Only two more days of April! Does that mean the weather will finally be more “spring-like” as we move into the month of May? I saw a few fields getting worked over the nice weekend. We sure did not need the rain we received early on Monday. However, the weather forecast is looking more favorable as we move into May. Our grape and wine industry will lose one of its leaders due to retirement at the close of this month. Greg Johns is retiring as the Station Manager of the OARDC Ashtabula Research Station. Greg has been the manager of this research facility since its opening back in 1985. We wish Greg the very best in his retirement years! A reminder to high school seniors and college students that the application deadlines for our agriculture scholarships are this week (May 1). No late applications will be accepted. Hope everyone has a good and safe week.

David Morrison, AG Educator

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**Retirement Reception for Greg Johns to be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2015**

Area grape growers and other industry supporters are invited to attend a retirement reception for Greg Johns who is retiring after 30 years of managing the OARDC Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station in Kingsville, Ohio. The reception will be held Wednesday, April 29, 2015 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Hundley Cellars located at 6451 State Route 307 in Geneva, Ohio. Light refreshments will be provided and beverages will be available for purchase.

The Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station was established in 1985, a year after the Ohio legislature appropriated funds for OARDC to set up a grape research farm. The Ashtabula county commissioners then entered into a long-term lease agreement with The Ohio State University for 25 acres of the former county home farmland. Over the years, OARDC has built trellised vineyards, two operations buildings, a cold storage facility and an automated weather station on the site. Greg Johns has been the manager of this facility since its inception in 1985.

Greg has been a huge support of the Ohio Grape & Wine Industry and a promoter of OSU Extension outreach and OARDC research throughout the years. Greg is a graduate of Mentor High School in 1978 and graduated from The Ohio State University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture & Crop Science. We wish Greg the best in his retirement years. We know Greg will be very busy with his own vineyard in Madison, Ohio in his retirement. Thank you Greg for all you have done for the Ohio Grape & Wine Industry.
Tri-County Grape Growers Annual Steak Dinner to be Held on May 7, 2015
The Tri-County Grape Growers Association will be holding their Annual Steak Dinner on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at the Harpersfield Community Center in Harpersfield, Ohio. The Tri-County Grape Growers were established in 1958 to serve the needs of northeast Ohio grape growers. The doors for the event will open at 6:00 p.m. with a catered steak dinner to be served at 7:00 p.m. Coffee, tea & water will be provided; other beverages are BYOB.

Pre-sale tickets are required for this event and may be purchased at the OSU Extension Office in Jefferson or from any active Tri-Country Grape Grower member for $25 per person. Reservations are required by April 29 to guarantee seating. More information can be obtained by contacting John Linehan at 440-466-3207 or tricg@outlook.com. Attendees are also asked to make a contribution to the Local Geneva Food Bank. Please bring a non-perishable food item for us to help others in need in our community.

Lower Crop Prices & Changes to Formula Point to Lower CAUV Values in the Future
By Larry R. Gearhardt, Assistant Professor and Field Specialist, Taxation

Owners of Agricultural land enrolled in the Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) property tax program in the twenty-four counties that are experiencing a reappraisal or triennial update in 2015 (payable in 2016) will see the highest CAUV values in history, based on preliminary numbers from the Ohio Department of Taxation. Similar to prior years, increases in values will be in the vicinity of 100% to 200%. However, lower crop prices and changes made to the CAUV formula by the Ohio Department of Taxation point to lower CAUV values in the future.

What is CAUV?
In 1972, Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment that allowed qualified agricultural land to be valued at its current agricultural use value for real property tax purposes rather than fair market value. The home, home site and outbuildings are still valued at fair market value. Current agricultural use value can be determined by the capitalization of the typical net income from agricultural crops on a given parcel of land assuming typical management, cropping patterns, and yields for the types of soil present on the tract.

