This past weekend was fabulous. In fact, it was one of the warmest weekends we have ever had for the Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show. Usually, it is cold and miserable for this show with everyone bundled up in their Carhartt jackets! We had a great show. It was great to see 12 of our local Ashtabula County youth at this show. Congratulations to each of the youth for showing their steer and/or heifer at this show. A special thank you is extended to the ACCA Directors (Bob Brown, Dr. Bryan Elliott, Bart Kanicki, Zach Ward & Tyler Brown) for their hard work in putting on this event for our youth. A reminder to all our youth who will be attending (or are currently attending) college next year that the Ashtabula County Ag Scholarship applications and the Ashtabula County Youth Beef Scholarship are due on May 1, 2015 (just a week away!). Have a good and safe week.

David Marrison, AG Educator

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**18TH Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer Show a Success**

This past Saturday, the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association held the 18th Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds. This show was started in 1998 to give youth under the age of 21 to practice showing their beef heifers and steers which they will ultimately show at the county fair later in the summer.

Every year, we hear positive comments about the quality of show which our Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association conducts and this year was no exception. We had 48 youngsters from 3 states show 60 animals at this day long show. We had 27 youth from Ohio, 16 from Pennsylvania, and 5 from New York. From Ohio, we had youth from Ashtabula, Trumbull, Geauga, Lake, Trumbull, Portage, Columbiana and Wayne counties who participated. Quinton Keeran from London, Ohio served as this year’s judge.

Shelby Dean from Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania showed the Champion Heifer and Libby Kelkenberg from Clarence Center, New York showed the Reserve Champion Heifer. Nathan Hoelscher from Eden, NY showed the Champion Steer and Victoria DeVore from West Salem, Ohio exhibited the Reserve Champion Steer. We had a nice class of Ashtabula County youth showing their steers. Congratulations to Avery March whose steer won the County Class.
The youth were also able to practice their showmanship skills with Ella Klink from Hartstown, Pennsylvania winning the 17-21 year old division and Layne Lassnick from Painesville, Ohio winning the 13-16 year old class. However, the showmanship class which spectators enjoy the most is the 12 and younger showmanship class. Congratulations to Maria Stringfellow from New Lyme, Ohio for winning this class.

This show would not be possible if it was not for the support of local businesses in Northeast, Ohio. The Champion and Reserve Champion Awards were sponsored by Universal Disposal, Country Creek Cattle, Roll’n B Cowboy Café LLC, Countryside Vet Clinic, Ferguson Show Cattle, and Bortnick Tractor Sales. Additional sponsors of the event included: Advanced Fabrication Solutions, Andrews Auctioneering, Andover Bank, Ashtabula County Ag Society, Cherry Valley Processing, Culligan Water Conditioning, Farm Credit Services, Highland Livestock Supply, Jefferson Milling Company, North Coast Animal Bedding, Northwind Farm, O’Reilly Equipment LLC, Piper Processing, Katherine Riedel, Rome Feed, SCI Company, Skyview Farm, Spellman Trucking, and Valley Feed Mill. Thanks to each of our sponsors for their support of this event.

**Northeast Ohio Agronomic Crop Report- Repairing Harvest Ruts this Spring**
By Les Ober, CCA & OSU Extension-Geauga County

Many of our local farmers have them and in many cases they are still out there. You know what I am talking about, combine ruts from last fall. What is the solution to this problem? What we know is that these ruts have resulted in areas of high soil compaction. The biggest concern is making the problem worse while trying to correct the problem.

Here is an article from Michigan State University Extension with some ideas on how to repair harvest ruts.

**Repairing harvest ruts this spring**
by [Mike Staton](https://www.michigan.edu), Michigan State University Extension

The wet weather and soil conditions occurring fall 2014 shortened the harvest window, forcing producers to harvest some fields when the soil was too wet. As a result, harvest equipment left ruts in these fields. In some cases, the ruts are more than 6 inches deep and in others they are less than 2 inches deep. Most of the harvest ruts I’ve seen this spring are confined to localized areas within fields. However, in a few cases, deep ruts created by every pass of the combine can be seen (see photo). All ruts deeper than your projected planting depth must be leveled prior to planting for planters and drills to perform properly.

