It appears as if Mother Nature thinks it is the beginning of March, not April! But, as residents of Northeast Ohio, we are used to this type of roller coaster weather. Just give it another week, and spring will be here! I have included a variety of different articles in this week’s edition. One of these is about the 17 year Cicada (so you won’t see this article again for quite some time). I hope to see many of you at the 4-H Pancake Breakfast on Sunday. This is a great chance for you to get your fill on pancakes and support the Ashtabula County 4-H Camp Counselors. I also hope you also take the time to reflect on my Aloha Spirit article. Each of can make a difference in our world! Have a good and safe week.

David Marrison, Ashtabula County Ag & NR Educator

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Do you have the Aloha Spirit?
By David Marrison

As many of you know this past year has been one of substantive change for the Marrison family. As I look back, this past year has taught me a lot, maybe more than the first 46 years combined. Today, I would like to digress from my usually agriculture updates to talk about the Aloha Spirit.

Over the Easter Holiday, the girls and I along with my in-laws met up in Maui, Hawaii to keep a promise. We each had made the promise to our beloved momma, wife, and daughter to spread her ashes in Maui. Jaime had a deep love for Maui and for the Aloha Spirit which permeates from the island. For those who knew Jaime, this comes to no surprise as when one looks deeper into what is meant by having the Aloha Spirit, it is easy to see that Jaime
lived with this spirit each and every day. My hope for each of you is that you take time to reflect on the spirit of life which you are living. Our visit was not a mournful one, but one of celebration for the impact which Jaime had on us and others in our community.

For those fortunate enough to visit Hawaii, the word Aloha is used in greetings, farewells and in expressing love. But Hawaiians will tell you that Aloha means even more, it is a way of life. Its meaning goes beyond any definition you can find in the dictionary. The literal meaning of aloha is “the presence of breath” or “the breath of life.” It comes from “Alo,” meaning presence, front and face, and “ha,” meaning breath. Aloha is a way of living and treating each other with love and respect. Many Hawaiians translate Aloha as “The joyful sharing of life energy in the present” or simply “Joyfully sharing life.”

During our trip, I had the chance to read a great article titled “The Deeper Meaning of Aloha” by Curby Rule which explains this spirit much better than I can. You can check out the complete article at: [http://www.huna.org/html/deeper.html](http://www.huna.org/html/deeper.html) Curby shared how as Hawaiian children grow, a fundamental code of ethics is taught. This code is found within a deeper layer of the meaning of the word Aloha. The code is derived from one of the acronymic meanings of Aloha. A, ala, watchful, alertness. L, lokahi, working with unity. O, oia‘i’o, truthful honesty. H, ha‘aha‘a, humility and A, aho‘o, patient perseverance.

The kahuna (priest) David Bray interprets this code as “Come forward, be in unity and harmony with your real self, God, and mankind. Be honest, truthful, patient, kind to all life forms, and humble.” He also stated that to the Hawaiian of old, Aloha meant “God in us.” In Maui it is easy to discover the wonder of our existence here on Earth. Its beauty is awe-inspiring and energizing. It draws you into the present moment, not unlike the feelings brought on by love and joy.

The more I reflect, the more I wonder how much better we as a society would be if we shared more of the Aloha Spirit. As I read the Maui News on Easter Sunday, I was caught by their Editorial Column which reminded us how the time of Easter can represent putting away old, destructive ways to create a better world. The editorial stated, “Regardless of religious faith, or even lack of it, everyone should be able to accept a very simple fact. Individual human beings - no matter where in the world they were born - share more commonalities than differences. Conflict comes from emphasizing differences. Peace comes from appreciating commonalities.”

This past year has forced me to think deeper than I ever have before and about the importance of living with purpose, with belief, and with a general concern and compassion of all things and persons. So today I challenge you to think of how you can live more with the Aloha Spirit. How can you joyfully share and live life? How can you be kinder? How can you better appreciate the commonalities we share versus the differences?

Aloha is being a part of all, and all being a part of you. Aloha is sending and receiving a positive energy. Aloha is living in harmony. When you walk down the street, do you walk past others without a glance or do you look into their eyes and greet them warmly? As our plane touched down in Houston, Texas, it was evident the mainland has forgotten how to live Aloha. Have you?

When you live the Spirit of Aloha, you create positive feelings and thoughts, which are never gone. They exist in space, multiply and spread over to others. Aloha means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. Queen Lili‘uokalani stated, "Aloha to learn what is not said, to see what cannot be seen & to know the unknowable." I hope each of you take a page from Jaime and live your life to the fullest with a spirit that reflects light and life. She would want you to laugh, love, and give more hugs.

The closing paragraph from Curby Rule’s article stated, “I would like to bring to mind another old saying, "a picture is worth a thousand words" and point out that Aloha is a perfect example that in the Hawaiian language
sometimes the opposite of this saying is true as well. So, the next time you greet a friend with “Aloha,” hold its meanings close to your heart and think of the picture you’re painting. It is indeed a beautiful world.”

**Final Push for Sponsors for the 2016 Ashtabula County Ag Day**

On May 13, 2016 Ashtabula County will be hosting an Agriculture Day for nearly 1,100 members of the class of 2026 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds. The goal of program is to educate first graders on where their food comes from and to showcase the different types of agricultural commodities which are being grown in Ashtabula County. OSU Extension is currently seeking sponsors for this year’s event. During this interactive day, students will be able to get up close and personal with farm animals, crops, fruits, and vegetables at twelve interactive stations relating to our county’s agriculture.

The cost of hosting this event is over $10,000 (both monetary and in-kind) and without the support of many this program would not have been possible. **Thus far, we have raised almost $9,000! If you have not come on board as a sponsor, we would encourage you to consider giving today to help us make our goal!** To help fund the 2016 Ag Day we are offering 5 levels of sponsorship. These are: Platinum Sponsorship -$1,000 and over; Gold Sponsorship - $500 to $999; Silver Sponsorship - $250 to $499; Bronze Sponsorship - $100 to $249; and Friends of Ag Day - $1 to $99. We are asking all Ashtabula County farms, agribusinesses, and supporters of Ashtabula County Agriculture to consider making a donation to help us educate our youth about agriculture. Your gift to this program is 100% tax deductible. Please see the attached donation form to become a sponsor for this program. Thank you to the following individuals who have already committed to be sponsors for this year’s event! (THANK YOU!)

