Hello, Northeast Ohio Counties!

What a beautiful week it was this past week for the Ashtabula County! It was picture perfect. Thanks to all the members of the Ashtabula County fair board for a JOB WELL DONE! Everyone should be proud of the 4-Hers and FFA members for their great projects.

The Ashtabula County Master Gardeners will be having their Victory Garden Display out at the D-Day Conneaut this Thursday August 17 through Saturday August 19. If you have never been to D-Day, make sure to carve out time to attend---what an exceptional event! Check out details at: http://www.ddayohio.us/

The details for our 2017 Grape Twilight Tour are in this edition—make sure to get your reservations in quickly for this. We are excited that Dan Milo from the ODA will be on hand to share his expertise with our grape growers and winery operators.

Have a great week!

David Marrison
Extension Educator
Ag & Natural Resources
Ashtabula County

Lee Beers
Extension Educator
Ag & Natural Resources
Trumbull County
Northeast Ohio Grape Twilight Tour Scheduled for August 28, 2017

OSU Extension is pleased to announce the 2017 Northeast Ohio Twilight Grape Tour will be held on **Monday, August 28, 2017** from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Laurello Vineyards & Winery located at 4573 State Route 307 East in Geneva, Ohio 44041. This year’s tour will focus on Good Manufacturing Practices for Juice and Wine Operations.

Wine is classified as a food under the regulations of the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and as such there are certain regulations which must be adhered to by our local wineries. To help sort through all the regulations, Dan Milo, Food Safety Supervisor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture, will be on hand to discuss the **Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)** requirements for Wineries and Fresh Juice producers.

During this tour, participants will learn more about the sanitation measures which are required for the grape crushing and bottling areas. Mr. Milo will walk participants through a “mock” inspection at the winery to demonstrate the best practices which should be followed to stay in compliance with the GMP regulations. Learn what is required for personnel, plants & grounds, sanitation, equipment & utensils, raw materials, warehouse & distribution, and food labeling.

Juice grape and u-pick operations managers are also encouraged to attend as **Produce Safety Rules** will be shared. Apple producers and farm market operations are invited to attend to learn more about how the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act could impact their operations. Plenty of time will be included for producers to ask their questions about sanitation procedures, produce safety, and other Ohio Revised Code regulations.

Dinner will be served at the conclusion of the tour at approximately 7:00 p.m. Participants will be treated to a delicious meat lasagna meal created by the staff at Laurello Winery. Included with the meal will be salad, bread, dessert and non-alcoholic beverages. Wine can also be purchased individually.

The registration fee for the program and meal is $20 per person. In order to ensure adequate meals, reservations should be received by Monday, August 21, 2017. Any special meal accommodations must be made by the registration deadline. To register for this program, please contact the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008. A complete registration flyer can be found at: [http://go.osu.edu/ne-events](http://go.osu.edu/ne-events)

Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station Seeking Harvest Assistant

Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station sits on a 25-acre site in Kingsville, Ohio, and is one of eight outlying research stations operated by the Ohio State University’s Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, the research arm of the College of Food, Agricultural, and
Environmental Sciences. Our role is assist OSU faculty and staff in their efforts to expand the knowledge of grape varieties and vineyard practices with trials in viticulture, entomology and plant pathology, as well as to serve the needs of the grape and wine industry along northeast Ohio’s lakeshore.

Seasonal assistants will assist research station staff with field operations, data collection, and ground maintenance. Operations may include planting and harvesting of research crops, collecting soil and plant samples, recording fruit quality and yield data, data entry, record keeping, pruning, and weeding. The successful applicant may operate agricultural machinery including mowers and grounds equipment, clean and maintain work areas, and other duties as assigned.

While some prior experience is desirable, employees will receive training in all required operations. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact the Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station at 440-224-0273 or email kirk.197@osu.edu by 8/15/2017. Visit us on Facebook, search OARDC Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station

**Ohio Tree Farm Committee to hold Meeting on September 9**
On Saturday, September 9, 2017, the Ohio Tree Farm Committee will be sponsoring a special meeting at the Snowy Oak Farm located at 6450 State Route 167 East in Pierpont Township (Ashtabula County). This meeting is for tree farmers in Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties in order to do the following:

1. Update the tree farmer membership database.
2. Allow tree farmers to add the 2015-2020 Management Plan addendum to their personal forest management plan to remain compliant.
3. Determine if tree farmers in the snow belt area (Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, and Trumbull Counties wish to form a woodland interest group.
4. Discuss current invasive species issues-live plants for identification.

