Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

If you haven’t attended a Farm Bill ARC/PLC meeting there are still two opportunities to do so. December 9th in Ashtabula and December 12th in Geauga. Check out the flyers for more info.

Deer season is this week so whether you are hunting or harvesting we wish you good luck and safety. If you are looking for a new Ashtabula county plat to help you locate property boundaries, read the article on how to purchase one.

Stay safe!

Lee Beers
Trumbull County Extension Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County Extension Educator
A hunting we will go: laws landowners need to know
By: Peggy Kirk Hall
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/mon-12022019-1222pm/hunting-we-will-go-laws-landowners-need-know

With archery season in full swing and deer gun season opening today, hunters will be out in full force across Ohio. That means it’s also high season for questions about hunting laws, trespassers, property harm, and landowner liability. Below, we provide answers to the top ten frequently asked questions we receive on these topics.

1. I gave them permission to hunt on my land, but do I have to sign something? Yes. Permission to hunt should be in writing. Ohio law requires a person to obtain written permission from a landowner or the landowner’s agent before hunting on private lands or waters and to carry the written permission while hunting. A hunter who doesn’t obtain written permission can be subject to criminal misdemeanor charges. ORC 1533.17. The ODNR provides a permission form at http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/Portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/hunting/Pub8924_PermissiontoHunt.pdf. If a hunter uses another form, read it carefully before signing and ensure that it only addresses hunting and doesn’t grant other rights that you don’t want to allow on the land.

2. Do family members need a license to hunt on my land? Some of them will, depending on their relationship to you. Resident landowners, their children of any age and their grandchildren under the age of 18 are exempt from the hunting license requirement when hunting on the landowners’ private lands and waters. The same rule applies if a limited liability company (LLC), limited liability partnership (LLP) or a trust holds the land and the LLC, LLP or trust has three or fewer members, partners, trustees and beneficiaries, as long as the LLC member, LLP partner or trustee is a resident of Ohio. When the landowner is not a resident, only the landowner, spouse and children of any age may hunt without a license, and only if the landowner’s state of residency grants the same rights to Ohioans who own land in that state. ORC 1533.10. Family members who don’t fall under the license exemption must obtain a hunting license and follow the written permission requirement.

3. Does a hunter need my permission to retrieve an animal injured on another property? Yes. The written permission requirement applies to all of these activities: shooting, shooting at, catching, killing, injuring, or pursuing a wild bird, wild waterfowl or wild animal. ORC 1533.17.
4. **Will I be liable if a hunter is injured on my land?** Probably not. Two laws apply to this situation, depending upon whether you gave the hunter permission. A landowner is not liable for injuries to or harm caused by a hunter who does not have written permission to be on the land. ORC 1533.17. Ohio’s Recreational User Statute applies when a hunter does have permission to be on the land; it states that a landowner has no legal duty to keep the premises safe for a hunter and assumes no responsibility for or incurs liability for any injury to person or property caused by any act of a hunter. ORC 1533.181. Note that this immunity doesn’t apply if the landowner charges a fee for hunting, unless the fee is a payment made under a hunting lease with a hunter or hunting group. ORC 1533.18. Read more about the law in our law bulletin, here. These laws provide significant protection from liability for hunter injuries, but won’t protect a landowner who willfully or recklessly causes harm to hunters. One situation that might rise to the level of willful or reckless conduct by a landowner is granting permission to too many hunters and failing to inform or manage the hunters, explained below.

5. **What if several people want to hunt on my land—how many should I allow?** Ohio law does state how many hunters can have permission to hunt on a parcel, but be careful about setting up a dangerous situation by allowing multiple hunters on the land at once. If you do give permission to several hunters, let them know that others could also be hunting on the land and designate a particular parking area so that they know when other hunters are present. You could even consider scheduling hunters on certain days. If the hunters are part of a hunting club, consider leasing your land to the hunting club and letting the club decide how to manage multiple hunters (see our Hunting Lease checklist, here). Taking such steps to manage multiple hunters will ensure that you aren’t behaving recklessly and have immunity from liability under the Recreational User Statute.

6. **Should I allow a hunter to bring along someone who’s not hunting?** In regards to liability for that person, the Recreational User Statute described above applies to any person engaging in any kind of recreational activity, in addition to hunting. Hiking or walking on the land is a recreational activity covered under the law. As long as you give permission and don’t charge the recreational user a fee, the law provides immunity from liability for their injuries.

