Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

It’s fair week in Ashtabula County! I hope you can make it out to see the 4-H projects, local agriculture, vendors, and your neighbors this week. You can find details on the events here: http://www.ashtabulafair.com.

We’re starting to dry out again here in NE Ohio and we are in need of some rain to fill out corn kernals and soybean pods to have a good yield. The forecast looks good for rain, if it actually hits us!

Have a great week!

Lee Beers
Trumbull County Extension Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County Extension Educator

Angie Arnold
Portage County Extension Educator
Weather Update: Hot and Humid Conditions Return
By: Aaron Wilson
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-26/weather-update-hot-and-humid-conditions-return

Summary
July was an interesting weather month for the Ohio Valley. According to NOAA, Ohio experienced its 15th wettest July on record (1895-present). Even more interesting, daytime highs for July 2021 rank as the 33rd coolest, yet overnight lows rank as the 27th warmest, the 7th largest spread on record. Indeed, this was the result of numerous cloudy/rainy days that kept daytime temperature in check, not to mention, the occasional influx of wildfire smoke from active fires in the western states.

Since the start of the month, widespread rainfall has been limited across Ohio. Figure 1 shows precipitation over the last 7 days through 8am August 9, 2021. A few rounds of showers and storms managed to drop 0.50-2” across West Central, North Central, and parts of northeast Ohio. Additional areas picked up rainfall on Monday as well as another small disturbance moved through the state. Fortunately, during this drier stretch temperatures have been mild, running 1-3°F below average through the first 8 days of the month.

Figure 1). Multi-sensor precipitation estimates for the last 7-days ending 8 a.m. August 9, 2021. Courtesy of the Midwest Regional Climate Center.

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties
Forecast
Hot and humid conditions are taking over this week. The sultry air will provide the opportunity for scattered showers and storms each day through Friday. Highs will range from the mid-80s to the mid-90s, with overnight lows in the upper 60s to low 70s through Friday. The weekend is looking drier and a little more comfortable, with highs in the low to mid 80s.

The Climate Prediction Center’s 6–10-day outlook for the period of August 15 – 19 and the 16-Day Rainfall Outlook from NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center indicate near to above average temperatures and below average precipitation (Figure 2). Climate averages for this period include a high temperature range of 82-86°F, a low temperature range of 60-65°F, and average rainfall of 0.70-0.90 inches.

Figure 2) Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Outlook valid for August 9, 2021, for left) temperatures and right) precipitation. Colors represent the probability of below, normal, or above normal conditions.
**Hazy Days…How Does Light Influence Corn and Soybean?**

By: Alexander Lindsey, Laura Lindsey, Aaron Wilson


Quite often this summer, our skies have been filled with smoke from western wildfires. Strong, dominant high pressure has focused record-breaking heat in the west while here across the Midwest, westerly to northwesterly flow has funneled that smoke our direction (See Figure 1 for current active fires, air quality, and smoke plume across the U.S.). Typically, this smoke remains at high altitude, resulting in hazy sunshine. What impact can this filtered sunshine have on crop production?

![Fire and Smoke Map](https://www.airnow.gov/)

*Figure 1: Current fire and air quality conditions across the U.S. and Canada from AirNow ([https://www.airnow.gov/](https://www.airnow.gov/)) as of Monday, August 9, 2021. Fire symbols indicate active fires. Air quality is provided by the colored circles/triangles (green-good; yellow-moderate; orange-unhealthy for sensitive groups; red – unhealthy). Smoke plume and intensity indicated by gray shading.*
Capturing sunlight energy, which drives photosynthesis, is important to maximize crop yield. Typical plant canopy-level instantaneous light values (also known as photosynthetic photon flux density) on sunny days range from 1200 to 1800 µmol/m²/s while typical instantaneous plant canopy-level values for cloudy days are 100 to 400 µmol/m²/s. In general, sunny days (all else equal) are better for crops, especially if moisture is non-limiting.

For soybean, photosynthetic photon flux densities that exceed 700 µmol/m²/s produce minimal gains in leaf-level photosynthetic efficiency, which ultimately can translate into yield production. With radiation values above or below this level, the plant can still photosynthesize but may need to adjust leaf angle to change how direct interception is. As the sun moves across the sky, leaves can orient themselves perpendicular to incoming direct light to increase interception or parallel to the light to decrease direct interception as too much direct light can be harmful for plants. Changing orientation in the upper canopy can also allow for more light to be intercepted by lower leaves allowing for more leaves to optimize photosynthetic rates at a time.

