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Hello, Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties!

December is here already! Most of the corn and soybean acres have been harvested, and with this warm weather you should consider getting out into your fields for soil testing if you haven’t already. Fall/winter is the perfect time to take samples and get a fertilizer plan in place for 2018. It’s recommended that you sample fields every 3-4 years.

You can pick up soil tests from our offices, or most ag retail locations. It doesn’t matter where the test comes from, OSU Extension can help you interpret the results and provide recommendations. Crop budgets are going to be tight, and you may be able to cut some input costs with proper soil testing.

David Marrison
Extension Educator
Ag & Natural Resources
Ashtabula County

Lee Beers
Extension Educator
Ag & Natural Resources
Trumbull County
Census of Agriculture Is Underway

As of this week, USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service started mailing the 2017 Census of Agriculture to our nation’s producers. Mailing in phases, all census questionnaires should be received by mid- to late December. The deadline to respond is February 5, 2018. Producers can respond online at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) (take advantage of new timesaving features and the convenience of being accessible on most mobile and desktop devices) or by mail. Conducted once every five years, the census aims to get a complete and accurate picture of American agriculture. The resulting data are used by trade associations, researchers, policymakers, extension educators, agribusinesses, and many others. The data can play a vital role in community planning, farm assistance programs, technology development, farm advocacy, agribusiness setup, rural development, and more. The census is the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every state and county in the nation. Every response matters. Every voice helps shape the future of U.S. agriculture. For more information, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call (800) 727-9540.

The Economic Contribution of Agricultural and Food Production to the Ohio Economy

The Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics (AEDE) recently released the Economic Contribution of Agricultural and Food Production to the Ohio Economy report. The following is the executive summary.

In 2015, Ohio was the 7th largest soybean producer and 8th largest corn producer nationally. Ohio is also the second largest producer of eggs, the 8th largest producer of hogs and pigs, and the 11th largest milk producer. State and federal investments in transportation infrastructure connecting farms in Ohio to markets throughout the U.S. and world, rising incomes, and a vibrant and growing consumer base, have all encouraged the growth of the agricultural and food production cluster.

Due to adoption of improved technology, rising crop yields, farmer ingenuity, and lower prices for farm inputs, productivity in Ohio agriculture, has increased 1.6% per year on average since the 1950s, mirroring national trends. Ohio's farmers are as productive at turning inputs into outputs as any of their peers in the U.S.

Productivity growth in the food processing and manufacturing sector has slowed nationally. In Ohio, the contribution of this sector to the state's economy has also declined. The decline has been heavily influenced by losses in the wood and paper manufacturing components of the
sector, which has declined 60% since 1997. Output in the food, beverage and tobacco component has increased modestly, 2% in total, since 1997.

Combined, the agricultural and food production cluster employed 402,874 Ohioans in 2015 and contributed $33 billion in value added to Ohio’s Gross State Product (GSP). The agricultural and food production cluster contributed an additional $20 billion to Ohio’s economy through purchases of additional inputs from other sectors (thus contributing to the value added in those other sectors), and income used by employees to purchase additional goods and services. The total contribution of the agricultural and food production cluster to Ohio’s economy in 2015 was $53 billion (a multiplier of 1.6 for every dollar of value added in the agricultural and food production cluster).

The farming sector has seen strong growth since 2005, with an increase in value added of 2.2% per year. Agricultural and food wholesaling and retailing have also grown over the same time period. However, consistent with national trends, the food processing sector in Ohio has seen a continual decline in direct value added since 2005. This may reflect a reduction in output in the sector, or it could reflect a lack of technological improvement in the sector. Further analysis is needed in order to understand the reasons for the decreasing contribution of the food processing sector to Ohio’s and the national economy.

As would be expected, increasing productivity has resulted in decreased employment in agricultural and food production and decreasing commodity prices. Since 1994, employment has decreased by 23.5% in the farm input sector, 38.0% in agricultural production (farming), 16.9% in food processing, and 47.1% in food wholesaling/retailing.

