Hello, Northeast Ohio Counties!

We will be getting a short reprieve from the cold temps later this week with temperatures in the 70’s. It’s going to be tropical!

A quick check of the soil temperatures this morning showed 36.1°F here in Cortland. We have quite a way to go before we get to planting temperatures even for our cold season crops like oats or peas.

Forecast looks more favorable in May for planting, so it will be another hurried planting season in 2018.

Lee Beers & David Marrison  
Extension Educators  
Ag & Natural Resources
Pattern Favors Only Slow Improvement - Challenging Weather to linger throughout April!
By Jim Noel
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2018-08/pattern-favors-only-slow-improvement-challenging-weather-linger

The expected cold and wet weather pattern for spring that has been forecast since December continues. There will be some relief this week after a cold start to the week with temperatures 10 degrees below normal we will switch and see temperatures by the end of the week a good 10+ degrees above normal but when average out through Sunday April 15, we will return to about average temperatures for the week. Drying is expected as well through Friday with only minor precipitation events but another rain event is expected this weekend. There is a lot of uncertainty on amounts and placement so confidence is low but there is potential for some heavy rain in parts of Ohio.

The week of April 16-22 will return to a colder than normal pattern with temperatures several degrees below normal. Precipitation will be lighter next week after the weekend rain event. Though April 25, rainfall is forecast to average 2-3 inches with isolated 4+ inches across the state of Ohio. This is still above average. See the associated graphic from the NWS Ohio River Forecast Center.

Soil temperatures will also continue to be below normal with the risk of some late freezes in late April so early planting risk will remain elevated. Improvement will likely not fully come until May when temperatures may actually be slightly above normal. However, rainfall may continue to be at or above normal so challenges will likely linger this year into May for planting season. The summer growing season still looks to see a switch toward warmer and drier weather but it is not clear whether this will happen in later May, June or early July. We will keep you posted. In summary, thanks in part to La Nina, expect a challenging planting season in Ohio into May. Summer may also offer its own challenges as the pattern switches from the cold and wet period to a warmer and drier period but it is uncertain exactly when that will occur.

2nd Annual Lyme Disease Symposium to be held on May 5, 2018 in Andover, Ohio
The 2nd Annual Multidisciplinary Lyme Disease Symposium will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Performing Arts Center at
Pymatuning Valley Schools located at 5571 US Route 6 West, Andover, Ohio. This event is being sponsored by the Northeast Ohio Lyme Foundation a non-profit organization created to help those battling Lyme disease as well as other tick-borne illnesses. Community members are invited to attend this event which will be full of education and awareness.

The featured speakers for this event include:

Dr. Bea Szantyr, MD from Maine, a Lyme disease specialist and member of the International Lyme And Associated Diseases Society, will share with us her knowledge and years of experience researching and treating Lyme disease. Dr. Szantyr's exploration of Lyme disease and other chronic debilitating illnesses began over twenty years ago and now consists of thousands of hours in related activities.

Dr. Charles Curie, DVM is a local veterinarian who is passionate about Lyme disease education and awareness, and he will share his knowledge of Lyme disease in the animal population.

Sue Faber, RN, BScN, is from Ontario Canada, and has conducted extensive research on Lyme disease transmitted transplacentally, from mother to unborn child. Sue and her daughters have all battled Lyme disease. She chooses to speak out on behalf of herself, her daughters and for all others who have been blindsided, isolated and abandoned by this insidious disease. Sue is passionate about uniting and empowering physicians, nurses and other allied health professionals - with a common goal of holistic, evidence based patient-centered care and research.

Mary Kate Robertson from the Duck Dynasty Family will share her personal story of her family's journey through Lyme disease. Mary Kate is married to Willie and Korie Robertson's eldest son John Luke, said she decided to share her story to help those who are battling a chronic illness to know "you are not alone."

