Hello, Northeast Ohio Counties!

What a great week for wheat harvest across the area. A lot of hay and straw was also baled. The first field peas were harvested in Trumbull County this past weekend—expect to see more harvested by the end of this week.

The wet months of April-June is now showing its impact. Field peas have experienced a lot of root issues. As we dry out, shallow rooted crops are sure to be a concern. Some crops were showing stress already last week.
**Overall Drier Pattern into Early August**

By: Jim Noel  

The pattern change from wet to dry has arrived. For the remainder of July expect temperatures not too far from normal, some days above some days slightly below. Nothing real extreme to note in the temperatures. Humidity will also fluctuate from higher to lower to higher. Overall, moisture in the air will be typical for July. The one thing that will be different is the rainfall pattern. July has been a drier month for many areas. After a few showers or storms early this week, the next rain chance will be late this Friday into the weekend. It appears most should be 0.50-1.0 inches with the range being 0.25 to 3.00 inches. However, after this rain event it looks like rainfall will go back to being limited for the rest of July and possibly into early August.

August is shaping up to be warmer than normal with a drier start and wetter finish.

For the next two weeks the attached rainfall map from NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center shows rainfall will average 0.75 to 2.75 inches across Ohio with isolated totals higher and lower than that. The heaviest rains will be to the south and east of Ohio.

**Western Bean Cutworm: Time to Scout**  

Western bean cutworm (WBC) adult moth catches in our trapping network are ticking up, with a noticeable increase from the week before. For week ending July 14, 24 counties monitored 88 traps (Figure 1). Overall, there was an average of 14.5 moths per trap (1116 total captured). This is an increase from an average of 3.4 moths/trap (217 total captured) the previous week.

**Life cycle and feeding.** Adult moths (what we monitor in the traps) will be making their way into corn fields where females will lay eggs on the uppermost portion of the flag leaf. Eggs are laid in unevenly distributed clusters of 5–200, but averaging about 50 per cluster, and hatch within 5–7 days (Figure 2). Eggs first appear white, then tan and then a dark purple. Once eggs turn purple, they will hatch within 24 to 48 hours (Figure 3). In pre-tassel corn, caterpillars will move to the whorl to feed on the flag leaf and unemerged tassel. Once the tassel emerges, larvae then move to the ear, while feeding on corn.
pollen, leaf tissue, and silks. Later they will enter the ear through the tip, or by chewing through the side of the husk. Damage occurs from both direct feeding and from mold problems at feeding sites.

**Scouting and management.** You can view our scouting video at: https://aginsects.osu.edu/news/western-bean-cutworm-video Female moths prefer to lay eggs in pre-tassel corn approaching tassel, so check such fields first. To scout for eggs or larvae, choose at least 20 consecutive plants in 5 random locations and inspect the uppermost 3–4 leaves for eggs, as well as the silks for larvae if tassel has emerged. Be sure to inspect different areas of the field that may be in different growth stages. For field corn, if 8% or more of the plants inspected have eggs or larvae, consider treatment. For sweet corn, consider treatment if eggs or larvae are found on >4% of plants for the processing market or on >1% of plants for fresh-market. Bt corn with the Cry1F trait can no longer be relied upon for good western bean cutworm control, so these fields should be scouted too. These include Herculex I, Herculex Xtra, SmartStax, and others.

If infestations exceed threshold, many insecticides are available to adequately control western bean cutworm, especially those containing a pyrethroid. However, as with any ear-burrowing caterpillar pest, timing is critical. Insecticide applications must occur after egg hatch, or after tassel emergence, but before caterpillars enter the ear. If eggs have hatched, applications should be made after 95% of the field has tassel. If eggs have not hatched, monitor for the color change. Hatch will occur within 24–48 hours once eggs turn purple. To search for larval injury after it has occurred, search the corn for ears having feeding holes on the outside of the husks.

**Changes Coming for OSU Extension in Ashtabula County (Agricultural Extension Educator)**

By: David Marrison

It has been an honor to serve as the Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator for the past 21 years. I was very humbled to return home from Indiana in June of 1997 to succeed my “county agent” Lanny Anderson who retired after 30 years of service to our county in 1997. The chance to move back near my parents and my home community was something I could not pass up. I have been so blessed to carry on the legacy of Lanny Anderson over the past two decades.
I have LOVED working for OSU Extension in Ashtabula County for the past 21 years and never thought I might leave a community which is embedded so deep within my heart. However, life gives us twists and turns and since 2010 my life has been completely changed by cancer and other events. I am a firm believer that everything which happens in our lives gives us strength, knowledge and faith to face the road which we will be traveling down in the future. One thing the past 8 years has taught me, is to never say never.

