We had a great week to close out the month of July and I hope August is a good one for our producers. We actually could use some nice timely rains to help our crops as they all go into their grain or fruit filling stage. We should expect rain next week as the The Ashtabula County fair will get underway! In preparation for the fair, three additional barn quilts were dedicated last week at the fairgrounds...look for them as you enter the fairgrounds on Popular Street. I hope to see many of you at the fair next week or at one of the many Extension programs we have coming up right after fair. Let’s hope August provides us with good weather! Have a good and safe week.

David Marrison, AG Educator

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Northeast Ohio Cover Crops Field Night Scheduled for August 18
OSU Extension is pleased to be offering a “Northeast Ohio Cover Crops Field Night” on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at Caroma Farms located at 9499 State Route 46 in North Bloomfield, Ohio from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We are very appreciative of the Barnett family for hosting this field night. The family is one of the early adopters of the use of cover crops and this will be a great opportunity for area farmers to learn more about cover crops.

This field night will feature Jim Hoorman from OSU Extension. Jim is a nationally known speaker in cover crops and will be on hand to help producers learn how to successfully use cover crops. This will be a great opportunity for crop producers who are looking to use cover crops to improve soil fertility, improve soil structure and increase the capacity of soil drainage.

During the field night Jim will discuss the basics of how cover crops increase soil organic matter and improve nutrient recycling and how roots change soil structure and improve drainage. Jim will share details of the major cover crops and how they are used in crop rotations such as corn and soybean. Each cover crop has a niche or special purpose. Legume cover crops are typically used to produce homegrown nitrogen. Grass cover crops are used to increase soil organic matter, recycle excess nutrients, and reduce soil compaction. Brassica crops are grown to loosen the soil, recycle nutrients, and suppress weeds. Some other cover crops are grown to suppress insects, disease, weeds, or attract beneficial insects.
Jim will also share how cover crops may be used to supplement forages for dairy, beef, and sheep. Attendees will also learn more about the economics of using and purchasing cover crops. Discussion will also be held on how cover crops may increase soil productivity and decrease chemical input costs through reduced herbicides, less fungicides, and improved nutrient efficiency.

The use of cover crops should be strongly considered in 2015 as we have thousands of acres which were not planted due to the extremely wet weather. Now is a great chance to plant a cover crop, or two, to help improve and protect our heavy soils here in Ashtabula County.

This workshop is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Participants are requested to dress for the weather as it will be held rain or shine. Participants are asked to bring a lawn chair. More information about this program can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008. A program flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

July 29 Northeast Ohio Agronomic Crops Report
By Les Ober CCA

Agronomy speaking, this year has been a challenge; A late planting season, followed by near record rainfall and too many cool cloudy days to count. Now we have not received hardly any rain for the last 10 days. Modern day corn hybrids and soybean verities can handle a lot of adverse conditions but we may be stretching the limit. On those fields that did not get planted or literally were drowned out we will be looking for management options. Many producers are looking to fall and thinking about an early wheat crop. However, one lesson we did learn this year was that wheat wants to be planted on some of your driest and best producing ground. That pretty much eliminates putting wheat on ground that was to wet to sustain a corn or soybean crop this year. There is a viable crop that can be grown on those fields and that is cover crops.

Many growers have said in the past that they would like to try cover crops after harvested grain but there is no time to plant the crop before snow flies. If you have acres that are prevented planted, lost due to flooding or going into silage in September then your excuse not to plant a cover crop has just gone out the window. To help you get started, OSU Extension will be holding a Cover crops Field night at the Todd Barnett farm, St. Rt. 46 in Trumbull County on August 8th. The speaker that night will be nationally known cover crops expert and Putnam County Extension Educator, Jim Hoorman. The meeting is free and will start at 6:00 pm rain or shine. One of the questions that will definitely come up is why should I take two hours out to learn about crops that normally are hard to fit into your rotation.

