Hello, Northeast Ohio Counties!

Wow, the rain continues. The Youngstown airport is reporting 1.5 inches of rain for the past week, but many locations in NE Ohio received over 3 inches of rain locally. Unfortunately, the forecast doesn’t look favorable for those that still have fields to plant, or hay to make. Weather models from NOAA indicate that we will dry out by mid June and then continue to be dry for the remainder of the summer.

Corn and soybeans are up in many locations, and overall look pretty good. We’ll be out and about in the next few weeks scouting for diseases and pests, and if you find any disease please let us know.

Have a good and safe week!

David Marrison  
Extension Educator  
Ag & Natural Resources  
Ashtabula County

Lee Beers  
Extension Educator  
Ag & Natural Resources  
Trumbull County
Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association Announces Youth Scholarship Winners

The Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association is pleased to announce that two Ashtabula County students have been selected to each receive a Cattlemen’s Youth Scholarship for the 2017-2018 School Year. This scholarship fund was established in 2011 to award scholarships to deserving Ashtabula County students for their involvement in the beef industry in Ashtabula County.

Levi Cole, son of Joe and Deana Cole, of Dorset is the recipient of the $1,000 Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association Youth Scholarship for High School Seniors. Levi is a 2017 graduate of Jefferson High School and will be attending college next fall to study International Affairs and Economics.

Andrew Holden, son of Glen and Robin Holden, of Pierpont, is the recipient of the $500 Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association Youth Scholarship for College Students. Andrew is a 2015 graduate of Pymatuning Valley High School and is currently attending The Ohio State University majoring in Agri-Business and Applied Economics.

Congratulations to Levi and Andrew for being selected as 2017-2018 Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association Youth Scholarship Winners.

Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Honors Top Wines

By: Ashley McDonald, ashley.mcdonald@agri.ohio.gov

Ohio Agriculture Director David T. Daniels honored the Director’s Choice recipients at an event held at the Statehouse for retailers, distributors, restaurateurs and winery owners on May 26, 2017. More than 20 wines were evaluated by a panel of judges, on behalf of Director Daniels, for the highly coveted award. The 2017 award recipients are:

Best White Wine:
2016 Ferrante Grand River Valley Vidal Blanc
Ferrante Winery, Ashtabula County

2015 Doughty Glen Misty Meiner
Doughty Glen Winery, Holmes County

Best Red Wine:
Valley Vineyards Red Reflections
Valley Vineyards, Warren County

Ohio Department of Agriculture Director David T. Daniels presents the Director’s Choice Award for the Best White Wine. Pictured (l to r): Representative John Patterson, Jim Arbaczewski of Ferrante Winery, David T. Daniels and Eric Guggisberg of Doughty Glen Winery.
Best Rose':
Terra Cotta Chambourcin Rosé
Terra Cotta Vineyards, Muskingum County

In addition, Daniels presented Pamela Ledyard of Stoney Ridge Winery (Williams County) with the Grape Grower of the Year award, and Andrew Codispoti of Gervasi Vineyard (Stark County) with the Winemaker of the Year award.

All of the Director’s Choice award recipients are eligible for the Ohio Quality Wine designation. It was created in 2007 by the Ohio Grape Industries Committee and is assigned to wines made from at least 90 percent Ohio-grown grapes. These wines must also achieve at least 15 of 20 points on a sensory evaluation and pass a chemical analysis before receiving the quality seal.

The Ohio Grape Industries Committee is housed at the Ohio Department of Agriculture and provides wineries a means to market their top-quality wines against well-known California and European wines. To learn more about the program or for a complete list of Ohio Quality Wines, visit www.tasteohiowines.com.

Newly Revised Ohio Agronomy Guide for Sale

By: Alayna DeMartini, demartini.3@osu.edu

A lot can change in 12 years! That's why the 2005 edition of the Ohio Agronomy Guide was just revised to offer the most up-to-date guidelines for planting corn, soybeans, wheat and forages in Ohio, managing the pests they attract and enriching the soil in which they grow.

All the guidelines offered in the book are specific to Ohio and based on research in Ohio fields. If a farmer, forced to delay planting soybeans, wonders: what variety of seed should I sow? And how should I change my seeding rate?

