Hello, Northeast Ohio Counties!

We’ve had some excellent weather the past several days, and for most of this week. It’s a great time to stop out to the Trumbull County Fair! The fair will be going all week with the 4H livestock sale Saturday morning. Stop out for a great time and view the 4H projects! You can find the fair schedule here: http://www.trumbullcountyfair.com/index.php/events/event-schedule

A reminder - with perfect hay baling weather, please be safe out there and never work on running equipment. A young man lost his arm in the accident above.

Lee Beers & David Marrison
Extension Educators
Ag & Natural Resources
Northeast Ohio Grape & Wine Field Day & Grape Twilight Tour Slated for July 19

The 2018 Northeast Ohio Grape & Wine Field Day will be held on July 19, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station located at 2625 South Ridge Road East in Kingsville, Ohio.

The theme of the field day will be Vineyard Sustainability. The featured speakers will include Dr. Elizabeth Long (Sustainable Management of Vineyard Insects), Dr. Melanie Lewis Ivey (IPM Update and NEWA Disease Forecasting System), Dr. Doug Doohan (IPM Approach to Weed Management), and Andrew Kirk (Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station Sustainability Initiatives). This evening is open to the public and there is no fee to attend. Contact Andy Kirk at 440-224-0273 or kirk.197@osu.edu for more details about this event.

The 2018 Grape Twilight Tour will be held following the field day and will be held in the Main Hall Commons at Ashtabula Campus of Kent State University in Ashtabula, Ohio. The dinner will feature a regional Pinot tasting and will feature Dr. Roland Riesen, Professor of Viticulture & Enology at Ecole dingeniers de Changins. The cost of this event is $20 per person and reservations can be made at www.kent.edu/ashtabula/payhere. Reservations are requested by July 16, 2018. More information can be obtained by contacting Danielle Weiser-Cline at dweiser1@kent.edu.

Controlling Marestail in Double-Crop Soybeans
By Mark Loux
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2018-21/controlling-marestail-double-crop-soybeans

A uniform wheat crop can provide effective suppression of marestail, especially when combined with some in-crop herbicides. It is nonetheless typical for marestail plants to be evident after the wheat is harvested, and these should be controlled prior to double crop soybean emergence. There can be a couple types of marestail plants to deal with in this situation: 1) small ones that were lurking near the base of the wheat plants, which are largely not disturbed by the combine; and 2) larger ones that may have been present in areas of thin wheat.
stand, which get cut off by the combine and then regrow. The first of these is really the more ideal situation because the small undisturbed plants can usually be controlled by one of the following: glyphosate plus Sharpen + MSO; glufosinate (Liberty, Interline, Cheetah, etc); or possibly even Gramoxone plus metribuzin (although this is more effective when mixed with 2,4-D). Adding metribuzin to any of these can improve control of emerged marestail and provide some residual control of later emerging marestail as well.

The second situation, where marestail plants regrow following damage by the combine, is more challenging. We have tried a number of treatments at multiple locations where marestail have been in this condition, and have not been able to obtain more than about 80% control. This level of control can prevent competition with the soybeans and minimize seed production. Best options for this situation, ranked from most to least effective:

1. Glufosinate + Sharpen + metribuzin + MSO
2. Glufosinate + Sharpen + MSO
3. Glyphosate + Sharpen + metribuzin + MSO
4. Glyphosate + Sharpen + MSO