When repairing ruts this spring, the objectives are to fill and level the ruts just enough to facilitate planting operations without causing further soil compaction. Loosening the soil at the bottom of or below the ruts should not be attempted because the tillage tools will need to be operated at greater depths and into soil that is probably too wet. This increases the risk of further soil smearing or compaction to occur. Root growth and crop yields will be reduced in the repaired areas.

Michigan State University Extension recommends secondary tillage implements such as disks, field cultivators, soil finishers and vertical tillage for repairing ruts 2-4 inches deep. For ruts deeper than 4 inches, a chisel plow may be
necessary. Always operate the implements as shallow as possible to fill and level the ruts. Multiple passes may be required to achieve the desired degree of leveling.

Perform tillage operations when the soil at or just above the operating depth is dry enough to prevent soil smearing and compaction. Iowa State University agricultural engineer Mark Hanna recommends the following methods for assessing soil moisture conditions:
Collect a handful of soil from an area between ruts and 2 inches above the operating depth of the tillage tool and form it into a ball. Then throw the ball of soil as if throwing a runner out at first base. If the ball stays mostly intact until it hits the ground, the soil is too wet to till.

Take a similar soil sample in your hand and squeeze the soil in your fist and use your thumb and forefinger to form a ribbon of soil. If the ribbon extends beyond 2-3 inches before breaking off, the soil is too wet to till.
Remember, your objectives with spring rut repairs are to fill and level the ruts without causing further soil compaction. Attempting to loosen the soil below the ruts increases the potential for further soil smearing and compaction to occur.

*This article was produced by the SMaRT project (Soybean Management and Research Technology). The SMaRT project was developed to help Michigan producers increase soybean yields and farm profitability. The SMaRT project is a partnership between MSU Extension and the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.*

*This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit [http://www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu). To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit [http://bit.ly/MSUENews](http://bit.ly/MSUENews). To contact an expert in your area, visit [http://expert.msue.msu.edu](http://expert.msue.msu.edu) or call 888-MSUE4MI.*

**Upcoming Weather Forecast**
By Jim Noel

April has been a warmer and wetter month across most of the state of Ohio. Temperatures are averaging 3-7 degrees above normal with precipitation ranging from 100-200 percent of normal. The wettest and warmest areas have been across the southern part of the state. Rainfall has been close to normal in the north.

A pattern change is about to begin which will turn the weather cooler than normal for the rest of April into the first week of May. Temperatures will run several degrees below normal. For the rest of April say goodbye to highs in the 60s and 70s and hello to highs in the 40s and 50s. Lows will mostly be in the 30s and 40s but a few days of 20s are expected especially north of I-70.

The main headline for Ohio will be increasing frost and freeze risk at the end of our typical frost and freeze season. The most likely days of lows in the upper 20s and lower 30s will be Thursday and Friday, April 23/24, and again Sunday April 26. Rainfall will average about normal each week into early May at around 0.75 inches. After the first week of May, indications are a return to above normal temperatures and normal rainfall. The latest 2 week rainfall outlook by the National Weather Service can be found on the Ohio River Forecast Center website at:[http://www.erh.noaa.gov/ohrfc/HAS/images/NAEFS16day.pdf](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/ohrfc/HAS/images/NAEFS16day.pdf)

**Maple Syrup Could Cut Use of Antibiotics**

Maple syrup is one of nature’s sweetest treats. But it turns out syrup could do much more than make your pancakes taste great. The sticky sap from maple trees may also make antibiotics more effective. A new study published Thursday in the journal Applied Environmental Microbiology suggests that adding maple syrup extract to certain common antibiotics may help kill off disease-causing bacteria.
While this finding is still preliminary and has not yet been tested on animals or humans, researchers at McGill University in Quebec, Canada, say using maple syrup extract may be one way to address the growing worldwide problem of antibiotic resistance.

"Potentially by combining an extract from maple syrup with antibiotics you might actually need to use less antibiotics to get the same treatment," Nathalie Tufenkji, an associate professor in the department of engineering at McGill University, said in a video press release accessible at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OJbyq9q0g4

For the study, Tufenkji and her team purchased maple syrup from a local market in Montreal. They created an extract by strictly isolating phenolic compounds found in the syrup. Phenols are a similar chemical to alcohol but also have their own set of unique properties, such as higher levels of acidity.

