Hello! It was great to see a lot of action in the fields across the county this past weekend into late last night. I know there were some very understanding mothers who let family members eat and run on Sunday! We are getting off to a great start in our planting season. We have a busy week locally in Extension as our Ashtabula County Ag Scholarship Committee will be choosing their agricultural scholarship winners on Wednesday evening and then on Friday, almost 1,100 first graders will travel to the Ashtabula County fairgrounds to participate in our Ashtabula County Ag Day! It is going to be a great time seeing these youngsters learn about agriculture. Have a great week!

David Marrison, Ashtabula County Ag & NR Educator

In this Issue:
- Stress Management During Tough Financial Times
- Dairy Faces 'Painful' 2016 Summer
- Rapid Transition from El Nino to La Nina Continues
- Planting and Pollinators
- Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training Materials Available Online
- Rainy Day Entertainment – Get Up to Speed on Pigweed ID
- June Small Grains Field Days
- Ohio Legislature Passes Agritourism Legislation
- Ohio Department of Agriculture Notifies Pesticide Businesses of Insurance Requirement Updates
- Managing the Spring Flush
- Selling Eggs and Meat from Your Farm or Home
- USDA Unveils New 'Urban Agriculture Toolkit' for Urban Farmers and Agri-business Entrepreneurs
- OSU Extension in Lake County Seeking Agricultural & Natural Resources Extension Educator
- USDA Adds 800,000 Acres to CRP
- Dr. Lonnie J. King Appointed Acting Dean of College of Food, Ag, and Environmental Sciences
- Dine in to Make a Difference at Bob Evans Restaurants on May 16-17, 2016

Stress Management During Tough Financial Times

By: Rory Lewandowski, Extension Educator Wayne County

There is no doubt that the production agriculture sector is going through a tough financial period. In particular, low crop prices and low milk prices are severely impacting row crop and dairy producers. Financial stress in the farm business often equates to stress within the farm family and can extend to farm employees. Harmful stress needs to be recognized and managed for personal health, family health and health of the farm business.

Some stress is a normal part of life. Stress can motivate us to get things done or to make adjustments in our life that balance the stress or maybe remove the stress. However when stress events begin to add up or stress events are added that don’t allow us to adjust or that are beyond our resources to adjust then stress begins to be harmful. Symptoms of harmful stress as well as mechanisms and the ability to cope with stress will vary depending upon the individual. It is important to recognize some common symptoms of stress and if these symptoms continue for prolonged periods of time, to devise a plan to manage stress.
Some common symptoms of stress include: feeling tired all the time, inability to relax, disrupted sleep pattern, irritability, anger, problems getting along with people, anxiousness, feelings of being overwhelmed, emotional outbursts, trouble concentrating, headaches, frequent illness, increased alcohol or tobacco use, and withdrawal.

Developing and maintaining avenues of communication can help farm families cope with stress during tough financial times. Communication is vital to help relieve the burdens of financial stress and to help generate ideas for problem solving, how to cut production costs, and/or how to increase efficiency or productivity. Regular communication during stressful financial times can help to reduce a negative environment and to prevent finger pointing and blaming. It is natural to look for a source to blame, but in the current farm economy low prices are not the fault of any farm manager, family member or farm employee. In addition, it is known that often just being able to talk about financial problems or feelings of frustration, helplessness and anxiety can be helpful to mental and emotional health.

In a family farm situation, it may take an extra effort to maintain communication during stressful financial times. Try to put some “structures” in place that will help facilitate regular communication. An example of this is regularly scheduled family or farm business meetings. Meetings should have planned agenda items and a set starting and ending time. Some ground rules should be in place that provide opportunity for everyone to speak and that prevent any kind of personal attacks or blaming. The focus should be on the farm business. One of the topics on the agenda might be an update of the current farm financial situation. This update allows all family members and farm employees to understand the current farm situation, can squash any rumors that may have started, and can help family members and farm employees understand why repairs instead of new purchases are being made, why withdrawals for family living are being maintained or decreased, and why employee raises may be delayed or decreased. Sharing financial information within this type of business meeting structure can empower family members and employees to feel valued as a team member and new ideas about how to meet financial challenges may be generated.

Communication is vital during times of financial stress and in addition to communicating with family members and farm employees, the farm owner or manager should have a support network that understands the farm’s financial situation. Someone who can look at the farm situation from a non-personal perspective and that is not as emotionally invested in the farm operation can provide some clearer thinking and/or information that can be helpful in making decisions. People in this support network may also provide a sympathetic ear that allows some of the financial stress burden to be shared. These are people that want to see your farm succeed and be passed on to the next generation. This support network can include your lender, equipment dealer, seed/fertilizer dealer, financial advisor, nutritionist, veterinarian, Extension educator, tax preparer, or other trusted advisors.

For more information about communication during stressful financial times go to the Dairy Issue Briefs section of the OSU Extension dairy web site at: http://dairy.osu.edu/DIBS/dibs.html.

