Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Happy New Year! 2018 was a rough year for farming with rain, more rain, trade wars, and more rain.

While traveling for the holidays, I was amazed at how many acres that still need to be harvested throughout Ohio. I saw a few corn fields being harvested, and a lot of combines running beans before the rain hit.

All of us at OSU Extension are wishing you the best in the New Year! I hope 2019 brings less rain, more profitable crops, and a productive year for NE Ohio.
Hemp for One, Hemp for All? The Farm Bill, Industrial Hemp and what it means for Ohio

By Ellen Essman, Senior Research Associate

Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/thu-12272018-541pm/hemp-one-hemp-all%C2%A0-farm-bill-industrial-hemp-and-what-it-means-ohio

Hemp is one of the most talked-about provisions of the new Farm Bill passed earlier this month by Congress and signed by the President on December 20. There’s a lot of excitement about the removal of federal restrictions on hemp production and the economic opportunities for growing hemp. But what exactly does the Farm Bill say about hemp? Can Ohioans now grow, use and sell hemp and hemp products? We dove into the 807 pages of the Farm Bill Conference Report (available here for your reading pleasure) to find answers to your questions about the new legal status of hemp and hemp cultivation.

What is hemp?

Before we go much further in this discussion, it’s important to understand that both hemp and marijuana are species of cannabis, but they have different properties. Of particular note is the fact that marijuana contains much more tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) than hemp. THC is the part of a cannabis plant that can cause a psychoactive effect in certain concentrations, but hemp plants generally do not contain enough THC to produce a “high.” Hemp has many uses—it can be used for construction materials, fabrics and clothing, and animal bedding. It has even been discussed as a potential cover crop. Cannabidiol, or CBD, is a very popular extract of the hemp plant that is alleged to help those with anxiety, pain, inflammation, and other ailments, but not much research has been done to verify its effectiveness for medical use. Note that CBD is also an extract of the higher THC marijuana plant.

Hemp is removed from the federal list of controlled substances—but only if it meets certain requirements

First and foremost, the Farm Bill removes hemp from the federal list of controlled substances. Section 12619 of the bill removes hemp from the definition of marijuana, which is still an illegal drug under federal law. In the same section, the bill federally decriminalizes tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) in hemp. Not all hemp, however, is subject to this exemption. Only hemp and THC as defined in the Farm Bill and as grown under the conditions set forth in the Farm Bill are accorded the exemption.

So, how does the Farm Bill change the definition of hemp? The main hemp provision of the bill, Section 10113, separates hemp from the definition of marijuana and redefines hemp as “the plant Cannabis sativa L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds

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thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis."

Coming soon: state and federal hemp production plans

The new law doesn’t allow a producer to start growing hemp today. Instead, Section 10113 of the Farm Bill describes the two situations under which a producer will be able to engage in legal hemp production in the future. In the first situation, the States or Indian tribes may take charge of the regulation of hemp production within their boundaries. To do this, a State must first submit a plan to the USDA through their state department of agriculture. A State plan must include:

1. A way to keep track of land where hemp is produced within the state;
2. Methods the state will use to test how much THC is in hemp plants;
3. A way to dispose of plants or products that have a higher THC concentration than is legally allowed;
4. A procedure for inspecting hemp producers;
5. A plan for enforcing the law;
6. A system for dissemination of a hemp producer’s information to the USDA; and
7. Assurances that the state has the resources to carry out the plan.

A producer who wants to cultivate hemp in a State that has an approved hemp production plan must first comply with the State’s plan before beginning to grow hemp. Predictions are that it may take a State about a year to create its hemp production plan and obtain the required USDA approval for the plan.

