It looks like another slow start to spring. Governor Kasich signed the Senate Bill 1 legislation into law last week. While, this legislation is for the Western Lake Erie Basin, we as producers will need to monitor its progress. Don’t ever count out the fact that this legislation could be expanded to all Ohio producers. Be thinking of what management practices you would need to change or adopt if the same rules applied here. I hope to see many of our area beef producers at tomorrow evening’s beef clinic. It was great to see many of you at last Friday’s Ag Breakfast in Gustavus. Have a good week!

David Marrison, AG Educator

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Senate Bill 1 Passed and Signed by Governor
By Peggy Hall & Glen Arnold, OSU Extension

Ohio’s legislature passed a bill intended to control algae production in Lake Erie and its western basin. The law will regulate manure and fertilizer applications in the watersheds of the western basin of Lake Erie. The effective date of this new law is June 21, 2015. The final bill contains the following provisions:

Fertilizer application restrictions in the western basin
For applications of fertilizer in the western basin, a person may not apply fertilizer, defined as nitrogen or phosphorous, under these conditions:
(1) On snow-covered or frozen soil, or
(2) When the top two inches of soil are saturated from precipitation, or
(3) In a granular form when the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than a 50% chance of precipitation exceeding one inch in a twelve-hour period,
unless the fertilizer is injected into the ground, incorporated within 24 hours of surface application or applied onto a growing crop.
Small and medium operations may apply for a temporary exemption from the restrictions, as explained below. The ODA will have authority to investigate complaints of potential violations and to assess penalties for violations, which may not exceed $10,000 for each violation.

Manure application restrictions in the western basin
A person may not surface apply manure in the western basin under any of the following circumstances:
(1) On snow-covered or frozen soil;
(2) When the top two inches of soil are saturated from precipitation;
(3) When the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than a 50% chance of precipitation exceeding one-half inch in a 24 hour period.

unless the manure is injected into the ground, incorporated within 24 hours of surface application, applied onto a growing crop, or if in the event of an emergency, the chief of the division of soil and water resources or the chief's designee provides written consent and the manure application is made in accordance with procedures established in the United States department of agriculture natural resources conservation service practice standard code 590 prepared for this state.

Small and medium operations may apply for a temporary exemption from the restrictions, as explained below. The ODA will have authority to investigate complaints of potential violations and to assess penalties for violations, which may not exceed $10,000 for each violation.

Exemptions for small and medium operations:
Small and medium agricultural operations may apply for a temporary exemption from the law’s restrictions on fertilizer and manure applications. The chief of the division of soil and water resources may grant an exemption of up to one year for a medium agricultural operation and up to two years for a small operation, if the operation is working toward compliance. An exempted operation may request technical assistance to reach compliance, and will not be subject to civil penalties for violations. The law defines small and medium agricultural operations in the same way as the Livestock Environmental Permitting program, based on the number of livestock according to species. ORC 1511(D).

Certification requirements for persons using manure from Confined Animal Feeding Facilities:
To utilize manure from a concentrated animal feeding facility that is regulated under ODA’s Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting, a person must hold either a Certified Livestock Manager license or certification under Ohio’s new fertilizer applicator certification program. The provision pertains only if applying the manure for agricultural production on more than 50 acres. This language closes the proclaimed “loophole” that allowed persons to receive and apply manure from a livestock facility without being subject to the same regulations as the facility. ORC 903.40.

Implementation review:
The final version of the legislation requires a review three years after the law’s effective date by the appropriate House and Senate committees, who must assess the results of implementing the new measures and issue a report of their findings and recommendations for revisions or repeal to the Governor.

The final version of the legislation and accompanying documents are available at: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA131-SB-1

A Wet Start to April is Expected
By Jim Noel
April looks to go down as slightly warmer than normal and much wetter than normal except about normal wetness in the far northwest part of the state. The good news is warmer than normal temperatures are expected for a good deal of April. This likely means the last frost and freeze will not be far from normal unlike last year with late frost and freeze events well into May. However, it appears the eastern corn and soybean belt will experience a wetter than normal first half of April.
Normally, Ohio experiences just under 1 inch of rain a week. In the next two weeks rainfall will range from an average of 2 inches in northwest Ohio to over 3-6+ inches over southern and southeast Ohio. This means near normal rainfall in northwest sections of the state to 150-300% of normal over the rest of the state. Overall, spring planting season looks wetter than normal in the eastern corn and soybean belt with drier than normal weather in the western and northern sections. By summer, it may switch to wetter than normal in western and northern areas and drier than normal in eastern areas including Ohio.