The team first added maple syrup extract to a number of infection-causing bacteria, including e. coli and proteus mirabilis. The extract on its own was partially effective for stopping the spread of the bacteria. However, it was especially effective when used on bacteria in combination with antibiotics.

"Bacteria have this skin around them that protects them; it's called a membrane. What's interesting is that when you expose bacteria to this maple syrup extract it actually makes the skin more permeable to the antibiotic," said Tufenkji. "The antibiotic can kind of permeate through the skin." Tufenkji explains the membrane surrounding bacteria contains "pumps" that serve the purpose of expelling antibiotics.

"What we found is the maple syrup extract actually knocks out the function of these pumps so they can't pump out the antibiotic," she said. "The antibiotic is stuck inside the bacteria and now it can do its job of killing off the bacteria." Additionally, the maple syrup extract limited the gene expression that's responsible for how infectious the bacteria is. It also effectively stopped the proliferation of bacteria on surfaces, known as biofilms.

Tufenkji says perhaps companies could add the extract to antibiotic pills, an easy fix for combating the growing problem of antibiotic resistance. A report published in 2014 by the World Health Organization finds antibiotic-resistant superbugs have now spread to every part of the world. "Potentially by combining an extract from maple syrup with antibiotics you might actually need to use less antibiotics to get the same treatment," she said.

**Ashtabula County Ag Scholarship Applications Due May 1, 2015**

OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce the scholarship committee will be presenting a minimum of ten scholarships for the 2015-2016 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 who are studying agriculture, natural resources, home economics, and environmental sciences are strongly encouraged to apply. The scholarships are for a one year period. Prior recipients of a scholarship may apply as a student can win a scholarship in two different years.

One application is used for students to apply for these scholarships and each applicant can only win one of the ten scholarships. These scholarships are open to both high school seniors and to current college students. The following is a description of the eligibility parameters for each scholarship:

At least one $1,000 Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences.

Two $1,000 Ashtabula County Holstein Club Scholarships shall be awarded to deserving Ashtabula County students from a commercial dairy farm family enrolled in two year technical institute or full four year college. Or this scholarship may be awarded to a student studying animal science.
The $1,000 Allan C. Jerome Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences. It is the wish of the donors that first preference be given to graduates of the Pymatuning Valley School District.

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

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

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

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

Two $1,000 Western Reserve Farm Cooperative Scholarships will be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in either a four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. The family must derive a portion of their income from farming or construction.

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

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

Application forms with complete instructions for applying are now available and can be received by stopping in at the Extension Office or by calling 440-576-9008. Applications can be accessed at: http://go.osu.edu/agscholarship. The application deadline is May 1 and no late applications will be considered.

**Ashtabula County Beef Scholarship Due May 1, 2015**
OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association are pleased to announce they will be awarding a beef scholarship to a deserving Ashtabula County Senior Student who will be attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute in 2015-2016. Approximately $1,000 in scholarships will be awarded this year.

Applicants must be resident of Ashtabula County. The first preference by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association is the scholarship be awarded to a deserving student who has been involved in the beef industry as a youth. Examples of this could include: working on a family beef operation; involved with a beef project through 4-H or FFA; or works on a local beef farm. The second preference for this scholarship recipient would be awarded to a student who will studying a beef related field in accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute.
Applications must be received by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association by May 1, 2015 for consideration for the scholarship. No late applications will be considered. The application can be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/nesources. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

Ohio State Webinar Focuses on Ag Zoning, Building Codes & Regulation Issues
Source: Tracy Turner, OSU

Whether they’re building a barn or adding agitourism to the family farm operations, landowners often have questions on what is subject to regulation. Some of the biggest questions farmers and landowners have is what land uses are subject to zoning or building code regulations and what land qualifies for Current Agricultural Use Value assessments. In areas with land being used for agriculture, township and county officials also often have questions pertaining to whether they have regulatory authority on certain agricultural land uses.

