Hello, Northeast Ohio Counties!

As you can see the April showers are bringing flowers, but maybe not the kind you are hoping for. The forecast for the next month is for above average temps and above average rainfall which is perfect for weeds, but not so great for field work to get rid of them. We have the new 2017 Weed Control Guides for sale in our offices if you are looking to change up your modes of action this year.

Our spring programming is starting to slow down a bit, but we are offering some great events in the near future. Be sure to check out the upcoming events page in the newsletter. Have a great week and be safe!
Applications Being Accepted for Summer Master Gardener Training Program

The Ashtabula County Extension office is taking applications from Ashtabula County residents for the 2017 Summer 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 Gardener volunteer, you must attend 11 training sessions held from June through August 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, houseplant 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.

An information meeting will be held Monday, May 1, 2017 from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the OSU Extension office at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson. Specifics with regards to the application process, training schedule, course fee, and fingerprinting requirements will be shared at this meeting. It is not mandatory to attend this session if you are applying.

The dates for this year’s training program are: June 7, 15, 21 & 28; July 12, 19, & 26, and August 2, 9 & 30. 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 May 10, 2017. Interviews for the class will be held on May 15, 2017. Please call the Ashtabula County Extension Office at 440-576-9008 for more information or for a complete application packet.

Don’t Remove Your Plants’ Solar Panel by Grazing Too Early!

By Victor Shelton, NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist
Source: http://u.osu.edu/beef/2017/03/29/remove-your-plants-solar-panel-by-grazing-too-early/#more-3092

Yes, it appears that we are trying to having an early spring, but I refuse to count those chicks before they hatch! Abnormally warm weather in February and early March is not that uncommon here in Indiana, unfortunately neither are late March and early April snows. The accumulated growing degree days so far this year, on average across the state, are higher than normal.

Now, it is REALLY early still, but I know how some think about ANY new green growth in the pastures. Let’s think this through. Grazing too early in the spring does nothing but remove the solar panel the plants need to start building sugars and growing new roots. The forages really need to be able to canopy and get a good start before animals start removing that new growth otherwise production will be reduced.
I know sometimes the hay is not the best quality. Better to supplement poor hay and keep feeding it, if available, than to start grazing too early...now I say that somewhat tongue in cheek. Sometimes you want to set the stand back a bit to remove some competition. Such would be the case where you have frost seeded clover into the field. This would only be a factor if it was not grazed down tighter at the end of the previous grazing season or as dormant stockpiled forage. If it was grazed down close before, especially if grazed down before going dormant last fall, then you don’t want to graze it close again, just utilize it in the normal rotation.

Fields that were grazed down tight last fall or over winter as stockpiled forage will not have adequate amount of standing dry matter, i.e., fiber available, and will for sure not be the best fields to start grazing early anyway. Those fields will lack sufficient fiber to go with all the washy high water, high protein forage that will come on with first growth. All ruminant livestock need to balance the carbon nitrogen ratio in their rumen to maintain that mat. If they don’t then they will not perform the way we want them to, i.e., less gain, less milk production. It just goes through them faster than they can effectively utilize it...you know what means, I've said it several times...don’t stand too close behind those cows!

If you would look at the manure consistency during that time period, it is probably very thin, almost watery, not that pudding consistency that is ideal for the rumen. Fields that do not have adequate dry matter to go along with that lush new growth will need to be supplemented to keep the animals in balance. This is a good time period to put out some low quality hay, baled corn stalks or even straw; if they need it, they will eat it.

I would hope you have been able to keep at least one or two fields with some stockpiled forage for early spring use. Stockpiled forages left from the previous season mixed with that new growth grass makes for a nicely balanced sward for grazing in the spring and a really nice place to calve. No or minimal mud, and good quality balanced forage to eat. If you have never tried it, you will wonder why you hadn’t after doing it.

This is one normally one of my favorite times of the year to build fence. We often get nice breaks in the weather, so not too hot or cold and soil conditions are usually very good for pounding posts. If you are in the early stages of doing some divisions and want to keep some flexibility, then utilize longer linear fences dividing bigger areas into longer narrower fields which can be easily subdivided down with temporary fence into whatever size is needed or cut for hay if that is what you want or need to do. Now is a good time to get those soil tests done. Of course, if you haven’t taken any for a while, then it is even a better time. They will pull pretty easy right now and you should have plenty of time to get them sent in and get results back in time to apply any needed nutrients before the real growing season.

It is extremely difficult to maintain a stand of quality forages that will produce quality, nutritious feed without adequate soil fertility levels. Everyone has tried it, but you soon see that by “getting by” with lower levels of nutrients, especially phosphorus and potassium, you are just that, “getting by”, but with lower yields, lower quality forages, and lower carrying capacities. Just like an annual field crop, your forage crop needs to be fertilized and managed. Once the field is to moderate or better levels of fertility it is easy to maintain it there if it is only used for grazing. Any mechanical removal removes nutrients that will have to be replaced. Graze as much as you can and hay as little as you can, especially land that is hard to get fertilizer equipment on.

