

NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE NEWSLETTER

Your Weekly Agriculture Update for
Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties

August 8, 2023



Japanese beetles have been busy clipping sweet corn silk.

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Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Congratulations to Hudson Miller for winning Grand Overall Barrow at the Ohio State Fair! Trumbull County has had an excellent showing this year. Congrats to all!!

It's fair week in Ashtabula so be sure to stop out to see all the great 4-H projects and get your share of fair food. You can find the full schedule of events at ashtabulafair.com. We hope to see you there!

Have a good week and stay safe!

Lee Beers
Trumbull County
Extension Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County
Extension Educator

Tar Spot Diagnosis, Tracking, and Reporting

By Pierce Paul and Francesca Rotundo

Source: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2023-26/tar-spot-diagnosis-tracking-and-reporting>

Tar spot is beginning to show up in a few corn fields across the state, but based on some of the samples received and questions asked, there is still some uncertainty about the correct diagnosis or identification of this disease, particularly during the early stages of its development. When fully developed, the stromata are easy to see and feel on the surface of leaves (or ear husks later in the season) as slightly raised black spots resembling sprinklings of tar that give the disease its name. However, for the untrained eyes, early diagnosis may require observations of the spots under a dissecting and/or compound microscope.



Early and correct diagnosis are important for tracking the progress of tar spot and deciding whether a fungicide application is warranted. Several fungicides are available for managing this disease, but the level of efficacy varies with the product, the number of active ingredients (AIs) in the fungicide, and application timing. In general, fungicides with two or three AIs of different modes of action tend to be more effective against tar spot than products with a single AI, and treatments tend to be most effective when applied at R1 (silking). Incorrect diagnosis could lead to unnecessary fungicide applications or applications being made when it is too late. See the article by Karhoff et al in this issue for more on fungicide use on corn.

If you find plants with symptoms resembling those of tar spot, please send samples to the plant disease clinic for confirmation or contact your local county extension educator or field specialist. Even if you have the experience and are sure you have the disease in your field, still send us samples or inform to the clinic. We are using this information to monitor the spread of tar spot across the state, from county to county. Visit the clinic website at <https://ppdc.osu.edu> for more information on handling and submitting samples. You can also contact Dr. Paul, your state specialist, at paul.661@osu (330.347.5878) or our diagnostician, Dr. Francesca Rotundo, by email at rotondo.11@osu.edu or ppdc@osu.edu, or by phone at 330.263.6721.

Ohio may soon have new regulations for solar energy development

By: Peggy Kirk Hall

Source: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/thu-08032023-1125am/ohio-may-soon-have-new-regulations-solar-energy-development>

A long process to update Ohio's regulations for solar energy facility development has nearly reached its end. On July 20, the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) adopted new rules that include revisions to rules that apply to solar facilities under its jurisdiction—those that have a nameplate capacity of 50 megawatts or more. The rules will next go to the Ohio legislature's Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) for a final review before they can become effective.



The OPSB began the rules review in 2020. The process included stakeholder meetings, public workshops, a draft proposal of revisions, and a review of comments to the draft rules. Many parties and interested individuals followed the process, and the agency received formal input from 20 parties and over 400 informal public comments. The OPSB recognized that the rules review “inspired a robust discussion from numerous interested stakeholders.”

What are the proposed changes?

OPSB summarizes the rule changes it adopted as follows:

- **Public information:** Siting project applicants must host two public informational meetings for each standard certificate application. The first meeting will describe the scope of the project. The second meeting, held at least 90 days before an application filing, will focus on the specifics of the application.
- **Site grading:** Applicants must provide a preliminary grading plan that describes maximum graded acreage expectations.
- **Drainage and field tile:** Applicants must describe and map field drainage systems and demonstrate how impacts to those systems will be avoided or mitigated, describe how damaged drainage systems including field tile mains and laterals will promptly be repaired to restore original drainage conditions and describe the data sources and methods used to obtain information for field drainage system mapping.
- **Vegetation management:** Applicants must prevent the establishment and spread of noxious weeds within the project, including setback areas, during

construction, operation, and decommissioning. Applicants must provide annual proof of weed control for the first four years of operation with the goal of weed eradication significantly completed by year three of operation.