Ohio’s food services sector (restaurants and bars) has shown strong growth in employment and value added since 1994. Direct value added by restaurants and bars, driven by growth in population and consumer income, has increased from 1.9% to 2.4% of GSP. Restaurants and bars employ 496,342 Ohioans. This number has increased by 37.5% since 1994. The sector contributed $14.5 billion to Ohio’s GSP in 2015.

Combined, Ohio’s agricultural and food production cluster plus restaurants and bars accounts for $1 in every $13 of Ohio’s GSP and 1 in 8 jobs in Ohio. Despite strong growth in the farming and wholesaling/retailing sectors, we find decreasing employment, decreasing commodity prices, and decreasing relative contributions of these sectors to GSP. These results raise important questions about the impacts of changes in the agricultural and food production cluster on the health of and future development opportunities for Ohio’s rural communities.

The full report can be found at: [https://aede.osu.edu/sites/aede/files/publication_files/The%20Economic%20Contribution%20of%20Agricultural%20and%20Food%20Production%20to%20the%20Ohio%20Economy_FINAL%20Nov%2028%202017.pdf](https://aede.osu.edu/sites/aede/files/publication_files/The%20Economic%20Contribution%20of%20Agricultural%20and%20Food%20Production%20to%20the%20Ohio%20Economy_FINAL%20Nov%2028%202017.pdf)
New Care Standards for Ohio Veal and Dairy to Begin in 2018
Written by Ellen Essman, Law Fellow, Agricultural & Resource Law Program

Veal and dairy producers in Ohio will be subject to new livestock care standards in 2018. Producers were first made aware of these changes when the Ohio Livestock Care Standards for veal, dairy and other species were originally adopted in September of 2011 after the passage of State Issue 2, a constitutional amendment that required Ohio to establish standards for the care of livestock. Since the new care standards make significant changes to the management of veal and dairy, producers were given a little more than six years to transition their facilities and practices accordingly. The new standards will be effective on January 1, 2018. Producers with veal calves and dairy cattle are encouraged to understand the regulations and make the required changes to their operations by January 1.

Changes to veal regulations
The regulations for veal address housing for veal calves weighing 750 pounds or less. Currently, veal calves may be tethered or non-tethered in stalls of a minimum of 2 feet x 5.5 feet. Next year, the following housing standards will apply:

- Tethering will be permitted only to prevent naval and cross sucking and as restraint for examinations, treatments and transit, if:
  - The tether is long enough to allow the veal calf to stand, groom, eat, lie down comfortably and rest in a natural posture;
  - The tether’s length and collar size is checked every other week and adjusted as necessary.
- Individual pens must allow for quality air circulation, provide opportunity for socialization, allow calves to stand without impediment, provide for normal resting postures, grooming, eating and lying down, and must be large enough to allow calves to turn around.
- By the time they are ten weeks old, veal calves must be housed in group pens. The regulations currently require that group pens meet the above standards required for individual pens and also must contain at least two calves with a minimum area of 14 square feet per calf, must separate calves of substantially different sizes and that calves must be monitored daily for naval and cross sucking and be moved to individual pens or provided other intervention for naval or cross sucking.

The veal regulations, including both the current rules and the rules that will become effective January 1, are available at: [http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/901:12-6-02v1](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/901:12-6-02v1)

Changes to dairy cattle regulations
There is only one change to the dairy care standards. As of January 1, docking the tails of dairy cattle will only be permissible if: #1: – Performed by a licensed veterinarian; and #2- Determined to be medically necessary. The dairy cattle standards, including the current tail docking rule and the rule that becomes effective January 1, are at: [http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/901:12-6-02v1](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/901:12-6-02v1)
Update on Required Dicamba Training for 2018
By: Mark Loux
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/com-newsletter/2017-40/update-required-dicamba-training-2018