Doug Priest will be traveling in from IGENEX Lab Inc. to share information about correct testing for tick-borne diseases. He will cover topics like testing and current trends in Tick borne diseases etc.

Dr. Martin Gallagher, MD, DC is from Medical Wellness Associates, an Integrative Medical facility near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Integrative Medicine combines conventional Western medicine with alternative or complementary treatments, such as acupuncture, chiropractic, prolotherapy, homeopathy, botanical medicine, etc.- all in an effort to treat the whole person. Dr. Gallagher will share his knowledge and expertise of integrative medicine with us.

There will be a question and answer session at the end of the day allowing for questions addressed to all speakers. Tickets for this event are $20 per registrant and are available on-line until April 30. After this time, tickets may be purchased at the door but will not include a lunch. Lunch will be catered from Panera Bread but requires a 5 day advanced order. Tickets can be purchased at: https://neohiolymefoundation.eventbrite.com
Tariff Threats from China Frustrating Agriculture
By Ty Higgins and Matt Reese

Across the nation those involved in agriculture are expressing frustration (to put it mildly, in some cases) about the escalation of a trade dispute that has resulted in China’s announcement of a proposed 25% tariff on imported U.S. soybeans.

*It does not take many guesses to figure out the topic of most concern heard by U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue as he toured Ohio yesterday.*

“[President Trump] understands that agriculture, based on its bountiful production, is always the tip of the spear on retaliatory measures. He is convinced that this will not be the case this time. He asked me to tell the farmers in Ohio, Kentucky, and Michigan exactly that,” Perdue said. “We have a renewed agreement with Korea and we have maintained that business. I do think there is optimism regarding NAFTA, which will help reduce that anxiety a little. Then we cope with China. These announcements are just the beginning. Hopefully the announcements from both sides will bring both countries to the table to address some of the unfair trade practices we believe China has engaged in, particularly intellectual property theft. Most farmers are Americans first and patriots. They want people to play by the rules. They do and they expect others to play by the rules. President Trump is the first President who has called out China for not playing by the rules. I think most farmers understand that, they just don’t want to be the only ones sacrificing in that arena.”

But at a time when commodity prices are mired in the worst agricultural economy in 16 years, a trade war with by far the largest importer of U.S. soybeans is a big ask for agriculture. China said that its 25% tariff will only go into effect based on the course of action the administration takes moving forward. U.S. agriculture is nervous and calling upon President Trump to counter China’s policies on intellectual property in a way that does not require tariffs and engage the Chinese in a constructive manner that will achieve a positive result for soybean farmers.

“A 25% tariff on U.S. soybean exports to China not only will have a devastating effect on every Ohio soybean farmer, but it will also hurt every Ohioan who relies upon a healthy rural economy,” said Scott Metzger, Ohio Soybean Association first vice president and Ross County soybean farmer. “This retaliatory action by China was both predictable and avoidable, and it is the reason soybean farmers asked the Trump Administration not to impose tariffs against China in the first place.”
OSA (along with pretty much everyone else involved with agriculture) is calling on the White House to reconsider proposed tariffs imposed upon China that led to this retaliation. China purchases 61% of total U.S. soybean exports and more than 30% of overall U.S. soybean production.

“It is a big concern. China doesn’t have to enact a wholesale abandonment of U.S. soybeans to have a significant impact on the profitability of the U.S. soybean farmer. All that is required is a percentage of their historic sales shifting to Brazil or Argentina. If that happens it can be the difference between soybeans being at a profitable level or being 50 cents less and going into the red,” said Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition. “The rise of China has been a real boon to the U.S. soybean farmer. It would be nice if our government was a facilitator to that and not a barrier.”

Soybeans are Ohio’s largest crop and top agricultural export. According to the Ohio Development Services Agency, Ohio’s $1.8 billion in soybean exports in 2017 accounted for more than 3.5% of all Ohio commodity exports. Soybean futures following the announcement quickly dropped nearly 40 cents a bushel, which, at a projected U.S. 2018 crop of 4.3 billion bushels, cost American soybean farmers $1.72 billion in value.