7. **What if a hunter leaves a tree stand or a blind on my land—can I get rid of it?** It depends. It’s okay to carefully remove a stand or blind from the area, but be careful about damaging or getting rid of it too soon if it’s the property
of a hunter who had permission to be on the land. According to Ohio common law, you might be liable for the property under a claim of “conversion” if the property is not “abandoned” or “lost.” Abandoned property is that to which the owner has relinquished all rights with the intention of not reclaiming it, while lost property is that which the owner has involuntarily parted with through neglect, carelessness, or inadvertence. A finder who possesses abandoned property takes absolute title to the property, while a finder of lost property takes title against everyone except the owner. In either case, destroying or disposing of property that is not abandoned or lost could lead to a claim of conversion, and you could be liable for the damages.

8. **What if a hunter who had my permission to hunt ends up harming my property?** There are two ways to deal with property harm from hunters. First, the hunting laws prohibit a hunter from acting in a negligent, careless or reckless manner so as to injure persons or property. Violating this law can lead to first degree misdemeanor charges and compensation to the landowner, as well as revocation of the hunting licenses and permits. ORC 1533.171 and 1533.99. Second, Ohio law allows a landowner to seek compensation for the “reckless “destruction of vegetation, trees and crops under ORC 901.51. Reckless means acting intentionally and without regard for consequences. If successful, a landowner can receive triple the amount of the harm caused to the property.

9. **What can I do to a trespasser who’s hunting on my land?** Dealing with trespassers is tricky. First, don’t willfully harm the trespasser, as you could be liable for causing intentional harm. Second, call your local ODNR wildlife officer or the Turn in a Poacher program, below, to report the incident. Third, read our law bulletin on “Do’s and Don’ts of Dealing with Trespassers on the Farm,” available on farmoffice.osu.edu, [here](#).

10. **What if I see someone violating hunting laws?** ODNR’s “Turn in a Poacher” program encourages the public to report wildlife violations such as hunting out of season or without a license or permission. The program provides several ways to report: complete an online form available at [http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/stay-informed/turn-in-a-poacher-tip](http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/stay-informed/turn-in-a-poacher-tip) and submit it through the internet or via mail, call the TIP hotline at 1-800-POACHER, or use the same number to text photos of suspects, vehicles or signs of violations. All reports are confidential.

The nursery rhyme “A Hunting We Will Go” paints a happy-go-lucky picture of hunting. But hunting raises many questions and concerns for agricultural landowners. Ohio law offers rules and remedies that can ease those
concerns. Landowners who know and use the laws just might be able to hum along with the nursery rhyme through hunting season.

**New genetically modified corn produces up to 10% more than similar types**

By Erik Stokstad  

Supporters of genetic engineering have long promised it will help meet the world’s growing demand for food. But despite the creation of many genetically modified (GM) pest- and herbicide-resistant crops, scientists haven’t had much success with boosting crop growth. Now, researchers have for the first time shown they can reliably increase corn yields up to 10% by changing a gene that increases plant growth—regardless of whether growing conditions are poor or optimal.

“It’s incredible,” says Kan Wang, a molecular biologist at Iowa State University in Ames who was not involved in the new study. Aside from increasing corn harvests, she says, the new modifications should inspire other researchers in the quest for coaxing higher yields out of other crops.

The world’s most widely planted GM crops, including soybean, corn, and cotton, were created with a few relatively simple genetic tweaks. By adding a single gene from bacteria to certain crop varieties, for example, scientists gave them the ability to make a protein that kills many kinds of insects. Another simple genetic manipulation results in crops that withstand glyphosate or other herbicides; one benefit is that farmers can kill weeds without eroding the soil. Yet another protects crops during drought. But it’s been a lot harder to come up with plants that also yield more grain in good conditions, because of the complex genetics involved in plant growth.

Starting in about 2000, companies around the world began to screen in earnest for single genes that could increase yield. Only a few identified genes have shown promise, and many companies have reduced or stopped screening for genes related to crop yield, because of the low rate of success.
But researchers at Corteva Agriscience, a chemical and seed company based in Wilmington, Delaware, decided to look at genes that function like master switches for growth and yield. They picked MADS-box genes, a group common in many plants, before settling on one (zmm28) to alter in corn plants. The challenge of working with genes that regulate development is making sure they turn on the right amount at the right time and in the right type of tissues. "It’s awfully easy to get messed up plants" if the genes are too active, says Jeff Habben, a plant physiologist at Corteva who helped lead the research.

The group aimed to fuse zmm28 with a new promoter, a stretch of DNA that controls when the gene is activated. After trying a dozen, they found one that worked reliably. Usually, zmm28 turns on when corn plants begin to flower. The added promoter turned on zmm28 earlier than happens naturally and also continued to boost the gene’s beneficial effects after flowering. "If you make the gene work harder and longer, you can make the plant perform better," Wang says.

