OSU EXTENSION

NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER
Tuesday, December 9, 2014

December is off to a roaring start and now is a great time for producers to start pulling their year-end financial records together. We are monitoring the Tax Extender Bill in Congress which may provide a last minute increase in Section 179 Expensing from its current level of $25,000. A vote is expected as early as tomorrow, December 10. I am pleased to report that starting next Monday, area farmers can drop by the Ashtabula County Extension office to receive a free copy of IRS Publication 225, the 2014 Farmers Tax Guide. It is never too early to start working on your taxes. Dairy producers should be aware the Farm Service Agency has extended the Dairy Margin Protection program sign up until December 19. Have a great week and beware of the Scroogium Bahumbugnis!

David Marrison, AG Educator

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Congress Considering 12th Hour Increase to Section 179 Expensing
The United States Senate may vote on the Tax Extenders Bill (HR 5771: Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014) this week. This bill was passed by the House of Representatives on December 3, 2014. This legislation proposes a one-year retroactive extension of most the tax extenders including an extension of 50% bonus depreciation and an increase of Section 179 Expensing for 2014 from $25,000 to $500,000 with phase out start at $2 million.

Dairy Margin Protection Program Sign-up Extended to December 19
The Farm Service Agency announced late last week they have extended the deadline for dairy farmers from December 5 to next Friday, December 19 to enroll in the new Dairy Margin Protection Program. With milk prices set to decline in 2015, it would be a wise choice for dairy farmers to explore this program. Andrew Novakovic, Professor from 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. Producers can also find more information at: http://dairymarkets.org. More information about enrolling in this program can be obtained by calling the Farm Service Agency in Orwell, Ohio at 440-437-6330.

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

Thursday, December 18, 2014  
Portage County Ag Center  
6970 State Route 88  
Ravenna, Ohio 44266  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
To reserve call: (330) 297-7633 ext 113

Tuesday, January 6, 2014  
Ashtabula County Extension Office  
39 Wall Street  
Jefferson, Ohio 44047  
10:00 to 12:00 noon  
To reserve call: (440) 437-6330

Thursday, January 8, 2014  
Geauga County Extension Office  
14269 Claridon-Troy Road  
Burton, Ohio 44021  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
To reserve call: (440) 437-6330

**2014 Performance Trial Data Available**  
The Ohio State University Corn, Soybean, Wheat, Silage, and Forage Performance Trial results are now available at: [http://www.ag ohio state edu/~perf/](http://www.ag ohio state edu/~perf/). The purpose of the Ohio Crop Performance Trials is to evaluate varieties, brands and blends for yield and other characteristics. The crops evaluated are: alfalfa and other forages, corn, silage, soybeans, and wheat. The results are published to provide a source of objective information from various locations in Ohio on the relative performance of seed currently available to Ohio farmers on several crops. We will also be distributing hard copies of these trials at our 2015 Northeast Agronomy School and at our 2015 Pesticide Recertification sessions.

**Ohio Maple Days on Tap January 22-24, 2015**  
This year’s Ohio Maple Days are set for Jan. 22 in Morrow County, Jan. 23 for Wayne and Holmes Counties, and Jan. 24 in Geauga County. The programs, which are the same at each location, offer educational sessions on maple production. They’re timed to help producers get ready for the coming season. Both hobby and commercial producers are welcome.

The locations:
- Jan. 22, Morrow County, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Memorial Camp, 2790 State Route 61, Fulton.
- Jan. 23, Wayne and Holmes counties, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Mennonite Christian Assembly Church, 10664 Fryburg Road near Fredericksburg.
- Jan. 24, Geauga County, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Joe J.S. Miller’s Window Shop, 15020 Shedd Road, Burton.
Featured topics include:

- Food Safety and Modernization Act and Ohio Department of Ag updates will be given to keep producers up to date with the changing laws governing maple syrup production. Also covered will be the ODA inspection process. ODA representatives will be on hand to answer questions.
- New International Maple Syrup Grading System: This new grading system is scheduled to start with the 2015 season and will be phased in over the next few years. Meaning you can use the current grading laws and old grade labels during the transition period then once the transition period the only grading system will be the new one. Why and how the new International grading system will work will be covered.
- Entering a Maple Contest: Even if you don’t enter maple syrup and confection contests your syrup is being judged by every customer that buys your products. This session will cover basic guidelines on how to enter the best possible product for a contest and for your customer sales.
- Revisiting tapping guidelines will go over the latest research on what are sustainable tapping guidelines. Besides how many taps per size tree the talk will cover the small amount of total sugar reserve is harvested from a tree.
- Remaking maple will cover the latest research on a new method of tapping smaller more densely spaced trees that some producers are faced with. It requires the cutting off of the tree tops and capturing sap at the cut off stem. Research has shown very good results and it may help some producers to make maple syrup sooner from a planted orchard of trees.

Featured speakers include:

- Mr. Mark Isselhardt, Research Specialist at University of Vermont Proctor Maple Research Center.
- Mr. Dan Milo, Food Safety Supervisor, Ohio Department of Agriculture Division of Food Safety. Dan a hobby maple producer himself has been working with the federal rulings under the Food Safety Act.
- Gary Graham, coordinator of Ohio State’s Ohio Maple Program, serves as the Ohio State University Extension Specialist for Ohio’s Maple Syrup Industry.

Also, there will be a trade show; reports from OSU Extension and the Ohio Maple Producers Association; Free testing of hydrometers and Vermont Temporary Maple Syrup Grading Kits (bring them to the program); and a session called “Maple Nuggets” for sharing questions, ideas and information. Pre-registration, which includes lunch, refreshments and handouts, costs $30 and is due before Jan. 12. Payment at the door is $35 and doesn’t include lunch. Send your name, contact information, and check or money order (made payable to OSU Extension) to OSU Extension, 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster, OH 44691. For more information, go to http://holmes.osu.edu/events/2015-ohio-maple-days (with a link to the brochure and registration form) or call 330-263-3831.

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.

Beware of the Scroogium Bahumbugnis
I would also like to share a special warning about a terrible pest that you might encounter during this holiday season. Has this pest ever been in your home? The bahum bug, Scroogium bahumbugnis (Dickens), is a bug in the family Pessimistidae and it is found throughout the world. Although the species is widely distributed, most infestations are rare and short lived. The life cycle, from egg to adult, is about one year, but may vary with environmental conditions. The adult bugs are most active in early December, but late, immature stages can be a problem during November.
The bahum bug bites humans, especially adults, causing irritability. The bites cause victims to have a dull, humorless, cranky appearance characterized by a downwardly turned mouth. Chronic victims may exhibit the following traits: stinginess, hoarding and an overwhelming desire for material objects. This pest commonly infests the minds and spirits of scrooges and grouchies. Infestations can be eliminated by using an integrated pest management program which must involve all family members and close acquaintances.

The following control measures are recommended: install Christmas trees and holly wreaths in heated buildings; install mistletoe sprigs in door arches of infested rooms; ingest eggnog or hot apple cider with cinnamon and cloves; and treat all individuals with generosity and good cheer.

**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](http://go.osu.edu/ne-events)

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**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](https://go.osu.edu/ag-news). **Please tell your friends and neighbors to sign up for the list. CONTACT:** [marrison.2@osu.edu](mailto:marrison.2@osu.edu)

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