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**The Ohio State University**

**How Low Can You Go? Cold Weather and Wheat Injury**  
Author(s): Laura Lindsey, Douglas Alt, Pierce Paul

Cool weekend temperatures have prompted some concern about possible injury to the wheat crop. The effect of cold weather depends on the wheat growth stage. Maximum resistance to cold weather occurs in December-February. As wheat greens-up, the plant becomes less tolerant of freezing temperatures. At Feekes 6 growth stage aka “jointing” temperatures of ≤24°F for at least two hours may be injurious. Currently, in Ohio, most wheat is at Feekes 5 (green-up), so injury should be minimal.

Currently, we are in the process of evaluating freeze tolerance of winter wheat grown in Ohio. We collected wheat samples from Pickaway County on March 30 when plants were at Feekes 5 growth stage. Plants were put into a freeze chamber and temperature lowered to 27°, 21°, 14°, and 5°F. Very little injury has been observed between 14-27°F. At 5°F, wheat leaves wilted and had a dark purple-green water-soaked look 24 hours later (see picture). We plan on re-running this study at Feekes 6 growth stage.


**What is the Meaning of Feekes Growth Stages in Wheat?**  
Author(s): Ed Lentz, Pierce Paul, Laura Lindsey  

There are at least five growth scale systems developed worldwide for wheat, the one we often use is the Feekes scale. This scale uses a numbering system 1 through 11 with each number representative of a new growth event. Each number may be further divided by using decimals to further describe a given stage. A wheat field reaches a new growth stage when more than 50% of the plants are at the next stage.

The early stages may be collectively referred to as the vegetative stages since the growing point is below the soil surface and protected from above ground environmental and pest issues. These stages would include Feekes 1 – 5. After vernalization and growth stage 5, the tissue in the growing point has differentiated to include reproductive tissue in reproductive tillers and will be pushed above the soil surface at growth stage 6. Collectively, Feekes 6 – 11 may be referred to as the reproductive stages. Currently wheat fields in Ohio are at Feekes Growth Stage 5. A description of each Feekes Growth Stage is given below:

Feekes 1.0: germination period to the first emerged leaf. The number of leaves present on the first shoot can be designated with a decimal. For example, 1.3 is a single shoot with three leaves unfolded. This stage would have occurred last October.

Feekes 2.0: tillers become visible. A tiller is a new shoot that originates underground off the main stem.

Feekes 3.0 – 4.0: tiller formation. Wheat generally will generate three to five tillers in the fall prior to the onset of winter depending on planting date. These tillers will contribute the most to grain yield. Additional tillers may develop in early spring.

Feekes 5.0: strongly erect leaf sheaths. Plants will have an upright appearance but the growing point is still below the soil surface.
Feekes 6.0: first node visible. On reproductive tillers a visible knot, bump, or swollen tissue called the node is noticeable above the soil surface. The growing point, which includes the developing head or spike on reproductive tillers is above this node. Tiller production has ceased and wheat head development will continue on reproductive tillers. See the previous newsletter for a more detailed description of this stage, http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/winter-wheat-progress-...

Feekes 7.0: second node becomes visible. This stage is characterized by the rapid stem elongation and further development of the head or spike.

Feekes 8.0: flag leaf visible. This growth stage begins when the last leaf (flag leaf) begins to emerge from the whorl, and the second node is visible. The flag leaf will contribute 75% of the energy needs of the developing grain.

Feekes 9.0: Flag leaf completely emerged. Complete emergence is defined when the leaf ligule is visible. The ligule is a membranous structure found at the collar or the location where the leaf blade and leaf sheath join at the stem. The flag leaf will the last leaf on the reproductive tiller. Feekes 10.0: Boot stage. The head or spike is fully developed and can be seen in the swollen section of the leaf sheath below the flag leaf.

Feekes 10.5: Heading and flowering. When the head is fully emerged the stage is further designated as Feekes growth stage 10.5. Heads generally emerge mid to late May depending on the location in the state. Flowering will generally follow within five to seven days after emergence depending on temperature. Flowering is further divided using decimals: Feekes 10.5.1 (early flowering – anthers are extruded in the center of the head), 10.5.2 (mid flowering – anthers are extruded in the center as well as top of the head), and 10.5.3 (late flowering – anthers are extruded in the center, top, and base of the head).

Feekes 11.0: Ripening. The last stage and further divided by the characteristics of the maturing grain. These subdivisions include: milk stage (11.1), mealy stage (11.2), hard kernel (11.3) and harvest ready (11.4). Temperature and daylength will determine how quickly a wheat crop moves through each stage.

A video may be found showing various growth stages at the following sites:
Feekes 6: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iukwznx4DPk
Feekes 7 & 8: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZ7Lvsux1y8
Feekes 9 & 10: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHGhqOqSM1o
Wheat heading: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6Da1HRImV8
Flowering: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybZVW_YbhxY

Corn Growers Expect Major Increase in Acreage

U.S. corn growers expect to plant 93.6 million acres to corn this year, according to the Prospective Plantings report released today, March 31, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This is the first increase in corn planted acreage since 2012 and, if realized, will be the third largest corn acreage since 1944. Driven by the expectations of higher returns in 2016 compared with other crops, corn growers in 41 of the 48 contiguous states expect to either maintain or increase the number of acres they plant to corn. Growers in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and North Dakota expect to increase their corn acreage by 400,000 or more acres in 2016.

Soybean crop
In contrast, U.S. soybean growers expect to reverse the recent trends, which saw several record-high years. In 2016, growers expect to plant 82.2 million acres to soybeans, a less than one percent decrease from 2015.
In Louisiana, Minnesota and Mississippi, growers expect to decrease their soybean acreage by 200,000 acres or more in 2016. Despite the overall decrease in acreage, growers in North Dakota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin expect to see record-high soybean acreages in their states. The Prospective Plantings report provides the first official, survey based estimates of U.S. farmers’ 2016 planting intentions. NASS’s acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted during the first two weeks of March from a sample of more than 84,000 farm operators across the United States.