Nothing affects availability of nutrients more than calcium. It is one element that I’m not sure you really could ever over apply and certainly one of the best first dollars spent! Calcium and its relationship or ratio
with magnesium, have a major impact on the forages ability to extract nutrients from the soil and certainly the acidity or alkalinity of the soil which can certainly dictate what will or can grow there. I would shoot for at least a 4:1 ratio of calcium to magnesium, or 5:1 if a dairy. If you are really short on calcium and start fixing that problem then you might find out that other elements start becoming more readily available. I’ve seen available phosphorus almost double after lime was applied or especially high cal lime. If total phosphorus is a lot higher than available phosphorus on a basic soil test, then calcium is normally not adequate.

Now, if you are going to be taking an early cutting of hay off a field, then putting most or all of your fertilizer on early spring is not too bad an idea; especially any nitrogen. If the application is on pasture, then you may want to rethink that just a little. There is no use adding fuel to the fire adding a lot of nitrogen to that spring growth spurt, you are much better off to wait and do at least a split application. Put on half of it in mid-June toward the end of the spring spurt and the other half on early fall to help that great fall growth period. That June application often will help you keep things going through the summer better . . . especially with some timely rains…if that is possible.

Keep on grazing!

**Domesticated rice goes rogue**  
By Washington University in St. Louis  

A new study in the April 3 issue of *Nature Genetics* describes an ancestry.com-type adventure that reveals the deep history of a family, including some disreputable relatives. But the family in this case is Asian rice (*Oryza sativa*), and the disreputable relatives are the weedy cousins of domesticated rice. Weedy rice is neither wild rice nor crop rice but rather formerly domesticated rice that has shed some traits important to people. Adapted to human coddling, it does not grow outside of agricultural fields, but at the same time, it is not easily harvested and produces unpalatable seeds.

Depending on where you are in the world, the reduction in yield of crop rice can be as high as 90 percent because of these weeds, said Kenneth Olsen, professor of biology at Washington University in St. Louis and the lead author on the paper. Even in the U.S., weedy rice is estimated to be present in 30 percent of rice fields and leads to crop losses of more than $50 million annually.

There are two major strains of weedy rice in the U.S.: strawhull and blackhull awned. (Awns are the long bristles that give some grasses a hairy appearance). Because the two weedy strains evolved independently, they provide an ideal opportunity to study the genetic basis of weediness and, particularly, whether it always arises through the same genetic mechanism.

For this purpose, a team of scientists from China and the U.S. -- including Washington University -- sequenced the genomes of 18 strawhull weeds and 20 blackhull weeds and compared them to 145 previously published genomes of crop and wild varieties of rice.

Analysis showed that: the two weeds evolved from two different crop varieties; they evolved at different stages in the domestication process; and the genetic basis for weediness differs between the strains. It also revealed that, in both cases, relatively few changes were needed to turn the crop plant into a weed.
Rice, in other words, has a proclivity toward weediness. "It's easy to evolve weediness, and it has happened repeatedly," said Olsen. No more stoop labor

"The evolution of weedy crop relatives is an under-recognized part of the domestication process," Olsen continued. "Until recently, few of those studying domestication had given much thought to these weedy doppelgangers that were just kind of persisting on the margins of fields."

When rice is planted by hand, each seedling is scrutinized and weedy ones discarded. But the adoption of mechanized, direct-seeded farming has changed the equation. "The weedy relatives look so much like the crop, they blend in and farmers don't realize they have a problem until they have a real infestation," Olsen said.

One of the most noticeable weedy traits is highly shattering seeds. "When cereal crops were domesticated, people selected against shattering because it made the grain easier to harvest, but if you're a weedy species you want to disperse seed. So with the weedy strains there's a re-emergence of seed shattering," Olsen explained.

Weeds also have very persistent seed dormancy, he said. During domestication, there's selection against dormancy, because farmers select for whatever comes up first. But, again, that's a bad strategy for a weed, so dormancy re-emerges as well.

The combination of shattering and prolonged dormancy means there is a reservoir of weed seeds in crop fields that can come up year after year and outcompete the crop.

Deep history of rice

The genetic analysis undertaken by the team of scientists showed that the two strains of weedy are descended from two separate rice varieties, indica and aus, which were domesticated in different parts of Asia. Most of the rice grown in the U.S. is a third variety, japonica, domesticated in yet another location. For this reason, and because there is comparatively little genetic diversity in the two weedy strains, they were probably introduced to the U.S. as contaminants in grain stocks.

Both weedy strains evolved after rice was domesticated and after some varietal differences had emerged in the crop. But the blackhull weed seems to have diverged from the aus variety of rice much earlier than the strawhull weed diverged from indica.

