

# NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE NEWSLETTER

Your Weekly Agriculture Update for  
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

September 6, 2022



*Pollinators enjoying the new Pymatuning State Park Pollinator Garden*

## **In This Issue:**

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- Can We Get More Information From Our Soil Samples?
- USDA Announces Details for the 2022 Census of Agriculture
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## ***Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!***

I hope everyone enjoyed their Labor Day weekend.

We have been out scouting, looking at disease and insect pressure, potential yield, and weed presence. If you have any concerns or questions about your fields, give us a call and we can come take a look!

The 60<sup>th</sup> Farm Science Review is just two weeks away! You can now purchase tickets in our offices, or through a new mobile purchasing option, [www.go.osu.edu/fsrosueashtabula](http://www.go.osu.edu/fsrosueashtabula). We have details on purchasing tickets in this week’s newsletter.

Stay safe and have a great week!

Lee Beers  
Trumbull County  
Extension Educator

Andrew Holden  
Ashtabula County  
Extension Educator

Angie Arnold  
Portage County  
Extension Educator

# ***The “letter of intent” for solar and wind energy development: considerations for landowners***

By: Peggy Kirk Hall

Source: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/wed-08312022-1210pm/%E2%80%9Cletter-intent%E2%80%9D-solar-and-wind-energy-development-considerations-landowners>

Solar and wind energy development is thriving in Ohio, and most of that development will occur on leased farmland. Programs in the newly enacted federal Inflation Reduction Act might amplify renewable energy development even more. The decision to lease land for wind and solar development is an important one for a farmland owner, and one that remains with a farm for decades. It's also a very controversial issue in Ohio today, with farmers and community residents lining up on both sides of the controversy. For these reasons, when a landowner receives a “letter of intent” for wind or solar energy development, we recommend taking a careful course of action. Here are a few considerations that might help.

**Purpose and legal effect of a letter of intent.** Typically, a letter of intent for renewable energy development purposes is not a binding contract, but it might be. The purposes of the letter of intent are usually to provide initial information about a potential solar lease and confirm a landowner's interest in discussing the possibility of a solar lease. Unless there is compensation or a similar benefit provided to the landowner and the letter states that it's a binding contract, signing a letter of intent wouldn't have the legal effect of committing the landowner to a solar lease. But the actual language in the letter of intent would determine its legal effect, and it is possible that the letter would offer a payment and contain terms that bind a landowner to a leasing situation.

**Attorney review is critical.** To ensure a clear understanding of the legal effect and terms of the letter of intent, a landowner should review the letter with an attorney. An attorney can explain the significance of terms in the letter, which might include an “exclusivity” provision preventing the landowner from negotiating with any other solar developer for a certain period of time, “confidentiality” terms that prohibit a landowner from sharing information about the letter with anyone other than professional advisors, “assignment” terms that allow the other party to assign the rights to another company, and initial details about the proposed project and lease such as location, timeline, and payments. Working through the letter with an attorney won't require a great deal of time or cost but will remove uncertainties about the legal effect and terms of the letter of intent.

**Negotiating an Option and Lease would be the next steps.** If a landowner signs a letter of intent, the next steps will be to negotiate an Option and a Lease. It's typical for a letter of intent to summarize the major terms the developer intends to include in the Option and Lease, which can provide a helpful “heads up” on location, payments and

length of the lease. As with the letter of intent, including an attorney in the review and negotiation of the Option and Lease is a necessary practice for a landowner. We also recommend a full consideration of other issues at this point, such as the effect on the farmland, farm business, family, taxes, estate plans, other legal interests, and neighbor relations. Read more in our [“Farmland Owner’s Guide to Solar Leasing”](#) and [“Farmland Owner’s Solar Leasing Checklist”](#).

**New laws in Ohio might prohibit the development.** A new law effective in October of 2021 gives counties in Ohio new powers to restrict or reject wind and solar facilities that are 50 MW or more in size. A county can designate “restricted areas” where large-scale developments cannot locate and can reject a specific project when it’s presented to the county. The new law also allows citizens to organize a referendum on a restricted area designation and submit the designation to a public vote. Smaller facilities under 5-MW are not subject to the new law. Several counties have acted on their new authorities under the law in response to community concerns and opposition to wind and solar facilities. Community opposition and whether a county has or will prohibit large-scale wind and solar development are additional factors landowners should make when considering a letter of intent. Learn more about these new laws in our [Energy Law Library](#).