- **Noise:** Noise limits for renewable energy facilities cannot exceed the greater of 40 decibels (dBA) or the ambient daytime and nighttime average sound level by more than 5 dBA.
- **Surface water protection:** Solar energy facility applicants must develop and implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan, a spill prevention control and countermeasure plan, and a horizontal directional drilling contingency plan, to minimize and prevent potential discharges to surface waters.
- **Fencing:** Solar energy facility perimeter fencing must be small-wildlife permeable and aesthetically fitting for a rural location.
- **Setbacks:** Solar energy facility panel modules must be setback at least 50 feet from non-participating parcel boundaries, at least 300 feet from non-participating residences, and at least 150 feet from the edge of the pavement of any road within or adjacent to the project area.
- **Regulatory:** Compliance monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure applicants meet the commitments and conditions contained in each OPSB certificate.

What happens next?

Parties have 30 days from the July 20 adoption date to file a request for a rehearing on OPSB's decision to adopt the rules. A rehearing request to OPSB must be based upon an argument that the rules are unreasonable or unlawful. Absent a rehearing request, the OPSB will forward the rules package to JCARR, a committee consisting of five representatives and five senators from the Ohio legislature. JCARR must hold a public hearing to hear comments on the rules between 31 and 45 days after receiving them, then must review the rules to ensure they don't exceed OPSB's authority, conflict with existing rules or legislative intent, and include analyses of fiscal and business impacts. The committee will next either approve the rules or recommend invalidation of some or all of the rules by the Ohio legislature, and both the House and Senate would have to pass resolutions to follow JCARR's invalidation recommendations. If JCARR approves the rules, they'll go into effect right away.

Follow the JCARR rules review process at <https://www.jcarr.state.oh.us/>. Follow this link to read the OPSB Order adopting the rules, which contains the revised rules beginning on page 14.

The entire history of the rules revision is available in Case Record 21-0902-GE-BRO.

Spotted Lanternfly Continues to Spread Across Ohio

Source: <https://agri.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/spotted-lanternfly-continues-to-spread-across-ohio>

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has confirmed several new spotted lanternfly (SLF) infestations across the state, including Columbus and Toledo.

In 2021, ODA designated the spotted lanternfly as a destructive plant pest and established regulations aimed at reducing the risk of spread. As a result of new detections, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, and Muskingum counties will be added to the spotted lanternfly regulated area. In regulated areas, spotted lanternfly infestations have been confirmed and inspections are increased.

The spotted lanternfly was first detected in the U.S. in Pennsylvania in 2014. It was likely brought to the U.S. by imported goods. The first confirmation in Ohio was in Mingo Junction in 2020.

The spotted lanternfly is an insect native to Asia that is a pest of grapes, hops, and apples, along with many other species of plants. This pest is a great concern to the grape and wine industry, which contributes more than \$6 billion dollars in economic activity to the state yearly. An invasive tree known as tree of heaven is the primary host for spotted lanternfly.

The public plays an important role in detecting this insect. In late summer and into fall, spotted lanternflies are in their adult stage. They are approximately one inch, with black bodies and colorful red and grey wings with black markings. They will lay eggs (small, grey masses covered by a waxy covering) beginning in October.

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If you think you see spotted lanternfly or damage caused by them, please report it to ODA by filling out the [Ohio Plant Pest Reporter](#). A clear photo is required for submissions.

For more information on SLF please visit our [resource page](#).

Forage Management and Heavy Rain Events

By Victor Shelton, Retired NRCS Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

Regrowth is highly influenced by rest, recovery, and soil cover.

Moisture, or rather the lack of sufficient amount of moisture, is still an issue for quite a bit of the Midwest. Some areas have certainly been blessed with more rain than others, but I must remind you and myself that we're only about two weeks away from a drought from about any time period. We should always strive to take advantage of and conserve any moisture we receive.