The second situation for growing hemp comes into play if a State or Tribe does not submit a hemp plan to USDA. In this case, as long as the State has not limited the regulation or production of hemp under state law, the Secretary of Agriculture for the USDA may establish a plan “to monitor and regulate” hemp production within that State. A plan established by the USDA must meet the same criteria as a plan written by a State, and the law also requires the USDA to establish a licensing procedure for producers. Thus, a producer in a State that doesn’t have a hemp plan could legally grow hemp by obtaining a USDA hemp license through the hemp regulations that the USDA will develop, unless the State has prohibited hemp cultivation. Section 10113 specifically states that it does not preempt or limit any state law that “regulates the production of hemp” as well as any state law that is “more stringent” than federal law in regulating hemp production. Thus, a State can outlaw hemp production within its boundaries or include additional restrictions and requirements in its State plan as long as the plan complies with the federal law requirements.
Handling producer violations

What if a hemp producer doesn’t comply with the new law or with the State or USDA hemp production plan? Section 10113 also describes how violations of the law will be handled. If a hemp producer negligently violates a State or USDA hemp production plan, the producer could be subject to enforcement. One negligent violation of the plan would not trigger criminal punishment, but the violator would have to comply with a corrective action plan prescribed by the State or USDA. However, if a producer negligently violates a plan three times in five years, the producer will be banned from producing hemp for five years. Examples of negligent violations in the law include: not providing a legal description of the land where hemp is produced, growing hemp without obtaining a license “or other required authorization” from the State, Tribe, or USDA, or producing hemp with a THC concentration higher than 0.3 percent. If a producer violates a State or USDA plan “with a culpable mental state greater than negligence” (that is, purposely, knowingly, or recklessly), then the State or USDA must report the violation to law enforcement authorities. Furthermore, persons convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance under state or federal law are generally barred from hemp production for ten years following the date of their conviction, with the exception of persons convicted of a controlled substances felony but lawfully participating in a pilot program under the 2014 Farm Bill. Finally, if a person falsifies an application to participate in hemp production, that person will be totally barred from producing hemp.

Legal hemp not to be prohibited in interstate commerce

The new law also allows for the interstate commerce of legally produced hemp and hemp products. Section 10114 says that a State or Indian Tribe cannot prevent the transportation or shipment of legally produced hemp through its state or territory. While a State may ban the sale of hemp or hemp products solely within its borders, it must allow hemp products to move freely through the State. For example, imagine that Pennsylvania allows hemp production but Ohio does not. Producers of legal hemp in Pennsylvania could not sell the hemp within Ohio, but Ohio could not prohibit a truck, train, or other type of transport from carrying the hemp through Ohio to a destination outside of Ohio.

Hemp becomes eligible for crop insurance

Importantly, the Farm Bill also addresses hemp production risk by amending the Federal Crop Insurance Act to include hemp. Section 1119 adds hemp to the definition of “agricultural commodities” that can be insured and section 11106 adds legally produced hemp to the list of crops that can be insured even after harvested. Other provisions in Title XI waive marketability requirements for researching hemp.
Making way for hemp research funding

Several provisions in the Farm Bill ensure that it is legally permissible to fund hemp research. Section 7129 amends the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to award grants for researching hemp and the development of hemp products. In section 7501, the bill amends the Critical Agricultural Materials Act to allow research on hemp, meaning that Congress believes hemp has the “potential of producing critical materials for strategic and industrial purposes.”

Finally, section 7605 amends the hemp pilot program language from the 2014 Farm Bill (for information on the pilot program, see our previous blog post). The Secretary of Agriculture is tasked with conducting a study on the pilot program and submitting a report on the study to Congress within a year. Section 7605 also repeals the hemp pilot programs, but only one year after final regulation on hemp production under section 10113 is published.

How does current Ohio law treat hemp production?

Ohio law defines marijuana as “all parts of a plant of the genus cannabis…” in Ohio Revised Code section 3719.01. Hemp is in the genus cannabis, as discussed earlier in this post. Therefore, under current Ohio law, hemp is the same as marijuana. Marijuana is a controlled substance under Ohio law, and the law states that “[n]o person shall knowingly obtain, possess, or use a controlled substance.”

