Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

I hope you are all enjoying the warmer, wet weather, but we have a better forecast from Jim Noel to ease the stress a little. It may not be a dry spring, but it might not be a Noah’s flood spring either.

Our Agronomy School is coming up next week on March 11! Call 330-638-6783 or email beers.66@osu.edu to register to get your lunch ticket. You can find more details on the flyer at the end of the newsletter. We hope to see you there!

Stay Safe!

Congratulations to Wes Haun as the recipient of the Ohio CCA of the Year award at the Conservation Tillage Conference in Ada, OH.

In This Issue:
- Some Good Weather News
- Online Paraquat Training Available for Updated Use Requirements
- Ohio to Open Hemp Applications March 3
- Small Herd Sire Decisions: The Heifer Bull Dilemma
- Farmer Lunch Series Returns for 2020
- Ag Safety Events
- Ashtabula County Needs Assessment Announced
- Ashtabula County 2020 Ag Scholarships Announced
- Lee’s Monthly News Column
- Upcoming Events

Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Lee Beers
Trumbull County Extension Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County Extension Educator

Angie Arnold
Portage County Extension Educator
Some Good Weather News
By: Jim Noel
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-05/some-good-weather-news

A warmer than normal March is now anticipated now. This is a change toward the warmer side. This will speed up green up conditions and start evapotranspiration early this spring. This will also help to dry out our really wet soils a little bit at least. The bottom line is things are shaping up to not be as tough this spring.

The outlook for March calls for above normal temperatures and near to a little bit above normal rain (but not as wet as it had looked like several weeks ago). https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

The spring outlook calls for things to be warmer and slightly wetter than normal but not as wet as last year.

The summer is still leaning toward warmer than normal but a swing toward drier than normal.

Hence, the planting season appears not as tough as last year but there still could be some summer challenges ahead as dryness could develop. We do need to watch the above normal temperatures this spring.

The next 16-day rainfall can be found here: https://www.weather.gov/images/ohrfc/dynamic/NAEFS16.apcp.mean.total.png

It is generally considered normal to slightly above normal. But it will be combined with above normal temperatures which will offset most of the normal to above normal rainfall areas.

Online Paraquat Training Available for Updated Use Requirements

NPSEC is pleased to announce the revised online Paraquat training and the newly developed in-person Paraquat training resources are now available!

Online Paraquat Training: The revised online training for Paraquat is now available at the address printed on all Paraquat product labels – usparaquattraining.com. This URL will redirect the user to the eXtension Campus online platform where they can register and take the online training and required quiz. This is the same URL and platform that
has been used since the inception of this training dating back to April 2019. The online training has had technical revisions and is now in a new engaging and interactive format. The training homepage on the eXtension Campus site has instructions for creating an account to access the online training. Once enrolled, a tutorial is available to help explain how best to navigate the new interactive training. Note: Those handlers and applicators who have already completed the original online training are not required to complete the new online training until their three-year training cycle has expired.

**In-Person Paraquat Training Resources:** A stakeholder group that included PSEPs, SLAs, industry and EPA has been meeting for several months now to review the online revisions and recommend other Paraquat training resources. This group identified the need to develop in-person training resources for face-to-face group training. These resources are now available at npsec.us/paraquat. Resources include a Trainer Agreement, a sign-in sheet for trainees, a narrated PowerPoint, the required quiz and answer key, and blank certificates for trainers to issue to trainees who successfully complete the training and quiz. The in-person PowerPoint contains the same content as the online training. The PowerPoint slides can be copied in black and white for in-person delivery without using technology to meet the needs of Anabaptist and other Plain People.

It was the consensus of stakeholders to have NPSEC be the single point of contact for EPA review of all training resources. It was also the decision of these stakeholders to have NPSEC maintain the national database for both online and in-person training.

**Spanish-Language Training Resources:** Spanish language training resources are currently in the process of being developed by a volunteer group of stakeholders. Once complete, these resources will be available on the NPSEC Paraquat website listed above. It is anticipated that most of the Spanish-language resources will be available within 30 days.

