I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. I cannot believe that we are already in December. We are working hard to design this winter’s upcoming educational programs. In just over a week, our first round of Farm Bill programs will be held in Trumbull and Portage counties. Come learn more about the commodity portion of the farm bill. Landowners and producers will both have important decisions to make before the end of March. This Friday, December 5 is the last day for dairy farmers to enroll in the Dairy Margin Protection Program—with milk prices set to decline in 2015, it would be a wise choice to explore this program. Stay warm!

David Marrison, AG Educator

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Last minute thoughts about the MPP-Dairy for producers in 2015

The last day to enroll in the new Margin Protection Program for Dairy Producers, MPP-Dairy, is this Friday, December 5. Andrew Novakovic, E. V. Baker Professor of Agricultural Economics, Cornell University wrote an article for Dairy Herd Management website last week which shares a last minute discussion piece for dairy farmers deciding whether to sign up for the program or not. This article can be accessed at: [http://www.dairyherd.com/news/novakovic-last-minute-thoughts-about-mpp-dairy-producers-2015](http://www.dairyherd.com/news/novakovic-last-minute-thoughts-about-mpp-dairy-producers-2015)

Farm Bill Programs to be Held

OSU Extension in Northeast Ohio will be collaborating with our local Farm Service Agency offices to offer meetings to discuss the crop side of the 2014 Farm Bill. Specific details will be presented on the Yield Update (landowner decision), base re-allocation (landowner decision) and program choice between PLC, ARC-County and ARC-Individual (farmer decision). There is no cost to attend these workshops but pre-registration is requested. The following dates have been established (thus far). Producers and landowners can choose the program which fits their schedule the best.

**Tuesday, December 16, 2014**

Trumbull County AG Center
520 West Main Street
Cortland, Ohio 44410
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
To reserve call: (330) 637-2046 ext 109
Prime Bovine’s Breakfast with Santa on December 13
The Prime Bovine 4-H Club will be hosting a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 13, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Lenox Community Center located at 2509 Lenox-New Lyme Road South of Jefferson, Ohio. The breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. The cost is $5 per person for ages 4 & up. Children 3 and under are free. The cost includes breakfast and a chance for your child to tell Santa what they want for Christmas. Pictures will be available at an additional cost courtesy of Lori Spellman Photography. All proceeds benefit the Prime Bovine 4-H Club.

Poinsettia Care by Chris Penrose, Morgan County
How often have we purchased a beautiful poinsettia just to have it look awful within a couple weeks? Here are a few tips to keep it beautiful through the holiday season. Poinsettias are grown in a soilless mix that drains rapidly causing the plant to dry out quicker than houseplants grown in potting soil. Punch holes in the decorative foil and place a tray underneath to allow for thorough watering. You may have to water twice a week depending on how dry is the environment. Allow the soil to become dry to the touch, but don’t let the leaves wilt between the waterings. Place the plant in the strongest light possible. A south window is the best. Don’t let any part of the plant touch the cold window pane because it may be injured. Temperature should be maintained between 65 and 70 degrees. Keep plants out of cold drafts and away from heating vents.

Winter Weather Outlook by Jim Noel
November will go down as a top 10 coldest November most likely with drier than normal precipitation and snowier than normal. If you look at the 10 coldest Novembers, the December to February period that follows is usually near normal temperatures and slightly wetter than normal precipitation but with a lot of changes and extreme within that period. The big high pressure in Alaska that drove cold air into the U.S. is forecast to breakdown and be replaced by more typical low pressure. This will allow for a more westerly flow pattern into a good part of December meaning temperatures will be near to slightly above normal the next 3-4 weeks. At the same time, the dry northwest flow will be replaced by a more active pattern yield normal or slightly wetter than normal conditions in Ohio the next 3-4 weeks.
The official winter outlook by NOAA/NWS/CPC calls for equal chances for above, normal or below normal temperatures and slightly below normal precipitation. In the shorter-range, expect colder than normal weather to return this week with limited precipitation except near Lake Erie. However, by the end of Thanksgiving weekend into the start of December, it will turn much warmer than normal with wetter weather moving in. High temperatures in the first several days of December will reach into the 50s with some 60s even possible.