How is CAUV Calculated?
The CAUV values are based upon a formula containing five factors applied to three crops: corn, soybeans, and wheat, the three most prevalent crops in Ohio. Hay was dropped from the formula in 2010. The five factors are:
1.) Cropping pattern- based upon the acres of corn, beans and wheat compared to the total acres of those three crops. These percentages are based upon statewide averages.
2.) Crop prices- based upon a survey by NASS of elevators in Ohio
3.) Crop yields- based upon 1984 NRCS/NASS per acre yield estimates for each soil type, adjusted for actual average yields in Ohio for the past ten years.
4.) Non-land production costs- based upon farmer surveys by The Ohio State University.
5.) Capitalization rate- based upon the interest rate for a 15-year fixed rate mortgage at Farm Credit Services, with 40% attributed to equity and 60% to debt.

The crop prices, non-land production costs and capitalization rate are calculated by taking the previous seven years of numbers, eliminating the highest number and the lowest number, and then averaging the remaining five numbers. Cropping pattern is based on an average of the last five years of acres planted. The prices, cropping pattern, costs and yields are then multiplied, added and subtracted to determine the net profit per acre of soil type, and that number is then divided by the capitalization rate to arrive at the final value. This calculation is performed for each of the 3500 soil types in Ohio.

Lower Crop Prices in 2014
For the second consecutive year, the price for corn, beans, and wheat that came into the formula is lower than the prior year. The price for corn that came into the formula for 2014 is $3.65/bu. compared to $4.41 for 2013. Similarly, the 2014 price for soybeans that came into the formula is $10.40 compared to $13.00 for 2013. Likewise, the new 2014 wheat price is $5.55 versus $6.54 for 2013.

**Not an Immediate Effect**
One or two years of lower crop prices will not produce a noticeable decrease in CAUV values. There needs to be a trend lasting several years to substantially reduce the values. A trend is required because the crop prices used in calculating CAUV values are based on a seven-year rolling average, with the highest price and the lowest price during that seven-year period thrown out.

Using corn as an example, the corn prices used in the 2015 calculation for the last seven years are:
- 2008 - $4.21
- 2009 - $3.55
- 2010 - $5.45
- 2011 - $6.44
- 2012 - $7.09
- 2013 - $4.41
- 2014 - $3.65

Since $3.55 is the lowest price and $7.09 is the highest price, they are removed from the calculation. The average of the remaining five numbers is $4.79. After a management allowance of 5%, which is allowed in the formula, the price for corn used in the 2015 formula is $4.55. Please remember that these numbers are preliminary and may change before finalization of the 2015 values. There is a similar trend for the calculation of the prices for soybeans and wheat.

Continuing to use corn as an example, it will take several years of lower crop prices to substantially lower land values for CAUV purposes. Real property is revalued every three years for tax purposes. Therefore, property being revalued in 2015 will not be revalued again until 2018. During that time, three years’ worth of crop prices will drop out of the formula and will be replaced by three new years’. If the three new years’ crop prices are lower than $6.44, it is likely that there will be a decrease in CAUV values. Based on experts’ opinions and forecasts, such appears to be the case.

**Changes to the Formula by the Ohio Department of Taxation**
In response to the alarming increases in CAUV values over the past several years, attorneys at the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation researched and reviewed the CAUV formula in greater detail than it has ever been reviewed since its inception. As a result of this review, Ohio Farm Bureau made several recommendations to the Ohio Department of Taxation to update portions of the formula to more accurately reflect current values. These recommendations do not substantially change the way that CAUV is calculated, but rather to update the data contained in the formula. The Ohio Department of Taxation has agreed with several of the recommendations forwarded by Ohio Farm Bureau. Therefore, the changes that will appear in the 2015 CAUV calculations are:

1. **TIMELINESS OF DATA** – There has always been a two-year lag period between the collection of the data used in the CAUV formula and the finalization of the values for use by county auditors. This became especially troublesome in a year like 2014 when the price of soybeans fell from $13.00/bu. To $10.40/bu., but CAUV values doubled. Soybean prices dropped even lower by the end of the year and continue to fall in 2015. Because of the two-year lag period, it took two years for these lower prices to appear in the formula. Then, the lower number may be thrown out of the calculation if it was the lowest during the seven-year look back period. By adjusting the schedule of when CAUV values are calculated, the Ohio Department of Taxation was able to cut the two-year lag period to one year. Therefore, lower crop prices, and potentially higher costs, will come into the formula more quickly and CAUV values will be more current. One consequence of this
change is that county auditors will not receive the updated values until later in the year of reappraisal or update.