Consulting forester Dan Catellucci, Ohio tree farm mentor chairman Jim Savage, and tree farmer Paul Mechling will lead the discussion. The meeting will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at Snowy Oak Tree Farm (6450 State Route 167 East in Pierpont Township). The farm is approximately one mile east of State Route 7. A light lunch will be served after the meeting. Interested tree farmers should RSVP to Paul Mechling by September 5, 2017 via calling 440-577-1512 (home phone) to leave a message or by emailing snowyoak@windstream.net. If there is not enough interest, the meeting will be canceled.

**Is There a Place for Cover Crops in Your Farming Operation?**
By Les Ober CCA, ANR Program Coordinator Geauga County OSU Extension

As farmers, we are constantly looking for way to improve our farming operations. This is becoming more and more difficult because of the problems we are experiencing as result of a
changing environment. One of those problems is water quality issues resulting in increased time spent dealing with new regulations, all the while trying to survive in a world of low crop prices. This has lead farmers to adopt a bi-culture corn/soybean rotation and in extreme cases a monoculture, planting only the crop that is most profitable. This type of intense use of cropland can lead to a loss of organic matter, soil erosion and drainage problems. Compounding the problem is soil compaction caused by heavy equipment traveling over soil. One of the direct results of this type of abuse, is the loss of the soils ability to absorb water. Once the ability to retain water is lost, the soil becomes more susceptible to drying during drought conditions. It also a limited capacity to hold water during wet periods. Water that is not held by the soil quickly leaches into tile lines or runs off the surface taking valuable nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen with it. Recent edge of the field studies in Western Ohio shows that 40 to 90 percent of the phosphorus is being lost through the tile lines. This can be controlled with the installation of controlled drainage and detention basins, but one of the best ways to overcome this problem is increase the water holding capacity of the soil. This is accomplished by increasing the organic matter in the soil. One of the best and quickest ways to increase organic matter in your soil is to use cover crops.

Many farmers will tell you the downside to cover crops is planting of an extra crop after harvest. Many say that it is not easy to plant cover crops given the limited amount of time that can be allocated in the fall and that is why they do not use them. However, there are ways to get around the problem. There are several ways to plant cover crops into corn and soybeans and new methods are being developed to make the process easier. Cover crops can be broadcast with ground equipment or flown on with an airplane. Sprayers can be adapted to plant into corn during the vegetative stages of growth. Vertical tillage machines can be outfitted with air seeders to plant cover crops while managing residue. The fact is that if you have time to spread fertilizer or do fall tillage you probably have time to plant a cover crop and improve your soil and the health of your local watershed. When you start down the road to cover crop adoption you need to figure out which crops will benefit your operation. The first thing you need to look at is the type of tillage you are currently using and changes in the tillage operation that you would like to make. One of the myths is that cover crops are only used with No-Till systems. It is true that maximum benefit from cover crops is often achieved in a No-Till system. In fact, if your goal is to switch over to a No-Till system then cover crops will make that change easier and quicker. If you are satisfied with the tillage plan you are using you can still receive many benefits with the use of cover crops.

How do you design a cover crop system for your farm? First, analyze your rotation. If you are set on using a corn soybean rotation then it may come down to using Annual Rye after the grain crop is removed. Annual Rye cover does a good job of holding soil in place, building organic matter and scavenging nutrients. The nutrients are held in the cover crop roots until the following spring. Once the cover is terminated those nutrients are released into the soil. It is easy to establish. You can broadcast 30 to 70 lbs. per acre on top of the soil with good results. Cost roughly $20.00 per acre. The downside of annual rye is massive growth in the spring. It needs to be terminated before it gets ahead of you. If you are lucky enough to remove some early soybeans you might want to consider using oats. The advantage to oats is that it will die off after the first killing frosts. The disadvantage is that you may not get enough growth before a
killing frost. Oats work really well cover crops blends that are planted early in the season. For producers that plant wheat there are multiple combinations of cover crop blends on the market. The blend will depend on what you want to accomplish in your rotation. For example, if your soil is compacted and needs to be loosen up, Tillage Radish would be a good choice. Radish is often combined with winter peas in September and October in ground that will be going to corn in the spring. This combination is planted in 15 inch rows with corn being planted into the radish row the following spring. This allows the corn roots to easy penetrate the soil and the winter peas will supply nitrogen for the corn crop. If you plant early enough in the season (August) you can use a legume like crimson clover or red clover to build nitrogen. The type of individual blended cover crop you use becomes a prescription for your soil to improve its overall health.