**Ohio to open hemp applications March 3**

By Farm and Dairy Staff

SALEM, Ohio — The Ohio Department of Agriculture announced that it will begin accepting applications for hemp cultivating and processing licenses March 3 at noon. Those interested will be able to apply at www.agri.ohio.gov then. The online application will include a mapping tool to allow farmers to indicate where they plan to grow hemp. At this point, there does not appear to be an option for applying off-line.
The response time will depend on how complete the application is, the number of applications received and how quickly the background check is completed and returned. Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received. There is no cap on the number of licenses the ODA will give out this year.

Processors may need to have their processing site inspected to complete the application. The ODA is expecting this to take a few weeks.

All applicants and key participants must have a background check done before they apply. Key participants are sole proprietors, partners in partnerships or executive managers in corporations. This does not include non-executive managers like farm, field or shift managers.

Background checks are already available. To get a background check, visit one of Ohio’s WebCheck locations, listed at www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Business/Services-for-Business/WebCheck/Webcheck-Community-Listing. People seeking background checks will need to provide the address of the ODA’s hemp program. That address is Ohio Department of Agriculture, Hemp Program, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.

For more information, contact the ODA’s hemp program at 614-728-2101 or hemp@agri.ohio.gov.

Small Herd Sire Decisions: The Heifer Bull Dilemma

By: Garth Ruff, OSU Extension Henry County
Source: https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/02/26/small-herd-sire-decisions-the-heifer-bull-dilemma/#more-8351

Bull buying season is almost upon us, and for the smaller cow-calf operators in the region, I think it time to ask the question: Do you need to buy a heifer bull? Year over year as I sit and watch bull buying decisions being made, I have observed producers faced with the dilemma of buying a calving ease “heifer bull” or a higher performance sire with a slightly higher birth weight. Part of the dilemma is the total the cost of the bull, where locally, a “heifer bull” will cost more, due to the willingness of cattlemen to pay for calving ease sires.
Before tackling this question it is important to recognize that the past quarter century, the beef industry has made tremendous strides in the area of genetic improvement, a large part of which can be attributed to the adoption and understanding of Expected Progeny Differences (EPD’s). With a desire for calving ease, one of the most studied and most utilized EPD’s by cattlemen when purchasing bulls is Birth Weight (BW) and more recently, Calving Ease Direct (CED). Another data point to consider is the Accuracy of a given EPD. Accuracy values range from 0 to 1. Often high accuracy bulls that have had hundreds, perhaps thousands of progeny data points are considered to be proven bulls.

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, the average cow herd size in Ohio is about 17 cows. For the sake of math, let’s assume on an operation of 20-25 cows and the following conditions. 1) the annual culling rate is 15-20 percent and 2) that there is on a single bull on the farm. This would mean culling 4-5 cows and keeping that many replacement heifers annually. Does 15-20 percent of the herd dictate how bull buying decisions are made? If selling cattle by the pound, how much production (revenue) is lost by breeding mature cows to calving ease bulls?

When it comes to making genetic decisions, one needs to consider the resources available when evaluating potential sires. Available labor is one resource to be considered. A live calf is always more valuable than a dead calf. If labor is a limiting factor, then there is a case to be made for a “heifer bull” in a single bull herd.

However, if labor is not a limiting factor, there are options available to capitalize on genetic improvement within the herd. Consider the following scenarios in which the goal is to capitalize on both calving ease for replacement heifers while adding pounds and performance to calves from our mature cows.

Figure 1. Example EPD’s of calving ease sire (Bull 1) and high growth and performance sire (Bull 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bull 1</th>
<th>CED</th>
<th>BW</th>
<th>WW</th>
<th>YW</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>DOC</th>
<th>Milk</th>
<th>Marb</th>
<th>RE</th>
<th>Fat</th>
<th>SW</th>
<th>$B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPD</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-3.3</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bull 2</th>
<th>CED</th>
<th>BW</th>
<th>WW</th>
<th>YW</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>DOC</th>
<th>Milk</th>
<th>Marb</th>
<th>RE</th>
<th>Fat</th>
<th>SW</th>
<th>$B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPD</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>-0.011</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scenario #1: Artificially Inseminate Heifers
If genetic improvement is a goal, artificially inseminating heifers to a proven calving ease A.I. sire can be advantageous. When utilizing a calving ease bull with an accuracy of 0.8 or greater for CED and BW, the risk for calving difficulty is much lower than compared to using an unproven yearling or two-year-old bull to breed heifers. By
combining estrous synchronization with A.I. there is the increased ability to calve heifers in a shorter calving window. First calf heifers traditionally have a longer post-partum interval before returning to estrous. Compared to mature cows, it’s recommended if possible, to calve first calf heifers early in the calving season to allow for an increased probability of rebreeding within the desired breeding season.