“I knew it was coming,” said Ian Sheldon, an agricultural economist, who serves as the Andersons Chair in Agricultural Marketing, Trade and Policy with The Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). “This is obviously going to hurt farmers.”

If the China does follow through with the tariff threats and American soybean prices in China go up, other countries could step up to supply more soybeans to China, and they could be sold cheaper without the tariffs. In the long term, that could cause the United States to permanently lose a significant share of the soybean market, Sheldon said.

“U.S. farmers may not be able to grab that market share back,” he said. Across the United States, about one in every three rows of soybeans grown is exported to China, said Ben Brown, who runs CFAES’s farm management program, which provides farm policy and market information to Ohio farmers and others. A 25% tariff on American soybeans in China would change that ratio to one out of every five soybean rows grown going to China, Brown said.

“The soybeans that don’t get sold to China are going to need a buyer somewhere,” he said. Soybeans are one of 106 U.S. products with proposed tariffs in China announced on April 4. In addition to agriculture, the other two main areas targeted are aircraft and automobiles.
China’s tariff threat is the latest move in an ongoing back and forth with China that began March 8 when President Donald Trump imposed 25% tariffs on imported steel and a 10% tariff on imported aluminum from most countries, including China.

If the Chinese impose the tariff on soybeans, as well as on other agricultural products that they have announced, including pork and wine and a proposal to add beef, it could change farmers’ opinion of Trump, which has been largely supportive, Sheldon said. “This may be the straw that breaks the camel’s back,” he said. “I think farmers haven’t walked away from the administration yet, but they might, in time.”

**Seven Farm Bill Hurdles**

By Sara Schafer, Top Producer Editor  
Source: [https://www.agweb.com/article/seven-farm-bill-hurdles/](https://www.agweb.com/article/seven-farm-bill-hurdles/)

The current farm bill expires in September 2018. So that’s the hard line in the sand to pass a new farm bill or extend the current one. “The 2018 farm bill could look mostly like 2014 farm bill,” says Pat Westhoff, director of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri. “A lot of people are reasonably happy with what they have, and it is hard to agree on alternatives.”

Beyond overcoming the political differences in Washington, every component of the farm bill comes with a price tag, as does every proposed change. “There is very little additional money to spend on the farm bill,” says Jim Wiesemeyer, Washington policy analyst for Pro Farmer and Farm Journal. “That’s why everyone is saying the farm bill will be evolutionary rather than revolutionary.”

Westhoff and Wiesemeyer detail several of the key obstacles to passing the next farm bill.

1. **SNAP**: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the single biggest challenge to getting a farm bill done in 2018, Westhoff says. That’s because both sides of the political aisle and the President must agree on a solution. Current proposals include creating stricter work and eligibility requirements. “But the Democrats on the committee say this proposal is not acceptable,” Westhoff says. Because this is such a hot-button issue and requires 60 votes in the Senate, Wiesemeyer predicts, there won’t be substantial changes to the program.

2. **Dairy**: Few milk producers liked the 2014 Dairy Margin Protection Program, Westhoff says. The Bipartisan Budget Act keeps the Dairy Margin Protection Program, but reduces premiums for small producers. It also removes a cap on a livestock insurance program. “This will increase the deficit, but so did many other provisions in that bill,” Westhoff says. The House farm bill will offer additional dairy options, Wiesemeyer adds.
3. **CRP**: The 2014 farm bill caps the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) at 24 million acres. “There’s talk of taking it to 29 million acres,” Wiesemeyer says. “To offset that cost, they would offer lower rental payments for maturing and new contracts.”

4. **ARC and PLC**: The problem with the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs is both need some changes, Wiesemeyer says. “For PLC, there will be an opportunity for higher reference prices, and for ARC, information will now come from the Risk Management Agency rather than NASS,” he says. “But substantial changes would cost too much money.