Even officials from larger cities now have questions regarding agricultural zoning and building codes thanks to the increase in urban agriculture. To help address these needs, Peggy Hall, OSU Extension Ag Law Specialist, will be hosting a free webinar to provide information on how Ohio law treats agricultural activities and whether there is regulatory authority at the local level. The hour-long webinar, “Regulating Agriculture at the Local Level: Zoning, Building Codes and Other Hot Issues,” will be held starting at 1:00 p.m. on May 15.

The webinar will include information on: #1: Zoning; #2: Building codes; and #3: CAUV laws as applied to agriculture activities. In her role in OSU Extension, Peggy Hall receives many questions from both landowners and local officials about regulation of agricultural land uses. During this webinar, she will explain the unique laws that answer those questions and will also discuss a new bill in the Ohio legislature that would address how agritourism is to be treated under zoning laws and CAUV. Instructions for signing into the live webinar are on OSU Extension’s Agricultural Law and Taxation website at aglaw.osu.edu/webinars. The webinar will also be archived on the site after the presentation.

Participants Needed for Nutrient Survey
Source: Tracy Turner, OSU

Nutrient management experts in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University are asking farmers, producers, agriculture agencies and others to complete a survey on how they receive and use information on manure nutrient management. Called the Pathways Project, the survey will tell Ohio State University Extension what are the most effective ways to get information on nutrient management into the hands of those who need it. People working with manure nutrients are invited to complete the survey at pathwaysproject2015.questionpro.com/.

The objective of the Pathways project is for researchers and educators to learn how information on responsible manure management is being disseminated and used by farmers, educators, the agriculture industry and government agencies. With the nutrient management issues and legislation we are seeing in Ohio, it is important that everyone, from producers to state agencies dealing with manure nutrient management, have access to current research and information.

The Pathways survey is a national survey created by Erin Cortus, an assistant professor and Extension specialist in environmental quality at South Dakota State University, and Nichole Emberston with the Whatcom Conservation District, a Washington State-based organization that offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers conserve natural resources.
Current studies that OSU Extension educators and researchers are conducting in this field include applying manure to cover crops; comparing sidedressed manure with commercial nitrogen sources; and drag-lining standing corn, Douridas said. Published results from earlier research can be found at agcrops.osu.edu/on-farm-research.

Spotted Wing Drosophila Monitoring and Management Webinar
By Celeste Welty, Dept. of Entomology, State Specialist & Jim Jasinski, Dept. of Extension, IPM Program

OSU Extension will be hosting a 90 minute webinar on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 from 10:30 a.m. to noon on spotted wing Drosophila (SWD), a relatively new pest in Ohio that attacks blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, grapes, and peaches. Learn the basics of adult monitoring with traps, cultural controls, how to manage SWD with insecticides once detected, and how to determine if fruit are infested with larvae using a simple salt water test. This webinar will be recorded and posted on the OSU IPM and VegNet websites for later viewing.

Register below and the webinar link will be sent to your email. Register at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWDmm2015 More information can be obtained by contacting Jim Jasinski at Jasinski.4@osu.edu or 937-484-1526

Ohio Wildlife Council Approves 2015-2016 Hunting Regulations

A reduction in white-tailed deer bag limits and antlerless permit use during the 2015-2016 hunting seasons were among regulations approved by the Ohio Wildlife Council at its scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 8, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The council also voted to remove the peregrine falcon from Ohio’s list of threatened species.

The Ohio Wildlife Council voted to approve deer hunting proposals prepared by ODNR Division of Wildlife. Among the approved changes:

- Reduce bag limits in most counties, and remove antlerless permits in all but 10 counties. No county had a bag limit increase.
- Reduce the statewide bag limit of deer from nine to six.
- Suspend the antlerless-only muzzleloader weekend.
- Offer two additional days of deer-gun hunting, Dec. 28-29, 2015.
- Move muzzleloader season to Jan. 9-12, 2016.
- Move the start of fall turkey hunting to Oct 10, two days earlier than 2014.
- Add one straight-walled cartridge rifle, the .450 Marlin, to the existing list of legal hunting rifles during the deer-gun and youth deer-gun seasons.