Following a summer of many instances of off-target movement of dicamba across the country from use in Xtend soybeans, the labels for Engenia, XtendiMax, and FeXapan were modified in an attempt to reduce future problems. These products became restricted use pesticides, and an additional requirement is that anyone applying these products must attend annual dicamba or group 4 herbicide-specific training, and have proof that they did so. Details are still being worked out on this training for Ohio, but it will not be conducted by OSU Extension, or accomplished through OSU winter agronomy or pesticide recertification meetings. At this point, as far as we know it appears that it will be conducted by Monsanto, BASF, and DuPont at meetings held specifically by them for this purpose, and also possibly through an online training module. Final details and meeting schedules are not likely to be in place until after the first of the year. We will pass on information as we get it from ODA and companies, and applicators will undoubtedly receive this information from multiple other sources as well.

OSU, Purdue, and U. of Illinois have put together a fact sheet on stewardship of dicamba, which is available here, or at our website – u.osu.edu/osuweeds. This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of application requirements from labels, but it also contains some suggestions on stewardship that are not part of labels. Unlike the three companies selling these products, whose position is that applicator error was responsible for most off-target problems in 2017, university weed scientists concluded that volatilization of dicamba caused many of them. And we are not convinced that the label changes adequately address the potential for volatilization to occur, or provide conservative enough guidelines to help applicators assess how and where (and more important – where not) to apply dicamba in Xtend soybeans. OSU’s position on the use of dicamba in Xtend soybeans has not changed over the past year. We feel that off-target problems could be greatly minimized by restricting dicamba use to early-season, as a component of no-till burndown treatments. Dicamba has utility for control of marestail in the burndown, and there is just less emerged vegetation to damage earlier in the season should off-target movement occur. This is not to say there is no risk of movement or damage when used early-season. Just because risk to non-Xtend soybeans or other crops is low because they have not emerged yet, does not mean there is not risk to nearby fruit trees, vegetables, ornamentals, etc. However, postemergence use of dicamba accounted for most of the off-target problems in 2017, and we would expect a similar trend in 2018.

2017 Farmer’s Tax Guides
The 2017 version of the Farmer’s Tax Guide (Publication 225) has been released by the Internal Revenue Service and can be found at: https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p225.pdf. Copies are also available at the Ashtabula and Trumbull County Extension offices.
Women in Ag Program Slated for December 16

OSU Extension in Ashtabula County is pleased to share that our local Women in Agriculture group will be sponsoring a workshop titled Mindfulness and Dealing with Stress” on Saturday, December 16, 2017. This workshop will be held from 9:30 to 12:00 noon. The holidays can be a stressful time as family conflicts can surface and financial struggles can become more apparent. Join us during this program to learn how to manage stressors more effectively.

During this program, Marie Economos, OSU Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Educator in Trumbull County will teach on mindfulness and how it can help reduce stress in your life. Marie will share stress reduction strategies based on the research and work of Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn who developed the mindfulness-based stress reduction program. Following Marie’s presentation, Emily Compan, representative of Young Essentials Oils in Andover, Ohio will discuss the many natural uses and benefits of using essential oils. Following the presentations, participants will make a whipped gingerbread sugar scrub to take home and enjoy. The day will end with everyone having the chance to relax and share a few laughs during lunch at noon.

The registration fee for this program is $15 per person and reservations are requested by December 13, 2017. If you have any questions please call 440-576-9008. A complete registration flyer can be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

SELECTING CORN HYBRIDS FOR 2018: SOME CONSIDERATIONS
By Peter Thomison
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2017-40/selecting-corn-hybrids-2018-some-considerations

Hybrid selection is one of the most important management decisions a corn grower makes each year. It’s a decision that warrants a careful comparison of performance data. It should not be made in haste or based on limited data. Planting a marginal hybrid, or one not suitable for a particular production environment, imposes a ceiling on the yield potential of a field before it has been planted. In the Ohio Corn Performance Test (OCPT) (http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/corntrials/) it is not unusual
for hybrid entries of similar maturity to differ in yield by 50 bu/A or more, depending on test site. Another consideration in hybrid selection which has received more attention recently as commodity prices have dropped are seed costs which increased an average of 11% per year from 2006 and 2014, much higher than the rates for fertilizers and pesticides (http://farmdocdaily.illinois.edu/2017/07/seed-costs-for-corn-in-2017-and-2018.html). Since 2014, per acre seed costs have decreased slightly (USDA Economic Research Service), from $102 per acre in 2015 to $99 per acre in 2016, a decrease of $3 per acre.

