December is a great month to develop your budgets for next year. By all predictions, it appears that 2016 is going to be a struggle. Make sure to take time to really push the pencil on your crop budgets for next year; especially before committing to seed purchases. Make sure to shop around for the best deals on your inputs for next year. A savings of $25 per bag of seed or $50 a ton on fertilizer will be huge in 2016. We still are also waiting for any action from Congress on any potential Section 179 increase. Stay tuned!

David Marrison, AG Educator

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2015 Post Fermentation Wine Quality Control Workshops to be Held across Ohio
By Todd Steiner, Enology Program Manager & Outreach Specialist

Due to the success, interest and importance of the regional Post Fermentation Wine Quality Workshops, the OSU/OARDC Enology program will once again conduct the annual 2015 Post Fermentation Workshops for the Ohio commercial wine industry. This program is for Ohio commercial winemakers or Viticulture/Enology students.

Despite the harsh reality of receiving two harsh winters back to back causing vine damage and little to no yields across the state from our Vinifera and a somewhat lesser extent to our hybrid and American varieties, life and cellar processing must continue in wine production to meet consumer demand. The reality is that we once again have a reduction in volume processed in the cellar from our Ohio vineyards. In light of this fact, many wineries have continued to bring in more fruit or juice from out of state. Despite the grape source, it is important to vinify excellent quality wines for winery and consumer perception. A well-made wine with excellent varietal or blend characteristics can ultimately shine well in representing the whole state where conversely, a poorly made wine containing flaws can portray some serious damage to the reputation of our industry.

Varieties that had a crop this year across the state received extremely good fall conditions for ripening fruit. We are hopeful that some excellent quality wine will be produced by wineries in this case. This is one of the best fall vintage
conditions received since my time involved with the OARDC enology program. It’s simply frustrating that we do not have full varietal yields across the state from our growers to take advantage of these conditions.

These workshops are typically focused on evaluating wines made from the current vintage (2015). A focus will still be provided for these wines however similar to last year, due to the lack of production from the 2015 vintage, we will also evaluate other blends and varietals that our commercial wineries plan to introduce in 2016 for quality standards.

- Wines of good to excellent quality in sharing with the group
- Wines considered as being good in quality with beneficial discussion on ways of making them great!
  - Accomplished through further fining or blending trials
- Wines which may exhibit possible off flavors, aromas or precipitates developing in our tanks o Learn how to recognize specific faults if present
  - Many wine faults can be remedied if detected early enough in the vinification process
  - People vary in their ability in detecting certain wine faults

The regional workshops will continue to be done in a relaxed social format with winery personnel participating in an educational discussion of the wines being presented. Wines being submitted for possible flaws will be presented in a constructive format with possible remedies or treatments being suggested at this stage of vinification. One 750ml sample should be enough to share with the group in a regional setting. However, some groups have been large enough in past workshops that would benefit from bringing two 750ml sample’s for sensory evaluation if feasible. A short presentation and/or brief harvest overview will be provided by the OARDC enology and viticulture program. Besides the educational benefits being provided at the workshops, they also provide the opportunity of cohesiveness within our wine industry. This holds especially true due to the Ohio wine industry growing significantly in the last decade. The workshops will also include a tour of the hosting winery which is likely to develop important questions and conversation. We make an effort in hosting these events at different wineries in showcasing the diversity we currently have in the state of Ohio.

**Regional Settings:**
The Winery at Versailles: Tuesday, December 8, 2015, 1:30 – 5:00 pm.
6572 State Route 47
Versailles, OH 45380
Phone: (937) 526 -3232

Kosicek Vineyards: Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 1:30 – 5:00 pm. **(NORTHEAST OHIO)**
636 State Route 534
Geneva, OH 44041
Phone: (440) 361 - 4573

Hocking Hills Winery: Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 1:30 – 5:00 pm.
30402 Freeman Road
Logan, OH 43138
Phone: (740) 385 - 7117

John Christ Winery: Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 1:30 – 5:00 pm.
32421 Walker Rd.
Avon Lake, OH 44012
Phone: (440) 933 – 9672

There is no cost to attend the workshops.

