Hello, Ashtabula & Trumbull Counties! It appears as if we are in the dog-days of summer. With some of the rain we have had coupled with the heat, it is corn growing weather! All of our crops are progressing nicely. The Ashtabula County Farm Bureau hosted a nice Ice Cream Social last evening at the Antique Engine Club in Wayne. It was great to see and hear all the candidate’s opinions on agriculture in our counties. NE Ohio grape growers will want to register today to attend the Ohio Grape & Wine Day and the Northeast Ohio Grape Twilight Tour on August 11, 2016. We have a really nice program developed for it. Have a great week and stay cool!

David Marrison, Ashtabula County Ag & NR Educator
Lee Beers, Trumbull County Ag & NR Educator

In this Issue:
- July 18 - Northeast Ohio Agronomic Crops Report
- ACRE Update
- Western Bean Cutworm Count Rising and Eggs Hatching
- Weather Outlook
- Corn Pollination
- Congress Finalizes Mandatory GMO Labeling Law
- To Mow, or Not to Mow . . . the Pasture?
- What’s in a Number?
- Should You Swap Corn For Soybeans in 2017?
- David’s Weekly News Column- Northeast Ohio Grape Twilight Tour
- Annual Dog-Day Cicada Emergence

July 18 - Northeast Ohio Agronomic Crops Report
By: Les Ober CCA, Geauga Co. OSU Extension
Source: http://neohiocropweather.blogspot.com/

The operative word for today is dry and getting drier. Hope you got rain! Crops across NE Ohio are beginning to show the stress of moisture deprivation and from the heat. By the end of the week we might see temperatures above the mid-nineties and southern Ohio might see triple digit temperatures during the same time period. Checkout Jim Noels forecast for the next two weeks and pray that he is wrong or just pray for rain period.

I am not ready to break out the articles on drought and managing drought stressed crop just yet. Corn is showing stress but soybeans are holding up quite well. Corn has almost reached the reproductive stage and this is defiantly not the time for above 90 degree temperatures. Moving on to a better topic, a question came up on the foliar application of fertilizer to soybeans. This is a perennial question that comes up when beans reach the R-2 to R-3 stage of development.

Over the years there have been many studies on foliar applications of fertilizer elements mostly micro-nutrients. Iowa State University did a three year study foliar applying manganese, Copper, Boron and zinc. ISU did 6 treatments each year and in all cases there was no significant difference in yield between the check and the treated plots. In fact they did a similar trial earlier in the season soil applying similar amounts the elements and in all case were not able to get a significant difference. In Ohio a similar study was done by Dr. Laura Lindsey OSU Soybean and Small Grains Specialist. This study was done in 9 locations across the state, the closest being Wooster. Here are some direct quotes from Dr. Lindsey concerning foliar applies micronutrients, especially manganese (Mn): “I have seen some
limited yield response (2 out of 19 site-years) from foliar Mn. A Mn response is most likely on high pH and high organic matter soils. Also, dry weather can cause drought-induced Mn deficiency (the Mn is in a form that is unavailable for uptake). Out of the 2 sites that were responsive, one site had a break-even economic return (Wood Co.) and at one site the application increased profitability (Sandusky Co.). I have seen some limited yield response (2 out of 19 site-years) from foliar Mn. A Mn response is most likely on high pH and high organic matter soils. Also, dry weather can cause drought-induced Mn deficiency (the Mn is in a form that is unavailable for uptake). Out of the 2 sites that were responsive, one site had a break-even economic return (Wood Co.) and at one site the application increased profitability (Sandusky Co.)."

In recent years there has been a lot of discussion on the foliar application of nitrogen to a soybean crop. The thought pattern behind this is that applying nitrogen at R-3 will in enhance growth thus increase flower and pod development and it may in soybean crops that have been planted in area like old hay fields or pastures where the lack of bacteria fixing bacteria may be of concern. Dr. Lindsey responded to applying nitrogen in this manner “We've done some foliar nitrogen work as well. We applied CoRoN at R3 at 16 site-years. We got a statistically significant yield response to the foliar N at 20 lb/acre at one out of the 16 site-years (5.5 bu. /ac increase at Wooster in 2014)”. If you take a look at the final results of the study and put an economic spin on it you will find that you might get a limited increase in yield. However, when you factor in the cost of nitrogen and the cost application the yield advantages are quickly erased. In some cases it may even subtract from your profit margin. Again if your crop is showing signs of nitrogen deficiency or has poor nodulation there may be justification to add N.

