Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

It’s been another interesting week here in NE Ohio with large amounts of rainfall and being ordered to stay home. We know you all are getting things ready for the 2020 planting season, but if you have extra time on your hands be sure to check out OSUE Ag Madness highlighted in this week's newsletter.

Just a reminder, even though our offices are closed we are still here to serve you. If you have any questions, please contact us by email or call the office and we will get you the information you’re looking for.

Have a great week!

Lee Beers  
Trumbull County Extension Educator

Andrew Holden  
Ashtabula County Extension Educator

Angie Arnold  
Portage County Extension Educator
OSU Extension Announces Agriculture and Natural Resources Madness: A Tournament of Education

By: Sherrie R. Whaley
Source: https://cfaes.osu.edu/news-writers/sherrie-r-whaley

Columbus, Ohio—Did your usual conference get canceled? Looking to fill the void of the big basketball tournament? Ohio State University Extension is here to help with a new virtual education program for the agricultural community.

“Agriculture and Natural Resources Madness: A Tournament of Education” will include 64 educational events broken into daily brackets. Each day, a virtual educational session will be held at 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. The educational tournament is free of charge and will likely continue until mid-May.

“This effort is a direct response to providing a variety of useful and timely sessions for farmers and families across the state during Gov. DeWine’s stay-at-home order,” said Jacqueline Wilkins, interim director of OSU Extension. “While our ‘tournament’ is being loosely tied to March Madness, it’s not a competition, and people can join in at any time for as many or as few sessions as they desire.”

The tournament opens on Wednesday, March 25, with the eFields 2019 Results webinar. Learn how the eFields program used modern technologies to help Ohio farmers learn new practices and techniques to improve farm efficiency and profitability. Tip-off is at 9 a.m., and registration is required at go.osu.edu/eFieldsWebinar.

Also in this bracket is a March 25 noon webinar from Sam Custer, interim assistant director of OSU Extension’s agriculture and natural resources program, to discuss how educators are working remotely to continue serving Ohioans during these uncharted waters of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.
Tournament “brackets” will change daily. Topics will cover a variety of subjects and be presented in a variety of virtual platforms. When possible, question-and-answer opportunities will be included.

To find complete details on the tournament’s educational opportunities and other event and webinar links, visit go.osu.edu/agmadness.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Madness is just one example of how OSU Extension is employing its online resources during this challenging time to remain engaged with Ohioans. “The intent is to reach the agricultural community in a time of high stress,” Custer said. “OSU Extension has also updated its Ag Crisis website to include a toolbox of resources related to COVID-19. Those can be reached at go.osu.edu/AgCrisis.”

OSU Extension has implemented a teleworking plan effective immediately, and all OSU Extension offices statewide are closed until further notice. The plan mirrors The Ohio State University’s decision last week to require all employees who can do so to work from home and to maintain only critical services on university property across all campuses.

Clients, stakeholders, and other community members can continue to connect with any OSU Extension staff member via phone or email as usual. To contact your local Extension office, visit for office phone numbers and a direct link to each office’s website and staff directory. If you reach voicemail, please leave a message with your name and contact information, and you will be contacted as soon as possible.

OSU Extension is the outreach arm of Ohio State’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), and works to share knowledge with every county in Ohio. Its four major program areas are family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, community development, and agriculture and natural resources.

**Phosphorus Placement Effects on Yield and Water Quality in a Corn-Soybean Rotation**

By: Greg LaBarge, CPAg/CCA

Phosphorus placement has been discussed as a 4R Best Management Practice that results in lower nutrient losses than when P is surface applied and left on the surface. The concept is that by mixing granular fertilizer with the soil, we expose the nutrient to more soil surface area for attachment. A replicated trial was established at the Northwest Agricultural Research Station-OARDC located near Custer, OH to measure water quality and crop yield with four fertilizer placement options. Four phosphorus fertilizer treatments are being used:

1. Surf - Broadcast surface application in fall
2. 2"x2" - 2 by 2 placement at spring planting
3. Deep - Deep banding using strip till unit in fall
4. Incorp - Surface application with disk incorporation in fall

Corn and soybean are planted on 50% of the plot each year. The rate of phosphorus applied for fall treatments is 128 pounds P$_2$O$_5$ applied after the soybean crop and 64 pounds P$_2$O$_5$ in the 2 by 2 placement to both corn and soybean. Fertilizer treatment were applied in fall of 2018/spring 2019. The STP level is 40 PPM Mehlich III. Water samples are collected using ISCO samplers with only water from subsurface drainage collected.