Crop domestication is a long process usually divided into two stages, Olsen explained. During the first stage, human selection favors "domestication traits" that allow the plant to be cultivated in the first place, such as seedheads that don't shatter easily. Later, human selection favors "improvement traits," such as the popcorn-like aroma and flavor of basmati rice.
The more of these traits a weedy strain possesses, the later it evolved. Both the U.S. weed strains have only the crop variants of three genes that are targets of selection during rice domestication. On the other hand, the strawhull but not the blackhull weedy variety has the genes for most of the widely selected improvement traits.

The blackhull weeds evolved after rice was domesticated but before it was improved, and the strawhull weeds spun off only after rice had been further improved by selection.

De-domestication

Having established when weediness evolved, the scientists looked at how it had evolved by comparing the genomes of the weedy varieties to those of their inferred crop ancestors. They were searching for "signatures of selection," evidence of mutations so favorable they spread rapidly through a population. What they found is that the signatures corresponded to regions of the genome that control weedy traits but not to those affected by domestication. For example, all the weedy rices possess the sh4 mutation that characterizes domesticated non-shattering rices. Eight other gene regions, however, are implicated in the re-acquisition of shattering by the weedy strains.

Moreover, most of the genes for weed adaptation are clustered in genomic islands rather than randomly distributed throughout the genome.

"It's different genomic islands in each weed type," Olsen said. "So changing a crop into a weed doesn't take many genetic changes and it can occur through different genetic mechanisms."

"We should keep in mind the apparent ease with which these agricultural weeds have repeatedly evolved as we shift toward mechanized production practices that promote their success."

"What I find fascinating about these weeds," Olsen said, "is the way they've co-opted the agricultural system. They take advantage of this wonderful environment we're creating by tilling and providing nutrients, and way outcompete the plants that have desirable traits."

Avian Influenza Update
By Mohamed El-Gazzar, DVM, MAM, PhD, DACPV, OSU Extension Vet Team
Source: OSU Veterinary Newsletter – March 31, 2017

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced on March 5, 2017 the detection of H7 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the state of Tennessee. The affected flock is a Broiler Breeder, 30 to 45 weeks of age, located on an 8 house farm (~10,000 birds in each house) in Lincoln County, located in South Central Tennessee, 2 miles from Alabama border. On Thursday March 2nd, mortality increased to 132 dead in one house. On Friday March 4th, mortality jumped up to 500. Positive samples from only one house out of 8 were determined to be H7 by Tennessee NAHLN and confirmed by National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) late Saturday. By Sunday March 6th afternoon, all houses had been depopulated and onsite burial operations were underway. A control zone of 10 miles (not 10 Kilometers) was immediately started and the initial surveillance of commercial and noncommercial poultry premises within this zone (which extends into the state of Alabama) is near completion. No further positive samples within the zone have been detected thus far.
On March 7\textsuperscript{th}, USDA’s NVSL confirmed that the complete subtype of the Tennessee virus is H7N9 based on the full genome sequence of all 8 influenza genomic segments. They also emphasized that based on the sequence the virus is of North American (NA) lineage and “is NOT the same as the China H7N9 virus that has impacted poultry and infected humans in Asia”. As NVSL explains, while the Tennessee and China viruses have the same designated subtype, they belong to genetically distinct lineages. What is referred to as the North American lineage is the genetic lineage that can be found in migratory wild birds of North America. Wild birds are suspected to be the source of this outbreak as well. While there is no identified direct link between wild birds and this particular farm in Tennessee so far, the H7 NA lineage was detected in wild birds multiple times this year. We don’t know how this virus could have jumped from wild to domestic birds, but it is important to note that Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) can transform into HPAI after they circulate in domestic poultry.

On March 9\textsuperscript{th}, the Tennessee State Veterinarian confirmed another H7N9 influenza case in a commercial chicken breeder flock in Giles County, Tennessee, which is the county immediately to the east of Lincoln County, where the initial H7N9 virus was detected. However, this case in Giles County is Low Pathogenic Influenza (LPAI). No mortality or clinical signs were reported and it was detected during a routing surveillance testing. On March 14\textsuperscript{th}, Alabama announced investigation of 3 potential cases of H7 in Jackson, Lauderdale, and Madison counties in north Alabama, all low pathogenic, one in a commercial breeder and two in noncommercial flocks. Latter on March 16\textsuperscript{th} a second case of H7 HPAI was confirmed in another broiler breeder flock just one mile away from the index case in Tennessee with high mortality. On March 18\textsuperscript{th} a commercial breeder flock was confirmed to be H7 positive in Christian County, Kentucky with no clinical signs suggesting that it is low pathogenic. Then two more cases were confirmed in Pickens and Madison counties in Alabama on March 22\textsuperscript{nd}. And finally on March 22\textsuperscript{nd} a flock of commercial poultry in Cullman County has tested positive for H7 with no clinical signs.