Cover crops have become a sort of a jack of all trades in the agronomic world. They are literally so versatile that you cannot ignore them. They can be planted early and they can be planted late in a variety of equipment. Here are some of the problems that cover crops will help you overcome. Let’s start with soil erosion control. This is the first thing that pops in many farmers minds when you mention cover crops. Keeping a living cover on a crop field, especially a field with slope can hold tons of soil in place and avoiding washouts and loss of valuable topsoil. However, that is not the only advantage of keeping a live cover on fields. Think about what happens when you remove a crop from a field and let it sit idle for up to 6 months without a growing crop on it. The soil literally shuts down. A large percentage of organisms that live in that soil and depend on living plants to survive go dormant and their populations decline. That means that many of the processes that breakdown residue and build soil fertility slow to a minimal rate. They also take longer to start up the next season. A soil with a live cover continues to function below the ground building organic matter and enhancing and capturing valuable nutrient’s, holding them in place for future growing seasons. This is the basis for Eco-Farming, a practice that Jim Hoorman will talk about.
Cover crops help in other ways, such as breaking down compaction. Planting Tillage Radish is nature’s way of subsoiling a field without the use of heavy expensive equipment. The roots of a tillage radish plant can go 3 to 4 feet down in the soil breaking up the hard pans that have developed. When next year crop is planted on the row where Radish has grown the roots will be able to extend deep into soil capturing more nutrients and water. Maybe you just want to save some money on nutrients and help to prevent nutrient loss from the soil. Cover crops like legumes (clover, alfalfa and winter peas) produce nitrogen that is fixed in soil for next year’s crop.

Not convinced yet? Consider the lowly Cereal Rye plant, probably the easiest to grow and one of the most beneficial. Cereal Rye is not very impressive on the surface. Looks like just another crop to prevent soil erosions but under the surface is a tremendous bio-mass of roots. These roots are not only building organic matter but are absorbing and holding nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen. These are nutrients that would be at risk of being lost if a living cover was not in place. Next spring when the Rye is plowed under or killed off these nutrients are slowly released for the next grain crop. Cereal Rye can be planted well into November, in time to cover most soybean fields. It can be drilled or broadcast followed by a light incorporation. This is a great starter crop if you are thinking about growing cover crops for the first time. For those of you already growing cover, plan on picking up a few tips from Jim that will help you establish and manage the crop. For you No-tillers, learn how cover crops will make your system work even better. David Marrison and I encourage you to come out on Tuesday evening August 18th and check out the cover crops growing on the Barnett Farm. It may change the way you farm.

**Agronomic Crops Progress Report**

**Corn:**
Corn has reached R-1 to R-2. The crop can be rated fair to good with a few acres of poor and excellent mixed in. The big problem now that the dry weather has arrived is the lack of deep roots on most plants to absorb moisture. As the soil surface dries out there are an abundance of shallow rooted plants trying to squeeze the moisture out of the surface soil. I never thought I would say this so soon. Pray for rain!

**Soybeans:**
Beans are at R-2 to R-4 and are looking better than the corn. Conditions going into August are favoring beans over corn. August is the soybean month and soybeans like it a little on the dry side. Throw in a few timely rains at pod fill time and we may have an average crop. Scout now for leaf feeders and aphids. The first aphids have appeared in NW Ohio.

**Wheat:**
Is done and the crop was disappointing. Too much rain at the wrong time led to low test wait and some disease issues, the result, lower than normal yields. Low test weight wheat (under 56) will have to be sold for livestock feed. Most western elevators are no longer taking wheat due to grain quality problems.

**Oats:**
Look good and are ready to harvest

**Forages:**
Last week saw every hay field in the county on the ground and baled up. It was a Bad, Ugly and Very Little Good scenario. Hope for some second cutting coming off at the end of August. Scout the regrowth for weeds, just about every weed went to seed. On grass hay fields some chemical control may be needed to keep the stand working. If your field went from bad to worse and will need to be replanted plan on spraying this fall to get on top of the perennial weeds like Canada Thistle. Need help, call your local extension office.
Late Season Diseases Showing Up in Unexpected Places in 2015
By Anne Dorrance

All of the rain during May, June, & July continues to impact the soybean crop in some areas of the state during 2015 in Ohio. Surveys of our plots and some scouting in the lower canopy have turned up some surprises and some we expected.

