What an incredible spring and early summer. Nearly all of our crops are in the ground and a lot of excellent hay has been made across the county since the start of June. I really have to search my memory for a year where so much high quality hay has been made. I know the hay we made on our farm is some of the best we have made in the past decade. Of course, we need Mother Nature to provide us with timely rain showers and plenty of heat to help our crops grow from here on out. We are hearing reports on slug damage in soybean fields, so make sure you are taking time to scout those fields, especially those where the soybeans were planted into cover crops or by no-till. Yesterday, I completed my 19th year as the Ag & Natural Resources Extension Educator for Ashtabula County. I cannot believe that it has been that long. It seems as just yesterday, that Lanny Anderson and I were making my first farm visits around the county together as he trained me to replace him. What an enjoyable career it has been to be able to work with so many fine farmers across Ashtabula County!

David Marrison, Ashtabula County Ag & NR Educator

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Northeast Ohio Weed Field Day to be held on Thursday, June 23, 2016

The OSU Extension offices in Northeast Ohio are pleased to announce that a Weed Field Day will be held in two locations on Thursday, June 23, 2016. Mark Loux, professor of Horticulture & Crop Science at The Ohio State University, will be the featured speaker for this event. Dr. Loux will discuss weed pressure, control options, will review weed ID, and teach producers how to identify palmer amaranth, other tough weeds and much more!

The first session will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Dean Mar Farms located at 11440 Palmyra Road in North Jackson, Ohio (Mahoning County). The registration free for this session is $10 per person and includes lunch and program handouts. To register, contact the Mahoning County Extension office at 330-533-5538. A program flyer can also be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/weedday. This session is sponsored in part by by Grier Ag Center in Canfield, Ohio.

The second session will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at W.I. Miller & Sons located at 3500 Gardener-Barclay Road in Farmdale, Ohio (Trumbull County). The registration free for this session is $5 per person and includes refreshments and program handouts. The fee is $10 if the person would like to receive pesticide or Certified Crop Advisory credits. To register, contact the Trumbull County Extension office at 330-638-6783. More details can be
obtained by emailing Lee Beers at beers.66@osu.edu. This session is sponsored in part by W.I. Miller & Sons of Farmdale, Ohio.

The program flyers for both of these programs can be found attached to this newsletter. Farmers can choose to attend the session which best fits their schedule.

**Have You Been Slimed? Slug Damage Reported**  
By: Kelley Tilmon & Andy Michel  
Source: http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/have-you-been-slimed-slug-damage-reports-are-coming

Numerous locations in Ohio are still reporting slug problems, especially on soybeans. With late planting in many areas, the small size of both soybean and corn will lead to a greater damage potential from slugs. Although all fields should be scouted, focus on those with a history of these pests, where weed control was less than effective, or with a lot of residue left on the field.

Though we don’t have good economic thresholds for slugs in corn or soybean, the following guidelines are to help scout for their presence and intensity. Egg and adult sampling should occur until late May/early June when newly hatched juveniles, particularly damaging, are found. Juvenile slugs are quite small and care should be taken so they are not overlooked. The most important time to sample for the smaller juvenile slugs is when defoliation is occurring. The best technique to sample juvenile slugs is to visit the field at dusk or immediately after dark (a flashlight helps). Juvenile slugs are easily found feeding on the plants or crawling over the crop residue. In corn, it is easy to get a count of the number of slugs per individual plant. Because soybeans are usually planted in narrow rows, we find getting a count of slugs in a unit area, such as the number per 1 ft², is easier. Although there are various sampling procedures involving soil traps with or without beer, these traps do not sample the eggs, nor do they give a good estimate of juvenile slugs; they are more appropriate for adult slugs.