There are several publications available, The Midwest Cover Crop Field Guide is from Purdue University and is available in many local Extension offices. A more in-depth look at cover crops is Building Soils for Better Crops and is available from the Sustainable Agriculture Network. If you have additional questions on cover crops call your local OSU Extension Office.

**Limiting Liability on the Farm: An Overview of Ohio’s LLC Laws**

Written by Chris Hogan, Law Fellow, OSU Agricultural & Resource Law Program

*The Agricultural and Food Law Consortium is holding a webinar regarding Using LLCs in Agriculture: Beyond Liability Protection this Wednesday, August 16th at 12:00 (EST).*

The Limited Liability Company (LLC) is a relatively new type of business entity. The first LLC statute passed in Wyoming in 1977. Since then, all fifty states passed legislation permitting LLCs as an operating entity. Many Ohio farmers use the LLC as their preferred operating entity.

In Ohio, an LLC is a legal entity created by Ohio statute. An LLC is considered to be separate and distinct from its owners. An LLC may have a single owner in Ohio, or it may have numerous owners. LLCs combine the best attributes of a corporation and a partnership. Individuals, corporations, other LLCs, trusts, and estates may be members in a single LLC. There is no limit on maximum members.

*The Importance of an Operating Agreement*

When an agricultural operation chooses to operate as an LLC, that operation must consider drafting an operating agreement. An operating agreement specifies the financial responsibilities of the parties, how profits and losses are shared among members within the LLC, limitations on transfers of membership, and other basic principles of operation.

If an LLC does not choose to draft an operating agreement, Ohio’s default rules apply. Ohio law prescribes default rules of operation for LLCs in R.C. Chapter 1705. However, LLC members often wish to modify state rules to tailor an LLC to their business. Ideally, agricultural operators should draft an operating agreement with the assistance of an attorney.
Single Member LLCs

Every state in the Midwest permits single-member Limited Liability Companies (SMLLCs). A single member LLC is an LLC which has one member or manager; that means that there are no other owners or managers of that LLC. In 2016, Ohio enacted R.C. 1705.031 which states that Ohio LLC laws apply to all LLCs, including those with only one member. Therefore, small agribusinesses that have only one member are not prevented from forming an LLC.

Will a Personal Guaranty on a Loan Affect Limited Liability Protection?

Ohio farmers operating as an LLC enjoy the benefits of limited liability protection. Usually, that means that the debts and obligations of a farm LLC operation are solely those of the LLC. That means that a farmer is not personally liable for any debts or obligations incurred by the LLC.

However, lenders, implement dealers, financial institutions, and others are finding ways around an LLC’s personal liability protection. Those parties are increasingly requiring that the members and managers of LLCs provide personal guarantees. That is, a member or manager of an LLC agrees to be personally liable for a debt or obligation, if an LLC is not able to pay.

A full discussion of personal guarantees and LLCs in an earlier blog post is https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/fri-07192013-1230/will-personal-guaranty-trump-llc-financial-liability-protection.

LLCs are not Invincible

Limited Liability Companies are extremely popular among Ohio farmers. However, LLCs merely limit liability. LLCs don’t create a perfect liability shield, they are subject to a concept known as “veil piercing” where the owners of a company are held personally liable for the actions of the company.

Generally, a person cannot use a corporation to commit fraud on others or to use a corporation as an alter ego for a member’s own personal gain. Plainly speaking, Ohio courts may hold an owner of an LLC liable in certain cases of fraud committed by the LLC or where an LLC is undercapitalized and is not treated as a separate entity from a member (i.e. the LLC is used as an “alter ego”). While this is not a common scenario among farm business LLCs, LLC members should be aware that a business’s status as an LLC will not shield it from liability in all instances.

Carrying Liability Insurance

Many LLC owners consider the protections under Ohio’s LLC laws to be sufficient. Some LLC members are satisfied that their personal assets are sufficiently protected and separated from LLC assets and LLC liabilities. However, every business should have liability insurance. Liability insurance is a relatively inexpensive means of managing liability exposure for injuries and physical damage to a third party. While insurance doesn’t lower liability, it gives the business a way to pay for damages in the event of an incident.
The question of “how much liability insurance should a farm operation have?” is a difficult one. The amount of insurance that a farm should have must be determined on a case-by-case basis. Factors such as farm size, type of operation, location, and other factors impact the insurance needs of a farm operation.