The researchers tested the enhanced gene’s performance in 48 commercial types of corn, known as hybrids, that are commonly used to feed livestock. In field tests across corn-growing regions of the United States between 2014 and 2017, they found that the GM hybrids typically yielded 3% to 5% more grain than control plants. Some yielded 8% to 10% more, the team reports this week in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The benefit held regardless of how good or bad the growing conditions were.

“This is one of the best examples where GM for yield actually works convincingly in a field environment,” says Matthew Paul, a crop scientist at Rothamsted Research in Harpenden, U.K.

The increased growth is due to several factors. First, the engineered plants have slightly bigger leaves, which are 8% to 9% better at turning sunlight into sugars. “This increase is really a big deal,” says Jingrui Wu, a plant physiologist at Corteva, because photosynthesis has been difficult to improve with genetic engineering. The plants are also 16% to 18% more efficient at using nitrogen, a key soil nutrient—another trait that has been difficult for plant breeders to manipulate because of complex genetics.

“This looks very promising from a commercial point of view," says Dirk Inzé, a molecular biologist at VIB, a research institute in Flanders, Belgium. Corteva has already applied to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for approval of new higher-yielding hybrids. (Although zmm28and its promoter occur naturally in corn, they were paired using a technique that USDA regulates as biotechnology.)

Habben estimates it will take 6 to 10 years to gain formal approval in countries around the world. There’s a “good chance” that related regulatory genes might boost yield in
other cereals, Inzé says. The large-scale field demonstration in corn “reinforces our belief that intrinsic yield can be improved if we do it cleverly,” Wang says. “This indeed will give people inspiration.”

Andrew’s Monthly Ashtabula County News Article

Hello, Ashtabula County! 2019 is quickly drawing to a close and harvest is wrapping up here and across the state. As farmers are finishing up, there will continue to be machinery out on the roads, so keep an eye out for Slow Moving Vehicle signs and flashing lights. You can learn more about farm safety and road safety at https://agsafety.osu.edu/. In addition to farm safety, it is also deer season this week, so stay safe if you are participating and good luck!

Today, I want to talk about the 2018 Farm Bill and the programs being offered this month.

The Ashtabula County Farm Bill meeting will be Monday, December 9th at 1:00 P.M. The Geauga County Farm Bill meeting will be Monday, December 12th at 1:00 P.M.

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Just about one year ago on December 20, 2018, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 was signed into law. This act, also known as the 2018 Farm Bill, is a bi-partisan bill that consist of 12 acts that will be funded at $867 billion dollars over the next 10 years. This is a massive piece of legislation and there have been many changes from the last 2014 Farm Bill, including changes to the commodity programs producers can enroll in. These commodity programs are in place to provide payments on historical base acres when the price and/or crop revenue fall below established levels. Differences between Agriculture Risk Coverage and the Price Loss Coverage programs for corn, soybean and wheat acreage must be considered and enrolled in for 2019 and 2020.

The OSU Extension and the Farm Service Agency are working together to hold Farm Bill Programs across the state of Ohio. These programs are designed to help producers learn more about the enrollment process and the decision between Farm Bill programs. In Northeast Ohio there has already been programs held in Trumbull and Portage Counties. There will be two more meeting held in Northeast Ohio this month. Consider attending to learn which program would better suit your farm and how to make the selection.

The Ashtabula County Farm Bill meeting will be Monday, December 9th at 1:00 P.M. at the Ashtabula County Extension Office, located at 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH 44047. The cost of this program is free but please RSVP by calling 440-576-9008.

The Geauga County Farm Bill meeting will be Monday, December 12th at 1:00 P.M. at the Geauga County Extension Office, located at 14269 Claridon-Troy Road; P.O. Box
387 Burton, OH 44021. The cost of this program is free but please RSVP by calling 440-834-4656.
I will be teaching both programs and I hope to see you at one! If you are unable to attend but still want to learn about the 2018 Farm Bill ARC/PLC options contact me at the Ashtabula Extension Office and we can discuss which options are best for you.

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Andrew Holden is an Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator for Ohio State University Extension. Andrew can be reached at 440-576-9008 or Holden.155@osu.edu
CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu

2019 Ashtabula County Plat Book Available

The new 2019 edition of the Ashtabula County Plat Book is now available for purchase for $25 + tax at Ashtabula County - OSU Extension Office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson. Premium wall maps are also available. For more information contact the office at (440) 576-9008. Traditional landownership maps by township and range, a landowner index for easy cross referencing, and other county information are all available in the new plat book. Visit mappingsolutionsGIS.com for digital versions of Ashtabula County landowner maps. Mapping Solutions is the publisher.