2. CAPITALIZATION RATE – CAUV values are calculated by dividing the projected net income per acre by the capitalization rate for each of the 3500+ soil types in Ohio. A small change in the capitalization rate can have a big impact on CAUV values. For example, a $200 per acre net return divided by a capitalization rate of 6% results in a $3,333 value. If the capitalization rate increases to 7%, the same $200 per acre net return divided by 7% results in a $2,857 value. Low capitalization rates are good if you are borrowing money; they are not beneficial when calculating CAUV. The Ohio Department of Taxation adjusted the calculation of the capitalization rate to more accurately reflect current borrowing patterns. The capitalization rate is now based upon a ratio where 80% is considered debt and 20% is considered equity. This is compared to a 60/40 ratio used in prior years. Furthermore, the mortgage interest rate (which is the starting point of the capitalization rate calculation) is based on a 25-year fixed multi-flex rate for loans $25,000 or greater at Farm Credit Services. The prior years’ mortgage interest rate was based on a 15-year loan period. Although the capitalization rate used in the 2015 calculation went down from 7.5% in 2012 (the previous time CAUV was calculated for counties in this cycle) to 6.5% (contributing to the increase in CAUV values), the capitalization rate between 2014 and 2015 increased from 6.2% to 6.5%. As previously stated, higher capitalization rates contribute to lower CAUV values.

3. WOODLAND VALUES – Woodland values have increased more dramatically than cropland values, especially if the woodland is located in a high-productivity geographic region. Woodland values are calculated by the same process used to calculate cropland values, with the additional step of subtracting the cost of drainage per acre (for Class I and II soils) and the cost of clearing the land per acre. Since the inception of the program, once the cropland value is determined, there has been a reduction in value for woodlands of $500 per acre for subsurface tile drainage for somewhat poorly drained, poorly drained, and very poorly drained soils. In addition, for 37 soil types, there has been a $250 per acre reduction for surface drainage. There is a $500 per acre reduction allowed for clearing the land for all soil types. What has occurred in recent years is that the calculation of cropland values is so high that, even with the aforementioned reductions, woodland values have been bumped from minimum value to a value similar to crop producing soils. This scenario is exacerbated if the woodland happens to be located in a high-productivity geographic region. The Ohio Department of Taxation has increased the reductions for woodland from $500 to $770 per acre for subsurface tile drainage in somewhat poorly drained, poorly drained, and very poorly drained soils; from $250 to $380 per acre for surface drainage in 37 soil types; and from $500 to $1,000 per acre for land clearing in all soil types.

Summary
If the trend of lower crop prices continues, couple with the changes to the formula made by the Ohio Department of Taxation, CAUV values will decrease in the future. Nobody likes paying taxes and it is hard to prepare for tax increases of 100% to 200%. But if CAUV landowners can swallow the bitter pill of paying higher property taxes through 2015, while receiving lower crop prices, the CAUV formula will work to decrease property taxes to more accurately reflect the farm economy. Think of it as a roller coaster with crop prices in the front car and CAUV values in the back car. Ultimately, the roller coaster ends up in the same place.

Nitrogen Value of Spring Applied Manure
By Glen Arnold, OSU Extension Field Specialist

Many Ohio livestock were unable to apply their normal amounts of manure last fall due to wet weather and a delayed harvest season. As a result, many producers need to haul manure this spring before the planting season.

The ammonium nitrogen and a portion of the organic nitrogen contained in spring applied manure are generally available for the growing crop. According to OSU Extension bulletin 604, 50 to 75 percent of the ammonia portion of the nitrogen could be captured if the manure is injected during application or incorporated within one day if surface
applied. Approximately one-third of the organic portion of the manure nitrogen will be available regardless of whether the manure is incorporated or not.