Preliminary water quality results are presented below for the period January to September 2019. The surface placement plot yielded the highest concentration of DRP and loading in the collected tile water. All treatments that placed P$_2$O$_5$ in contact with the soil resulted in lower DRP concentrations and loading.

Figure 1. DRP Concentration and Load from phosphorus placement measured through subsurface drainage.

Corn and soybean yield average 144.4 and 47.7 bushels per acre respectively with no significant response to fertilizer placement. Yield response data is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Corn and Soybean yield from phosphorus placement in 2019.
### Emergency Preparation Considerations for Beef Operations

By: Jeff Lehmkuhler, PhD, PAS Associate Extension Professor  
Source: [https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/03/18/emergency-preparation-considerations-for-beef-operations/#more-8444](https://u.osu.edu/beef/2020/03/18/emergency-preparation-considerations-for-beef-operations/#more-8444)

As we see the events unfold in response to COVID-19, I thought I would share a few things to consider in any emergency. Emergency preparedness first came to light for me early in my graduate student career when the hurricane hit North Carolina and my swine colleagues shared pictures of boats carrying feed to swine facilities. Being prepared became more evident in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina and the impacts on beef cattle operations near the coast. Granted we may not be near the coast and hurricanes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placement</th>
<th>Soybean (bu/A)</th>
<th>Corn (bu/A)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surf</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>132.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&quot;by2&quot;</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>152.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>133.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorp</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>159.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD (0.1)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>NS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
are not a concern but, when the tornado went through eastern Kentucky a couple years ago, having plans for dealing with emergencies again become evident as we were rebuilding fences and accessing the supplies needed to do so. The following does not pertain to just the current situation and should provide a spark to think about preparing for emergencies you may experience on your operation.

Identify major weaknesses that are critical points in your operation to maintain the necessities for the well being and care of your animals. Start with the basics of nutritional considerations for assuring livestock will have access to feed and water. Then consider animal health management items that may be impacted if supplies are limited or take longer to acquire. This is not to say that you should hoard products, but rather plan well and consider the “what ifs”.

As we are entering spring and pastures are greening up, feed resources may not be top of mind. You should consider a plan for an emergency that may occur at any time of the year. Short hay stocks this past winter was an example. Buying hay tarps to store extra hay to allow a 20-30% carryover is just one option to consider. I recently read that vitamin A and E prices have already increased 25-45% in some countries as a result of supply issues since many of the feed additives are manufactured overseas. A bag of mineral with a target intake of 4 ounces provides 200 cattle feeding days. Consider having enough mineral to carry you a couple months under current situations. If you have 20 cows and 20 calves, then you can plan for a bag of mineral to last about 5-7 days.

Check feed bins and allow extra time for delivery. Often, we forget about checking the feed bin or creep feeders then scramble to have the feed mill deliver feed the next day. Consider having a few hundred pounds in bags or alternative storage such as metal drums as a backup. When considering feed for backup, rotate the feed and don’t purchase feed that has moisture added in the form of molasses or other wet feedstuffs that would encourage mold growth while in storage for a month.

Those that utilize solely municipal water should always have a backup plan. A busted water main could shut off your water supply until it is repaired. During the ice storm of 2009 electricity was out for an extended period and those on well pumps needed a backup generator to pump water. Above ground storage tanks can be used during warmer months and in-ground storage can be considered for year-round access. Dr. Higgin’s water capture from barn roof system is a great example of having an alternative water source. These are not new concepts but bringing back the old cisterns approach that we have abandoned. Developing stream, creek and pond water sources can also be considered if available on the farm.

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

Ohio State University Extension

Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties
Animal health products that are a routine part of your operation should also be considered. As an example, you may consider acquiring your vaccines for immunization earlier than normal. Many of the products have an extended shelf life and when stored under the label recommendations will be effective to the date on the box. If you have not already done so, you should consult your veterinarian to develop herd treatment protocols for potential diseases and disorders. Many antibiotics today require a prescription from your veterinarian and having a valid client-patient relationship improves your ability to obtain speedy professional consultations.

Larger operations may need to consider alternative labor pool resources. In the event of a family emergency, who is trained to take care of your livestock? Do they have access to phone numbers for the neighbors, veterinarian, feed supplier and others? Farmhands may be a family emergency and unable to work which places their tasks on you or other personnel. You may need a plan for extra help whether it be family, a neighbor or a hired hand that is trained in livestock management. Accidents happen on the farm and thinking through the labor supply may be all that is needed so you can act quickly.