With regards to a bull purchasing decision, calving ease should be less of a concern if only using natural service sires on mature cows. Performance EPD’s such as Weaning Weight, Yearling Weight can be of greater consideration if selling feeder cattle. If maintaining ownership throughout the feed period, one can also focus and capitalize on terminal traits such as Back Fat, Ribeye Area, and Marbling or Percent Intramuscular Fat (%IMF).

**Scenario #2: Sell Heifer Calves and Purchase Bred Replacements**

Raising replacement females efficiently and correctly requires a level of management that is often not feasible within small herds. To meet nutrient requirements, in an ideal system, one would raise replacement heifers and two-year-old females separate from the mature cow herd. Those younger females still have nutrient requirements for growth and development, whereas the requirements of mature cows are often met maintenance levels. If unable to manage the development of replacement females correctly there is a cost associated. That cost could be calving difficulty, longer post-partum intervals, reduced conception rates as two year olds, or reduced milk production.

Once again, this scenario also allows for the utilization of genetics that will add productivity to the mature cows in the herd.

When making the decision to raise or purchase bred replacement females there are some additional factors to consider. Lee Schulz and Patrick Gunn at Iowa State University suggest there are potential advantages to both decisions (see Table 1).

### Table 1. Potential advantages to either raising or purchasing replacement beef females.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Raising Replacement Females</th>
<th>Purchasing Bred Replacements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Genetic Control</strong></td>
<td>Free-up Resources for Alternative Uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding of a Replacement Heifer’s Background</td>
<td>Reduced Bull Power and Allowing Increased Emphasis on Non-calving related EPDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control over Disease</td>
<td>Expand Herd or Change Breeding Program in Less Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Northeast Ohio Agriculture**

**OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**
**Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties**
Cost Less to Raise than Buy  May Be Able to Buy Genetically Superior Heifers  Cost Less to Buy Than Raise

In order to analyze replacement female costs, Iowa State also have a calculator designed to compare the two decisions. Those respective tools can be found at https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/livestock/html/b1-73.html.

Summary
Selecting a herd bull is an important decision that will have long lasting impacts on the productivity and profitability of the cattle enterprise. By utilizing EPD’s and setting goals for continuous genetic improvement there are options are available to the small beef cattle producers in Ohio and across the Eastern Cornbelt. Economic and management consideration should be made when deciding which bull best suits your operation and management capabilities.

References:

Trumbull County Farmer Lunch Series Returns for 2020

OSU Extension, Trumbull SWCD, and USDA-NRCS have teamed up again to offer a series of educational luncheons in 2020. We will be taking a break in March and hope you attend our NE Ohio Agronomy School on March 11th, but we’ll be back on April 15th with a farmer discussion on cover crops and what works in our region, and what does not. Each of these events is $5/person and this includes lunch. Lunch is again sponsored by the Trumbull County Holstein Club to keep costs down. The programs start at 11:30A.M. and will conclude by 1:00P.M. If you would like to register or have further questions, please call 330-638-6783 or email beers.66@osu.ed
Northeast Ohio Agriculture

Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

Ashtabula County Needs Assessment Announced
By: Andrew Holden, ANR Educator, Ashtabula County Extension Office

Hello, Ashtabula County! I am announcing the release of my 2020 Ashtabula County Agriculture Needs Assessment. Please read the description below and consider filling out the survey at: http://go.osu.edu/AshtabulaAg2020

During my first year as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator here in Ashtabula County I have had the privilege to meet with many producers and agriculture industry professionals. Going forward I will continue to meet with and work with our great ag community to offer the highest quality, researched-based information to help create more opportunities for improvement.