5. **Niche Programs**: Several programs, such organic agriculture research and extension, beginning farmer and farmers’ market promotion, do not have a baseline after fiscal year 2018, Westhoff says. “Many have strong supporters,” he says. “But extending all of these programs would cost about $3 billion.”

6. **Crop Insurance**: Wiesemeyer says the specific crop insurance language in the farm bill is not necessarily a challenge—it’s the amendments that follow. “They are offered by various non-agriculture panel members who want to see significant changes that farmers would not like,” he says. “They are typically voted down, but I still see it as a hurdle.”

7. **Calendar**: With House and Senate elections just a few months away, the farm bill has a narrow window to pass through both chambers and resolve differences, Westhoff says. “Timing is always a problem for Congress,” Wiesemeyer adds. “They need deadline pressures to get anything done.”

**USDA Reopens Enrollment for Improved Dairy Safety Net Tool**

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue is encouraging dairy producers to consider enrolling in the new and improved Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy), which will provide better protections for dairy producers from shifting milk and feed prices. With changes authorized under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) has set the enrollment period to run from April 9, 2018 to June 1, 2018.

“We recognize the financial hardships many of our nation’s dairy producers are experiencing right now. Folks are losing their contracts and they are getting anxious about getting their bills paid while they watch their milk check come in lower and lower each month. The Bipartisan Budget Act provided some much-needed incentives for dairy producers to make cost-effective decisions to strengthen their farms, mitigate risk, and conserve their natural resources,” said Secretary Perdue. “This includes our support of America’s dairy farms. We encourage dairy producers to review the provisions of the updated program, which Congress shaped with their feedback. Those changes are now in effect, and I’d ask any producers who are interested to contact their local USDA service centers.”
About the Program:
The program protects dairy producers by paying them when the difference between the national all-milk price and the national average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount elected by the producer.

Changes include:
- Calculations of the margin period is monthly rather than bi-monthly.
- Covered production is increased to 5 million pounds on the Tier 1 premium schedule, and premium rates for Tier 1 are substantially lowered.
- An exemption from paying an administrative fee for limited resource, beginning, veteran, and disadvantaged producers. Dairy operators enrolled in the previous 2018 enrollment period that qualify for this exemption under the new provisions may request a refund.

Dairy operations must make a new coverage election for 2018, even if you enrolled during the previous 2018 signup period. Coverage elections made for 2018 will be retroactive to January 1, 2018. All dairy operations desiring coverage must sign up during the enrollment period and submit an appropriate form (CCC-782) and dairy operations may still “opt out” by not submitting a form. All outstanding balances for 2017 and prior years must be paid in full before 2018 coverage is approved.

Dairy producers can participate in FSA’s MPP-Dairy or the Risk Management Agency’s Livestock Gross Margin Insurance Plan for Dairy Cattle (LGM-Dairy), but not both. During the 2018 enrollment period, only producers with an active LGM-Dairy policy who have targeted marketings insured in 2018 months will be allowed to enroll in MPP-Dairy by June 1, 2018; however, their coverage will start only after active target marketings conclude under LGM-Dairy.

USDA has a web tool to help producers determine the level of coverage under the MPP-Dairy that will provide them with the strongest safety net under a variety of conditions. The online resource, which will be updated and available by April 9 at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool, allows dairy farmers to quickly and easily combine unique operation data and other key variables to calculate their coverage needs based on price projections. Producers can also review historical data or estimate future coverage based on data projections. The secure site can be accessed via computer, smartphone, tablet or any other platform.

USDA is mailing postcards advising dairy producers of the changes. For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy or contact your local USDA service center.

**Beekeepers to Meet on April 21 in Jefferson, Ohio**
The Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association will be meeting on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the Ashtabula County Extension Office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson, Oho. There will be a Pot Luck Dinner at Noon followed by the general meeting at 1:00 p.m. Please bring a
dish/dessert to share. The annual auction and election of offices will also be held. The educational topic will be Open discussion- please bring your questions. The next meeting of the Association will be held on May 19, 2018. Additional information can be obtained by calling Sharon at 440-576-8818.