There has been a lot of controversy over application of nutrients to row crops. The question is; when a crop requires additional nutrients what is the best and the cheapest way to get those nutrients to the plant. Plants efficiently absorb there nutrients through their roots. Their leaves are the sight of photosynthesis where CO2 and Oxygen are exchanged. Some nutrient exchange can take place at the leaves but it is way more efficient to apply your nutrients at the root level. You may see a green up following foliar application but that can be deceiving and may not lead to increased yield. If you are going to foliar apply, leave a check strip and make a comparison at harvest time. Another factor to consider in this dry weather is possible crop damage from foliar application of fertilizer. In a conversation with Dr. Pierce Paul OSU Pathologist he states “there is always the risk of photo toxicity to plants that are under drought stressed conditions”. We are not there yet but it may be something to consider in the future.

NE Ohio Agronomic Crop Progress Report

Corn: V-12 to V-T Corn is under drought stress and will soon be pollinating.


Wheat: Harvested, yield 70 to 100 bu per acre depending on location. Test weight 60 to 61 bu per acre.

Oats: Time to harvest

Forages: very little regrowth, need rain.

ACRE Update
By: Evan Schaefer, Summer Acre Intern

As the end of summer comes near all of our crops are looking pretty good. Driving through the county the past week you can start to see corn tasseling and soybeans in the flowering stages. The fields were starting to look kind of dry, but that rain Monday morning will help us out with that. I am currently working on a soybean pollinator experiment in Ashtabula County. It seems to be going good, there were lots of bees and flies in the traps. The goal of the study
is to see just what all types of insects really do help pollinate the soybean plant. This is a study that is taking place all over the United States, and it will be interesting to see the results and how they compare to our area.

**Western Bean Cutworm Count Rising and Eggs Hatching**  
By Andy Michel & Kelley Tilmon  

We have seen a large increase in Western Bean Cutworm catches (see figure), which is typical for this time of year. Given the heat in the forecast later this week, it might be safe to say that we are into peak flight. We have also heard of eggs hatching—as more adults emerge, more eggs will be laid. Now is the time to scout your corn for egg masses, especially if they have not tasseled yet. Economic threshold is more than 5-8% of corn (10 plants in 10 locations) with egg masses.

**Weather Outlook**  
By Jim Noel  
Source: [http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/weather-outlook-1](http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/weather-outlook-1)

The forecast from last winter into spring for summer 2016 in Ohio continues to work out with generally warmer and drier weather. Over the region as the departure from normal map shows, it is drier than normal across much of Ohio and points northeast while it has been wet to the south and west of Ohio.

Going forward, the remainder of July will be overall hot with rainfall at or below normal. The outlook for August calls for warmer than normal weather. Rainfall departures should relax some closer to normal but the data suggests if anything we still will more likely be on the drier side of normal.

Much of the corn and soybean belt is in good shape with rainfall and temperatures. The exception is northern Indiana into Ohio where it is some of the driest areas. Most of our research indicated yields this year would not be as good as the last several years and this looks to be track for Ohio. It also appears we will see the hottest temperatures of the season later this week and early this weekend with highs in the 90s and lows in the 70s. The two week NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center rainfall pattern indicates rainfall will range from 0.50 to 2.00 inches.

**Corn Pollination**  
By Peter Thomison  
Source:

Editor's Note: This is a synopsis of the article last week from Peter Thomison, with the pictures attached. I've included a bit of the information to "explain" the images, but if you want "The Whole Story," please refer to last week's CORN Newsletter (2016-20).

On a typical midsummer day, peak pollen shed occurs in the morning between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. followed by a second round of pollen shed late in the afternoon. Pollen grains are borne in anthers (Fig. 1), each of which contains a large number of pollen grains. The anthers open and the pollen grains pour out in early to mid morning after dew has dried off the tassels. Pollen is light and is often carried considerable distances
by the wind. However, most of it settles within 20 to 50 feet. See Figure 1: Pollen shed begins in the middle of the central spike of the tassel.

Pollen shed is not a continuous process. It stops when the tassel is too wet or too dry and begins again when temperature conditions are favorable. Pollen stands little chance of being washed off the silks during a rainstorm as little to none is shed when the tassel is wet. Silks are covered with fine, sticky hairs, which serve to catch and anchor pollen grains (Fig. 2).