What about hemp-derived CBD oil? Ohio enacted a medical marijuana law in 2016, although dispensaries in the state have yet to open (so far, only one dispensary in the state has been licensed). In order to obtain medical marijuana in Ohio, it would have to be prescribed by a physician with which the patient has a “bona fide physician-client relationship,” and the patient would have to have a qualifying medical condition. Medical marijuana can be prescribed and used in oil form under the law. Since Ohio law lumps hemp in with marijuana, this means that in order to obtain CBD oil derived from hemp, a person would also have to follow the steps to obtain medical marijuana. Hemp-derived CBD oil also does not fall under any exceptions in Ohio’s definition of marijuana. Ohio’s State Board of Pharmacy specifically stated in a guidance document that CBD oil can only be legally dispensed from a licensed dispensary. In releasing this guidance, the Board of Pharmacy is purporting to act under the rulemaking authority granted under ORC 3796.04.

Note, however, that there are exceptions to Ohio’s definition of marijuana. According to Ohio law, marijuana “does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oils or cake made from the seeds of the plant, or any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks, except the resin
extracted from the mature stalks, fiber, oil or cake, or the sterilized seed of the plant that is incapable of germination.” Since hemp falls under the definition of marijuana, it is possible that some of these exceptions could also apply to certain hemp products made from stalks or seeds. Thus, it is plausible that some hemp products could be sold and used in Ohio. The law also states, however, that no person (other than those licensed under the medical marijuana law) “shall knowingly cultivate” marijuana. Again, since hemp is part of the state’s definition of marijuana, under the law, that means that nobody can “knowingly cultivate” hemp, either.

In sum, it appears as though some excepted hemp products could be sold in Ohio, but not CBD oil, as it does not fall under the exception. Even if some hemp products can be sold in Ohio, hemp itself cannot currently be cultivated in Ohio. The new hemp language in the Farm Bill allows states to be more restrictive with hemp than the federal government, so Ohio can continue its ban on certain hemp products even with the new federal law. The State cannot, however, stop the transportation of hemp across the State, as explained above. Conversely, Ohio’s General Assembly could remove hemp from Ohio’s definition of marijuana and redefine hemp according to the Farm Bill’s new definition, which could allow for legal hemp cultivation under the Farm Bill. For the time being, growing hemp in Ohio is not legal, but that is subject to change.

Stay tuned to the Ag Law Blog for continuing updates on hemp laws!

**Annual, biological rhythms govern milk production in dairy cows**

By Penn State

The amount and composition of milk produced by dairy cows appears to be more regulated by internal, annual biological rhythms than by environmental factors such as heat and humidity, according to Penn State researchers who studied more than a decade of production records from herds across the country.

Although researchers have long recognized an annual pattern of milk composition in dairy cattle -- with higher milk fat and protein concentrations observed during the winter and lower levels occurring in the summer -- the rhythms of milk yield and composition previously have not been well quantified.
The findings of the research are important because they better inform producers what to expect from their cows, according to Kevin Harvatine, associate professor of nutritional physiology, whose research group in the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences conducted the study. He noted that being more precisely aware of their cows’ rhythms allows dairy farmers to better judge the effectiveness of management strategies.

Researchers employed a statistical method used by scientists in the analysis of biologic time series to demonstrate predictable cycles to reveal the annual rhythms of milk yield and milk fat and protein concentration in two large datasets. They analyzed national milk composition information from 2000 through 2015, obtained from the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and records collected from 1,684 cows in 11 Pennsylvania dairy herds from 2002 to 2011.

In general, among all herds studied, peak yield, fat concentration and protein concentration occurred in winter months, when days are shorter, and lowest in summer months, when days are longest. And the amplitude of the rhythms -- the amount the highs and lows varied from the mean -- were greater in the north and declined depending how far south herds were located. "On average, milk yield peaked in April, fat and protein yield peaked in February, fat concentration peaked in January, and protein concentration peaked in December," said lead researcher Isaac Salfer, doctoral student in animal science. "And the yearly rhythms of milk yield and fat and protein concentration consistently occur, regardless of region."