If you plan on attending one of the regional workshops or would like any additional information please contact Todd Steiner by phone at office: (330) 263-3881 cell: (330) 464-2239 or e-mail at steiner.4@osu.edu. This will enable us to get a better count for the hosting winery preparations. Also, please indicate a contact e-mail or cell phone to touch base in case of in-climate weather causing us to reschedule one of the regional workshops. Since we are continuing to increase each regional workshop attendance, we encourage you to bring wine for sensory evaluation but ask that you limit your selection to several wines of most interest to you in sharing with the group for sensory evaluation and feedback.

A Slow Slog to the Finish Line on Section 179
By: Paul Neiffer Posted on December 3
http://www.agweb.com/blog/the-farm-cpa-243/a-slow-slog-to-the-finish-line-on-section-179/

As usual, Congress continues to dither on any tax extender bill for 2015. The tax extender bill would likely have Section 179 at $500,000 and 50% bonus depreciation on new purchases. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) has indicated that a one-year extension similar to last year will not work. President Obama and Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) have also indicated that a tax extender bill is likely dead-on-arrival unless certain changes are made to the Earned Income Tax Credit and making the American Opportunity Credit permanent (if other business friendly provisions are made permanent).

If all of the provisions are made permanent, the estimated cost to the federal budget over a 10 year period could exceed $800 billion. Section 179 effect is only about $3 billion of that total. Congress is trying to adjourn next Friday the 11th, but the fight over tax extenders may go beyond that deadline. If you have made large equipment purchases this year and have uncertainty on Section 179, see this post on how you might plan for it:

Examining Land Values, Rents, Crop Input Costs & Margins in 2016
Barry Ward, Leader, Production Business Management, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics

Low crop margins and uncertain land value and cash rental markets will continue to be important themes as we look ahead to 2016 as producers grapple with high costs relative to crop prices received. According to data from the Ohio Ag Statistics Service, bare cropland value increased 3.5% in Ohio in 2015. According to this data, bare cropland averaged $5850/acre, up from $5,650/acre the previous year. The Western Ohio Cropland Values and Cash Rents Survey (AEDE) was conducted in January 2015. The projected value for Average cropland in western Ohio was $7,315 per acre. Top cropland in western Ohio was projected to average $9,190 per acre while Poor cropland in western Ohio was expected to average $5,673 per acre. These values reflect projected decreases of 5.5 to 9.5%.

The Chicago Federal Reserve Bank October 1 survey of bankers found land values of “good” farmland were unchanged from last year however the 3rd quarter showed an increase in farmland values of 1% across the district. Purdue University conducted their annual land value survey in June 2015 and found decreases in farmland value that ranged from 3.8 to 5.1% depending on land productivity class.

Strong equity positions together with continued low interest rates continue to lend positive support to land values. Low projected profit margins in 2016 will likely restrict further land value increases and possibly cause values to
decrease. These competing fundamentals create a continued uncertain picture for land values in 2016 although continued low margins together with the potential for higher interest rates suggest lower farmland values in 2016.

Enterprise budget projections for Ohio’s primary row crops for 2016 indicate the potential for low margins. Returns to Variable Costs (gross revenue minus variable costs) are projected to be $185-$345 per acre for Ohio corn in 2016 depending on land production capabilities. Budget projections for 2016 soybeans show Returns to Variable Costs to be $179-$331 per acre. Wheat budget projections for 2016 show Returns to Variable Costs to be between $125 and $218 per acre. This is assuming current prices of inputs and current December, November and September 2016 futures prices, respectively. These projections are based on OSU Extension Ohio Crop Enterprise Budgets available online at: [http://aede.osu.edu/research/osu-farm-management/enterprise-budgets](http://aede.osu.edu/research/osu-farm-management/enterprise-budgets)

Strong equity positions together with higher property taxes will continue to lend support to cash rental rates however low profit margins in 2016 will put downward pressure on rents. These competing fundamentals suggest a flat to slightly lower cash rental market outlook for 2016.

