NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER
Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Happy Saint Patrick’s Day! I hope everyone got their fill of Corned Beef and Cabbage today. We are busy putting the final touches on preparations for the 65th Annual Dairy Banquet this Saturday. We are very pleased that Scott Higgins from the American Dairy Association-Mideast will be our guest speaker for the event. Stay tuned for next week’s edition for the results of the many awards which will be given at this banquet. Have a good week!

David Marrison, AG Educator

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Comparing Ohio’s Proposed Algae Control Legislation
By: Peggy Kirk Hall, Thursday, March 12th, 2015

On March 10, the Ohio House of Representatives passed H.B. 61, a proposal to address Ohio’s toxic algae issues. Last month, the Ohio Senate approved a bill on the same issue, but with several points of difference. The two must now reconcile these differences and agree upon a plan for reducing the occurrence of toxic algae in Lake Erie, which they have stated they will soon accomplish. The House already began its hearings on the Senate bill on March 11.

Here’s a summary of the similarities and variations between the two proposals.

**Prohibitions of surface applications.** Both bills prohibit the surface application of manure and fertilizer, defined as nitrogen or phosphorous, in the **Western Lake Erie Basin** (note: note for the entire state of Ohio) on frozen ground, saturated soil, and when the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than a 50% chance of precipitation exceeding one inch in a 12-hour period. The Senate version also prohibits the application of granular fertilizer with regard to weather conditions, and the House bill also prohibits reckless violation of EPA rules regarding the surface application of sewage sludge.

**Exemptions from prohibitions.** Both bills exempt a person from the above prohibitions for manure and fertilizer applications that are injected into the ground or applied on a growing crop. Each also contains an exemption for fertilizer that is incorporated into the soil within a certain time period; the House allows a 24-hour time period while the Senate allows 48 hours for incorporation of the fertilizer.
Exclusion from enforcement. The House bill allows a potential violator of the manure prohibitions to request assistance from ODNR, SWCD or other qualified persons on the development of technically feasible and economically reasonable measures that would cease or prevent violations; requires ODNR to assist with the request and set a schedule for implementing the measures; and prevents ODNR from enforcing violations if a person has made such a request, is receiving assistance or is implementing the measures. The Senate bill does not include these or similar exclusions from enforcement.

Enforcement of violations. If a person violates the prohibition against manure applications, the Senate authorizes ODNR to assess a civil penalty as determined by rulemaking and after allowing opportunity for a hearing. The House takes a "corrective action" approach, allowing ODNR to notify a violator and propose corrective actions within a specified time period, then to inspect for continued violations after the specified time period and determine whether violations are still occurring and a civil penalty should be assessed, with an opportunity for a hearing.

Review and sunset. The House bill requires a joint legislative committee review of the results of the prohibitions against fertilizer and manure applications and a report to the Governor of their findings and recommendations on whether to repeal or revise the prohibitions. The Senate version requires a joint review and report to the Governor after four years, but states that the prohibitions on fertilizer and manure applications will sunset after five years unless the committees jointly recommend continuing the prohibitions.

Agency coordinator. The Senate bill requires the EPA director to serve as the coordinator of harmful algae management and response and to develop plans, protocols and coordinated efforts to address harmful algae. The House proposal does not contain this or a similar provision.

Studies. In the Senate bill, the EPA is authorized to conduct studies of nutrient loading from point and nonpoint sources in the Lake Erie and Ohio River basins. The House bill does not contain this or a similar provision.

Healthy Lake Erie Fund. The House would not change the existing Healthy Lake Erie Fund, but the Senate proposes eliminating most current uses of the fund and revising it to allow the fund to be used for financial assistance with winter cover crops, edge of field testing, tributary monitoring and animal waste management and conservation measures in the western Lake Erie basin and for reduction of nutrient runoff as determined by ODNR’s Director.

Phosphorous monitoring. Both bills require certain publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) to conduct monthly monitoring of total and dissolved phosphorous by the end of 2016 and other POTWs to complete a study of their ability to reduce phosphorous, but the House bill would also require the Ohio EPA to modify NPDES permits to include these requirements.