Out of the darkness of the past 8 years, God has shown extreme grace to me and I will be getting re-married at the beginning of September. At this time, I will be leaving my position here in Ashtabula County to assume the same role for Coshocton County (OSU Agricultural & Natural Resources Extension Educator for Coshocton County) beginning on September 4, 2018. The past 21 years here have been nothing but happy memories. I have appreciated the chance to work for the agricultural communities both here in Ashtabula County as well as Trumbull County. I appreciate the working relationship I have had with our farmers, political leaders, the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association, Ashtabula County Dairy Service Unit and the Ashtabula County Master Gardeners. We have great people here in Ashtabula County. It is bitter sweet to be leaving our community.

I am pleased the job description for the ANR position here in Ashtabula County has been written, and applications for the position will be accepted from August 4-19. Interviews will be held in September. I have already heard of a few viable candidates who, if hired, will continue our high quality Agricultural & Natural Resources Extension program. I am so very proud of the work which we have done together and look forward to our continued friendship. See you at the county fair!

**Smaller Summer Algal Bloom Forecast for Western Lake Erie Basin**

By NOAA


NOAA and its research partners predict that western Lake Erie will experience a harmful algal bloom (HAB) of cyanobacteria this summer that is smaller than in 2017 but larger than the mild bloom in 2016.

Scientists expect this year’s bloom to measure 6 on the severity index, but could range between 5 and 7.5. The severity index is based on a bloom’s biomass – the amount of its harmful algae – over a sustained period. The largest blooms, 2011 and 2015, were 10 and 10.5, respectively. Last year’s bloom had a severity of 8.
However, the size of a bloom is not necessarily an indication of how toxic it is. The toxins in a large bloom may not be as concentrated as in a smaller bloom. NOAA is developing tools to predict how toxic blooms will be.

“NOAA continues to develop tools that provide early warning systems for harmful algal blooms which help visitors and the community make better informed decisions about recreation activities,” said W. Russell Callender, Ph.D., assistant NOAA administrator for the National Ocean Service. “The resources and services the lake provides drive our economy and we’ll keep working with our partners to bring the most accurate forecasts for the region.”

The Lake Erie forecast is part of a NOAA ecological forecasting initiative that aims to deliver accurate, relevant, timely and reliable ecological forecasts directly to coastal resource managers and the public. In addition to the seasonal forecast, NOAA also issues HAB bulletins twice a week during the bloom season, which provide a three- to five-day forecast.

This year, NOAA will increase use of the Sentinel-3a satellite data, which first became available last year. The satellite measures coastal water color, which shows the location of HABs, as part of the European Union’s Copernicus program, which just launched the sister satellite, Sentinel-3b that will start providing imagery by next summer. The Sentinel-3 series can see features 10 times smaller than has been seen in the HABs forecasts for the last several years. Sentinel-3 provides more detail to improve the forecasts used by the water treatment plants and public safety managers.

In recent years, visible blooms have not appeared until late July or early August. *Microcystis*, the cyanobacteria that form the bloom, will typically start growing when water temperatures reach 65-70 degrees, usually in mid-June. This year, the western basin warmed almost two weeks
earlier than usual, reaching 70 degrees the last week of May, leading to the appearance of a small bloom.

“This early start does not change the forecast severity, because the bloom is determined by the amount of phosphorus that goes into the water,” said Richard Stumpf, Ph.D., NOAA oceanographer. “Close attention to the weekly bulletins will be important through July and August to find the best places to enjoy the lake.”

“Research efforts across the state have helped our communities prepare for blooms of this size, from developing new technologies to keep toxins out of our drinking water to assessing the human health impacts of harmful algal bloom toxins,” said Christopher Winslow, Ph.D., director of the Ohio Sea Grant College Program. “While continued efforts are still needed to reduce nutrient runoff and therefore the size of future HABs, Lake Erie residents and visitors will still be able to safely enjoy much of the lake during bloom season.”