Corn (having a slightly different photosynthetic pathway) can continue to increase photosynthesis with increasing light and tends to benefit from more sun if temperatures and water levels are not limiting growth. Upper leaves in corn grow more vertically and are smaller but become larger and more horizontal lower in the canopy. This orientation works to increase light penetration into the canopy and optimize interception. Corn’s major response to too much light (often paired with water stress or high vapor pressure deficit) is to roll its leaves to minimize excess light exposure.

So, with the wildfire haze and just regular cloudy days, how have our average radiation values for June and July compared to past years? In 2021, the daily average photosynthetic photon flux density was lower for June and July as compared to the last 4 years (2017-2020) (Table 1). Given these are daily values, the cumulative effects of this reduction will likely equate to lower overall yield potential because of the additive nature of light loss. However, cooler temperatures could help extend the season and help crops gain yield from more days with active growth during the grain fill period. The levels of light seen in 2021 may still be sufficient if other factors end up being more limiting to yield production; factors like water stress, biotic factors, and adequate mineral nutrition still play a major role in yield gains during the season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>June µmol/m²/s</th>
<th>July µmol/m²/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 to 2020</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>-51</td>
<td>-44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Daily average photosynthetic photon flux density during daylight hours in Wood County, Ohio.
THE AG LAW HARVEST
By: Jeffrey K. Lewis
Source: https://news.osu.edu/stinkweed-could-make-a-cleaner-bio-jet-fuel-study-finds/

Did you know that elephants can’t jump? In fact, it’s impossible for elephants to jump because, unlike most mammals, the bones in an elephant’s leg are all pointed downwards, which eliminates the “spring” required to push off the ground.

Unlike elephants, we have jumped all over the place to bring you this week’s Ag Law Harvest. Below you will find agricultural and resource law issues that include, among other things, conspiracy, preemption, succession planning support, ag spending and disaster relief, and Ohio’s broadband and salmon expansion.

Poultry price fixing conspiracy. According to a press release from the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) a federal grand jury has decided to indictment Koch Foods and four former executives of Pilgrim’s Pride for allegedly engaging in a nationwide conspiracy to fix prices and rig bids for broiler chicken products. These indictments combine to make a total of 14 individuals charged in the conspiracy that allegedly started in 2012 and lasted until 2019. The indictments allege that the defendants and co-conspirators conspired to suppress and eliminate competition for sales of broiler chicken products sold to grocers and restaurants. The DOJ reiterated its commitment to prosecuting price fixing and antitrust violations. These indictments come on the heels of President Biden’s Executive Order seeking to promote competition within the American Economy, which focused heavily on the agriculture industry. In addition to Koch Foods, additional companies have been indicted in the conspiracy. So far, Claxton Poultry and Pilgrim’s Pride have both been indicted in the conspiracy with Pilgrim’s Pride agreeing to pay a $107 million fine. Koch Foods denies any involvement in the price fixing scheme.

FIFRA giving Monsanto a little relief. About a week before the trial of another lawsuit against the Monsanto Company (“Monsanto”) and its Roundup products, a California judge dismissed some of the claims filed by the plaintiff. According to the judge, some of the claims asserted by the plaintiff were preempted by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (“FIFRA”) and therefore could not be pursued. The plaintiff claimed that Monsanto had a state-law duty to warn that Roundup causes cancer. The judge noted that under FIFRA, a state cannot impose or continue to impose any requirement that is “in addition to or different from” those required by FIFRA. At the time, federal regulations did not require Monsanto to place a cancer warning on its Roundup products. The judge reasoned that since federal law is supreme (i.e. preempts state law) California cannot impose a state-law duty on Monsanto to warn that Roundup causes cancer. The judge, therefore, found that the plaintiff cannot pursue her claims against Monsanto for failure to warn under California law. This ruling is in contrast to a recent 9th Circuit
Court of Appeals decision which concluded that the failure to warn claims brought by the plaintiff in that suit were not preempted by FIFRA. Plaintiff has time to appeal the judge’s decision, even beyond the start of the trial and could rely on the 9th Circuit’s opinion to help her argue that her claims should not have been dismissed.