1. **Sclerotinia stem rot** – Over the next two weeks we will begin to see above canopy symptoms. Stem lesions are now evident in some of our historic white mold fields below the canopy. With Sclerotinia, white fluffy mycelium is evident on the stem, while leaves turn a gray-green and stay on the plant. Photo: [White mold on soybeans](#)

2. **Sudden death syndrome (SDS)** – We received several samples and calls last week on susceptible varieties. The plants showed the classic yellow spots between the veins on the leaves which will then turn brown. (Photo: [Sudden Death Syndrome on soybeans](#)) Symptoms on leaves will continue to progress and eventually the leaflets will drop from the plants leaving the petioles attached. The roots and particularly the tap root are rotted and discolored. After a rain, the blue spores (conidia) can be observed on the tap root. The fungus infects the plants shortly after planting and continues to colonize the plant slowly, the piths of infected plants are white and the discoloration in the leaves is due to a toxin that the fungus produces.

We have the North Central Soybean Research program soybean variety trial in Northwest Ohio, and only the highly susceptible checks have symptoms of sudden death syndrome. This is a very good sign that resistance is holding up under the high disease pressure this year. In some of these fields, there is no record of the presence of Soybean cyst nematode. I think that in the fields with low to no SCN, the SDS symptoms may be due to the flooding injury that occurred early on. One of the fields with SDS symptoms received 4” of rain in a 24 hour period and it was saturated for approximately 24 hours. Realistically, this is a best guess for how this disease did develop in some of these fields, the thought of trying to run the experiment to prove this, is more than a bit daunting at the moment.

3. **Frogeye leaf spot** – this leaf spot disease is present on more varieties than expected, but for some areas we are getting close to the R5 growth stage, where spraying will have little effect. The R5 growth stage is when flowering has stopped, the plants will not produce too many more new leaves, and the seed begins to fill the pods. The fungus that causes frogeye leaf spot can only infect new leaves, so fungicide applications during late R4 and beyond are no longer necessary. At this point in time, we have only processed lesions from a few locations and based on the test for the most common mutation indicate that these few samples were sensitive to the strobilurin fungicides. We will continue to monitor lesions as we receive them for the remainder of the season. Thank you for your assistance with this.

**OSU Extension to host Northeast Ohio Grape Field Day on Thursday, August 27**

OSU Extension will be hosting the Northeast Ohio Grape Field Day on Thursday, August 27 in Harpersfield, Ohio. This field day has been developed to increase the management skills of commercial juice and wine grape growers.

The afternoon session titled, “Strategies for Managing Winter Injured Vines” will be held from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Ferrante Winery & Ristorante located at 5585 State Route 307, Harpersfield, Ohio and at M Cellars located at 6193 South River Road, Harpersfield, Ohio. This session will continue the grape industry’s focus on recovering from two severe winter injury events in 2014 & 2015.

At Stop #1 at Ferrante Winery & Ristorante, Dr. Imed Dami and Nick Ferrante will present information on how the Ohio grape industry is adapting to winter injury concerns. Learn more about the Ferrante’s hilling & dehilling practices. Participants will also learn more about OARDC’s retraining trials which are being conducted in this vineyard.
Participants will then travel to Stop #2 at M Cellars on South River Road. Matt Meineke will present information on how M Cellars has changed their winter protection strategies for vine protection through the practice of burying canes. Learn the when, how and the outcomes of burying canes. It will be a great chance for producers to see how the grapes at this location were able to survive through the 2015 winter.

Following the afternoon portion, participants will travel a short distance to Kosicek Vineyards located at 636 State Route 534, Harpersfield, OH 44041. A picnic style dinner will be served prior to the sprayer calibration workshop at Kosicek Vineyards from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. The dinner fee will be $5 per person. In order to ensure a meal, we must have reservations by Thursday, August 20. Reservations can be made by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

Following the picnic dinner, growers will participate in a “Preparing and Calibrating Air Blast Sprayers” session from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Kosicek Vineyards. Dr. Erdal Ozkan, from OSU's Department of Food, Agriculture, and Biological Engineering, will lead an air blast sprayer calibration session and update growers on optimizing spray coverage for better control of pests and diseases. This workshop will help save you MONEY and make you a more effective, efficient spray applicator. Learn more about calibration, how to use water sensitive paper strips, and learn about enhanced coverage and drift reduction through recent nozzle advancements. Dr. Ozkan will also recommend improvements to equipment, GPA, pressure, nozzle selection, and speed to maximize coverage and control. A special thank you is extended to Fred's Water Service in Madison, Ohio for supplying the air blast sprayer for this workshop. Two hours of Commercial & Private CORE Pesticide Applicator Credits will be offered for attendees.