**Come See the “Timberdoodle Flutter” & Learn Habitat Tips**

Join our free family fun event at the Western Reserve Land Conservancy’s Cahlik Preserve, 9568 Penniman Road, Orwell Ohio as we search the recently managed habitat for the American Woodcock (aka Timberdoodle). Observe the magnificent aerobatics and “sky dance” performed during their courtship display!

The event will begin at 6:00 P.M. on Monday April 16, 2018 at the Cahlik Cabin parking lot. Follow signs from Penniman Road ¾ mile east down gravel drive to arrive at cabin. Attendees will be provided with a short presentation detailing recent management efforts to benefit the American woodcock and many other “Young Forest” wildlife species. A short tour of managed sites will be led by habitat biologists from the Wildlife Management Institute, Ruffed Grouse Society, ODNR Division of Wildlife, and the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Along the way wildlife enthusiasts and landowners will hear about opportunities and assistance to enhance forest and shrub habitat on their fields and forests, from local USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service staff and the wildlife biologists in order to attract a greater diversity of wildlife to their property.

Attendees should bring binoculars, warm clothes, and field footwear. Anyone in need of special accommodations should call ahead of time. This twilight flight is weather dependent; so keep your fingers crossed for mostly clear skies and very little wind. Any questions call the Western Reserve Land Conservancy office at (440-813-4664). We hope to see you there!

**Good Agricultural Practices Training Workshop Slated for April 25 in Burton, Ohio**

Good Agricultural Practices, or GAPs, for fruit and vegetable production will be the focus of this three-hour training. The workshop will be held on April 25, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon at the Ohio State University Extension, Geauga County office, located at 14269 Claridon-Troy Road, Burton, OH 44021.

The Produce Safety Educational Course will cover good agricultural practices or ‘GAPs”, which help reduce the risk of on-farm produce contamination. Attendees will receive a certificate of participation. Attending the OSU GAPs class does not equate to being GAPs Certified. Topics will include Worker Training, Health and Hygiene; Manure and Compost Handling; Domestic and Wild Animals; and Recordkeeping.
Contact the Geauga County Extension Office to reserve your spot by calling (440) 834-4656. Registration is $25 per person, payable by cash or check, with checks made out to “Ohio State University Extension.”

**Women & Chainsaws - Operating Chainsaws Safely Class to be held in Jefferson, Ohio**

OSU Extension’s Women in Agriculture Program in Ashtabula County invites women to the “Women & Chainsaws- Operating Chainsaws Safely” workshop on April 28 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Ashtabula County Extension office in Jefferson, Ohio.

This class will feature Lee Beers (Extension Educator in Trumbull County) who will teach the basics of chainsaws. Chainsaws are a vital “tool” for farms. Learn the basics of handling, operating and maintaining chainsaw. Learn the safety equipment which should be used and learn the basics of felling and bucking a tree. Be safe as you and your family cut firewood and maintain your property lines. Safety gear raffle will be included.

Cost for the class is $15/person. Pre-registration is requested by April 20th to ensure minimum numbers. We will be outside for demonstrations, so please dress according. Please complete the following registration form and return to OSU Extension – Ashtabula County, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio. Make checks payable to OSU Extension. Call the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008 for more details. A registration flyer can also be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events.

**Sign up to Volunteer at Ashtabula County Ag Day**

On May 11, 2018 nearly 1,100 members of the class of 2029 will be descending on the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds to participate in Ashtabula County’s “Ag Day.” Coordinated by OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Farm Bureau, the primary goal of this event is to educate first graders on where their food comes from and to showcase the different types of agricultural commodities which are being produced in Ashtabula County.