Variable costs for Ohio corn for 2016 will be 8.5% to 10.6% lower compared to 2015. Variable costs for corn for 2015 are projected to be $336 to $421 per acre. Variable costs for 2016 Ohio soybeans are projected to be 6.2% to 6.6% lower and range from $196 to $214 per acre. Wheat variable expenses for 2016 are projected to range from $169 to $211 per acre. Lower fuel and fertilizer prices will be the primary fundamental drivers of lower variable costs in 2016.

Outlook information presented here was developed with data from AEDE research, the Energy Information Administration, USDA, other Land Grant research, futures markets and retail sector surveys. While gauged to the best of this author’s capabilities, forward looking statements contained in this document may prove to be incorrect due to changes in supply and demand and other political and economic related events.

**2016 Ohio Corn and Soybean Enterprise Budgets Project Lower Costs But Low to Negative Returns**

Barry Ward , Leader, Production Business Management, Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics

Production costs for Ohio field crops are forecast to be somewhat lower in 2016 but the profit picture looks poor, much the same as it did 2015. Variable costs for Ohio corn for 2016 will be 8.5% to 10.6% lower compared to 2015. Variable costs for corn for 2015 are projected to be $336 to $421 per acre. Variable costs for 2016 Ohio soybeans are projected to be 6.2% to 6.6% lower and range from $196 to $214 per acre. Wheat variable expenses for 2016 are projected to range from $169 to $211 per acre. Lower fuel and fertilizer prices will be the primary fundamental drivers of lower variable costs in 2016.

With continued lower crop prices expected for 2016, returns will likely be low to negative for many producers. Projected Returns to Variable Costs (gross revenue minus variable costs) are projected to be $185 to $345 per acre for Ohio corn in 2016 depending on land production capabilities. Budget projections for 2016 soybeans show Returns to Variable Costs to be $179 to $331 per acre. Wheat budget projections for 2016 show Returns to Variable Costs to be between $125 and $218 per acre. This is assuming current prices of inputs and current December, November and September 2016 futures prices, respectively.

Returns to Land for Ohio corn (Gross Revenue minus all costs except land cost) are projected to range from -$40 to $108/acre in 2016 depending on land production capabilities. Returns to Land for Ohio soybeans are expected to range from $6 to $150 per acre depending on land production capabilities. Wheat returns to land are projected to fall between -$51 and $35 per acre in 2016.
Total costs projected for trend line corn production in Ohio are estimated to be $813 per acre. This includes all variable costs as well as fixed machinery, labor, management and land costs. Fixed machinery costs of $130 per acre include depreciation, interest, insurance and housing. A land charge of $199 per acre is based on data from the Western Ohio Cropland Values and Cash Rents Survey Summary. Labor and management costs combined are computed to be $77 per acre. Returns Above Total Costs for trend line corn production are negative at -$169 per acre.

Total costs projected for trend line soybean production in Ohio are estimated to be $581 per acre. (Fixed machinery costs, $108 per acre, land charge, $199 per acre, labor and management costs combined, $53 per acre.) Returns Above Total Costs for trend line soybean production are also negative at -$120 per acre.

These projections are based on OSU Extension Ohio Crop Enterprise Budgets. Newly updated Enterprise Budgets for 2016 have been completed and posted to the Farm Management Website of the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics. Updated Enterprise Budgets can be viewed and downloaded from the following website: http://aede.osu.edu/research/osu-farm-management/enterprise-budgets

**Know When to Stop Checking Your Phone and Go to Sleep**
(Source: Harvard Business Review)

By now we've all heard the importance of getting enough sleep. Yet many of us let our technology sabotage us getting a good night's rest. Research has found that anxiety, due to fear of missing out, plays a major role in how we (mis)use our devices. A majority of smartphone users feel uncomfortable if they aren't in direct contact with their phones 24/7/365, even waking up to check their phones at night. To reduce your nighttime anxiety and get the sleep you need, practice not reacting to your phone's notifications. Simply don't check your phone every time it beeps. Try to check your phone only every 15 minutes, then every 30 minutes, then every hour. Once you build up your tolerance, try not checking your phone at all at night. Or if you're still struggling, keep your phone outside your bedroom at night. It's unlikely you're missing something that important.

