In less than a week, Punxsutawney Phil will jump out of his hole to let us know if spring is on its way or if winter will continue to trudge on. The month of January has really flown by! We have a great crowd pre-registered for the NE Ohio Agronomy School which will be held next Monday in Williamsfield. If you are not signed up and would like to attend, you NEED TO CALL TODAY (440-576-9008). Have a great week!

David Marrison, AG Educator

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OSU Extension Conducting 2015 Ohio Vineyard Custom Rate Survey
OSU Extension is asking Ohio Grape Growers for their assistance in securing up-to-date information about the fee to perform tasks in Ohio vineyards. Many vineyards across Ohio hire machinery operations and other vineyard related work to be completed by others. This is often due to lack of proper equipment, lack of time or lack of expertise for a particular operation. Many vineyards do not own equipment for every possible job they may encounter and may, instead of purchasing the equipment needed, seek out someone with the proper tools necessary to complete the job. To date, no survey has been conducted to analyze custom rates for vineyard work in Ohio. We are asking for your assistance in responding to this inaugural Ohio Vineyard Custom Rate Survey.

Please respond even if you only have a few rates to report. Please report for what you have paid to hire work or what you charge if you perform custom work. Custom Rates should include all ownership costs of implement & tractor (if needed), operator labor, fuel and lube. All data will be reported as averages/range in the final report. The survey can be accessed at: [http://go.osu.edu/ne-research](http://go.osu.edu/ne-research) More information can be received by calling OSU Extension-Ashtabula County at 440-576-9008 or by emailing marrison.2@osu.edu

Pruning Backyard Fruit Trees class to be offered on February 14 by Ashtabula County Master Gardeners
Do you have an apple or pear tree in the backyard and would like to learn how to prune it? If so, join the Ashtabula County Master Gardeners as they offer a “Pruning Backyard Fruit Trees” class on Saturday, February 14, 2015 from 10:00 to 1200 noon at the Ashtabula County Extension office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson, Ohio. Master Gardener Alice Vervais will help homeowners learn the basics of pruning free-standing fruit trees in their backyards. Learn the three systems of pruning, how to decide how much & what to prune, when the best time is to prune, and how to be safe when pruning fruit trees.
By implementing a sound pruning schedule, you will be able to improve tree health, improve the quality of fruit and help with disease control. Participants are asked to bring clippers or pruners as there will be an opportunity for hands-on practice. A registration fee of $3 is requested by February 10, 2015. Mail registration and check payable to OSU Extension to: OSU Extension, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047. Registration is limited to the first 25 registrants. First come, first served. Call 440-576-9008 for more details.

Stock your Pond this Spring- Ashtabula Soil & Water Conducting Annual Fish Sale
The Ashtabula County Soil & Water Conservation District are conducting a fish sale for pond owners looking to stock their ponds. These fish come healthy and ready to be gently placed in your pond (although they do not guarantee they will all survive). The fish truck will come to the Ashtabula County Fair Grounds (west parking lot by horse barns) on Thursday, April 16, 2015 between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The following fish can be ordered:

- 2”-3” Largemouth Bass @$0.85
- 2”-4” Bluegill @$0.75
- 4”-5” Channel Catfish @$0.75
- 1”-2” Fathead Minnows @$7.00/100
- 2”-3” Perch @$0.80
- 10”-12” Triploid White Amur @$14.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, as there will be no notification sent to remind you of the pick-up day and time. On pick-up day, please bring a clean container of your own pond water. You must bring one 5-gallon bucket per 50 fish ordered. For white Amur, bring one 5-gallon for every two Amurs ordered. For all fish, line each container with an UNSCENTED, HEAVY DUTY garbage bag, and fill containers 3/4 full with water and tie bag shut but be able to untie when arrive. Let us know if you will be driving more than 30 minutes on your way home. All orders should be made by Monday, April 13th; payment must accompany your order. All fish must be picked up at this time; we cannot hold or deliver your fish for you. NO REFUNDS ON FISH NOT PICKED UP. Make checks payable to ASHTABULA SWCD. For more information, contact the SWCD at 440-576-4946.

Nationwide Survey of Vegetable & Fruit Growers Being Conducted
The University of Maryland is conducting a nationwide survey of vegetable and fruit growers to better understand how the FDA’s proposed rule on produce safety under the Food Safety Modernization Act will impact them. The goal of this survey is to identify the current prevalence and cost burden of the kinds of food safety risk-reduction measures specified by the rule in order to determine how the rule will affect different types of growers.

The survey is intended for farm owners and managers growing vegetables or fruit. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete, all of the questions in the survey are optional, and no identifying information about participants or farms will be collected. As an incentive to take the survey, participants have the opportunity to enter a drawing for a free Apple iPad after completing the survey. This research is very policy-relevant and could help guide future food safety legislation, so all vegetable and fruit growers are encouraged to participate.