Until recently, dairy producers regarded milk production as governed by seasonal influences, Salfer said. They thought that cows just reacted to their environment and conditions. "But our research is leading us to believe that cows have predictable changes in their physiology that leads to regular variation in milk production," he said. "It is shifting the way we are thinking about the seasonal changes in milk production from being a response to the environment to actually being a physiological element of the cow."

Better quantification of the annual rhythms shows that fluctuations in milk yield and composition are mainly driven by photoperiod and not strictly by environmental conditions such as heat stress, Salfer pointed out.
"But that remains a hot topic, no pun intended, in the dairy industry," he said.

That milk production occurs in rhythms dictated by a physiological response should not be unexpected, Salfer said. Other studies have revealed that milk production of cows is responsive to photoperiod. So, any change in the amount of daylight per day will affect these kinds of rhythms, similar to the way photoperiod changes trigger annual rhythms among wildlife that account for such regular behavior as hibernation, breeding and migration.

The findings, published this month in the Journal of Dairy Science, should help prevent dairy producers from being misled by seasonal milk fluctuations, Salfer explained. This information will allow them to interpret the effects of diet changes or implementation of new technologies on herd performance within the context of the annual rhythm.

"For example, 3.6 percent milk fat may indicate suboptimal milk fat in January but normal milk fat in July," he said. "In addition, feeding a dietary supplement in July may appear to improve milk fat percent in the following months, but the increase may be merely a consequence of the annual rhythm of production."

Also involved in the research was Chad Dechow, Penn State associate professor of dairy cattle genetics.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the National Institutes of Health partially supported this work.

**European wheat lacks climate resilience**

Source: [https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/12/181226132839.htm](https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/12/181226132839.htm)

The climate is not only warming, it is also becoming more variable and extreme. Such unpredictable weather can weaken global food security if major crops such as wheat are not sufficiently resilient -- and if we are not properly prepared.

A group of European researchers, including Professor Jørgen E. Olesen from the Department of Agroecology at Aarhus University, has found that current breeding programmes and cultivar selection practices do not provide the needed resilience to climate change.

- The current breeding programmes and cultivar selection practices do not sufficiently prepare for climatic uncertainty and variability, the authors state in a paper recently published in PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences). Not only that -- the response diversity of wheat on farmers' fields in most European countries has worsened in the past five to fifteen years, depending on country.
Researchers predict that greater variability and extremeness of local weather conditions will lead to reduced yields in wheat and increased yield variability.

- Needless to say, decreased yields are not conducive to food security, but higher yield variability also poses problems. It can lead to a market with greater speculation and price volatility. This may threaten stable access to food by the poor, which in turn can enhance political instability and migration, Jørgen E. Olesen points out.

Decreasing variation in response diversity
The researchers base their assessments on thousands of yield observations of wheat cultivars in nine European countries for qualifying how different cultivars respond to weather. The researchers identified the variation of wheat response diversity on farmers' fields and demonstrated the relation to climate resilience.

The yield responses of all cultivars to different weather events were relatively similar within northern and central Europe, and within southern European countries -- the latter particularly with regard to durum wheat. There were serious gaps in wheat resilience across all Europe, especially with regard to yield performance under abundant rain.

- The lack of response diversity can pose serious problems with regard to food security. Therefore, farmers, breeders, and dealers in seeds and grain need to pay more attention to the diversity of cultivars grown, warns Professor Jørgen E. Olesen.

Climate resilience is imperative
Wheat is an important staple food crop in Europe and is the leading source of plant protein in our diet globally, so it is important to ensure that we have climate-resilient wheat cultivars on hand.

Rain, drought, heat or cold at vulnerable times during the growing season can seriously damage yields. Wheat yield is generally sensitive to even a few days of exposure to waterlogging and to wet weather that favours disease. In addition, heat stress rather than drought sensitivity appears to be a limiting factor for adaptation of wheat to climate change in Europe.