After a drier finish to November the first week of December will turn wetter. For the latest 16-day average rainfall outlook go to the National Weather Service Ohio River Forecast Center link at: http://www.erh.noaa.gov/ohrfc/HAS/images/NAEFS16day.pdf Normal rainfall is just over 1.5 inches for the 16-day period. For the latest NOAA/NWS U.S. climate model monthly temperature outlooks go to: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/people/wwang/cfsv2fcst/htmls/usT2me3Mon.html For the latest NOAA/NWS U.S. climate model monthly precipitation outlooks go to: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/people/wwang/cfsv2fcst/htmls/usPrece3Mon.html

2014 Ohio Soybean Performance Trials Available by Laura Lindsey, OSU Soybean Specialist
The purpose of the Ohio Soybean Performance Trials is to evaluate soybean varieties for yield and other agronomic characteristics. This evaluation gives soybean producers comparative information for selecting the best varieties for their unique production systems. Head-to-Head Comparisons of Conventional, Liberty Link, and Roundup Ready (New for 2014). Varieties were grouped, tested, and analyzed by maturity (early and late). Conventional, Liberty Link, and Roundup Ready varieties were tested together and sprayed with conventional herbicides to allow for head-to-head comparisons. Conventional, Liberty Link, and Roundup Ready entries are statistically comparable within a maturity range (early or late). A pdf of the 2014 Ohio Soybean Performance Trials can be found here: http://stepupsoy.osu.edu/news/2014-ohio-soybean-performance-trials

New Live Smart Website Available from OSU Extension
Ohioans who want to “live smart” have a new resource, courtesy of Ohio State University Extension. The Live Smart Ohio website, online at go.osu.edu/LiveSmartOhio, offers consumers research-based information on food, money, family and relationships, or about mind and body. The new site draws information from other blogs previously written by Extension’s Family and Consumer Sciences professionals, including Live Healthy Live Well and Safe Food for Your Family. In addition to blog posts, the site will house OSU Extension fact sheets, videos, photos and webinars.

Agriculture Outlook Meeting to be held on Monday, December 8 in Canfield, Ohio
With crop program decision windows open, now is the time for producers to think strategically about their farm’s cash flow, exposure to risk, and the means available to manage these risks. This meeting will feature presentations by Ohio State experts on key issues in the agricultural community for 2015, including policy changes, key issues, and market behavior with respect to farm, food and energy resources, and the environment. We’ll cover everything from land rental prices to Farm Bill decisions.

This outlook meeting will be held on Monday, December 8, 2014 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. at the Canfield Fairgrounds, Colonial Inn Building located at 7265 Columbiana-Canfield Road in Canfield. Reservations are requested by calling the Mahoning County Extension at 330-533-5538 or by emailing Eric Barrett at barrett.90@osu.edu. Reservations are requested by December 2, 2014. So call today! The registration cost is $15 per person. The registration form can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/outlook2015

Big data and UAVs on the farm? Webinar will address legal issues by Peggy Hall
OSU’s Agricultural & Resource Law Program is pleased to announce its inaugural webinar, Big Data and UAVs: Legal Issues for Agriculture, scheduled for Friday, December 12 at 1 pm. This is the first webinar in the program’s new
“Ohio Food, Agriculture and Environmental Law Webinar Series,” offering monthly legal webinars on issues of importance to Ohio agriculture.

The webinar will feature John Dillard, an Associate Attorney with the law firm of Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Matz, PC in Washington, DC and a leading expert on legal issues with technology and agriculture. With a background in agriculture and experience advising clients in the food and agricultural industries, Dillard will present a practical analysis of the legal issues raised by agriculture’s increasing use of large data sources and UAVs. Dillard authors a blog, Ag in the Courtroom, on AgWeb.com and Legal Ease, a column in Farm Journal magazine. He has appeared on national television and radio agricultural programs to discuss legal issues that affect agriculture.