Ashtabula County’s Ag Day program has become a community supported effort as over 300 volunteers and donors help to make this day a reality for the students. The registration for volunteers is being conducted electronically this year. To ensure that you receive an Ag-Day t-shirt, please register to volunteer by April 1, 2018.

To register, access:

[go.osu.edu/agday2018](go.osu.edu/agday2018)
Additional information about Ag Day can be received by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

**Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show to be held on Saturday, April 21**

The Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association will be sponsoring the 21st Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Jackpot Show on Saturday, April 21 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 $35 per head is required. A $5 discount is being given for any entry received prior to April 13, 2018. 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. A registration flyer can be found at: [http://go.osu.edu/ne-events](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

**2018-2019 Ashtabula County Beef Scholarships Applications Due April 16**

OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association are pleased to announce they will be awarding two youth beef scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year. One $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a deserving 2018 High School Senior who will be attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute in 2018-2019. 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. Applications must be received by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association by Monday, April 16, 2018 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](http://go.osu.edu/ne-events). Additional information can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

**Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Applications Deadline is May 1**

OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for a minimum of fourteen scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year to Ashtabula County students enrolled in either an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. Both graduate and undergraduate...
students are encouraged to apply for the scholarships which they meet the eligibility requirements. The scholarships are for a one year period. A student may apply and be awarded a scholarship in three years from the scholarship fund.

Application forms with complete instructions for applying are now available and can be received by stopping in at the Ashtabula County 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 also be obtained by emailing ashtabulacountyagscholarship@gmail.com

**Hydrangea School to be Held on April 26, 2018**

The Ashtabula County Extension office is pleased to be offering a Hydrangea School on Thursday, April 26, 2018 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.

**Choose a Divine Vine**

*By the Ashtabula County Master Gardeners*

_suggested cutline for photo: Only the female hop vine produces the attractive cones used in brewing ale._

Envisioning a beautiful flowering vine scrambling over the fence or the arbor, you visit the garden center or peruse the nursery catalogs, pick the one with the blossoms you like best and plant it. However, there are several factors you should consider before choosing a perennial vine as a permanent addition to your landscape.
First, identify your goal, whether it’s screening an unsightly view, adding vertical interest in the garden, providing delightful fragrance next to a garden path or creating a lush profusion of blossoms and greenery around a seating area.

These and others are all compelling reasons to plant vines, but not all vines are appropriate for each of these uses. For instance, the clematis with its exotic blooms will look gorgeous on the gatepost but it won’t screen the garbage cans. With your planting location in mind, research the growth and flowering habits of various vines; their temperature, light, soil and care requirements; and the type of support they require.

Next, find out whether your chosen vine is hardy in your planting zone. Nursery catalogs will tell you the zone range, but the tags in the garden section of the grocery or DIY store may not. The gorgeous mandevilla, the beauty with whom you enjoyed a flirtation in the summer, is a southern belle who will leave you flat next year in Ohio.

Because of its close proximity to Lake Erie, Ashtabula County includes all the zones charted in Ohio, 6a to 5b. You may also consider some possible gray areas due to microclimates in your own landscape. More information can be found at http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov.

Vines climb by either twining stems, coiling leafstalks, tendrils or aerial suckers or rootlets. Tendrils are modified stem or leaf tissue, slender feelers that grow straight out until they touch something around which they can twine. Stems, leafstalks and tendrils coil too tightly to get a grip on a large post, so provide support in the form of lattice, stretched strings or other small vertical and horizontal members. Stems and tendrils can be redirected as needed, gently uncoiling them and poking their ends through a support in the desired direction. Vines without support or vertical surfaces they can climb will sprawl out and become groundcovers.

Here are a few perennial vines to consider.

Clematis - large flowered varieties - (Clematis x species). This well-behaved vine wants to be planted in sun in neutral or slightly alkaline soil but use shallow groundcover or mulch to shade the roots. Slender plants grow about 6 – 10 feet high and 2 – 3 feet wide. Early flowering varieties bloom in spring and early summer on last year’s growth. Late flowering varieties bloom late summer into the fall on new wood. Make sure you know which you have and when to prune to avoid inadvertently pruning off the bloom tissue. Deadhead faded flowers to prolong bloom season.

