Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Hopefully, everybody was able to avoid the freezing rain that came through the area today!

For those who want to learn more about 2021 Farm Bill selections, sign up for the NE Ohio Farm Bill Zoom Webinar on February 11th at 1:00 PM. You can register today at: https://go.osu.edu/neofb21

Check out the flyer for more details!

Stay safe and healthy!
Gibberella Ear Rot and Vomitoxin in Corn
By Pierce Paul
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-02/gibberella-ear-rot-and-vomitoxin-corn

If your grain was harvested from a field with Gibberella ear rot (GER), it is more than likely contaminated with mycotoxins. Deoxynivalenol, also known as vomitoxin, is one of the mycotoxins most commonly produced by the fungus Fusarium graminearum that causes GER. Another name for this fungus is Gibberella zeae, hence the name of the disease. Before storing grain harvested from GER-affected fields or areas where conditions were favorable for the disease, pull a sample and test for the presence and level of contamination with vomitoxin. Mycotoxin tests are either qualitative, semi-quantitative, and quantitative. Qualitative tests provide a yes/no answer for the presence of the toxin and are useful for initial screening. Semi-quantitative tests estimate whether the toxin is at or above certain levels (>5 ppm) or within a given range, whereas quantitative tests provide more precise estimates of contamination. There is a trade-off between precision, price, and speed. Quantitative tests tend to be the most precise but are also more expensive and take longer to complete than the qualitative or semi-quantitative tests. Semi-quantitative quick-test kits are very common and relatively easy to use and inexpensive. They are often very specific for one particular toxin. A test developed specifically for Aflatoxin or Fumonisins will NOT work for vomitoxin.

Unfortunately, there are no commercially available treatments to reduce vomitoxin levels in stored grain. Poor storage may cause toxin levels to increase. Warm, moist pockets in the grain promote mold development, causing the grain quality to deteriorate and toxin levels to increase. Aeration is important to keep the grain dry and cool. However, it should be noted that while cool temperatures, air circulation, and low moisture levels will minimize fungal growth and toxin production, these will

Northeast Ohio Agriculture
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties
not decrease the level of toxin that was already present in grain at the time of storage.

- Dry and store harvested grain to below 15% moisture of lower to minimize further mold development and toxin contamination in storage.
- Store dried grain at cool temperatures (36 to 44°F) in clean, dry bins. Moderate to high temperatures are favorable for fungal growth and toxin production.
- Periodically check grain for mold, insects, and temperature.
- If mold is found, send a grain sample for mold identification and analysis to determine if toxins are present and at what level.
- Clean bins and storage units between grain lots to reduce cross-contamination.

Several companies sell test strips for mycotoxin analysis, including Romer Labs (http://www.romerlabs.com) and Neogen (http://www.neogen.com). These tests are fairly easy to use once you read and follow the manufacturer’s guidelines carefully.

More information on sampling, testing, and storage can the found in factsheet # PLPATH-CER-04 (http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/plpath-cer-04).

**Most Farm Families Rely on Off-Farm Income**

by: Chris Zoller, Extension Educator, ANR in Tuscarawas County  
Source: https://u.osu.edu/ohioagmanager/2021/01/20/most-farm-families-rely-on-off-farm-income/

The United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (USDA-ERS) completed a survey in 2019 to determine the number of hours principal farm operators work per week on-farm and off-farm. USDA-ERS defines the principal operator as the person who makes day-to-day decisions. The paragraph below is taken directly from the report.

Off-farm income supplements farm income for most farm households, in addition to offering benefits such as health insurance. In 2019, about 71 percent of farm households had one or more household members earning an off-farm salary or wage. More than 40 percent of principal operators worked off-farm, contributing about 54 percent of the total off-farm labor hours reported for their households. Principal operators who reported off-farm employment worked on average 15 hours off the farm per week in 2019. Compared with the seasonality of on-farm work, off-farm work offered principal operators more consistency—with operators working about 25 percent of total off-farm hours in each quarter of the year. However, principal operators who worked more on-farm tended to work less off-farm across a variety of commodities. On average,
principal operators with livestock, beef cattle, and fruit and tree nut farm operations worked fewer on-farm hours and more off-farm hours in 2019. Principal operators on those farms may be more vulnerable to disruptions in the off-farm economy, such as increased unemployment because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 1. Average Weekly On-Farm and Off-Farm Hours Worked

Marketing Workshop for Direct to Consumer Farm Businesses

Are you a farmer that wants to expand their online footprint? Have you always wondered how to start advertising your local farm or farmers market on social media channels? TNP and the Mahoning Valley Farmers Market are proud to announce an interactive workshop series that can help you plan advertising and marketing for your direct-to-consumer farm business. This course is for all farms (big or small) that sell their products at farmers markets, online, farm stands, or directly from their farm. The workshop series will kick off with a presentation on Saturday, January 23 at 11 am and we will be discussing how to use Social Media Calendars to plan advertising campaigns.
To learn more about the workshops, please call 330-774-8896 or check out http://tnpwarren.org/events/ to view all the workshops as well as other events in the community that are open to the public. The purpose of these workshops is to provide farmers with tools and knowledge to increase their sales. Community Resource Coordinator, Cassandra Clevenger explains, “Having a strong online presence and the ability to accept non-cash payments like credit and the Ohio Direction Card is important for the long-term success of small direct to consumer farms and it has become even more so critical in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The workshops and networking opportunities provided through the Mahoning Valley Farmers Market Network help farmers and market managers increase their sales and customer base.”

**Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification Update**

Happy New Year! I’m sure some of you have received your private pesticide license renewal from the ODA, and are wondering how to get recertified. Admittedly, we are behind this year as we try to navigate changing guidelines from the state, county, and OSU on holding meetings. Hitting a moving target is a little challenging! We will make sure that everyone will get recertified one way or another.

While we prefer in-person programs, that is not possible in the near future. We have been granted permission by the ODA to hold virtual live meetings for pesticide recertification, and we have four sessions scheduled for the upcoming months. You can find those dates below, and registration links as well. These are live events and not recorded. We realize that not everyone has a computer, or reliable internet so we are working on some in-person events later this spring. We will provide updates on those in-person events when those are available.

Thankfully, the deadline for applicators with an expiration in 2020 and 2021 has been extended to July 1, 2020. We hope with the option of having recertification in warmer weather, we can move outside and get together in person. If you have any questions please give us a call and we will answer any questions you have.

- **Horticulture Specialization** - New for 2021!
  - Date: February 4, 2021, Time: Daytime 10AM – 2PM
  - Categories CORE, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Fertilizer

- **Normal/Agronomy**
  - Date: February 16, 2021, Time: Evening 5PM – 9PM
  - All categories, CORE and Fertilizer

- **Normal/Agronomy**
  - Date: March 10, 2021, Time: Daytime 10AM – 2PM
  - All categories, CORE and Fertilizer

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties
Do You Have any Trumbull County Ag History?

Trumbull County Historical Society is putting together an exhibit titled "Trumbull County A-Z" that will open in April 2021 and we are looking to the Trumbull County community for help! The exhibit will be structured so that each letter of the alphabet will represent a topic that relates to Trumbull County history. The topics can be events, celebrations, milestones, places, people, or something else that represents diverse groups in our area. We know that the OSU Extension Office is a major part of the agricultural community and we hope that you can help us begin the process of finding topics related to the agricultural community in Trumbull County.

If you have any ideas you would like to pass on, contact Annie Talmadge at annie@trumbullcountyhistory.org.

Water Quality Wednesday

By: Rachel Cochran

Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2021-02/water-quality-wednesday

Water quality concerns continue to be at the forefront of environmental-impact discussions across many industries. Since agriculture occupies much of the land area in Ohio, adapting farming operations to include “best management practices” has been an area of focus for agricultural producers, governmental agencies, and other stakeholders working to contribute to solutions. As water quality concerns remain, so do opportunities for reviewing the current research and considering adopting practices.
that work for your situation. Join The Ohio State University Extension Water Quality Team and guest speakers for a webinar series discussing several timely topics in preparation for the 2021 growing season. Register for specific events or the entire series at: http://go.osu.edu/wqw.

Our second event, Cover Crops and Water Quality, will be held virtually on February 10th beginning at 10am. Speakers include Jason Hartschuh, OSU Extension Educator from Crawford County, Sarah Noggle, OSU Extension Educator from Paulding County, and Rachel Cochran, Water Quality Extension Associate for Paulding, Defiance, and Van Wert Counties. CCA Credits will be available for these events.

Future Water Quality Wednesday Events:

February 24th: 10-11:30am – Best Management Practices for Water Quality
March 3rd: 3-3:30pm – Lake Erie Water Quality Litigation update with Peggy Hall
April 14th: 10-11:30am – Water Quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin

Past Water Quality Wednesday program recordings will be available on the OSU Agronomic Crops Team YouTube page.
Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC)/Price Loss Coverage (PLC)
Covering Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit

Enrollment for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2021 crop year is currently open. The deadline to enroll and make amendments to program elections is March 15, 2021. Producers have the option to enroll covered commodities in either ARC-County, ARC-Individual, or PLC. These are the same program options that were available to producers during the 2019 and 2020 crop years, but in some cases, producers may want to amend program elections to better manage the potential risks facing their farms during the 2021 crop year. There is no cost to attend these meetings, but registration is required:
https://go.osu.edu/neofb21

Location: Online via Zoom Cost: Free Time: 1:00 PM
Contact information: Any questions can be directed to Andrew Holden at 440-576-9008 or email Holden.155@osu.edu
To view the recorded video of this presentation contact Andrew Holden
Stay warm at home and think spring with these great winter Wednesday webinars.

February 3rd
- “Why Native Plants Matter to Bees and Other Wildlife”
  presented by Denise Ellsworth, Program Director of Pollinator Education, OSU

February 17th
- “Invasives-Identification, Eradication, and Native Alternatives”
  presented by Rees Davis, Master Gardener, and Andrew Holden, Educator, Ag &
  Natural Resources for CFAES Ashtabula County OSU Extension

March 3rd
- “Who are the (Non Bee) Pollinators in Your Neighborhood?”
  presented by Judy Semroc, CMNH Conservation Specialist

March 17th
- “Harvesting and Planting Native Seeds”
  presented by Red Beet Row, Agroecology Education Farm

March 31st
- “Our Pollinator Picks for Your Native Garden”
  presented by Carol Blake, Master Gardener
  and Encie Moroski, Master Gardener

Register now at go.osu.edu/neops