A few other things to consider:
- Glyphosate treatments may be the better choice where large grasses are present, or where grasses other than giant foxtail are present.
- All of these treatments contain one or more contact herbicides (not systemic) and should be applied in at least 15 gpa with the appropriate nozzle and adjuvants to ensure thorough coverage.
- Planting LibertyLink soybeans provides more flexibility in when glufosinate can be applied, and also provides for the postemergence use of glufosinate. We do not advise waiting too long after soybean planting to apply the glufosinate though – the marestail won’t get any easier to control. In Roundup Ready or non-GMO soybeans, there will be no postemergence option that is effective on marestail.
- The preemergence burndown is responsible for much of the weed control in double crop soybeans, and we advise against trying to go too simple or inexpensive. Adding some residual herbicide is not necessarily a bad thing in double crop, but it is not near as important compared with full-season soybeans. And some residual soybean herbicides should not be applied this late in the season where corn will be planted next year due to carryover concerns. Any of the products containing chlorimuron, cloransulam, imazaquin, or imazethapyr should generally not be applied this late.
- Much of the information here also applies to control of marestail in wheat stubble, in the absence of soybeans. However, 2,4-D can be used in wheat stubble, and also dicamba if the temperatures are cool enough. Our research in wheat stubble has shown that applying before the end of July is more effective, and even glyphosate/2,4-D can prevent most of the seed production if applied by then. Preventing marestail seed production is the goal in wheat stubble.
marestail plants present in July following wheat harvest will not survive through the winter, and any chemical or nonchemical approach that prevents them from flowering and producing seed is adequate.

Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association to Meet on July 21, 2018
The next meeting of the Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association will be held on Saturday July 21, 2018 at Jefferson Healthcare Center located at 222 East Beech Street in Jefferson, Ohio (new location). Please use the Out-Patient Driveway and park and enter in the rear of the building.

A potluck dinner will be held at noon with the meeting to follow at 1:00 p.m. Please bring a dish/dessert to share. Topics for the meeting include: Entering Items for the Fair by Joan Romick and Business of Beekeeping by William Riccio, CPA. Please bring your questions. The next meeting will be held on September 15, 2018.

Avoiding Forage Shortages
– John F. Grimes, OSU Extension Beef Coordinator (originally published in The Ohio Farmer on-line)
Source: http://u.osu.edu/beef/2018/07/03/avoiding-forage-shortages/

Any successful beef producer understands the importance of effective management of grazed and harvested forages. Cow-calf producers, stocker operators, and feedlot managers share a common need for plentiful supplies of high quality forages for the entire year. Unfortunately, environmental factors can make the availability of consistent supplies available from year to year.

USDA NASS reported hay stocks on Ohio farms on May 1, 2018 were 280,000 tons, down 33% from this time last year. All hay stored on United States farms May 1, 2018 was down 36 percent from a year ago. As the summer months move along, producers have made one or more cuttings of hay to accumulate supplies for the winter of 2018-2019. This year’s harvest and carryover stocks from the previous winter will determine the forage management strategies that will be necessary to carry supplies through to the 2019 production season.
If producers are concerned that hay supplies will be tight to carry them through to the next growing season, they should consider a variety of strategies to supplement or preserve existing supplies. Here are a few management decisions to consider to insure adequate forage supplies to reach the 2019 growing season.
1. Old Faithful
Stockpiling is the time-tested method to take advantage of the late summer-fall growing conditions to obtain high-quality pasture for fall and early winter grazing. Consider grasses that will be responsive to nitrogen and hold their quality into the winter. Historically, fescue has been the most commonly used grass in this region for stockpiling. Kentucky bluegrass and orchardgrass are other common grasses used for stockpiling.
Stockpiling should typically begin by early to mid-August. Start by removing cattle from the pasture or clip the pasture so that 3-4 inches of forage remain. Topdressing 50 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre in mid-August can generate significant amounts of extra forage production. Kentucky research has shown an increase of 20 – 25 pounds of dry matter from Kentucky bluegrass and fescue for each pound of nitrogen applied. Grazing of stockpiled forages can begin in late fall to early winter depending on weather conditions.

2. Plant a Winter Annual
Winter varieties of wheat, triticale, cereal rye or ryegrass can be planted in the fall. Best results are usually obtained if planting is completed by early October. Winter small grain cereals commonly yield about 2 to 3 tons per acre. They offer the potential for light grazing (removing no more than half of the forage) in late fall – early winter. The bulk of the forage produced can be harvested through grazing in late winter – early spring. Producers can also utilize mechanical harvest as weather conditions allow. Harvesting the forage as baled silage as opposed to dry hay will insure a higher quality forage for feeding.