The answers are in the soybean chapter of the guide that offers advice from 19 contributors including agronomists, entomologists, plant pathologists, soil scientists and agricultural engineers. "It's a nice go-to reference. It covers every topic and pretty much any scenario," said Laura Lindsey, a soybean and small grains specialist with Ohio State University Extension. Lindsey edited the book with Peter Thomison, an OSU Extension agronomist. OSU Extension is the statewide outreach arm of The Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

The new edition of the Ohio Agronomy Guide includes three new chapters: cover crops and how to manage them, precision agriculture and setting up field trials on farms. "It encompasses every aspect of crop management," Lindsey said. Chapters include: Ohio’s Climate and Soil, Soil and Water Management, Soil Fertility, Corn Production, Soybean Production, Small Grain Production, Forage Production, Multiple Cropping and Pasture and Grazing Management.
The newly revised Ohio Agronomy Guide is $15.75 and will be available soon at OSU Extension county offices or can be purchased now through the CFAES Publications estore at http://go.osu.edu/OhioAgronomyGuide

**Maple Syrup Value Added Products Workshop**

By Les Ober, Geauga County

Marketing maple syrup in recent years has been a challenge. Unless you have well established retail markets at least a portion of your syrup has to be sold on the bulk market at a lower price. If you are only marketing your syrup in containers you may be missing out on one of the best opportunities to sell your product. Selling your syrup through value added products such as candy, maple coated nuts and other maple products can greatly enhance your bottom line. It also represents the best chance for a small producer to break into the market. The problem is where and how do you get started making maple value added products?

The Geauga County OSU Extension has invited one of the most recognized authorities on maple confections, the author of the Cornell University Maple Confections Notebook, New York State Maple syrup Specialist Stephen Childs. Steve will present two programs. On Saturday June 24, 2017 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the OSU Extension office, Geauga County, 14269 Claridon Troy Road, Burton, OH 44021. Steve will demonstrate how to make some of the most popular maple confections and products. The Saturday morning program will be a limit of 35 attendees. As an added bonus, Steve will present a program on Friday Evening June 23rd starting at 7pm at the OSU Extension office, covering some of the new and exciting maple production research now being conducted at Cornell University. This will include some of the recent results in tap hole sanitation and 3/16 tubing.

If you are a maple producer this will be a great opportunity to increase your knowledge in maple products and production. The cost of the confections class will be $25.00 per person. If you are attending the Saturday Program there will be no additional charge for Friday evening. If you choose to attend only the Friday evening program, the charge will be $10.00. Both programs will require advanced pre-registration by June 19th. If you are coming to the confections class we are asking that you submit payment in advance because of the limited access. For more information, or to pre-register for this great maple syrup
Northeast Ohio Agriculture

educational weekend please call the Geauga County OSU Extension at 440-834-4656 or send payment payable to OSU Extension, P.O. Box 387, Burton, OH 44021.

**Good Agricultural Practices Training Workshop— Friday, June 16, 2017**

By Erik Draper, Geauga County Horticulture Educator

Good Agricultural Practices, or GAPs, for fruit and vegetable production will be the focus of this three- hour training. The workshop will be held on June 16, 2017 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Ohio State University Extension, Geauga County office, located at 14269 Claridon-Troy Road, Burton, OH 44021. “The Food and Drug Administration released the final produce safety rule as part of the Food Safety Modernization Act”, said Lindsey Hoover of Ohio State University’s Fruit and Vegetable Safety Team. “Whether or not a farm will be exempt from these rules, all growers are responsible for providing safe produce to their consumers.”

Ohio State University Extension educators will present the 3-hour GAPs program. Participants will receive standard operating procedures, recordkeeping paperwork, presentation handouts, and a certificate of participation, as verification to customers that the farm operator has received training in GAPs.

But Hoover said attendees won’t actually become “certified in GAPs” by attending the GAPs class. That certification comes only through having one of many possible farm audits conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or a 3rd party company. “Find out what your farmers’ market, produce auction, or buyers require. Some may require training on GAPs, while others may require the full food safety farm plan and farm audit, or both.” Many large grocery chains require their produce suppliers to have full food safety plans and audits. On the other hand, for small farms selling at stands and markets, learning about GAPs is a good way to stay competitive.

Contact the Ohio State University Extension Office to RSVP by calling (440) 834-4656, or email to ward.714@osu.edu. Registration is $20 per person, payable by cash or check, with checks made out to “Ohio State University Extension.” The total registration cost is reduced due to a grant from the Ohio Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Program, which helps to cover costs and is only $20. More information can be found at [http://geauga.osu.edu](http://geauga.osu.edu)

**Comparing green manures in no-till crop sequence**

By Tracy Hmielowski

Source: [https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/cns/articles/50/3/44](https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/cns/articles/50/3/44)

Farmers use “green manure” to protect soil, fix nitrogen, and scavenge nutrients when cash crops are not present. These cover crops can also reduce weeds and act as a mulch for cash crops in no-till systems. Because of the increasing use of cover crops in no-till systems,
researchers at Penn State recently compared two green manure cover crops, red clover (*Trifolium pratense* L.) and hairy vetch (*Vicia villosa*Roth).

