Hello, Northeast Ohio Counties!

The long-range forecast for this spring does not favor early field work, planting, or early anything. Looks like we are in for a long wet and cool spring followed by a hot and dry summer. You can read more from Jim Noel in the newsletter.

We still have a lot of great programs coming up, so be sure to check out our upcoming events in the newsletter. For those that are interested in alternative crops, there are informational meetings on field peas and malting barley.
Dan Brown Hired as Local Foods Coordinator for OSU Extension

By Daniel Brown- Local Foods Coordinator for OSUE Ashtabula County
440-576-9008 or Brown.7116@osu.edu

He is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I wish to introduce myself and my new role with Ohio State Extension in Ashtabula County. Effective March 5th, 2018, I joined the Extension staff as the role of Local Foods Coordinator. This new and innovative position is a byproduct of community interest and concern about the future of local foods within Ashtabula County. The Ohio State Legislator has spearheaded this effort to support the creation of this position which will bring participants within the local food system together to connect and create a more efficient local foods ecosystem. Central to my work will be meeting with, connecting to, and supporting the work already afoot across the county.

I am new to Ashtabula County, while I have spent many summers in Conneaut this position will be my first time spending significant time in the county. It is my hope to be able to meet with as many residents, farmers, producers, processors, and thought leaders as possible in the coming weeks and months. I live in Cleveland, a city that I was born and raised in here I live with my partner Colleen. I went to college in Chicago, where I studied Ethics at DePaul University. Through my studies I have been working to learn about and advance more localized economies that support the health and wellbeing of residents, often with food being the vehicle to catalyze this change.

I have professional experience in education, community development, food & hospitality, and in 2014 started my own business which continues to operate today. I serve on the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Food Policy Coalition, and in 2014 was a National Fellow for the Environmental Leadership Program. My interest is in creating wealth and wellbeing for the communities, on whose behalf, I work with and in so doing create a more sustainable and resilient community for us all to live and thrive in.

If you are interested in learning more about myself, my position, or have thoughts that you think I need to hear, please do not hesitate to connect with me. I am here to learn, listen, and connect and above all am humbled and honored to be working with you on this wildly important work. I hope you will join us on this journey over the coming months.

Nicole Mann Selected as 2018 Ohio Ayrshire Queen

Nicole Mann of Pierpont, Ohio was crowned the 2018 Ohio Ayrshire Queen on February 17, 2018 in Plain City, Ohio. Her parents are Sharon R. Millard and Tim Mann. She is the granddaughter of Gaylord and Patty Millard.

Nicole graduated in 2015 from Pymatuning Valley High School where she was active in the FFA program. She received her Associate of Applied Science in Dairy Cattle Production and...
Management, in May, 2017 from Ohio State University – Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI), in Wooster. Currently, she is attending Ohio State University – Marion to obtain a degree in Early Childhood Education, expected to graduate in May, 2020.

Growing up next door to her Grandparents farm, Nicole had a love for cows. She started helping her Grandma feed calves at a young age and is currently employed part time at Millard Dairy LLC.

During her second year membership of the Pierpont Mix-n-Match Pacs at age 9, she won her first registered Holstein calf in the 2016 Ashtabula County Win a Calf 4-H Essay Contest. Nicole worked hard and with help and encouragement from many became a better showman during her years in 4-H. She always wanted to expand her small herd of Holsteins to include other breeds. In March, 2016, Nicole purchased her first Ayrshire at the Spring Dairy Expo in Columbus.

Last year during the Ashtabula County Fair, Nicole could be found around the barns taking care of her animals, along with helping and encouraging the younger 4-H kids with their projects and showmanship. When asked, Nicole will tell you it is more important to her that her kids (the ones she has helped) to do well.

Nicole is looking forward to promoting Dairy during her reign as Ohio Ayrshire Queen. She will be attending the Spring Dairy Show Expo in Columbus, helping with the sale and show later this month. She will be attending and helping with the Ayrshire show at the Ohio State Fair in August, in addition to attending other activities during her tenure as queen. Ashtabula County will see her at our County Fair in August showing her animals, being an advisor and helping the 4-H kids again.

Quick Fact: Ayrshires typically have red and white markings; the red can range from a shade of orange to a dark brown. They are known for their hardiness and their ability to convert grass into milk efficiently. The breed's strengths today are traits of easy calving and longevity. DRINK MORE MILK.

**Crop Insurance Deadline is March 15 for Ohio farmers**

Ohio Department of Insurance director Jillian Froment is reminding Ohio farmers that the deadline to purchase or modify certain insurance coverage for most spring planted crops is March 15.

“Ohio farmers should carefully evaluate their crop insurance needs with an insurance agent,” Froment said. “Crop insurance can be an integral piece of a risk management plan that helps protect farmers in tough years.” Federally subsidized, multiple-peril crop insurance covers
certain weather, pest and revenue related losses. This coverage is dependent on crop establishment and reporting dates determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) that farmers must meet. The dates vary by crop and county and are listed at www.rma.usda.gov.