More information on LLCs and other alternative business organizations through the National Agricultural Law Center is [http://nationalaglawcenter.org/research-by-topic/business-organizations/](http://nationalaglawcenter.org/research-by-topic/business-organizations/).

**Grazing Bites for August**  
By Victor Shelton, NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist

It’s August, and I know it’s August without looking at a calendar. The days are getting shorter and it’s state fair time. August is always a busy month for me and I am usually left wondering what happened to it all. I start thinking about assessing pastures, how much forage is present, and how much more forage can be grown between now and dormancy. It’s sad, but winter is already on my mind. Not that I’m looking forward to it, I’m not, but it’s time now to start preparing.

I want to be able to graze as long as possible, so like the games of chess or checkers, you’re better off planning your next move far ahead. I like as much stockpiled forage as possible which means I better be pretty efficient with forages being grazed right now. I always recommend trying to grow as much forage as possible because there are only so many growing days left in the season. The longer you can rest or defer grazing, the more forage that can be grown and stockpiled. Most years, deferment needs to start by mid-August.

Graze, mow or hay the field to even out the stand and hopefully, with moisture, new vegetation will start growing if it isn’t already. If cut for hay, don’t cut too short; cut at least three inches high so it won’t delay regrowth. Apply 30-60 pounds of nitrogen if clover isn’t at least 30% of the stand. Urea works well as long as moisture is present. Judging how much clover is present is misleading. There always appears to be more than there really is. It is best assessed by dry weights…and no, I don’t expect most people to do that.

Defer grazing or stockpile at least one acre of tall fescue per 1000-pound live weight. Yes, I said tall fescue. Tall fescue gets a bad rap most of the time, but it does have one good attribute, it stockpiles better than about any other perennial forage.

Tall fescue’s greatest attribute is its ability to maintain its nutritional value throughout the year. This stand is 22% clover by dry weight. The rest is grass except 1% that is weeds.
winter. December, January, and February, tall fescue will still shine; the rest of the time it is only somewhat tolerable. Fall-grown tall fescue can average 13 to 18 percent crude protein depending on how much nitrogen has been applied to the stand and will maintain good nutritional value on up into the spring when new growth starts to appear. I’ve tested lots of stockpiled forage (much of it tall fescue) and the lowest value I’ve ever seen with the fescue was 11 percent crude protein with 62 percent digestibility, and that was in early March right before new growth. At this quality, it is better feed than a lot of hay that is fed. The ergovaline, the endophyte toxin associated with tall fescue, is usually reduced after a hard freeze, so procrastinating on grazing it is a good thing. Always good to test forages and feed to make sure it is meeting the nutritional requirements of the animals utilizing it.

For now, let the fields for stockpiling grow. Continue rotating through the rest of the pastures like normal, maintaining stop grazing heights as much as possible. If you have corn stalks, hay aftermath or annuals that can be grazed, that can provide you more opportunity to defer those stockpiled fields longer and possibly grow even more stockpile.

If grazing corn residues, they are normally best utilized within 60 days of harvest and best allocated out in portions to reduce waste. They are best utilized for spring calving cows due to lack of energy for lactating or growing animals unless winter annuals or brassicas have been added. Corn stalks should be stocked at the rate of 1000 pounds live weight per acre, per 30 days.

Corn stalk fields that are planted to grazable annuals create even more opportunity to stockpile and buys you more growth time and grazing time. If you have crop fields close that can be grazed, there are a lot of opportunities especially when these are planted to annuals. High quality forage can be produced in the fall if planted early enough. My favorite mix is spring oats, turnips or radish, and cereal rye. The oats and brassica come on early and with sufficient moisture can produce a lot of quality forage. The cereal rye remains fairly quiet in the background until spring and then it kicks in providing the opportunity for some spring grazing or just prime cover to no-till into.

I plan to talk about the grazing of the stockpile in a month or so. It is only August so we’ll first grow it and then we’ll discuss how to serve it to the livestock.