SURVEY LINK: http://www.arecdept.umd.edu/foodsafety
PASSWORD: OPGMA

More information can be received by contacting Erik Lichtenberg at the University of Maryland at 301-405-1279 or via email at elichten@umd.edu
New Legislative Session Begins with Changes to Ohio’s Agriculture Committees
By: Peggy Kirk Hall

The 131st session of the Ohio General Assembly is underway with a few changes to the structure and leadership of the committees that address agriculture. In the House of Representatives, the previous Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee has been renamed as the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. Natural resource issues, previously handled with agriculture under the old committee structure, will now go to a newly formed Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The committee modifications echo similar changes made last session in the Senate.

Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) will serve as the new chair of the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, with Tony Burkley (R-Payne) as vice chair and John Patterson (D-Jefferson) as the ranking minority member. Other committee members are Terry Boose (R-Clarksville), Jim Buchy (R-Greenville), Jack Cera (D-Bellaire), Christina Hagan (R-Marlboro Township), Steve Kraus (R-Sandusky), Sarah LaTourette (R-Bainbridge Township), Michael O’Brien (D-Warren), Sean J. O’Brien (D-Bazetta), Bill Patmon (D-Cleveland), Debbie Phillips (D-Albany), Wes Retherford (R-Hamilton), Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton), Margaret Ann Ruhl (R-Mt. Vernon), Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster), Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon), Andy Thompson (R-Marietta), A. Nino Vitale (R-Urbana) and Paul Zeltwanger (R-Mason).

The House Agriculture and Rural Development committee will kick off its work with a prominent issue: water quality. Speaker Cliff Rosenberger has stated that water quality will be a priority issue that the House “needs to address and address quickly.” Late last session, the House attempted to mitigate algal issues in Ohio lakes by passing legislation that would have affected applications of livestock manure and chemical fertilizers (HB 490). The legislation failed to pass the Ohio Senate and expired on December 31, 2014 with the end of the legislative session. This week, the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee will revisit those issues when it meets off-site for a hearing at Cooper Farms in Van Wert to discuss water quality, nutrient management and agriculture. Expert witnesses in agriculture and watershed management will present testimony and address questions from the committee.

On the Senate side of the new legislative session, the Senate Agriculture Committee will continue under the leadership of Cliff Hite (R-Findlay), with vice chair Joe Uecker (R–Miami Township) and ranking minority leader Lou Gentile (D-Steubenville). Other committee members are Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City), Dave Burke (R-Marysville), Capri S. Cafaro (D-Hubbard), Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green), Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville), Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) and Michael J. Skindell (D-Lakewood). The Senate Agriculture Committee does not currently have any hearings on its schedule.

Concert to Benefit G.O. Ministries & Farm for Christ to be Held January 31
The public is invited to enjoy an afternoon of uplifting music at Lakeside High School Auditorium led by inspirational composer Ken Medema. It will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday January 31, 2015. The event is free, and an offering will be received to benefit G.O. Ministries and Farm for Christ. It is being sponsored by Lakeside Music Boosters.

A mass local choir of more than 150 voices will be accompanied by Ken and perform some of his music, including the popular “I See America”. The choir is being assembled from schools, churches, community groups and anyone who wishes to be a part of this enjoyable afternoon. All singers are welcome. There will be two rehearsals with Ken at the auditorium; Wednesday January 28 at 7 pm, and Saturday January 31 at 1:30pm.

The second part of the afternoon program will include Ken’s improvisational work, utilizing stories told on the spot by members of the audience. From the time Ken was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1942, he has been unable to see with his physical eyes. He says, “As a kid I was not widely accepted and spent a lot of time by myself. Because I have
lived with some degree of being different all my life, I have some sympathy for people who have been
disenfranchised by all kinds of issues.”

Discovering and developing his musical abilities as a child, Ken finished his college and Master’s degrees in music
therapy before working as a therapist for several years. In 1973, he began his career as a performing and recording
artist. His work has widely published as choral pieces as well as familiar hymns for worship use. His instruments of
choice are a large keyboard synthesizer and grand piano.

His concerts are highly entertaining and healing for people of all ages, for their creative and enjoyable messages. He
has appeared several times in the Ashtabula area and has been on numerous programs and national conventions
such as “Hour of Power”, Kiwanis International, Guideposts Magazine, The Salvation Army and many denominations.
He performs over 200 times per year and enjoys every group he meets.

It will be a fine afternoon of good music and fellowship. Reviews of his performances often include the words: “Must
see this to believe it!”