I've been repairing some fence lines along wooded areas that seem to be testing my patience. Windstorms with dying or dead ash trees don't make a good combination. That has caused me to dig and replace a few fence posts that were in the line of spoilage. On a somewhat positive point, it allowed me the opportunity to evaluate the soil moisture in the depth of the post hole. Even though I've had rain, soil moisture was a little less than normal as I dug deeper – but it could have been a lot drier.



You can't change the amount of rain you get, but you can influence the impact of that rain to a degree. Ideally, you want to capture and keep as much rainfall as you can on the landscape. When rain hits hard surfaces, especially impermeable surfaces like concrete, most of it just runs off. Pasture and hay fields can be fairly impermeable also – especially overgrazed and compacted sites.

Soil that has good cover, ideally live plants, and some duff (residue and organic matter on the soil surface) and is healthy and capable of letting water infiltrate quickly will be more drought tolerant than areas where most of the rain runs off. When you have good live plant cover, especially grasses that create good retardance to water flow in combination with soils that are capable to take on water quickly and not become saturated – meaning you have good natural soil drainage and good soil organic matter – then soil moisture is easier to maintain and utilize even when rains are not as timely as you'd like.

Let's consider for a moment your lawn. Most lawns are mowed weekly and probably at an average of two or three inches in height. The shorter the grass blades are maintained the shallower their roots will be. These closely maintained lawns require frequent rain or irrigation to keep green and growing. Just raising the mowing height to four inches increases root depth, the number of fibrous roots, and the amount of total cover reducing evaporation, increasing infiltration, and it's much more likely to stay green and growing during drier conditions – unless you want it to dry up, so you don't have to mow it. Bottom line – keep the soil covered at all times. You don't want bare soil that allows for evaporation and increased soil temperatures.

A couple months back we talked about how to manage extremely early seed head production. Grass plants tend to react to stressful factors by initiating their survival mode. This generally means they begin seed production and may also produce more seed. I still believe the real motivator this year for early seed head production was the late freezes. I proposed three viable options.

The first option was to do high intensity, short duration grazing, which means higher numbers of livestock on a small allotment for a very short period of time. This removes a high percentage of grazable forage in a short period of time with little or no refused areas. This generally does require that the pasture gets a longer deferment period prior to being grazed again. What they don't consume is laid down on the ground returning nutrients and carbon back to the soil and more importantly helping to keep the soil cool while reducing evaporation.

The second option was to graze in a slower fashion, understanding that they will avoid more and thus create more mismatched forage growth and selection. If this is the case, then you are probably better off clipping the forages to make them even. Ideally, if you had to clip, it's best to only mow short enough to even out the forages and remove seed heads. It takes a watchful eye to make sure that you are not overgrazing (grazing too close and/or removing regrowth without adequate rest and recovery).

In a perfect world of grazing, livestock shouldn't graze the same allotment for more than three days and a lot shorter time frame is generally best. I realize that that is not practical or occasionally possible for some managers. Time is money – but time well spent can raise efficiencies and save money elsewhere such as in reduced

supplemented feed. If there are a lot of overgrazed spots, then a longer deferment may be needed prior to grazing again, which could also mean reduced production.

The last option was to cut a few paddocks that you would normally graze for hay. This might have helped make up some of the differences and reset the staging for those pasture fields, allowing you to concentrate your grazing management on less acres and hopefully giving you a bit more control of the situation. If you did mow it for hay, quickly return fertility to the field to promote new growth for the season and maintain that fertility bank.

What option did I do? Actually, a little of all three. It absolutely helped to keep things growing during the prolonged dry periods but also staged the system to be the most advantageous for collecting, utilizing and storing as much of the blessed rain and sunlight that we did receive. It also helped to initiate and create new dense growth by reinvigorating the solar panel. If for some reason I have to dig a post hole out in the open pasture, it might also make the task easier with a little more reassurance that some moisture might be found the entire depth in a more resilient environment.