This is not an inclusive list of things to consider when preparing for emergencies. The intent of the article was only to provide a foundation to stimulate the thought process of developing action plans in the event of an emergency. Being prepared and planning will alleviate some stress and allow you to better focus on the tasks at hand. Reach out to your county Extension offices for emergency preparation information. USDA resources are available online that are basic points for consideration when developing contingency plans. Take some time to consider your operation’s emergency preparations and develop plans if they are not in place already.

**COVID-19 Resources for Small Business**

*Remember We’re Here to Help*

The OSU South Centers Business Development Network continues to be available to help your small business. Our development specialists are working remotely and are available to meet virtually to assist your business.

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
- Brad Bapst – bapst.4@osu.edu
- Ryan Mapes – mapes.281@osu.edu
- Chris Smalley – smalley.26@osu.edu
- Melissa Carter – carter.1094@osu.edu
- Kelly O’Bryant - obryant.6@osu.edu
Stay in Touch with Customers Remotely Using Online Tools

Businesses of all shapes and sizes can use technology to inform and stay in touch with customers. If you have had changes to your hours, location, contact information, or you simply want to communicate with your customers, consider updating your Google My Business profile or sharing updates or hosting events for your customer community online using Facebook, Instagram, or other online tools.

Utilize Free or Enhanced Capability Tech for Remote Working

If you or members of your team are shifting to remote work, a number of technology providers are expanding capabilities for their current customers for free or are making their platforms available at no cost for a limited time. GoToMeeting has released Emergency Remote Work Kits for current LogMeIn customers and other eligible institutions and organizations, Google is granting free access to expanded capabilities for G Suite customers, Microsoft offers a free version of their Teams collaboration platform and is expanding free access to Teams, and Cisco has expanded the capabilities on their free Webex offer and is providing free 90-day licenses to businesses who are not Webex customers.

Get some tips on ensuring a successful transition to remote work:

- How to Lead a Successful Remote Team: Building Trust from The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business
- Join a free webinar on March 24th at 2pm from the Fisher College of Business at Ohio State on leading remote teams
- Working smarter anywhere – working remotely from Cisco Webex

For more information about collaboration tools offered in response to the public health situation, check out this article from ZDNet.
**Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)**

The SBA EIDL program can provide loans of up to $2 million to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and most private nonprofits that are unable to meet obligations and pay ordinary and necessary operating expenses due to a recognized economic disaster. Loan amounts are based on actual economic injury and financial need. Please note that EIDLs require repayment and that EIDL is not a grant program. Terms will be determined on a case by case basis.

Ohio was declared a disaster zone under the EIDL program on Thursday, March 19, 2020 effective beginning January 31, 2020. Businesses can learn about the process for applying for EIDL assistance, gather loan application materials, and apply online if they think they will qualify for and require EIDL assistance. Required application materials will include:

- Completed SBA Business Loan Application
- Tax information authorization form for the applicant, principals, and affiliates
- Copies of the most recently filed federal income tax return, including all schedules
- Personal financial statements for the applicant, each principal, or general partner
- Schedule of liabilities listing all fixed debt

**Assistance for Exporters**

The Small Business Administration (SBA) Export Express loan program is available for U.S. small businesses that export directly overseas or indirectly by selling to a customer that then exports their product. The Export Express loan program can provide up to $500,000 of financing for businesses prior to finalizing an export sale or while pursuing opportunities overseas, such as identifying a new overseas customer if an export sale is lost due to the coronavirus pandemic. Explore information on SBA’s COVID-19 small business loan resources.

**IRS Federal Income Tax Payment Relief**

The IRS has announced payment relief measures for individuals and businesses that owe federal income tax. This is not an extension of the federal income tax filing deadline, which is still April 15, 2020. Remember that taxpayers can still request six-month extensions of the deadline to file a federal income tax return. Note that this payment relief applies only to federal income tax payments and does not apply to payments of state taxes or other federal taxes.

The income tax payment deadline for individuals, including self-employed income, is being automatically extended to July 15, 2020 for up to $1 million of a taxpayer’s 2019 tax due.
The income tax payment deadline for C Corporations is being automatically extended until July 15, 2020 for up to $10 million of the corporation’s 2019 tax due.

**Unemployment Benefits and Employee Leave**

An executive order issued by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has expanded flexibility for Ohioans to receive unemployment benefits during the state’s emergency declaration period. Learn more about [coronavirus and unemployment insurance benefits from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services](https://jfs.ohio.gov/Coronavirus/Unemployment-Insurance-Benefits).


