Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

We had a good crowd at the Ashtabula County private pesticide applicator recertification class last week! If your private pesticide license is expiring at the end of March, we have one last class available in Portage County on March 26th. Contact your local extension office to check your recertification status and sign up with the flyer below!

If you haven’t filled out the 2020 Ashtabula County Needs Assessment, please do so at www.go.osu.edu/AshtabulaAg2020

Have a good week and stay safe!
Rhizobia Inoculant Following the 2019 Season

By: Laura Lindsey, Stephanie Karhoff
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-05/rhizobia-inoculant-following-2019-season

Following wet weather conditions and fallow fields, some producers are wondering if they need to inoculate their soybean seed with *Rhizobia*.

Soybean plants have a symbiotic relationship with bacteria in which the bacteria fix nitrogen from the atmosphere into a plant-available form of nitrogen. In soybean, nitrogen fixation is associated with *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* (commonly referred to as just *Rhizobia*). Generally, fields with a history of soybean production have an adequate population density of *Bradyrhizobium japonicum*. In our research trials, we have measured a yield increase of approximately 1.5 to 2.0 bu/acre when soybean seed is inoculated and the field has a history of soybean production. However, statistically, this is only at the 70% confidence level (e.g., I’m 70% confident there is a 1.5 to 2.0 bu/acre yield increase when soybean seed is inoculated when the field has a history of soybean production.)

What about fields that were flooded? In Wisconsin, researchers examined *Rhizobia* populations and effect of inoculant following flooded field conditions the previous year. Trials were conducted in three field locations that were flooded for at least three weeks. Soybean yield was not influenced by inoculant (four inoculant products tested). Even following a flood, *Rhizobia* populations were adequate for crop growth. However, if large amounts of soil or plant residue from an unknown origin were deposited in the field, *Rhizobia* inoculation may be necessary.

What about fields that were never planted? When fields remain unplanted, there may be a decline in beneficial mycorrhizal fungi, which is commonly referred to as “fallow field syndrome.” Keep in mind *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* are bacteria, not fungi. There is very limited information on the effect of fallow fields on *Rhizobia* populations. However, if soybean were planted sometime during the past three years, there should be an adequate *Rhizobia* population.

If you are concerned about having adequate *Rhizobia* populations in your fields, inoculant is a relatively cheap insurance.

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

Ohio State University Extension

Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties
Reference:

**AG SAFETY EVENTS**

Contrary to the popular image of fresh air and peaceful surroundings, a farm is not a hazard-free work setting. Every year, thousands of farm workers are injured and hundreds more die in farming accidents. According to the National Safety Council, agriculture is the most hazardous industry in the nation.

In an effort to make safety meetings more accessible to you, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, and Trumbull county Farm Bureaus are offering two safety events in your area.

The first event is on Tuesday, March 24 at St. Mary’s Hall, located at 103 N Maple St, Orwell, OH, 44076. The safety program starts promptly at 6:30pm with registration starting at 6 pm, and will address noise & hearing conservation, respiratory protection, pesticide & fertilizer handling, and health & wellness. Register by Monday, March 23 by calling 440.426.2195, emailing nefarmbu@ofbf.org, or online at safetymarch24.eventbrite.com. Light refreshments will be provided.

The second event, Ag Safety Day is on Saturday, March 28 at Sunrise Farm located at 13115 Kinsman Rd, Burton, OH 44021. Registration begins at 8:15 am and the program starts at 8:30 am. Safety presentations and demonstrations will cover tractor and equipment safety and chainsaw safety. Seating is limited! Registration is required by Wednesday, March 25 by calling 440.426.2195, emailing nefarmbu@ofbf.org, or online at safetymarch28.eventbrite.com. Continental breakfast and light lunch will be provided. These events meet requirements outlined for OFBF Workers Comp Group Rating Program. Both events are free for Farm Bureau members and $5 for non-members.