State-regulated policies such as for damage caused by hail and fire are also available. Many of them have crop establishment and reporting requirements as well. Contact the Ohio Department of Insurance at 1-800-686-1526 or visit www.insurance.ohio.gov to find insurance companies and agents licensed to sell crop insurance.

**Spring Planting and Summer Growing Outlook**

Author(s): Jim Noel

La Nina, cooling of the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean waters, remains in place and is classified as a weak La Nina. This means many other things will ultimately impact our weather and climate since it is weak but it will contribute to our pattern. Indications are this could linger into spring and possibly summer before ending. Regardless of when it ends, it tends to impact weather patterns in the atmosphere longer, sometimes up to three to six months later. So there will be a contribution to our climate pattern into at least the planting season if not growing season.

December to February will go down as slightly warmer and wetter than normal. Even though we had really cold periods in there, the very warm second half of February wiped all the winter cold away. Snowfall will go down in many areas as not too far from normal, a bit above or below depending on where you live. The main snow message was the snow kept coming and going away during winter.

The outlook for the rest of March is near normal temperatures and slightly wetter than normal. We do not expect March to see the really warm weather we saw in February. We will see more common periods of mild and cold. The outlook for April calls for cooler and wetter than normal conditions with the last freeze normal or slightly later than normal. Expect 4 inch soil temperatures to track normal or slightly behind schedule.

After a slightly cooler and wetter spring (delayed planting?), there is growing risk of a turn to hotter and drier, during the summer growing season. However, within that preferred pattern, there is the risk of complexes of storms to provide intense short-term heavy rainfall and floods within a drier than normal pattern. What this all means is this year the risk will be elevated for extreme weather and climate shifts which challenge outdoor activities such as gardening and farming. Research NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center has done with Ohio State University and published at the National Weather Association Annual Meeting in 2008 showed La Nina years tend to be some of the most challenging for crops in Ohio. See attached graphics for corn
and soybean crop yields during La Nina years. Often times corn and soybean yields end up being at or below trend line. Corn is impacted more than soybeans.

**Revised Phosphorus Index Can Help Curb Ag Runoff**


COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio farmers will soon have access to a newly revised tool that can quickly and easily tell them their risk of agricultural phosphorus runoff that could potentially move into Ohio waterways such as Lake Erie.

All with the help of an online program. The revised Ohio Phosphorus Risk Index is a program developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resource Conservation Service to help farmers assess their risk of phosphorus moving off farm fields. It will soon allow farmers to input their farm-specific data to generate their risk of phosphorus in agricultural runoff.

The revised index is the result of the multiyear On-Field Ohio project led by Elizabeth (Libby) Dayton, a researcher in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University. The index has significant water quality implications statewide, considering that misapplied phosphorus has a high likelihood of degradation Ohio’s surface water and is a major contributor to harmful algal blooms, experts say.

The revised phosphorus risk index can help Ohio farmers better work toward meeting the 40 percent phosphorus reduction target in the Western Lake Erie Basin, said Dayton, a soil scientist in the college’s School of Environment and Natural Resources. That is the target agreed to in the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada.

Scientists believe that a reduction of this size would keep algal blooms at safe levels for people and the lake. “The index provides a long-term, average estimate of field-scale phosphorus loss based on farmer specific inputs,” Dayton said. “It gives farmers the ability to compare crop management scenarios and evaluate changes in phosphorus runoff, allowing them to prioritize time and resources when making management decisions.

“The index quantifies how voluntary changes in agricultural practices contribute to achieving target phosphorus runoff reduction goals. If you multiply that by the millions of crop acres in Ohio, the 40 percent reduction target appears achievable.”

The need to reduce phosphorus is significant because harmful algal blooms are dangerous to both the Lake Erie ecosystem and human health. In 2014, for instance, toxins produced by a severe bloom in western Lake Erie shut down Toledo’s drinking water supply for two days.

The On-Field Ohio project included runoff monitoring on 29 farm fields in the Scioto River, Grand Lake St. Marys and Western Lake Erie Basin watersheds. The project collected data on more than 2,000 runoff events and more than 14,000 runoff water samples, resulting in more
than 42,000 analyses. It also collected 2,000 soil samples, resulting in more than 8,000 analyses.

Some of the management practices that were evaluated included tillage, soil type, fertilizer placement, soil phosphorus content, field topography, soil infiltration rate and cover crops. In addition to revising the Phosphorus Risk Index, Dayton’s project found that maintaining agricultural soil phosphorus levels in accordance with the Tri-State Fertility Guidelines helps lower the concentration of phosphorus that is dissolved in agricultural runoff.

