Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

We are still looking for an ANR Extension Educator in Lake County. If you know of anyone that may be interested in the position, please contact Lee Beers.

Looking at our extended forecast I'm sure we will start to see planters rolling soon. Be sure you check soil temps before planting. Cold temperatures and moisture during imbibition could kill seeds or cause abnormal seedlings.

Stay safe and have a great week!

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Lee Beers
Trumbull County Extension Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County Extension Educator

Angie Arnold
Portage County Extension Educator
**OSU Extension Lake County is Hiring an ANR Educator**

Are you interested in a career with OSU Extension working with agricultural producers in Lake County, OH? We are currently seeking applications for the Lake County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator. This position will provide overall leadership to developing and conducting a proactive applied research and education programming in commercial horticulture/agriculture and natural resources to meet current and future needs of residents in Lake County. This position will work closely with the commercial horticulture industry employing integrated pest management (IPM) strategies to manage plant pests and disease and promote environmental safety.

You can read the full details and apply at the link below. If you have any questions about this position, please contact Lee Beers at 330-638-6783 or beers.66@osu.edu.

**Plant Forage Stands as Soon as Feasible**

By Marc Sulc and Jason Hartschuh  
Source: [https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-10/plant-forage-stands-soon-feasible](https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2022-10/plant-forage-stands-soon-feasible)

Early spring provides one of the two preferred times to seed perennial cool-season forages, the other being late summer. Given our current weather patterns, planting opportunities will likely be few and short again this spring, continuing the pattern of the past several years. So we need to be ready to roll when the weather gives us a planting window. The following 10 steps will improve your chances for successful perennial forage establishment.

1. Check now to make sure soil pH and fertility are in the recommended ranges. Follow the Tri-state Soil Fertility Recommendations

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**A firm seedbed is essential for good forage stand establishment**
Northeast Ohio Agriculture

Forages are more productive where soil pH is above 6.0, but for alfalfa it should be 6.5 – 6.8. Soil phosphorus should be at least 20 ppm for grasses and 30 ppm for legumes, while minimum soil potassium should be 100 ppm for sandy soils less than 5 CEC or 120 ppm on all other soils. If these soil test levels are not present, or you don’t even have a recent soil test, we recommend making corrective lime and fertilizer applications this spring and seeding an short season forage for the summer and delay establishing the perennial forage stand until late summer.

2. Plant high quality seed of known varietal source adapted to our region. Planting “common” seed (variety not stated) usually proves to be a very poor investment over the life of the stand. Forage yields from “common” seed are often less even in the first or second year and have shorter stand life.

3. Calibrate forage seeders ahead of time. Seed flow can vary greatly for different varieties and depending on the seed treatment and coatings applied. For example, many new alfalfa varieties are sold with a 34% clay coating by weight, so your actual pure live seed rate would be dramatically reduced if you don’t adjust for the seed coating. We recommend watching the video entitled “Drill Calibration” available at https://forages.osu.edu/video/.

4. Prepare a good seedbed as soon as soils are fit. The ideal seedbed for conventional seedings is smooth, firm, and weed-free. Don’t overwork the soil. Too much tillage increases the risk of surface crusting. Firm the seedbed before seeding to ensure good seed-soil contact and reduce the rate of drying in the seed zone. Cultipackers and cultimulchers are excellent implements for firming the soil. If residue cover is more than 35% use a no-till drill. No-till seeding is an excellent choice where soil erosion is a hazard. No-till forage seedings are most successful on silt loam soils with good drainage and are more difficult on clay soils or poorly drained soils. You will want no-till fields to be smooth because you do not want to bounce over them for all the years of this stand!

5. Look for opportunities to seed as soon as possible now. Earlier planting helps forage seedlings get the jump on weeds and the forages establish before summer stress sets in. Weed pressure increases as planting is delayed, and forages will not have as strong a root system developed by early summer when conditions can turn dry and hot. Later plantings also yield less. Given the current conditions, we expect planting won’t be possible until sometime in May in many parts of the state. If planting gets delayed past mid-May, it might be better to plant a summer annual and establish the perennial forages in August.

6. Plant seed shallow (¼ to ½ inch deep) in good contact with the soil. Stop and check the actual depth of the seed in the field when you first start planting. This is
especially important with no-till drills. In our experience, finding some seed on the surface indicates most of the seed is at the right depth.

7. When seeding into a tilled seedbed, drills with press wheels are the best choice. When seeding without press wheels or if broadcasting seed, use a cultipacker before and after broadcasting the seed, preferably in the same direction that the seeder was driven.