“One of the reasons that we compared these was that farmers have started interseeding red clover,” says Heather Karsten, Associate Professor of Crop Production/Ecology. Interseeding, she explains, is also called relay cropping where farmers frost seed or drill red clover into a small grain very early in the spring.

Karsten is a co-author on a study recently published in *Agronomy Journal*, titled “Green Manure Comparison between Winter Wheat and Corn: Weeds, Yields, and Economics.” The authors report that red clover treatments were more profitable than hairy vetch due to increased cash crop yield and reduced herbicide application.

Dr. William Curran, Weed Extension Specialist, had done prior research using hairy vetch in organic farming systems. As a co-author on this paper, Curran says, “I went into this thinking hairy vetch would be the winner . . . the results of this study surprised me a little bit.”

The experiment was conducted at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Station in Pennsylvania. From 2010 to 2013, green manures were used in a winter cereal–green manure–corn silage rotation. As Karsten mentioned, the red clover treatment was interseeded into the cereal grain crop whereas the hairy vetch, which was combined with triticale, was planted after the wheat harvest. Red clover was harvested for hay in late fall before corn was planted the following spring, and both cover crop treatments were terminated with herbicide in spring prior to corn planting.

Corn yields were consistently greater in red clover treatments. The difference was significant in 2012 and 2013 when corn yields were 16 and 9% greater, respectively, in red clover treatments compared with hairy vetch. “We don’t have all the explanations for why,” admits Karsten, but she says in 2012 and 2013, corn populations were significantly higher after red clover, and corn pest populations appear to be the culprits although there may also have been more nitrogen available from clover.

There was little difference in weed control, measured as weed biomass, between the two green manure treatments. However, red clover required fewer herbicide applications in the spring, amounting to a 28% reduction in herbicide active ingredient use. “Anytime you can use less herbicide, it’s an advantage,” says Curran, both economically by reducing costs, and ecologically by reducing selection for herbicide-resistant weed biotypes.
The economic benefits of increased yield, reduced herbicide, and harvesting red clover as forage were calculated as $548/ac more in net returns compared with hairy vetch. Even without the harvest of red clover for forage, the red clover treatments would have $50/ac greater profit than hairy vetch.

The results of this study may lead more farmers, agronomic consultants, and educators to consider the use of red clover as a green manure.

“I know of conventional and organic dairy and grain farmers in Pennsylvania and New York who relay crop red clover into wheat before corn,” Karsten says. “And now, we have multiple reasons to recommend red clover over hairy vetch to more growers.”

Although red clover was the higher-performing green manure in this system, the authors point out that there are some limitations. Karsten explains that if wheat fields have high weed pressure, “then this interseeding might not be the best practice, but if weed populations are manageable and the typical sequence does involve rotating to corn, then we think this is a good strategy.”

Cover crops are not a cure-all and need to be used strategically. Before starting to use green manure, Curran advises farmers to “really think through the process,” meaning that farmers should take into account what benefits they hope to gain from using a green manure and how they will manage both the green manure and cash crops throughout the growing season.

**How You Can Help the Sun Make Hay When It Shines!**

By Mark Sulc, OSU Extension Forage Specialist


In a recent CORN newsletter article I encouraged patience in waiting for soils to firm up before attempting to make our first cutting of hay after the heavy rains we received over the weekend. Once the soils are firm enough, there are several proven techniques that can speed up the hay curing process.

**Haylage vs. hay.**

Consider making haylage/silage or balage instead of dry hay. Since haylage is preserved at higher moisture contents, it is a lot easier to get it to a proper dry matter content for safe preservation. Proper dry matter content for chopping haylage can often be achieved within 24 hours or less as compared with 3 to 5 days for dry hay.

Proper dry matter content for silage ranges from 30 to 50% (50 to 70% moisture) depending on the structure used. Wrapped balage should be dried to 40 to 55% dry matter (45 to 60% moisture). Compare that to dry hay that should be baled at 80 to 85% dry matter (15 to 20% moisture), depending on the size of the bale package. The larger and more dense the dry hay package, the dryer it has to be to avoid spoilage.
Mechanically condition the forage.  
Faster drying of cut forage begins with using a well-adjusted mower-conditioner to cause crimping/cracking of the stem (roller conditioners) or abrasion to the stems (impeller conditioners). At least 90% of the stems should be cracked or crimped with roller conditioners or should show some mechanical abrasion when using impeller conditioners. Some excellent guidelines for adjusting these machines can be found in an article by Dr. Ronald Schuler of the University of Wisconsin, available online at fyi.uwex.edu/forage/harvest/.