And because erosion contributes to the issue, phosphorus associated with eroded soil can be curtailed by reducing soil disturbances with practices such as reduced tillage and by maintaining crop residue or a growing crop on the field at all times. “By inputting different crop management scenarios into the index, farmers can determine what will work best to reduce their soil disturbance,” Dayton said. “Reductions in soil disturbance translate into large reductions in soil erosion and surface runoff of phosphorus that is attached to eroded soil, which is the biggest risk driver for surface phosphorus runoff in Ohio.”

The On-Field Ohio project was funded through a $1 million USDA Conservation Innovation Grant and $1 million in matching donations from Ohio farmer groups.

**Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Applications Being Taken**

OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Committee are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for a minimum of fourteen scholarships for the 2018-2019 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 by a group of prominent countyans 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 (both graduate and undergraduate students) attending an accredited four-year college or two year technical school. Each year the general scholarship fund awards two to three $1,000 scholarships. The committee also works with local organizations and farm families to offer additional scholarships.

The scholarships which will be awarded this year include:

- Up to $5,000 will be awarded from the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Fund to Ashtabula County students enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences.
- Two $1,000 **Ashtabula County Holstein Club Scholarships** shall be awarded to deserving Ashtabula County students from a commercial dairy farm family enrolled in two year technical institute or full four year college. Or this scholarship may be awarded to a student studying animal science.
• The $1,000 Allan C. Jerome Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences. It is the wish of the donors that first preference be given to graduates of the Pymatuning Valley School District.

• The $1,000 Lester C. Marrison Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to a deserving Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, or family & consumer sciences. Secondary preference will be given to a student pursuing a degree in education.

• At least one $1,000 Service-Jerome Scholarship shall be awarded to a student studying agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences at The Ohio State University or the Agricultural Technical Institute. It is the wish of the donors that applicants from the Pymatuning Valley School system be given 1st choice; Grand Valley Local Schools, 2nd choice; Jefferson Area Schools, 3rd choice; and all other districts, 4th choice.

• The $1,000 Harold and Dick Springer Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to a deserving Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences. Secondary preference will be given to a student pursuing a degree in education.

• Two $1,000 Centerra Co-op Scholarships shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in either a four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. The family must derive a portion of their income from farming.

• The $1,000 Christopher L. Zaebst Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County Student enrolled in an Associate's degree, Bachelor's degree OR accredited technical school studying an area of their choice. Preference is to a family who derives a portion of their income from dairy, or another source of production ag (crops or livestock). A student who successfully completed a 4-H or FFA livestock project for 3 or more consecutive years is also eligible. If the student maintains a 3.0 grade average (by proof of transcript) during the award year, an additional $500.00 scholarship will be awarded to the student.

• The $1,000 Prochko Family Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, veterinarian sciences, or environmental sciences. It is the wish of the donors that first preference be given to graduates of the Jefferson Area School District or for a student whose family derives their income from a dairy farm.

• The $1,000 Janice K. Eldred Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to deserving Ashtabula County ATECH student who will be attending a 2 or 4 year college.

• The $500 Lautanen Family 4-H Scholarship shall be awarded to a student who is or was an Ashtabula County 4-H club member for a minimum of five years. The student must demonstrate outstanding achievement in 4-H project work, outstanding leadership qualities, above average scholastic record, and a record of community service.

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 be accessed at: http://go.osu.edu/agscholarship. The application deadline is May 1 and no late applications will be considered. More information can also be obtained by emailing ashtabulacountyagscholarship@gmail.com
**Backyard Chicken Basics**
Join OSU Extension on March 14, 2018 for an evening to learn about how to get started with chickens in your backyard. OSU Extension Educators Tim McDermott DVM, and Lee Beers will discuss breed selection, safe egg handling, chicken health, zoning requirements, housing, nutrition and other topics that will help you successfully raise chickens. Cost for this program is $15/person and includes many handouts and light refreshments. To register for this event, please complete the registration form on the back and mail with payment to OSU Extension, Trumbull County, 520 West Main St., Cortland, OH 44410. Please make checks payable to OSU Extension. Pre-registration is requested by March 7, 2018. Questions? Call OSU Extension at 330-638-6783

**Trumbull Crop Lunch – Harmful Algal Blooms, an Update**
Join us on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 for lunch at the Trumbull County Agriculture and Family Education Center to learn about harmful algal blooms (HAB) and the propositions to prevent the blooms from occurring. Justin Chaffin, PhD, Research Coordinator, Senior Researcher with The Ohio State University’s Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory Ohio Sea Grant will present information on the blooms in the lake in regards to biomass and toxicity. Justin will also discuss what was proposed to stop the blooms. Eric Zamary, Trumbull SWCD Water Quality Specialist, will provide a brief update regarding the chemical water quality monitoring program at the District. Eric will focus on the tests conducted for nutrients and the results obtained thus far. A catered lunch is sponsored by the Trumbull County Holstein Club. Cost to attend is $5.00.