8. In fields with little erosion hazard, direct seedings without a companion crop in the spring allows harvesting two or three crops of high-quality forage in the seeding year, particularly when seeding alfalfa and red clover. For conventional seedings on erosion prone fields, a small grain companion crop can reduce the erosion hazard and will also help compete with weeds. Companion crops like oat can also help on soils prone to surface crusting. Companion crops usually increase total forage tonnage in the seeding year, but forage quality will be lower than direct seeded legumes. Take the following precautions to avoid excessive competition of the companion crop with forage seedlings: (i) use early-maturing, short, and stiff-strawed small grain varieties, (ii) plant small grains at 1.5-2.0 bu/A, (iii) remove companion crop as haylage or early pasture (only if soils are firm), and (iv) do not apply additional nitrogen to the companion crop.

9. During the first 6 to 8 weeks after seeding, scout new seedings weekly for any developing weed or insect problems. Weed competition during the first six weeks is most damaging to stand establishment. Potato leafhopper damage on legumes is especially of concern beginning in late May and continuing most of the summer.

10. The first harvest of the new seeding should generally be delayed until early flower stage of legumes (approximately 60 days after emergence) unless weeds were not controlled adequately and are threatening to smother the stand. For pure grass seedings, generally harvest after 70 days from planting, unless weeds are encroaching in which case the stand should be clipped earlier to avoid weed seed production.

When the rain won’t let up
By: Bridget Britton, Behavioral Health Field Specialist

Ryes to the Occasion – Exploring How Winter Rye Varieties can Suit Different Climates
By: Kaine Korzekwa
**Record Wheat Prices Prompt More Ohio Farmers to Plant Wheat this Year**

By: Tracy Turner  

**Potential to reduce reliance on non-renewable fertilizers in agriculture**

By: University of Sheffield  
Source: [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/04/220412140934.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/04/220412140934.htm)

**Scholarships Available for Ashtabula County Students**

Ashtabula County OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for a minimum of thirteen scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year to Ashtabula County students enrolled in either an accredited full four-year college or an accredited two-year technical institute. The Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Fund was founded on April 29, 1952 to promote interest in the study of agriculture, family and consumer science, environmental sciences or natural resources in an accredited full four-year college or an accredited two-year technical institute. This fund awards scholarships to students attending an accredited four-year college or two year technical school. Each year the general scholarship fund awards at least two $1,000 scholarships. The committee also works with local organizations and farm families to offer many additional scholarships. 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 three separate 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 also be accessed at: [http://go.osu.edu/agscholarship](http://go.osu.edu/agscholarship). The application deadline is **May 1**st and no late applications will be considered. More information can also be obtained by emailing ashtabulacountyagscholarship@gmail.com

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Northeast Ohio Agriculture  
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION  
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties
Ashtabula County OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association are pleased to announce they will be awarding two youth beef scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year. One $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a deserving 2022 High School Senior who will be attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute in 2022-2023. 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 May 1st, 2022 by 4:30 p.m. for consideration for the scholarship. No late applications will be considered. The application can be obtained at: www.Ashtabula.osu.edu. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

**Free Seeds Available for your Ohio Victory Garden! - Extension Talk**

By: Andrew Holden  
Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources  
The Ohio State University Extension

Hello Ashtabula County! Snow and 80-degree weather both within the same week? Sounds like spring in NE Ohio.

Today, I want to share some information about the Ohio Victory Gardens program and how you can get some free seeds to plant in your garden this year! Please check out the press release below for all the details on this great program. The Ashtabula County Extension Office will have seeds available for pick up from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday starting April 25th until they are gone. Each packet will contain cucumber, sunflower, and carrot seeds, with some packs additionally containing lettuce. As always, we are available to help with any gardening questions and have many resources to help make your garden successful. So, stop in and take advantage of this great program while it lasts!

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**Ohio Victory Gardens Program Kicks Off Third Year**

It’s time once again to get your hands dirty and start growing! The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Ohio State University Extension offices are kicking off the third year of the Ohio Victory Gardens program. Due to high demand, the program is expanding to include 42 counties, up from 25 counties last year. Thousands of seed sample kits will be available for free to the public to get people planting.
“In the third year of our Victory Gardens program, we are proud of the ground we have covered in reigniting Ohioans’ love for backyard gardening, while lifting people’s spirits and re-teaching an important life skill of growing your own food,” said Dorothy Pelanda, Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. “We’ve gone from distributing 3,000 seed kits in six counties in 2020 to distributing more than 20,000 free seed kits in 42 counties across the state this year. Next year, we plan to expand again to reach even more Ohioans who want to grow a Victory Garden.”