At this point, and given the forecast for warm weather, slug feeding should slow down. However, we would advise growers to inspect their fields before considering replanting fields. There are few treatments for slugs. The two available baits are those containing metaldehyde (Deadline MPs and others), and those with iron phosphate (Sluggo). See our slug fact sheet for more information: http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ENT-20

**Summer-Time Weather Pattern in Full Swing**  
By: Jim Noel  
Source: http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/summer-time-weather-pattern-full-swing

The summer-time pattern is in full swing. Expect a warm week with threats of showers and thunderstorms to return for the middle of the week. Temperatures this week will average 2-3F above normal. Rainfall will average 0.25 to 0.75 inches. Normal is near 1 inch. For the week of June 20-27 the warmer than normal temperatures will persist. In fact the heat should intensify some the week of June 20-27. Temperatures will average 4-6F above normal. Rainfall will average 0.50 to 1.25 inches. Normal is near 1 inch.

The next two weeks can be summarized by warmer than normal, but we do not see extreme heat above 95F. We expect more night time lows above 65 than below 60 the next 2 weeks. Se expect more days (7-10) out of 14 with dew points above 60-70 than below. Rainfall will generally be at or below normal but most places should at least see
some rain so no real extreme of no rain is expected the next two weeks. However, the main focus of rain the next 2 weeks will be in the western half of the corn and soybean region where 3-5 inches of rain will occur while only 0.50 to 1.50 in eastern areas. Normal across the region is about 2 inches. So expect wetter western corn and soybean belt and drier east.

As we talked about this spring, there is no change, all indications are a warmer and somewhat drier July for Ohio. The pattern of June that is warmer than normal and wetter western corn and soybean belt and drier in eastern areas (including Ohio) will last into July.

2015 Northeast Dairy Farm Survey Results
By Brian W. Gould, Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Farm Credit East last week released a summary of their 2015 Northeast Dairy Farm survey. Below are some of the results from that survey. The average price per cwt decreased by 28.7%. Net Cost of Production (NCOP = Total farm expense + family living costs – non-milk income) decreased 11.9% resulting in a significant drop in Net household income. To me, the dramatic decrease in profitability from 2014 was expected but the degree of change was surprising.

Highlights of the 2015 Northeast Dairy Farm Summary:
- 487 dairy farms participated in the 2015 Northeast Dairy Farm Survey.
- Profitability declined by 99% in 2015 from the prior year. Net household earnings fell to an average of $14 per cow in 2015, down from $1,169 per cow in 2014. When non-farm income is subtracted, farms lost an average of $30 per cow. Farm milk price declined by $7.34 per hundredweight (cwt.) to $18.24.
- Many costs declined in 2015, but not enough to counter falling milk prices. Total expenses per cwt. Decreased $2.37 per cwt. to $22.13 in 2015.
- Net cost of production also declined to $18.36 per cwt., $2.60 below 2014.
- Some specific operating cost categories which decreased in 2015 are:
  - Feed expense decreased from $1,897 per cow in 2014 to $1,733 in 2015, due to falling grain and oilseed prices.
  - Labor, a dairy farm’s second largest expense, was 2.1% lower per cwt. due to productivity gains.
  - Fuel expenses declined by 36%.
- Productivity increased. Per cow production rose by 2.5%. Milk sold per worker increased 2.9%.
- Cash flow was insufficient to meet all financial commitments (e.g., operating expenses, debt repayment, family living and income taxes), resulting in an average cash margin per farm of -$7,314.
- Percent net worth fell to 72%. Debt-per-cow increased from $3,354 per cow to $3,681.

Will You Need to Pay Overtime for Your Farm Employees?
By: Paul Neiffer, CPA

Most farmers assume that they are not required to pay overtime for any farm work performed by their employees. Although this is correct, we need to make sure that farmers understand what work is exempt under the Agricultural Work exemption and what work might be exempt under other provisions. This blog post is not designed to be too technical, but rather, let you get a broad understanding of the exemptions and if you think they may not apply in your situation, make sure to discuss with a good labor law attorney.