On-site payment is available, but please call the Trumbull SWCD office to let us know you will be attending so we have enough food. Call the office at 330-637-2056, opt. 3 or email Amy Reeher at reehera@embarqmail.com to register or if you have questions. Trumbull Crop Lunch is a partnership between The Ohio State University Extension, Trumbull SWCD, and Trumbull County USDA NRCS.

**Farm Bureau CAUV Meetings**
Two CAUV informational meetings will be held by the Ashtabula and Trumbull County Farm Bureaus. Ashtabula County Farm Bureau will host on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at the Expo building at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds. The meeting will begin at 7 pm with registration starting at 6:30 PM. Guest speakers will be Leah Curtis, Policy Counsel with the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and Ashtabula County Auditor, Roger Corlett.

Trumbull County Farm Bureau will hold a CAUV meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, in the cafeteria at the Trumbull County Career and Technical Center (TCTC), beginning at 7 PM with registration starting at 6:30. Guest speakers will be Leah Curtis, Policy Counsel with the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and Trumbull County Auditor, Adrian Biviano.

This is a “free” event for Farm Bureau members; Our Ohio Supporters will be $10; Non-members will be $25. The $25 fee signs you up as an Our Ohio Supporter. Supporters receive a subscription to Our Ohio magazine and special invitations to food, farm and gardening events,
opportunities to network, plus access to a variety of educational workshops at a reduced or free rate depending on the event.

Earn a chance to win!
You’ll be entered into a drawing for a $100 gift card and a free 1-year membership when:
- You bring a non-member friend and they join Farm Bureau
- You are NOT a member and you join Farm Bureau
- You upgrade from an Our Ohio Supporter to a full Farm Bureau membership
- You renew your membership early.

Seating is limited!! Register by March 13th, with the Farm Bureau office at 440.426.2195 or email: nefarmbu@fairpoint.net.

Workers’ Compensation Group Safety Meeting
The Northeast Counties Farm Bureau will be hosting a Workers’ Compensation Safety Meeting on March 27 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Saint Mary’s Church located at 103 N Maple Street in Orwell, Ohio from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

This meeting is being held for the OFBF Workers’ Compensation Group Rating Program members and others who would be interested in the safety presentation. Tentative Topics are: Tractor & Equipment Safety; Fire Prevention and Stress Management. A very important aspect of reducing Workers’ Compensation premiums is to reduce the number of claims/accidents within the group. This can be accomplished by each member doing his or her own part to ensure a safe work environment.

There is no registration fee for Farm Bureau members with all others at $10 per person. Reservations are required by March 23 by calling 440-426-2195.

Field Pea Meeting Slated for March 15, 2018 in Colebrook

Colebrook Elevator will be sponsoring an informational meeting on growing field pea in Northeast Ohio on Thursday, March 15, 2018 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Colebrook Community Center located at 682 US 322 East in Colebrook. Information will be shared on growing field pea in Northeast, Ohio. Reservations are requested by March 13 by calling Colebrook Elevator at 440-422-3353 or 440-855-1791.
**Origin Malts Malting Barley Grower Meeting: Trumbull County – March 22nd**

Join Origin Malts and Malting Seed Producers for an informational meeting on March 22nd at the Trumbull County Ag Center, 520 West Main St, Cortland, OH 44410 from 12-4p.m. During this meeting, you will learn all about how to grow malting barley for an industrial sized malting facility. All growers interested in contracting acres for the 2018 fall planting season are encouraged to attend.

Topics to be covered:
- About Origin Malts
- Malting Barley Agronomy & Best Practices
- Specialty Contract Expectations
- Economics of Growing Malting Barley

Lunch will be provided. Important documents and materials will also be provided to attendees by email before the event. Please RSVP your attendance, providing your email address through the free ticket process on Eventbrite.

You can register for this meeting at this link: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/origin-malts-malting-barley-grower-meeting-trumbull-county-tickets-43613978584?aff=affiliate1](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/origin-malts-malting-barley-grower-meeting-trumbull-county-tickets-43613978584?aff=affiliate1)

**OSU Extension to Host 5th Annual East Ohio Women in Agriculture Conference**

Ohio State University (OSU) Extension will host the 5th Annual East Ohio Women in Agriculture Conference. The conference is planned for Friday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. at the RG Drage Career Technical Center, 2800 Richville Drive SE in Massillon. All women and young women (high school age) who are interested, involved in, or want to become involved with food, agricultural, or natural resources production or small business are encouraged to attend.