Other crops
All wheat planted area for 2016 is estimated at 49.6 million acres, down 9 percent from 2015. Winter wheat planted area, at 36.2 million acres, down 8 percent from last year. All cotton planted area for 2016 is expected to total of 9.56 million acres, 11 percent up from last year. Sorghum growers intend to plant 7.22 million acres in 2016, down 15 percent from 2015. Kansas and Texas, the leading sorghum-producing states, account for 74 percent of the expected United States acreage. The Prospective Plantings and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

Farmers & Consultants Needed for Major Initiative to Update Fertilizer Guidelines
It’s been 20 years since agronomists have developed fertilizer recommendations in Ohio. But now, Ohio State University Extension is embarking on a major initiative to determine the optimal rates of fertilization on the state’s major crops. The goal is to not only maximize farm profitability, but also contribute to improved nutrient management and water quality in the state.

The Ohio State University On-farm Fertilizer Trials project plans to gather data from hundreds of farms statewide over the next two to three years, said Steve Culman, soil fertility specialist with the university’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and researcher with the college’s Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. OSU Extension is the outreach arm of the college. Similar projects are being conducted in Indiana and Michigan, and the results will replace the current tri-state fertilizer recommendations, he said.

In Ohio, farmers will be paid up to $500 for participating, and crop consultants who join the effort will be paid $1,000-$1,500 for each trial they manage, Culman said. Ohio’s funding comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and commodity checkoff funds from the Ohio Soybean Council and the Ohio Corn and Small Grains Marketing Programs.

“The fundamental question is agronomic,” Culman said. “Do we get a yield response to fertilizer application? Depending on the field, there is a lot of variability across the state. That requires a lot of different trials, documenting what we see with data. “This is not a top-down university approach. It will take buy-in and participation from the agricultural community.” Organizers plan to gather data from corn, soybean and wheat farmers at planting, during the summer and at harvest. For each of the eight combinations of fertilizer applications they want to test, they hope to attract 30 farms to participate. Farmers can decide which type of nutrients they will test — nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium or sulfur, or a combination.

Phosphorus especially has been linked with harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie and other bodies of water. Too much nitrogen entering lakes and streams can also cause serious environmental and human health issues. Sulfur, which is not used on a widespread basis as a fertilizer, is being included in the study because sulfur deposition into soils from the atmosphere has decreased substantially in recent years due to a shift from coal-based power, Culman said. “It is interesting because we never had to think or worry about sulfur in the soil before, but now people are looking at it more seriously,” he said. Applying gypsum to soil is one way to provide sulfur and is being promoted as a best management practice, Culman said. The product can be mined, but it’s also a byproduct of scrubbing sulfur dioxide from the gas emissions of coal-burning power plants.
Farmers participating in the nitrogen trial will be paid a premium if they include testing strips without any applied nitrogen as one of the four treatments they undertake, Culman said. “Nitrogen is a really challenging nutrient to develop recommendations for,” he said. The soil itself can provide quite a bit of the nitrogen plants need, but it depends on a number of things: temperature, moisture, and the decomposition of the soil’s organic matter.

“Last year, there was probably a lot of decomposition, but it got so wet that a lot of nitrogen was likely lost to the environment,” he said. “Nitrogen just doesn’t stick around. Its availability and loss is difficult to quantify, so it’s difficult to develop nitrogen application recommendations. “If we have test strips in this study without any nitrogen being applied, then we can determine how much effect applied nitrogen had on neighboring strips.” But it’s likely the areas without any applied nitrogen will have lower yields, so the project will compensate farmers for that risk, Culman said.

Ohio farmers and crop consultants can find more details at go.osu.edu/fert-trials, and may contact Culman at culman.2@osu.edu or 330-822-3787, or post-doctoral researcher Anthony Fulford at fulford.19@osu.edu. Besides being of interest to crop farmers statewide, results from this project will be used by researchers and Extension personnel involved with the university’s Field to Faucet water quality initiative, which is designed to ensure safe drinking water while keeping farms productive and profitable.  “What we’re most interested in is to provide solid information so farmers can make informed decisions based on what their crops need,” Culman said. “After 20 years without a formal revision of fertilizer recommendations, the agricultural community realizes things have changed.” Differences of opinion on proper fertilization rates are common, with some ag retailers recommending higher or lower rates than what’s in the 1995 guidelines, he said.

“We as the land-grant university have the advantage of conducting these trials and gathering a good, robust data set so farmers know what the appropriate application rate really is,” Culman said. “Since fertilizer inputs are generally second only to seed as the largest costs farmers have, we can help farmers maximize profits by being as judicious as possible with fertilizer. “If they apply fertilizer based on just what the crop needs, the overwhelming majority of time, we’ll get a better crop and better water quality as a result.”

The Revised Worker Protection Standard
By Mary Ann Rose

Significant changes to the Worker Protection Standard became effective January 2, 2016 (see PEPTALK October and August 2015 Issues for details). The employer compliance manual is expected to be available in July, and compliance with most of the new rules will be required by January 2, 2017. New worker training manuals will not be available until mid-2017, so compliance with new training content will not be required until January 2018.

Farm owners are not required to follow all of the Worker Protection Standards for immediate family members that would be required for employees. However, owners do have to follow all pesticide label requirements and provide these protections for family members, as well as themselves:

- Keep all but pesticide handlers out of the application exclusion zone (AEZ) during pesticide application. The AEZ varies with the application type and may extend beyond the treated area, in some cases extending beyond the boundary of the agricultural establishment. The AEZ is defined under the 2015 revision.
- Keep all but pesticide handlers out of the pesticide-treatment area until the Restricted Entry Interval (REI) has elapsed.
- Provide pesticide handlers with the personal protective equipment required by the pesticide label.
- If using products that require a respirator, provide medical evaluation, fit test, and training, and keep respirator compliance records. Respirator requirements were introduced with the 2015 WPS revision.
New Fact Sheet on Nozzles
By Erdal Ozkan

Selecting the best nozzle for a spray application requires careful consideration of many factors, including sprayer operation parameters (spray application rate, spray pressure, travel speed), type of chemical sprayed (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides), mode of action (contact, systemic), application type (broadcast, band, directed, air-assisted), target crop (field crops, vegetables, vineyard, nursery), and spray drift risk. For more information on nozzle selection, see OSU Extension publication, “Selecting the Best Nozzle for the Job,” by Erdal Ozkan, Professor and Extension Specialist of the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering. The publication is available at: http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/aex-528. For the pdf version see: http://agnr.osu/sites/agnr/files/imce/pdfs/publications/AEX_528_Nozzles.pdf

Purdue Extension Debuts Mobile-Friendly Series of Online Cover Crop Publications
By Natalie van Hoose

A new Purdue Extension series of online publications enables farmers to peruse expert-reviewed information on cover crops straight from their smartphones. The series presents mobile-friendly versions of Extension publications on a variety of issues, including how to integrate cover crops into a corn-soybean rotation, how to use cover crops for prevented planting acres and how to terminate cover crops.