‘All Corn Is the Same,’ and Other Foolishness about America’s King of Crops
By Mauricio Espinoza, OSU Extension
In 2014, farmers across the United States harvested 14.2 billion bushels of corn from 83.1 million acres, for a total value of $51.9 billion. Everything about corn is big in the United States. Corn is the No. 1 crop grown in the country, while America leads the world in production and consumption of this vital grain, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Grown by Native Americans well before the arrival of Europeans, corn has been part of the agricultural landscape, food traditions and culture of what is now the United States for millennia.

Despite its enormous influence and popularity, there are many things you may not know about corn — and others you think you know but are, in fact, incorrect. Here are some facts and myths about the king of U.S. crops that will boost your corn IQ:

- Not all corn is the same: We typically speak about corn in general terms as if it were just one crop. However, there are many types of corn, grown for different uses and featuring different colors. If you try munching on field corn, you will be disappointed: It’s been bred to be high in starch content and won’t be sweet or soft. Sweet corn, on the other hand, has a much higher sugar content, has more polysaccharides that make kernels creamy and is softer because it’s harvested early — when the kernels are still immature.

  There are six major types of corn: dent (most field corn grown in the United States today), flint (the colorful varieties also known as Indian corn), pod (a wild type from which corn as we know it today originated), sweet (the type eaten on the cob), flour (composed largely of soft starch and easy to grind) and popcorn (which has a hard moisture-sealed hull and a dense starchy interior that puffs when heated).

- Corn is actually a really tall grass: All corn known to humankind today originated some 10,000 years in Mexico from a single-stalked, grassy plant called teosinte, meaning “grain of the gods.” A teosinte ear is only 2 to 3 inches long with five to 12 kernels — compared to corn’s 12-inch ear that boasts 500 or more kernels. Early Mexican farmers domesticated teosinte and increased its yield and grain quality by selectively breeding for desirable traits.

- Most corn produced in the United States is not eaten by people: The largest amount of corn produced by U.S. farmers (46.4 percent) is used as feed for animals. Another 30.5 percent is converted to ethanol, and 12.9 is exported. The rest is turned into sweeteners (5.7 percent), starch (1.8 percent) and alcoholic beverages (1 percent). Only 1.5 percent is used to make cereal and other foods. These percentages are based on USDA data for the 2014 harvest.

- You may be wearing corn or walking or driving on it: Corn as a raw material is used to make an astonishing number of everyday products, including textiles, car tires, carpeting, plastics, paints, candles, drywall, soap and sandpaper.
- Corn is not very nutritious. Or is it? There are some nutritional stigmas attached to corn because of its high starch content (in the case of field corn) and its sugar content (in the case of sweet corn). However, corn provides important nutrients as part of a varied diet. Sweet corn, classified as a vegetable by USDA, is a good source of fiber, folate, thiamin and phosphorus.

Additionally, yellow corn offers vitamin A in the form of beta-carotene. Blue, purple, red and other types of colorful Indian corn are also high in anthocyanins — the nutrients that provide such deep colors and that have the potential to help prevent cancer and other diseases.

- Corn or maize? While the United States and a few other English-speaking countries use the word “corn” (from the Proto-Germanic kurnam, meaning “small seed”), the rest of the world refers to this crop as “maize” or maíz — which comes from the Taino (a Caribbean indigenous culture) word mahiz.

**Purdue Expert Lists Guidelines for Buying Used Farm Machinery**
By Emma Hopkins |

Prices for used farm machinery have been trending lower in the past year due to a surplus of inventory at dealerships, but buying used may not always be the best option, a Purdue University expert says. Robert Stwalley, assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering, urges farmers who are thinking of buying used planters, tractors, trucks or other machinery to be cautious.