The conference program features a networking fair, sixteen breakout sessions, and two extended breakout sessions presented by OSU Extension educators, producers and partner agencies. Sessions are focused around five themes: Business & Finance, Plants & Animals, Communication, Home & Family and Special Interest (branding and online marketing). The keynote speaker will be Rose Hartschuh – farm wife, mother, Agvocate, and recent winner of the American Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Registered participants, community organizations or businesses interested in sponsorship information, and/or securing an information/vendor table, should contact the OSU Extension
Interested individuals can register for the conference on-line at go.osu.edu/eowia2018. Cost of the conference is $55 for adult participants and $30 for students. Conference fee includes conference participation, continental breakfast, lunch and conference handouts. A special discount is available for those women and students who also plant to attend the Northeast Ohio Small Farm Conference on Saturday, April 7. Deadline for registration is Friday, March 23. For more information contact the OSU Extension Holmes County Office at 330-674-3015.

2018 NE Ohio Living Your Small Farm Dream Conference

The 2018 NE Ohio Living Your Small Farm Dream conference will be held on Saturday, April 7 at the RG Drage Career Center, located at 2800 Richville Drive SW in Massillon Ohio. The conference provides education and topics of interest for small farm and rural landowners. Participants will walk away from the conference with knowledge and ideas of how to improve existing enterprises or marketing opportunities. For those who have some acreage but don’t yet know what to do with it, the conference is an opportunity to consider possibilities, gather information and make contacts.

The 2018 Living Your Small Farm Dream conference offers 26 different breakout sessions divided between five different track topics; Horticulture, Livestock, Marketing, Farm Management and Specialty Crop. Presenters include OSU Extension specialists, Extension Educators, Business owners, and small farm producers/entrepreneurs. Conference participants will have the opportunity to attend four different sessions over the course of the four breakout sessions. The Small Farm conference trade show offers another opportunity to learn and gather information. The trade show vendors/exhibitors feature goods and services used in small farm operations. The conference schedule includes time between each breakout session and over an extended noon hour to visit the trade show.

The specialty crop track features sessions on malting barley and hop production to tap into the growing microbrewery businesses. One session involves a panel discussion with several local microbreweries who will share their stories and use of locally sourced ingredients in their products. The horticulture track offers sessions on growing grapes, brambles, vegetables, flowers, beekeeping, use of soil amendments, and managing soil health. The livestock track includes sessions on raising and marketing pasture produced beef and poultry, as well as hay production and Ohio livestock care standards. The farm management track includes Ag law, business planning, tax issues, farmland renting, health care issues, and creating profitable small farm enterprises. The marketing track includes a two-hour super session focused on developing on-farm agritourism and agriculture entertainment businesses as well as sessions on how to scale up your small farm business to take advantage of marketing opportunities and a session on developing a distribution system for locally grown foods.

Conference registration/sign-in and the trade show opens at 8:00 am on April 7. Following some brief conference opening comments at 9:00 am, the first breakout session begins at 9:30 am. The conference concludes by 4:00 pm. Conference registration is $60/person or, if attending the Women in Agriculture Conference at the same location on April 6, plus the Small
Farm Conference on April 7; $100 for a combined registration. Student discounts are $30 for attending the small farm conference alone or $50 if attending both the Women in Agriculture and the Small Farm conference. Pre-registration for both the Small Farm conference and the Women in Agriculture conference is due March 23. On-line registration is available at go.osu.edu/NESmallFarmReg. A Living the Small Farm Dream conference brochure that lists session topics and presentation times along with a mail-in registration form, and a document with descriptions of all the presentation topics is available at go.osu.edu/NEOHSmallFarms.

For more information about the Living Your Small Farm Dream conference contact Rory Lewandowski in the Wayne County Extension office at 330-264-8722, email: lewandowski.11@osu.edu; or Emily Adams in the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265, email: adams.661@osu.edu.

68th Annual Ashtabula County Dairy Banquet to be held on Saturday, March 24
OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Dairy Service Unit are pleased to announce the 68th Annual Dairy banquet will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the Jefferson Community Center located at 111 East Jefferson, Street in Jefferson, Ohio beginning promptly at 7 p.m.

The banquet program will consist of the crowning of the 2018 Dairy Princess; the presentation of production and 4-H awards; and the election of two members to the Dairy Service Unit Board. Tickets are $15 per person and can be purchased from Dairy Service Unit Board members, Tom Coltman of Wayne, Joel Baldwin of Sheffield; Jason Brinker of Rock Creek; Lindsey Gray of New Lyme, Lisa Kalas of Jefferson; and from David Marrison at the Ashtabula County Extension office at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson. Pre-sale tickets are required by March 18, 2018. For more information about this program contact the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

Ashtabula County Master Gardeners’ Spring Gardening Program at Local Libraries in March
Even though it is still winter, it is not too early to think about spring. The Ashtabula County Master Gardeners would like to invite you to join them at libraries across Ashtabula County during March. During their gardening talks, the Master Gardeners will be sharing information on Fertilizers, Climate Change & Your Ohio Garden, and New Plants of Interest. Plenty of time will also be given for you to ask your gardening questions.