The dominant approach of adapting crops to climate change by tailoring genotypes to the most likely long-term change is likely insufficient. The capacity of a single crop variety to maintain good yield performance under climatic variability and extremes is limited, but diversity in responses to critical weather events can effectively enhance climate resilience. Therefore, a set of cultivars with diverse responses to critical weather conditions is prerequisite to promoting crop climate resilience.
The authors stress that the need for climate resilience of staple food crops such as wheat must be better articulated. Increased awareness could foster governance of resilience through research and breeding programmes, incentives and regulation.

**Lee’s Monthly News Column**

Happy Holidays, Trumbull County! As we approach the end of the year, there has been a flurry of activity in the political spectrum to get bills passed before the end of the session and before the newly elected officials take over. You can see this at the state level and at the federal level. The bill that has garnered much of the ag community’s attention over the last few weeks has been the Farm Bill. The 807 page bill had a lot of updates ranging from forestry to nutrition. If you are really bored, you can read the whole document here https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20181210/CRPT-115hrpt1072.pdf. Below is a summary of some of the important changes that will affect local farmers and residents.

For grain farmers the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) will both remain options for enrollment in 2019, but base acreage cannot be re-allocated like in the previous farm bill. Going forward, the option to update yields will be available in 2020, and the between 2021 and 2023 farmers can choose between PLC and ARC. Soybean growers may see a benefit with a new calculation to reference prices and with an increase of ARC yield substitute percentage. These changes are less likely to affect corn growers.

Dairy farmers also saw some improvements in the Farm Bill. The Dairy Margin Protection Program was renamed the Dairy Margin Coverage program and was accompanied by another reduction in premium coverage rates from the previous reduction last February. New coverage levels were also added and options to get a percentage back for long term enrollment.

Another part of the Farm Bill that has attracted a lot of media attention involves the eligibility of industrial hemp to be enrolled in crop insurance. Industrial hemp has been grown for several years, mostly in Kentucky, and this allows those farmers to insure their crop in the event of crop loss or damage. This essentially legalizes the growing of industrial hemp that was previously illegal. Those farmers in Kentucky were in legal limbo for many years. Hemp was a controlled substance because of its relation to its very close relative, marijuana. While both contain the psychoactive compound THC, industrial hemp has a very low concentration (0.3%) compared to marijuana (15-40%). Several of my colleagues throughout the state have already received many calls from people interested in growing industrial hemp in Ohio. I’m sure at least of few of those individuals thought that growing marijuana was legalized – it’s not.

Industrial hemp has the opportunity to be another cash crop for Ohio, but it will take a few years for a real market to materialize to support an influx of industrial hemp. The short term payoff
may be in seed production to supply the growing demand of industrial hemp growers. Small scale, or urban agriculture will be ideally suited to take advantage of this growing market to supply niche markets for clothing and other fiber uses.

OSU Extension Trumbull County, Trumbull SWCD, and NRCS have teamed up to offer a Trumbull Farmer Lunch series this winter to provide hour-long educational sessions on a variety of topics. Our next lunch series will be on Tuesday, January 8 at 11:30A.M. when we will be offering a local Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training. Many large purchasers of beef (Wendy’s, Tyson, etc.) will be purchasing beef from only those with BQA certification. If you raise beef, this is an opportunity to gain access to markets or get a competitive advantage over those without BQA certification. Cost for this program is $7/person for early registration and includes lunch. Be sure to mark your calendars for the other upcoming events in this series, March 5, 2019 Climate Impacts for Ohio Agriculture, and April 2, 2019 Tillage and Soil Health. Each of these programs will be at the Trumbull County Ag and Family Education Center, 520 West Main Street, Cortland, OH.

Mark your calendars for February 20, 2019 for the Northeast Ohio Agronomy School. Our annual Agronomy School will be moving to the Bristolville Community Center this year. Speakers will include OSU Extension specialists Mark Loux, Kelley Tilmon, Steve Culman, Anne Dorrance, and Andy Michel. Watch our website (trumbull.osu.edu) and Facebook page for updates and registration information.