3. Secure Supplies Early
If you need to purchase extra hay, do so as early as possible. Hay prices will be more economical when purchased outside of the normal winter feeding season. If possible, purchase hay by weight and not by the bale to insure you are getting true value for your purchase. Not all hay is created equal so request a nutrient analysis of the hay being purchased in order to match the nutritional needs of the targeted production group.

4. Waste Not, Want Not
When selecting the storage location for all cuttings of hay this season, think about how the hay will be fed next winter. Arrange the accessibility of the different types and cuttings of hay based on the various production groups and calving season of your herd. Account for potential weather challenges and the probable location where animals will be fed next winter. Make sure to document location of the different types, cuttings, and quality of hay being stored. Check out this video on proper hay storage techniques that would minimize storage losses located at the OSU Extension Beef Team’s YouTube Channel at: https://youtu.be/8nF65KQzx7k

5. Eliminate the “Freeloaders”
Determining the pregnancy status of beef cattle continues to be one of the most underutilized yet relatively easy to implement management practices available to beef producers. Today,
there are three basic technologies available to the producer for pregnancy checking: traditional palpation, ultrasound, and blood testing. The most obvious reason for pregnancy checking is to identify non-pregnant or open females for sale as a means to reduce feed expenses. Keep in mind that once a female is diagnosed open, it will be a minimum of approximately 300 days before this female will deliver a calf and another 6-8 months before you can sell a calf. This is simply too long of a period to accumulate expenses without the female providing the opportunity for income. If cows are not being productive for you, they need to be replaced.

The Ashtabula County Fair is for Gardeners Too!
By: Ashtabula County Master Gardeners

Our county fair begins August 7, so gardeners need to think about their floral and veggie entries now! Floral entries must be registered by 5 p.m. August 6 for the first show, noon on August 10 for the second show, and all others by July 31 in the secretary's office. The floral entries themselves must be tagged and brought to the Floral Building by 5 p.m. Monday of fair week for the first show and by noon on Friday for the second.

It's fun, easy and the entry fee is minimal. In fact, if you buy a membership ticket or exhibitor's pass, it's free! All the information you need can be found in the fair booklet, available for download right now at http://www.ashtabulafair.com/fairbook-ashtabula-fair.html or for pickup at the fairground's office.

While the categories for Floriculture Competition are straightforward and clear, there are some rules to follow. If you disregard them, you'll likely be disqualified. The most important tip, then, is Follow the rules!

For example, entries will not be accepted after the deadlines for the first and second show. The only category that allows for more than one entry is roses, and then entrants may not enter more than one of the same variety. Entering two red sunflowers could result in both being disqualified.

Be sure your entry labels are matched to your entry. Yellow large marigolds won't stand a chance in competition against orange, multi-colored dwarf marigolds. And you'd probably be awfully embarrassed if you accidentally enter a snapdragon in the petunia category.

Follow directions for numbers of blooms. In the class of Specimen Cut Flowers, most entries are limited to one bloom--two blooms will disqualify you. But when three blooms are called for, you must have three blooms--no more, no less.
Measure twice. Two categories in Class Six call for arrangements no bigger than 5" and judges have rulers. You should also be aware that the tallest gladiolus is judged for the longest set of flowers, from the base of the first bloom to its flowering tip—not the length of its entire stem. And if instructions say pots may be no larger than 10" across, bigger pots won’t even be considered.

Speaking of gladioli, if you enter a spike in this class, please make sure your vase is heavily weighted. Glads and other tall entries topple easily if breezes blow through the floral building. When the wind picks up, Ashtabula County Master Gardener volunteers cringe as they await the sound of breaking glass.

Besides following the rules, you might want to keep in mind some tips that will help your entry be more "prizeworthy." Judges of flower shows take in many criteria when it comes to their consideration of individual bloom entries.

For instance, the color of flowers should be bright and attractive and free of blemish. Avoid entering specimens with defects such as sunburn, water spotting, bleaching or fading.

Flower form itself must be true to type. For composite flowers like dahlias and zinnias, petals in the same ring should be the same length and shape. Double blooms should be deep.