Congress Finalizes Mandatory GMO Labeling Law
By Peggy Hall, OSU Extension
http://aglaw.osu.edu/blog

After several years of debate over voluntary versus mandatory GMO (genetically modified organism) labeling, Congress passed legislation yesterday to create a unified national standard requiring disclosure of information for bioengineered foods. Predictions are that President Obama will sign the legislation soon. Once effective, the new law will preempt state laws that require labeling of foods containing GMOs, such as the Vermont labeling law that recently became effective on July 1. The bill's passage through Congress represented a bi-partisan compromise led by senators Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). "This is the most important food and agriculture policy debate of the last 20 years," said Sen. Roberts.

What's in the bill?
The legislation amends the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to include the following:

- Definition of “bioengineered” food, which is food intended for human consumption that contains genetic material that has been modified through in vitro recombinant DNA techniques and for which the modification could not otherwise be obtained through conventional breeding or found in nature.
- The Secretary of Agriculture shall determine the amount of bioengineered substance necessary to deem the food as bioengineered.
- A food that is derived from an animal that consumed feed containing bioengineered substances shall not be considered bioengineered. Thus, meat, poultry, dairy and eggs from animals that have consumed GMO feed will not be subject to the labeling requirements because they cannot be defined as bioengineered.
- Preemption of state food labeling standards. No state or political subdivision may establish requirements for labeling whether a food or seed is bioengineered or contains ingredients that are bioengineered. A food may bear disclosure of bioengineering only in accordance with federal regulations arising from this law.
- Creation of federal mandatory disclosure standard. Within two years of the bill’s enactment, the Secretary of Agriculture must establish a mandatory national bioengineered food disclosure standard and the procedures necessary to implement the national standard.
- Choice of labeling. The federal standard must give a manufacturer the option of disclosing information with on-package text, a symbol or an electronic or digital link, such as a QR code. An electronic or digital link must contain access to an internet website or other type of electronic source.
- The USDA must conduct a study to identify potential technological challenges of disclosure through electronic or digital means, and must provide additional options if determined that the proposed technological options do not provide sufficient access to bioengineered food disclosure information.
- The USDA must also develop alternative disclosure options for foods contained in small packages.
- Exclusions. The following are excluded from the national disclosure standard:
  - Food served in a restaurant or similar retail food establishment.
  - "Very small" food manufacturers, to be defined through rulemaking.
  - As explained above, meat, poultry, dairy and eggs from animals that consume GMO feed.
A food containing meat, poultry or eggs if the predominant ingredient would not independently be subject to the standard of if the predominant ingredient is broth, stock, water or a similar solution and the second-most predominant ingredient would not independently be subject to the national standard.

- “Small” food manufacturers. The USDA must define “small food manufacturers” and provide such manufacturers with a grace period of at least one year for implementation of the new standards and the additional option of providing only a telephone number or internet website on a food label to disclose required information.
- Food safety implications. The FDA conducts a pre-market consultation process for foods from genetically engineered plants; foods that successfully complete the process shall not be treated as more or less safe than non-genetically engineered counterparts because of bioengineering.
- Organically produced foods. A food certified as “organic” under the national organic program may be labelled as “not bioengineered,” “non-GMO” or with similar language.
- Enforcement. Failing to disclose a food as bioengineered is a prohibited act, but the rulemaking process will determine whether there will be penalties for noncompliance. The USDA Secretary will have authority to request records and conduct audits and hearings in regards to compliance but will not have recall authority for a food that does not comply with disclosure regulations.

What’s next?
The preemption established in the new law will be effective immediately and the State of Vermont is prohibited from enacting its GMO labeling law. The USDA, through its Agricultural Marketing Service, will begin the rulemaking process for the national disclosure standard. A few key issues for agriculture to track through out the rulemaking stage will be the determination of “how much” bioengineered substance is sufficient to deem a food as bioengineered; defining the "very small" food manufacturers that will be exempt from the standard and the "small" manufacturers that will have a grace period and simpler disclosure requirements, whether QR codes and other technology options will remain viable due to expected objections that they discriminate against lower income consumers; and penalties for noncompliance. The two year window for rulemaking, however, leaves open the opportunity for future changes such as amending the legislation or prohibiting funding to be used for its implementation. Thus, while we have entered a new stage of the GMO labeling debate, the uncertainty of GMO labeling is not yet fully resolved.