**Competitive loans now available for land ownership issues and succession planning.** The USDA announced that it will be providing $67 million in competitive loans through the new Heirs’ Property Relending Program (“HPRP”). The HPRP seeks to help agricultural producers and landowners resolve land ownership and succession issues. Lenders can apply for loans up to $5 million at 1% interest through the Farm Service Agency (“FSA”) once the two-month signup window opens in late August. Once the lenders are selected, heirs can apply to those lenders for assistance. Heirs may use the loans to resolve title issues by financing the purchase or consolidation of property interests and for costs associated with a succession plan. These costs can include buying out fractional interests of other heirs, closing costs, appraisals, title searches, surveys, preparing documents, other legal services. Lenders will only make loans to heirs who: (1) look to resolve ownership and succession of a farm owned by multiple owners; (2) are a family member or heir-at-law related by blood or marriage to the previous owner; and (3) agree to complete a succession plan. The USDA has stated that more information on how heirs can borrow from lenders under the HPRP will be available in the coming months. For more information on HPRP visit [https://www.farmers.gov/heirs/relending](https://www.farmers.gov/heirs/relending).

**House Ag Committee approves disaster relief bill.** The House Agriculture Committee approved an $8.5 billion disaster relief bill to extend the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program (“WHIP”). The bill, known as the 2020 WHIP+ Reauthorization Act, provides relief for producers for 2020 and 2021 related to losses from the ongoing drought in the western half of the United States, the polar vortex that hit Texas earlier this year, wildfires that tainted California wine grapes with smoke, and power outages, like the one seen during the polar vortex in Texas, which caused dairy farmers to dump milk. The bill makes it easier for farmers to recover for losses related to drought, now only requiring a D2 (severe) designation for eight consecutive weeks as well as allowing disaster relief payments for losses related to power outages that result from a qualified disaster event. With the Committee’s approval the bill makes its way to the house floor for a debate/vote. Whether it’s a standalone bill or a bill that is incorporated into an appropriations bill or a year-end spending measure remains to be seen.

**Senate Appropriations Committee approves ag spending bill.** The Senate Appropriations Committee voted in favor of a fiscal year 2022 spending bill for the USDA and FDA that includes about $7 billion in disaster relief and $700 million for...
rural broadband expansion. The Committee approved $25.9 billion for the FY2022 ag spending bill, which is an increase of $2.46 billion from the current year. In addition to disaster relief funds and rural broadband, the bill increases research funding to the USDA, increase funding for conservation and climate smart agricultural practices, and increases funding for rural development including infrastructure such as water and sewer systems and an increase in funding to transition rural America to renewable energy. The ag spending bill is now set for debate and vote by the full Senate.

Ohio to be the second site for AquaBounty’s genetically engineered salmon. Land-based aquaculture company AquaBounty has selected Pioneer, Ohio as the location for its large-scale farm for AquaBounty’s genetically engineered salmon. The new farm will be AquaBounty’s first large-scale commercial facility and expects to bring over 100 jobs to northwestern Ohio. According to AquaBounty’s press release, the plan for the new farm is still contingent on approval of state and local economic incentives. Ohio is still finalizing a package of economic incentives for the new location and AquaBounty hopes to begin construction on the new facility by the end of the year. AquaBounty has modified a single part of the salmon’s DNA that causes them to grow faster in early development. It raises its fish in what it calls “Recirculating Aquaculture Systems,” which are indoor facilities that are designed to prevent disease and protect wild fish populations. According to AquaBounty, its production methods offer a reduced carbon footprint and no risk of pollution of marine ecosystems as compared to traditional salmon farming. AquaBounty anticipates commercial production to begin in 2023.

DeWine orders adoption of emergency rules to speed up the deployment of broadband in Ohio. Governor Mike DeWine signed an executive order which will help speed up the launch of the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program (the “Program”) which was recently signed into law by Governor DeWine. The Program is Ohio’s first-ever residential broadband expansion program which grants the Broadband Program Expansion Authority the power to review and award Program grant money for eligible projects. The Program requires a weighted scoring system to evaluate and select applications for Program grants. Applications must be prioritized for unserved areas and areas located within distressed areas as defined under the Urban and Rural Initiative Grant Program. The Program hopes to provide high-speed internet to Ohio residences that do not currently have access to such services. With DeWine’s executive order, the Program can start immediately rather than waiting until the lengthy administrative rule making process is complete. Normally, rules by a state agency must go through a long, drawn out process to ensure the public has had its input on any proposed rules and those affected the most can challenge or argue to amend the rules. However, the Governor does have the ability to suspend the normal rule making process when an emergency exists requiring the immediate adoption of
rules. According to Governor DeWine’s executive order, the COVID-19 pandemic, the increase in telework, remote learning, and telehealth services have created an emergency that allows DeWine to suspend the normal rule making process to allow the Program to be enacted without delay. Although emergency rules are in place, they are only valid for 120 days. New, permanent rules must be enacted through the normal rule making procedure.