**It's okay to slow it down.** A common reaction to receiving a letter of intent is that the landowner must act quickly or could lose the opportunity. Or perhaps the document itself states a deadline for responding. A landowner shouldn’t let those fears prevent a thorough assessment of the letter of intent. If an attorney can’t meet until after the deadline, for example, a landowner should consider contacting the development and advising that the letter is under review but meeting the deadline isn’t possible. That’s a much preferred course of action to signing the letter without a review just to meet an actual or perceived deadline.

For more information about energy leases in Ohio, refer to our Energy Law Library on the Farm Office website at <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/our-library/energy-law>.

## ***Can We Get More Information From Our Soil Samples?***

By: Osler Ortiz

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-29/can-we-get-more-information-our-soil-samples>

A soil test is a profitable investment to inform our nutrient management strategy. Some farms find value in increasing sampling frequency (every one to two years) and intensity with more samples per field (0.5 versus 2.5-acre grid). Another possible way to increase the value of soil sampling is to consider additional tests that can provide helpful

management information. Some examples are soil health, soybean cyst nematode, and corn nematode testing.

Depending on the lab we use, some tests may be available by checking a box on the lab input form. Sample collection costs may be minimal if we need a separate sample for a specific analysis. For example, depending on how we collect the nutrient soil sample, we often collect more soil than what will fit in the lab bag. Rather than tossing the excess soil back in the field, we can put it in a second bag. If the soil volume is not enough to split for a second (or third) analysis, we can collect additional cores.

There is a wide range of available soil health measures. The Soil Health Institute did a broad ranging analysis of 30 soil health test. SHI recommends a minimal suite of three measurements to be widely applied across North America (and likely beyond). Those measurements include: 1) soil organic carbon concentration, 2) carbon mineralization potential, and 3) aggregate stability.

We have recently updated our guidelines for choosing a soil nutrient lab to include information on nutrient testing and soil health measures. Common nutrient and soil health terms are described. Plus, a listing of labs and services they offer is shown. Find the fact sheet at <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-0107>. The list here focuses on a few of the more common tests available from labs in our region.

- **Active organic matter (POXC).** Measures the portion of organic matter most likely to interact with plants and fertility.
- **Solvita test.** This soil respiration test measures the soil's biological activity.
- **Haney test.** This test measures how hospitable soil is for microbial life. Tests include measuring soil nutrients available to soil microbes, soil respiration (microbial breathing), water-soluble organic carbon, organic nitrogen, C:N ratios, and NO<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub>, and other key nutrients. The results indicate the amount of food readily available to soil microbes and is sensitive to measuring root exudates and decomposed organic material.
- **Bulk density and aggregate stability.** These laboratory tests measure soil structure and compaction.
- **Soil texture (or particle size analysis).** A measurement of the amount of sand, silt, and clay in your soil, which dictates soil type.

### **Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) testing**

Active management of [Soybean Cyst Nematode \(SCN\)](#) begins by knowing if you have the problem. Until the end of September (beginning of October for late planted soybean fields) you can scout fields and carefully dig out root to [check for the presence of SCN](#). In addition, a composite soil sample will reveal the presence (or not) of SCN in your field, but most importantly, it will tell you the levels of SCN ([Know your numbers!](#)), which will help you select the best SCN management approach. You can collect soil sample



for SCN test any time (i.e., in fall after harvest, spring before planting, or during the growing season).

As we mentioned above, the same composite sample collected for soil analysis can be divided into a subsample for SCN testing. Remember that nematodes are alive, and we want them alive until samples are processed. Therefore, samples must be protected from heat and direct exposure to sunlight until they are shipped to the lab. Find details about *how* to sample and *where* to send your SCN samples [here](#).

Furthermore, with funding from [Ohio Soybean Council](#) and [The SCN Coalition](#), **growers may submit up to two soil samples to the Soybean Pathology and Nematology Lab, and we will test them for SCN free of charge.**

### **Corn nematode testing**

Several nematode species can negatively impact corn production (Fig. 1).



*Corn field affected by plant-parasitic nematodes*



Sampling for corn nematodes is slightly different than sampling for SCN. For example, we **do not** recommend collecting samples for corn nematode analysis in the fall. We must sample during the growing season to determine the relationship between nematode levels and potential damage to corn. Only corn fields showing symptoms [chlorotic and stunted plants, swollen and poorly developed roots (Fig. 2), etc.], specially under nutrient availability, should be sampled for corn nematodes.