Adapted from “Relax, Turn Off Your Phone, and Go to Sleep” by Larry Rosen

**Spout prevents maple sap backflow**
(Source: https://www.morningagclips.com/spout-prevents-maple-sap-backflow/)

Leader Evaporator Co., Inc. announces The University of Vermont was issued a Canadian Patent No. CA 2659789 from the Canadian Intellectual Property Office relating to the maple syrup production spout assembly with backflow check valve. The patent issued on November 24, 2015 is licensed exclusively to Leader Evaporator Co., Inc. in Swanton, Vermont. This patent complements US Patent No. 8,539,715 issued on September 24, 2013.

The Check Valve Adapter and Check Valve Spout were invented by Dr. Timothy Perkins, Director of the University of Vermont’s Proctor Maple Research Center. Created through collaboration with Leader Evaporator and the staff of the Proctor Maple Research Center, this spout system extends the maple sugaring season and increase maple sap production. The spout assembly covered in this patent answers the need to reduce or prevent the backflow of sap into the tree through the use of a backflow check valve. This decreases microbial contamination of the tap hole, increases soil-based water uptake by the tree, and increases sap yield for maple syrup production. UVM patents
cover production and methods of producing improved quantities of higher quality sap, revolutionizing the maple sugaring industry.

**USDA Announces Enrollment Period for Safety Net Coverage in 2016**


The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Val Dolcini announced on December 3 that producers who chose coverage from the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can begin visiting FSA county offices starting Dec. 7, 2015, to sign contracts to enroll in coverage for 2016. The enrollment period will continue until Aug. 1, 2016.

“The choice between ARC and PLC is completed and remains in effect through 2018, but producers must still enroll their farm by signing a contract each year to receive coverage,” said Dolcini. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to enroll. If a farm is not enrolled during the 2016 enrollment period, producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program. The two programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc). For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office.

**Beef 509 Workshop Offers Livestock Producers Insight into Harvesting**

by Tracy Turner (author) & John Grimes (source)

Understanding what consumers value and look for when purchasing meat can help livestock producers increase their profit potential and become more competitive in the cattle industry. “The average livestock producer rarely follows the animals through harvest to the finished product,” said John Grimes, beef coordinator for Ohio State University Extension and a member of the OSU Extension Beef Team. “Understanding how prime, choice and select cuts are determined and what goes into establishing value can help producers make more informed choices in their day-to-day management on their farm operations,” Grimes said.

To help bridge the knowledge gap, beef experts with the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences are offering a two-part Beef 509 series Feb. 20 and 27, designed to help producers take advantage of increasing consumer demand for high-quality beef products as well as position themselves for continued long-term success, he said.

“This workshop can offer producers a view beyond the farm gate to the consumer’s plate,” he said. “This very hands-on class lets producers see the other side of the business by evaluating actual carcass differences, understand how these differences translate to economic value, and to learn how their farm management decisions can impact their financial bottom line.” The two-session program will include a wide range of topics focusing on many of the steps that take place after harvest that create value for the consumer, Grimes said. “This workshop series is designed to provide producers with the information they need to keep them competitive and help them make their operations more profitable for the long term,” he said.
OSU Extension and Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center researchers and educators will teach the workshops. OSU Extension and OARDC are the outreach and research arms, respectively, of the college. The program is also sponsored by the Ohio Beef Council. Each workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The program will take place at Ohio State’s Animal Sciences Building, 2029 Fyffe Road, Columbus.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Beef Harvesting Procedures and Innovations
- Carcass Aging
- Grid Pricing
- Beef Industry Update
- Taste Panel and Shear Force Evaluation
- Genetic and Environmental Carcass Merit Factors
- Beef Carcass Grading and Fabrication
- Live, Carcass and Boxed-Beef Valuations

Registration is $150 by check made payable and sent to: Ohio Cattlemen’s Foundation, 10600 U.S. Highway 42, Marysville, Ohio 43040. For more information on the Beef 509 program, contact Grimes at 740-289-2071, ext. 242, or grimes.1@osu.edu.