Nutrient load data for the forecast came from Heidelberg University. The forecast models are run by NOAA’s National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, the University of Michigan, North Carolina State University, LimnoTech, Stanford University, and the Carnegie Institution for Science. Field observations used for monitoring and modeling are done in partnership with NOAA’s Ohio River Forecast Center, NOAA’s National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, NOAA’s Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, NOAA’s Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research, Ohio State University’s Sea Grant Program and Stone Laboratory, University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, and Ohio EPA.
Ohio Department of Agriculture Offering Produce Safety Consultations

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is now offering produce growers free Food and Drug Administration approved consultations to help farmers comply with the upcoming Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety rule.

ODA’s Division of Food Safety, through a cooperative agreement with the FDA, is responsible for enforcing the Produce Safety rule in Ohio. Farm inspections will begin in the spring of 2019, but prior to inspections, ODA staff is offering these voluntary consultation visits to help growers identify what steps they may need to take to comply with the Produce Safety rule before regulatory inspections begin.

Farms can request a farm consultation visit to determine specific requirements to their farm. This service is offered as a one-day course that provides one-on-one training in which trained and certified ODA staff will visit farms and walk growers through what will be expected with new federal regulations on their farm. In addition to the consultation, farms will also receive resource materials that will help aid in compliance.

Growers unsure if their farm is subject to the Produce Safety rule, can review FDA’s FSMA regulation document or contact ODA for additional assistance. Produce farms that are exempt from the rule are welcome to schedule consultation visits, as some of the requirements are similar to those required by third party food safety auditors.

FSMA, which was signed into law on Jan. 4, 2011, is the most comprehensive reform of the nation’s food safety laws since 1938. Its goal is to better protect public health by shifting U.S. food supply safety efforts from a response approach to one of prevention. FSMA is comprised of seven rules that span the entire food supply chain. Of these rules, the one most likely to impact produce growers is the Produce Safety rule.

For more information on FSMA, the Produce Safety rule or to schedule your on-farm consultation visit agri.ohio.gov or call 614-600-4272.
Agricultural Nutrients Targeted in Clean Lake 2020 Bill and Kasich Executive Order
Written by Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Law

Recent actions by the Ohio legislature and Governor Kasich will affect the management of agricultural nutrients in Ohio. The Ohio General Assembly has passed “Clean Lake 2020” legislation that will provide funding for reducing phosphorus in Lake Erie. Governor Kasich signed the Clean Lake 2020 bill on July 10, in tandem with issuing Executive Order 2018—09K, “Taking Steps to Protect Lake Erie.” The two actions aim to address the impact of agricultural nutrients on water quality in Lake Erie.

The Clean Lake 2020 legislation provides funding for the following:

- $20 million in FY 2019 for a Soil and Water Phosphorus Program in the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). In utilizing the funds, ODA must:
  - Consult with the Lake Erie Commission and the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission to establish programs that help reduce total phosphorus and dissolved reactive phosphorus in the Western Lake Erie Basin and must give priority to sub-watersheds that are highest in total phosphorus and dissolved reactive phosphorus nutrient loading.
  - Create specific programs that include the purchase of equipment for (1) subsurface placement of nutrients into soil; (2) nutrient placement based on geographic information system data; and (3) manure transformation and manure conversion technologies; soil testing; tributary monitoring; water management and edge-of-field drainage management; and an agricultural phosphorus reduction revolving loan program.
  - Not use more than 40% of the funds on a single program or activity.
- $3.5 million for county soil and water conservation districts in the Western Lake Erie Basin for staffing costs and for soil testing and nutrient management plan assistance to farmers, including manure transformation and manure conversion technologies, enhanced filter strips, water management, and other conservation support.
- $2.65 million for OSU’s Sea Grant—Stone Laboratory on Lake Erie to construct new research lab space and purchase in-lake monitoring equipment including real-time buoys and water treatment plant monitoring sondes.
- A $2 million obligation increase for the Ohio Public Facilities Commission allocated to the costs of capital facilities for state-supported and state-assisted institutions of higher education.

Governor Kasich’s Executive Order contains two parts:
• Directs the ODA to “consider whether it is appropriate to seek the consent of the Ohio Soil and Water Commission to designate the following Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) watersheds or portions of watersheds in the Maumee River Basin as watersheds in distress due to increased nutrient levels resulting from phosphorous attached to soil sediment: Platter Creek Watershed, Little Flat Rock Creek Watershed, Little Auglaize River Watershed, Eagle Creek Watershed, Auglaize River, Blanchard River, St. Mary’s, Ottawa River.”