**Table 16, OSU Extension Bulletin 604**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ammonium N Available</th>
<th>Organic N Available</th>
<th>Time of Application</th>
<th>Days Until Incorporated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NH4</td>
<td>ON</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>March - April</td>
<td>less than 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>March - April</td>
<td>greater than 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>April - June</td>
<td>less than 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>April - June</td>
<td>greater than 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ohio State University Extension has conducted manure research on growing crops for several years in an effort to make better use of the available nutrients. The manure research trial in Table 1 was conducted over four years at the Northwest Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center’s Hoytville location. The swine manure application rate was 5,000 gallons per acre to get 200 units of available nitrogen. The dairy manure application rate was 13,577 gallons per acre to get 130 units of nitrogen. The dairy treatments received additional nitrogen as incorporated 28% UAN just prior to the manure application to reach the 200 unit goal. The 28% UAN treatments also received 200 units of nitrogen.

Pre-emergent applications of 28% UAN, swine manure or dairy manure were made within five days of corn planting. Post-emergent applications of 28% UAN, swine manure and dairy manure were made at the V3 stage of corn growth. All manure applications were made with a 5,200 gallon tanker and Dietrich tool bar with the incorporated manure placed at a five inch depth. Surface manure was applied by using the Dietrich toolbar held just above ground level.

**Table 1. 2011 - 2014 Manure on Corn Research Plots OARDC Northwest Branch**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>4 year average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bu/ac</td>
<td>bu/ac</td>
<td>bu/ac</td>
<td>bu/ac</td>
<td>bu/ac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-emergent treatments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated 28%UAN</td>
<td>138.1</td>
<td>111.5</td>
<td>184.6</td>
<td>145.1</td>
<td>144.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated swine manure</td>
<td>191.1</td>
<td>128.6</td>
<td>191.8</td>
<td>146.5</td>
<td>164.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface applied swine manure</td>
<td>180.9</td>
<td>109.5</td>
<td>175.7</td>
<td>137.2</td>
<td>150.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated dairy manure + 28%UAN</td>
<td>190.1</td>
<td>132.0</td>
<td>185.4</td>
<td>166.1</td>
<td>168.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface applied dairy manure + 28%UAN</td>
<td>184.5</td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>166.0</td>
<td>141.9</td>
<td>147.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post-emergent treatments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated 28%UAN</td>
<td>132.7</td>
<td>116.0</td>
<td>181.9</td>
<td>140.9</td>
<td>142.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated swine manure</td>
<td>180.8</td>
<td>138.4</td>
<td>196.7</td>
<td>139.9</td>
<td>164.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface applied swine manure</td>
<td>178.0</td>
<td>116.4</td>
<td>188.0</td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>149.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated dairy manure + 28%UAN</td>
<td>180.0</td>
<td>138.8</td>
<td>192.0</td>
<td>156.9</td>
<td>166.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface applied dairy manure + 28%UAN</td>
<td>170.5</td>
<td>101.6</td>
<td>181.5</td>
<td>125.3</td>
<td>144.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero nitrogen check</td>
<td>74.4</td>
<td>62.6</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>67.0</td>
<td>71.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Corn sidedress plots involving the use of a drag hose to apply the manure were conducted in 2014 and will be again in 2015. A drag hose reduces concerns about soil compaction associated with applying manure to growing crops while greatly improving the efficiency of the application process.
**Vegetable of the Week - Onion (Allium cepa)**

By: Amy Stone and Tim Malinch

The common onion is tolerant of early season cold weather and frost. Onions can be grown for storage as dry bulbs or harvested young for use as scallions, also known as green onions. Onions are generally sold as sets, transplants or seedlings. Sets are small onions that have been harvested and stored. These small bulbs then grow to a larger size in the garden. Onion sets are usually sold by the pound. Transplants, on the other hand, are sold in bundles. They were started early in the year, usually in Southern states, then dug up and shipped to local stores. They may look ragged in the garden center but perk up quickly when planted.

Seedlings are just what their name suggests, very young plants grown from seed. Sold in pots or packs, they are carefully separated and planted in the garden. All of the onions can, and should, be planted now. Early-planted onions will put on more growth prior to flowering, resulting in a larger bulb. When ordering onions from out-of-state sources, be sure to pick varieties that perform well in Ohio; select long-day varieties for northern Ohio and intermediate or long-day varieties for the southern portion of the state. Gardeners should be aware that there are varieties that are better suited for harvest as scallions, fresh eating, or long-term storage onions – choose according to you and your family's eating preferences.

**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/ne-events Additional information can be obtained by calling 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
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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