“A used piece of equipment, under the right circumstances, may be the best economic choice for a specific operation,” Stwalley said. “But it may not be. Remember, go in with your eyes open and choose wisely.”

Mike Gunderson, an associate professor of agricultural economics, said higher crop prices over the past five years allowed many farmers to purchase new farm machinery during that time. Consequently, those farmers will probably not need to buy any new equipment in the foreseeable future, Gunderson said. Retailers selling new farm machinery can curtail inventory to adjust to lower market demand, but any new equipment sale involving a trade brings in another used piece of equipment to add to the inventory, causing a surplus.

Stwalley said there are several things to keep in mind when thinking about buying used equipment. Farm machinery operates at maximum efficiency only for a certain amount of time, Stwalley said. According to the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, planters have a relatively short effective lifespan - 1,000 operational hours - while tractors, farm trucks and wagons can last up to 5,000 hours. All other machinery should last about 2,000 hours. Stwalley says potential buyers should determine how many useful hours a piece of equipment has left. Stwalley points out that used machinery is only a bargain if its benefits outweigh the costs of keeping it. In addition to the purchase price, buyers have to think about repairs, maintenance, storage and other expenses. Those costs continue whether or not the machine is used frequently.

Time is an often overlooked cost associated with buying used machinery, Stwalley said. Searching for a specific vehicle or piece of equipment has become easier in recent years with dealers and owners listing their equipment online. But he said a farm manager must still visit multiple sellers to find the best available deal. Buying a new piece of equipment is not as time-consuming since most equipment dealers carry similar models, Stwalley said.

**The Science of Producing High Quality Meat Cuts** Workshop to be held tomorrow Wednesday, April 8, 2015
OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association would like to invite Northeast Ohio beef producers to attend “The Science of Producing High Quality Meat Cuts” workshop on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the OSU Extension -
Ashtabula County office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson, Ohio. Area beef producers and 4-H/FFA youth are encouraged to attend this workshop.

This workshop will focus on understanding the science behind producing high quality meat cuts. Learn more about how cattle breeds affect carcass quality, leanness, and quality grade. Learn more about beef carcass anatomy and the procedures for beef carcass grading and awarding premiums. Learn about beef palatability and how various cuts, grades and technologies may affect the eating experience of consumers. Attendees will also learn the factors affecting beef palatability and sensory evaluation.

This program will feature Dr. Lyda Garcia, OSU Extension Meat Science Specialist and Assistant Professor. Dr. Garcia joined the Department of Animal Sciences in February 2015. Prior to joining the Buckeye Family, Dr. Garcia was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University where she taught an undergraduate meat science course. At OSU, Dr. Garcia is responsible for teaching undergraduate courses in meat science, advises undergraduate Animal Sciences students, and supervises the Meat Judging Team.

This workshop is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. More information about this program can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008. A programs flyer can be found at: [http://go.osu.edu/ne-events](http://go.osu.edu/ne-events)

**Earthkind Rose Class to be held on April 16 in Cortland, Ohio**

Join the Trumbull County Master Gardeners as they host an educational seminar titled “Earthkind Roses” on Thursday, April 16, 2015 from 10:00 to 12:00 noon at the Trumbull County Extension office located at 520 West Main Street in Cortland, Ohio.

Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteer and Rosarian Caye Aiello used to pamper her hybrid tea roses. That is, until she learned an easier way. She studied the Earthkind method at Texas A&M and returned home to install a trial rose garden at The Ohio State University’s Chadwick Arboretum and teach workshops on selecting low-care roses and planting with Earthkind techniques.

This class is open to both Master Gardeners and the general public. For Master Gardeners, this class is worth 2 hours of continuing education. The cost of this class is $15 per person. Pre-registration is requested. Call the Trumbull County Extension office at 330-638-6783 to register for this program.

**Bioproducts & Biofuels Workshop to be held on Tuesday, April 21 in Ashtabula County**

OSU Extension through a partnership with two national grant projects will be offering a Bioproducts & Biofuels Workshop on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 from 10:00 am to 5:30 p.m. in Jefferson, Ohio at the Ashtabula County Extension office located at 30 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio.