First, Agricultural Work is exempt from overtime. However, this work needs to be “directly” related to farming. Work performed on the farm for management or administrative purposes usually does not count. For
example, someone who drives a tractor full-time is exempt. Someone who does the farm bookkeeping is not exempt. If someone does a combination of both exempt farm labor and non-exempt work, then usually the worker will be subject to overtime rules. Here is a link to the Department of Labor Fact Sheet on this subject at: https://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs12.pdf

Non-farm work done by farm employees may still be exempt under other standards. Usually, most management and administrative functions will be exempt, however, they are only exempt if the annual salary falls over a certain level. The old salary level was $23,600 or $455 per week. The Department of Labor has proposed new rules that increase this salary level from $23,600 to $47,892 or $921 per week (this could get bumped to $50,440). Here is a Frequently Asked Question Section from the Department of Labor on the new rules: https://www.dol.gov/whd/overtime/nprm2015/faq.htm#s1

These new rules will be effective December 1, 2016. Therefore to not pay overtime, the employee must perform an exempt function AND have a salary over the required level.

Let’s look at a couple of examples:
Farmer Johnson has two managers and one bookkeeper. The two managers each receive a salary of $40,000 per year and the bookkeeper gets a salary of $30,000 per year. Under the old rules, all three employees met both requirements (salary over $23,600 and exempt functions). Under the new rules, all three employees would be subject to overtime since they only meet one of the two requirements. They still meet the exempt function requirement, however, their annual salary is under the minimum requirement of $47,892 or $50,440 if that is the final number.

Let’s assume that one of the managers also drives a combine during harvest and tractor during spring planting. Since he performs a combination of both exempt and non-exempt functions, it is likely that he will be subject to overtime for all work performed during the year. Again, these are simply a couple of examples and if you think this might apply in your situation, make sure to discuss this with a good labor law attorney. If you get it wrong, this can cost you a lot of money in the future.

New Overtime Rules Update
By: Paul Neiffer

Last week, we did a post on the new overtime rules. Some of the wording may have been a little vague, so we are updating via this post. First, an agricultural worker is not required to be paid “overtime”; however, the worker is required to be paid for any hours worked by the employee. If they work 47 hours in the week, they get paid for 47 hours. Many farmers have various employees that they have elected to treat as “exempt” from any payment over 40 hours of work in a week. These employees must meet one of three major categories:

Executive – Primary duties are supervisory and they supervise 2 or more employees.
Administrative – Non-manual work related to management policies.
Professional – Education-based and requires advanced knowledge.

If the employee meets either of these qualifications, they must also be paid a minimum weekly wage. This wage until December 1, 2016 is $455 per week. Beginning December 1, 2016, the weekly wage increases to $921 per week or $47,892 per year. If the employee is exempt and has a weekly wage higher than this amount, then you are not required to pay any extra for hours over 40 in a week. However, if the employee’s weekly wage is less than $921 per week, then you would be normally required to pay overtime at 1 1/2 time; however, if the employee is employed by
the farmer and performs agricultural work including certain administrative or management services, you only need to pay their regular hourly rate for any hours over 40.

Therefore, to clarify last week’s post a bit more, if you employ any workers on your farm beginning December 1, 2016 and you pay them less than $921 per week, you will be required to pay them for each hour worked at their normal hourly rate even if they were exempt under the old law. This will require you to keep track of all hours worked, including those managers and administrative workers that you do not track hours now. The penalty for not following these rules can be harsh, so it is very important to review this with a good farm labor law attorney if you think the rules might apply to you.

Farm Debt is Growing
Paul Neiffer, CPA
Source: http://www.farmcpatoday.com/2016/06/07/farm-debt-is-growing/

The Kansas City Fed just released a report indicating that farm debt is accumulating at a faster pace. Farmers with carryover debt increased from 18% of loans to 29% of loans in the first quarter of 2016. Also, 18% of total loans made in the first quarter involved restructuring existing debt to meet short-term liquidity needs.