Farm Safety: A Lifestyle, Not a Slogan
Source: https://blog.dol.gov/2015/09/23/farm-safety/

More than 2 million people work in the agriculture industry in the United States. It’s important work, but it’s also dangerous. In fact, it’s one of the most dangerous industries in the country. The good news is that deaths and injuries can be prevented.

Farmworkers are at high risk for work-related lung diseases, heat illness, confined space hazards, noise-induced hearing loss, fall hazards and much more. Tractors account for more than half of all farm fatalities. Dangers stem from a lack of training, unsafe equipment, carbon monoxide exposure, and moving parts that can entangle clothing and hair. But awareness and preventive action can significantly reduce these dangers. Employers and supervisors can take many steps to ensure the equipment is safe including regular inspections, training workers on safety procedures and rules of the road, and ensuring every tractor has adequate safety features like seatbelts and flashing lights.

Grain bins and silos present a different kind of danger. Moving grain acts like quicksand and can bury a worker in seconds. Stored grain also can collapse unexpectedly, engulfing any worker standing on it. Employers must not allow workers to enter grain storage facilities without proper equipment, training and common-sense precautions like turning off and locking/tagging out all equipment.

Safe farms also recognize and respond to the unique needs of their workforce. Approximately one half of all farmworkers are Hispanic. It’s imperative that employers provide training for farm employees in a language and vocabulary they understand, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has Spanish-language resources for employers to do just that. Here at OSHA, we will continue to work with agribusinesses, farm agencies, unions, farmworker organizations and community-based stakeholders to increase awareness of these hazards, and to promote safety and health on America’s farms. Learn more about our farm safety resources at: https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/agriculturaloperations/

Written by: Amy Wangdahl is the director of the Office of Maritime and Agriculture in OSHA’s Directorate of Standards and Agriculture.
Is This The Year You Create a Farm Advisory Board?
By: Sarah Beth Aubrey
http://www.agweb.com/blog/prosperity-consulting/is-this-the-year-you-create-a-farm-advisory-board/

As family partnerships and farm corporations are now the norm today, you may already be thinking that adding more opinions to the farming operation is worse than receiving another holiday fruitcake. It might be the last thing you want to stomach this holiday season. However, presumably you’re seeking efficiency over the next couple of years and maybe even the opportunity to grow strategically. Do you have the expertise on board right now to help you consider and critically evaluate new opportunities as they cross your farm gate? Or, could you simply use someone objective (re: not related to you!) to sit down and talk with about your ideas? Finally, are you curious about how other industries manage their strategic goals? If any of these sound appealing, it may be time to consider building a farm advisory board.

According to an article on fambiz.com (http://fambiz.com/category/board-of-advisors/), there are several possible reasons to set up on advisory board including:

- Helping move stubborn projects forward
- Gaining experience of outside advisors to supplement the family’s skills set
- New ideas by thinking outside the box

These make sense, but how do you find and screen for the right fit? The authors of Strategic Relationships at Work, Wendy Murphy and Kathy Kram, suggest that building what they call a ‘developmental network’ as a way to uncover potential advisory board members over time. First, think about your own expertise and what you feel is truly lacking. Then, consider professionals and peers that you know who have been successful in business, whether they are in agriculture or not. Finally, consider your own goals. What are you seeking to do differently or better in the next one to five years? What challenges are you having difficulty overcoming? Are there ways you’d like to develop as a leader in your operation or within the agricultural industry? All of these goals can potentially be supported by the right advisors.

Finally, advisory boards require networking and being willing to ask someone for their time and expertise. While most operations don’t pay for advisory members, doing so may work in some circumstances. Remember don’t confuse an advisory board with your formal corporate board of directors; advisory board members do just that—they provide commentary and help you think through decisions—but they don’t have a vote or the final say.

To reach me, please visit my website at www.sarahbethaubrey.com or send me an email at sarah@sarahbethaubrey.com

Ohio Department of Agriculture Offers Tips for Purchasing Firewood
REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Dec. 3, 2015) – As winter quickly approaches and more Ohioans look to firewood to help heat their homes, Ohio Agriculture Director David T. Daniels is offering some basic tips to help Ohioans when purchasing wood. “Many Ohioans rely on firewood to heat their homes during the cold winter months. That’s why it’s important to know the laws about how firewood must be sold in order to make sure you, the consumer, are getting what you pay for,” said Director Daniels.