To read the legislation, visit: [http://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Mandatory%20Labeling%20Bill.pdf](http://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Mandatory%20Labeling%20Bill.pdf)

To Mow, or Not to Mow . . . the Pasture?
By: Victor Shelton, NRCS State Agronomist/Grazing Specialist
Source: [http://u.osu.edu/beef/2016/07/13/to-mow-or-not-to-mow-the-pasture/#more-2111](http://u.osu.edu/beef/2016/07/13/to-mow-or-not-to-mow-the-pasture/#more-2111)

I could easily talk about the weather. It seems to be a very popular subject no matter the setting. It certainly influences when we can do things, often messing with getting things done during the best timeframe.

We talked about clipping pastures in June. I’m still getting questions and comments by email about it; all good. There certainly are two sides to this fence: those that think mowing or clipping pastures is just something that has to be done and those that think it wastes time, fuel, and does little good. I respect both sides and agree with both sides. What? The need to clip is site specific and a personal preference.

By this time of year, most have made the decision on whether to clip pastures or not. If the pasture has been grazed once or twice already then it probably really does not have that many seed heads present, and depending on how it was grazed, weeds either. If you look at a field from a
“windshield” view, it is usually going to appear to have a lot more seed heads than it really does. This was a topic recently on one of the Facebook grazing groups. Looking at the pictures that were presented, one would think or assume that it was a dense stand of seed heads in dire need of being clipped to try and maintain some decent quality. Additional pictures were added from a standing and looking down position and it was certainly clear that seed heads were not an issue with only one or two per square foot, not 40 or more as in some cases. If no or low seed head presence is your goal, then what is an appropriate threshold to justify clipping for them? That is a very good question which I’m trying to quantify myself. If the upper range is about 40 seed heads per square foot (yes, I’ve counted them) and my personal preference is less than 6, then my threshold or tolerance level is probably in that 30% range or about 12 seed heads per square foot. What I often find though, it’s a lot lower than that. Can I find another reason to justify mowing?

Weed control is the next argument I usually hear. There is a huge range of tolerance for weeds. My tolerance level for multiflora rose and thistles is very low. Kathy Voth would tell me that I should teach those animals to eat those thistles and that is all good. If they want to eat them after I chop the daylights out of them, they can have right at it. If I have an abundance of annual weeds such as common ragweed, prickly pigweed, or cockleburs, then most likely I’ve messed up such by not allocating enough pasture for the timeframe, especially during wet weather. These weeds are opportunists; filling in areas where soil is showing and in the case of prickly pigweed, where nutrients are high such as where a hay bale was fed. Mowing might help a little, but I should do a better job of maintaining cover.

Perennial weeds, such as ironweed, can certainly be a problem. Individual plants don’t generally present much of an issue unless they go to seed on ground that has a lot of thin cover. They do also spread from rhizomes. Mowing or clipping these prior to seed production is usually a good idea unless you maintain a very dense vigorous stand of forages that will compete with it. It, like giant ragweed in a corn field, competes with the forages for sunlight. I use canopy as a threshold with a tolerance level of about 20%. If I’m losing more than 20% of my sunlight, it is going to be at least clipped. Above 30%, it is certainly affecting forage yield and may justify some chemical type of treatment. Applying these herbicides at a time when they will be most likely to be transferred to the roots is ideal and for most perennials is later in the season when the plant is moving nutrients downward for winter storage. It is always better to spot spray or use a “wipe” type system over blanket coverage. Broadleaf herbicides are also hard on the swards valuable legumes and beneficial forbs. If you have sheep or goats available, either can help reduce weed pressures on pastures. They can be rotated behind or in front of the cows depending on who needs the highest nutritional needs.

The third reason to clip or mow is help control pink eye in cattle. I would have a hard time justifying clipping for this reason unless you have an active pink eye problem. The seed heads do not cause pink eye, or at least not independently. The seed heads along with face flies, pollen and other eye irritants certainly can aggravate the situation though. Pinkeye occurs when there is a susceptible host (non-immune animal), the infectious agent (Moraxella bovis, pinkeye), and the environmental conditions that favor it (eye irritation that attracts flies that then can transfer it to susceptible animals). Keeping seed heads under control by clipping or mowing could be justified if pinkeye is presently an issue to reduce possible eye irritations but that is usually only the case with high amounts of seed heads present; controlling flies is the first priority.