Growers should choose hybrids best suited to their farm operation. Corn acreage, previous crop, soil type, tillage practices, desired harvest moisture, and pest problems determine the relative importance of such traits as drydown, insect and disease resistance, herbicide resistance, early plant vigor, etc. End uses of corn should also be considered - is corn to be used for grain or silage? Is it to be sold directly to the elevator as shelled grain or used on the farm? Are there premiums available at nearby elevators, or from end users, for identity-preserved (IP) specialty corns such as food grade or non-GMO corn? Capacity to harvest, dry and store grain also needs consideration. The following are some tips to consider in choosing hybrids that are best suited to various production systems.

1. Select hybrids with maturity ratings appropriate for your geographic area or circumstances. Corn for grain should reach physiological maturity or "black layer" (maximum kernel dry weight) one to two weeks before the first killing frost in the fall. Grain drying can be a major cost in corn production. Use days-to-maturity, growing degree day (GDD) ratings, and harvest grain moisture data from performance trials to determine differences in hybrid maturity and drydown. One of the most effective strategies for spreading risk, and widening the harvest interval, is planting multiple hybrids of varying maturity.

2. Choose hybrids that have produced consistently high yields across a number of locations. Choosing a hybrid simply because it contains the most stacked transgenic traits, or possesses appealing cosmetic traits, like “flex” ears, will not ensure high yields; instead, look for yield consistency across environments. Hybrids will perform differently based on region, soils and environmental conditions. Growers should not rely solely on one hybrid characteristic, or transgenic traits, to make their product selection. Most of the hybrids available to Ohio growers contain transgenic insect and herbicide resistance. In the 2017 OCPT over 90% of the hybrids tested contained transgenic traits. However, recent OCPTs reveal that some non-transgenic hybrid entries have yield potential comparable to the highest yielding stacked trait entries. Nevertheless, when planting fields where corn rootworm (RW), European corn borer (ECB) and Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) are likely to be problems (in the case of RW - continuous corn and in the case of ECB and WBC - late plantings), Bt traits offer outstanding protection and may mitigate the impact of other stress conditions. For more on Bt traits currently available, check out the most recent version of the “Handy Bt Trait Table” from Michigan State University (http://www.msuent.com/assets/pdf/BtTraitTable15March2017.pdf).

3. Plant hybrids with good standability to minimize stalk lodging (stalk breakage below the ear). This is particularly important in areas where stalk rots are perennial problems, or where field drying is anticipated. There are hybrids that have outstanding yield potential, but may be more
susceptible to lodging problems under certain environmental conditions after they reach harvest maturity. The potential for stalk lodging increases at higher plant populations (usually above 32,000 -33,000 plants per acre) but many hybrids can tolerate higher final stands. Corn growers should consult with their seed dealer on hybrid sensitivity to stalk lodging, root lodging and greensnap (pre-tassel stalk brakeage caused by wind). Greensnap is relatively rare in Ohio but may cause major yield losses in some hybrids as the result of strong windstorms in late June and July.

4. Select hybrids with resistance and/or tolerance to the most common stalk rots, foliar diseases, and ear rots. These include northern corn leaf blight, gray leaf spot, Gibberella, Anthracnose and Diplodia stalk rots and Gibberella and Diplodia ear rots. More rust on corn was reported in 2017 than normal, including both common rust and southern rust. The latter is rarer but the more damaging of the two major rust diseases that affect corn in Ohio (https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2017-22/southern-rust...). Corn growers should obtain information from their seed dealer on hybrid reactions to specific diseases that have caused problems or that have occurred locally.