**Using Nutrient Removal Rates to Improve Forage Productivity**  
By James Morris, OSU Extension Educator, Brown County and Greg LaBarge, OSU Extension Field Specialist, Agronomic Systems  

As the calendar flips over to August and temperatures continue to rise, our cool season forages are in the heart of what we call the “summer slump" and vegetative growth begins to decline. Numerous resources are available that provide excellent strategies for reducing the negative effects of this slump. Forage growers can utilize summer annuals to boost yields during this time of the year, but it’s also important to ensure our forage stands are healthy prior to be exposed to heat and other environmental stressors. So, while “summer slump" seems to get all of the attention right now, what if our forages had “spring fever"?

We normally consider springtime to be the period of rapid and lush growth for our cool-season forages, but what if our stands look like the Figure 1? The attached image was taken this spring in a stand of a cool-season hay mix. Of course, this problem will impact tonnage, but a weak stand will also allow more opportunities for weed emergence, reduce winter survival, and as mentioned above, reduce their ability to tolerate stressful summer conditions. While it may be too late to beat the heat, action can still be taken to prepare forages for winter and set ourselves up for a better spring.

What’s the issue with this stand and the several others I visited this spring? Let’s put ourselves into the situation as if it was our own field. Where do we begin? Well, stunting and yellowing can be descriptions for numerous issues related to plants. As we further survey the field, a defined difference between plant health is visible between the edges and center of the field. What was done differently in along the edges? Less compaction

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**Figure 1. Yellow unthrifty grass stand spring 2021.**
from equipment, no herbicide application, and no harvest. We ruled out herbicide injury and didn’t notice any extreme compaction. So, we took soil samples and found the culprit. Extension Educators sometimes sound like broken records as we always advise, “don’t guess, soil test”. This is a prime example of how soil results can easily take the guess work out of problem solving.

Nutrient Removal
Using the recommended critical levels from the Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations (go.osu.edu/tri-statefert), the results showed us that the soil phosphorus (P2O5) was only 8ppm below the critical level, but soil potassium (K2O) was 76ppm below the critical levels. Why is there such a big difference in soil levels? Let’s think about what type of fertilizer was being used. Most fields I see in this condition have had repeated applications of a balanced fertilizer such as, 19 (N)-19 (P)-19 (K). What’s the issue with a balance fertilizer? Well, according to our newest Nutrient Removal for Field Crops fact sheet (ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-96), a cool-season grass hay mix can remove 12 pounds of P2O5 and 48 pounds of K20 per ton of forage production.

Again, let’s put ourselves in this situation. If our hay averages 3 tons/acre yield at harvest, our crop potentially removed 36 pounds of P2O5 and 144 pounds of K2O. Hopefully, this helps explain why we saw such large difference in the soil nutrient levels. Now, we apply 200 pounds /acre of 19-19-19 fertilizer. That equals out to 38 pounds of P2O5 and K2O applied. As you can see in table 1, this meets our replacement needs for P2O5 but only replaces about 26% of the K20 that was used. If our soil levels were already deficient as shown in our example, much larger rates will be needed to begin our “build-up” process. As you can imagine building soil levels back up within our critical ranges can become expensive.

Table 1. Nutrient balance when 200 lbs./ac 19-19-19 is used as fertility program for 3 ton/ac grass hay.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrient</th>
<th>Nutrient Removal (lbs./ac) @ 3 ton/ac grass hay harvest</th>
<th>Nutrient supplied (lbs./ac) with 200 lbs./ac of 19-19-19</th>
<th>Nutrient Balance (lbs./ac)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P2O5</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K2O</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>-106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since a balanced fertilizer doesn’t match our unbalanced nutrient removals, we can consider using a fertilizer such as 9-23-30. An application of 200lbs/acre of this fertilizer would return 46 pounds /acre of P2O5 and 60 pounds /acre of K2O. This allows us to begin building up our P2O5 levels and replace about 41% of our K2O. We can apply additional K2O with the use of 0-0-60 (potash) fertilizer. Of course, fertilizer costs and our Return On Investment (ROI) is also a factor in this decision making process. Will we get enough yield boost to pay for the fertilizer? I am working with a producer in Brown County.
County to conduct on-farm research that may help answer that question. We made a base application of 9-23-30 and will follow up with 3 replications of an additional application of potash vs no additional application. Yield and ROI results will be available in our 2021 OSU eFields publication.