To help improve the agricultural programs and information offered by the Ashtabula County office of Ohio State University Extension, I am now asking for your assistance by completing this short survey. Whether you come to every extension event, or have never attended one, please use this opportunity to let us know what you would like to see in the future. The results of this survey along with other information sources will help guide the focus of agricultural education in the county. The survey isn’t restricted to any aspect of agriculture, if you have any interest or involvement in agriculture, please fill out the survey today!

To access the survey, you can go to the web address: http://go.osu.edu/AshtabulaAg2020 You can also scan the QR code in this article to reach the survey. If you would like a paper copy sent to you, please contact the OSU Extension office at 440-576-9008 or stop in at 39 Wall St. Jefferson, OH 44047. We respect your privacy; all survey responses will remain anonymous and all data will be reported in aggregate. If you have any questions or issues with the survey please contact me, Andrew Holden. Thank you!

Ashtabula Co. 2020 Ag Scholarships Announced
By: Andrew Holden

Today I want to share with you some of our great agricultural scholarships that are available for Ashtabula County students planning on, or currently attending, college. Last year thousands of dollars were awarded to local students to assist them in pursuing a college degree. If you or someone you know has an agriculture/4-H background or is planning on or currently pursuing an agricultural degree, I encourage you to check out the great opportunities below. All of these scholarships can be found on our website, www.Ashtabula.osu.edu, or by contacting your schools guidance...
counselor. If you have any questions about the scholarships you can also call me at the Ashtabula Extension Office at 440-576-9008.

******

Ashtabula County OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for a minimum of thirteen scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year to Ashtabula County students enrolled in either an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. The Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Fund was founded on April 29, 1952 to promote interest in the study of agriculture, family and consumer science, environmental sciences or natural resources in an accredited full four-year college or an accredited two-year technical institute. This fund awards scholarships to students attending an accredited four-year college or two year technical school. Each year the general scholarship fund awards at least two $1,000 scholarships. The committee also works with local organizations and farm families to offer additional scholarships. Both graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to apply for the scholarships which they meet the eligibility requirements. The scholarships are for a one year period. A student may apply and be awarded a scholarship in three years from the scholarship fund. Application forms with complete instructions for applying are now available and can be received by stopping in at the Ashtabula County Extension Office or by calling 440-576-9008. Applications can also be accessed at: http://go.osu.edu/agscholarship. The application deadline is May 1st and no late applications will be considered. More information can also be obtained by emailing ashtabulacountyagscholarship@gmail.com

******

Ashtabula County OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association are pleased to announce they will be awarding two youth beef scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year. One $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a deserving 2020 High School Senior who will be attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute in 2020-2021. In addition, one $500 scholarship will be awarded to a current College Student who is currently attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. Applicants must be resident of Ashtabula County. The first preference by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association is the scholarships be awarded to deserving students who have been involved in the beef industry as a youth. Applications must be received by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association by May 1st, 2020 by 4:30 p.m. for consideration for the scholarship. No late applications will be considered. The application can be obtained at: Ashtabula.osu.edu. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.
The Bloom Family 4-H Scholarship was established to honor the memory of George (Wally) & Ina Bloom and Jim & Nancy Bloom who collectively provided leadership to Ashtabula County 4-H for more than 80 years. A single $1000.00 scholarship may be awarded to an incoming freshman residing in Ashtabula County with a 4-H background planning to attend The Ohio State University - Main Campus, Marion, Newark or ATI. The scholarship will be awarded to the recipient based on the applicant’s character, financial need, general ability, service to the community and participation in 4-H activities and programs. The scholarship be paid to the recipient after successfully completing the first semester or quarter. If the recipient no longer plans to attend The Ohio State University, the student who was the second choice will be awarded the scholarship. Visit www.ashtabula.osu.edu to download the application or call the OSU Extension office at 440-576-9008. The completed application (supplied by the Ashtabula County Extension Office and Ashtabula County high school guidance offices) may be submitted to the Ashtabula County Extension Office, 39 Wall St., Jefferson, OH 44047, by April 1.