Consider desiccants.  
Desiccants are chemicals applied when mowing the crop that increase the drying rate. The most effective desiccants contain potassium carbonate or sodium carbonate. They are more effective on legumes than grasses and most useful for making hay rather than silage or balage. Desiccants work best under good drying conditions, but don’t help much when conditions are humid, damp, and cloudy. Consider the weather conditions before applying them.

Maximize exposure to sunlight.  
I once heard someone say “You can’t dry your laundry in a pile, so why do you expect to dry hay that way?” Exposure to the sun is the single most important weather factor to speed drying. The trick is to expose to sunshine as much of the cut forage as possible.
The swath width should be about 70% of the actual cut area. The mowers on the market vary in how wide a windrow they can make, but even those that make narrow windrows have been modified to spread the windrow wider. Details can be found in articles at the Univ. of Wisconsin website mentioned above (see especially “Getting the Most from the Mower Conditioner” by Kevin Shinners).

Another way to spread out and aerate the crop for faster drying is with a tedder. Tedders are especially effective with grass crops, but can cause excessive leaf loss in legumes if done when the leaves are dry. Tedders can be a good option when the ground is damp, because the crop can be mowed into narrow windrows to allow more ground exposure to sunlight for a short time, and then once the soil has dried a bit the crop can be spread out with the tedder. When making haylage, if drying conditions are good, rake multiple wide swaths into a windrow just before chopping. For hay, if drying conditions are good, merge or rake multiple wide swaths into a windrow the next morning when the forage is 40 to 60% moisture to avoid excessive leaf loss.

Research studies and experience have proven that drying forage in wide swaths can significantly speed up drying. Faster drying in wide swaths results in less chance of rain damage and studies by the University of Wisconsin showed that wide swaths (72% of the cut width) result in lower NDF and higher energy in the stored forage.

Consider a preservative.  
Sometimes the rain just comes quicker than we have time for making dry hay. As mentioned above, making haylage helps significantly with this. A second option is to use a preservative. The most effective preservatives are based on propionic acid, which is caustic to equipment, but many buffered propionic preservatives are available that minimize that problem.
Preservatives inhibit mold growth and allow safe baling at moisture contents a little higher than the normal range for dry hay. Carefully follow the preservative manufacturer’s directions and application rates for the hay moisture content at baling.

**Watch wet bales carefully!**
If hay is baled at higher moisture contents that are pushing past the safe limits, keep a close watch on them for two to three weeks. Use a hay temperature probe and monitor the internal temperature of the hay during the first three weeks after baling.

Every year someone’s barn burns down because of spontaneous combustion of wet hay. So if hay is on the wetter side, keep it outside or in a well-ventilated area. Don’t stack wet hay, because that prevents the heat and moisture left in the hay from escaping.

It is normal for hay to go through a “sweat” in the few days after baling. Internal temperatures of 110 F in the first five days after baling are quite common in our region and are not a big concern.

Hay bale temperatures of 120 to 130 F will likely result in mold growth and will make the protein in the hay less available to animals. While those temperatures are not high enough to cause hay fires, the concern is if the mold growth continues and pushes temperatures upward into the danger zone.

If the temperature in the hay continues to rise, reaching 160 to 170 F, then there is cause for alarm. At those elevated temperatures, other chemical reactions begin to occur that elevate the temperature much higher, resulting in spontaneous combustion of the hay in a relatively short period of time.

My hope is that a disastrous hay fire never happens to you or someone you know! It can be avoided by careful attention to the management practices along with cooperation from the sun. Have a safe and successful hay and haylage making season!

**Effective High Tunnel Vegetable Growing Workshop—**
**Wednesday, June 21, 2017**
By Erik Draper, Geauga County Horticulture Educator

The Ohio State University Extension of Geauga County is offering an educational workshop on June 21, 2017 from 9:00-4:00pm at the OSU Extension, Geauga County office, located at 14269 Claridon-Troy Road, Burton, OH 44021. During this interactive workshop, we will discuss the emerging challenges of how to best use low, mid, and high tunnels (hoop huts/greenhouses) in commercial vegetable production. Register quickly because CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED to the FIRST 50 participants and PRE-registration is required. The total registration cost for this workshop is $20 per person (used for refreshments and lunch).

This interactive workshop will feature discussions on individual practices, like how to effectively manage multiple factors of soils, crops, pests, and diseases, from before planting the crop, to after the harvest. The intent is to integrate good horticultural and cultural practices and
techniques, to develop an effective approach for high quality vegetable production in high-tunnels.