Developing Fertilizer Recommendations

Figure 2. Grass before (top) and after (bottom) fertilization in spring/summer 2021.

Now that we understand the nutrient removals rates and the approaches that can be used to maintain and build adequate fertility, how do we calculate the fertilizer needs? If you despise math, don’t quit reading just yet. Our team at OSU Extension has developed an easy way to calculate nutrient needs based on soil test results and it doesn’t require lengthy calculations. This spreadsheet utilizes information from the resources provided in this article to compute nutrient needs. Users simply input their soil test results, crop information, and yield expectations. The spreadsheet will automatically calculate the needs and costs per acre of P2O5, K2O, and lime applications. This spreadsheet, along with a user guide and more background information can be found at go.osu.edu/FertilityCalculator. Applying this information to create an accurate fertilizer plan for your forages can significantly increase production in deficient soils. Figure 2 shows the field from Figure 1 before a sufficient fertilizer plan was applied (top) and after (bottom).
Hay Baler Safety

By: Mark Badertscher, OSU Extension, Hardin County ANR Educator
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/08/04/hay-baler-safety/

Operating a hay baler safely is a concern in late July and early August when there is still straw in the field and later cuttings of hay to be made. Oftentimes wheat and hay fields that have more slope than row crops like corn and soybeans, and because of this, the fields can be rough or steep, making tractor and machinery operation a concern. Because changing weather conditions can quickly lower hay and straw quality, baling is often done with limited time. Therefore, operators must always work safely as no hay or straw crop is worth injury or death. Careless operation that saves time but injures workers is never a good option. Balers can cause considerable harm if not serviced or operated safely. Knives, belts, power take-off (PTO) shafts, augers, knotters, and mechanical arms must be regarded with extreme caution. Driving at the correct ground speed will help eliminate possible breakdowns and injury. If service is needed, the operator must disengage all power, shut off the engine, and wait for the flywheel and all other moving parts to stop completely before beginning any repairs.

Other recommendations for safe baler operation include:
- While someone is working on the machine, never allow anyone to turn the flywheel. Moving parts can easily injure someone.
- Be sure bale twine or wire is properly spliced and threaded in the machine to avoid knotter problems.
- While the knotter is in operation, never pull anything out of it. You can easily become entangled in it.
- When the machine is running, don't hand feed material, such as broken bales or heavy windrows, into it. Instead, spread the material on the ground so the machine can pick it up.
- Wear close-fitting clothing: no hooded shirts or jackets with drawstrings, and tie hair back.

Bale Ejectors
The two most common bale ejecting or throwing mechanisms are hydraulically powered, high speed belts and bale-throwing frames. Each type can throw heavy bales of hay, and cause seriously injury if not respected. There is risk for workers being struck by a bale as it is ejected, or by the throwing frame and pan if standing too close.

Safety precautions to take with bale ejectors:
- Disengage all power, shut off the engine, and move the ejector lockout control into locked position before inspecting, servicing, or adjusting the bale ejector.
• No one should stand behind or work on the ejector while the PTO and engine are operating, or while a bale is in the ejector.
• Shut off tractor engine, disengage the PTO, and engage ejector lockout control before hitching or unhitching wagon behind ejector.
• Don’t allow anyone to ride in the bale wagon.

Manual Bale Loading
Manual bale loading is safe if it is done carefully. The nature of wagons and bale handling requires extra caution due to the following potential hazards:
• Starts and stops can cause handlers to fall off the wagon or truck.
• Workers might step off the wagon or truck while loading bales.
• Falls from the wagon or truck can result in fractures, sprains, and concussions or getting run over.
• Tossing bales could knock someone off balance.
• Use hand signals to communicate when working with baling equipment (refer to “Hand Signals for Agricultural Safety” module).

For more information, go to https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/aex-59126.
Mark Badertscher, ANR Educator Hardin County, can be reached at 419-767-6037 or badertscher.4@osu.edu. This column is provided by the OSU Agricultural Safety and Health Team. https://agsafety.osu.edu/.