Dredging. Both bills prohibit the deposit of dredged materials beginning July 1, 2020; the Senate applies the prohibition to Ohio’s entire portion of Lake Erie and its direct tributaries, while the House would limit the prohibition to the Maumee River basin.

Lead contamination. The House does not address lead contamination, but the Senate version prohibits the use in public water systems or water consumption facilities of certain plumbing supplies and materials that are not lead free and prohibits other actions related to lead pipes and fittings.

Emergency. The Senate version declares an emergency, allowing the legislation to be effective immediately upon passage, while the House bill does not declare an emergency.

To review H.B. 61, visit: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-61
Frost Seeding to Improve Pasture and Hayfield Quality
By Rory Lewandowski, Extension Educator Wayne County

As I look at the weather forecast this week, it appears that spring is arriving. One task that is well suited to the transition time between winter and spring is frost seeding. Frost seeding involves broadcasting seed over a pasture or hay field area and letting the natural freeze/thaw cycles of late winter and early spring help to move the seed into good contact with the soil. A basic requirement for frost seeding success is exposed soil. When looking down into the sod you should be able to see down to the soil. The broadcast seed must be able to come into contact with the soil.

Frost seeding will fail when there is too much forage residual cover and the seed gets hung up in that residue. Generally, a pasture is prepared for frost seeding by grazing it down hard, although some light tillage or a close mowing done in the late fall could also be used. For a hay field, frost seeding can be used in thin areas that are at risk for weed invasion, but again, the seed needs to get down to soil level.

In general, legumes work better than grasses to frost seed. Legume seeds are typically heavier than grass seed and that may explain why they get down to the soil level better than grass seed. The advantage to frost seeding a legume such as red or white clover is that legumes “fix” nitrogen typically in excess of their own needs. The existing grass plants use the excess nitrogen, which improves their quality as a feedstuff. Once legumes become uniformly and evenly established in a stand of pasture grass or across a hay field and make up 30 to 35% of the stand, there is no need to apply supplemental nitrogen so this portion of fertilizer costs is reduced.

Red clover is probably the most widely used forage species when it comes to frost seeding. Red clover has high seedling vigor, is tolerant of a range of soil pH and fertility conditions, and tolerates drought better than white clover. Red clover produces its heaviest growth during the summer months. Red clover is known as a short-lived perennial, typically persisting in a stand for only a couple of years. There now are some longer lived, more persistent varieties of red clover available that can last three or more years in a stand. Some producers like a combination of red clover and birdsfoot trefoil in their frost seeding mix. Birdsfoot trefoil is a persistent perennial once established, but it can be slow to establish, often not showing up in a stand until the second year after frost seeding. This works well for most common varieties of red clover as they begin to decline after the second year in a stand.

After red clover, the next most popular legume that I see being used for frost seeding is white clover. White clover is a perennial clover and begins its production in the cooler spring weather. The older varieties of white clover are known as low growing or prostrate type of growth. This means that in order for the white clover to thrive, grass must be grazed down shorter so that light can get down to the white clover. However many seed companies now have newer, improved varieties that are more upright growing and compete better with grasses.

Another legume that is sometimes considered for pasture renovation and frost seeding is annual lespedeza. Annual lespedeza is a non-bloating legume that is drought tolerant. Lespedeza is a warm season forage that can be used to fill in the "summer slump" period. Expect growth of annual lespedeza to kick in from late June through early September. In my experience it has been difficult to establish lespedeza by frost seeding. I think it is because the seed is light, similar to a grass seed, and it is difficult to get good seed soil contact. I would recommend the use of a no-till drill to seed lespedeza.

The Senate's bill, S.B. 1, is available at: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-1
Recommended frost seeding rates by species is included in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forage Species</th>
<th>Seeding Rate (lbs./acre)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Clover</td>
<td>6 - 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladino/white clover</td>
<td>2 - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alsike clover</td>
<td>2 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birdsfoot Trefoil</td>
<td>4 - 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are frost seeding a legume species that has not been grown in the pasture for a number of years, it is a good idea to include the proper bacterial inoculum with the seed to insure that the bacteria responsible for fixing nitrogen becomes associated with the plant roots.