For more information visit ofbf.org/counties

**Case watch: the Lake Erie Bill of Rights battle ends**

By: Peggy Kirk Hall, and Ellen Essman, Agricultural & Resource Law
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/fri-03062020-1252pm/case-watch-lake-erie-bill-rights-battle-ends

In the not-too-surprising news category, a federal court has invalidated the Lake Erie Bill of Rights (LEBOR) that Toledo residents passed last year to recognize and protect legal rights for Lake Erie. What is surprising, however, is how the court reached its decision...
to strike down LEBOR, even in the wake of a law passed by the Ohio legislature in July
of 2019 that denies legal standing to nature and prevents a person from bringing a court
action on behalf of nature or any ecosystem.

The verdict came exactly one year after Drewes Farm Partnership filed its federal
lawsuit to prevent enforcement of LEBOR a day after Toledoans passed the
measure. Drewes Farm asserted that LEBOR violated the farm’s rights under the First
Amendment, Equal Protection Clause, and Due Process Clauses of the Fifth and
Fourteenth Amendments. Drewes Farm also argued that LEBOR exceeded the City of
Toledo’s authority because it usurped the power of the state and the federal
government by interfering with international relations, invalidating state and federal
permits, invalidating state law, altering the rights of corporations, and creating new
causes of action in state courts. In April 2019, the state of Ohio joined the lawsuit as a
fellow plaintiff. Proponents of LEBOR unsuccessfully attempted to join in the litigation.

Did the plaintiffs have the right to bring the case?

The opinion begins with the court’s “standing” analysis. Toledo argued that Drewes
Farm and Ohio did not have legal standing to bring the lawsuit against the City. Legal
standing requires that a plaintiff (1) suffers an injury in fact, (2) that is fairly traceable to
the challenged conduct of the defendant, and (3) that is likely to be redressed by a
favorable judicial decision. Failing to meet the legal standing requirement would force
dismissal of the lawsuit. Without a finding in favor of legal standing, the court wouldn’t
be able to determine LEBOR’s validity.

The central issue in whether the parties had legal standing was the injury in fact
requirement, according to the court. To challenge LEBOR, the plaintiffs must
demonstrate “concrete and particularized” injury that is “actual or imminent, not
conjectural or hypothetical.” The court determined that the state of Ohio met this
requirement because it suffered an injury, “at least on paper,” from LEBOR’s
invalidation of Ohio laws, regulations, licenses and permits and because the state
“could” be sued under LEBOR. The judge also found that Drewes Farm demonstrated
injury in fact since any Toledo resident “could” sue the farm for violating LEBOR.
In its brief attention to the second component of standing, that the injury is fairly
traceable to the defendant, the court determined that the potential injuries were
traceable to Toledo because its city charter was amended by voters to include the
LEBOR language. Even though the City itself did not legislatively enact LEBOR, had
actually attempted to keep the issue off the ballot due to concerns that it was
unconstitutional, and had not indicated any intent to enforce LEBOR, the court
concluded that “the City is a proper defendant in the suit.” The court also found that
invalidating LEBOR would redress the plaintiffs’ injuries, the final requirement for legal
standing.
LEBOR violates due process

The court next directly examined only one of the many constitutional claims against LEBOR, the Fourteenth Amendment’s right to due process, and specifically focused on one element of due process: clarity of the law. The court stated that if a law is vague and unclear, it can “trap the innocent by not providing fair warning and invite arbitrary enforcement by prosecutors, judges, and juries.” Pointing to language in LEBOR such as the right of Lake Erie and its watershed to “exist, flourish, and naturally evolve,” and Toledoans’ right to a “clean and healthy environment,” the court questioned what type of conduct would violate the broad language and how a judge or jury would determine the line between “clean and unclean and healthy and unhealthy.” Spreading even a small amount of fertilizer could possibly violate LEBOR, the court said, as well as countless other activities such as catching fish, pulling weeds, planting corn, or driving a gas-powered vehicle. Not surprisingly, the court concluded that the language is void for vagueness. While LEBOR’s language sounds powerful, the court explained, it has no practical meaning, contains merely “aspirational statements” rather than rules of law, and violates constitutional due process.