*Corn root affected by stubby-root and lesion nematodes*

Samples can be collected when symptoms start appearing during the season. Up to corn growth stage V6, soil and root samples must be collected for corn nematode analysis. Collect a composite soil sample from the *transition zone*, the area between symptomatic/damaged plants and healthy ones. Using a shovel, collect plants with their roots from the *transition zone*. Place these roots in well-labeled plastic bags for shipping. Between corn growth stages V6 to R3, only composite soil samples should be collected. For corn growth stage R4 and beyond, we **do not** recommend sampling because the nematode levels are variable and not consistent with potential damage to corn. Keep in mind that nematode samples **are alive**, therefore, you must handle it carefully. To keep the nematodes alive, store your samples in a cool, dark place out of direct exposure to sunlight and ship them to the lab as quickly as possible.

### **Final considerations**

Yield or past soil test results should drive sample area size decisions. A single sample should not represent more than 25 acres. Grid or zone sampling often results in zone

sizes of two to twelve acres and target lime or nutrients to areas of greatest need. Sample depth should be consistent. For sample depth, our Tri-State Recommendations use an 8-inch sample core. Mark your probe at your selected depth. Throw out and take another sample core when cores are compacted in the probe. We like to blame the lab for bad samples, but we generally see more variability in the sample collection process than laboratory procedures for nutrient analysis. If you want more information on soil sample collection procedures, see the factsheet at <https://go.osu.edu/soilsample>.

## ***USDA Announces Details for the 2022 Census of Agriculture***

By: Jodi Halvorson, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2022/09/01/usda-announces-details-for-the-2022-census-of-agriculture/>

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to be represented in the nation's only comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every state, county and territory. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will mail the 2022 Census of Agriculture to millions of agriculture producers across the 50 states and Puerto Rico this fall.

The 2022 Census of Agriculture will be mailed in phases, starting with an invitation to respond online in November followed by paper questionnaires in December. Farm operations of all sizes, urban and rural, which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural product in 2022 are included in the ag census. "Census of Agriculture data are widely used by federal and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations, extension educators, and many others to inform decisions about policy and farm programs and services that aid producers and rural communities," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "By responding to the Census of Agriculture – by being represented in these important data – producers are literally helping to shape their futures."

Collected in service to American agriculture since 1840 and now conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census of Agriculture tells the story and shows the value of U.S. agriculture. It highlights land use and ownership, producer characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, among other topics. Between ag census years, NASS considers revisions to the questionnaire to document changes and emerging trends in the industry. Changes to the 2022 questionnaire include new questions about the use of precision agriculture, hemp production, hair sheep, and updates to internet access questions.

To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit [www.nass.usda.gov/agcensus](http://www.nass.usda.gov/agcensus) or call 800-727-9540. On the website, producers and other data users can access

frequently asked questions, past ag census data, [partner tools](#) to help spread the word about the upcoming ag census, special study information, and more. For highlights of these and the latest information on the upcoming Census of Agriculture, follow USDA NASS on twitter [@usda\\_nass](#).

## ***Late-Season Soybeans Can Be Pest Magnets***

By: Kelley Tilmon, Andy Michel

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-29/late-season-soybeans-can-be-pest-magnets>

At the end of the growing season, when many soybean fields are shutting down, those which are still green can be a magnet for certain insect pests as they leave the mature fields. Double-crop soybeans and late planted beans that are running behind and are still fresh can be attractive for stink bugs, bean leaf beetles, and sometimes grasshoppers when they leave yellowing fields for greener pastures. If you have such soybean fields in areas where other fields are maturing, they are worth an extra eye until they reach the R6 (full seed) growth stage. After R6, the yield is mostly set and insecticide will not provide a return. Also, if you do spray late in the season, be mindful of the pre-harvest interval of the product you're using, which can be up to several weeks. Consult our pest management guide for more information about these chemicals:



<https://aginsects.osu.edu/news/msu-osu-insect-ipm-guide>

For defoliating insects like grasshoppers, look for defoliation levels across the entire field of around 15% and whether the insects are still present. A guide to defoliation can be found here:

<https://aginsects.osu.edu/sites/aginsects/files/imce/Soybean%20defoliation%20Final.pdf>

For stink bugs, which poke directly into the seed with their straw-like mouthparts, take several sweep net samples of 10 sweeps each in different parts of the field. If you average 4 stink bugs per 10-sweep set (grain) or 2 bugs per set (food-grade and seed) consider treatment.

[https://aginsects.osu.edu/sites/aginsects/files/imce/Stink%20bug%20ID%20card%20ID%205\\_1\\_19.pdf](https://aginsects.osu.edu/sites/aginsects/files/imce/Stink%20bug%20ID%20card%20ID%205_1_19.pdf)



Bean leaf beetles pose little threat when feeding on foliage earlier in the season. Later in the season they may feed directly on the pods, which can cause more damage – either through direct damage to the seed, or through opening the pod to disease. Inspect all the pods on 10 randomly selected plants and count the total number of pods and the number showing pod injury. Use your totals to determine percent pod injury. Treatment is justified if the percent pod injury is reaching 10 to 15%, and bean leaf beetle adults are still present and active.