Trumbull County Farmer Lunch Series Returns for 2020

OSU Extension, Trumbull SWCD, and USDA-NRCS have teamed up again to offer a series of educational luncheons in 2020. We’ll kick off the series on January 15th with a discussion on the agronomic and legal requirements for growing industrial hemp. On February 19th we’ll be talking about how to implement grass waterways to prevent erosion which is highly relevant with our recent bouts of heavy rains creating washouts throughout the region. We will be taking a break in March and hope you attend our NE Ohio Agronomy School on March 11th, but we’ll be back on April 15th with a farmer discussion on cover crops and what works in our region, and what does not. Each of these events is $5/person and this includes lunch. Lunch is again sponsored by the Trumbull County Holstein Club to keep costs down. The programs start at 11:30A.M. and will conclude by 1:00P.M. If you would like to register or have further questions, please call 330-638-6783 or email beers.66@osu.edu.
Upcoming Events

December 9, 2019 1:00pm
ARC/PLC Public Meeting – Ashtabula Co. Extension Office

December 12, 2019 1:00pm
ARC/PLC Public Meeting – Geauga Co. Extension Office

January 15, 2020 11:30AM
Trumbull Farmer Lunch Series – Hemp: What You Need to Know

February 12, 2020 11:30AM
Trumbull Farmer Lunch Series – Grass Waterways for Erosion Control

March 11, 2020 9AM to 3PM
Northeast Ohio Agronomy School – Bristolville, OH

April 15, 2020 11:30AM
Trumbull Farmer Lunch Series – Cover Crops – A Farmer Discussion

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Geauga County Farm Bill Update: Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC)/Price Loss Coverage (PLC)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 1:00 P.M.

The 2018 Farm Bill allows the choice to enroll in ARC or PLC for 2019-2023. Enrollment for 2019 is currently open with the deadline set as March 15, 2020. Join OSU Extension and the Farm Service Agency for an informational meeting to learn about changes to the ARC/PLC, important dates and deadlines, crop insurance – supplemental coverage option, and using decision tools to evaluate program choices to make informed program decisions.

Location: Geauga County Extension Office, 14269 Claridon-Troy Road; P.O. Box 387 Burton, OH 44021

Cost: Free

Contact information: Call Les Ober at 440-834-4656 to RSVP
Ashtabula County Farm Bill Update: Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC)/Price Loss Coverage (PLC)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 1:00 P.M.

The 2018 Farm Bill allows the choice to enroll in ARC or PLC for 2019-2023. Enrollment for 2019 is currently open with the deadline set as March 15, 2020. Join OSU Extension and the Farm Service Agency for an informational meeting to learn about changes to the ARC/PLC, important dates and deadlines, crop insurance – supplemental coverage option, and using decision tools to evaluate program choices to make informed program decisions.

Location: Ashtabula Extension Office; 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH 44047

Cost: Free    Date/Time: Dec. 9th, 2019 - 1:00 PM

Contact: Call Andrew Holden at 440-576-9008 to RSVP
It’s not the most talked about topic on the farm, but yet it is one of the more important things to think about if you own livestock. Livestock mortality is part of raising livestock, so you need to have a plan in place when the need arises. Composting is a common practice, but there’s some things you should know before you try it. Join us to learn more and become certified in Livestock Mortality Composting.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION. Registration includes Lunch, LMC Book, materials and handouts. Please mail to 490 S. Broad St. Canfield, OH 44406, fax (330-533-2424), or drop off the registration to the OSU Extension Office in Canfield. The program is filled on a “first come, first served basis.”

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Email: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________

Number Attending ($25): _____________

Mortality Compost

LOCATION: Mahoning County Extension, 490 S. Broad St., Canfield, OH 44406
CONTACT: 330-533-5538
COST: $25 per person
*Lunch is provided

The Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

mahoning.osu.edu

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TRUMBULL COUNTY FARMER LUNCH SERIES

JANUARY 15, 2020 11:30A.M. – HEMP: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
FEBRUARY 19, 2020 11:30A.M. – GRASS WATERWAYS FOR EROSION CONTROL
APRIL 15, 2020 11:30A.M. – COVER CROPS: A FARMER DISCUSSION

The Trumbull County Farmer Lunch Series returns for 2020! This series of education events is brought to you by OSU Extension Trumbull County, Trumbull County SWCD, and the USDA NRCS. Sponsoring lunch again this year is the Trumbull County Holstein club. We request reservations one week in advance for an accurate count for lunch. To register call OSU Extension at 330-638-6783.

Location: Trumbull County Ag and Family Education Center, 520 West Main St, Cortland, OH 44410

Cost: $5/person

Contact information: 330-638-6783 or beers.66@osu.edu

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College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

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