All in all, we had two highly pathogenic H7 cases, both in Tennessee, 1 mile apart. Also, we had several low pathogenic H7 cases in commercial and noncommercial poultry in Tennessee, Alabama, and Kentucky, in addition to one detection of H7 in wild birds in Kentucky. These findings highly suggest that we have a low pathogenic virus given the chance to circulate in domestic poultry until it was transformed into a highly pathogenic virus. This is similar to the Indiana H7 HPAI outbreak of last year.
Meanwhile, another reportable influenza virus was detected in a commercial turkey flock in the state of Wisconsin. A 6-house farm containing 84,000 market turkey toms with 3 houses at 16 weeks of age and 3 houses at 6 weeks of age was confirmed to be positive for H5N2 North American Lineage virus, which is different from the 2015 virus. This virus was classified as LPAI, mild signs of depression prompted the testing of the flock. But because it’s an H5 virus, and has the capacity to transform into a HPAI, it is reportable to international organizations. This flock will not be depopulated, it will be sent to the processing plant through a controlled marketing process. The flock will be tested using PCR weekly to ensure the cessation of viral shedding before they are moved to the processing plant.

For the second year in a row, an influenza virus was able to jump from wild birds to a commercial poultry population and turn into HPAI. In our view, this points to a significant weakness in our influenza surveillance systems. Our inability to detect these viruses while they are circulating in domestic poultry, allowing them to blindside us and showing as HPAI outbreaks, invites a revision to our surveillance methodology. A review of “Testing Protocols for Disease Surveillance in Poultry” was written last year (http://vet.osu.edu/sites/vet.osu.edu/files/documents/extension/Vol%2042%20No%205.pdf) detailing the decision making process as it relates to improving surveillance methodology.

Out of this World Expectations for ‘Cosmic Crisp’ Apple
By: Christina Herrick

There’s a new apple on the horizon, and it goes by the name of ‘Cosmic Crisp.’ The apple, previously referred to as ‘WA 38,’ took center stage at the International Fruit Tree Association’s (IFTA) Annual Conference in the variety’s home state of Washington in February. The variety transition, cutting-edge production systems, and robotics were some of the many highlights of this conference’s sole focus on apples.

Neal Manly of Regal Fruit International, a variety management affiliate of Willow Drive Nursery, dubbed ‘Cosmic Crisp’ a beast, for taking up the lion’s share of nursery orders in the next few years — 40% by 2018 — eclipsing ‘Honeycrisp,’ ‘Fuji’ ‘Gala,’ and ‘Cripps Pink’ according to data he compiled from the four major nurseries in Washington State. He estimates all other managed varieties will make up 34.4% of nursery orders in that same year.

Manly estimates there will be 12 million ‘Cosmic Crisp’ trees planted within the next three to four years. Expectations for ‘Cosmic Crisp’ are obviously high within the Washington apple industry, but what is of interest is how growers are shifting their focus from the traditional varieties consumers and marketers are familiar with and staking a claim to the next generation of apples.
“I’ve joined the thundering herd,” Mike Robinson of BMR Orchards in Royal City told tourgoers during a stop at his orchard. Robinson and his peers recognize the importance of being on the front line of production. “I want to capture the ‘Cosmic Crisp’ premium before the other 7 million [trees] catch up.”

Goodbye Commodity Varieties

As growers in Washington bet big on ‘Cosmic Crisp,’ varieties that have been hit or miss as far as quality — ‘Honeycrisp’ in particular — will likely begin to taper off. Manly says ‘Honeycrisp,’ which made up 35% of all new plantings in 2016, will be as low as 12.5% of new plantings as soon as next year. Robinson recognizes the shift in production — as many growers in Washington State have. “I don’t believe in perpetual motion,” he said of the continued growth in ‘Honeycrisp’ revenue. “The big difference is that there are guys that are good at it and there are those that aren’t.”

While the challenges of growing Honeycrisp are no secret to growers, the reasons to transition to new managed varieties are often driven by simple economics.

Tour-goers visited McDougall & Sons Legacy Orchard in East Wenatchee, WA, where Scott McDougall sees his future in high-dollar varieties, especially with the cost per acre he put into his Legacy planting — a steep V system with 2-feet by 12-feet planting, and a 12-foot drive row. He says his steep V has about 1,815 trees to the acre, which he estimates cost about $60,000 an acre, plus two years of pre-production costs.

“We can’t afford to be planting commodity varieties,” he said.

“We don’t think our price will hold,” McDougall says of ‘Honeycrisp,’ which is expected to have 15 to 20 million more trees coming into production in the next few years. “We know prices are going to come down.”

McDougall also is concerned about prices for ‘Gala,’ which he says overplanting has cannibalized. “It’s not a moneymaker at the warehouse,” he says. “I’m very concerned.”