In addition to good seed soil contact, the success of any new seeding depends upon soil fertility conditions and the grazing management that will be used once that plant is up and growing. The goal should be more than mere plant survival. We want the new forage plants to thrive and produce to their genetic potential.

**State Veterinarian Recommends Precautionary Measures Following Avian Influenza Detection in Mississippi Migratory Bird Flyway**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio – (March 13, 2015) Following recent announcements confirming the presence of highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza (HPAI H5) in commercial turkey flocks in the Mississippi migratory bird flyway, State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Forshey is urging Ohio poultry owners to take extra precautions and to monitor their birds for signs of illness. The recommendations are given out of an abundance of caution as there have been no detections in Ohio and no human infections are associated with these viruses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to people from these HPAI H5 infections to be low.

“We have not had any suspect cases in Ohio, but because we are also located within the Mississippi flyway, we want poultry owners to be aware and to take proper precautions. Whether you have a fair project, a backyard flock, or are a commercial producer, you should practice good biosecurity measures and monitor the health of your birds closely, especially if they could come into contact with wild birds or are traveling this spring to poultry shows,” said Dr. Forshey.

The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) first confirmed HPAI H5 in the Pacific migratory bird flyway, in wild birds and poultry flocks in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, beginning in late 2014. The recent announcements of positives in commercial turkey flocks in Arkansas, Minnesota and Missouri, all located within the Mississippi flyway, indicate that migratory birds may be carrying the virus east of the Mississippi River. Ohio is located within the Mississippi flyway.

“It is important to remember there have been no human infections associated with these viruses. It is perfectly safe to keep eating poultry and eggs. Cooking poultry, including game birds, to the proper temperature and preventing cross contamination between raw and cooked food is always recommended to protect against viruses and bacteria,” said Dr. Forshey.

**Biosecurity recommendations for poultry owners**

All bird owners, whether commercial producers or backyard enthusiasts, should continue to practice good biosecurity, prevent contact between their birds and wild birds, and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to their veterinarian immediately.
Good biosecurity practices for poultry owners include the following:

- Monitor flocks for unusual signs of illness such as “snicking” (sneezing,) a 1 percent or more decrease in egg production, or an increase in mortality. Other signs to look for are wheezing, lethargy, and depression.
- Practice personal biosecurity and avoid contact with sick/dead poultry or wildlife. If contact occurs, wash your hands with soap and water and change clothing before having any contact with healthy domestic poultry and birds.
- Keep unauthorized visitors from having contact with poultry, a good practice whether there is a disease threat or not. Authorized persons should be required to wear protective clothing and shoes before entering a commercial poultry house.
- Avoid contact between your birds and wild birds whenever possible due to the likely migratory nature of HPAI H5. These virus strains can travel in wild birds without them appearing sick.
- Clean and disinfect farm vehicles or equipment before moving them on and off your property.

If traveling with birds to a poultry show this spring, Dr. Forshey recommends taking extra care to keep transport and housing areas clean, minimize opportunities for birds to co-mingle and quarantine birds for at least 21 days before reintroducing them to a flock. Sick birds or unusual bird deaths should also be immediately reported to the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Division of Animal Health at 1-614-728-6220 or through USDA APHIS’s toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593. Additional information on biosecurity can be found by visiting [www.ohioagriculture.gov](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov).

The Ohio Department of Agriculture works closely with the state’s poultry producers and USDA APHIS to closely monitor the health of poultry in the state. Detailed plans and protocols are in place to allow for a quick and coordinated response in the event of an avian influenza detection in Ohio.

**OSU Extension Agronomic Webinars Available for Viewing**

A recent series of four agronomic webinars is now archived and available for viewing at [go.osu.edu/cswconnection](http://go.osu.edu/cswconnection).

The January, February and March series featured agronomic workshops taught by experts with the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University. The workshops were created to offer growers the latest information on corn, soybean and wheat production, said Greg LaBarge, an Ohio State University Extension field specialist and a leader of Ohio State’s Agronomic Crops Team.