What about other constitutional claims?

The court surprisingly didn’t tackle the many other constitutional issues raised by Drewes Farm and the State. But in its “severability” analysis, the court did briefly touch on the constitutionality of LEBOR’s preemption of state and federal laws. LEBOR contains a severability clause stating that a determination of one part of LEBOR as invalid does not invalidate the remaining parts of LEBOR. According to the court, this severability clause is valid only if the constitutional and unconstitutional parts of LEBOR are capable of separation and can stand by themselves. The court concluded that once the vague rights are stripped away, the remaining parts of LEBOR are meaningless. The court then took the opportunity to note that LEBOR’s attempt to preempt Ohio law in the name of environmental protection would fail on its own merits. Lake Erie’s health falls well beyond Toledo’s authority and rights to govern its internal affairs, and enacting laws that conflict with Ohio law is a “textbook example of what municipal government cannot do,” said the court.

Protecting Lake Erie is a worthy goal

In a slightly sympathetic nod to LEBOR supporters “frustrated by the status quo,” the court notes that using a democratic process to protect Lake Erie is a well-intentioned goal but LEBOR simply fails to achieve the goal. Careful drafting by Toledoans could result in valid legislation that would reduce water pollution, the court explains, while highlighting an ordinance in Madison, Wisconsin that restricted the use of phosphorus-containing fertilizers in the city and withstood a legal challenge.
It comes as no surprise

Echoing what many had already concluded, the court criticized LEBOR’s authors for ignoring legal principals and constitutional limitations and stated that LEBOR’s invalidation should come as no surprise. “This is not a close call,” the court says. “LEBOR is unconstitutionally vague and exceeds the power of municipal government in Ohio. It is therefore invalid in its entirety.”

Now what?

LEBOR has met the end of its road, but it never really stood a chance of actual enforcement due to its clearly unconstitutional language. LEBOR’s proponents often claimed that the purposes of LEBOR were to gain more attention to Lake Erie’s poor water quality and to push the concept of recognizing legal rights for nature and ecosystems a bit further down the road. Were they successful? Will Toledans give up, or will they regroup and carefully draft new legislation to protect their water?

Farmers in Ohio now have absolute certainty that they will not be sued for violating Lake Erie’s “rights,” but such a lawsuit never really stood a chance of actual success due to LEBOR’s clearly unconstitutional language. And let’s not forget the new language in Ohio Revised Code §2305.01 stating that “nature or any ecosystem does not have standing to participate in or bring an action in any court of common pleas; no person, on behalf of or representing nature or an ecosystem, shall bring an action in any court of common pleas; and no person shall bring an action in any court of common pleas against a person who is acting on behalf of or representing nature or an ecosystem.”

And what about Lake Erie’s water quality? New voluntary programs are rolling out from Governor DeWine’s H2Ohio plan. But many claim that more forceful measures are necessary. Other litigation over the lake’s water quality lingers, and Ohio has listed the Western Lake Erie Basin as “impaired” and must develop a plan to address Total Maximum Daily Loads of pollutants in the lake. It’s no surprise that even though it’s the end of the road for LEBOR, conflicts over solving Lake Erie’s water quality problems will continue.

Read the U.S. District Court’s opinion on LEBOR here. For our in-depth look at LEBOR, click here. We review other current Lake Erie legal activities here.

Wetlands & HEL Compliance Workshop

You may have wetlands on your property and not even know it! Not all wetlands have standing water and cattails.
Wetlands in Trumbull County are regulated by three separate government entities; Ohio EPA, Army Corps. of Engineers and National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In this workshop, representatives from the Army Corps, NRCS and Ohio EPA will explain what constitutes a wetland, and the different roles each entity has in regulating them.

Highly Erodible Land (HEL) Compliance
Any land that is enrolled in USDA programs is subject to HEL compliance. NRCS representatives will discuss provisions of HEL compliance and what goes into an HEL determination.