"The mobile device is now an essential part of agricultural production," said Ron Turco, professor of agronomy and head of the project. "Commodity prices, weather updates and critical information are now available wherever you need it. Indiana's farming community will soon also have ready access to Purdue's best production information." Farmers can access the series at https://ag.purdue.edu/soilandwater/cover-crops/.

The online cover crops publications are the first installment of Purdue's Indiana Soil and Water series, which aims to give growers easy-to-use tools and expert information on nutrient, soil and water management and is tailored to Indiana growing conditions. With a format designed for smartphones, the series will help drive effective and responsible decisions about Indiana soils and provide the knowledge needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of our state's agriculture systems, said Turco, who is also assistant dean for agricultural and environmental research.

Workshop on Responsible Antibiotic Use for Dairy Herd Health
by Mr. Rory Lewandowski, Extension Agriculture Educator, Wayne County,

The Ohio State University Extension OSU Veterinary Extension, Wayne County Extension, and OSU-ATI are sponsoring a “Responsible Antibiotic Use for Dairy Herd Health” workshop. The workshop will be held at the OSU-ATI dairy facility located at 2332 Barnard Rd outside of Apple Creek. Use Wooster as the address for GPS navigation. Dr. Gustavo Schuenemann, OSU Extension dairy veterinarian, will teach this workshop on April 21 and April 22. The workshop will provide hands-on training to dairy producers, managers, and dairy farm employees to give them the knowledge and skills to identify and diagnose some common health problems, including metritis and mastitis in cows and pneumonia and diarrhea in calves. Participants will also learn how to determine if an antibiotic is needed and will learn how to responsibly use antibiotics by following a set protocol, including record keeping.

The April 21 meeting will be in English and the April 22 meeting will be conducted in Spanish for native Spanish speakers. Many dairy farms are utilizing Hispanic labor and by offering a session in Spanish, those employees that attend may be in a more comfortable learning environment. Class size is limited each day. There is a registration cost of $10/person which includes morning refreshments, lunch, and materials. Pre-registration is required and the
registration deadline is April 15. Register by calling the Wayne County Extension office at 330-264-8722 or sending an email to: lewandowski.11@osu.edu, and please indicate which day you will be attending.

**The Big Farm Myth**  
By Agustina Sacerdote, Director of Marketing  
Source: [http://www.agweb.com/blog/the-ceo-farmer/the-big-farm-myth/](http://www.agweb.com/blog/the-ceo-farmer/the-big-farm-myth/)

We’ve all seen the same statistics on family farms: the USDA has reported that up to 98% of farms today are family owned, and a lot of these are also family operated. Even the most progressive, high-growth and technologically advanced farms are likely to be family businesses. But the farther away you get from farmland, the more common is the notion that successful farms have become part of huge, faceless corporations. My experience working with our customer farms at Granular has shown that this notion is a myth.

Why is it that family farms don’t really seem to fit the public’s common “family business” definition? I see three primary reasons:

1. **The industry demands and rewards scale.** Most people know that it takes a large capital investment to be able to generate a somewhat steady income year after year owning and operating a farm. A 1,000-acre farm, which by some standards could be considered a small farm, can barely produce a family income. Yet, it sits on roughly $10 million worth of land. Add in other fixed costs like equipment and labor, and it becomes clear that scaling is required to be profitable throughout generations. As a farm grows, so does its ability to buy in bulk to lock in lower input prices. Size also brings better access to credit. More credit means more means to expand, and so on. Larger farms also have more management capacity, time and resources to invest in technology, measurement and training, which makes it more competitive.

2. **Family farms remain devoted to agriculture across generations, and this commitment pays off in real terms.** If you’re a farmer it pays off, literally, to remain in the same place for a long time. Take, for example, a family settled in Iowa in the late 1800’s to start a typically-sized 40-acre farm. An average 5% annual growth rate would mean that this same farm would be roughly 32,000 acres today, five generations later. An expert understanding of soil conditions, weather and other agronomic factors results in productivity gains year over year. Longstanding relationships with suppliers result in more favorable terms relative to market and community newcomers.

3. **Technology helps farms overcome the challenges inherent in managing and transitioning family businesses.** In every industry, each generation struggles to not only to retain the next in the family business, but to set them up for future success. In agriculture, this issue is particularly salient. Technology can help generations pass down knowledge on the land, agronomic practices and management decisions. It can help attract young talent to learn and take over the businesses. The right software can generate data that uncovers critical efficiency gains to improve processes that have been in place for years, and helps younger generations make smarter decisions in increasingly competitive ag markets.

While big farms might not fit the long romanticized view of red barns sitting quietly on an idyllic countryside, they are complex organizations run by fathers, mothers and their relatives trying to leave the business in better shape than they received it. Farms may be consolidating and adopting new technologies to become more professionalized, but family ownership is not disappearing. They’re doing what’s required to succeed in today’s environment.

**USDA Announces New GroupGAP Program for the Produce Industry**  
The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has announced the official launch of GroupGAP, a new certification program that helps small and mid-sized growers and cooperatives meet retailers’ on-farm food safety requirements.
"We know that GAP certification can sometimes be cost-prohibitive for smaller farmers," said AMS Administrator Elanor Starmer. "GroupGAP allows these farmers to demonstrate compliance with strong food safety standards and share the cost of certification across a group of growers. That means greater market access for farmers, more options for consumers, and strong verification of food safety practices. It is a true win-win. We're proud to have developed this innovative solution in partnership with our stakeholders."

After a robust three-year pilot, AMS will today begin accepting applications for enrollment in GroupGAP, which certifies that grower groups are following industry-recognized food safety practices. By leveraging economies of scale and increasing efficiencies, GroupGAP improves market access for small and midsized farmers and benefits the entire produce industry.