Northeast Ohio Winter Grape School to be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at Geneva Lodge & Conference Center
in Geneva, Ohio
OSU Extension, OSU Horticulture & Crop Science Department, KSU Vesta Program, and the Ashtabula Research
Station for the Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center are pleased to be co-sponsoring the Northeast
Ohio Winter Grape School on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Geneva Lodge &
Conference Center in Geneva-on-the-Lake.  Ohio Wine & Grape Producers are invited to this power-packed school to
be held at the Geneva Lodge & Conference Center on the beautiful shores of Lake Erie!

Registration for this program will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the program running from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. During
this power packed day, Ohio grape and wine producers will learn valuable updates to increase the profitability of
their business.  Topics which will be discussed during this school include: vineyard custom rates; managing crown
gall; chemical and sustainable control options for grape diseases; managing weeds in vineyards; new advances in
grape root stocks; soil sampling; and using spray adjuvants.

The featured speakers for this program are: Dr. Peter Cousins, grape breeder at E. & J. Gallo Winery and Dr. Tom
Burr, Professor of Plant Pathology at Cornell University.  Additional speakers include Dr. Mike Ellis, Dr. Imed Dami, Dr.
Doug Doohan, David Marrison & Les Over from OSU Extension; and Eric Cotton, Lake Erie Grape Grower.

The registration fee for this program is $35 per person which includes program materials, lunch and refreshments.
For lunch, participants will enjoy a “create your own” baked potato with a variety of toppings including cheese, sour
cream, chopped bacon and green onions. This will be served with assorted salad greens, grilled chicken, select
dressings & toppings, fresh fruit platter, rolls and butter prepared by the Geneva Lodge & Conference Center culinary
staff.

Reservations are due by noon on March 2, 2015.  A special thank you is extended to the Geneva Lodge & Conference
Center for hosting this school.  The first 10 KSU VESTA Students who register will have their registration fee waived.
Ohio Private Pesticide Applicator’s Re-certification will be offered for CORE & Category 3-Grapes.  A registration flyer
can be found at:  http://go.osu.edu/ne-events.  More information about this program can be obtained by calling the
Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008 or by emailing David Marrison at marrison.2@osu.edu.
Corn, Soybean and Wheat Connection Webinar Programs
By Greg LaBarge

The 2015 Corn, Soybean and Wheat Connection Webinars are an outreach tool of OSU Agronomic Crops Team. There are two ways to participate in these programs. Three remaining live webinars are scheduled from 10:00-11:30 am. To access the programs go to the link http://carmenconnect.osu.edu/cswconnection/. The second way to access the information will through recordings that will be made available by 5:30 pm on the day presented at http://go.osu.edu/cswconnection. If you have questions on accessing or in follow-up to the presentations contact Greg LaBarge at labarge.1@osu.edu.

February 3-Soybean Production
- Agronomic Practices to Maximize Soybean Yield by Dr. Laura Lindsey, Extension Specialist-Soybean and Small Grain Production, OSUE
- Late Season Soybean Pest issues by Dr. Andy Michel, Extension Specialist-Entomology, OSUE

February 17-Corn Production
- Corn Interaction with Today’s Production Management Systems by Dr. Peter Thomison, Extension Specialist-Corn Production, OSUE
- What is the latest research on Ear Molds and Mycotoxins? by Dr. Pierce Paul, Extension Specialist-Corn and Small Grain Plan Pathology, OSUE

March 10-Agronomic Utilization of Manure
- Can Manure Sourced Nutrients be used to Meet Crop Need? by Greg LaBarge, Field Specialist-Agronomic Systems, OSUE
- Alternative Applications Timing to Take Advantage of Nitrogen by Glen Arnold, Field Specialist-Manure Nutrient Utilization, OSUE

Trumbull County Seeking ANR Educator
OSU Extension in Trumbull County is now taking applications (until February 15, 2015) for an Agricultural & Natural Resources Extension Educator. The ANR Educator will provide overall leadership to developing and conducting a proactive applied research and education program in agriculture and natural resources to meet current and future needs in farm management, livestock and crop production, food security, home horticulture/Master Gardeners, commercial horticulture, farm land use issues, innovative agricultural business opportunities, environmental quality and sustainability, renewable energy, and bio-based products.

Required job qualifications include: Master’s degree and at least one degree in agriculture, natural resources, or a related field (plant science is preferred). The successful candidate will have strong written and oral communication skills, and experience working with diverse clientele and organizations; demonstrated success in working as part of a team and initiating collaborative partnerships is sought; leadership ability, and strong teaching and subject matter expertise in at least one area of agriculture is necessary. Candidates must be willing to work flexible hours with minimal supervision. To learn more about this position (Job #400890) or to apply, go to: https://www.jobsatosu.com/postings/60275

Ashtabula County Beef Scholarship Applications Available
OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association are pleased to announce they will be awarding a beef scholarship to a deserving Ashtabula County Senior Student who will be attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute in 2015-2016. Approximately $1,000 in scholarships will be awarded this year.
Applicants must be resident of Ashtabula County. The first preference by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association is the scholarship be awarded to a deserving student who has been involved in the beef industry as a youth. Examples of this could include: working on a family beef operation; involved with a beef project through 4-H or FFA; or works on a local beef farm. The second preference for this scholarship recipient would be awarded to a student who will studying a beef related field in accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute.