What is the reason for mowing? If it is to improve or maintain quality – have at it – just don’t mow any shorter than necessary. If it is purely for aesthetics – you might be better off leaving it alone. Taller forages produce more live roots providing some drought resilience, helping to shade out some weeds, providing for slightly cooler soils and maintaining moisture which can promote more growth from cool season forages instead of less desirable plants. They also have the added benefit of some wildlife habitat, especially certain pollinator species. Somewhere along the way we decided that pastures should look like mowed lawns. That quite often promotes monocultures instead of diversity, and possibly lower production especially if it turns dry. It is also an added cost that has to be paid for by the livestock enterprise. Keep on grazing!
This August 29th-31st, there will be a grand opportunity to learn about utilizing and managing native forages and forbs at the Eastern Native Grass Symposium (ENGS). The symposium will be held at the Tropicana in Evansville. This is the first time this conference has ever been in Indiana and if it’s going to be here, we are going to do it up right, Hoosier style! There is a great line up of speakers including Ray Archuleta, Ellen Jacquart, Steve Clubine, Chuck Stanley, Dr. Pat Keyser, Jef Hodges, Dr. Cris Hochwender, Dave Howell, John Shuey, Dr. Stephen Ball, Kevin Tugsevick and others. Speakers will be on Monday and Tuesday of the symposium with tours on Wednesday morning. Tours will include: grazing for wildlife in Warrick County; Patoka Fish & Wildlife Refuge grass/pollinator management in Gibson County; and Angel Mounds, pollinators, warm season grasses, and green roofs in Vanderburgh County. Go to the following website to register: www.easternnativegrasssymposium.eventbrite.com. For complete agenda information go to Eastern Native Grass Symposium on Facebook or contact of the following Southwest Soil and Water Conservation Districts (All at Ext 3): Pike County, 812-354-6120; Gibson County, 812-385-5033; Warrick County, 812-897-2840; Vanderburgh County, 812-423-4426, and Posey County at 812-838-4191.

What’s in a Number?
By John F. Grimes, OSU Extension Beef Coordinator
Source: http://u.osu.edu/beef/2016/07/13/whats-in-a-number/

I have to admit that statistics was not my favorite class in college. I don’t remember my final grade but I do remember being satisfied that I received a passing grade and would not have to re-take the class. This small part of my past is in direct contrast to how I view statistics today. I have always enjoyed following sports statistics as a hobby. However, my career and farming interests have made me appreciate the importance of beef industry statistics.

The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) annually provides important statistical data about the U.S. beef industry. While some of these statistics may qualify as “bragging rights”, they provide real insight about the beef industry domestically and around the globe. As of Jan. 1, 2016, NASS reported that there were 30,330,800 beef cows in the U.S. This number is up 3.5% from the previous year. The total number of cattle and calves reached 91,988,000 head which was up 2.4% from 2015. These numbers certainly verify the message we have been hearing this year that beef herd expansion is fully underway. Speaking of expansion, the top 5 states for beef cow herd expansion over the past five years are 1.Iowa; 2.South Dakota; 3.Idaho; 4.Nebraska; and 5.Missouri.

So how does Ohio stack up in terms of beef statistics? Ohio currently ranks 29th in beef cow numbers at 284,000 head. Ohio ranks 16th in cattle on feed with 160,000 head and ranks 10th in number of cattle/calves operations. NASS reports that in 2015, cash receipts from cattle sales reached $740,853,000. All of these numbers indicate that the beef industry is an important part of the overall agricultural economy in Ohio.

The top five states for beef cow numbers are 1.Texas; 2.Oklahoma; 3.Missouri; 4.Nebraska; and 5. South Dakota. In terms of the top 50 beef cow counties, all three hail from Nebraska and are 1.Cherry Co.; 2.Holt Co.; and 3.Custer Co. These are large geographically large counties that when combined are roughly ¼ the size of the state Ohio. These three counties have combined beef cow numbers of 330,000 head which would make them the 28th ranked state. Based on recent population figures, these counties have over 12 beef cows for every person that resides there.