I hope that I’m wrong, but I’m planning on an early fall. I’d rather be prepared and wrong than caught off guard. Early fall is quite often one of the best times to tackle some weed problems, especially biennials, such as bull and musk thistle and burdock. Burdock is a robber of valuable pasture space along with being a bit of a pain to whatever falls prey to its stocky burrs. I find it most often along roads and other areas heavily limed or where heavy applications of gypsum are applied. Thistles, well, they are thistles. They are generally rich in potassium and livestock would probably eat them if not for the spines. These biennials, which mean they produce seed the second year, will first appear as a simple rosette. The rosettes often appear in the fall and are fairly easily killed chemically in this stage. Follow label recommendations on all herbicides and consult with your local extension office if you have questions on what to use or how to best use it. For some plants, but especially burdock and thistles, a slow death is better than a
planned quick kill. That reminds me of a tee-shirt I saw a guy wearing recently that read, “Bad choices make good stories.” No, I didn’t ask. Keep on grazing!

**Ban IAB (It’s Always Been) syndrome**
By Dianne Shoemaker - August 10, 2017

Jock Rome’s family has farmed the same farmstead in southern Scotland for more than 300 years. While they still milk cows and raise Galloway beef cattle, pigs, and black face sheep, Jock has taken a different approach to marketing than his parents and grandparents.

The original stone and brick farm buildings no longer house live cattle but have been renovated into a beautiful complex including a butcher shop, deli, and restaurant featuring their meats and vegetables, and a gift shop featuring local craftsmen.

An older gentleman with high energy, Jock met us at the butcher shop and treated us to tea, coffee and cakes along with the history and future plans for their farm.

**People the key**
With more than 1,000 acres and multiple production and retail enterprises, good managers and staff are key contributors to the Kilnford Barns Farm Shop and Ingleston farm success. Historically, the farm milked 450 Holstein cows, but when faced with the prospect of building a new barn to accommodate the increasing size of their Holsteins, they made a unique decision. The Holsteins were sold, and they switched to “460 Danish Jersey cows in a flying herd.” English is our common language, but they lost me with “flying herd”!

Translation: Only mature milking and dry cows make up their herd today — a flying herd. Milked twice a day, the Jerseys average 51 pounds of 5.8 percent fat and 3.9 percent protein milk, which is marketed to Graham’s (Scotland’s largest independent dairy) on a Jersey Gold Top contract. Current milk price was 35 pence per liter or about $20.44 per cwt.

Jock indicated that some processors are starting to penalize for milk with less than 3.8 percent butterfat.

**Danish Jerseys**
The original Jerseys were sourced from Denmark and they go back regularly for replacement heifers. Why? The Danes are producing the type of animals that they desire, and with IBR in their area, they are able to

Visiting farms in Scotland gives new perspective. On one farm, these crossbred calves are group housed with an igloo. (Dianne Shoemaker photo)
breed the imported heifers and bring them into production without the health and reproductive issues associated with the disease.

The cows are all bred AI to Belgian Blue or Limousin sires. Current calving interval is 370 days. Both male and female crossbreds are raised and sold as finished cattle.

Currently, their butcher shop features Galloway beef, but they are considering offering some of the Jersey crosses along with some additional marketing.

**Average size**
The Ingleston herd is mid-size in the Scottish industry. Scotland currently has roughly 980 dairy farms with an average herd size of 180 head. Herd size ranges from 60 to 1,000 cows with few herds outside of that range.

**Biggest challenge**
One of the biggest challenges for dairy and livestock farmers in Scotland is winter stored feed. Tons (literally!) of grass and small grains are harvested as pasture, dry hay (limited due to weather) and haylage. Corn silage is highly desired, but a challenge to grow. Ingleston Farm feels the additional $130 per acre cost to start corn under plastic is a sound investment and “our insurance policy.” In only one year out of seven would they be comfortable growing corn without plastic.

This is a special plastic that the corn actually grows through in about six weeks after danger of frost is over. The farm has a small herd of 20 registered Galloway cattle, and purchases an additional 1,000 head of Galloway steers to finish each year. More than a third of these animals are marketed through their butcher shop.

The first group of this year’s steers had just been brought into a large, well-bedded pen two days before we visited the farm. They were not happy to see us as they had been grazing extensively. They are quite hairy and have to be clipped before they are sent to slaughter.

This was the only group of livestock we saw on many farm visits that did not like strangers. It is a testament to Scottish stockmanship that on all the other farms, even groups of finishing cattle that had been purchased from multiple sources and grouped together in the past several months were extremely calm, curious, and friendly.