Not Just ‘Cosmic Crisp’

New varieties such as ‘Kanzi,’ ‘SugarBee,’ ‘SweeTango,’ ‘Lady Alice,’ ‘Junami,’ ‘Sunrise Magic,’ ‘Pinata,’ ‘Sweetie,’ and ‘Koru’ are also vying for market space, but they’ll have to out-muscle ‘Cosmic Crisp.’ Manly says with these new varieties coming into focus, growers may shift to a 10 to 15 year cycle of orchard renewal, pulling out unprofitable varieties much sooner, and going with a managed variety that offers a higher, faster return on investment.

At Robison Orchards Inc. in Chelan, WA, Jake Robison, a fourth-generation grower, is two years into a transition plan to take over his family’s orchard. Robison Orchards Inc. is only 125 acres, but they have identified how to get high-value varieties in order to remain profitable. “The higher value the better,” he said. “We’re always looking for the next big thing that would make us a lot of money.”

The number of ‘Cosmic Crisp’ or WA 38 trees planted in the next few years is expected to skyrocket to 12 million in just a few years. ‘Cosmic Crisp’ is expected to make up about 40% of trees produced for the 2018 growing season. (Photo credit: Christina Herrick)
Robison Orchard has ‘Jazz,’ ‘Envy,’ and Chelan Fresh’s ‘SugarBee.’ The Robison family has taken the approach of grafting over some of the varieties losing share in the market, such as the standard ‘Gala,’ ‘Granny Smith,’ ‘Golden Delicious,’ ‘Braeburn,’ and ‘Red Delicious,’ with newer varieties like ‘Envy.’

Jim Divis, too, has turned his focus to high-value varieties such as ‘Pazazz’ and ‘Pacific Rose’ in his Brewster, WA, orchard.

“When you eat and measure ‘Pazazz’ at harvest, it has more sugar and acid than ‘Honeycrisp,’” Divis says. He also notes he has not seen bitter pit in ‘Pazazz,’ but the flesh calcium content is about 10 times that of ‘Honeycrisp.’

2017 Pinot Gris Grape & Wine Production School to be held on April 18 in Geneva, Ohio
Ohio has a long tradition of growing flavorful grapes that produce high quality wines. OSU Extension invites commercial grape growers and wine makers to attend a one day school on Pinot Gris. This workshop is being held to increase the skills of grape growers and wine makers in growing this variety and making high quality wines. This workshop will be on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at Virant Family Winery located at 541 Atkins Road in Geneva, Ohio. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the workshop will run from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Pinot Gris Grape Production
Attend and learn more about the best management practices in growing Pinot Gris grapes. Learn about variety characteristics, training systems, clones, and best viticulture practices for growing this variety. Learn the pros and cons of growing Pinot Gris. A review of the extensive research which has been completed by OSU personnel in Kingsville and Wooster, Ohio on Pinot Gris grapes will also be shared.

Pinot Gris Wine Production
Learn more about creating high quality Pinot Gris wine. Attendees will acquire more information about Pinot Gris Enology trials which have been conducted by the OSU enology program. Critical cellar procedures and potential wine styles for Pinot Gris will also be covered. This presentation will include a tasting of research wines.

Ohio Commercial Grower/Winemaker Panel
A panel of experienced Pinot Gris commercial growers and winemakers will share their experiences. Learn the essential growing practices and important winemaking procedures from experienced local growers and vintners in producing premium quality Pinot Gris wines. Additional discussion will also be provided as to the potential for this variety to exhibit the value and characteristics of a “signature grape variety” for the region. A commercial wine tasting will follow the panel presentation.

Featured Speakers
This workshop will feature the teaching of Dr. Imed Dami, Professor & Extension Viticulturist, and Mr. Todd Steiner, Enology Program Manager & Outreach Specialist, from The Ohio State University. We are also pleased to have a panel of experienced growers and wine makers sharing their knowledge as well.

Lunch & Refreshments
Lunch and refreshments will be provided as part of the registration fee. Participants will be treated to Virant’s award winning chicken sandwiches or hamburgers with a side of pasta or potato salad. Non-alcoholic beverages and dessert will be provided. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

Registration Details
Pre-registration is required by Monday, April 10, 2017. Registration fee is $25.00/per person. Registration includes refreshments, lunch, speaker travel expenses, and program handouts. Make checks payable to OSU Extension, and mail to Ashtabula County Extension office, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH 44047. A registration flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events. More information about this program can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008. This workshop is being sponsored by OSU Extension, the Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center (OARDC) and Ohio Grape Industries Committee.

Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Applications Being Taken
OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce the scholarship committee will be presenting a minimum of fourteen scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year to Ashtabula County students enrolled in either an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. Scholarships awarded this year will include:

- Up to $5,000 will be awarded from the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Fund to Ashtabula County students enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences.
- Two $1,000 Ashtabula County Holstein Club Scholarships shall be awarded to deserving Ashtabula County students from a commercial dairy farm family enrolled in two year technical institute or full four year college. Or this scholarship may be awarded to a student studying animal science.
- The $1,000 Allan C. Jerome Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences. It is the wish of the donors that first preference be given to graduates of the Pymatuning Valley School District.
- The $1,000 Kellogg Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to a student who has at least completed their freshmen year of a two year technical or four year undergraduate college program in the study of production agriculture, dairy science, or farm management. This scholarship is given in the memory of W.H., David W., and Pauline Kellogg.
- The $1,000 Lester C. Marrison Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to a deserving Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, or family & consumer sciences. Secondary preference will be given to a student pursuing a degree in education.
- At least one $1,000 Service-Jerome Scholarship shall be awarded to a student studying agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences at The Ohio State University or the Agricultural Technical Institute. It is the wish of the donors that applicants from the Pymatuning Valley School system be given 1st choice; Grand Valley Local Schools, 2nd choice; Jefferson Area Schools, 3rd choice; and all other districts, 4th choice.
- The $1,000 Harold and Dick Springer Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to a deserving Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences. Secondary preference will be given to a student pursuing a degree in education.
- Two $1,000 Centerra Co-op Scholarships shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in either a four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. The family must
Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties derive a portion of their income from farming.

- The $1,000 Christopher L. Zaebst Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County Student enrolled in an Associate’s degree, Bachelor’s degree OR accredited technical school studying an area of their choice. Preference is to a family who derives a portion of their income from dairy, or another source of production ag (crops or livestock). A student who successfully completed a 4-H or FFA livestock project for 3 or more consecutive years is also eligible. If the student maintains a 3.0 grade average (by proof of transcript) during the award year, an additional $500.00 scholarship will be awarded to the student.

- The $1,000 Prochko Family Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, veterinarian sciences, or environmental sciences. It is the wish of the donors that first preference be given to graduates of the Jefferson Area School District or for a student whose family derives their income from a dairy farm.

- The $500 Lautanen Family 4-H Scholarship shall be awarded to a student who is or was an Ashtabula County 4-H club member for a minimum of five years. The student must demonstrate outstanding achievement in 4-H project work, outstanding leadership qualities, above average scholastic record, and a record of community service.

- The $500 Jim Baird Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to deserving Ashtabula County student from a commercial dairy farm family enrolled in two year technical institute or full four year college. Or this scholarship may be awarded to a student studying animal science.

Both graduate and undergraduate students who are studying agriculture, natural resources, home economics, and environmental sciences are strongly encouraged to apply. The scholarships are for a one year period. A student may apply and be awarded a scholarship in three years from the scholarship fund. This is a new change to the scholarship rules. Previously a student could only apply and win in 2 funding cycles.

Application forms with complete instructions for applying are now available and can be received by stopping in at the Extension Office or by calling 440-576-9008. Applications can be accessed at: http://go.osu.edu/agscholarship. The application deadline is May 1 and no late applications will be considered. More information can be obtained about these scholarships by contacting the OSU Extension-Ashtabula County office at 440-576-9008 or emailing ashtabulacountyagscholarship@gmail.com

Woodland Management Field Day to be held on April 8 in Chardon, Ohio
The Ohio Department of Natural Resources will be hosting a Woodland Management Field Day on Saturday, April 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Hambden Orchard Wildlife Area on Sisson Road in Chardon, Ohio. ODNR Service Forester Aaron Kash, ODNR Private Lands Biologist Ryan Jackson, and NRCS District Conservationist Jonathan Mauk will be offering a morning field day to discuss and demonstrate options for private woodland management. Various aspects of wildlife habitat, forest management/timber harvesting, and conservation practices will be covered. This event is being held in the woods in previously harvested areas so appropriate footwear and attire will be necessary. This event is FREE but you must register by calling 440-564-5883 or emailing aaron.kash@dnr.state.oh.us

Chainsaw Safety Class to be held on April 8
OSU Extension Trumbull County will be offering a chainsaw safety class on Saturday, April 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Trumbull County Ag and Family Education Center in Cortland, OH. This class is designed to help you handle and operate your chainsaw safely when you are clearing out a fence row, cleaning up after a storm, or any other time that you may use your chainsaw. The class will begin inside with an overview of protective equipment designed to minimize injury before moving to basic saw
maintenance. We will cover saw basics, how to perform a safety check, and how to keep your chain sharp. We will wrap up the morning with demonstrations outside to show proper tree felling and bucking techniques.

Pre-registration is requested by April 5th, 2017. Cost for the class is $30/person and includes handouts, light refreshments, and additional materials. To register please complete the registration form and return to OSU Extension Trumbull County, 520 West Main St., Suite #1, Cortland, OH 44410. Please call 330-638-6783 or email Lee Beers (beers.66@osu.edu) for more information.

Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show to be held on Saturday, April 22
The Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association will be sponsoring the 20th Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Jackpot Show on Saturday, April 22 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds in Jefferson, Ohio. This good old fashion jackpot show will start promptly at noon.