The free Corn, Soybean and Wheat Connection webinars were designed to offer farmers easy access to OSU Extension programs, especially in areas where people can’t attend a workshop in person, LaBarge said. The webinars, which are each 90 minutes long, include:

- “Using Precision Agriculture to Make Informed Decisions,” presented by John Fulton, an OSU Extension machinery systems specialist, and “Can Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) Be an Agronomic Tool?” presented by John Barker, an OSU Extension educator.
All the webinars were recorded this year. For more information on the series, contact LaBarge at 740-223-4040 or labarge.1@osu.edu.

Ashtabula County Extension office looking for Summer College Student Assistant

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

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

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

This student will be employed for a maximum of 15 weeks with proposed hourly wage is $9-$11 per hour depending on qualifications. Reimbursement for official job travel will be provided according to Extension travel policy. Pay will be on a bi-weekly basis. The successful applicant will be required to pass a criminal background check. Interested individuals should submit an employment application and resume (complete with reference list) to the Ashtabula County Extension Office. The application deadline is April 15, 2015. Please contact the Ashtabula County Extension Office at 440-576-9008 for more information.

Ashtabula County 4-H Joins Forces With the Schwan’s Cares™ Fundraising Program

Ashtabula County 4-H has launched a campaign to raise $500.00 toward programming and special events such as the 4-H Carnival and October Fall Festival Celebration. To help meet its goal, Ashtabula County 4-H is joining forces with Schwan’s Home Service, Inc. by utilizing its Schwan’s Cares™ fundraising program, a seamless, 100 percent online fundraising campaign solution. This is how the fundraiser works: Supporters of the Ashtabula County 4-H shop online from a selection of more than 350 Schwan’s® home-style foods. Ashtabula County 4-H receives 20 to 40 percent of the proceeds from their campaign’s online sales during the campaign period of March 8 to April 22, 2015 plus 5 percent on additional purchases from their supporters for a year following the start of the campaign.

“Fundraising is a vital means of helping us give our participants a richer experience,” said 4-H Educator, Jenna Hoyt. “This unique Schwan’s Cares™ fundraising campaign is an ideal and reliable way for our program to procure support from the entire community. Not only was it easy to set up, but it eliminates the need to handle products or cash, cutting out the usual frustrations that can come with fundraising.”

Campaign supporters will pay the same everyday price as all Schwan’s Home Service customers, and the company’s friendly and reliable team members will deliver the high-quality food orders directly to the supporters’ homes. This means fundraising groups don’t have to worry about getting Schwan’s® orders delivered — Schwan’s Home Service does it for them.

The Schwan’s Cares™ fundraising program enables community members to support favorite causes, including local youth sports teams, non-profit groups, church projects and other community organizations across the country. With the Schwan’s Cares™ program, children or groups no longer have to handle cash, sell marked-up, generic products in parking lots or storefronts, or deliver or arrange for the pickup of products. In about 20 minutes, charitable groups can use the Schwan’s Cares™ program to create a fundraising Web page and run their own campaigns entirely online.
Here's how to participate in the campaign:
1. Visit Schwans-Cares.com
2. Click on "Find a Campaign" on the home page
3. Enter Campaign ID: 18732 or Campaign Name Ashtabula County 4-H Clubs in to the search box
4. Click the "Support Now" button
5. Shop!
Or Call 1-855-870-7208 and provide Campaign ID: 18732

Ashtabula County Master Gardeners’ Spring Gardening Program at Local Libraries in March

Even though there are piles of snow still around, 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 the week of March 21-28, 2015. Join teams of the Master Gardener Volunteers to learn more about growing herbs, sweet corn or how to make hypertufa pots. This program is free and will be offered at each library across the county.

On Saturday, March 21, the Master Gardeners will be giving this program at the Kingsville Public Library from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; the Rock Creek Public Library from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and at the Geneva Public Library from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. On Monday, March 23, the program will be held at the Henderson Memorial Library in Jefferson and on Tuesday, March 24, the program be held at the Harbor-Topky Memorial Library from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Then on Wednesday, March 25, it will be offered at the Conneaut Public Library from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Then to complete the week on Saturday March 28, the gardening program will be offered at the Grand Valley Library and Andover Public Library both from 10:00 to 12:00 noon and at the Ashtabula Public Library from 1:00 to 3:00 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.