Future webinars in the Ohio Food, Agriculture and Environmental Law Webinar Series will feature other national and state experts discussing legal issues of importance to Ohio agriculture. Topics in the series will include:

- **The 2014 Farm Bill: Guiding a Client through the New Law**, with Bill Bridgforth of Ramsay, Bridgforth, Robinson & Raley LLP, Pine Bluff, Arkansas on Friday, January 9, 2015 at 1 pm.
- **Managing Pollutant Discharge Risk on Farms**, with Chris Walker and Jack Van Kley of Van Kley & Walker LLP, Dayton/Columbus, Ohio and Tom Mehnke of Mehnke Consulting LLC, Greenville, Ohio on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 1 pm (tentative).
- **Introduction to Food Law:  What You Need to Know to Build a Food Law Practice**, with Jason Foscolo of Foscolo & Handel PLLC, Sag Harbor, New York on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 1 pm.
- **Nursing Home Costs & Medicaid:  The One-Two Punch to the Family Farm** with Craig Vandervoort of Sitterly & Vandervoort Ltd, Lancaster, Ohio on Friday, April 10, 2015 at 1 pm.
- **Rights and Remedies for Protecting Your Water Supply in Ohio** with Joe Reidy of Frost Brown Todd LLC, Columbus, Ohio and Peggy Kirk Hall of OSU’s Agricultural & Resource Law Program on Thursday, May 14, 2015 (tentative).

For information on how to access the complimentary webinars and archived recordings, visit the “webinars” tab on http://aglaw.osu.edu.

**Stored Forage Production School on Wednesday Afternoons in January, 2015**

Forages supply a significant part of the feed in most dairy and other ruminant animal operations in northeast Ohio. To help producers learn about new forage research and new technology, OSU Extension in Ashtabula County is pleased to announce they will be a host site for OSU Extension’s **Stored Forage Production School** on January 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2015. This workshop will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. each Wednesday.

During this four week school, OSU Researchers and OSU Extension Specialists and Educators will present cutting edge information on what is new in stored forage production. All sessions will be provided via a webinar format. The Extension offices in Adams, Brown, Highland, Ashtabula, Coshocton, Monroe, Morgan, Pickaway, Pike and Wayne Counties will all be hosting a site for this series.

Topic areas which will be covered during this workshop include: What’s new in forage genetics; Small grains and double cropping; Fertility and manure utilization; What’s new in weed control; What’s new in agronomic products/additives; Precision agriculture technologies for forage production; What’s new in forage quality evaluation; Economics of Cutting management; Shrink in silage/hay making; Forage inventory management; and What’s new in corn silage.
During the workshop, participants will be able to interact with research experts and fellow producers from across the state of Ohio. Discover new, innovative ways of looking at forage production and what might work for your farm. Learn how to maximize profit per acre in Ohio’s variable weather. Explore forage cutting management strategies, double cropping options, and silage production within the context of income, harvest costs and potential impact on milk production.

There will be time for discussion and questions on each topic after it is presented. The registration fee for this program is $30 and includes a notebook of materials and school presentations. Registration is required by December 12, 2014. For more information about this program, contact the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008. A registration flyer can be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

Ag Issues Tax Webinar to be held on December 15
Local tax practitioners with an interest in farm income taxes will have an opportunity to attend a one day farm tax webinar workshop on Monday, December 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ashtabula County Extension office in Jefferson. This workshop will be taught via webinar by Dr. Phil Harris, Professor of Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin.

This program has been designed for tax practitioners who have a significant number of farm clients and therefore need a substantial amount of information on agricultural tax issues. Participants will view a live webinar given by Phil Harris. Participants will also be able to have their individual questions answered during the webinar. Registrants will also receive a valuable agricultural taxation update book. This program has been accepted for continuing education credits by the Accountancy Board of Ohio, Supreme Court, and the IRS Office of Professional Responsibility. The registration fee is $125 per person and includes continuing education credits, lunch, refreshments and the agricultural tax manual. Complete workshop information and on-line registration are available at the OSU Income Tax Schools’ website located at: http://aglaw.osu.edu/osu-income-tax-schools or can be obtained by contacting the OSU Income Tax School program at (614)292-2433.

**************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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