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

**Ashtabula County Dairy Farm Appreciation Picnic**

Join OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Dairy Service Unit for a “Ashtabula County Dairy Farm Appreciation Picnic” on Saturday, August 29, 2015 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Bob Barnard Pavilion at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

The Ashtabula County Dairy Service Unit will have hamburgers, hotdogs, assorted side dishes and ice cream available for dairy farm families. Take a well-deserved break from the dairy and enjoy fellowship with fellow dairy families. This picnic is free and will be held rain or shine.

Please dress for the weather. Participants are asked to bring a lawn chair. In order to better plan for food, please courtesy RSVP to the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008 by August 25, 2015. A program flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

**Ashtabula County Barn Quilts Dedicated at Fairgrounds**

On Wednesday, July 29, representatives from the Ashtabula County Farm Bureau, OSU Extension, Ashtabula County 4-H and the Pymatuning Valley FFA Chapter gathered to dedicate 3 additional Barn Quilts (4-H, OSU Extension and FFA). These 3 three quilts join the Ashtabula County Farm Bureau Barn Quilt which was dedicated last summer.
2015 Fall Amur Sale
The 2015 Ashtabula SWCD Fall Amur Sale is now in progress. Orders will be taken until September 18, 2015. Triploid White Amurs sell for $14.00 each and are between 10-12” in length. Fish will arrive at the Ashtabula County Fair Grounds west-side parking lot on Tuesday September 22, 2015 and must be picked up between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. No deliveries can be made and the fish cannot be temporarily stored. If you are unable to pick them up let us know the name of the individual who can.

On pickup day, please bring a clean container of your own pond water. You must bring one 5-gallon bucket for every two Amurs ordered. Please line each container with an UNSCENTED, HEAVY DUTY garbage bag, and fill containers ¾ full with water. Do not clamp lids over bags and make holes in bags. Let us know if you will be driving more than 30 minutes on your way home.

You may obtain an order form from our website at www.ashtabulaswcd.org, or call our office at (440) 576-4946. Payments must be made when placing the order. THERE ARE NO REFUNDS ON AMUR ORDERS NOT PICKED UP.

Properly Using & Calibrating Airblast and Boom Sprayers Workshop to be held in Chardon on August 28
Fruit growers and agricultural producers are invited to participate in the hands-on workshop “Properly Using & Calibrating Airblast and Boom Sprayers” from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Sage’s Fruit Farm located at 11355 Chardon Road, Chardon, OH 44024 on Friday, August 28, 2015. Dr. Erdal Ozkan, from OSU’s Department of Food, Agriculture, and Biological Engineering, will lead the calibration sessions for the orchard airblast and boom sprayer. This workshop is intended to update and demonstrate to growers how to optimize spray coverage to better manage pests and diseases. This session will help save you MONEY and make you a more effective, efficient spray applicator. Learn more about calibration, how to use water-sensitive paper strips, and learn about enhanced coverage and drift reduction through recent nozzle advancements. Dr. Ozkan will also discuss improvements to equipment, GPA applied for coverage, pressure, nozzle selection and speed to maximize coverage and control. A special thank you is extended to Fred’s Water Service in Madison, Ohio for supplying both the orchard airblast and boom sprayer for this workshop. Two hours of Commercial & Private CORE Pesticide Applicator Credits will be offered to workshop attendees. Call the Geauga County Extension office at 440-834-4656 for more information.