The first program was held this past Saturday at the Andover Public Library located at 142 West Main Street in Andover from 10:00 to 12:00 noon. On Thursday, March 15, the program will be offered at Henderson Memorial Library located at 54 East Jefferson Street in Jefferson from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

On Saturday, March 17, the program will be offered at the Rock Creek Public Library located at 2988 High Street in Rock Creek, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will also be held at the Geneva
Northeast Ohio Agriculture

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties

Ashtabula Public Library located at 860 Sherman Street in Geneva from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and at the Ashtabula Public Library located at 4335 Park Avenue in Ashtabula from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

On Saturday, March 24, the program will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at both the Grand Valley Library located at 1 North School Street in Orwell, Ohio and at the Conneaut Public Library located at 304 Buffalo Street in Conneaut. The program will also be offered at the Harbor-Topky Memorial Library located at 1633 Walnut Blvd in Ashtabula from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. And finally, the program will be offered on Wednesday, March 28 at the Kingsville Public Library located at 6006 Academy Avenue in Kingsville from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

These programs are free however space is limited. Please call your local library to reserve your spot! A program flyer can be accessed at: http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers/upcoming-educational-programs. This flyer includes the phone numbers for the libraries. More information can also be received by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at: 440-576-9008 for more details.

### 2018-2019 Ashtabula County Beef Scholarships Applications Available

OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association are pleased to announce they will be awarding two youth beef scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year. One $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a deserving 2018 High School Senior who will be attending an accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute in 2018-2019. 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. Examples of this could include: working on a family beef operation; involved with a beef project through 4-H or FFA; or works on a local beef farm. The second preference for the scholarship recipients would be awarded to students who are currently or will be studying a beef related field in accredited full four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. Previous winners of the $1,000 High School Senior Scholarship are eligible to apply for the $500 College Scholarship. However, the $500 college scholarship can only be received once by a student during their college career.

Applications must be received by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association by Monday, April 16, 2018 by 4:30 p.m. for consideration for the scholarship. No late applications will be considered. The application can be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

### Getting Started in Community Gardening Workshop Slated for March 24, 2018

The Master Gardeners will be hosting a “Getting Started in Community Gardening” workshop on Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Ashtabula County Extension
office. Join the Ashtabula County Master Gardeners to learn how to get started in community gardening. This two hour introductory class is designed to give you the information you will need to design, plan and organize a sustainable community garden.

During this workshop, the Master Gardeners will discuss what community gardening is, how to develop a leadership team, how to define a vision for the garden and how to find a suitable garden location. They will also discuss how to develop the procedural practices for the shared garden space. Pre-registration is required by March 19, 2018. Registration fee is $10.00/per person. Registration includes refreshments and program handouts. If you have any questions please call 440-576-9008.

**Hydrangea School to be Held on April 26, 2018**

The Ashtabula County Extension office is pleased to be offering a Hydrangea School on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at the Ashtabula County Extension Office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson, Ohio from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join OSU Extension Educator Eric Barrett to discover the world of hydrangeas. Learn about types, care, pruning and bloom times. You’ll receive a quick reference chart to take to the garden center and a hydrangea plant to take home. The registration fee for this workshop is $30 per person. Please make checks payable to OSU Extension. Registration includes handouts, light refreshments and a hydrangea plant to take home for your landscape. Please mail completed registration form to OSU Extension, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047. Due to space limitations, this program will be limited to the first 50 registrants. First come, first served basis. For questions, please call 440-576-9008. A registration flyer can also be obtained at: [http://go.osu.edu/ne-events](http://go.osu.edu/ne-events).

**Eggshells in the Garden**

By: Ashtabula County Master Gardeners

Eggs are commonly used in our diet. They are an excellent source of protein. They make up parts of baked goods, appetizers, main courses, and late night meals. We eat the insides but what do we do with the outside? What can we do with the shell? Gardeners can use the shell to improve their gardens in several ways. They can be used in your compost, gardens, and as pest control.

A common question is can you put eggshells in compost heaps? Yes, you can. Adding eggshells to compost will help add calcium to the make-up of your final compost. Though nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are most vital for healthy growth, calcium is also essential for building healthy “bones”—the cell walls of a plant. Composed of calcium carbonate, eggshells are an excellent way to introduce this mineral into the soil.

Without it, plants cannot grow as fast, and, in the case of some vegetables like tomatoes and squash, fruit will develop blossom end rot because there is simply not enough building material (calcium) coming into the plant. Using eggshells in the vegetable garden compost can help prevent this. Finally, eggshells will reduce the acidity of your soil, and will help to aerate it.
Eggshells can also be added straight to the soil. Many people plant eggshells with tomatoes, peppers, squash and other vegetables that are susceptible to blossom end rot. While planting eggshells directly with plants most likely will not help this season’s plants (because the eggshells will not break down fast enough to create calcium), eggshells in the soil will decompose eventually and will help add calcium directly to the soil.