The AMS Specialty Crops Inspection Division (SCI) performs Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audits, which are voluntary audits to verify that farms are following industry-recognized food safety practices and recommendations from the Food and Drug Administration. Produce buyers, large and small, are increasingly requiring suppliers to be GAP certified. Under GroupGAP, farmers, food hubs, and cooperatives work together to obtain group certification. Their participation in the program in turn benefits retailers and other large-volume buyers, who are better able to meet the increasing demand for local foods and broaden their base of suppliers.

AMS GroupGAP audits include an analysis of the group's system of oversight, a site visit to ensure compliance with various procedures, and spot checks to verify appropriate on-farm implementation. For more information or to submit an application, visit the GroupGAP Website at www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/groupgap. You can learn more about the AMS GAP Audit Program at www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing.

GroupGAP is just one example of the many AMS programs and services that support strong local and regional food systems, as described at www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional. Across USDA, the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative coordinates the Department's policy, resources, and outreach efforts related to local and regional food systems. You can read more about the results of USDA investments in local food on the USDA website.

Ohio State is Putting Big Money into Sustainable Agriculture
By Kara Holsopple
Source: http://www.alleghenyfront.org/ohio-state-is-putting-big-money-into-sustainable-agriculture

Ohio State University is getting serious about transforming the state’s agricultural system. How serious? Try $100 million serious. That’s what Ohio State President Michael Drake has pledged to a program called the Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation, or InFact. And they've tapped one of Pennsylvania's own rock stars in the sustainable agriculture scene to run it. Brian Snyder has been executive director of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) for 15 years. And recently, the Allegheny Front’s Kara Holsopple chatted with Snyder about his hopes for the new program.

The Allegheny Front: So what exactly are the goals of this new InFact program?

Brian Snyder: Well, they're trying to work across all schools and departments to not only raise awareness about the importance of food systems and food security, but actually do something about it. It also is aimed at conducting outreach beyond the university to get other groups—like non-profits, churches, businesses, consumers and farmers—all working on the same idea of improving food security. And they've impressed on me that they want to find solutions that will have an impact not only right there in the community in Columbus and throughout Ohio, but they'd like to set an example for other areas of the country that are trying to address similar issues.
**AF:** Ohio State has a really big agriculture program. Does their commitment to this program represent a shift in focus to more sustainable agriculture?

**BS:** I would say, yes, there is an intent to take a more sustainable view for the long-term. The agricultural community is coming to terms with the fact that the way food is produced is not irrelevant to issues that go beyond food. Our ability to maintain the environment is awfully important for a number of reasons, including the fact that we could continue to produce food into the long-term future.

**AF:** And why did you decide to make this move?

**BS:** Well, at PASA I worked on food systems in Pennsylvania across a number of different levels of the food system. And so in many ways, this is a similar kind of job, only it is going to occur inside the university rather than independently in a non-profit. And I’m intrigued by two aspects of that. One is that there are far more resources available in the university to do this kind of work, and I’m very interested to see if we can get all those resources moving in the same direction. And secondly, I’m just really concerned about the land grant system generally across the country and how the mission is being met, or not met. I was very impressed to find that the folks at Ohio State are taking that question very seriously too and wanting to see how they could improve.

**AF:** Can you talk a little bit more about that?

**BS:** Well, we’re all familiar with the work that land grants do through extension and teaching programs and research. But sometimes that work doesn’t get all the way down to the ground and affect some of the people who are most vulnerable in terms of their food systems. And on that score, I would include both farmers who are struggling to make ends meet and are often not being paid what their work is worth through the price of food. And at the other end of the spectrum, we have sort of the opposite problem: Communities that are not able to access the kinds of nutrition that they need to keep their families healthy and economies of communities strong. And I think there’s a lot that sustainable agriculture has to offer in both of those cases and for a lot of situations that fall in between. And universities, particularly those with a lot resources, can do a lot to address these kinds of issues.

**AF:** Well, Ohio State President Michael Drake has committed a minimum of $100 million over the next 10 years to this program. Are there obstacles to getting this type of commitment to sustainable agriculture in Pennsylvania?

**BS:** Well, there certainly are obstacles. And I’ve spent the last 15 years trying to address some of those. I’m happy to report that we’ve made a lot of progress, but there continue to be issues that have to be addressed. Certainly, the Chesapeake Bay watershed is one. And certainly the conflicts that occur in an area as diverse as what the Chesapeake Bay watershed defines are really critical not only here but elsewhere. And the barriers that we see are farms and farmers trying to make the right decisions and struggling to keep their farms viable so that the land doesn’t become developed in the future in other ways. And at the same time, as we know, farming is sometimes hard on the land. Now, enter into that the fact that we know there are ways in which farming can actually improve the land: we can actually improve soil quality, water quality, sequester carbon. And when you understand that, it really makes it worthwhile to work through some of the barriers that come up. Government policy sometimes is a barrier. And I’m very glad to see that, in recent years, Pennsylvania state government and the Department of Agriculture, in particular, understand the role of government in helping farms make better choices. And they’re taking leadership in wanting to restore the health of the bay. So these are all problems that do have solutions, but they require a long-term point of view and a long-term strategy. And short-term thinking, in general, is probably the biggest barrier we face in trying to repair food systems. People often want short-term solutions. But we didn’t get into some of the environmental problems that we have in short order. And they’re not going to go away in a short amount of time either.
Listen for Cicada
By the Ashtabula County Master Gardeners

May 2016 should once again welcome the emergence of the 17-year periodical cicadas. The last time they emerged was in 1999. Brood V, as this group is known, will appear in most of eastern Ohio, including portions of Ashtabula County, parts of New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia. They aren't found everywhere and there are large gaps in their range.

There are seven species of cicadas, which spend many years developing underground feeding on the fluid from roots of trees. These periodical cicadas are not seen for 13 or 17 years, depending on the species. The 17 year cicada, Brood V, which are set to emerge this year, are Magicicada septendecim, Magicicada cassini and Magicicada septendecula. The adult cicadas of Brood V have black bodies with red eyes, and are about 1 1/2 inches long. The wings are translucent and have orange veins.

There are also four species of 13-year periodic cicada and well as many species of the annual cicadas, with which we are much more familiar. Annual, or "Dog-day" cicadas, are larger with green to brown bodies with black markings and a whitish cast and appear every year during July and August. Cicadas are not locusts, as real locusts look like grasshoppers. They are more closely related to aphids.