5. Never purchase a hybrid without consulting performance data. Results of university/extension, company, and county replicated hybrid performance trials should be reviewed before purchasing hybrids. Because weather conditions are unpredictable, the most reliable way to select superior hybrids is to consider performance during the last year and the previous year over as wide a range of locations and climatic conditions as possible. Hybrids that consistently perform well across a range of environmental conditions, including different soil and weather conditions, have a much greater likelihood of performing well the next year, compared to hybrids that have exhibited more variable performance. To assess a hybrid’s yield averaged across multiple Ohio sites and years, consult the sortable “Combined Regional Summary of Hybrid Performance” tables available online http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/corntrials/regions.asp?year=2017&region=State.

New Report Shows Agriculture Productivity Consistently Up

Source: https://cfaes.osu.edu/news/articles/new-report-shows-agriculture-productivity-consistently

Ohio farmers have been producing more and, on average, earning slightly more too Improved technology, rising crop yields, farmer ingenuity and lower prices for farm inputs have led to higher agricultural productivity, specifically annual increases of 1.6 percent since the 1950s, according to a report produced by a team of agricultural economists from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at The Ohio State University. The just-released report examines trends in Ohio’s agricultural and food production sectors, analyzing data from 2015, the most recent statistics available.
Farm incomes too have steadily improved, having increased an average of 2.2 percent a year since 2005.

Combined, Ohio’s agricultural and food production cluster employed 402,874 (one out of every eight) Ohioans in 2015 and contributed $33 billion (5.3 percent) to Ohio’s gross state product, a measure of the market value of all goods and services produced within the state.

Along with the $33 billion, the state’s agricultural and food production cluster contributed an additional $20 billion to Ohio’s 2015 economy indirectly through farmer payments for various expenses such as rent and accounting services, as well as income that farm employees used to buy goods and services.

Adding the direct and indirect earnings, the total contribution of the agricultural and food production sectors to Ohio’s economy in 2015 was $53 billion.

“It’s going up, but slower than other parts of the state’s economy,” said Tim Haab, one of the report’s authors and chair of CFAES’ Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics. As expected, increased productivity on the farm has led to decreasing commodity prices and a reduction in employment opportunities in agricultural and food production, according to the report. Since 1994, Ohio’s employment has declined by 23.5 percent in the farm input sector, 38 percent in agricultural production (farming), 16.9 percent in food processing and 47.1 percent in food wholesaling/retailing. The loss of agricultural jobs is especially challenging for people living in Ohio’s rural areas, where employment opportunities are already limited, Haab said.

“Employment matters, especially in rural communities,” he said. “Manufacturing and employment have been declining, disproportionately affecting rural communities.”

Consistent with national trends, the food-processing sector in Ohio has seen a continuous decline since 2005, the report states. Food processing involves changing anything that is grown or raised into a marketable product, such as cattle into steak or tree into lumber. Much of that decline was driven by the drop in demand for wood for either paper or furniture. Once a thriving industry in Ohio and nationwide, forestry has seen significant losses in recent years.

Among the positive trends highlighted in the report is that Ohio’s restaurants and bars have experienced strong growth, employing more people and contributing an increasing amount to
According to the *Economic Contribution of Agricultural and Food Production to the Ohio Economy* report, agricultural and food production in Ohio continues to grow despite decreasing employment and decreasing commodity prices,” said Cathann A. Kress, vice president for agricultural administration and dean of CFAES. “Total sales in the agricultural and food production cluster with restaurants and bars in 2015 was $123.8 billion up from $105.2 billion in 2010.”

Agriculture and food production remain a vital part of Ohio’s economy, Haab said.