The United States remains the dominant force in terms of global beef production. The U.S. ranks first in world beef production tonnage with 19.2% of the total production. The remainder of the top 5 includes 2.Brazil at 16.3%; 3.European Union at 13.0%; 4.China at 11.5%; and 5.India at 7.3%. The U.S. accomplishes this production with the 4th highest number of cattle and calves of these top 5 countries.
Exports remain a vital part of the overall beef economy. While values dipped from the record highs of 2014, the U.S. Meat Export Federation indicated that beef export values exceeded $6 billion for only the third time in our history. The top five countries buying U.S. beef products (value) in 2015 were 1. Japan; 2. Mexico; 3. Canada; 4. Republic of Korea; and 5. Hong Kong.

While these numbers may not impact the daily management of your beef operation, I do believe that they can provide some insight into the size and scope of our beef industry. Yes, it is a big business with impact domestically and abroad. Now if any of you fantasy football fanatics want to share some of your statistics for next month’s draft, I’m all ears!

**Should You Swap Corn For Soybeans in 2017?**

By Ben Potter, AgWeb.com


As University of Illinois ag economist Gary Schnitkey points out, U.S. farmers planted 7% more corn acres in 2016. Comparatively, soybean acres only rose 1%. However, June projections of this year’s crop indicate soybeans will be the more profitable crop, he says.

Does that mean a major acre swap in 2017 is likely? “Obviously, 2017 prices and cost projections will impact the advisability of this switch,” he notes in a recent edition of farmdoc daily. “As benchmarks, soybeans likely will have higher returns than corn in 2017 if 2017 corn prices are below $4.00 or non-land costs for corn do not decrease substantially.”

But there are some scenarios where corn would be more profitable than soybeans next year, Schnitkey adds. First, if commodity prices increase above $4.00 per bu. for corn, it will likely lead to higher returns for corn compared to soybeans. Secondly, corn costs could come down relative to soybean costs – but non-land costs for corn would have to go down $70 to $100 per acre in Illinois, Schnitkey offers.

“A combination of the above two items also could cause corn to be more profitable than soybean,” he says. “As always, relative yields will play a role in profitability differences between the crops.” The large increase in corn acres for 2016 may be influencing input prices, Schnitkey says. “Seed and fertilizer costs are considerably higher for corn than for soybeans,” he says. “Hence, the revenue to input manufacturers will be higher if acres switch to corn. Recent corn acreage increases reduce incentives to lower input prices as acreages are increasing without making substantial cuts in input prices.”

Whether a farmer plants more corn or more soybeans in 2017, he or she should continue to prioritize cutting costs where possible, Schnitkey concludes. USDA predicts "moderately" rising soybean prices through 2025, citing "lower soybean plantings and strengthening demand for soybeans and soybean products" for this prediction.

**David’s Weekly News Column- Northeast Ohio Grape Twilight Tour**

Hello, Ashtabula County! I think most in Ashtabula County know how important the grape and wine industry to our local economy. In fact, over 70% of all the grapes grown in Ohio are grown right here in beautiful Ashtabula County. In addition to all our grape vineyards, we have 24 incredible wineries. OSU Extension has had a long history of providing education and research to the grape and wine industry. Today, I would like to share details on a great educational day which we have planned for our producers on Thursday, August 11, 2016.

Producers are encouraged to attend the 2016 Ohio Grape & Wine Day at the OARDC Ashtabula Research Station on Thursday, August 11 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. The research station is located at 2625 South Ridge Road East in Kingsville, Ohio right across the road from the Ashtabula County Nursing Home.
Andrew Kirk, Research Specialist, has developed a great afternoon program at the station. Some of the topics that will be discussed at this event include: Trunk Renewal Methods following Winter Injury, Life Cycles of Vineyard Weeds, The Emergence of Red Blotch Virus, Entomology Update, Agricultural Soils through the Lens of Geological History of Ashtabula County, and Soil Profiles of the Ashtabula Research Station Soils.

This event is free and pre-registrations are not needed. Just come as you are and learn more about factors affecting grape production in northeast, Ohio. This is a nice opportunity to dialog "one on one" with OARDC personnel with grape responsibilities. For more information about this event, call the OARDC Ashtabula Research Station at 440-224-0273.