The Brood V cicadas will begin to emerge when the soil about 8 inches beneath the surface reaches the temperature of 64 degrees Fahrenheit. A warm spring rain in May or June will often trigger the emergence and they will begin digging their way to the surface. They usually emerge during the night, through a 1/2 inch hole, climb up tree trunks or other vertical objects where they shed their nymphal skin and emerge as an adult. Their wings inflate with fluid and their adult skin hardens. It may take about 5 to 7 days for the insect to dry and become active. And that is when the mating chorus begins and the sound can be deafening.

Population densities with the synchronized emergence can be amazing. Cicadas numbering tens to hundreds of thousands per acre are common, even as high as 1.5 million per acre. Adults live about 4 to 6 weeks and do not eat, but suck fluid from the tender twigs of trees. During this time their only purpose is to mate and lay eggs. The male cicadas will sing to attract females by vibrating membranes on his underside, while the female cicadas are silent.

After mating the female cicada cuts two parallel slits with her long ovipositor in small twigs high in the trees, where she lays 20 to 28 rice-shaped eggs. A female cicada can lay up to 600 eggs during her short life at various sites.

Damage to the tree is caused by this 'flagging' or breakage of the tips of the branches where the eggs have been laid. The pearly eggs hatch in about 6 weeks. The nymphs fall to the ground where they burrow 6-18 inches into the soil, spend the next 17 years feeding on small roots and undergo 5 instar stages. At the end of this time, the mature cicada emerges and the cycle begins again. These cicadas have the longest life cycle of any insect in North America.

Deciduous trees such as oak, hickory, maple, beech, apple, cherry and dogwood are the preferred hosts for egg laying. However, other woody plants, even grapevines, may be used during an emergence year. It is thought that cicadas may even benefit the health of trees by aerating the soil around the roots and 'trimming' the branch tips by flagging. After the cicadas have died, the decaying bodies add large amounts of nitrogen and other nutrients to the soil.
In general the cicadas cause no permanent harm to plants and trees. However, very small or young trees could be vulnerable if too many of the females should choose to lay their eggs on the immature branches. To prevent this, simply cover the trees with bird netting or cheesecloth. However, it may not even be a concern if the cicadas do not emerge in your immediate area as they usually do not move more than a few hundred feet.

Adult cicadas have no defense mechanisms, do not bite or sting and have no known toxic chemicals. They also do not carry diseases. Cicadas are usually considered a nuisance simply because of their sheer numbers and loud, piercing mating calls. There are no effective pesticides for controlling periodical cicadas.

Many wild animals will eat the emerging cicadas. Birds, squirrels, raccoons, oppossum and wild turkey gorge themselves on the fresh imago or feast on the dead adults as they fall to the ground at the end of their life cycle. Fish love them and they are often used as bait.

The fresh cicadas may also be consumed by dogs and cats. They usually cause no harm to these animals, although pets occasionally will consume so many of the cicadas that they regurgitate or become constipated. Just remember, they’re only bugs.

Raising Baby Chicks - Bringing Your Chicks Home
By: Sabrina Schirtzinger, Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension Educator, Knox County
Source: http://u.osu.edu/poultry/2016/04/02/raising-baby-chicks/

Deciding to raise chickens is a considerable task; especially, if you this is your first time. Chicks require: housing, a heat source, water, feed, and a bedding source. This article will give you a few quick tips for getting starting raising chicks.

Upon arrival home chicks should be housed in a brooder. A brooder may be an enclosed box, small corner of the garage, or a cardboard guard keeping the chicks in a contained area. Brooders should be free from drafts, or other animals; whichever style you chose to build, the walls need to be 18 inches high. Brooding is approximately six weeks, during this time the brooders size will need to be adjusted to allow more space for the chicks. In 2 week intervals increase the brooder 1 square foot per bird.

For the first few weeks chicks need extra heat to grow stronger and improve feathering. Temperatures should between 90 -95 degree Fahrenheit for the first week, then decrease 5 degrees each week until the chicks gain feathers, or ambient temps are reached. Watching your chicks will alert you to adequate temperatures in the brooder. When your chicks are too cold they will be chirping loudly and huddled under the lamps. Simply lower the lamps until normal behavior is resumed. Normal behavior is described as birds exerting daily behaviors of sleeping, eating and drinking. If your chicks are too hot they will be further from the heat source. There should always be space for the chicks to be warm and cool in the brooder.

Begin feeding your chicks a starter feed with a crude protein of 20%. Use this feed for approximately 6 weeks, then switch to a grower/developer feed. When your chickens reach 18-20 weeks of age switch them to a layer feed with a 15 to 16% protein and 4% calcium. Eating is a socially activity to chickens. When selecting a feeder allow two inches of space for chicks within the first two weeks. After two weeks a beyond allow 4 inches of feeder space per chicken. Your chicks will require clean, fresh water several times a day. Use the one or two gallon water jugs for the first few weeks, then you can increase the size as they grow larger.
Good bedding sources are ones that catch and absorb the manure; but also, keep the chicks from slipping on the ground. Lining the floor of your brooder with newspaper helps to make cleaning easier. Types of bedding are: pine shavings, straw, course ground cobs, or oat hulls. Producers should clean the brooders several times a week, and then add 2-3 inches of bedding back into the brooder.

**Ashtabula County 4-H Pancake Breakfast to be Held on Sunday, April 10, 2016**
The Ashtabula County 4-H Advisory Committee would like to invite you to a 4-H Pancake Breakfast which will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2016 from 7:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the 4-H Expo Building at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds located at 127 North Elm Street in Jefferson, Ohio. All proceeds from this benefit will be donated to support the Ashtabula County 4-H Camp Counselors!

This event is an all-you-can eat pancake breakfast complete with sausage, eggs and beverages. The cost for the event is $7.00 per adult and $5 for Seniors. Children under 6 are free. Tickets can be purchased at the Ashtabula County Extension office at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson, Ohio. Tickets are also available at the door. For More information call the Ashtabula County Extension Office at 440-576-9008.

**Tri-County Grape Growers 2016 Steak Dinner to be held on Thursday, May 5, 2016**
The Tri-County Grape Growers Association is pleased to announce they will be hosting their second annual **Steak Dinner** on Thursday, May 5, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Harpersfield Community Center. All are Welcome - Grape Growers and Wine Makers will be available to answer questions, problems, and/or concerns anyone may be having in their home garden vineyards or basement wine making. Meet and socialize with other growers, buyers, and suppliers of the Regional Grape Industry.