“This report is an opportunity to identify the trends and determine the implications so that all parties involved can work to ensure the future of rural communities and all of Ohio,” he said.

The report is the result of a collaborative analysis and writing process that included the CFAES Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics outreach committee, external peer reviewers and stakeholders. The last report outlining the contribution of Ohio’s agriculture and food-related industries to the state’s economy was released in 2012.

**2018 Northeast Ohio Small Farm Workshop Scheduled for January 20, 2018**

The Ashtabula County Extension office is pleased to offer the 2018 Northeast Ohio Small Farm Workshop for new, existing, and aspiring farm businesses. This workshop will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ashtabula County Extension office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson, Ohio. This workshop is designed to help landowners increase profits from their small acreage. This program is open to all new or aspiring farmers, new rural landowners, small farmers, and farm families looking for new ideas.

During this workshop, participants will be challenged to develop realistic expectations for their small farm. Participants will learn how to develop a business plan for their operation. During the workshop, participants will learn more about the current opportunities in small-scale farming; how to identify the strengths & weaknesses of your farm; how to keep records and develop budgets; and how to effectively price & market your products to consumers. Learn more about farm insurance, governmental assistance, farm taxes, and ways to mitigate risk. This workshop will provide the road map for small producers to move their hobby to a viable farm business. Make connections to resources, information and people that will help your farm business grow!

The registration fee for this workshop is $25 per person. This includes a small farmer resource notebook, refreshments, and a hearty lunch! Reservations are requested by Friday, January 12, 2018. Space is limited to the first 35 registrants. We thank The Kellogg Insurance Agency for co-
Once they start composting, people find other ways to be 'green'
By Ohio State University
Source: https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2017-12/osu-ots120517.php

Composting food scraps can prompt people to make other earth-friendly choices, new research has found.

When one California city started a composting program to keep food waste out of its landfill, residents began to pay more attention to other environmentally sound practices, such as taking shorter showers, according to a study led by Nicole Sintov, an assistant professor of behavior, decision making and sustainability at The Ohio State University.

"In our study, one pro-environment change appeared to lead to other benefits and that could be important to know as city leaders and others consider conservation projects," said Sintov, formerly of the University of Southern California.

The study was part of a larger effort to look at the success of the composting program. Sintov's study included 284 residents of Costa Mesa, a Southern California city that in 2015 began offering curbside recycling and compost pickup for its residents. Prior to the program, no curbside recycling was offered, Sintov said. The research appears in the journal Environment and Behavior.

Sintov and her colleagues were interested in a scientific concept called "spillover," in which one behavior prompts another. This can work in good ways - such as a person going to bed earlier because she has started an exercise program. But it can also work in bad ways - say someone thinks it's now OK to eat more doughnuts because he's eating salad a few times a week.

"The idea is if you're investing all these resources - composting bins and trucks and new facilities - is it possible that this could lead to any other pro-environment behavior, or do people start to slack off in other areas, which we don't want," Sintov said. She expected that the program might be a good way to test spillover when it comes to conservation - largely because composting is such a hands-on and arguably unappealing endeavor.

The researchers asked participants about three food-waste prevention behaviors, including planning meals before shopping. And they asked about seven energy and water-waste prevention behaviors, including taking shorter showers and unplugging electronics when they're not in use.
When they examined survey results and compared them with the onset of composting, they found that those who began composting food waste also engaged in more efforts to conserve water and energy compared to those who did not compost.

What surprised Sintov was that none of the three food-conservation behaviors appeared to differ much between Costa Mesa residents who started composting relative to those who did not.

"This may have been because so many people in the community were already doing a good job planning meals and paying attention to how much food they bought and used. There wasn't a lot of room for improvement to begin with," Sintov said.

The researchers did not see any of the concerning "negative spillover," which would have been identified if residents began to be less careful with food and natural resources after the curbside composting program kicked off.

The study took place in a relatively affluent, well-educated community and further research will be necessary to determine if its findings extend to other populations, Sintov said. But it begins to bolster the argument that these types of civic conservation projects may have multiple benefits - including those that might not be as obvious, she said.