Immediately following the afternoon session, participants will hop in their car and dash through the construction on Route 90 to attend the evening’s Twilight Grape Tour. This year’s tour will be at the Winery at Spring Hill located at 6062 South Ridge Road in Geneva, Ohio from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The Winery at Spring Hill opened its doors in March, 2009. Prior to converting to a winery, the Swank family operated a farmers market & gift shop from 1953-2007. This multi-family winery was started in March 2009 and features a restaurant and live entertainment. The winery produces over 22 different wines ranging from dry and semi-dry Vinifera to semi-dry and semi-sweet Labrusca and fruit wines. In May of 2016, the operation began producing and selling an award winning line of Hard Ciders.

Tom Swank will share with participants the rich history of The Winery at Spring Hill. Learn how this former multi-generational fruit farm transitioned to a multi-family winery in 2009. Tom Swank, winemaker, will share how the winery is paying homage to the farm’s rich apple tradition with the introduction of hard cider line. Learn more about the production, bottling, and marketing of hard cider. Currently the winery is selling four types of cider: Orchard Original, Spiced Apple, Blueberry Hills and Hopped Up. The next cider to be released is a Maple Bourbon Hard Cider which is sure to grab the attention of many in northeast Ohio.

In addition to learning about the new events at The Winery at Spring Hill, participants will get the chance to learn how to control nuisance wildlife in the grape vineyards. We are pleased that Jason Warren, ODNR Wildlife Officer for Ashtabula County, will be on hand to share strategies for controlling nuisance wildlife which inflict vineyards. Learn how to control deer, wild turkey, raccoon and birds which love to eat wine and juice grapes.

To close the evening program, Patrick Pierquet, Enology Research Associate/Lab Manager at OSU – OARDC, will share a talk titled "Rose' Wines and Alternative Processes. Attendees will participate in a sensory evaluation of two rose wines and two experimental dessert wines. Participants will be asked to provide their feedback on these wines.

Dinner will be served at the conclusion of the tour (approximately 7:00 p.m.). Participants will be treated to Grilled Chicken dinner with dessert. Iced Tea and Coffee will be available. A cash bar will be made available for those who wish to sample wine or sample flights of the Hard Cider. The dinner fee will be $20 per person. In order to ensure a meal, we must have reservations by Thursday, August 4, 2016. This should be a marvelous evening topped off by a great dinner and fantastic fellowship! To register for this program, please contact the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008. A complete registration flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

To close today's column, I would like to share a quote from Francis Bacon who stated, “Age appears best in four things: old wood to burn, old wine to drink, old friends to trust and old authors to read.” Have a good and safe day!
Annual Dog-Day Cicada Emergence
by: Joe Boggs

Annual dog-day cicadas (Tibicen spp.; family Cicadidae) are emerging in southwest Ohio. Like periodical cicadas (Magicicada spp.; family Cicadidae), these cicadas also develop underground with the nymphs sucking juices from tree roots. However, periodical cicadas require 13 or 17 years to complete their development with adults emerging en masse in the spring, usually beginning around mid-to-late May and ending in June. Indeed, eastern Ohio, parts of West Virginia, and the extreme southwest part of Pennsylvania experienced the emergence of Brood V 17-year periodical cicadas earlier this season.

Dog-day cicadas appear sporadically throughout the "dog days" of summer usually beginning sometime in July. Although it takes 2-3 years for dog-day cicadas to complete their development, some adults emerge every year due to overlapping generations. Even though dog-day and periodical cicadas do not appear together in Ohio, the two types of cicadas are sometimes mistaken for one another, particularly during years with unusually high dog-day cicada population. Dog-day cicadas have silvery-white underbellies, greenish-black eyes, green legs and wing veins, and green markings on their black thorax. Periodical cicadas are usually smaller, depending upon the species. They have reddish-orange eyes, and reddish-tan legs and wing veins.

As with periodical cicadas, dog-day cicada females use their long, spade-like ovipositors to insert eggs through the bark of twigs and into the white wood. The resulting damage splits the bark and white wood leaving deep longitudinal furrows of ruptured tissue. The injury often causes the twig to die, the leaves to turn brown ("flag"), and the twig to detach and drop. However, owing to the smaller numbers of dog-day cicadas, their egg-laying damage usually goes unnoticed.

Like their periodical cousins, dog-day cicada males also "sing" to attract females. However, the sound of an occasional dog-day cicada buzzing to entice a female doesn't compare to the cacophony created by a multitude of periodical cicadas; a barbershop quartet doesn't compare to a million man chorus! An abrupt halt in the buzzing of a cicada, often punctuated by a high-pitched screech, usually means a CICADA KILLER WASP (Sphecius speciosus) has committed an insecticidal act.