Jock also explained that they purchase and finish around 1,000 blackface lambs each fall, finishing them on grass. Six lambs a week are marketed through the farm’s butcher shop. The rest of the lambs are marketed to Sainsbury’s, a large United Kingdom grocer, for their “Taste the Difference” brand.

**Willingness to change**
Most farms that we visited had close relationships to these grocers and are very aware of changing consumer preferences.
Three hundred years of a family farming the same land. This farm could have fallen victim to what International Farm Management Congress speaker Charles Dudgeon of Savillo Real Estate Sales, referred to as “IAB”, or “It’s Always Been.”

The butcher shop and restaurant had always been a barn for housing live cattle. The dairy barn had always been for Holsteins. The farm had always sold their products to the wholesale market. Look at the farm’s website at https://www.kilnford.co.uk/. See some of the ways that Jock Rome and his team of managers chose not to be limited by IAB thinking.

**Western Bean Cutworm Trap Update for Northeast Ohio**

The number of Western Bean Cutworm moths caught across the region decreased this past week. We will continue to update you weekly on the trap counts we are finding in our corn fields here in the newsletter.

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**Farm Science Review Tickets Available**

OSU Extension is pleased to announce that Advance tickets for the Farm Science Review are available at all Ohio State University Extension county offices for $7. This year’s Farm Science Review will be held at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center in London, Ohio on September 19-21, 2017. Tickets are $10 at the gate; however presale tickets can be purchased at your local OSU Extension for $7 per ticket through Monday, September 18, 2017. Children 5 and under are admitted free. The review hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 19 & 20 and from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 21.
Farm Science Review is known as Ohio’s premier agricultural event and typically attracts more than 130,000 farmers, growers, producers and agricultural enthusiasts from across the U.S. and Canada annually. Participants are able to peruse 4,000 product lines from roughly 620 commercial exhibitors and engage in over 180 educational workshops, presentations and demonstrations delivered by experts from OSU Extension and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. More information about the Farm Science Review is at http://fsr.osu.edu

David’s Weekly News Column

Hello, Ashtabula County! I think most in Ashtabula County know how important the grape and wine industry is to our local economy. In fact, over 70% of all the grapes grown in Ohio are grown right here in beautiful Ashtabula County. In addition to all our grape vineyards, we have 29 incredible wineries in the tri-county area. OSU Extension has had a long history of providing education and research to the grape and wine industry. Today, I would like to share details on our annual twilight tour and dinner which we have scheduled for the end of this month.

OSU Extension is pleased to announce the 2017 Northeast Ohio Twilight Grape Tour will be held on Monday, August 28, 2017 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Laurello Vineyards & Winery located at 4573 State Route 307 East in Geneva, Ohio 44041. Each year, we focus on a major topic at the twilight tour. Some times our committee highlights vineyard production skills while in other years we focus on the winery side. We have focused on grape vine production the past few years so this year we are turning to a winery topic which always excites us. This being regulations! Specifically we will be looking at the regulations which are in place for wineries, juice grape producers and u-pick operations.

Do you know that wine is classified as a food under the regulations of the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)? It sure is! And as such there are certain regulations which must be adhered to by our local wineries. To help sort through all the regulations, we are very pleased that Dan Milo, Food Safety Supervisor for the Ohio Department of Agriculture, will be on hand to discuss the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) requirements for Wineries and Fresh Juice producers.

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We are also encouraging juice grape and u-pick operations managers to attend as we will be sharing the Produce Safety Rules which should be adhered to by their operations. I would encourage our apple producers and farm market operations to attend to learn more about how the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act could impact their operations.
Be proactive not reactive. Plenty of time will be included for producers to ask their questions about sanitation procedures, produce safety, and other Ohio Revised Code regulations.

Dinner will be served at the conclusion of the tour at approximately 7:00 p.m. Participants will be treated to a delicious meat lasagna meal created by the staff at Laurello Winery. Included with the meal will be salad, bread, dessert and non-alcoholic beverages. Wine can also be purchased individually.

The registration fee for the program and meal is $20 per person. In order to ensure adequate meals, reservations should be received by Monday, August 21, 2017. This should be a marvelous evening topped off by a great dinner and fantastic fellowship! Any special meal accommodations must be made by the registration deadline. To register for this program, please contact the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008. A complete registration flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

To close, I would like to share a quote from Jay Shetty who stated “Remember, we never see things as they are; we see things as we are.” Have a good and safe day!