The following firewood rules and regulations are helpful to review before making purchases:
- Non-packaged firewood must be sold by the cord or by fractions of a cord. One cord, when properly stacked, should be 8 feet long by 4 feet high and 4 feet wide (128 cubic feet).
- If sold in bulk, firewood must be purchased by the weight in ton measurements. This must be weighed on a certified scale.
➢ It is illegal to sell firewood by any other unit of measurement such as a rick, rack, face cord or truckload. If a consumer believes that a seller did not comply with these rules and regulations, the person should immediately contact the seller.

➢ If non-packaged firewood is purchased, the seller must present the consumer with a delivery ticket or sales invoice that includes contact information and the terms and conditions of the sale.

➢ If firewood is advertised and sold as “seasoned,” it must have a moisture content of less than 50 percent. “Unseasoned” wood will only produce two-thirds of the heat of “seasoned” wood.

➢ If the firewood is advertised and sold as a certain type of wood, the load must contain at least 90 percent of that species.

If you have questions or concerns with a firewood sale, and the seller will not correct the problem, contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Division of Weights and Measures at (614) 728-6290 or contact your county auditor’s office.

**USDA Begins 49th Enrollment Period for the Conservation Reserve Program**

Kent Politsch (202) 720-7163


Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today reminded farmers and ranchers that the next general enrollment period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) begins on December 1, 2015, and ends on February 26, 2016. December 2015 also marks the 30th anniversary of CRP, a federally funded program that assists agricultural producers with the cost of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

As of September 2015, 24.2 million acres were enrolled in CRP. CRP also is protecting more than 170,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, enough to go around the world 7 times. For an interactive tour of CRP success stories from across the U.S., visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPi30](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPi30), or follow on Twitter at #CRPi30.

“Over the past 30 years, farmers, ranchers, conservationists, hunters, fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts have made CRP one of the most successful conservation programs in the history of the country,” said Vilsack. “Today, CRP continues to make major environmental improvements to water and air quality. This is another longstanding example of how agricultural production can work hand in hand with efforts to improve the environment and increase wildlife habitat.”

Participants in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. At times when commodity prices are low, enrolling sensitive lands in CRP can be especially attractive to farmers and ranchers, as it softens the economic hardship for landowners at the same time that it provides ecological benefits. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish native plant species on marginal agricultural lands for the primary purpose of preventing soil erosion and improving water quality and related benefits of reducing loss of wildlife habitat.

Contracts on 1.64 million acres of CRP are set to expire on Sept. 30, 2016. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Since it was established on Dec. 23, 1985, CRP has:

➢ Prevented more than 9 billion tons of soil from eroding, enough soil to fill 600 million dump trucks;
Reduced nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to annually tilled cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively;
Sequestered an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking 9 million cars off the road.

Since 1996, CRP has created nearly 2.7 million acres of restored wetlands. For more information FSA conservation programs, visit a local FSA office or www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation. To find your local FSA office, visit http://offices.usda.gov.

The Conservation Reserve Program was re-authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing, and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification Session & Commercial Fertilizer Application Certification Sessions to be held across Northeast Ohio in 2016
Does your Private Pesticide Applicator’s License expire on March 31, 2016? If so, OSU Extension in Northeast Ohio has planned four pesticide re-certification sessions for producers. These sessions will be held on January 15 at the Williamsfield Community Center, January 29 at the Geauga County Extension office, February 10 at the Trumbull County Extension office and February 24 at the Perry Community Center.

Each of these sessions will offer 3 credits for pesticide re-certification for CORE and All Categories (1-6). Private Pesticide Applicators are encouraged to choose the session which best fits their schedule the best. Additionally, a special session will be held during the same day and location for private pesticide applicators who would like to complete their Commercial Fertilizer Application Certification. Due to Ohio’s new legislation, any producer who applies commercial fertilizer to 50 or more acres must be certified by no later than September 30, 2017. Attend this session to complete your certification.