**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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2016 Northeast Ohio Twilight Grape Tour
Thursday, August 11, 2016 (5:30 to 8:00 p.m.)
The Winery at Spring Hill
6062 South Ridge Road, West - Geneva, Ohio 44041
440-466-0626
http://thewineryatspringhill.com/

The Winery at Spring Hill – The Winery at Spring Hill opened its doors in March, 2009. Prior to converting to a winery, the Swank family operated a farmers market & gift shop from 1953-2007. This multi-family winery was started in March 2009 and features a restaurant and live entertainment. The winery produces over 22 different wines ranging from dry and semi-dry Vinifera to semi-dry and semi-sweet Labrusca and fruit wines. In May of 2016, the operation began producing and selling an award winning line of Hard Ciders.

Attend the Ohio Grape & Wine Day Before the Twilight Tour (2:00 - 4:30 p.m.)
Producers are encouraged to attend the 2016 Ohio Grape & Wine Day at the OARDC Ashtabula Research Station located at 2625 South Ridge Road East in Kingsville, Ohio from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Some of the topics that will be discussed at this event include: Trunk Renewal Methods following Winter Injury, Life Cycles of Vineyard Weeds, The Emergence of Red Blotch Virus, Entomology Update, Agricultural Soils through the Lens of Geological History of Ashtabula County, and Soil Profiles of the Ashtabula Research Station Soils. This is a nice opportunity to dialog "one on one" with OARDC personnel with grape responsibilities. For more information about this event, call the OARDC Ashtabula Research Station at 440-224-0273.

About the Twilight Tour (5:30 - 8:30 p.m.)
Tom Swank will share with participants the rich history of The Winery at Spring Hill. Learn how this former multi-generational fruit farm transitioned to a multi-family winery in 2009. Tom Swank, winemaker, will share how the winery is paying homage to the farm’s rich apple tradition with the introduction of hard cider line. Learn more about the production, bottling, and marketing of hard cider. Currently the winery is selling four types of cider: Orchard Original, Spiced Apple, Blueberry Hills and Hopped Up. The next cider to be released is a Maple Bourbon Hard Cider which is sure to grab the attention of many in northeast Ohio.

In addition to learning about the new events at The Winery at Spring Hill, participants will get the chance to learn how to control nuisance wildlife in the grape vineyards. We are pleased that Jason Warren, ODNR Wildlife Officer for Ashtabula County, will be on hand to share strategies for controlling nuisance wildlife which inflict vineyards. Learn how to control deer, wild turkey, raccoon and birds which love to eat wine and juice grapes.

To close the evening program, Patrick Pierquet, Enology Research Associate/Lab Manager at OSU – OARDC, will share a talk titled "Rose’ Wines and Alternative Processes. Attendees will participate in a sensory evaluation of two rose’ wines and two experimental dessert wines. Participants will be asked to provide their feedback on these wines.

Dinner (7:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
Dinner will be served at the conclusion of the tour (approximately 7:00 p.m.). Participants will be treated to Grilled Chicken dinner with dessert. Iced Tea and Coffee will be available. A cash bar will be made available for those who wish to sample wine or sample flights of the Hard Cider. The dinner fee will be $20 per person. In order to ensure a meal, we must have reservations by Thursday, August 4, 2016. This should be a marvelous evening topped off by a great dinner and fantastic fellowship!
Call the OSU Extension office at 440-576-9008 to make your reservations. Reservations must be made by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, August 4.

Directions to The Winery at Spring Hill
- Follow South Ridge Road east to State Route 193
- Take Route 193 South to Route 90 West
- Take Route 90 West to Route 534 North
- Take Route 534 North to Route 84 (South Ridge Road) and travel West
- Follow South Ridge Road West to The Winery at Spring Hill

2016 Northeast Ohio Twilight Grape Tour

Name__________________________________________________________
Address_________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
Phone_____________________________ Email________________________
No. of Reservations for Twilight Tour Dinner _______ @ $20.00 per person Total Due $_______

Reservations are due by August 4, 2016. Please mail today to OSU Extension, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH 44047
Call OSU Extension at 440-576-9008 with any questions.