Lee’s Monthly News Column

Hello Trumbull County! Have you ever had guests quickly overstayed their welcome like cousin Eddie in the movie Christmas Vacation? That’s how I feel about liquid lime. Some companies selling these products promise increased yields, better soil pH, increased calcium, and only with five gallons per acre. While some of these claims are partially true, they are generally over-exaggerated with misleading claims.

The liquid “lime” that you can find advertised online is typically going to be one of two products – calcium nitrate or calcium chloride. Let’s break down calcium nitrate first and see where some of the misleading claims originate. Calcium nitrate is created from treating limestone with nitric acid and neutralizing with ammonia. After this process you are left with two plant nutrients in the molecule – calcium and nitrogen. The nitrate part of the molecule is an excellent source of nitrogen that is readily available for plants to take up at time of application. It is widely used in Europe for this reason. Another advantage of calcium nitrate over other sources of nitrogen is that it does not acidify the soil during application like urea, or other nitrogen sources.

So those are the facts – here is where the facts get construed for marketing purposes. The fact that calcium nitrate is created from limestone doesn’t make it an effective liming product. Limestone is also used to create concrete, but that doesn’t make it a lime substitute. Limestone is calcium carbonate, and when you apply this to a field it is the carbonate component that neutralizes pH – not the calcium component. When you treat limestone with nitric acid to create calcium nitrate you remove that carbonate component and the true pH neutralizing power of the limestone.
But what about the non-acidifying aspect of calcium nitrate? When applied as a
topdress fertilizer you do get a miniscule increase in soil pH. As a topdress application
you get the same neutralizing power as 1.35 pounds of lime for every pound of nitrogen.
I know this is a lot of math so let me give you a simple example. For every 5 gallons of
calcium nitrate you apply (which is the advertised rate per acre) you get the equivalent
of applying 10 pounds of lime to that same acre. That’s it- 10 pounds. Most lime
recommendations for our area are 4,000 pounds per acre, so you would need about
2,000 gallons of calcium nitrate to give you the same outcome. You can do the math on
the cost of that one.

Products that are based on calcium chloride have the same problems as calcium
nitrate, but at least with calcium nitrate you get some nitrogen out of the application.
Calcium chloride is the same stuff they use to de-ice the roads. If you apply this in
substantial quantities to your fields you are effectively salting your fields, which may burn
any plants or seeds out there. While you may get some calcium out of an application, it
is typically not worth the application cost as you will not get any change in soil pH.

So why won’t liquid “lime” pack up the RV and ride off into the sunset? It is being
marketed towards smaller farming operations that may not have the equipment to
spread true lime, or operations with financial contraints. To apply a liquid, and at the
advertised 5 gallons per acre, you could almost apply to any sized field with a backpack
sprayer or inexpensive ATV sprayer. This makes it financially attractive on the surface,
but when you learn more about the product you realize its actually not that great of a
deal. If you have smaller acreage and would like to apply lime yourself, my
recommendation is to look into pelletized lime. It is more expensive than regular ag
lime, but it can be applied with a broadcast spreader pulled behind an ATV, or attached
to a 3-point hitch. I also need to stress that a soil test should be done on any fields (or
gardens) before lime is added. I have seen too many soil test results show that owners
have over-applied lime, which then requires the owner to apply sulfur to drop the pH.
We sell soil test kits in our office, and many ag retailers sell them, as well.

In a nutshell, the great claims about liquid lime are only half true. If you are looking to
lime your property to raise your pH and are not sure which product is best to use, give
me a call at 330-638-6783. We can talk about all the options and we can find one that
fits your operation and budget. As always, calling for advice at OSU Extension is free.

We have some great educational opportunities coming up in March. On March 7 we will
be Pruning into March at Hartford Orchards from 9-11AM. We will be discussing and
demonstrating how to prune fruit trees. We will start with an overview of the pruning
process before heading out into the orchard for hands-on experience. There’s nothing
like practicing on someone else’s trees! Cost for the class is $15/person and the first 30
people to register will get a free pair of hand pruners. We will be outside so dress for the weather.