All participants of this workshop, will have the opportunity to learn from the experiences, both good and not so good outcomes, of everyone in the workshop. The topics and discussions will flow from questions posed to the presenters; namely’ Brad Bergefurd (horticulture), Luis Canas (pest management), Erik Draper (horticulture), Matt Kleinhenz (horticulture), and Sally Miller (disease management). These presenters will serve as informational science-based resources for this workshop, all representing The Ohio State University.

For additional information and to register, please contact the Ohio State University Extension Office by calling (440) 834-4656, or email to ward.714@osu.edu. Registration is $20 per person, cash or check. Please mail payment by June 16, payable to “Ohio State University Extension”, P.O. Box 387, Burton, OH 44021. More information can be found at http://geauga.osu.edu.

**Small Grains Field Day Scheduled for June 13**

The OARDC Schaffter Farm located at 3240 Oil City Rd., Wooster, will be the host location for the 2017 Small Grains Field Day scheduled for Tuesday, June 13. Registration is now being accepted for the event which runs from 9:30 am and concluding around 3:15 pm. In addition to looking at how small grains are used as a grain crop the field day will also provide information and demonstrations about wheat quality and use in food products, small grains as cover crops, alternative forages, and how small grains fit into row cropping systems.

Participants will have the opportunity to walk through research plots, take part in hands-on activities and view equipment demonstrations. Both commercial and private pesticide applicator credits as well as Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) credits will be offered to field day participants. Topics that will be covered at the Small Grains Field Day include:

- Wheat Disease Identification and Management: Pierce Paul OSU Extension Wheat Disease Specialist
- Wheat Breeding to Develop Disease Resistant Varieties: Clay Sneller, The Ohio State University, Wheat Breeding and Genetics
- Wheat Quality Evaluation: Byung-Kee Baik, USDA-ARS Wheat Quality Lab
- Winter Two-row Malting Barley Development: Robin Coffman, Research Assistant, Stockinger Lab
- Use of Small Grain Cover Crops in Soybean Production (Crimping and planting demonstrations): Mike Sword, OARDC Superintendent Farm Operations and Scott Ruck, ATI Farm Operations Manager - Crops
- Small Grain Baleage: Rory Lewandowski, Wayne County Extension
- The Importance of Wheat Harvest Date: Laura Lindsey OSU Extension Soybean Specialist
- Wheat Nitrogen and Growth Promoter Application Demonstrations: Mike Sword, OARDC Superintendent Farm Operations and Scott Ruck, ATI Farm Operations Manager - Crops
• Kernza: A New Perennial Small Grain Under Development, Steve Culman, OSU Extension Soil Fertility Specialist
• Reduced Lignin Alfalfa: Getting More with Less, Angie Parker OSU Forage Graduate Student
• Organic oats and Red Clover Plots (optional 3:15 – 4:00 pm session): Gerald Reid, Manager, Farm Operations, OARDC Badger Farm

Pre-registration is requested. The cost is $25/person if registered by June 5. Late registration after June 5 is $35/person. Registration includes handout materials, lunch and refreshments. Registration is available on-line at: http://regonline.com/smallgrains or registration forms and checks (Made payable to Ohio State University Extension) can be sent to the Wayne County Extension office at 428 West Liberty Street, Wooster OH  44691. An informational flyer and field day registration form is available on-line at: http://go.osu.edu/smallgrainsfieldday

The Small Grains Field Day is sponsored by the following organizations:
• Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC)
• Ohio State University ATI
• Ohio State University Extension
• Ohio Certified Seed Association
• Ohio Corn & Wheat Board
• Ohio Soybean Council

For more information, contact the Wayne County Extension office at 330-264-8722.

Let’s Eat Local! Discover the Abundance of Ashtabula County

The Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteers, the Ashtabula Local Food Council, and Ashtabula County Community Action Agency have teamed up to promote local foods and local farmers! On Tuesday, June 13th, these groups will present information on local food options available in Ashtabula County. This presentation will take place at the Ashtabula Public Library, 4335 Park Avenue and will cover how to find and buy local food.

The public is invited to attend this free event to learn all about local foods, including fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs, honey and maple syrup. All attendees will receive a free guide to farms in Ashtabula County and will have the opportunity to sample local goods.

Doors open at 5:30 with speakers starting at 6:00 p.m. Organizers anticipate a healthy turnout. “Interest in local foods is at an all-time high” states one of the program organizers Meghan Davis, “We are thrilled to be bringing this information to the public to help promote local foods and local farmers!”