Please note that if you have questions about your legal requirements as an employer, you should consult a human resources or legal professional.

**Keeping Your Workplace Safe**

*The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has information to help employers address the coronavirus pandemic, including [guidance on preparing various workplaces for COVID-19](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/COVID19/), preventing worker exposure to the virus, and more. To see all of the COVID-19 information from OSHA, click here.*

**Guidance for Businesses and Employers from the CDC**

In response to COVID-19, the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html) that employers and businesses:

- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home
- Separate and send home sick employees
- Emphasize staying home when sick, respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene by all employees
- Perform routine environmental cleaning
- Advise employees before traveling to take certain steps

Note that if an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace, but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has requested that Ohio employers ask their employees to check their temperature before coming to work. Stay up to date on Ohio’s Public Health Orders and COVID-19 response at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

**Other Helpful Resources for Small Businesses**

- Learn more about Coronavirus symptoms, risk, and how to protect yourself from [The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center](https://wmc.osu.edu/)
- [Guidance for Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus](https://www.uschamber.com) from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- [SBA Disaster Assistance in Response to Coronavirus](https://www.sba.gov) from the U.S. Small Business Administration (Spanish version)
- How to apply for unemployment benefits online in Ohio (video) from Cleveland.com
- [Coronavirus Resources](https://www.dol.gov) from the U.S. Department of Labor

**Portage County Seeking Summer Intern**

Portage County is looking to hire a paid intern for this summer! To find out more details please visit [https://lod.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/sites/lod/files/imce/Documents/InternshipProgram/Portage%20Intern%20Plan%202020%20-%20Ashley%20Hughey%20-%20Angie%20Arnold-v2.pdf](https://lod.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/sites/lod/files/imce/Documents/InternshipProgram/Portage%20Intern%20Plan%202020%20-%20Ashley%20Hughey%20-%20Angie%20Arnold-v2.pdf). Start/end dates are flexible for these positions. Please note any details for availability in the application. To apply for the internships or get more information visit [www.go.osu.edu/OSUEinternship](http://www.go.osu.edu/OSUEinternship) or contact Jared Morrison at [morrison.332@osu.edu](mailto:mmorrison.332@osu.edu).

**Upcoming Events**

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

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

**June 14th, 2020**
Dairy Banquet/ Ice Cream Social
Agriculture and Natural Resources Madness

Tournament of Education

Begins March 25

Daily events at
9:00 a.m.
Noon
3:00 p.m.

Visit tournament website for schedule

go.osu.edu/AgMadness

OSU Extension is Open for Business
Learn with us virtually!

Each day, three educational sessions will be presented relating to the “bracket” or subject. Brackets change daily and include topics like food safety, crisis management, home gardening, animal care, crop production, forestry, hemp and many more.

Events are presented virtually via webinars, social media, live events and watch parties. Links to all events are provided on the tournament website.

You can also find links to watch existing educational programs and find relevant resources as we prepare for the 2020 growing season amid COVID-19.

Brought to you by your OSU Extension educators, researchers, faculty, staff and partners.

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.
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
The census counts everyone in the United States. Census results help determine how more than $675 billion in Federal funding is distributed to each state to support vital programs across the country EVERY YEAR! These funds shape local health care, housing, education, transportation, employment, and more. Census data is safe, secure, and protected by law.

Help us shape Ashtabula County and participate in the 2020 Census!

Respond by ONE of the following three ways:

**RESPOND ONLINE**
Visit [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov) to fill out the online questionnaire. The following locations are also available to help you access the online form. Call 2-1-1 for location hours.

- Andover Public Library
- Ashtabula Center for Active Living
- Ashtabula County District Library
- Conneaut Public Library
- Geneva Public Library
- Grand Valley Public Library
- Harbor Topky Library
- Henderson Memorial Library
- Kingsville Public Library
- OhioMeansJobs
- Rock Creek Public Library

**RESPOND BY PHONE**
You can call the assistance center toll-free at 1-844-330-2020 (English) or 1-844-468-2020 (Spanish).

**RESPOND BY MAIL**
Starting mid-March, households will begin receiving an Invitation to Respond to the 2020 Census online/by phone. Follow up reminders will be sent. If you do not respond by mid-April, a paper questionnaire will be provided for you to respond by mail.

For more information visit [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov) or [www.ashtabulacounty.us/census](http://www.ashtabulacounty.us/census)