The times and locations for each of the sessions are:
Friday, January 15, 2016 at the Williamsfield Community Center in Williamsfield, Ohio.
Private Pesticide from 9:00 to 12:00 noon & Fertilizer Applicator Certification from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Friday, January 29, 2016 at the Geauga County Extension office in Burton, Ohio.
Private Pesticide from 9:00 to 12:00 noon & Fertilizer Applicator Certification from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at the Trumbull County Extension office in Cortland, Ohio.
Private Pesticide from 9:00 to 12:00 noon & Fertilizer Applicator Certification from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at the Perry Community Center in Perry, Ohio.
Private Pesticide from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The registration fee is $35/per person for the private pesticide applicator re-certification. There is no fee for the fertilizer certification session. A hearty farmer’s lunch and refreshments will be provided for attendees for a fee $10/person. Pre-registration is required eight days prior to the session date. An additional late registration fee of $25 per person will be added for any late registration. Make checks payable to OSU Extension and mail to OSU
Extension–Geauga County, PO Box 387, Burton, Ohio 44021. More information can be obtained by calling the Geauga County Extension office 440-834-4656.

Preparation Class for Private Pesticide Applicator License Test to be held on February 4, 2016 in Burton, Ohio
OSU Extension in Northeast Ohio will be providing a training session to help farmers prepare for the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Private Pesticide Applicator’s Exam. This class is not required but is a great opportunity for applicators to learn what they will need to study for the test. This class will be held on **Thursday, February 4, 2016** from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. This session will be held in Burton, Ohio at the Geauga County Extension office. The registration fee for this program is $35/person, which includes all CORE study materials. Call the Geauga County Extension office at 440-834-4656 to register or for more information.

Private & Commercial Pesticide Applicator Testing to be held by Ohio Department of Agriculture During Winter of 2016
Are you looking to take obtain your private or commercial pesticide license or wish to add an additional category to your existing license? The Ohio Department of Agriculture will be holding testing sessions during the winter/spring of 2016 in Northeast Ohio. These tests are administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture and are held at Extension offices in northeast Ohio as a courtesy to producers. Pre-registration is required for each location and can be made by calling the ODA at 614-728-6987 or 1-800-282-1955 (press 3 then 1). Study materials online can be found at: [http://pested.osu.edu/privatestudy.html](http://pested.osu.edu/privatestudy.html)

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<tr>
<th><strong>Ashtabula County</strong></th>
<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location: OSU Extension Office</td>
<td>March 23 (beginning at 10:00 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basement Meeting Room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 Wall Street</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson, Ohio 44047</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>For Directions Call 440-576-9008</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Geauga County</strong></th>
<th><strong>Dates</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Location: Geauga County Extension Office</td>
<td>February 17 (beginning at 11:00 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterson Center Basement</td>
<td>March 16 (beginning at 11:00 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 387</td>
<td>April 20 (beginning at 11:00 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14269 Claridon-Troy Road</td>
<td>May 18 (beginning at 11:00 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burton, OH 44021-0387</td>
<td>June 15 (beginning at 11:00 a.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>For Directions Call 440-834-4656</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Trumbull County</strong></th>
<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location: Trumbull County Extension Office</td>
<td>April 13 (beginning at 10:00 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>520 West Main Street, Suite #1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cortland, OH 44410</td>
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<tr>
<td>For Directions Call 330-638-6783</td>
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Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands Compliance Rules Workshop to be held on December 15 in Cortland
The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are hosting a workshop on December 15th in the Cortland Field Office (Ag Center) Meeting Room from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm to discuss Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands Compliance rules as they apply to farm subsidies, program eligibility, and crop insurance subsidies.
This workshop is aimed to inform and educate Trumbull County producers about the rules surrounding Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands compliance with respect to eligibility for FSA subsidies, Farm Loans, NRCS Conservation Programs, and Crop Insurance Subsidies.

Anyone with pending wetlands or HEL determination requests pending should consider attending. Learn the details on how to go through the process of what to expect, who does what, and when certain paperwork needs to be completed. More information about this program can be received by calling the NRCS office at (330) 637-2046

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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