When: Thursday March 26, 2020 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Where: Trumbull County Agriculture & Family Education Center – 520 W. Main St. Cortland, OH 44410

This workshop is free, but registration is requested. For registration or questions regarding the workshop, please contact Eric Zamary at 330-637-2056 ext. 8621 or eric@trumbullohswcd.org. If you need special accommodations, please contact Kara MacDowell at 330-282-8622.

**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.edu

**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.

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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

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Northeast Ohio Agriculture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties
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.
Upcoming Events

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

Lee Beers
Trumbull County Extension
520 West Main Street
Cortland, OH 44410
330-638-6783
beers.66@osu.edu
trumbull.osu.edu

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County Extension
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Jefferson, OH 44047
440-576-9008
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Angie Arnold
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705 Oakwood St., Suite 103
Ravenna, OH 44266
330-296-6432
arnold.1143@osu.edu
portage.osu.edu

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
Have you ever thought about managing your woodlands but don’t know where to start? Come learn the foundations of forest management from State Service Foresters! We will discuss how trees grow, the benefits of different species, and how to improve the overall health of your woodlot. This interactive program will help you identify and define your long-term forestry and wildlife management goals and objectives. Join us to take this first and most important step in your forest management journey.

**Date/Location**
Wednesday, March 18, 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Garden Meeting Room
Portage Soil and Water Conservation District Office
6970 State Route 88
Ravenna, OH 44266
440.426.2195
woodlandwednesdaysmarch.eventbrite.com

This workshop is FREE and all are welcome to attend, but registration is required. To register visit woodlandwednesdaysmarch.eventbrite.com or call 440.426.2195
Thursday, March 26
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location:
Portage County Soil and Water Conservation District Office
6970 OH-88, Ravenna, OH 44266

Cost:
- $35 for Pesticide Recertification
- $10 for Fertilizer Recertification

Portage Fert/Pest Recertification Class

Pesticide Recertification training will begin at 12 p.m., and Fertilizer Recertification will follow at 3 p.m.

If you are only in need of fertilizer recertification credits, you are welcome to attend this training. If this time does not work for you, feel free to call the office at 330-296-6432 for more class options.

Ohio Department of Agriculture Pesticide Licensing

- A separate $30 ODA license fee should be sent directly to ODA and can be done before this event. PLEASE NOTE: The $35 fee to OSU Extension for credits is different and separate from the $30 ODA license fee.
- If you are unable to attend, other credit opportunities can be found at http://pested.osu.edu

To REGISTER: Call 330-296-6432 for questions, or Complete, Detach, Return with $10 for Fertilizer, $35 for Pesticide, or $45 for both classes to:
705 Oakwood St., Suite 103, OH 44266.

Make checks payable to OSU Extension

Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________ City ____________________________
State __________ Zip ______ Day Phone: __________ E-mail __________________________

# Attending (x $10 or $35) __________________________ E-mail __________________________

Please select the categories you need renewed on your license to help finalize the program:

_____1 - Grain and Cereal Crops  _____2 - Forage Crops and Livestock  _____3 – Fruit and Vegetable Crops _____4 - Nursery and Forest Crops _____5 - Greenhouse Crops _____6 - Fumigation

2020 Port Fert/Pest Recert.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis.
For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaes.diversity.
Dairy Calf and Heifer Nutrition Workshop

April 28, 2020  11:00A.M. To 2P.M.

Join OSU Extension Trumbull County to learn more about ensuring quality nutrition in your dairy herd with a lack of quality feed. The past few growing seasons have left us with some less than desirable feed, and this workshop led by Dr. Maurice Eastridge (OSU Extension Dairy Specialist) will help you supplement poor feed to keep your herd healthy. This is a FREE event, but we will be having lunch so please call 330-638-6783 to register.

If you have any questions call OSU Extension at 330-638-6783.

Location: Trumbull County Ag and Family Education Center, 520 West Main St, Cortland, OH 44410
Cost: Free – Lunch Included
Contact information: 330-638-6783 or beers.66@osu.edu

trumbull.osu.edu