The guest speaker for this event will be: Donniella Winchell, Executive Director of the Ohio Wine Producers Association. Ms. Winchell will be speaking on the history of grape growing in Northeast Ohio and the impact on the region. Donniella Winchell is Executive Director of the Ohio Wine Producers Association and chair of their Vintage Ohio Wine Festival. She is the recipient of several state and national awards and serves on numerous state and national wine, tourism and economic development boards. She contributes wine articles to many regional publications. Donniella graduated from Allegheny College and taught in Ohio public schools. She and her family own a marketing agency and an entertainment complex in Geneva-on-the-Lake. She and her husband have three grown children and eight grandchildren.

Pre-sale tickets are required with each ticket costing $30.00 per person. The ticket price includes a one-year membership in Tri-County Grape Growers. Please RSVP by April 29th to guarantee seating. All are welcome to attend. Tickets may be purchased from the OSU Extension Office in Jefferson, Ohio (440- 576-9008), John Linehan (440-466-3207) or from any active Tri-County Grape Grower Member.

**Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show to be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016**
The Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association will be sponsoring the 19th Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Jackpot Show on Saturday, April 16 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 $25 per head if pre-registered by April 7, 2016 and $30 per head thereafter. 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. Local residents are encouraged to come out and watch this show. A registration flyer can be found at: [http://go.osu.edu/ne-](http://go.osu.edu/ne-)
Ashtabula County Farm Bureau Scholarship Applications Being Taken

Ashtabula County Farm Bureau would like to remind Farm Bureau members that scholarships are available to all college students working towards an undergraduate degree. Eligible applicants must be:

- Residents of Ashtabula County
- Parents/guardian must be a Member Individual or Community Member of the Ashtabula County Farm Bureau for the past three years, as of application date,
- Students must be full-time enrollees of any field in a two or four-year college or university, working toward an undergraduate degree, and
- Must have a 2.5 grade point average for the most recent grading period.

Applications may be acquired through your High School Guidance/Career Counselor; on Ohio Farm Bureau's website or by calling the Farm Bureau office at 440-437-8700. The due date for completed applications is April 27, 2016

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

Readers can subscribe electronically to this newsletter by sending an e-mail message to: marrison.2@osu.edu. If you would like to opt-out of receiving this newsletter, please e-mail marrison.2@osu.edu with the words: UNSUBSCRIBE

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**Events.** More information about this program can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008 or by emailing David Marrison at marrison.2@osu.edu.
2016 Ag Day Volunteer Sheet

This year’s date for Ag Day is **Friday May 13, 2016** at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds in Jefferson, Ohio. We are excited to have you volunteer for the day! In an effort to make the day run as smoothly as possible we would like to gather as much information ahead of time. Please fill out this sheet and return to Abbey Averill at the OSU Extension Office by April 15, 2016.

Contact information

Name ______________________________________________________

Address____________________________________________________ 
Street
__________________________________________________________
City, State Zip Code

Phone______________________________________________________

E-mail_______________________________________________________

Shirt Size _______ (Any form received after April 15 cannot be guaranteed a size or a shirt)

Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number
__________________________________________________________

Organization Representing
____OSU Extension/4-H/Master Gardener
____Farm Bureau
____Community Member
____FFA
____Other _____________________________ (Please Specify)

_____ I am a student at ______________________ and will need a school excuse.

Please return this sheet to Abbey Averill by either email (averill.10@osu.edu) or by mail to OSU Extension 39 Wall St. Jefferson, Ohio 44047

(Please turn page over)
Volunteer Information

Which position would you like to volunteer for? Please check one

_________ **No preference** - Please utilize me where you need me.

_________ **Class Tour Guide** - I would love to watch the kids enjoy this day first hand. As a guide, you will be leading a classroom from station to station. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. to take a tour of the stations. After the tour, you will have the opportunity to ask any questions, have some coffee and doughnuts or relax until your class arrives. You are able to request a specific classroom but this will be done on a first come basis. You will also have the ability to choose that morning.

    School_______________ Teacher____________________

_________ **Station Volunteer** - I have a lot of information I can share at one of the interactive stations. We will have 12 different interactive educational sessions you may choose to help with. Each station has a coordinator who will send you details on what is needed for the station. Select the station or stations which you would be comfortable in assisting. Please rank your preferences.

    ______ Mini Horses
    ______ Fruits and Grains
    ______ Master Gardeners
    ______ Veggie Station
    ______ Poultry
    ______ Calf
    ______ Dairy Products
    ______ Goats/ Lambs/ Alpacas
    ______ Alternative Ag
    ______ Pig
    ______ My Plate
    ______ Farm Machinery

_________ **Other** - I have talked to a committee member and they asked me to do a specific job. That job is... (Please describe that job. Example- Help with lunch in the Grange) ________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

Call OSU Extension at 440-576-9008 for more information.
To: Supporters of Ashtabula County Agriculture  
From: David L. Marrison  
Re: Sponsorship of 2016 Ag Day

On May 8, 2015 nearly 1,000 members of the class of 2025 descended on the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds to participate in Ashtabula County’s “Ag Day.” Sponsored 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 grown in Ashtabula County.

During this interactive day, students are able to get up close and personal with farm animals, crops, fruits, and vegetables at twelve interactive stations relating to our county’s agriculture. During the day, the students:
- Learn about bees, dairy cows, sheep, horses, beef cows, goats, pigs, alpacas, chickens, ducks, and turkeys.
- Make their own home-made butter and tried their hand at milking a cow.
- Learn how seeds are planted to give us an array of tasty fruit and vegetables and how they are processed into foods that we enjoy.
- Learn what type of machinery is used in agriculture.
- Learn the importance of healthy nutrition and exercise.

Ashtabula County’s Ag Day program has become a community supported effort as over 250 volunteers and donors help to make this day a reality for the students. The cost of hosting this event was over $10,000 (both monetary and in-kind) and without the support of many this program would not have been possible. We are asking you to considering becoming a donor for the 2016 Ag Day which will be held on Friday, May 13, 2016 we are offering 5 levels of sponsorship. These are:
- Platinum Sponsorship - $1,000 and over
- Gold Sponsorship - $500 to $999
- Silver Sponsorship - $250 to $499
- Bronze Sponsorship - $100 to $249
- Friends of Ag Day - $1 to $99

We are asking all Ashtabula County farms, agribusinesses, and supporters of Ashtabula County Agriculture to consider making a donation to help us educate our youth about agriculture (see back for more details). Your gift to this program is 100% tax deductible. Attached are a list of the donors from last year’s event. Donors are recognized in a variety of manners which can be seen on the following page. If you are interested in helping with this year’s program or would like to be a sponsor, please contact Abbey Averill at 440-576-9008.