Climbing hydrangea (Hydrangea anomala). This deciduous vine clings by aerial rootlets and twining stems. A large, heavy plant, it requires substantial support and may grow 30 – 60 feet but can be kept much smaller. One of the few vines that will do well in shade, it should be protected from broiling afternoon sun. While it is slow to get established and doesn’t bloom the first few years, it then takes off. After the first year, prune lightly for shape right after blooming. To reduce size prune heavily in late winter or early spring.
Dutchman’s Pipe (Aristolochia). Consider this vine if you’d like to host swallowtail butterfly instars. Grown in sun or partial shade, it spreads 10 -20 wide and 20- 30 feet high. A woody, deciduous vine with leaves appearing on old growth, it should not be cut back hard in the fall. Choose native North American varieties as the leaves of the exotic varieties are toxic or distasteful to the swallowtail babies and they will die.

Nugget hops (Humulus lupulus). Originally used as a preservative for ale, then as flavoring, this native vine is now used as a lush covering for fences or small buildings. The female plants produce the attractive cones used in brewing. Avoid male plants so you won’t have hops appearing in some remote location. It will grow in most any soil and sun but will produce cones best in rich, loamy soil and full sun and can cover 30-40 feet in a single season. After the onset of cold weather, cut back to two feet high and bury the cut shoots in the ground. New plants will emerge from rhizomes.

These are only a few of the available vines, and complete information is beyond the scope of this article. For more information, do a Google search, consult a local nursery person or the Master Gardener Volunteers at the county extension office, or head to the library to read up.

In 2018, Ashtabula County Master Gardeners will be covering a wide range of topics, indicating special interests among their members. If you would like a master gardener to write about a particular topic, call the OSU Extension Office at (440) 576-9008.

David’s Weekly News Column

For Publication in the Jefferson Gazette on April 11 & Ashtabula County Star Beacon on April 15

Hello, Ashtabula County! Many of you know that I grew up in New Lyme in southern Ashtabula County. A really cool fact is that it is the only New Lyme Township in the state. The township was first settled by former Connecticut resident Joel Owen in 1803 and my research indicates the township was originally known as Lebanon. In 1825 it was renamed New Lyme in honor of Lyme, Connecticut, the former home of many of our early settlers.

Until recently our only connection to Lyme, Connecticut was the settlement of New Lyme, Ohio. However, now when we hear the word Lyme, we are less likely to think of the township which I love but rather Lyme Disease. Lyme disease is one of the fastest-growing vector-borne infections in the United States. Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium Borrelia burgdorferi and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks.

Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue and a characteristic skin rash called the “bull’s-eye” rash. If left untreated, infection can spread to the joints, heart and nervous...
system. Lyme disease was diagnosed as a separate condition for the first time in 1975 in Lyme, Connecticut; hence its name - Lyme Disease.

A recent report from the Ohio Department of Health indicates there were 267 reported cases of Lyme Disease in Ohio in 2017. Lyme disease occurs primarily in the Northeastern and upper Midwestern United States. Ohio is located in between these regions and for years we had fairly low occurrences of Lyme disease. This low occurrence was attributed to the absence of the blacklegged tick or deer tick. However, since 2010, the blacklegged tick populations in Ohio have increased dramatically.

At Good Friday Church services, Marlin Moschell of Andover shared with me the details about the 2nd Annual Multidisciplinary Lyme Disease Symposium which will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Performing Arts Center at Pymatuning Valley Schools located at 5571 US Route 6 West, Andover, Ohio.