“Whether it’s growing a large backyard garden, a few potted plants on a kitchen windowsill, or a smaller container garden on your porch, the Ohio Victory Gardens program has something to offer everyone,” said Cathann A. Kress, Ohio State’s vice president for agricultural administration and dean of The Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES). “We are excited to partner again with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to enrich Ohioans’ appreciation for growing food for their households”.

OSU Extension is the community-based outreach arm of CFAES, with programming that addresses agriculture and natural resources, community development, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development. Extension professionals throughout the state bring people and ideas together to help CFAES sustain life.

“We are thrilled to once again be part of the Ohio Victory Gardens program and help many of the citizens we reach become enthusiastic growers of their own food,” said Jackie Kirby Wilkins, associate dean in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, and director, OSU Extension. “Each year, we reach more than 2.5 million learners throughout Ohio.”

Extension’s educational outreach is enhanced by more than 3,200 Master Gardener Volunteers, who support the Ohio Victory Gardens program by providing gardening advice, helping with community gardens, and promoting local food production among their neighbors throughout the state.

Seeds will be available to pick up starting April 25 at OSU Extension County Offices and new this year, ODA Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Each Ohio county has a local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to help develop and implement programs to protect and conserve soil, water, prime farmland, woodland, wildlife, and urban areas. The SWCDs are excited to be a part of a movement that promotes urban farming and encourages Ohioans to cultivate their own produce.

The Ashtabula County Extension Office will have seeds available for pick up from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday.

All Victory Gardens participants will be eligible to win a free starter gardening toolkit by completing a short online survey to enter.
Victory Gardens originated during World War I, as an answer to a severe food shortage at the time. The idea was wildly successful, growing an army of amateur gardeners and serving to boost morale and patriotism. ODA and OSU Extension revived the effort and are, once again, encouraging people to plant seeds, realize the fruits of their labor, and share their harvest with others if inspired.

The Victory Gardens Program offers a full website with details on seed distribution, advice, and resources on every aspect of planting and harvesting produce.

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Andrew Holden is an Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator for Ohio State University Extension. Andrew can be reached at 440-576-9008 or Holden.155@osu.edu

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu

The Portage County Extension Office is Seeking a Summer Intern

Join OSU Extension in Portage County! We have a COLLEGE STUDENT INTERN position open in Portage County at Ohio State University Extension. Students will support educational programs and community engagement in 4-H Youth Development along with Agriculture and Natural Resources. The intern will work directly with Extension professionals and staff in to address community-based issues. Ohio State or Non OSU students can apply at http://go.osu.edu/portageintern or call 330-533-5538 or email barrett.90@osu.edu with questions regarding a summer of learning, opportunity, and fun working with the staff and residents of Portage County!

Ag Day 2022 Volunteers and Donors Needed!

On May 13th, 2022, nearly 1,000 of the county's first grade students will arrive, in person, at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds to take part in Ashtabula County's 2022 "Ag Day." For those who are unfamiliar with this event, the first graders come to learn about agriculture in a hands-on fashion. They are able to plant a tomato, make butter, see all kinds of farm animals, and learn where food comes from. This event is coordinated by OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Farm Bureau and showcases the different types of agricultural commodities which are being produced here in Ashtabula County. Thank you to all those who support Ag Day! We look forward to seeing all the excited faces as they see a calf in person for the first time, make their own butter, or see honeybees in a hive!

Those interested in donating to Ag Day can do so with a check or online. Checks can be made payable to ‘OSU Extension’, and sent to: OSU Extension, 39 Wall Street,
Jefferson, OH 44047. Online donations can be made by visiting https://ashtabula.osu.edu/give-now and clicking the Ag Day Program Support Fund. Any questions about donations can be directed to our office at 440-576-9008.

Those interested in volunteering at Ashtabula County Ag Day on May 13, 2022, are encouraged to fill out an online survey. To ensure that we have an accurate count of who will be there, please register to volunteer by April 21, 2022. To register, visit: http://go.osu.edu/22volunteeragday

Additional information about Ag Day can be received by calling the Ashtabula County Extension Office at 440-576-9008 or emailing Abbey Averill at averill.10@osu.edu.

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**Upcoming Extension Programs**

The following programs have been scheduled for NE Ohio farmers. Check back each week as more programs are added to the calendar.