If you are thinking about taking the exam for a pesticide applicators license, OSU Extension will be offering a test prep class on March 2 from 1-4PM. You will learn about the test, and we will be covering the topics that are covered in the CORE exam. Cost for the class is $35/person and includes study books for the CORE exam.

Lastly, mark your calendars for March 11 as OSU Extension’s Agronomy School returns to Bristolville, OH! Topics for the day include precision ag on a budget, economic updates, weed control, soybean maturity selection, and Ohio’s new H2Ohio program. Thanks to our sponsors the cost for the program is only $10/person and this includes lunch, handouts, and a cover crop guide. Pesticide, fertilizer, and CCA credits will be available.

For more information, or to register for any of these programs call OSU Extension Trumbull county at 330-638-6783. Also, don’t forget to check out our Facebook page!

Stay safe out there!

Lee Beers can be reached at beers.66@osu.edu or 330-638-6738

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clients on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.

Ashtabula OSU Extension seeking 4-H Summer Student Assistant

OSU Extension in Ashtabula County is looking for a Summer College Student Assistant to assist with the summer 4-H Youth Development program. The purpose of this county-based extension internship program is to provide an opportunity for a college student to gain workforce preparation skills to prepare them for success as they enter the first position of their professional careers. This summer position provides valuable pre-professional experience for educational and community-based careers.

Applicants must have completed one year of college and have evidence of successful leadership experience in 4-H, school and/or community organizations. Candidates should be self-motivated, possess strong organizational skills and must be available to work a flexible schedule including occasional nights and weekends.

The Student Assistant will be provided with a variety of county-based Extension workforce experiences. Job responsibilities include but are not limited to: assisting the
County Staff with Summer Youth Camps, Summer School Enrichment programs, and Junior Fair activities.

Click [here](#) to read the full Job Description and for more information. Interested individuals should submit a cover letter and resume with three references to the OSU Extension Office at 39 Wall Street Jefferson, Ohio 44047 by **March 6, 2020**.

**Portage OSU Extension seeking 4-H Program Assistant**

Ohio State University Extension seeks a part time, 10 hours per week Program Assistant to work with county staff and volunteers in Portage County. This position will assist with specific educational programs, including the 4-H Carteens program and other 4-H related programs as needed.

Applicants are required to have bachelor’s degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience; teaching experience and demonstrated leadership experience in the workplace or as a volunteer; ability to work flexible hours with minimal supervision.

This is a 2-year term position and is grant/program funded. This position is located in Ravenna, Ohio. For complete position description and online application instructions, please visit [here](#). The application deadline is **March 8, 2020**.
Upcoming Events

**March 3, 2020 6:30 – 8:30PM**
Northeast Ohio Winter Cattle Clinic – Ashtabula Fair Grounds
**TODAY call 440-576-9008 to RSVP**

**March 4, 2020 1:00 – 5:30PM**
Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification - Ashtabula Co.

**March 5, 2020 2:00 – 6:00PM**
Northeast Ohio Winter Grape School – Stonegait Winery

**March 7, 2020 9 – 11A.M.**
Prune into March
Hartford Orchards

**March 11, 2020 9AM – 3PM**
Northeast Ohio Agronomy School – Bristolville, OH

**March 26, 2020 12PM – 4PM**
Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification - Portage Co.

**April 15, 2020 11:30AM**
Trumbull Farmer Lunch Series – Cover Crops – A Farmer Discussion

**April 28, 2020 11AM**
Dairy Calf and Heifer Nutrition
Trumbull County

**June 14th, 2020**
Dairy Banquet/ Ice Cream Social
Northeast Ohio Winter Cattle Clinic

This year’s topics include:
Neonatal Calf Care & Drug Residue Prevention

The Ashtabula County office of OSU Extension, the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association, and the Ashtabula County Dairy Service Unit would like to invite Northeast Ohio beef & dairy producers to the “Northeast Ohio Winter Cattle Clinic” on Tuesday March 3rd, 2020 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds Expo Building.