Support Youth Livestock Producers Aug. 14 at the Sale
By: Jenna C. Hoyt, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

The 4-H and FFA Youth of Ashtabula County, invite you to attend the 2021 Market Animal Sale on Saturday, August 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the grandstands at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

Market animal projects are offered in 4-H and FFA to help members learn the science of raising marketable animals as food. The projects involve raising a young or feeder animal to the appropriate market weight. These projects involve raising and keeping records of one or more meat animals to the appropriate market weight. Market animals include beef feeders, dairy beef feeders, goats, hogs, lambs, rabbits, steers, dairy steers, chickens, ducks and turkeys. All youth are taught how to use best practices that support the production of quality and safe animal products for consumers, as well as responsible animal handling, care and welfare in not only farm animal production, but also with companion and performance animals. They also pledge or promise to 1) provide a food animal product preferred by consumers, and 2) provide a safe, wholesome food animal product. Food animals are those whose products (meat, milk, and eggs) have the potential to become part of the food chain. Members are judged on the quality of the animal produced, their ability to show the animal, and on the...
knowledge gained from the project.

The Market Animal Sale is the optimum opportunity for the community to buy and support local youth. Buyers are invited to walk through the barns throughout the week to learn more about the project work and the projects being auctioned on Saturday. The 2021 sale order is: Cheese Basket, Ducks, Rabbits, Goats, Turkeys, Chickens, Beef Steers, Dairy Steers, Beef Feeders, Lambs, Hogs and Dairy Beef Feeders. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Saturday. The auction is open to everyone, and quick registration cards are available at the Extension Office prior to Fair.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2021 Ashtabula County Fair August 10-15 and at the Sale on Saturday.

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Jenna Hoyt serves as Ashtabula County’s 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator for Ohio State University Extension and may be reached at 440-576-9008 or hoyt.88@osu.edu

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu
Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteer Training

Do you love to garden? Would you like to learn more about gardening? Do you enjoy helping others in your community? **Become an Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteer!**

You get 50 hours of training in vegetables, flowers, trees, shrubs, soil, insects, diseases, and more. In turn you share your knowledge with others by answering questions, collaborating on service projects, presenting programs for both adults and children, etc.

Join other gardeners **now** by registering to become an Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteer [www.go.osu.edu/acmgvapp](http://www.go.osu.edu/acmgvapp)

Application Deadline is September 30th, 2021
Who are Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteers and what do we do?
We are the OSU Extension trained volunteers empowered to educate others with timely research-based gardening information. Some of our projects include:

- Educational field trips to gardens and nurseries
- Hotline – Assist home gardeners with research-based answers to their questions
- Ag Day – Teaching all first-grade students in the county about local agriculture
- D-Day Conneaut – Hosting a booth to teach the public about gardening during World War II
- NE Ohio Pollinator Symposium - Planning and teaching various pollinator subjects online
- Support for various learning gardens around the county advising planting and maintenance
- Provide speakers and programs to interested community groups
- And many other activities that enrich the community and our own lives

How do you know if you’d make a good Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteer?

- Do you want to learn more about plants and gardening?
- Are you eager to participate in a practical and intensive training program?
- Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge with others?
- Do you have the time to attend training and serve your community as a volunteer educator?

If you answered “Yes” to these questions and would like to know more about the OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Training, please e-mail Holden.155@osu.edu or call 440-576-9008 and we will have a Master Gardener Volunteer call you! Or you can call during MGV Hotline Hours Tuesday’s from 9:00 AM to Noon to speak directly with a MGV!

Master Gardener Volunteer Training Information:

- Training includes a minimum of 50 hours of instruction. This year's training will be online with a new lesson each week for 10 weeks. A physical training manual will also be included.
- Mentors will be assigned to each new trainee to assist them once accepted to the program.
- Live zoom meetings will be held each week to discuss the material.
- Field trips will be planned the end of the training to various locations.
- A required 50 hours of horticultural-related volunteer time within the first 12 months following training. This is required to become a certified Master Gardener Volunteer. This may include up to 10 hours of Continuing Education.
- Dates: Training will begin January 17th, 2022, and end in April 2022
- Cost: Cost for this training and materials will be $250.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Contact Andrew Holden at: 440-576-9008
Find us on Facebook: Ashtabula County Master Gardeners
NE Ohio Hay Day

Please join us on August 21st for a 'Day in the Hay' at Goodell Family Farm! We have a great program lined up for the day! Some of our program topics include baleage and storage, dry hay, forage quality, and more.

DATE: Saturday August 21st
TIME: 11AM – 3PM
LOCATION: Goodell Family Farm, 10220 Peck Rd, Mantua, OH 44255
COST: FREE - Lunch included (RSVP Required)

For more information and to RSVP: Scan the QR code, go to https://go.osu.edu/neo2021hayday
or call the Portage County Extension Office at 330-296-6432