Loan repayment rates weakened for the 10th consecutive quarter, the longest streak since the mid 2000s. 66% of Nebraska bankers indicated increasing loan demand and all of Nebraska bankers indicated that farm incomes were down. Farmers with increased carryover debt rose to 37% in Nebraska.

As expected, bankers are starting to raise the collateral needed to get operating loans. Also, bankers are reporting a significant increase in obtaining FSA guarantees. These guarantees provide an extra layer of loan protection for the banks, however, these funds appear to be nearing their approved limits. In the first quarter, 86% of the bankers surveyed reported lower farm income than a year ago. 50% of the bankers reported that household spending has declined up from 25% a year ago.

Cash rents are starting to drop even more. Rangeland cash rents declined 10% from a year earlier the sharpest drop since 2009. Cropland cash rents declined 6% from a year earlier. Although rents declined, the price of farmland remained steady and the bankers expect it to be flat over the next three months. With the recent uptick in crop prices, the next report may be a little better than the last few. We will keep you updated.

$14 Soybeans Possible With Summer Drought
By Nate Birt

The prospect of a 2012-like drought could drive soybean prices to the $13 or even $14 range, says Brad Matthews, Roach Ag Marketing. Yet the record-long position of the funds also suggests that if a weather event fails to transpire, prices could drop rapidly below the $11 mark. “The 70-day supply for the world, if we have a couple bushels off of our yield here [in the U.S.], starts to rival the 2012 70-day supply on hand,” Matthews tells “AgDay” Agribusiness Update host Tyne Morgan. “That starts to talk about $13 to $14 soybeans.”

Alternately, favorable growing conditions could push prices partway down the futures staircase. “It will be ugly at first,” Matthews says. “You will have probably a quick, hard break because of profit-taking by the funds. They have a record long position right now. That will drive us pretty quick initially. At that point, you’ll probably consolidate and wait to find out what kind of a crop we have. If we produce the yield that the government says, and we have great weather, I also think there’s probably going to be more soybean acres planted. Then we will have a whole ... leg lower at that point in time.”
In the near term, it’s hard to say where old-crop prices are going. Right now, soybean meal is skyrocketing, though "at some point, you will have some form of a blow-off top.” Meanwhile, producers should consider sales in the $11 range on the new-crop November contract. “I think that there should be a good break in the market here within the next 30 days,” Matthews says. “But then, similar to what could happen in corn, we start talking about a La Niña pattern. Very quickly the balance sheet gets very, very tight, both domestic and world, if we have a yield reduction.”

Ohio Hop Growers Guild Hopyard Open House
The Ohio Hop Growers Guild invites you to their 2nd annual Hop Yard Open House on Saturday, July 23, from 10 AM until 4 PM. From brewers to hop growers, or those who are just hop-curious, they welcome you to visit Ohio’s hop farms. Talk to our growers and learn about local hops! 17 growers across the state are participating this year. See the attached flyer for locations and contact information. Please pre-register to help us plan for your visit at the Ohio Hop Growers Guild Facebook page, or at https://goo.gl/Vuvl5p

USDA Extends Comment Period for Organic Livestock and Poultry Rule
Source: https://www.morningagclips.com/more-time-to-comment-on-organic-rule/

The U.S. Senate and House Agriculture Committee leadership has announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) granted their request for an extension of the public comment period for the agency’s proposed rule regarding revised organic livestock and poultry production standards. “We are pleased the USDA acted immediately to allow producers, consumers, retailers and animal health experts more time to offer their comments on the proposed rules,” the lawmakers said. “We will continue to work with the Department to address the concerns being raised by our constituents.”