Properly Using & Calibrating A Horse-Drawn Airblast and Boom Sprayers Workshop to be held in Burton on August 28
Commercial vegetable growers and agricultural producers are invited to participate in the hands-on workshop “Properly Using & Calibrating A Horse-Drawn Airblast and Boom Sprayers” from 2–4:30pm at Abner Miller’s Farm, located at 16828 Jug Street, Burton, OH 44021. Dr. Erdal Ozkan, from OSU’s Department of Food, Agriculture, and Biological Engineering, will lead the calibration sessions for the airblast and boom sprayer. This workshop is intended to update and demonstrate to growers how to optimize spray coverage to better manage pests and diseases. This session will help save you MONEY and make you a more effective, efficient spray applicator. Learn more about calibration, how to use water-sensitive paper strips, and learn about enhanced coverage and drift reduction through recent nozzle advancements. Dr. Ozkan will also discuss improvements to equipment, GPA applied for coverage, pressure, nozzle selection and speed to maximize coverage and control. A special thank you is extended to Fred’s Water Service in Madison, Ohio for supplying the latest in boom sprayers for this workshop. Two hours of Commercial & Private CORE Pesticide Applicator Credits will be offered to workshop attendees. Call the Geauga County Extension office at 440-834-4656 for more information.
NCR-SARE Announces 2016 Call for Partnership Grant Proposals
The 2016 North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NCR-SARE) Partnership Grant Program Call for Proposals is now available online at http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Our-Grant-Programs/Partnership-Grant-Program

NCR-SARE’s Partnership Grant program is intended to foster cooperation between agriculture professionals and small groups of farmers and ranchers to catalyze on-farm research, demonstration, and education activities related to sustainable agriculture.

Individual grants are limited to $30,000. NCR-SARE expects to fund about 8 projects in the twelve-state North Central Region with this call. A total of approximately $240,000 is available for this program. NCR-SARE will be accepting online submissions for the Partnership Grant Program. More information about the online submission system can be found in the call for proposals. The deadline for Partnership Program proposals is October 29, 2015 at 4pm CDT. NCR-SARE administers each of its grant programs with specific priorities, audiences, and timelines. The focus for each of the NCR-SARE grant programs is on research and education. Funding considerations are made based on the relevance and potential of the project to increase the sustainability of agriculture in the region, as well as how well the applicant articulates the research and education components of their sustainable agriculture grant proposals.

NCR-SARE’s Administrative Council (AC) members decide which projects will receive SARE funds. The AC includes a diverse mix of agricultural stakeholders in the region. Council members hail from regional farms and ranches, the Cooperative Extension Service, universities, and nonprofit organizations. In addition, regional representatives of the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and NCR agribusinesses, state agencies, and foundations sit at the table to distribute grant money.

Each state in SARE's North Central Region has one or more State Sustainable Agriculture Coordinators who can provide information and assistance to potential grant applicants. Interested applicants can find their State Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator online at http://www.northcentralsare.org/State-Programs. For questions or additional information regarding the Partnership Grant Program, contact Beth Nelson or Rob Myers at bethnelson@umn.edu or myersrob@missouri.edu

Vegetable of the Week- Cucumbers (Cucumis sativus)
By Denise Johnson

Cucumbers are a warm weather crop that is easy to grow in full sun and in fertile, moist soil. They prefer a soil pH between 6 and 6.5 or slightly acidic. Cucumbers do not like cold weather so direct sow seeds when soil temperatures are above 70F and evening air temperatures do not dip below 60F. Plant seeds 1 - 1.5" deep, spaced 2" apart and provide 5 - 6' between rows so the vines can spread. If seeds are started indoors, take care not to disturb the taproot when transplanting. To thin cucumbers, cut or pinch rather than pulling seedlings which can damage the roots of other plants.

Once in the ground, cucumbers are heavy feeders and the addition of nitrogen fertilizers mid-season is recommended. Cucumbers come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors and can be eaten raw or pickled. Select the varieties that best suit your garden size and desired use. If you have limited space try a compact variety such as Salad Bush or Bush-Pickle. The Marketmore 76 is disease resistance, dark green and uniform in size while the Burpless is a hybrid that is ready to harvest in 62 days and is great for slicing and grows well on a trellis.

Cucumbers are subject to several pests and diseases including striped or spotted cucumber beetles, aphids, squash vine borer, bacterial wilt and powdery mildew. Good management practices of rotating crops, spacing plants for
good airflow, watching and removing insects as well as good sanitation practices of removing infested plants and destroying old plant material will help increase and extend your harvest.

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

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