## ***Farm Science Review unveils new mobile ticketing option***

By: Sherrie R. Whaley

Source: <https://cfaes.osu.edu/news/articles/farm-science-review-unveils-new-mobile-ticketing-option>

### **Buy Tickets Here:**

**Ashtabula:** [www.go.osu.edu/fsrosueashtabula](http://www.go.osu.edu/fsrosueashtabula)

**Trumbull:** [www.go.osu.edu/fsrosuetrumbull](http://www.go.osu.edu/fsrosuetrumbull)

**Portage:** [www.go.osu.edu/fsrosueportage](http://www.go.osu.edu/fsrosueportage)

**Geauga:** [www.go.osu.edu/fsrosuegeauga](http://www.go.osu.edu/fsrosuegeauga)


**Even after 60 years, there's always something new at Farm Science Review and, for this year's show set for Sept. 20-22, it starts with how visitors can purchase tickets.**

A new mobile ticketing option will allow visitors to print tickets at home or save to a mobile device for entry. The presale ticket price of \$10 will be available online at [fsr.osu.edu](http://fsr.osu.edu) and at participating sales locations such as county offices of OSU Extension and at participating agribusinesses, until midnight Monday, September 19th. Tickets may still be purchased online during Farm Science Review (FSR) for \$15. Children 5 & under are free. Visitors may also still purchase paper tickets with cash or credit card at the gates. Parking is free.

As always, the premier agricultural education and industry exposition will provide valuable information to farmers and producers, while focusing on continuing to educate for the future.

Hosted by the Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, FSR is held at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center, 135 State Route 38, near London. The 60th FSR will focus on "Embracing Time and Change." Review hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 20–21 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 22.

More than 100,000 people are expected to attend the event, which will feature more than 100 educational sessions including “Ask the Expert” talks, the most comprehensive field crop demonstrations in the United States, 600 exhibits, a career exploration fair, and immersive virtual reality videos of agricultural activities.

 <b>THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY</b> COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES		
<b>Lee Beers</b> Trumbull County Extension 520 West Main Street Cortland, OH 44410 330-638-6783 beers.66@osu.edu trumbull.osu.edu	<b>Andrew Holden</b> Ashtabula County Extension 39 Wall Street Jefferson, OH 44047 440-576-9008 holden.155@osu.edu ashtabula.osu.edu	<b>Angie Arnold</b> Portage County Extension 705 Oakwood St., Suite 103 Ravenna, OH 44266 330-296-6432 arnold.1143@osu.edu portage.osu.edu
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Northeast Ohio Agriculture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION  
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

## 2022 Small Farm Ruminant Production Field Day

[Dr. Brady Campbell](#), Assistant Professor, OSU State Small Ruminant Extension Specialist  
Garth Ruff, Beef Cattle Field Specialist, OSU Extension

Have a small herd of beef cattle, goats, or a flock of sheep? Are you a new or beginning ruminant livestock producer? If yes to either of these questions, this program is for you!

Join OSU Extension educators and state specialists for an all-day workshop covering topics every ruminant livestock producer needs to know from grazing and nutrition, livestock marketing, facilities and housing. This event is slated to be held on Saturday, October 8th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at the OSU ATI Beef Center located at 2736 S. Apple Creek Road, Apple Creek, Ohio 44606. After lunch, those who have an interest in sheep or goats will depart to the Small Ruminant Research Unit located on Fredericksburg Road (5651 Fredericksburg Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691), while those focused on beef cattle will remain at the ATI Beef Center.

Afternoon training sessions will be species-specific that include hands-on training in animal care and handling, basic animal health, livestock evaluation, and much more.

Cost: \$30 per person lunch Included.

Limited to first 40 Registrations.

Register at <https://go.osu.edu/smallfarmruminantfieldday>

### **Agenda**

- 9:00 Registration Opens
- 9:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:45 Morning Discussions:
  - Nutrition and Forages
  - Housing, ventilation, manure management
  - Livestock marketing
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:15 Hands on
  - Efficiency (tools, equipment, and facilities)
  - Record keeping
  - Birthing supplies and simulators
  - Sheep – demo shearing, drench gun, trimming feet, FAMACHA
  - Beef – calving simulator, calf processing, BCS, cattle evaluation

For more information, please contact Morrow County OSU Extension Educator, Carri Jagger at [jagger.6@osu.edu](mailto:jagger.6@osu.edu) or Garth Ruff at [ruff.72@osu.edu](mailto:ruff.72@osu.edu)

We look forward to seeing you at the event!