• If the Soil and Water Commission consents to a designation of a watershed in distress, ODA, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio EPA “should recommend a rule package that establishes the following . . . nutrient management requirements for all nutrient sources; development of associated management plans for agricultural land and operations within the designated watershed boundaries; requirements for the storage, handling, land application, and control of residual farm products, manure, and erosion of sediment and substances attached thereto within the designated watershed boundaries.”


Governor Kasich’s Executive Order is located at: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/sites/aglaw/files/site-library/Executive%20Order%207_11.pdf

and a fact sheet issued with the Executive Order is https://farmoffice.osu.edu/sites/aglaw/files/site-library/Order%20Fact%20Sheet%207_11.pdf

**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.

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.

David’s Weekly News Column
For Publication in the Jefferson Gazette on July 18, 2018

Hello, Ashtabula County!
Wow, last week’s weather was beautiful. Most of our wheat fields were harvested which meant a lot of wheat straw was also baled. It was also a nice stretch for baling hay. It has been a rough go for farmers making hay this summer so last week’s weather was a welcomed sight.

By the end of this week, we should see field peas being harvested across the county. In fact, the first field peas were harvested just across the county line in Gustavus, Ohio this past weekend. The wet weather created a lot of root issues with this crop so our yields will be moderate at best. However, it was a great learning year for our farmers raising this new crop.
Today, I would like to share some tax and legal changes which have happened this past month. Even though it is summer time, there are lots of exciting things happening in these areas.

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I know it is July, but tax planning is something that every person and business should do throughout the entire year. During the past year, we have discussed a lot of new tax changes implemented by Congress. One goal was to make filing our taxes easier. While the jury is still out on this promise, it should be noted that the Internal Revenue Service has released a draft version of the new Form 1040. While it is not the post card size which was predicted, the IRS has indicated the new form is about half the size. The IRS has unveiled the draft form and is seeking comments from tax professionals. The new form, when complete, will replace the 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ. If you want a sneak peak, check it out at: https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-dft/f1040--dft.pdf

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We are blessed at OSU Extension to have a great agricultural law program headed by Attorney Peggy Hall. She and her staff have developed a great agricultural law website and is really good at keeping us updated on legal changes. Peggy recently shared a few updates which I would like to pass on to you.

One noteworthy piece of legislation is House Bill 225 which addressed issues with the slow response to plugging idle and orphan oil and gas wells. I know this has been an issue here locally with some of our abandoned gas wells so this should help some frustrated landowners. This bill, which was signed into law at the end of June provides an increase, from 14% to 30%, in funding for plugging unused oil and gas wells.

Landowners can report an idle or orphaned well to the Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources, who must then inspect the well within 30 days and prioritize how soon the well should be plugged and the land surface be restored. The Chief’s duty to find prior owners and legal interests in the well is limited to records less than 40 years old. The law also includes procedural changes for entering into contracts for restoration or plugging of wells.

A second piece of legislation also passed at the end of June will be important to our sportsmen. Senate Bill 257 creates multi-year and lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for residents of Ohio. It also allows the Division of Wildlife to offer licensure “packages” for any combination of licenses, permits, or stamps.

The law also establishes the “Lake Erie sport fishing district,” consisting of the Ohio waters of Lake Erie and its tributaries. Nonresidents must obtain a $10 special permit to fish in the Lake Erie sport fishing district from January 1 to April 30, with the fees earmarked specifically to benefit Lake Erie.
One great way to keep up with the agricultural law changes is to check out Peggy’s ag blog at: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog Her team also has developed a great Ag Law Library which provides education in the legal areas of animal, farm leasing, food, line fences, nuisance, oil & gas, property, roadway & equipment, water, tax and zoning. Check this great library out at: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/ag-law-library

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To close, I would like to leave you with a quote about contentment and greed which Pastor Bill McMinn shared in his sermon this past weekend, “If you cannot be content with less, you will never be happy with more.” Have a good and safe day!

**Upcoming Events**

**Insect & Disease Scouting Field Night**
August 13, 2018

**Northeast Ohio Beef Twilight Tour**
TBA

**Ashtabula County Beef Banquet**
October 27, 2018
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

oardc.osu.edu/facility/ashtabula-agricultural-research-station

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.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.
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.