For more information about farming, gardening, the Master Gardener program, or any other program, call the OSU Trumbull County Extension Office at 330-638-6783 or visit trumbull.osu.edu. Don’t forget to check out and “Like” OSU Extension Trumbull County’s Facebook page for current programs and up to date information.

I’ll see you in the New Year!

**Trumbull County Farmer Lunch Series**

OSU Extension Trumbull County, Trumbull County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the NRCS have combined efforts to offer a farmer lunch seminar series that will cover a variety of topics relevant to NE Ohio. Each program will start with lunch at 11:30A.M. sponsored by the Trumbull County Holstein Club followed by a 1-hour presentation. Cost for individual programs is $10/person. If you would like to register for all four programs, the cost is $35/person.

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 - Beef Quality Assurance
  - Haley Shoemaker, OSU Extension Mahoning County
• The Ohio Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program ensures that both beef and dairy cattle are raised in a manner that results in a wholesome beef product for our consumers. This program helps producers gain market access and keep their cattle desirable to the buyer in the stands.

*Wednesday, February 20, 2019 – NE Ohio Agronomy School in Bristolville, OH*

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 – Climate Impacts for Ohio Agriculture
• Aaron Wilson, OSU Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center
• Our changing climate has already influenced how Ohio farmers operate. Learn how predicted climate changes will continue to drive changes in Ohio agriculture. CCA credits available.

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 – Tillage Affects on Soil Health
• Steve Culman, Assistant Professor, State Specialist in Soil Fertility
• New tillage technologies are arriving each year, but are they hurting your soil health? Learn how tillage, and other practices can improve or hurt your soils health. CCA credits available.

**Upcoming Events**

**Trumbull County Farmer Lunch**
January 8, 2019 – Beef Quality Assurance
March 5, 2019 – Climate Impacts for Ohio Agriculture
April 4, 2019 – Tillage and Soil Health

**Northeast Ohio Agronomy School**
February 20, 2019 – Bristolville Community Center

**Ashtabula County Dairy Banquet**
March 26, 2019

**Pesticide Applicator Training Dates**

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Trumbull County – January 16, 2019
Geauga County – February 1, 2019
Ashtabula County – February 28, 2019
Geauga County “Last Chance” – March 28, 2019

New Pesticide Applicator Training
Geauga County – February 12, 2019
Trumbull County – March 12, 2019

New Fertilizer Certification Training
Trumbull County – February 23, 2019  9A.M. to 12P.M

Central Ohio Precision Ag Symposium
January 16, 2019 - All Occasions Catering 6986 Waldo-Delaware Rd., Waldo Ohio 9 a.m. to 4 p.m

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

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To register for the Trumbull Farmer Lunch program on January 8, 2019, please complete the form below and mail with payment to OSU Extension Trumbull County, 520 West Main St, Cortland, OH 44410. Please make checks out to OSU Extension. For questions or more information call 330-638-6783, or email beers.66@osu.edu.

The Ohio Beef Quality Assurance program ensures that both beef and dairy cattle are raised in a manner that results in a wholesome beef product for our consumers. In doing so, this program helps producers gain market access and keep their cattle desirable to the buyer in the stands. Many end users of beef are now requiring their meat to be BQA certified. This program will certify all participants. Cost for this training is $7/person with pre-registration or $10/person at the door. Catered hot lunch, handouts, and other materials are included in the cost. We would like to thank Bloomfield Livestock Auction for their sponsorship of this program. Pre-registration is requested by January 4, 2019 to ensure accurate count for lunch.

To register for the Trumbull Farmer Lunch program on January 8, 2019, please complete the form below and mail with payment to OSU Extension Trumbull County, 520 West Main St, Cortland, OH 44410. Please make checks out to OSU Extension. For questions or more information call 330-638-6783, or email beers.66@osu.edu.

Name: 

Address: 

City and State: Zip Code: 

Phone: Email: 

Number of Attendees: x $7 each = Total Enclosed 

Trumbull County Agriculture and Family Education Center
520 West Main Street
Cortland, OH 44410
trumbull.osu.edu
330-638-6783
Questions For Speakers
Due to the complex and important topics to be discussed at the meetings, we are asking participants to pre-submit questions. There will be time for questions at the meetings, too. Pre-submitting questions will make sure that the speakers cover the information on the questions you have.