In a letter to Secretary Vilsack dated May 26, 2016, Agriculture Committee Chairman Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and Rep. K. Michael Conaway, R-Texas, and Ranking Members Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., expressed multiple concerns with the proposed rule, urging USDA to address those concerns prior to publishing a final or interim final rule. The comment period will be extended 30 days to July 13, 2016. Comments can be submitted at: https://www.regulations.gov/#%21documentDetail;D=AMS-NOP-15-0012-0001

Cloverbud Fun Days Scheduled for July 5-7
We do have something for our kids not old enough to attend our week long 4-H camp. Once again this year, two of our great 4-H Advisors will be conducting the “Cloverbud Fun Days” on July 5 to 7, 2016 for kids ages 5-8 years old. This program will be held at the 4-H Expo Building at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds in Jefferson from 9:00 to 12:00 noon each day.

This fun day is packed with crafts, games, and just plain old fashion fun. This program is limited to the first 40 registrants so it is important that you register early as the program sells out each year. The registration fee for the program is $35 per participant. The $35 fee covers snacks, craft supplies and event insurance. Activities will include nature study, creative arts, songs, stories, games and much, much more! Pre-registration is necessary to insure adequate supplies and supervision for your children. For registration details, contact the OSU Extension Office at 576-9008 for more information.
Enjoy the Orchid-Like Catalpa Blooms
By: Joe Boggs
Source: http://bygl.osu.edu/node/323

I'm an unabashed lover of catalpa trees. Yes, they are messy, but so are many of our "preferred" native and non-native landscape trees. I loathe the subjective tree descriptor of "messy" because it removed so many wonderful trees from our landscape palette (e.g. sycamores). Of course, catalpas do occasionally play host to hungry hordes of their very own caterpillar; catalpa hornworms are the larval form of the catalpa sphinx moth (Ceratomia catalpae). The caterpillars only feed on catalpa trees. However, as I discovered with a huge northern catalpa (Catalpa speciosa) tree growing in our farm yard in West Virginia, catalpa hornworms make wonderful, almost sure-fired bass bait! The catalpa tree fed the hornworms and the caterpillars fed us many dinners of largemouth bass.

No doubt my love for catalpa trees is rooted in this stately tree that supported so many tree-climbing expeditions and shaded so many family reunions. Perhaps my interest in entomology emerged from handling so many catalpa hornworms. Catalpas attract many other insects include a bevy of pollinators, particularly bumble bees. Indeed, catalpas support so many animals, some say catalpa trees have their own micro-ecosystems.

One of the best write-ups I've ever come across about catalpa tress was written by Jim Woodworth, Director of Tree Planting for Casey Trees, Washington D.C., in his "Tree of the Month" column published in July, 2014. Whether or not you're a catalpa lover, or if you prefer the stately northern catalpa or its shorter southern cousin, (S. bignonioides), Jim provides a nice overview of the virtues of these resilient, native trees. Just click on the hotlink at the bottom of this article.

Tree of The Month, Casey Trees, July 2014
http://caseytrees.org/blog/tree-of-the-month-catalpa/

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PLEASE SHARE...this newsletter with farmers or others who are interested in agricultural topics in Ashtabula & Trumbull Counties. Past issues can be located at: https://go.osu.edu/ag-news. Please tell your friends and neighbors to sign up for the list. CONTACT: marrison.2@osu.edu

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Weed Field Day
Learn about major weeds in Trumbull County

Featuring- Dr. Mark Loux
Dr. Mark Loux is a professor of Horticulture and Crop Science at Ohio State University and a state weed specialist. His expertise in the field of weed identification and management in crop fields is sure to be of use to you and your farm. For more information call OSU Extension Trumbull County at 330-638-6783 or email beers.66@osu.edu. Pesticide recertification credits (commercial and private) as well as CCA continuing education units will be available.

Topics Include:
• Weed Identification
• Control actions
• Palmer Amaranth

Thursday
June, 23rd
3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
The Event will be held at:
W. I. Miller and Sons
3500 Gardner Barclay Rd
Farmdale, OH 44417

Registration Form:
Please complete and return with check or money to:
OSU Extension, Trumbull County
520 W Main St #1,
Cortland, OH 44410

trumbull.osu.edu

Number of attendees _________ x $5/person = ________
Number of attendees seeking CCA or Pesticide Credits ________ x $10

Your registration includes an interactive presentation and handouts to help you better identify problematic weeds on your farm. Light refreshments and snacks will also be provided followed by ice at the end of the event. $5/person without CCA or Pesticide credit. $10/person WITH CCA and/or Pesticide recertification hours.