Cattle are most vulnerable just after birth, so maintaining proper care during this time makes the difference when working to raising a healthy heard. Join us March 3rd to hear Dr. Bryan Elliott share best practices for neonatal calf care. The clinic will also feature a presentation on drug residue prevention form Ohio Department of Agriculture Veterinarian, Dr. Ellen Yoakam. 4-H and FFA youth will also gain valuable experience from this workshop. There is no cost for this educational evening so RSVP today!

Location: Expo Building at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds
127 N Elm St, Jefferson, Ohio 44047

Cost: Free to attend but please RSVP by 4:30 PM March 3RD

Registration: Please RSVP for this program by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008 or emailing Andrew Holden at Holden.155@osu.edu

This event is co-sponsored by The Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association & The Ashtabula County Dairy Service Unit

ashtabula.osu.edu

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.
Did you ever want to learn how to prune your apple, pear, or other fruit tree? Here’s your chance! You even get to practice on someone else’s tree! OSU Extension and Hartford Orchards LLC are teaming up to bring you a morning full of hands-on pruning experience on March 7, 2020. We’ll start the morning off with a quick overview of pruning basics before we head out to the orchard to get first hand experience deciding what to prune, and when to stop cutting.

Dress for the weather, and bring your pruners, loppers, and saws! We will be getting our hands dirty, so bring gloves too! Cost for the class is $15/person and includes refreshments, handouts, and the first 30 registrants get a free pair of hand pruners. To register, or if you have any questions call 330-638-6783.
The Northeast Ohio Agronomy School is back for 2020! A wide variety of topics will be discussed throughout the day including H2Ohio, controlling pigweeds, variable rate technology, soybean maturities, and economic updates. Please see the back for speakers and a tentative agenda.

The Agronomy School will be held at the Bristolville Community Center in Bristolville, OH. The community center is in the old fire hall at the intersection of OH-88 and OH-45, right across the street from the library. Cost for the program is $15/person and includes snacks, lunch, and handouts. The Trumbull SWCD will also be providing a free copy of the Cover Crop Guide. We will also have Agronomy Guides, Field Guides, and Weed Control Guides for purchase. Pesticide, fertilizer, and CCA credits will be available. For more information, or to register call 330-638-6783. Registration deadline is March 6.

March 11, 2020 9:00A.M – 2:30P.M
Bristolville Township Hall
1864 Ohio State Route 88
Bristolville, OH 44402
(Old fire hall at corner of OH45 and OH88)

The Northeast Ohio Agronomy School is back for 2020! A wide variety of topics will be discussed throughout the day including H2Ohio, controlling pigweeds, variable rate technology, soybean maturities, and economic updates. Please see the back for speakers and a tentative agenda.

The Agronomy School will be held at the Bristolville Community Center in Bristolville, OH. The community center is in the old fire hall at the intersection of OH-88 and OH-45, right across the street from the library. Cost for the program is $15/person and includes snacks, lunch, and handouts. The Trumbull SWCD will also be providing a free copy of the Cover Crop Guide. We will also have Agronomy Guides, Field Guides, and Weed Control Guides for purchase. Pesticide, fertilizer, and CCA credits will be available. For more information, or to register call 330-638-6783. Registration deadline is March 6.

March 11, 2020 9:00A.M – 2:30P.M
Bristolville Township Hall
1864 Ohio State Route 88
Bristolville, OH 44402
(Old fire hall at corner of OH45 and OH88)

The Northeast Ohio Agronomy School is back for 2020! A wide variety of topics will be discussed throughout the day including H2Ohio, controlling pigweeds, variable rate technology, soybean maturities, and economic updates. Please see the back for speakers and a tentative agenda.

The Agronomy School will be held at the Bristolville Community Center in Bristolville, OH. The community center is in the old fire hall at the intersection of OH-88 and OH-45, right across the street from the library. Cost for the program is $15/person and includes snacks, lunch, and handouts. The Trumbull SWCD will also be providing a free copy of the Cover Crop Guide. We will also have Agronomy Guides, Field Guides, and Weed Control Guides for purchase. Pesticide, fertilizer, and CCA credits will be available. For more information, or to register call 330-638-6783. Registration deadline is March 6.