(Be specific and give details in your questions.)
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You can submit more details or questions on separate paper if needed.

Meet the Speakers

Mr. Tom McCrumm, Tom and his wife Judy operate South Face Farm, a 2,000 tap operation in Ashfield MA, plus buying sap from another 3,000 taps. For 30 years, they served over 3,000 meals annually at their sugarhouse restaurant open 6 weekends during the maple season. They market their syrup locally and globally. Tom is also an avid collector of antique sap spouts and syrup tins.

Mr. Dan Milo, is a Food Safety Supervisor with the Ohio Department of Agriculture Division of Food Safety and a hobby maple producer in Northeast Ohio. Dan has been working for the benefit of Ohio maple producers at ODA for many years.

Mr. David Apsley, Dave is a Natural Resource Specialist for OSU Extension. He has more than 30 years of professional experience in forestry and natural resources education, management, and research.

Dr. Gary Graham, State Maple Syrup Specialist for Ohio State University Extension and County Educator in Agriculture and Natural Resources in Holmes County.
To:  All Interested Maple Producers & Enthusiasts

It’s time once again to make plans and you are cordially invited to participate in the Winter 2018 Ohio Maple Days Workshops in Morrow County January 18, or Holmes County January 19, or Geauga County January 20.  As is our custom, essentially the same program will be offered at all three locations.

Pre-registration is required to ensure enough materials are made for the meetings

Topics To Be Covered:
Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and Ohio Department of Ag Updates: The Food Safety Modernization Act contains a mandatory requirement for many food manufacturers, which includes maple syrup producers, to register their operation. There have been many changes in the past few years and there are even more changes to take place in the next year or two. Every maple producer, no matter operation size, needs to hear what is happening, as their future as maple producers depends on it.

Maple Marketing is More Than Filling a Jug: If you want to achieve the highest return for your maple syrup then just putting your syrup in a jug is not enough. In the jug you have to market it, and who is making it are all critical for consumers to become invested in you and your products.

Tubing Help for Any Size Operation: Tubing has done more to revolutionize the maple industry and create growth more than any other piece of equipment. Tubing has made the collection process easier on the maple producer and on the sugurbush due to less time spent in the woods with heavy equipment. Tubing systems are easily adapted to any size maple operation. Looking back and forward to the newest technology, helpful hints will be presented to aid any size operation.

Sugarbush/Woodland Management Tips that Pay: Your woodlands are a valuable resource. Learn how a professional forester can help you develop a woodland management plan to increase the benefits that you receive from your woodland. This session will focus on using crown touching release and other crop tree management concepts to improve the health and productivity of your sugarbush.

Maple Nuggets: Every year there are lots of important happenings, things, and news to share with maple producers. These items will be addressed during this session as well as any questions submitted with the registration forms and not already answered by the speakers.

**** To Help Us Prepare **** To Help Us Prepare we are asking that you pre submit your questions/concerns/comments regarding any of the topics to be presented at the meetings (see back of the registration form). The meeting forum will allow for questions from the floor. Pre-submitting questions will direct the program to emphasize what questions you, the producers, have. Handouts will be made available to participants at the meetings in regards to the topics being covered. Pre-registration is required to ensure we have enough materials and meals.

Testing of Hydrometers: Hydrometers are vital in every sugaring operation, so be sure they remain accurate. The papers can shift off too low of density and syrup could mold or ferment. If finished with too high of density, the syrup will crystallize. Bring your hydrometers with you to the meetings for testing; that way you know going into the 2018 season you will be finishing your syrup at the proper density and proper color grade. Refractometers will also be tested, so bring them to the meeting.

Sincerely, Dr. Gary W. Graham, Ohio State University Extension Specialist, Natural Resources

Notice: After 11 years at the same price, the registration fee is being increased to cover the rising costs of food, rental space, and materials.