I've been slow to spend money on fertilizer this year or recommend it unless you have a soil test or obviously need it. The poor growth in some fields may not be fertility this year (late freezes, drought, reduced sun) – but in some cases it is and if so, it would have been poor either way. The addition of a little nitrogen (if everything is within moderate levels) could really spur a lot of regrowth going forward. I honestly don't think it would take much and most fields could benefit from phosphorous, so DAP or MAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate or Monoammonium Phosphate) could be good choices. Since quite a bit of the spring growth curve was compromised, there is a very good chance that we could get extra growth this fall if sufficient moisture is present for growth and application – look for these opportunities.

Now is the time to inventory your present forage available, potential production yet this year and stored feed for winter. Days are getting shorter and we're only about 70 days from the first possible frost. August is a good month to plant perennial forages and annuals for fall use. Remember, it's not about maximizing a grazing event, but maximizing a grazing season! Keep on grazing!

Characteristics of Beginning Farmers in Ohio and Potential Impact of the Ohio Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program

By: Xiaoyi Fang, Zhining Sun, Ani Katchova, and Chris Zoller

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2023/08/08/characteristics-of-beginning-farmers-in-ohio-and-potential-impact-of-the-ohio-beginning-farmer-tax-credit-program/>

[Click here to access the PDF version of this article that includes figures](#)

Highlights

Ohio's new and beginning farmers are individuals who intend to enter the farming industry or have less than ten years of experience as a farm owner/operator in Ohio. Ohio's new and beginning farmers compared to established farmers, tend to be younger, operate smaller farms, and less likely to state farming as their primary occupation.

The Ohio Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program supports new and beginning farmers by providing income tax credits to: 1) beginning farmers who attend a financial management program, and 2) landowners that sell or rent farmland to beginning farmers.

Profile of Ohio Beginning Farmers

According to the definition provided by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, a beginning farmer in Ohio must meet several specific criteria. An individual must be a resident of Ohio who intends to enter the farming industry or has less than ten years of experience as a farm owner/operator in Ohio. In addition, the individual must not hold any partnership, membership, shareholder, or trustee positions related to the assets they intend to acquire or lease. The individual must have net worth of less than \$800,000, among other requirements.

Analysis of the 2017 Census of Agriculture offers valuable insights on Ohio's new and beginning farmers. About a quarter of all farm and principal farm producers in Ohio are new and beginning farmers while the rest are established farmers. Contrary to a common assumption that new and beginning farmers are young, the age distribution of new and beginning farmers in Ohio spans a wide range of age groups (Katchova and Ahearn, 2016). While 32% of new and beginning farmers are 34 years of age or younger, a significant portion of them (9%) are 65 or older. On average, new and beginning farmers are younger than established farmers but there are also older new and beginning farmers in Ohio.

Although males still dominate both groups, the proportion of males among new and beginning farmers is smaller (61%) than among established farmers (68%). Only 24% of

new and beginning farmers in Ohio report their primary occupation as farming, indicating diverse income sources. Over half of new and beginning farmers in Ohio engage in off-farm work for more than 200 days, unlike established farmers who are less involved in off-farm work. New and beginning farmers in Ohio typically operate smaller farms in terms of operated acres. Over half of new and beginning farmers operate less than 50 acres of farmland. New and beginning farmers in Ohio have a comparable percentage of owned or leased acres as do established farmers. According to a USDA definition, economic class of farmers is defined as the market value of agricultural products sold and government payments. There is a higher number of established farms in every economic class especially in the largest value economic classes, compared to new and beginning farmers.

The Census of Agriculture reveals that oilseed and grain farming is the most common specialty for new and beginning and for established farmers. Most new and beginning farmers tend to specialize in oilseeds and grain farming (25%), other crops (21%), beef cattle (18%) and other livestock (17%). Compared to established farmers, new and beginning farmers in Ohio tend to specialize more in specialty crops, other crops, beef cattle, and other livestock farms.