**Ashtabula Camp Councilors - Annual Chili Cook Off**
April 22, 2022 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm

**Hydrangea School – Moebius Nature Center**
April 28th, 2022, 4-6PM

**Ashtabula County Ag Scholarships and Beef Scholarships Due**
May 1st, 2022

**SOLAR LEASING 101: What You Need To Know Before Signing**
May 11th, 2022, 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Drive-Thru Canner Pressure Testing – Portage Soil and Water
May 18\textsuperscript{th}, 2022, 9AM-12PM

Canning Basics – Portage County Extension Office
May 24\textsuperscript{th}, 2022, 5PM-7PM

Backyard Chickens – Portage Soil and Water
June 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2022, 6-7:30 PM

Cheese Making Basics with Demo – Portage County Location TBA
June 18\textsuperscript{th}, 2022 10AM-12PM – 20 Person Limit
ASHTABULA AND TRUMBULL EXTENSION PRESENT

Small Ruminant School 2022

Join OSU Extension and Countryside Veterinary Service on May 21, 2022 for a day to learn about maintaining a healthy herd or flock of small ruminants. We will discuss general health and welfare, how to assist with kidding or lambing, zoning requirements, livestock housing, nutrition, pasture management, and everything else you need to know for successfully raising goats and sheep. Cost for this program is $45/person; you can add a lunch for $15/person. Cost includes many handouts and light refreshments. One child (under 12) can attend for free with parent or guardian registration! Registration is limited. To register for this event, please visit the link listed to the left.

Agenda:
10:00AM – Welcome & Introduction – Noelle Barnes
10:45AM – Livestock Housing & Ownership – Andrew Holden
11:30AM – Lunch (prepaid or on your own)
12:30PM – Having a Successful Kidding or Lambing – Dr. Jessica Bittner, DVM
1:15PM – Health & Welfare – Noelle Barnes
2:30PM – Break
2:45PM – Pasture Management/Feeding Strategies – Dr. Brady Campbell
3:30PM – Marketing – Andrew Holden
4:00PM – Wrap Up

DATE: May 21, 2022
TIME: 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
LOCATION: 520 W. Main St. Cortland, Ohio 44410
Registration is required for this event. Please register online at: https://go.osu.edu/smallruminant2022
Registration is due by May 13th.

Questions? Call the Trumbull County Extension office at 330-638-6783

EVENT SPONSOR: Countryside Veterinary Service – Large Animal
TRUMBULL COUNTY EXTENSION PRESENTS

SOLAR LEASING 101
What You Need To Know Before Signing

OSU Extension Trumbull County will be hosting a free informational event on solar leasing on May 11, 2022 from 6:00PM to 8:30PM. Peggy Hall, OSU Agricultural Law & Resource Director, will provide an overview of the current laws regulating solar development, and discuss important legal considerations for the lease agreements. Eric Romich, Energy Education Field Specialist, will discuss community issues, tax implications, and decommissioning considerations. Space for this program will be limited, so you are encouraged to call 330-638-6783 to reserve your spot. Refreshments will be provided by Trumbull County Farm Bureau.

DATE: May 11, 2022
TIME: 6:00-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: 520 West Main Street, Cortland, OH 44410
COST: FREE
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUESTED: Call 330-638-6783

For more information, visit trumbull.osu.edu or call 330-638-6783

EVENT SPONSOR:
Trumbull County Farm Bureau

Topics Include:

Overview of solar leasing in Ohio
Tax implications for converting farmland to solar
Legal considerations for lease agreements
Community and neighbor issues
Decommissioning
Q&A
Hydrangea School

Join Eric Barrett, Associate Professor and Mahoning County Extension Educator 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.

Thursday, April 28th
4PM-6PM
330-296-6432

Location: Moebius Nature Center, 929 E.. Mennonite Rd Aurora, Ohio 44202
Cost : $30/Person – includes a plant to take home
Details: Space is limited. Register early.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION. Registration includes the program and handouts. Please mail completed registration form to OSU Extension, 705 Oakwood St. Suite 103 Ravenna, OH 44266 or drop off the registration to the OSU Extension Office. The program is filled on a first come, first served basis.

Name: ________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________ Phone: ____________

Registration includes handouts and a hydrangea plant to take home for your landscape.

$30 per person to register $ ____________________________ Total Enclosed $ ________________

Please make checks payable to OSU Extension. For questions, please call OSU Extension at 330-296-6432
Canner Pressure Testing Drive-Thru Clinic

DATES: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 & Monday August 15, 2022
TIME: 9 AM - 12 PM
LOCATION: PSWCD, 6670 OH-88, Ravenna, OH 44266

Are you preparing to can fresh fruits and vegetables from your garden or local market? Before starting come out to our canner pressure gauge testing clinic. We will be offering two drive through clinic days this summer.