While larger blooms are desirable, form and substance are more important. Size matters more when an entry is required to have three or more blooms. In that case, judges are looking for uniformity in size, as well as color, shape, condition and substance. Good substance and condition are vital for all entries at judging time. Flowers and foliage should be firm and crisp. Bloom tips and petal margins should show no signs of wilting, fading or browning.

Here are some other tips for entries:

Every year gardeners bring in specimen cuttings for floral entries. Stages are filled with gladiolas, hydrangeas, sunflowers, zinnias, marigolds and much more.
➢ Make sure your foliage is healthy and characteristic of your entry, especially if the foliage itself is the entry. Start getting rid of those slugs right now if you plan on submitting a hosta leaf or two.

➢ Pick strong, straight stems for your blooms. You may want to "wedge" some of your entries in their vases so they don't look tipsy.

➢ Choose appropriate containers that don't distract from your entries. Clear or white vases are recommended for specimens, and a good rule of thumb is that flower stems be 1 1/2 to 2 times the height of the container.

➢ While the condition of blooms in floral arrangements is important, other judging criteria carry more weight. Good color harmony should be evident between the container and arrangement, as well as among the flowers themselves. Each entry should have a definite design with stems arranged to create an attractive effect.

A balance in the volume and color of the plant material is important. A well-balanced arrangement will appear stable and not seem to tilt. Parts of the arrangement, plant materials and their container should be in proper proportion. Foam, wiring or tape used to hold the materials should not be visible.

Flowers and foliage should appear to belong together naturally. While dried flowers may be effectively combined with fresh (and may, indeed, be required in some categories), never ever include plastic or silk flowers in your entries.

Lastly, remember that judges are typically looking for uncommon, out of the ordinary, original arrangements. Let your design be imaginative and unique, without appearing bizarre.

While most of the categories in all classes remain the same this year, all but three of the artistic arrangement classes for adults change every year. The entries that typically appear every year are for fresh or dried arrangements not to exceed 5 inches and Exhibitor's Choice, which allows for ANY fresh floral arrangement.

Among the new categories in 2018 are Ever and Always (dried), Far Away, Go for the Gold, Hut 2, 3, 4, It's a Gamble, Over the Rainbow, Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage or Rocky Start. Tribe fans can try their creativity with Play Ball!

Entrants may want to raid their veggie and herb gardens to create Herbal Culinary Combo, Hey, Red! (tomato theme), Kitchen Capers (use kitchen item for vase), or South of the Border (Mexican theme). Or they might want to honor this year's fair theme with a Dr. Seuss arrangement or gather flowers in a teapot for Tempest in a Teapot!
New categories in the Boys and Girls entries (for ages 4-9 and 10-15) include Dr. Seuss (the fair theme) and Lego Land. The popular categories of Miniatures and Kids Gone Wild will remain the same.

One other notable change is the introduction of potted geraniums, which may ONLY be entered for the second show. Fairgoers may bring one entry for each category in this class: common/zonal geraniums, ivy leaved/trailing geraniums or scented geraniums. Pots may be no larger than 10” across.

With over 80 categories to enter, most of them allowing for two shows, you could make big money at the fair. You heard that right. There are monetary awards for first, second and third place winners, as well as Best of Show! Don't wait any longer. Download your fair book today and plan your entries for this year!

_In 2018, Ashtabula County Master Gardeners will be covering a wide range of topics, indicating special interests among their members. If you would like a master gardener to write about a particular topic, call the OSU Extension Office at (440) 576-9008._

**David’s Weekly News Column**

For Publication in the Jefferson Gazette on July 11

Hello, Ashtabula County! Wow, this past weekend was absolutely beautiful! In fact, this week’s weather may be the best stretch we will get all summer. At the very least, it is the nicest week we have had in a long time. Our fields are still soggy but hay making will continue this week. A lot of combines are also hitting the field this week as wheat harvest has begun across the county.