**Upcoming Extension Program Dates**

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

**Fertilizer Certification Sessions**  
August 17 at Trumbull County Extension Office from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
September 14 at Geauga County Extension Office from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Northeast Ohio Grape Twilight Tour**  
Monday, August 28, 2017

**2017 Ashtabula County Beef Banquet**  
Saturday, November 11, 2017

**Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Sessions**  
November 16, 2017 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Lake County  
January 12, 2018 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon in Ashtabula County  
February 2, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Geauga County  
February 9, 2018 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon in Portage County  
March 9, 2018 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon in Trumbull County

**2018 Northeast Ohio Winter Agronomy School**  
Wednesday February 21, 2018

**21st Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show**  
Saturday, April 21, 2018
Laurello Vineyards & Winery – In 1991 Larry & Kim Laurello purchased the Burkholder Fruit Farm and took a leap of faith to create a winery which reflects the legacy of Larry's grandfather, Cosmo and his parents Larry and Ida Laurello. Over 16 years of passion has transformed the fruit farm into one of Ashtabula County’s finest wineries. Laurello Winery creates Old World–inspired blends and single-varietal wines with crisp acidity and firm tannic structure to balance the fruit-forward notes. Ohio-grown grapes appear in many wines such as an off-dry, pear-tinged Riesling, an unctuous Cabernet Franc and our Cabernet Sauvignon blend, aged in French oak barrels. Award winning Ice wines are also produced featuring our unique Habanero Ice Wine, “Simply Mad.”

About the Twilight Tour
Do you know wine is classified as a food under the regulations of the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)? Are you aware of the regulations which are in place for wineries, juice grape producers and u-pick operations? OSU Extension is pleased that Dan Milo, ODA Food Safety Supervisor, will be the keynote speaker at this event. Mr. Milo will discuss the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) requirements for Wineries and Fresh Juice producers. Attend and learn more about the sanitation measures which are required for grape crushing and bottling areas. Mr. Milo will walk participants through a “mock” inspection at the winery to demonstrate the best practices which should be followed to stay in compliance with the GMP regulations. Learn what is required for personnel, plants & grounds, sanitation, equipment & utensils, raw materials, warehouse & distribution, and food labeling. It is also recommended that juice grape and u-pick operations managers attend to learn about the Produce Safety Rules which should be adhered to by their operations. Be proactive not reactive. Plenty of time will be included for producers to ask their questions about sanitation procedures, produce safety, and other Ohio Revised Code regulations.

Dinner (7:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
Dinner will be served at the conclusion of the tour (approximately 7:00 p.m.). Participants will be treated to a delicious meat lasagna meal created by the staff at Laurello Winery. Included with the meal will be salad, bread, dessert and non-alcoholic beverages. Wine can also be purchased individually. The registration fee for the program and meal is $20 per person. In order to ensure adequate meals, reservations should be received by Monday, August 21, 2017. This should be a marvelous evening topped off by a great dinner and fantastic fellowship!

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<th>2017 Northeast Ohio Twilight Grape Tour</th>
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<td>No. of Reservations for Twilight Tour Dinner  _____ @ $20.00 per person Total Due $_____</td>
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Reservations are due by August 21, 2017. Please mail today to OSU Extension, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH 44047. Any special meal accommodations must be made by the registration deadline. Call OSU Extension at 440-576-9008 with any questions. Make checks payable to OSU Extension.
Larello Vineyards & Winery
4573 State Route 307 East
Geneva, Ohio 44041
440-415-0661

http://www.laurellovineyards.com/winery.php
Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station

Seeking Harvest Assistant

Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station sits on a 25-acre site in Kingsville, Ohio, and is one of eight outlying research stations operated by the The Ohio State University’s Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, the research arm of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Our role is assist OSU faculty and staff in their efforts to expand the knowledge of grape varieties and vineyard practices with trials in viticulture, entomology and plant pathology, as well as to serve the needs of the grape and wine industry along northeast Ohio’s lakeshore.

Seasonal assistants will assist research station staff with field operations, data collection, and ground maintenance. Operations may include planting and harvesting of research crops, collecting soil and plant samples, recording fruit quality and yield data, data entry, record keeping, pruning, and weeding. The successful applicant may operate agricultural machinery including mowers and grounds equipment, clean and maintain work areas, and other duties as assigned.

While some prior experience is desirable, employees will receive training in all required operations. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact the Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station at 440-224-0273 or email kirk.197@osu.edu by 8/15/2017. Visit us on Facebook, search OARDC Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station.