This event is being sponsored by the Northeast Ohio Lyme Foundation which is a non-profit organization created to help those battling Lyme disease as well as other tick-borne illnesses. The foundation is driven by the tireless work of Connie Moschell along with her daughters Megan & Sara Tilton, son Jonathan Moschell and her husband Marlin. Community members are invited to attend this event which will be full of education and awareness.

I am really, really impressed with the line-up of speakers which the Foundation has arranged for this meeting. It is an incredibly balanced program providing education about Lyme Disease from a variety of angles. It will be well worth your time to attend this symposium!

One of the speakers will include Dr. Bea Szantyr from Maine who is a Lyme Disease Specialist and member of the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society. Dr. Szantyr will share her thoughts on over twenty years on the study and treatment of Lyme disease and other chronic debilitating illnesses.

Also on hand to share his medical experiences will be Dr. Martin Gallagher from Medical Wellness Associates in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Gallagher will share details of integrative medicine which combines conventional Western medicine with alternative or complementary treatments, such as acupuncture, chiropractic, prolotherapy, homeopathy, and botanical medicines.

The conference will also have an international component as Sue Faber a registered nurse from Ontario Canada will travel across the border to share her extensive research on the transmission of Lyme disease from mother to unborn child. Sue and her daughters have all battled Lyme disease.
Doug Priest from IGENEX Lab Inc. will also be in attendance to share information about correct testing for tick-borne diseases. He will cover topics like testing and current trends in Tick borne diseases.

Lyme disease not only affects humans but also our four-legged friends. I am pleased that local veterinarian Dr. Charles Curie will be on hand to share his knowledge on Lyme disease in our animal population. Dr. Curie is very passionate about Lyme disease education and awareness. Dr. Curie will help us learn how to protect ourselves by protecting our pets.

And last but not least, I think many Duck Dynasty fans will be thrilled to learn that Mary Kate Robertson from the Duck Dynasty Family will be in attendance to share a very personal story of her family’s journey through Lyme disease. Mary Kate who is married to Willie and Korie Robertson’s eldest son John Luke, said she decided to share her story to help those who are battling a chronic illness to know "you are not alone."

There will be a question and answer session at the end of the day allowing for questions addressed to all speakers. Tickets for this event are $20 per registrant and are available online until April 30. After this time, tickets may be purchased at the door but will not include a lunch. Lunch will be catered from Panera Bread but requires a 5 day advanced order. Tickets can be purchased at: https://neohiolymefoundation.eventbrite.com

For those looking for resources on Lyme Disease and blacklegged ticks, the Ohio Department of Health has a great website which is updated frequently and it can be accessed at http://www.odh.ohio.gov/lyme. Ohio State University has a great factsheet on Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases and it can be found at https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/HYG-2073

To close, I would like to share a quote from author Rebecca VanDeMark (rebeccavandemark.com) who stated “Lyme is a word. Not a sentence.” 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

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

**Hydrangea Workshop**
Thursday, April 26, 2018

Northeast Ohio Agriculture
Women & Chainsaws – Women in Agriculture Program
April 28, 2018

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<tr>
<td>Ashtabula County Extension Office</td>
<td>Trumbull County Extension Office</td>
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<td>39 Wall Street</td>
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<td>Jefferson, OH 44047</td>
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OSU Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Training

Wednesday, April 25, 2018
9 A.M. – 12 Noon
Geauga County Extension Office
14269 Claridon-Troy Road
Burton, OH 44021

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

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

Fee:
$25.00 per person

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

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

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Please RSVP by April 20, 2018 if you plan to attend. Registration Fee is $25 per person. Make checks payable to The Ohio State University Extension. Mail this registration form and payment to the Geauga County OSU Extension Office, P.O. Box 387, Burton, OH 44021.

How many will be attending __________

Name (s) ____________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________ Email: ____________________________

OSU Extension, Geauga County
P.O. Box 387, 14269 Claridon Troy
Burton, OH 44021
Phone – 440-834-4656/Fax – 440-834-0087
geauga.osu.edu
CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For More information: http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.