Beyond demonstrating that composting was tied to greater conservation efforts, Sintov and her collaborators also found a possible psychological explanation for why that happens.

"We know that humans desire consistency in our thoughts, feelings and actions. That's well-established, and that's tied to our self-perception," Sintov said.

She and her colleagues dug a little deeper in this area, looking for possible scientific links - or "mediators" - between composting and the spillover behaviors.

"Our study found that this happened because waste was on their minds, or 'cognitively accessible,' and this thinking about waste seems to lead you to manage waste in other ways."

The study is relevant to policymakers because it highlights the importance of acknowledging the potential that government programs and other changes could trigger unexpected behavior, Sintov said. It's also one of the first to examine environmental spillover in a community setting outside of a college campus.
"If we can figure out how to institute changes that would encourage people along the path of positive spillover, that would be really cool," Sintov said.

**Ashtabula County Plat Books Available**

Who owns Ashtabula County? Thousands of people have a piece of it, and they are listed in the new plat book published by the Ashtabula County – OSU Extension with Mapping Solutions. The 2016-17 book is available for purchase for $25 + tax at the County 4-H/Extension office.
located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson. Premium wall maps are also available. For more information contact their office at (440) 576-9008.

This 130-page spiral-bound book includes landownership maps by township and range of Ashtabula County. These maps include the property boundaries for all rural parcels within the township, the name of the owner and the number of acres owned. Also, there is a handy landowner index for easy cross referencing. The next version of the plat book will be released in early 2019 and until then we will be selling the 2016-17 book for $25.00 + tax.

David’s Weekly News Column
For Publication in the Jefferson Gazette on December 6 & Star Beacon on December 10, 2017

Hello, Ashtabula County! Thanksgiving weekend is well in the rear view mirror and the Holiday month of December is off and running. I know our farmers have enjoyed the milder weather as it has allowed for more corn to be harvested. I know many are hoping that snow and rain stay away so our farmers can put a bow on the 2017 harvest season.

While our farmers are busy in their fields, families are preparing for all the celebrations of the Season. In an ideal world the holiday stretch would be all sunshine and roses. But we know better, right? The holidays can be a stressful time for many. Family conflicts can surface, financial struggles bubble up as we try to keep up with the “Jones” in our materialistic society, and people who are introverted in nature can really get stressed due to the overload of people-time. I bet each of you could make a list of things that stress you during the holidays.

So what can we do about all of this stress? One way for our ladies involved in agriculture is to save the morning of December 16 so they can attend a program which our local Women in Agriculture group will be sponsoring. This workshop titled “Mindfulness and Dealing with Stress” will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2017 from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. at the Ashtabula County Extension office in Jefferson, Ohio. Join us for this program which will focus on how to manage our stressors more effectively.

To kick off the program, Marie Economos, Family & Consumer Sciences Educator in Trumbull County, will teach on mindfulness and how it can help you reduce stress in your life. Marie will share stress reduction strategies based on the research and work of Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn who developed the mindfulness-based stress reduction program. His work began dealing with chronic pain patients in Massachusetts. Mindfulness is described as the ability to remain focused on the reality of the present moment and accepting it, without judging or evaluating it. It is seen as a way of life, not simply a method of how to react to different stressors.

Following Marie’s presentation, Emily Compan, a Young Essentials Oils representative from Andover, Ohio, will discuss the many natural uses and benefits of using essential oils. Emily’s presentation is sure to be a soothing addition to the program. Following the presentations, participants will make a whipped gingerbread sugar scrub to take home and enjoy. The day will end with everyone having the chance to relax and share a few laughs during lunch at noon.
The registration fee for this program is $15 per person and reservations are requested by December 13, 2017. If you have any questions please call 440-576-9008 and talk to Abbey Averill who is coordinating this program. A complete registration flyer can be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events. We also encourage our ladies to save Saturday, January 13, 2018 on their calendars for a program on “Small Engines and Parts.”