Organizers encourage attendees to come early and visit with their local farmers. There will be booths set up around the room with tables featuring local farms and producers. Participants can
visit each table and learn about the products and growing practices of area farms. Please come show your support for local foods and learn about the Abundance Ashtabula County has to offer!

**David’s Weekly News Column**  
As Published in the Jefferson Gazette on May 31, 2017

Hello, Ashtabula County! Can you believe how quickly May has passed? I know our farmers will be excited for June to arrive. Hopefully the month of June will bring drier weather so we can get the remainder of our crops planted and get to making hay. Today, I would like to announce the winners of the two Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Scholarships and remind farmers to get their fertilizer certification completed by the end of September. Welcome to the month of June!

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The Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association is pleased to announce that two Ashtabula County students have been selected to each receive a Cattlemen’s Youth Scholarship for the 2017-2018 School Year. This scholarship fund was established in 2011 to award scholarships to deserving Ashtabula County students for their involvement in the beef industry in Ashtabula County.

Levi Cole, son of Joe and Deana Cole, of Dorset is the recipient of the **$1,000 Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association Youth Scholarship** for High School Seniors. Levi is a 2017 graduate of Jefferson High School and will be attending college next fall to study International Affairs and Economics.

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Congratulations to Levi and Andrew for being selected as 2017-2018 Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association Youth Scholarship Winners.

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With the passage of Ohio Senate Bill 150 in June 2014, farmers who apply fertilizer to over 50 acres of cropland each year are subject to a new certification requirement. Farmers who fall under this new requirement must complete their certification by September 30, 2017. The OSU Extension offices in northeast Ohio have been offering 3 hour certification sessions monthly in 2017 so that producers may obtain their certification. If you have not attended, time is running out!

Agricultural fertilizer applicator certification is required for farmers who apply fertilizer to more than 50 acres of agricultural crops grown primarily for sale. Fertilizer is defined for this program as any substance containing nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, or other plant nutrient in a dry or liquid formulation. Certification is also required for commercial agricultural applicators.
There are a few exemptions to this certificate. First, any farmer who applies fertilizer to less than 50 acres of crops for sale are exempt from the certification process. Note that any acreage raised to be used on-farm to feed livestock is exempt from 50 acre certification threshold. In addition, any farmer who has their fertilizer applied by co-ops or custom applicators are not required to be certified. The agriculture fertilizer certification is valid for three years. After three years, each certificate holder will be required to attend a re-certification class to maintain their certification.

Our next certification session will be held at the Ashtabula County Extension office on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Additional sessions will be held on August 17 in Trumbull County and on September 14 at the Geauga County Extension office. Farmers, from any county, are welcome to attend the session which fits their schedule best.

There is no registration fee to attend any of the sessions. However, pre-registration is required as only 40 persons can attend each session. All registrations will be handled through the Geauga County Extension office. Registration can be made by calling the Geauga County Extension office at 440-834-4656. A registration flyer can also be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events. The Ohio Department of Agriculture is the agency issuing the certification for agriculture fertilizer applications and more information about the certification program can be found at: http://agri.ohio.gov

To close, I would like to leave you with a quote from Bill Graham who stated, “The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.” Have a good and safe day!

**Where Are the Birds?**

Garden Reflections by the Ashtabula County Master Gardeners

When Ashtabula County Master Gardeners speak to local groups about creating bird-friendly landscapes, the volunteers are often asked why certain bird species are disappearing from backyard feeders. At times the answer is simply that some birds, like goldfinches, move from place to place within their territory to ensure a food source isn’t depleted.

Another reason is not quite so benign. Many of our native bird populations are in serious decline due to loss of habitat and subsequent food sources. Last year Audubon scientists announced that one-third of wintering North American bird populations have declined since 1966.

Furthermore, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) reports that 432 of our 1,154 native bird species are at risk of extinction without significant action to stop or decrease

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Northeast Ohio Agriculture 112

Ohio State University Extension
Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties
their decline. Generalists (birds that can adapt to different habitats) fare pretty well. But many species have very specific habitat and food requirements. These birds are in trouble.

Our native field sparrow is a good example. While the European house sparrow thrives near human habitations, the field sparrow lives in shrubby bush and grasslands, avoiding urban areas. Though still common, field sparrows have declined sharply in the last half-century, partly because of the expansion of suburbs, where they will not nest.

Not so common any longer is the cerulean warbler, whose population is dropping faster than any other warbler species in the United States. Between 1966 and 1999, it declined an average of 4% per year throughout its eastern US breeding range for a total population loss of 70%. Current estimates are at around 560,000 birds.