The Ohio Wildlife Council also approved changes to Ohio’s list of threatened species. The peregrine falcon, previously threatened, was removed from the list. The population of peregrine falcons in Ohio, and throughout the eastern United States, has made a significant recovery through conservation efforts. The ODNR Division of Wildlife will continue to monitor peregrine populations, but on a smaller scale. This will allow biologists to focus on recovery efforts for other species which need additional attention. The Rufa red knot, previously unlisted, was added to Ohio’s list of threatened species.

Small-game hunting and furbearer trapping season dates were also passed on Wednesday. Season dates and bag limits for migratory birds, including mourning dove, Canada goose, rail, moorhen, snipe, woodcock and waterfowl will be set in August in compliance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s framework. The Ohio 2015-2016 hunting and trapping season dates can be found at bit.ly/1516Ohiohuntingseason.
Deer regulations have been trending toward reduced bag limits and restricted use of antlerless permits in recent years. The reduced bag limits and adjusted hunting seasons work to stabilize deer populations. Deer population goals will be revised this summer through a random survey of hunters and landowners. Participants in the survey will have the opportunity to provide input about the future of deer management in Ohio.

Overview of the deer seasons for 2015-2016:
- Youth deer gun: Nov. 21-22, 2015
- Deer gun: Nov. 30-Dec. 6, 2015; Dec. 28-29, 2015
- Deer muzzleloader: Jan. 9-12, 2016

Approved county bag limits:
No more than two either-sex deer permits: Athens, Auglaize, Belmont, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clinton, Coshocton, Darke, Erie, Fairfield, Fayette, Gallia, Geauga, Greene, Guernsey, Hancock, Harrison, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Madison, Meigs, Mercer, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Perry, Pickaway, Preble, Sandusky, Shelby, Tuscarawas, Van Wert, Vinton, Warren, Washington and Wood. Antlerless permits are not valid in these counties.

No more than three either-sex deer permits: Adams, Allen, Ashland, Ashtabula, Brown, Clermont, Columbiana, Crawford, Defiance, Fulton, Hardin, Henry, Highland, Holmes, Huron, Knox, Licking, Logan, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Paulding, Pike, Putnam, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Seneca, Trumbull, Union, Wayne, Williams and Wyandot. Antlerless permits are not valid in these counties.

No more than three either-sex permits, or two either-sex permits and one antlerless permit: Lake, Lorain, Portage and Stark. No more than four either-sex permits, or three either-sex permits and one antlerless permit: Cuyahoga, Delaware, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas and Summit.

The statewide bag limit of six deer was approved, a reduction from the limit of nine deer last season. Only one deer may be antlered, and a hunter cannot exceed a county bag limit. Antlerless permits may be used from Sept. 26 through Nov. 29, 2015.

Small game hunting seasons will continue during the second gun weekend, Dec. 28-29, 2015. Also on Wednesday, the ringed-neck pheasant and chukar hunting seasons were extended one week to Jan. 10, 2016.

The Ohio Wildlife Council voted to approve the proposals after receiving public input from Ohioans at open houses and a statewide hearing in March. Open houses gave the public an opportunity to view and discuss proposed fishing, hunting and trapping regulations with the ODNR Division of Wildlife officials. For Ohioans who were unable to attend an open house, comments were accepted online at wildohio.gov.

The Ohio Wildlife Council is an eight-member board that approves all of the ODNR Division of Wildlife proposed rules and regulations. Council meetings are open to the public. Individuals who want to provide comments on a topic that is currently being considered by council are asked to preregister at least two days prior to the meeting by calling 614-265-6304. All comments are required to be three minutes or less. ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiodnr.gov.
**Vegetable Spot Light: Asparagus (Asparagus officinalis)**

http://bygl.osu.edu/content/april-16-2015

The edible spears of this early season perennial vegetable are starting to be visible in Ohio as ground temperatures climb over 50F. Now is the time to closely watch your asparagus bed and harvest the spears when they are between 8 - 10" tall. One asparagus crown can produce 0.5 lb. of spears annually and can continue to produce for 15 years or more. To ensure a quality crop year after year, it is imperative to allow the asparagus fern to grow uncut in order to provide energy to the crown and roots. After the first frost when the foliage is yellow, prune to a 2" stub.