To close, I would like to share a quote from Viggo Mortensen who stated “One of the best pieces of advice I ever got was from a horse master. He told me to go slow to go fast. I think that applies to everything in life. We live as though there aren't enough hours in the day but if we do each thing calmly and carefully we will get it done quicker and with much less stress.” Have a good and safe day!

**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

**Women in Agriculture Programs**  
December 16, 2017  
January 13, 2018  
February 17, 2018  
March 17, 2018

**Private Pesticide Applicator & Fertilizer Re-certification Sessions**  
January 12, 2018 from 8:00 to 12:00 noon in Ashtabula County  
February 2, 2018 from 8:00 to 12:00 noon in Geauga County  
February 9, 2018 from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Portage County  
March 9, 2018 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Trumbull County

**Crop Lunch – What’s New with Dicamba**  
Trumbull County Extension Office 11:30am – 2pm  
Wednesday, January 17, 2018

**Exploring the Small Farm Dream**  
Saturday, January 20, 2018

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

**2018 Winter Beef School (Calving School)**  
Thursday, February 22, 2018

**Backyard Chickens**
Trumbull County Extension Office 5-7pm  
Wednesday, March 14, 2018

2018 Ashtabula County Dairy Banquet  
Saturday, March 24, 2018

21st Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show  
Saturday, April 21, 2018

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<th>The Ohio State University</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>David Marrison</strong></th>
<th><strong>Lee Beers</strong></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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<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>
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<tr>
<td>ashtabula.osu.edu</td>
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Northeast Ohio Agriculture  
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION  
Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties
Ashtabula County Women in Agriculture:

Mindfulness
Dealing with Stress

Saturday, December 16, 2017
9:30 a.m. to 12:30
OSU Extension Office
39 Wall Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047
Registration Fee $15

The Agricultural industry is stressful enough but holidays add even more. Join Marie Economos, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educator as she teaches about Mindfulness. Stop stressing and start living. Emily Compan with Young Essentials Oils will also discuss the many natural uses and benefits of using essential oils. Everybody will make a whipped gingerbread sugar scrub to take home and enjoy. We will end the session by having a chance to relax and share a few laughs during lunch at noon.

Pre-registration required. Please complete and return with payment to Ashtabula County - OSU Extension, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047, no later than Wednesday, December 13, 2017. Cost for the program $15 per person. (Make checks payable to: OSU Extension)

Name:____________________________________________________________________ Phone: __________________________

Email address: ____________________________________________________________

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis.
For more information: http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity
Trumbull Crop Lunch

What’s Going On With Dicamba?

Mark Loux, OSU Weed Scientist
and
Peggy Hall, Professor of Ag Law

January 17, 2018
OSU Extension Office
520 West Main Street
Cortland, OH 44410

11:30 – Registration and Lunch
12:00 – Local Update
12:30 – Dicamba Update
2:00 – Adjourn

Cost is $5/person - includes lunch, pesticide and CCA credits

Join us on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 for lunch at the Trumbull County Extension office to learn about the current status of dicamba use in Ohio. Mark Loux and Peggy Hall will be joining us via video link to discuss best practices for using a dicamba resistant soybean program, updates from the ODA, and the Ohio Legislature. Pre-registration is requested for an accurate count for food. A catered lunch is sponsored by the Trumbull County Holstein Club.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Cut at the dashed line, and mail lower portion with check payable to OSU Extension to OSU Extension Trumbull County, 520 West Main St. Suite #1, Cortland, OH 44410. On-site payment is available, but please call our office to let us know you will be attending so we have enough food. Call our office or email Lee Beers (beers.66@osu.edu) with any questions. 330-638-6783

Name: ___________________________________________ Email: ________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________ Phone: ________________________________

Number attending _____ x $5/person = ____________ Enclosed

trumbull.osu.edu

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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