Growing Vegetable Crops in Pots class to be offered on April 4 by Ashtabula County Master Gardeners

Would you like to grow tasty vegetables in containers but don’t know which vegetables and varieties will do well? If so, join Ashtabula County Master Gardeners Meghan and Rees Davis for a discussion on why to grow edible plants in pots and how to select, grow and maintain vegetables in containers. This class will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2015 from 10:00 to 12:00 noon at the Ashtabula County Extension office

During the class, you will learn about container choices, different potting mixes and general care including watering and fertilizing. We will discuss common pests and diseases that may affect your plants and a variety of controls to manage these problems. Different vegetables will be reviewed including which varieties will perform well in containers. Handouts and reference material will be provided.

A registration fee of $3 is requested by March 20, 2015. Mail registration and check payable to OSU Extension to: OSU Extension, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047. Registration is limited to the first 30 registrants. First come, first served. A registration flyer can be accessed at: http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers/upcoming-educational-programs

More information can be received by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at: 440-576-9008 for more details.
Barn Enthusiasts Plan April Conference in Hancock County
Source: http://thecourier.com/local-news/2015/03/16/ag-week-barn-enthusiasts-plan-april-conference/

The Friends of Ohio Barns organization will hold its 16th annual “Ohio Barn Conference” on April 24 and 25 in Hancock County. The conference is open to the public. The nonprofit group said barn enthusiasts, barn owners, and maybe even a few barn “huggers” will gather at the state’s only annual barn tour and conference. Activities on Friday, April 24 will include an all-day bus tour, lunch, and visits to several century-old barns.

One stop will be the Bright-Hoy barn, which was built in 1854 and features a strong German influence “as well as several examples of extraordinary craftsmanship.” Another stop will be the Ropp-Metzger barn, built in 1833. Fourth-generation family member Mark Metzger will tell stories about his barns and how he is preserving them. Other barns will include some being restored for farming purposes. A couple of the properties have farmhouses that can be explored.

The final stop will be the Basinger barn, which sports several owl holes, some on the broad side of the barn. The Saturday, April 25 barn conference will also include lunch, and will feature local historians, guest speakers, “and a good dose of barn lore.” David Fey, director of Fairfield County Historic Parks, will be the keynote speaker. He will speak about preservation methods and how they are similar from trade to trade.

Tim Mason, past Friends of Ohio Barns vice president, will discuss efforts to save barn owls. Gary Wilson, retired Hancock County Extension agent, will discuss the history of farming and the relationship with the Extension Service. Hancock County dairy farmers David and Linda Spahr will do a presentation on the modern family farm and how they have had to adapt. Kelly and Tammy Rundle will discuss “The Barn Raisers” documentary.

The 2015 Barn of the Year Awards will be presented during the lunch break, and the group will hold its annual meeting. The conference also will offer barn and antique tool exhibits, a bookstore, barn models, and a silent auction. People can visit the group’s website at http://www.friendsofohiobarns.org for more information and to register online to attend the conference. Those with questions may contact Friends Secretary Sarah Woodall at friendsofohiobarns@gmail.com or Friends President Ric Beck at rbeck7736@gmail.com, 614-738-4302.

2015 Winter Extension Program Dates
The following programs have been scheduled for Northeast Ohio farmers this upcoming winter. Complete registration flyers can be found at: http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/upcoming-educational-programs-deadlines

Fertilizer Certification Sessions
April 7, 2015 at Geauga County Extension Office

2015 Ashtabula County Dairy Banquet
Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the Lenox Community Center

Growing Vegetable Crops in Pots
Saturday, April 4, 2015

Northeast Ohio Beef Clinic
Wednesday, April 8, 2015

2015 Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show
Saturday, April 18 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds
Trumbull County Fair
July 14-19, 2015

Ashtabula County Fair
August 11-16, 2015

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Ashtabula & Trumbull Counties. Past issues can be located at: https://go.osu.edu/ag-news. Please tell
your friends and neighbors to sign up for the list. CONTACT: marrison.2@osu.edu
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