Because it takes several months for eggshells to break down and be absorbed by a plant’s roots, it is recommended that they be tilled into the soil in fall. For an exciting recycled garden cocktail: try mixing your eggshells with coffee grounds, which are rich in nitrogen.

Eggshells can also be used in the garden to help fight off pests like slugs, snails, cutworms and other crawling pests. These garden pests are a real pain in the gardener’s neck, and cutworms are the worst, killing seedlings by severing the stems at soil level.

All three of these pests have soft undersides, and dislike slithering across anything sharp. Crushed eggshells works much like diatomaceous earth on these pests. When crawling pests cross over an area in the garden where crushed eggshells have been spread, the eggshells make several small cuts in the pests. The pests then dehydrate and die due to these cuts.

Use eggshells as pots for starting plants from seed. Then plant the seedling, "pot" and all, into the garden.

Prepping the eggshells for the garden is very easy. First, either rinse them to remove the organic material or place them in the microwave for about a minute. This allows you to store them for a while. You then want to crush them up to increase their usefulness. This decreases the time for them to break down and increases their surface area for all the various uses.

Crushing eggshells is as easy as tossing your empty eggshells into a food processor for a few seconds or just rolling them under a bottle or rolling pin. One person has been known to use his coffee grinder to grind them up. After the eggshells are crushed, sprinkle them around the areas in your garden where you are having problems with slugs and other crawling pests. You can store them in any container to add them to your compost pile or garden at your leisure.

If you are feeding birds in your yard, crush up the eggshells and add them to a dish near the feeder. Female birds, particularly those who are getting ready to lay eggs or recently finished laying, require extra calcium and will definitely appreciate it!
Using eggshells in the garden is a great way to make use of something that would normally just get thrown out. You can put eggshells in compost, in soil or use them as a kind of organic insecticide, which means that not only are you helping reduce trash, but helping your garden too.

*In 2018, Ashtabula County Master Gardeners will be covering a wide range of topics, indicating special interests among their members. If you would like a master gardener to write about a particular topic, call the OSU Extension Office at (440) 576-9008.*

**David’s Weekly News Column**

For Publication in the Jefferson Gazette on March 14 & Ashtabula County Star Beacon on March 18

Hello Ashtabula County! Today, I would like to share how some of our local high school seniors and local college students can help ease their financial burden for college by applying for some of our great local agricultural scholarships. These scholarships have a deadline of May 1, 2018, so students have about six weeks to get their applications in! Good luck!

Since 1952, the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship fund has been awarding scholarships to students electing to study agriculture, family and consumer sciences, environmental sciences or natural resources in an accredited full four-year college or an accredited two-year technical institute. The fund was founded to promote interest in the study of these subjects, which we feel are the foundation of Ashtabula County’s economy.

There are eleven scholarship applications managed by the Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Committee. One application is used for students to apply for these scholarships and each applicant can only win one of the scholarships. These scholarships are open to both high school seniors and to current college students. A student may apply and be awarded a scholarship in three years from the scholarship fund. The following is a description of the eligibility parameters for each scholarship:

Up to $5,000 will be awarded from the **Ashtabula County Agricultural Scholarship Fund** to Ashtabula County students enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences.

Two $1,000 **Ashtabula County Holstein Club Scholarships** shall be awarded to deserving Ashtabula County students from a commercial dairy farm family enrolled in two year technical institute or full four year college. Or this scholarship may be awarded to a student studying animal science.

The $1,000 **Allan C. Jerome Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences. It is the wish of the donors that first preference be given to graduates of the Pymatuning Valley School District.
The $1,000 **Lester C. Marrison Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to deserving Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, or family & consumer sciences. Secondary preference will be given to a student pursuing a degree in education.

At least one $1,000 **Service-Jerome Scholarship** shall be awarded to a student studying agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences at The Ohio State University or the Agricultural Technical Institute. It is the wish of the donors that applicants from the Pymatuning Valley School system be given 1st choice.

The $1,000 **Harold and Dick Springer Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to a deserving Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer sciences, or environmental sciences. Secondary preference will be given to a student pursuing a degree in education.

Two $1,000 **Centerra Coop Scholarships** shall be awarded to two Ashtabula County students enrolled in either a four year college or an accredited two year technical institute. The family must derive a portion of their income from farming.

The $1,000 **Christopher L. Zaebst Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County Student enrolled in an Associate's degree, Bachelor's degree OR accredited technical school studying an area of their choice. Preference is to a family who derives a portion of their income from dairy, or another source of production ag (crops or livestock). A student who successfully completed a 4-H or FFA livestock project for 3 or more consecutive years is also eligible. If the student maintains a 3.0 grade average (by proof of transcript) during the award year, an additional $500.00 scholarship will be awarded to the student.