Potential Impact of the Beginning Farmers Tax Credit Program

In 2022, Ohio implemented a Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program to support new and beginning farmers in the state. This program aims to address the financial challenges faced by new entrants in the agricultural industry by offering two support mechanisms. The first mechanism provides a tax credit to new and beginning farmers who participate in a state-approved financial management program. By offering this tax credit, the program seeks to alleviate the financial stress of starting and managing a farm business. This incentive encourages beginning farmers to actively engage in financial planning and management, which can contribute to their long-term success. Qualifying financial management programs provide information on a variety of topics including farm business planning, farm financial statements, cost of production, farm record keeping, farm taxes, farm financing, risk management, and farm business analysis. Beginning farmers who complete a qualifying financial management program pay the cost of the program but are eligible for a non-refundable tax credit upon completion of the program.

The second support mechanism focuses on providing tax credits to qualified farmland owners in Ohio. These tax credits are offered to landowners who sell or rent their farmland to beginning farmers. By incentivizing landowners to work with new and beginning farmers, the program aims to address the aging farmer population trend and promote farmland transition to the next generation. This provision helps to transition operated acres from established to beginning farmers, creating more opportunities for new farmers to start their farm businesses and grow.

The Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program benefits new and beginning farmers in Ohio. By providing opportunities for financial management program training, the program reduces the barriers to entry. It equips farmers with the necessary skills to navigate the financial aspects of running a farm business. By offering incentives for farmland owners to collaborate with beginning farmers, the program helps to increase access to land and resources for new entrants. The program addresses financial challenges associated with starting a farm business. Continued investment and expansion of such initiatives are crucial for ensuring the future sustainability of Ohio agriculture.

The implementation of the Ohio Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program holds promise in supporting new and beginning farmers' entry in agriculture and addressing their specific needs. Continued support and resources are essential to foster the success of these beginning farmers and contribute to the success of Ohio's agricultural sector.

Lee's Monthly News Column

When I found out that I was going to be a father back in 2012 I had visions of getting a miniature version of myself that would love the outdoors and farming as much as I do. We would plan hunting trips, restore old tractors, and work around the farm together. When my daughter arrived in 2013, I bought her all the Carhartt clothes we could afford, picked out the best baby hiking gear, and gave her farm toys with the anticipation that she would love it all. And she did for a time- until she was old enough to form her own opinions.

I still try to maintain her interest with the theory that more exposure to these things (my hobbies) would show her how much fun they are. While hiking, I talk about out how the trees grow so big, encourage her to listen for grouse, and try to teach her about all the cool plants of the world. She often finds these things boring. To her, being outside is about finding cool bugs, picking out the best rocks, and collecting sticks and flowers to take home for crafts. It's not that she doesn't enjoy the outdoors, she just experiences and views it differently than I do.

The same goes for farming. I would love for her to grow up to have a career in agriculture, but I don't think that is likely based on her interests. She is still young, and her views and experiences probably will change over time, but to suddenly find a passion for farming is unlikely. She will probably always enjoy the typical farm kid activities – making forts out of hay bales, snuggling barn kittens, looking for treasures - but she will likely never enjoy baling hay.

There is often a strong sentiment from the older generation that farm kids should take over the farming operation from their parents. This could be based in business continuity purposes, in sentimentality, due to a sense of obligation, or a million other

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reasons. Farm transitions can be incredibly challenging, but even more so when the next generation does not have the same passion for agriculture as the older generation. Communication is essential when discussing farm transition, and so is accepting that not every farm kid wants to be a farm adult.

It's important for the older generation to be open to the fact that the younger generation may not want to farm at all or may want to farm but in a different way. Starting these conversations early is important- gauging if they might have any interest in taking on the family farm, even with a different business plan in mind, can save everyone from disappointment in the future. It can also help the younger generation feel more empowered to think about whether a different version of the family farm might be right for them. And that, in turn, can help the older generation start planning for any necessary transitions now.

Not many current farmers are farming the way their parents, or grandparent did. Markets, farming practices, and individual preferences change over generations. Being adaptable to those changes will keep our farming community flourishing.

2023 FARM PESTICIDE DISPOSAL COLLECTION

Do you have unwanted, unused, or unknown FARM chemicals? Bring them to a collection and disposal event coordinated by ODA and EPA - at no cost to farmers.