The show is open to all youth under the age of 21 and will begin promptly at noon. An entry fee of $30 per head is required. Cash prizes will be awarded to individual class winners and to the Champion Steer, Reserve Champion Steer, Champion Heifer, and Reserve Champion Heifer. In addition to the open show, a Showmanship class and an Ashtabula County Class will be held. Local residents are encouraged to come out and watch this show. A registration flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events. More information about this program can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008

Hydrangea School to be Held on May 3, 2017 in Jefferson, Ohio
The Ashtabula County Extension office is pleased to be offering a Hydrangea School on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at the Ashtabula County Extension Office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson, Ohio from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join OSU Extension Educator Eric Barrett to discover the world of hydrangeas. Learn about types, care, pruning and bloom times. You’ll receive a quick reference chart to take to the garden center and a hydrangea plant to take home. The registration fee for this workshop is $30 per person. Please make checks payable to OSU Extension. Registration includes handouts, light refreshments and a hydrangea plant to take home for your landscape. Please mail completed registration form to OSU Extension, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047. Due to space limitations, this program will be limited to the first 50 registrants. First come, first served basis. For questions, please call 440-576-9008. A registration flyer can also be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events.

2017-2018 Ashtabula County Beef Scholarships Applications Available
OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association are pleased to announce they will be awarding two youth beef scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year. One $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a deserving 2017 High School Senior who will be attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute in 2017-2018. In addition, one $500 scholarship will be awarded to a current College Student who is currently attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute.

Applicants must be resident of Ashtabula County. The first preference by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association is the scholarships be awarded to deserving students who have been involved in the beef industry as a youth. Examples of this could include: working on a family beef operation; involved with a beef project through 4-H or FFA; or works on a local beef farm. The second preference for the scholarship recipients would be awarded to students who are currently or will be studying a beef related field in accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. Previous
winners of the $1,000 High School Senior Scholarship are eligible to apply for the $500 College Scholarship. However, the $500 college scholarship can only be received once by a student during their college career.

Applications must be received by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association by May 1, 2017 by 4:30 p.m. for consideration for the scholarship. No late applications will be considered. The application can be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

Tri-County Grape Growers 2017 Steak Dinner to be held on Thursday, May 4
The Tri-County Grape Growers Association is pleased to announce they will be hosting their third annual Steak Dinner on Thursday, May 4 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Harpersfield Community Center. Pre-sale tickets are required with each ticket costing $30.00 per person. The ticket price includes a one-year membership in Tri-County Grape Growers. Please RSVP by April 28 to guarantee seating. All are welcome to attend. Tickets may be purchased from the OSU Extension Office in Jefferson, Ohio (440-576-9008), John Linehan (440-466-3207) or from any active Tri-County Grape Grower Member.

David’s Weekly News Column
Hello Ashtabula County! Spring is a time of rebirth, renewal and for new beginnings. As we approach Easter, I hope each of you take time to reflect on all the blessings which we have been given. In these unsettled times, it is easy to concentrate on the negative. Easter and spring are a significant reminder of how light follows darkness.

Today, I would like to share how some of our local high school seniors and local college students can help ease their financial burden for college by applying for some of our great local agricultural scholarships. These scholarships have a deadline of May 1, 2017, so students have less than a month to get their applications in! Good luck!

Since 1952, the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship fund has been awarding scholarships to students electing to study agriculture, family and consumer sciences, environmental sciences or natural resources in an accredited full four-year college or an accredited two-year technical institute. The fund was founded to promote interest in the study of these subjects, which we feel are the foundation of Ashtabula County’s economy.

There are eleven scholarship applications managed by the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Committee. One application is used for students to apply for these scholarships and each applicant can only win one of the scholarships. These scholarships are open to both high school seniors and to current college students.

A student may apply and be awarded a scholarship in three years from the scholarship fund. This is a new change to the scholarship rules. Previously a student could only apply and win in 2 funding cycles. The following is a description of the eligibility parameters for each scholarship:

Up to $5,000 will be awarded from the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Fund to Ashtabula County students enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences.
Two $1,000 **Ashtabula County Holstein Club Scholarships** shall be awarded to deserving Ashtabula County students from a commercial dairy farm family enrolled in two year technical institute or full four year college. Or this scholarship may be awarded to a student studying animal science.

The $1,000 **Allan C. Jerome Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences. It is the wish of the donors that first preference be given to graduates of the Pymatuning Valley School District.

The $1,000 **Lester C. Marrison Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to deserving Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, or family & consumer sciences. Secondary preference will be given to a student pursuing a degree in education.

At least one $1,000 **Service-Jerome Scholarship** shall be awarded to a student studying agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences at The Ohio State University or the Agricultural Technical Institute. It is the wish of the donors that applicants from the Pymatuning Valley School system be given 1st choice.

The $1,000 **Harold and Dick Springer Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to a deserving Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences. Secondary preference will be given to a student pursuing a degree in education.

The $1,000 **Kellogg Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to a student who has at least completed their freshmen year of a two year technical or four year undergraduate college program in the study of production agriculture, dairy science, or farm management. This scholarship is given in the memory of W.H., David W., and Pauline Kellogg.