The $1,000 **Prochko Family Memorial Scholarship** shall be awarded to an Ashtabula County student enrolled in agriculture, veterinarian sciences, or environmental sciences. It is the wish of the donors that first preference be given to graduates of the Jefferson Area School District or for a student whose family derives their income from a dairy farm.

The $500 **Lautanen Family 4-H Scholarship** shall be awarded to a student who is or was an Ashtabula County 4-H club member for a minimum of five years. The student must demonstrate outstanding achievement in 4-H project work, outstanding leadership qualities, above average scholastic record, and a record of community service.

We have also added a new scholarship this year in memory of Janice Eldred who passed away this past year and was a huge behind the scenes help to our scholarship fund. Her husband Rick serves as the President of our Scholarship Fund. This scholarship will be the **$1,000 Janice K. Eldred Memorial Scholarship** and will be awarded to deserving Ashtabula County ATECH student who will be attending a 2 or 4 year college.

Application forms with complete instructions for applying are now available at: [http://go.osu.edu/agscholarship](http://go.osu.edu/agscholarship) or can be received by stopping in at the Extension Office or by calling 440-576-9008. The application deadline for all the scholarships is May 1 and no
late applications will be considered. A writeable version of the scholarship can also be obtained by emailing ashtabulacountyagscholarship@gmail.com

To close, I would like to share a quote from Aldous Huxley who stated, “There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self.” Have a good and safe day.

**Upcoming Extension Program Dates**

The following programs have been scheduled for Northeast Ohio farmers. Complete registration flyers can be found at: [http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/upcoming-educational-programs-deadlines](http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/upcoming-educational-programs-deadlines)

**New Pesticide Applicator Training**
Trumbull County Extension Office 1-4:30pm
Tuesday March 13, 2018

**Backyard Chickens**
Trumbull County Extension Office 6-8pm
Wednesday, March 14, 2018

**Shiitake Mushroom Program (SOLD OUT)**
Ashtabula County Extension Office 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 15, 2018

**2018 Ashtabula County Dairy Banquet**
Saturday, March 24, 2018

**21st Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show**
Saturday, April 21, 2018

**Hydrangea Workshop**
Thursday, April 26, 2018

**Women in Agriculture Programs**
April 28, 2018
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Trumbull Crop Lunch

Harmful Algal Blooms – Current Updates

Justin Chaffin, PhD
Research Coordinator, Senior Researcher
The Ohio State University’s Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory

Join us on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 for lunch at the Trumbull County Agriculture and Family Education Center to learn about harmful algal blooms (HAB) and the propositions to prevent the blooms from occurring. Justin Chaffin, PhD, Research Coordinator, Senior Researcher with The Ohio State University’s Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory Ohio Sea Grant will present information on the blooms in the lake in regards to biomass and toxicity. Justin will also discuss what was proposed to stop the blooms. Eric Zamary, Trumbull SWCD Water Quality Specialist, will provide a brief update regarding the chemical water quality monitoring program at the District. Eric will focus on the tests conducted for nutrients and the results obtained thus far. A catered lunch is sponsored by the Trumbull County Holstein Club. Cost to attend is $5.00.

On-site payment is available, but please call the Trumbull SWCD office to let us know you will be attending so we have enough food. Call the office at 330-637-2056, opt. 3 or email Amy Reeher at reehera@embarqmail.com to register or if you have questions. Trumbull Crop Lunch is a partnership between The Ohio State University Extension, Trumbull SWCD, and Trumbull County USDA NRCS.

Name: __________________________ Email: __________________________
Address: _________________________ Phone: __________________________

Number attending ______ x $5/person = _____________ Enclosed
Join OSU Extension on March 14, 2018 for an evening to learn about how to get started with chickens in your backyard. OSU Extension Educators Tim McDermott DVM, and Lee Beers will discuss breed selection, safe egg handling, chicken health, zoning requirements, housing, nutrition and other topics that will help you successfully raise chickens. Cost for this program is $15/person and includes many handouts and light refreshments. To register for this event, please complete the registration form on the back and mail with payment to OSU Extension, Trumbull County, 520 West Main St., Cortland, OH 44410. Please make checks payable to OSU Extension. **Pre-registration is requested by March 7, 2018.** Questions? Call OSU Extension at 330-638-6783
Backyard Chicken Basics
March 14, 2018

Name ______________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________
City __________________ State_____  Zip_________________
Phone ____________________ Email ______________________
Number of People Attending: __________ X $15/person __________

Please mail this completed form with payment to the below address before March 7, 2018. Make checks payable to OSU Extension.

OSU Extension Trumbull County, 520 West Main Street, Cortland, OH 44410

For questions, contact Lee Beers at 330-638-6783 or by email at beers.66@osu.edu