Asparagus, which is in the Lily (Liliaceae) family and native to the Mediterranean, prefers full sun and well-drained soils with a pH of 6.5 - 7.5. It will not thrive in soils with a pH less than 6.0; therefore, soil testing is recommended before planting to determine what amendments may be needed. Early spring is also the time to plant new asparagus beds. Plant one-year-old healthy asparagus crowns in trenches that are 6 - 10" deep depending on the type of soil. Each crown should be covered with 2 - 3" of soil every two weeks until the trench is filled. Although asparagus is a drought-tolerant plant, new plants should be well watered if rainfall is scarce. Do not harvest any spears the first year; harvest for only 3 - 4 weeks the second year and the third year plants can be harvested for 6 - 8 weeks.

For a crop that can last 15 years or longer, care should be taken to select varieties that are all-male and disease resistant. All-male varieties produce more spears than varieties with male and female plants such as 'Mary Washington'. Female plants expend energy to produce seeds and this decreases production. Rutgers, the leader in asparagus breeding, recently released new all-male hybrids including NJ953 and NJ1025. These are said to be superior in yield and disease resistance to their earlier all-male hybrids 'Jersey Knight' and 'Jersey Giant'. Asparagus can be green, purple, or white. White asparagus is not a variety but rather a spear grown without sunlight so that chlorophyll has not been produced. Asparagus pests include cutworms and the asparagus beetles and diseases include rust and Fusarium root rot.

For More Information:
Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication 426-401, Asparagus
Michigan State University Extension, Growing Asparagus at Home
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/growing_asparagus_at_home

**Good Agricultural Practices Training to be held on May 6 in Ashtabula & Geauga Counties**

OSU Extension will be offering a training program on reducing microbial contamination on fruit and vegetable farms on May 6, 2015 at the Ashtabula and Geauga County Extension offices. The workshop will be offered at the Geauga County Extension Office located at 14269 Claridon-Troy Road in Burton, Ohio from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and at the Ashtabula County Extension Office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson, Ohio from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Food safety and good agricultural practices, or GAPs, for fruit and vegetable production are the focus of this workshop. In September 2014, the Food and Drug Administration released the proposed supplemental standards for the produce safety rule within the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The FSMA produce safety rule encompasses known on-farm routes of contamination, such as: workers, animals, and manure. Whether or not a farm will be exempt from these rules, all growers are responsible for providing safe produce to their consumers.

Ohio State University Extension educators present the 3-hour programs. Participants will receive a recordkeeping binder and a certificate of participation as verification to customers that the grower received training in GAPs.
Attendees won’t actually become “certified in GAPS” by taking the course. That certification comes only through having one of many possible farm audits conducted by USDA or 3rd party company. If you need to become GAPs Certified, find out what your buyer requires. Some may be satisfied with just a class on GAPs, others may require a completed farm food safety plan and audit. Many large grocery chains require their produce suppliers to have a farm food safety plan and audit. For small farms selling at stands and farmers’ markets, learning about GAPs at the OSU 3-hour course is a good way to stay competitive.

If you are interested in attending one of these GAPs training programs, please visit www.producesafety.osu.edu/events to download a registration form under the respective event. Growers must register before April 29, 2015, as there is a 10-person minimum in order to proceed with the class. Registration is $20 per person, payable by cash or check, with checks made out to “Ohio State University.” The registration cost of $20 is greatly reduced thanks to a grant from the Ohio Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Program, which helps to cover some of the program costs. For more information or to download a registration form, visit www.producesafety.osu.edu or call the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

2015 Upcoming Extension Program
The following programs have been scheduled for Northeast Ohio farmers this upcoming winter. Complete registration flyers can be found at: http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/upcoming-educational-programs-deadlines

Good Agricultural Practices Workshop
May 6, 2015 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Trumbull County Fair
July 14-19, 2015

Ashtabula County Fair
August 11-16, 2015

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PLEASE SHARE...this newsletter with farmers or others who are interested in agricultural topics in Ashtabula & Trumbull Counties. Past issues can be located at: https://go.osu.edu/ag-news. Please tell your friends and neighbors to sign up for the list. CONTACT: marrison.2@osu.edu
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