**DATE:**  
October 8, 2012

**TIME:**  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Registration 8:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:**  
OSU All Beef Center  
1716 S. Apple Creek Rd.  
Apple Creek 44606



## Small Farm Ruminant Production Field Day

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After lunch, those who have an interest in sheep or goats will report to the Small Ruminant Research Unit located on Knickerbocker Road, while those focused on beef cattle will remain at the All Beef Center.

Afternoon training sessions will be species-specific that include hands-on training in animal care and handling, basic animal health, livestock evaluation, and much more.

Cost: \$30 per person lunch included.  
limited to first 40 Registrations.

Register at <http://www.osu.edu/extension/extensionofosude>

OSU Extension Campus  
[www.osu.edu](http://www.osu.edu)

OSU Extension Beef Team  
[beef.osu.edu](http://beef.osu.edu)

OSU Extension Sheep Team  
[sheep.osu.edu](http://sheep.osu.edu)

OSU Extension is an equal opportunity organization and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, or disability. For more information, visit [www.osu.edu/extension/extensionofosude](http://www.osu.edu/extension/extensionofosude).

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

(Image used on OSU Sheep Team page)

## **We're Hiring! SNAP-Ed Program Assistant**

- Use standardized curriculum materials to teach food, nutrition, food resource management, and other related topics to low-income adults, youth, and/or families as part of the Education branch of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed) in a variety of community settings.
- Use standardized evaluation instruments to assess program participants' knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors to determine educational needs and impacts.
- Refer program participants to appropriate assistance programs.
- Recruit adults for the program by collaborating with community agencies and programs, as well as using other tools of promotion.
- Recruit youth for the program by collaborating with schools serving 50% or more free and reduced meals.
- Support target-audience and nutrition-related policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) interventions in the community.
- Participate in staff development and training opportunities to enhance knowledge of nutrition topics and successful methods for nutrition education.
- Regular travel will be required throughout the county from the county Extension office and occasionally to the state office and other regional locations around the state.
- This is a grant-funded position which is renewable by the sponsor agency and by OSU Extension.

**Location:** Position is located in Jefferson, Ohio with additional duties in neighboring Geauga county.

**Salary:** \$16.00 Hourly

**Hours:** Regular, Full-time

**Posting #:** R54121

**Deadline to Apply:** 9/11/2022

Interested applicants should apply at: <https://hr.osu.edu/careers>. Click on "Non-Ohio State Employees" and search for R54121.



**OHIO  
SNAP-ED**

Better food choices for healthier Buckeyes

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Program – SNAP



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**Position Opening: SNAP-Ed Program Assistant, Ashtabula County****Summary of Duties:**

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Use standardized evaluation instruments to assess program participants' knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors to determine educational needs and impacts.

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SNAP-ED**

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# The Grassroots of Grazing

## Pasture Management Workshop

**Saturday, September 10, 2022**

**10 am - 3 pm**

**Connor Farms in Troy Township**

**17037 Claridon-Troy Road, Burton, OH 44021**

**COST: \$10 per person and includes lunch**

Brought to  
you by:



Geauga Soil and Water  
Conservation District



GEAUGA COUNTY

**Don't Miss Out ~  
Greener Pastures Ahead!**

Learn more about pasture management and pasture-based livestock production in this exciting workshop & walk at Connor Farms in Troy Township. Gain knowledge, ideas, and inspiration from some of the buckeye state's most "moo'ing" presenters from ODA – Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Martin Joyce and nationally recognized Grazing Specialist Bob Hendershot, along with other local herdsman and resource professionals. We will explore animal nutrition, rotational grazing, forage and weed identification, and pasture and hay management. A delicious lunch of grass-fed burgers from the farm is included in the registration cost. Space is limited and anyone interested in better pastures is welcome!

**Rain or Shine! Please come prepared for this outdoor program.**  
We will continue to follow current state guidelines for Covid-19 safety.

**Advanced Registration & Payment Required by September 5th**

**Register Now!**

Questions? [geaugaswcd.com](http://geaugaswcd.com)



440-834-1122



[gprunty@geaugaswcd.com](mailto:gprunty@geaugaswcd.com)



**CFAES****DATE:**

October 8, 2022

**TIME:**9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.  
Registration 8:30 a.m.**LOCATION:**OSU ATI Beef Center  
2736 S. Apple Creek Rd  
Apple Creek 44606**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

EXTENSION

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**CFAES Wooster Campus**  
[wooster.osu.edu](http://wooster.osu.edu)**OSU Extension Beef Team**  
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