This workshop will help agricultural industry personnel and interested producers to learn more about growing crops for fuel or commercial products. The focus is to provide practical knowledge, teaching materials, and assessment tools to assist producers in shifting to feedstock production for energy and bio-based products. One focus is on using “marginal lands” which are typically not ideal for growing grain or forage crops.

Session topics for this workshop include: Sustainable Bioenergy Cropping Systems; Switchgrass, Miscanthus and Other Perennial Grasses for Ethanol; Bio-products from Miscanthus; High Value Bio-based Products (Fuels, Chemicals and more); Evaluating and Calculating Soil Organic Carbon; and Ecosystems services and analyzing Soil Quality (test kit). Featured Speakers for this training workshop are: Randall Reeder, Extension Ag. Engineer (retired), Ohio State University; Dennis Pennington, Michigan State University; Jon Griswold, Aloterra Energy; Katrina Cornish, Ohio State
University; Dennis Hall, Ohio Bioproducts Innovation Center, OSU; Jerry Grigar, State Agronomist, USDA-NRCS, Michigan; and Rafiq Islam, Soil Scientist, Ohio State University

This workshop is being sponsored and funded by OSU Extension, NewBio and SunGrant. The registration cost for this program is $15 per person and is requested by April 14, 2015. The registration fee was reduced dramatically due the sponsorship of the NewBio and Sungrants. More information about this workshop, can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008. A programs flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

**Ashtabula County Extension Office looking for Summer College Student Assistant**

OSU Extension in Ashtabula County is looking for a Summer College Student Assistant to assist with the summer 4-H Youth Development program. The purpose of this county based extension internship program is to provide an opportunity for a college student to gain workforce preparation skills to prepare them for success as they enter the first position of their professional careers. This summer position provides valuable pre-professional experience for educational and community based careers.

The Student Assistant will be provided with a variety of county-based Extension workforce experiences. Job responsibilities include but are not limited to: assisting the County Staff with Summer Youth Camps, Summer School Enrichment programs, and Junior Fair activities.

Applicants must have completed one year of college and have evidence of successful leadership experience in 4-H, school and/or community organizations. Candidates should be self-motivated, possess strong organizational skills and must be available to work a flexible schedule including occasional nights and weekends.

This student will be employed for a maximum of 15 weeks with proposed hourly wage is $9-$11 per hour depending on qualifications. Reimbursement for official job travel will be provided according to Extension travel policy. Pay will be on a bi-weekly basis. The successful applicant will be required to pass a criminal background check. Interested individuals should submit an employment application and resume (complete with reference list) to the Ashtabula County Extension Office. **The application deadline is April 15, 2015.** Please contact the Ashtabula County Extension Office at 440-576-9008 for more information.

**7 Agronomic Crop Research Experience (ACRE) Summer Interns Sought for Ohio**

OSU Extension State Specialists are starting a new summer program in 2015 aimed at providing a rich training experience to undergraduate students in a wide diversity of disciplines related to agronomic crop research. These Agronomic Crop Research Experience (ACRE) Interns will support on-farm research throughout the state, by being placed in strategic locations or hubs of on-farm research. **We are excited that one of the summer interns will be based out of the Ashtabula County Extension office for and will work in Ashtabula, Trumbull & Geauga Counties.**

The primary responsibilities of the ACREs will be to assist with crop scouting, sample collection, field data collection, laboratory analysis, data entry, field plot maintenance and crop reporting. Other activities related to research, extension and outreach are also likely. The ACRE program will last approximately 12 weeks, allowing some limited flexibility of the student to take a week off for vacation. A mandatory 2-3 day training will occur in Wooster starting on May 18 and the program will finish around August 14, 2015. College students interested in this program, should contact Steve Culman at culman.2@osu.edu. **Applications are due by April 17th.**

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

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

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

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

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

Northeast Ohio Beef Clinic
Wednesday, April 8, 2015

2015 Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show
Saturday, April 18 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds

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

Trumbull County Fair
July 14-19, 2015

Ashtabula County Fair
August 11-16, 2015

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

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