The summer is zipping by which means the Ashtabula County fair is not too far away. In fact, Saturday July 14 is one of our biggest 4-H days as it is “Super Saturday.” During this day, hundreds of our 4-Hers and FFA members travel to the fairgrounds to take part in our project and Skill-a-thon judging. It is always great to see the outstanding work being done by our youngsters. Congratulations to all of them for their exceptional accomplishments.

Today, I would like to remind Ashtabula County residents that the fair office is open and is accepting fair entries. I would also share an issue impacting black raspberries and share details on a great fruit production reference manual. Have a great week everyone!

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In little less than one month, the Ashtabula County Fair will be in full swing with the fair running from August 7 through the 12th. However, the fair office opened this week and entries for this year’s fair are now being taken. I think we can honestly say that there is an entry for everyone.
The entry categories include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, draft horses, goats, hay & silage, agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, culinary, canned goods, needlework, crafts, arts, grange, honey, maple syrup, wine, and photography. Each of these categories has lots of options for entries, so make sure you enter your best of the best.

Fair entries will be taken until Tuesday, July 31, 2018 and most items for exhibit must be brought to the fairgrounds on Monday, August 6 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Complete entry details can be found on the Ashtabula County’s fair website at: www.ashtabulafair.com or be obtained by calling 440-576-7626 or 440-576-0557. I encourage you to check out the newly revamped website for the fair—it is a really nice site! You can also download the entire fair catalog from this site or at: http://www.ashtabulafair.com/fairbook-ashtabula-fair.html See you at the 172nd Ashtabula County Fair!

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Last week, lots of folks were able to start picking black raspberries. My mom was excited as she was able to make two batches of freezer jam and had plenty left over for cobbler. And yes, her son was beneficiary of this yummy harvest.

While our berries produced very well, we had a few folks stop in whose black raspberry plants completely died as they tried to ripen their fruit. Our investigation revealed these plants were being impacted by Phytophthora root rot which is caused by soil borne fungi. This is not a huge surprise as this fungus thrives in water logged soils. And boy have we been wet. I really feel for the folks who stopped by our office as it is tough to see your brambles set fruit but then die before it was able to ripen.

OSU Extension has a great factsheet written by Dr. Mike Ellis about this disease. We have copies of it at our office or it can be accessed at: https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/plpath-fru-14. I also want to share another publication which anyone growing fruit needs to have as part of their library. It is Bulletin 940- Midwest Fruit Production Guide. This guide is a wonderful resource for anyone growing tree fruits such as apples, pears, apricots, cherries, peaches and plums or small fruits.
like strawberries, brambles, grapes or blueberries.

This guide is packed full of information on growing tips, pruning, and disease and insect management. The color copy of this bulletin can be purchased at our Extension office for $23.25 plus tax. Just stop in our office at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson to receive your copy. You can also call us for more information at 440-576-9008.

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To close, I would like to leave you with a quote from Denis Waitley who stated, “Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude.” Have a good and safe day!

Lee’s Monthly News Column
Published July 5 in the Warren Tribune Chronicle

Hello Trumbull County! Happy July 4th! Well one day late. I hope you were able to enjoy some down time with family and friends.

What a growing season we’ve had so far this year. An average June in Trumbull county will see about four inches of rain, but this year we had just under seven inches here at the office. That’s almost double the amount of rain compared to a “normal” year. If you drive around and see flooded fields – or your yard– it’s because our soils are saturated and are not able to hold much more water when we get a heavy rain. Not only did we get more than average rainfall, the rains were also perfectly spaced so that by the time the soil was almost dry enough for tillage, planting, mowing, or fertilizing it would rain again. It’s been frustrating.

There is a lot of ground in Trumbull county that has not been touched this year, and many fields probably won’t get planted. Corn is a longer season crop so even if it was planted this late it would not yield enough to cover the cost of planting. Soybeans on the other hand are a shorter season crop and there may still be time to plant depending on the maturity. But, if the wet weather persists for another week it will be too late for most soybeans, as well. For those looking to get a crop in this year, another option would be to plant some late season field peas. This comes with some risk as planting time perfectly coincides with most of the field pea disease cycles.