Yes, I would like to be a sponsor of the 2016 Ag Day!

Sponsor Name(s)_______________________________________________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________________
Phone____________________________ Email________________________ _____________

$_______ Platinum   $_______ Gold   $_______ Silver   $_______ Bronze   $_______ Friends of Ag Day

_____ In-Kind, I can offer the following in-kind support

Make checks payable to: OSU Extension    Return to: OSU Extension, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH 44047
For More Information: 440-576-9008
There are many ways to become a sponsor for this event. Your support of the Ashtabula County Ag Day can be provided through a monetary donation or through an in-kind donation. Listed below is how your company’s donation will be recognized by the committee and some ideas for donation opportunities.

**Platinum Sponsorship - $1,000 and over**
- Company/Individual name on back of shirt which all volunteers wear.
- Sign at the 12 interactive stations.
- Listed in the donor brochure sent home to every student’s home.
- On sponsorship list for media publication.
- Recognition at Ag Day for being a sponsor.
- **Ideas for donation** - Sponsor three or more classrooms from your local school or help sponsor the bus transportation ($3,500 total for busing) or sponsor the “Adventures in Agriculture with Chris Clover” coloring book ($2,000). Donate an agricultural based-giveaway valued over $1,000. For example, an Ag Day lunch box for every student.

**Gold Sponsorship - $500 to $999**
- Company/Individual name on back of shirt which all volunteers wear.
- Sign at all 12 interactive stations.
- Listed in the donor brochure sent home to every student’s home.
- On sponsorship list for media publication.
- Recognition at Ag Day for being a sponsor.
- **Ideas for donation** - Sponsor two classrooms from your local school or sponsor your local school’s busing. Donate an agricultural based-giveaway valued over $500, provide milk and ice cream for each student, sponsor the dwarf cherry tomato plants to be taken home by every student or provide lunch for the over 150 volunteers. Donate reusable Ag Day tote bag for each classroom.

**Silver Sponsorship - $250 to $499**
- Listed in the donor brochure sent home to every student’s home.
- On sponsorship list for media publication.
- Recognition at Ag Day for being a sponsor.
- **Ideas for donation** - Sponsor a classroom from your local school. Donate an agricultural based-giveaway valued over $250, sponsor the supplies needed for one of the stations (example: whipping cream to make the homemade butter), or sponsor the Callie the Cow milking station.

**Bronze Sponsorship - $100 to $249**
- Listed in the donor brochure sent home to every student’s home.
- On sponsorship list for media publication.
- Recognition at Ag Day for being a sponsor.
- **Ideas for donation** - Donate an agricultural based-giveaway valued over $100. We can use money to purchase program supplies (example: potatoes, carrots, flower pots, soil) for the 12 interactive stations.

**Friends of Ag Day - $1 to $99**
- Listed in the donor brochure sent home to every student’s home.
- On sponsorship list for media publication.
- Recognition at Ag Day for being a sponsor.
- **Ideas for donation** - Donate an agricultural based-giveaway valued up to $99. We can use money to purchased program supplies (example: hand sanitizers for the 12 interactive stations).

**Volunteerism**
We need over 250 volunteers to help with this program. Your company can provide volunteers to be presenters at one of the 12 interactive stations, be a group leader to lead a classroom from station to station, or help with safety coordination or in logistics. Contact Abbey Averill at OSU Extension at 440-576-9008 for more details on volunteer opportunities.
2015 Ashtabula County Ag Day Sponsors

Platinum Sponsorship
Ashtabula County Holstein Club
Ruth Mary Service
Ashtabula County Farm Bureau
OSU Extension-Ashtabula County
Ashtabula County Fair-board
Albert M. Ford Charitable Trust
Veteran's Service Commission
Walmart Stores, Inc.
Western Reserve Farm Cooperative

Gold Sponsorship
John & Nancy Patterson
Crosswinds Grille at The Lake House Inn
Erie Bank
Katherine S. Riedel - Attorney

Silver Sponsorship
AGS Graphics
Barb Schaab, Ashtabula County Recorder
COBA Select Sires, Inc.
Bossy’s Way Inc.
Farm Credit Services
Marrison Farms
Mideast Dairy Council
Wright Farms, LTD
Anonymous Donor from Conneaut

Bronze Sponsorship (continued)
Pymatuning Valley Primary PTO, Inc.
Joe & Encie Moroski
Ralph & Pat Pankowski
Sheryle Tersigni
Spencers Farm
Valley Feed Mill
Dan Whitmire

Gold Sponsorship
John & Nancy Patterson
Crosswinds Grille at The Lake House Inn
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Sheryle Tersigni
Spencers Farm
Valley Feed Mill
Dan Whitmire

Friends of Ag Day
Jefferson Grange
Bernie Haythcer
Hoppin Hoofers 4-H Club
Saybrook Grange
Saybrook Raiders 4-H Club
Cheryle Chiaramonte
Kalas Farm
Markko Vineyards
Piper Processing
Marianne Sezon
Snowy Oak Tree Farm
Western Reserve Animal Clinic

Bronze Sponsorship
Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association
Arms Trucking Company
Andover Bank
Ashtabula County Soil & Water
Conservation District
Cherry Valley Slaughtering & Processing
Countryside Vet Clinic
Easton Culligan
Ferrante Winery

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Arms Trucking Company
Andover Bank
Ashtabula County Soil & Water
Conservation District
Cherry Valley Slaughtering & Processing
Countryside Vet Clinic
Easton Culligan
Ferrante Winery

Thanks to 2015 Station Volunteers
Ashtabula County BeeKeepers Association
Ashtabula County 4-H Volunteers & Youth
Ashtabula County Farm Bureau
Ashtabula County Master Gardeners
Ashtabula County Visitor’s Bureau
Aloterra Energy
Conversation Station
Jefferson Grange
Jefferson Police & EMS
Manners Christmas Tree Farm
Pymatuning Valley FFA