Habitat destruction due to agriculture and development is a major threat to this tiny blue avian. Habitat fragmentation also causes egg parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds, which are more likely to lay their eggs in warbler nests on the edge of forests. Any climate change that disturbs the delicately timed balance of insect emergence the birds rely on for food may further threaten cerulean warblers.

The haunting flute-like song of wood thrushes is also disappearing from the woods in northeastern Ohio and Pennsylvania. For the past 50 years, their numbers have decreased more than 60 percent. Originally, forest loss in Central America was thought to be the primary cause of wood thrush decline, but scientists from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) have found that the steepest regional declines have likely been the result of loss of habitat on breeding grounds in North America.

“The wood thrush is an umbrella species for other migratory birds and non-migratory species that depend on eastern deciduous forest,” Smithsonian’s Clark Rushing has said. “There’s a whole suite of species that have similar habitat requirements, so protecting wood thrush in these places will be beneficial for these other species too.”

What can we do locally to stop or slow down the decimation of native bird populations? Unless we own thousands of acres of land, reestablishing deciduous forests can be a bit difficult. But there is one practice we can easily undertake as homeowners and gardeners to help preserve and protect many native bird species.

We can plant natives. Planting native grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees offer protection and food sources for all of our North American birds. Indigenous insects that won't nibble on exotic plants thrive on native species. That may seem like a good thing to gardeners, but almost all birds need bugs as a food source during the breeding season, and for many species, insects are their primary diet No bugs, no birds!

For more information on which bird populations are at risk and how we can help save them, visit the websites of the National Wildlife Federation, All About Birds, and the National Audubon.
Society.  www.audubon.org has a native plant database, which is especially helpful for local gardeners and homeowners.

Ashtabula County Master Gardeners will be focusing on the importance of native plants in 2017. Articles will include ways to go native, the dangers of alien invasives, and landscaping for birds and other wildlife.

**Upcoming Extension Program Dates**
The following programs have been scheduled for Northeast Ohio farmers. Complete registration flyers can be found at: [http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/upcoming-educational-programs-deadlines](http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/upcoming-educational-programs-deadlines)

**Fertilizer Certification Sessions**
June 14 at Ashtabula County Extension Office from 9:00 to 12:00 noon
August 17 at Trumbull County Field Day (location TBD) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
September 14 at Geauga County Extension Office from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**OSU Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS Training)**
June 16, 2017 in Burton, Ohio

**Producing Vegetables in High Tunnels**
June 21 in Burton, Ohio

**Maple Syrup Value Added Products Workshop**
June 23-24, 2017 in Burton, Ohio

**Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Sessions**
November 16, 2017 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Lake County
January 12, 2018 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon in Ashtabula County
February 2, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Geauga County
February 9, 2018 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon in Portage County
March 9, 2018 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon in Trumbull County

**2018 Northeast Ohio Winter Agronomy School**
Wednesday February 21, 2018

**2017 Ashtabula County Beef Banquet**
Saturday, November 11, 2017

**21st Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show**
Saturday, April 21, 2018
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>David Marrison</th>
<th>Lee Beers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ashtabula County Extension Office</td>
<td>Trumbull County Extension Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>39 Wall Street</td>
<td>520 West Main Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson, OH 44047</td>
<td>Cortland, OH 44410</td>
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<tr>
<td>440-576-9008</td>
<td>330-638-6783</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:marrison.2@osu.edu">marrison.2@osu.edu</a></td>
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<td>ashtabula.osu.edu</td>
<td>trumbull.osu.edu</td>
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Geauga County OSU Extension has invited Steve Childs to put on two programs for local maple producers. On Friday evening, June 23rd at 7:00 pm, Steve will present a program on maple research at Cornell University. On Saturday June 24th at 9:00 am, Steve will cover making value added maple products.

The Friday evening program will cost $10.00. The cost for Saturday’s value added workshop is $25.00 or $30.00 if you are attending both Friday and Saturday programs. Saturday’s program will be limited to 35 participants only.

The Cornell Maple Confections Handbook will be available for an additional $25.00.

Preregistration is required by June 19th - call OSU Extension at 440-834-4656 or send payment payable to OSU Extension, P.O. Box 387, Burton, OH 44021.

Pre-registration is required by June 19th.
OSU Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Training

Friday, June 16, 2017
1 P.M. – 4 P.M.
Geauga County Extension Office
14269 Claridon-Troy Road
Burton, OH 44021

Produce Safety Educational Course:
Covers good agricultural practices or ‘GAPs’, which help reduce the risk of on-farm produce contamination.
Attendees will receive a certificate of participation. Attending the OSU GAPs class does not equate to being GAPs Certified.