Details: This is a FREE drive-thru clinic please stay in your car. Be ready to hand your pressure canner to a staff member.

For more information: Scan the QR code, go to https://go.osu.edu/cannertestclinic
or call the Portage County Extension Office at 330-296-6432

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.
What is CSP?
The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) rewards private landowners for actively managing and maintaining existing conservation activities while offering additional opportunities to improve natural resource and land management goals.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides increased financial and technical assistance to producers interested in expanding conservation efforts on the landscape to address resource concerns, improve conservation performance, and/or target multiple resource concerns in a comprehensive and cost-effective manner.

CSP may provide many benefits, including increased crop productivity, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. CSP also encourages adoption of new technologies and management techniques.

Contact your local NRCS office today to learn how the agency can help you improve conservation efforts on your agricultural or forestry operations. Apply by the sign-up date to be considered for funding in the current cycle. Applications for assistance are accepted on a continuous basis and do not guarantee a contract. If an application is accepted and you decline the contract, there is no financial obligation by either party.

How Conservation Can Work For You
Existing activity payments are provided annually to maintain existing conservation and are based on:

1. Amount of acreage enrolled in each eligible land use.
2. Level of conservation and number of applicable resource concerns met at the time of enrollment.

Additional activity payments vary each year and are based on:

1. Extent to which conservation activities are adopted annually (units vary).
2. Type and frequency of new conservation activities implemented.

Apply by May 13, 2022
Take your operation to the next level by building on existing conservation activities
Existing Activity Payment for Land Uses: *Annual land use payments are based on existing stewardship; number of land uses/amount of acreage enrolled; and adoption of new conservation activities.

Cropland
Earn up to $2,700 plus $7.50 per acre*
Definition: Land used primarily for production/harvest of annual/perennial field, forage, food, fiber, horticulture, orchards, vineyards, energy crops.

Resource Concerns: Degraded plant condition, pest pressure, field pesticide loss, field sediment/nutrient/pathogen loss, soil quality limitation, source water depletion, terrestrial habitat, concentrated erosion, wind and water erosion.

Pasture
Earn up to $2,700 plus $3 per acre*
Definition: Land composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species used primarily for livestock production.

Resource Concerns: Degraded plant condition, pest pressure, livestock production limitation, field sediment/nutrient/pathogen loss, soil quality limitation, source water depletion, terrestrial habitat, concentrated erosion, wind and water erosion.

Non-Industrial/Private Forestland
Earn up to $2,100 plus $.50 per acre*
Definition: Land on which primary vegetation is tree cover (climax, natural/introduced plant community) and use is primarily for production of wood products and/or non-timber forest products.

Resource Concerns: Degraded plant condition, fire management, pest pressure, soil quality limitation, terrestrial habitat, concentrated erosion, wind and water erosion.

Associated Agricultural Land
Earn up to $1,200 plus $.50 per acre*
Definition: Land associated with farms not purposefully managed for food, forage or fiber such as idle center pivot corners, odd areas, ditches and watercourses, riparian areas, field edges, seasonal/permanent wetlands, etc.

Resource Concerns: Pest pressure, terrestrial habitat, concentrated erosion, wind and water erosion.

Farmstead
Earn up to $1,200 plus $7.50 per acre*
Definition: Land used for facilities and supporting infrastructure where farming, forestry, animal husbandry and ranching activities are often initiated.

Resource Concerns: Inefficient energy use, storage and handling of pollutants, terrestrial habitat, concentrated erosion.

Get Started!
Contact Your Local USDA Service Center at https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator

For additional questions, contact Angel Arehart at 614-917-3172 or Angel.Arehart@usda.gov

[Ohio]
Natural Resources Conservation Service
nrsc.usda.gov/
Do you have a home, yard, or garden question? Need expert advice but don’t know where to turn?

Call the Ashtabula County Master Gardener Hotline!

Starting May 2nd until October 31st
Every Monday, 9 AM to Noon and every Thursday, 1 PM to 4 PM
To contact the Hotline, call 440-576-9008

Call during listed hours to speak with a volunteer or call anytime and leave a message. The hotline can be also be reached via email at Ashtabula.1@osu.edu and in person by stopping in at the Ashtabula OSU Extension Office – 39 Wall St. Jefferson, Ohio 44047. For your home horticultural question call the Master Gardener Hotline today!