March 11, 2020 9:00A.M – 2:30P.M
Bristolville Township Hall
1864 Ohio State Route 88
Bristolville, OH 44402
(Old fire hall at corner of OH45 and OH88)
9:00 A.M.  H2ohio and Current Research on Water Quality (Nutrient Placement)
• Greg LaBarge – OSU Agronomic Crops Field Specialist
• This talk will discuss the new H2Ohio program and what that means for NE Ohio farmers. Greg will also discuss recent findings for nutrient placement

10:00 A.M.  Soybean Maturity Selection in Difficult Years
• Laura Lindsey, OSU Assistant Professor Hort and Crop Science
• Dr. Lindsey will discuss considerations required for selecting soybean maturities and what that looked like in a wet 2019.

11:00 A.M.  Break – Visit with Sponsors

11:15 A.M.  Agriculture Profitability Outlook
• Andrew Holden, OSU Extension Educator Ashtabula County
• This session will discuss dealing with uncertainty in the market, how to manage the risk, the 2018 Farm Bill, future crop margins, and other items to know for the next year.

12:00 P.M.  Lunch – Sponsored by W.I. Miller and Sons

12:45 P.M.  Lipstick on a Pigweed – How to Identify and Control Pigweeds
• Lee Beers, OSU Extension Educator Trumbull County
• Les Ober, OSU Extension Geauga
• Palmer amaranth and waterhemp will be a continuing challenge for our area. Learn how to properly identify waterhemp, palmer amaranth, redroot, and smooth pigweeds and how to control them.

1:45 P.M.  Variable Rate Technology – How to Take Full Advantage in NE Ohio
• Angela Arnold, OSU Extension Educator Portage County
• Variable rate technology can help you reduce your inputs and costs, and this session will discuss the basics and help you get started.

2:30 P.M.  Adjourn
2020 Northeast Ohio Winter Grape School

Thursday, March 5th, 2020
2:00-6:00PM followed by
Tri-County Grape Growers meeting 6:00PM

Stonegait Winery
4275 Bates Rd. Madison, OH 44057
Registration starts at 1:30PM

Topics:
2:00pm: Dr. Imed Dami, Presentation on mulching as hilling up alternative
2:45pm: Dr. Melanie Lewis Ivey, Pesticide Resistance in Grapes
3:30pm: Eric Barrett, Mahoning County Extension, Agri-Tourism Safety
4:15pm: Tom Dehaas (Lake County Extension), Miguel Preza (Local Nursery Manager), Pesticide Mixing and Handling
5:00pm: Dinner
6:00pm: Tri-County Grape Growers Meeting

Refreshments:
Chili, chips and drinks will be provided as part of the registration fee.

Pesticide Applicator Credit Offered:
1 hour of Core, 1/2 hour of Category 3, and 1/2 hour of Category 2b
Stonegait Winery
4275 Bates Rd. Madison, OH

2019 Winter Grape School Registration Form

Pre-registration is required by Monday, March 2nd, 2020. Registration fee is $15.00. Registration includes refreshments, speaker travel expenses, Pesticide education credit and program handouts.

Registration:

Make checks payable to OSU Lake County Extension, and mail to Lake County Extension office, 99 East Erie Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077. If you have any questions, please call 440-350-2269.

Name_____________________________ Phone_________________
Address_____________________________ City_____________ Zip code_______
Email_____________________________ County_________________

# of Reservations_______________$15 per RSVP

Contact the Lake County Extension office at 440-350-2269 for more information.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.
Small Farm Social

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH, 6-8 PM

Please join us for this fun, informal, networking opportunity before the growing season gets into full swing! Farms of all size welcome including ambitious backyard gardeners and aspiring farmers. We will have food, drinks, a raffle, music, and more! Come, learn about the work of the Ashtabula Local Food Council and get an update from the Local Food Coordinator!

Location: Moores Heritage Farm Market, 1012 Bridge St., Ashtabula, OH 44004

Cost: FREE! Donations to benefit the Ashtabula Local Food Council gratefully accepted!

Contact information: Julie Wayman, Local Foods Coordinator

wayman.31@osu.edu
440-576-9008

RSVPs appreciated but not required

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN OSU EXTENSION AND THE ASHTABULA LOCAL FOOD COUNCIL