Topics Include:
- Worker Training, Health & Hygiene
- Manure and Compost Handling
- Domestic and Wild Animals
- Recordkeeping

Sponsors:
- The Ohio Dept. of Ag Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
- Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center
- Ohio State University Geauga County Extension

For more information contact:
OSU Extension Office – 440-834-4656
gauga.osu.edu

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Please RSVP by June 12, 2017 if you plan to attend. Registration Fee is $20 per person. Make checks payable to The Ohio State University Extension. Mail this registration form and payment to the Geauga County OSU Extension Office, P.O. Box 387, Burton, OH 44021.

How many will be attending __________

Name (s) _______________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: _________________________   Email: ____________________________________________________________________________________________
Producing Vegetables in Tunnels:
A “Bottom Line” Workshop for commercial Growers

What:
A workshop addressing persistent and emerging challenges in using low, mid, and high tunnels in commercial vegetable production more effectively.

Goal: Help growers use tunnels more effectively, regardless of scale, setting, system, or time of year.

Plan: Discuss individual tactics and integrated approaches for including tunnels more effectively in managing crops, soils, pests, and diseases from before planting to after harvest.

Who:
The program is best for growers who have some experience with tunnel-based production or who are serious about beginning to include it in their vegetable business. Everyone present will learn from each other. Brad Begerfurd (horticulture), Luis Canas (pest management), Erik Draper (horticulture), Matt Kleinhenz (horticulture), and Sally Miller (disease management) will serve as resource people representing The OSU.

Why
Vegetable growers and people who look to serve them need to discuss persistent and emerging production issues and possible solutions for them. This workshop will be an opportunity for growers and advisors to educate each other on major issues related to using low, mid, and high tunnels in commercial vegetable production.

How
No formal presentations are scheduled. Instead, learning will take place through interactive small and whole-group discussion. Matt Kleinhenz and Erik Draper will facilitate discussion. Responses to questions will rely on experience but they may also include pictures, drawings, publications, and other resources.

Register soon. Space is limited to 50 participants and PRE-registration is required.

Registration fee = $20 per person (used for refreshments and lunch).

To register, please mail payment by June 16 payable to Ohio State University Extension – P.O. Box 387, Burton, OH 44021. For questions, call or email Erik Draper (440.834.4656; draper.15@osu.edu) or Matt Kleinhenz (330.263.3810; kleinhenz.1@osu.edu).

The workshop is partially supported by USDA NIFA 2014-7000622507.
CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis.
For more information: http://go.osu.edu/cfaes.diversity.
2017 SMALL GRAINS FIELD DAY

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 • 9:30 A.M. - 3:15 P.M.

Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center
Schaffter Farm
3240 Oil City Rd.
Wooster, OH 44691

Program
• Wheat Disease ID and Management
• Wheat Breeding: Developing Disease Resistant Varieties
• Wheat Quality Evaluation
• Use of Small Grain Cover Crops in Soybean Production
• Crimping and Planting Demonstrations
• Winter Two-Row Malting Barley Development
• Reduced Lignin Alfalfa: Getting More With Less
• Kernza Perennial Grain Update
• Small Grain Baleage
• The Importance of Wheat Harvest Date
• Wheat Nitrogen and Growth Promoter Application Demonstration
• Organic Oats and Red Clover Plots (Optional)

Sponsors
• Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association
• Ohio Seed Improvement Association
• Ohio Soybean Council

Education Credits
Pesticide Re-certification and CCA credits are available

For More Information
Rory Lewandowski
lewandowski.11@osu.edu
Wayne County Extension Office, 330-264-8722

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. $25 per person (includes lunch/refreshments/handouts.) Registration deadline is June 5. Registrations received after June 5, $35 per person. Make checks payable to Ohio State University Extension Wayne County. Mail to Wayne County Extension, 428 W. Liberty St., Wooster, OH 44691. Please detach and return this form with your payment. You may also register online: regonline.com/smallgrains. Thank you!

Name(s): __________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Phone number and email address: _______________________

☐ Please check the box if you have mobility restrictions and would like assistance to view the field plots.
Discover the abundance of Ashtabula County

**Let’s Eat Local!**

On Tuesday, June 13, 2017 join us for a free program “Let’s Eat Local!” at the Ashtabula Public Library, 4335 Park Avenue in downtown Ashtabula from 6-8PM.

Get to know Ashtabula County farmers and producers. Learn where to purchase local foods and farm products, such as

- Vegetables
- Fruit
- Honey
- Eggs
- Maple syrup
- Meat
- Cheese
- and more

Sample food products and receive a free local food directory.

Sponsored by the Master Gardener Volunteers of Ashtabula County, Ashtabula Local Food Council and the Ashtabula County Community Action Agency.