All events are 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

To pre-register, or for more information, contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 614-728-6987.

Wednesday, August 9

Morgan County Fairgrounds
2760 South Riverside Drive | McConnelsville

Thursday, August 10

Putnam County Fairgrounds, Gate 5
1206 East Second Street | Ottawa

Tuesday, August 22

Miami County Fairgrounds, North Gate
650 North County Road 25A | Troy

CFAES



agcrops.osu.edu



**CFAES**

The Ohio State University Portage County Extension Office

Starts September 7th
from 1:00-4:00pm

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Course

The mission of the **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN)** program is to build awareness of Ohio's environment and natural resources through science-based education and community stewardship.

The OCVNs role is to support partners in meeting the needs of our citizens in the area of natural resources by assisting with educational programs.

Activities Include:

- Identifying and educating the public about invasive species
- Diagnosing plant problems
- Giving public presentations relating to nature
- Hosting events for the public
- Staffing educational booths and other various opportunities

Program Benefits:

- Learn about the biology, ecology and natural history of Ohio from many of the state's leading experts.
- Become part of a local and statewide network of dedicated volunteers.
- Apply your talents and passion to protecting, restoring and understanding Ohio's natural treasures.

If you have a strong interest in nature and enjoy helping others, you are invited to apply to become an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist.

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OCVN Training

The course sessions are taught by faculty and staff with The Ohio State University along with conservation and naturalist professionals throughout Ohio.

Topics include:

- Soil, Geology and Watersheds
- Ecology and Stewardship
- Botany & Forests
- Entomology & Herpetology
- Ornithology & Mammals
- Working with the public & communication skills

You will learn how to contribute to community science efforts, restore and protect critical habitats, and communicate effectively about Ohio's environment while exploring parks and natural areas near you.



Application Process

- Spaces in the class will be viewed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Class size is limited to 25 participants.
- You must be at least 18 years old to apply.

You can find the application at

<https://go.osu.edu/portageocvn2023>

Registration is \$225.00 due within two weeks of admission to the program. The price includes a binder manual, additional handouts, state fees and related costs for conducting the program.

For payment:

<http://go.osu.edu/portageextensionpayment> or scan the QR code.

Return applications by August 29th to Portage County Extension Office, 705 Oakwood St. Suite 103, Ravenna, OH 44266. Please make checks payable to Portage County OSU Extension.



Certification Requirements

To become an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, you must:

- ✓ Complete 40 hours of combined classroom and field instruction
- ✓ Perform 40 hours of approved volunteer service within the first year
- ✓ After certification, 20 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training are required annually

**CFAES****DATE:****Sunday, August 27th****2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.****LOCATION:****Pierpont, OH****RSVP for address,
details, & directions****wayman.31@osu.edu
440-576-9008****WOMEN IN AG- ASHTABULA COUNTY**

Farm Tour: Lois Wright Morton Outwash Terrace Farm

Lois Wright Morton, a 7th generation farmer in Pierpont, Ohio owns and manages a small diversified farm of specialty crops, primarily blueberries and raspberries, commodity crops corn-bean, and hardwood forest on the East Branch of the Ashtabula River headwaters. She uses a variety of technologies including an on-farm weather station, soil moisture sensors, an augmentation box for composting berries; wetland water filtration; and $\frac{3}{4}$ ac blueberries grown under 85gm exclusion net, allowing her to minimize insecticide use.

Dr. Morton is also Professor Emeritus of Rural Sociology, Iowa State University, with publications on human-natural agroecosystems, climate smart agriculture, farmer decision making, and rural livelihoods.

Dr. Morton serves on Solutions from the Land (SfL) Board of Directors, has written extensively on the future of agriculture and food systems, and has prepared and presented recommendations to United Nations, FAO policies on how farmers concurrently produce food and nutrition security, agricultural products, protect soil and water resources and contribute to household livelihoods and community economies.

RAIN OR SHINE! Wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather, & bring a camp chair if needed.

For questions, accommodations, or to RSVP, contact Julie Wayman 440-576-9008 or wayman.31@osu.edu