Applications must be received by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association by May 1, 2015 for consideration for the scholarship. No late applications will be considered. The application can be obtained at: go.osu.edu/ne-events Additional information can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

**Agricultural Fertilizer Certification Session to be held on February 23, 2015 in Williamsfield, Ohio**

Agricultural fertilizer applicator certification is now required for farmers who apply fertilizer to more than 50 acres of agricultural production grown primarily for sale. This requirement was signed into law in June, 2014, and also requires certification for commercial agricultural applicators. Farmers who have their fertilizer applied by co-ops or custom applicators are not required to be certified.

Farmers and applicators need to attend a training course offered by Ohio State University Extension to become certified. Those who have a pesticide applicator license need to attend a two-hour fertilizer certification. If an applicator does not have a pesticide license, they will be required to attend a three-hour fertilizer certification.

A three-hour certification program for any applicator who does not have a pesticide license will be offered on Monday, February 23, 2015 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon at the Williamsfield Community Center located at 5920 US Route 322 IN Williamsfield, Ohio. This free meeting will meet the certification requirements for those with and without a pesticide license. Pre-registration is required and online registration is available at [http://nutrienteducation.osu.edu](http://nutrienteducation.osu.edu) Registration can also be made by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

Fertilizer is defined for the regulation as any substance containing nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, or other plant nutrient in a dry or liquid formulation. All application types such as broadcast, side dress, sub-surface, knifing and other are included in the certification requirement. Lime and limestone are not included as fertilizer for the certification and farmers who only use starter fertilizer in their planter boxes are exempted. Applicators who are a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or Ohio Certified Livestock Manager are not required to attend the training. The agriculture fertilizer certification is not required for manure applications as these are currently regulated.

Applicants who meet the criteria for the certification must attend training by September 30, 2017. The Ohio Department of Agriculture is the agency issuing the certification for agriculture fertilizer applications and information about the new certification can be found at: [http://agri.ohio.gov](http://agri.ohio.gov)

For more information about this training session or general materials for the agriculture fertilizer certification, visit [http://nutrienteducation.osu.edu](http://nutrienteducation.osu.edu) or call the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008. A program flyer for the February 23 program can be found at: [http://go.osu.edu/ne-events](http://go.osu.edu/ne-events)

**Applications Being Taken For Ashtabula County Dairy Princess**

OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Dairy Service Unit Board of Directors are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2015 Ashtabula County’s Dairy Princess Program.

This year’s princess will be crowned at the Annual Ashtabula County Dairy Banquet on Saturday evening, March 21, 2015 at the Lenox Community Center in Lenox, Ohio. As part of the competition, each contestant will be interviewed
by a panel of judges and be required to present a two-minute speech relating to the dairy industry or her involvement in dairying. The new princess will be selected based on her interview score in combination with a vote of the dairy producers in attendance at the banquet.

Contestants must have a dairy background and reside or work on a milk producing dairy farm or have specific interests in dairy, dairy veal, or dairy feeder 4-H or FFA projects. They must be a 15-25 year old resident of Ashtabula County. Application forms are now available at the OSU Extension office in Jefferson and can be received by calling 440-576-9008. The application deadline for this contest is March 2, 2015.

2015 Winter Extension Program Dates
The following programs have been scheduled for Northeast Ohio farmers this upcoming winter. Complete registration flyers can be found at: [http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/upcoming-educational-programs-deadlines](http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/upcoming-educational-programs-deadlines)

Northeast Ohio Farm Bill Training Sessions
January 27, 2015 at the Lorain County FSA Office

Northeast Ohio Pesticide Recertification & Fertilizer Certification Sessions
January 30, 2015 at the Geauga County Extension Office
February 9, 2015 at the Trumbull County Extension Office
February 26, 2015 at the Perry Community Center

Northeast Ohio Agronomy School
February 2, 2015 at Williamsfield Community Center

Fertilizer Certification Sessions
February 23, 2015 at Williamsfield Community Center
April 7, 2015 at Geauga County Extension Office

Northeast Ohio Winter Grape School
March 10, 2015 at the Geneva Lodge & Conference Center

2015 Ashtabula County Dairy Banquet
Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the Lenox Community Center

2015 Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show
Saturday, April 18 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds

Trumbull County Fair
July 14-19, 2015

Ashtabula County Fair
August 11-16, 2015

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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

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