With short windows of dry weather some farmers had to plant under less than ideal conditions. A seed in wet ground still has a better chance of growing than in the bag. Planting in wet soils is commonly referred to as “mudded in” and can result in poor stand emergence, stunted plants, and nutrient deficiencies. When a planter creates a furrow for the seed, if the soil is too wet it will smear the soil on the sides of the furrow. This smearing action can compact the soil preventing plant roots from penetrating this hard layer resulting in roots that can only grow laterally within the furrow. Plants in this situation can’t access nutrients outside the furrow and are anchored
poorly in the soil. “Floppy corn” is a symptom of being muddied in as the plants will simply flop over once the plant is too big for the root system.

We all know the importance of water for growing plants, but too much water can actually drown plant roots and prevent nutrient uptake. Just like animals, plants need oxygen to survive and grow. When too much water is in the soil it fills up the air pockets between soil particles that would normally provide oxygen for the roots. This shuts down much of the plant’s metabolism and results in less uptake of nutrients. You can see this nutrient deficiency in the plants when they turn yellow or a pale green. The nutrient deficiency doesn’t mean that your soil is lacking nutrients, it’s just that the plant can’t access them. Adding fertilizer to correct this won’t do much (if anything) to alleviate the symptoms.

Other than praying for better weather, the only thing that may help is managing water within fields (gardens, lawns, etc.) via drainage. Long term options like drainage tile is a great option to help soils dry out faster, but you might want to reserve that investment for land that you own or for which you have long term leases. Surface drainage with ditches is an easier and cheaper way to manage ponding water. Specialized ditchers are available that can create shallow ditches (18” or less) to direct water out of the field. These are not permanent and will need to be cut every year and they can interfere with tractors and implements.

(I have to admit, as much as I would like it to dry out, the rain is a nice relief from these high temps. Just don’t tell anyone I said that.)

The Trumbull County Master Gardeners “Wednesdays in the Garden” programs will be continuing every other Wednesday throughout July and August. Next up on the schedule for July 11th, is a program dedicated to selecting, growing, and maintaining Hostas. On July 25th come learn how to properly maintain and care for your garden tools to keep them sharp and functioning properly. As always, the Wednesdays in the Gardens events are free, are always at 6:00pm, and will be held rain or shine at the Trumbull County Ag and Family Education Center at 520 West Main St., Cortland, OH 44410.

Mark your calendars because the Trumbull County Master Gardener Family Garden Fair will be returning on July 18th from 5-7pm here at the Trumbull County Ag Center in Cortland. The Cortland Band will be playing, there will be activities for kids (and adults), the Master Gardeners will be holding a plant sale, and much more! The event is free to all. For more information call our office at 330-638-6783.

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.
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2018 Grape Twilight Tour

Dinner w/ regional Pinot tastings

Featuring Dr. Roland Riesen
Professor of Viticulture and Enology at École d'ingénieurs de Changins

July 19th at 5:30 p.m.
Kent State University at Ashtabula
Main Hall Commons

Cost: $20 | RSVP by July 16th

www.kent.edu/ashtabula/payhere

Advanced payment is preferred, however, if you wish to pay at the door, please indicate so on the RSVP form.
THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

2018 NORTHEAST OHIO GRAPE FIELD DAY

TOPICS

IPM Update and NEWA Disease Forecasting System – Melanie Lewis Ivey, Plant Pathology.


IPM Approach to Weed Management – Doug Doohan, Horticulture and Crop Science.

Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station Sustainability Initiatives: Under Vine Cover Cropping Demonstration, Plant Health Monitoring Through NDVI Sensing, and NEWA Forecasting Demonstration Vineyard – Andrew Kirk, Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station.

Location: 2625 South Ridge Road E, Kingsville, OH 44048

Cost: Free and open to the Public

Contact information: Andrew Kirk, 440-224-0273, or kirk.197@osu.edu

Please note: Immediately following the field day event, the 2018 Twilight Grape Tour will take place at the Kent State University’s Ashtabula campus. Please contact Danielle Weiser-Cline, dweiser1@kent.edu, for detailed information and reservations.