herd both in the barn and in the pasture. This method of pasture feeding is more efficient than in round bale feeders. Learn how this feeding method is reducing pasture damage, increasing pasture quality, and allows the entire herd equal access to quality feed. Learn how water is being provided to each of the paddocks.

Participants will also learn about the farm’s handling center complete with a calf processing table. Learn more about “Bud Box” cattle movement system. Learn more about their feeding program and how an all-natural mineral program (Thorvin Kelp and Salt Mix) is utilized. Learn how offspring are raised to become replacements, sold as bulls, or raised as grass fed or grain feed freezer beef. This tour will provide a lot of great ideas for beef producers to take back to their operations.

**Directions on Back**
The farm is located at 16183 Phelps Road. The farm is 1.1 mile south of Footville-Richmond Road. Phelps Road is 1.2 miles east of the Pymatuning Lake Road and Footville Road intersection.

Dress for the weather as the tour will be held rain or shine! To ensure biosecurity, all participants will be asked to wear protective plastic boots (provided). All-beef hamburgers and hotdogs prepared by Cherry Valley Processing will be served at the conclusion of the program. All northeast Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania beef producers and industry people are invited. This twilight tour is sponsored by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association, OSU Extension, and Pyma-Love Farm. No reservations are needed. For more information or for directions call the OSU Extension office (Ashtabula County) at 440-576-9008.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.
You own the woods now what do you want to do with it? Landowners have lots of thoughts about what they want their woodland to be. Let’s explore the process of figuring out what you have, what you want and how to get there. We will look at a variety of ways to approach woodland management that will result in a healthy thriving woodland. This is a free event sponsored by OSU Extension in Trumbull, Ashtabula, and Geauga Counties. For more information or to register for this event call 330-638-6783 or email Lee Beers (beers.66@osu.edu).

**Topics Will Include:**
- Woodland Management
- Forest Inventory Assessment
- Introduction to Syrup Production
- And More!

*Space is limited to first 40 registrants. Call 330-638-6783 or send an email to beers.66@osu.edu to register for this free event.*

**October 26, 2016 – 6-9pm**

OSU Extension **Ashtabula County**
39 Wall St.
Jefferson, OH 44047

*The scheduled events in Trumbull and Geauga Counties have been canceled.*