Two $1,000 **Centerra Coop Scholarships** shall be awarded to two Ashtabula County students enrolled in either a four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. The family must derive a portion of their income from farming.

The $1,000 **Christopher L. Zaebst Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County Student enrolled in an Associate's degree, Bachelor's degree OR accredited technical school studying an area of their choice. Preference is to a family who derives a portion of their income from dairy, or another source of production ag (crops or livestock). A student who successfully completed a 4-H or FFA livestock project for 3 or more consecutive years is also eligible. If the student maintains a 3.0 grade average (by proof of transcript) during the award year, an additional $500.00 scholarship will be awarded to the student.

The $1,000 **Prochko Family Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, veterinarian sciences, or environmental sciences. It is the wish of the donors that first preference be given to graduates of the Jefferson Area School District or for a student whose family derives their income from a dairy farm.

The $500 **Lautanen Family 4-H Scholarship** shall be awarded to a student who is or was an Ashtabula County 4-H club member for a minimum of five years. The student must demonstrate outstanding achievement in 4-H project work, outstanding leadership qualities, above average scholastic record, and a record of community service.

The $500 **Jim Baird Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to deserving Ashtabula
County student from a commercial dairy farm family enrolled in two year technical institute or full four year college. Or this scholarship may be awarded to a student studying animal science.

Application forms with complete instructions for applying are now available at: [http://go.osu.edu/agscholarship](http://go.osu.edu/agscholarship) or can be received by stopping in at the Extension Office or by calling 440-576-9008. **The application deadline for all the scholarships is May 1 and no late applications will be considered.** A writeable version of the scholarship can be obtained by emailing ashtabulacountyagscholarship@gmail.com

To close, I would like to share a quote from Terri Guillemets who stated, “If you’ve never been thrilled to the very edges of your soul by a flower in spring bloom, maybe your soul has never been in bloom.” Have a good and safe day.

**Upcoming 2017 Spring Extension Program Dates**
The following programs have been scheduled for Northeast Ohio farmers this upcoming winter. 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)

**Chainsaw Safety Class**
April 8 at the Trumbull County Extension Office

**Composting: Getting the Most from Your Garbage**
April 20 at the Trumbull County Extension Office

**2017 Northeast Ohio Grape School – A Focus on Pinot Gris**
April 18 at Virant’s Winery

**2017 Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show**
Saturday, April 22 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds

**Hydrangea School**
Wednesday, May 3 at the Ashtabula County Extension office

**Pasture Walk**
Tuesday, May 9 Portage County – See flyer next week for more details
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>David Marrison</strong></th>
<th><strong>Lee Beers</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashtabula County Extension Office</td>
<td>Trumbull County Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 Wall Street</td>
<td>520 West Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson, OH 44047</td>
<td>Cortland, OH 44410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>440-576-9008</td>
<td>330-638-6783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:marrison.2@osu.edu">marrison.2@osu.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:beers.66@osu.edu">beers.66@osu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ashtabula.osu.edu</td>
<td>trumbull.osu.edu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Join us on Thursday, April 20 th to learn about proper composting techniques to get the most return for your garden. Trumbull County Extension Educator, Lee Beers, will discuss what will compost, how to manage disease (human and plant), weeds, and nutrient value. We will be outside for a portion of the class to review common composting mistakes, so please dress for the weather.

To register, complete the back side of the flyer and mail with payment to OSU Extension, 520 West Main St, Suite 1, Cortland, OH 44410. Please make checks payable to OSU Extension. Payment can be made at the door on the day of the event, but please call 330-638-6783 to register in advance if you plan to attend.

trumbull.osu.edu
**Chainsaw Safety Class**

**Topics Will Include:**
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Safety Checklist for Safe Sawing
- Chainsaw Maintenance
- Safe Tree Felling and Bucking
- And More

This chainsaw safety course offered by OSU Extension Trumbull County will demonstrate safe chainsaw handling and operating techniques for home/landowners. The course will start off with an overview of basic safety equipment before covering basic chainsaw maintenance for safe use. We will wrap up with a live demonstration of safe tree felling and bucking techniques.

**For more information:**
Lee Beers – Extension Educator Ag & Natural Resources
330-638-6783 • beers.66@osu.edu • trumbull.osu.edu

Pre-registration is requested by April 5th to ensure minimum numbers. Cost for the Chainsaw Safety Class is $30/person. To pay at the door call 330-638-6783 to pre-register, or to pre-pay complete the following information and send with payment to OSU Extension Trumbull County, 520 West Main St., Suite #1, Cortland, OH 44410. We will be outside for demonstrations, so please dress according.

Name(s): ____________________________
Phone & Address: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Number attending/amount enclosed: ____________________________

**Saturday • April 8, 2017 • 9am – 12pm**
Trumbull County Extension Office
520 West Main Street
Cortland, OH 44410

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.