Sponsored and Hosted By:
W. I. Miller and Sons
Weed Field Day

Learn about major weeds in Mahoning County

Featuring - Mark Loux

Lunch will be included

Mr. Mark Loux is a professor of Horticulture and Crop Science at Ohio State Main campus. His expertise in the field of weed identification and management in crop fields is sure to be of use to you and your farm.

Thursday June, 23rd
10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Held at:
Dean Mar Farms
The Campbell Family
11440 Palmyra Rd.
North Jackson 44451

Topics Include:
- Weed Identification
- Control Actions
- Palmer Amaranth

Registration Form:
Please complete and return with check or money to:
OSU Extension, Mahoning County
490 South Broad Street
Canfield Oh, 44406

Name: ________________________________ Residing County: _______________________
Address: ______________________________
Phone: ________________________________ Email: ________________________________

Your registration includes lunch and handouts to help you better identify problematic weeds on your farm.

$10 per person to register ___ x $10 = ______

Sponsored By:

The Ohio State University
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
http://mahoning.osu.edu

CF A E S provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity
Brewing? Growing? Thinking of growing?
Visit commercial Ohio hop yards and talk to the growers.

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 10 AM ~ 4 PM

Please give us a heads up that you’re coming by clicking on the RSVP form on the Ohio Hop Growers Guild Facebook page or at https://goo.gl/Vuvi5p

WWW.OHGG.ORG
OHIO HOP GROWERS GUILD
2016 HOP YARD OPEN HOUSE

Participating hop yards:

Barn Talk Hops - Mike and Jenny Napier
mnapier22@gmail.com, jennynapier@roadrunner.com
2480 Fixler Rd, Wadsworth, OH 44281
FB: Barn Talk Hops

Cass Place Hops - Jared Cox
jared.cox@plantpioneer.com
2295 Gene Cox Memorial, Dresden, OH 44281
FB: Cass Place Hops

For The Love Of Hops - Mike and Patty Roberts
fortheloveofhops15@gmail.com
13929 Overton Rd, West Salem, OH 44287
FB: For The Love Of Hops

Heartland Hops and Produce - Andy Pax
andy.pax@hotmail.com
768 State Line, Ft Recovery, OH 45846
FB: Heartland Hops

HopAlong Farm - Erik Niceswanger
hopalongfarms@gmail.com
6393 McLarnan Rd, Howard, OH 43028
FB: HopAlong Farm, www.hopalongfarm.com

Hoppin Wheel Farm - Mike Benoski
mike@hoppinwheelfarm.com
4030 Hill Top Lane, Batavia, OH 45105

Levanna Heights Hops - BJ Kreutz
bj.kreutz@gmail.com
5115 Pisgah Hill Rd, Ripley, OH 45167
FB: Levanna Heights Hops

Mankato Farms - Tom and Stacey Hoenie
tom@mankatofarms.com
10840 Milton-Carlisle Rd, New Carlisle, OH 45344
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Ohio Valley Hops - Dave and Nina Volkman
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12700 Fralick Rd, South Solon, OH 43153
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Spanky’s Hops - Spanky Brown
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7008 Old US 55, E, Jamestown, OH 45345
FB: Spanky’s Hops

The Stormlands Hop Farm hosted by RHL Farms - Brian Rogel
brogel@ameritech.net
6861 Girdle Rd, West Farmington, OH 44401
FB: The Stormlands Hop Farm

Windy Hill Farm Hops - Dave and Becky Adkison
churchbeck@gmail.com
1505 Township Rd 198, Bellefontaine, OH 43311