Dairy Faces 'Painful' 2016 Summer
By Nate Birt

Although lower feed prices and higher producer equity mean today’s dairy market is in better shape than in 2009, a “painful” summer could lie ahead in 2016, says Mike North, Commodity Risk Management Group. As of March, U.S. dairies had 10,000 more cows than in February, indicating herd expansion is underway in some locations, he points out. “More milk equals more product, more product equals bigger inventories, bigger inventories equal smaller prices,” North says. “That’s going to be our cycle and the thing we’ll be up against as we go into and through summer. In 2009, it took until September before we saw production begin to decline and therefore prices begin to rebound. If that same type of reality exists this year, we’ve got a painful summer in front of us.”
He points out that at least two factors make today’s economic environment different than in 2009. The first is feed prices, which rose to elevated levels after 2008. “We had corn that was put into the bunkers at $5, $6, $7 bucks,” North recalls. “It was brutal on the feed side, and we compounded that with the milk price that went to $9. It was bloody. A lot of equity was lost, guys were upside down in their milk checks monthly--$3, $4, $5 a hundredweight.” The second factor to change is farmer equity, which has grown and helped today’s dairy producers. “We’ve had some really nice years recently, so guys are in a little better financial position,” North says. “The bottom line is it will take a lot more than $13 milk to scare cows off of the farm.”

**Rapid Transition from El Nino to La Nina Continues**

By Jim Noel

Source: [http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/rapid-transition-el-nino-la-nina-continues](http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/rapid-transition-el-nino-la-nina-continues)

The trend this spring has been on the warmer and wetter side except for a drier period in the last 30 days in parts of the state. The images below show departures from normal over the region the last 30, 60 and 90 days at 4 km resolution.

After a very warm March we have been running behind on the growing degree days as provided by the NOAA Midwest Climate Center. [http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/cliwatch/special_topics/agriculture.html#mgdd](http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/cliwatch/special_topics/agriculture.html#mgdd). The area from Illinois through Indiana into Ohio has been most impacted by growing degrees days. Four inch soil temperatures are mostly in the 50s.

We have been talking about the rapid transition away from a strong El Nino toward La Nina conditions in the Pacific Ocean. This is occurring. The problem is when these rapid transitions occur, the skill of our climate models decreases. In addition, spring is the lowest skill of the year for weather and climate models. Saying that, it appears there are changes in the temperature and precipitation forecasts for May!

The dryness from April appears to shift north into the Great Lakes allowing a boundary to sit in the region more often than not the next several weeks. Therefore, it appears May will likely now stay on the wetter side and impact planting that has not been done especially in southern and western areas of Ohio. Overall we have revised May from warmer and drier to normal temperatures and wetter than normal.

The outlook through May 22 calls for temperatures below normal and rainfall normal to above normal. The outlook from May 23 through May 31 calls for temperatures above normal and rainfall normal to above normal. Normal rainfall is about an inch per week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Weather Element</th>
<th>Outlook</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 10 - May 22</td>
<td>Temperatures</td>
<td>-1F to -3F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10 - May 22</td>
<td>Rainfall</td>
<td>1.5-2.5 inches north / 2-4 inches south</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 23 - May 31</td>
<td>Temperatures</td>
<td>+1F to +3F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 23 - May 31</td>
<td>Rainfall</td>
<td>1.0-1.5 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The good news is freeze season is over. However, some very patchy frost is possible May 15/16 in low lying areas in northern Ohio but nothing that will be of impact. The outlook for summer remains with above normal temperatures and turn to drier weather. In fact, the likely scenario is that we will do a classic abrupt switch from damp to very warm and dry in very short order somewhere between late May to late June.
Planting and Pollinators
By: Reed Johnson, Doug Sponsler, Andy Michel, & Kelley Tilmon
Source: http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/planting-and-pollinators

Beekeepers in Ohio benefitted from the generally mild winter of 2015-2016. In Columbus we lost less than 20% of our colonies over winter. Spring is the only reliably good season for bees in Ohio. Colonies that survived the winter and new colonies brought up from the Gulf Coast or California are currently in the process of harvesting nectar and pollen from spring-blooming trees and weeds. Little honey will be made from this spring bounty as most will be eaten by the bees themselves as they multiply and grow into large productive colonies that will be able to make a honey crop off of clovers, black locust, alfalfa and soybean in the coming months. Additionally, robust colonies will be needed to pollinate the fruit trees soon and pumpkins, squash and cucumbers later in the summer.

Spring build-up of honey bee colonies can be directly threatened by corn planting. Insecticide seed treatments used on corn seed generate an insecticidal dust when they are planted. Bees may encounter a cloud of insecticidal dust as they cross corn fields to visit the dandelions and blooming trees in field margins. Insecticidal dust can also settle on these flowers that bees are visiting. Insecticides formulated as dusts are the absolute worst for honey bees because they do not immediately kill the bees that encounter the insecticide. Rather than causing immediate death, the dust is packed up with the pollen and brought back to the colony where it is fed to young bees inside the colony. In spring of 2015, we sampled pollen from ten bee yards in the counties west of Columbus. During corn planting, all colonies were bringing back pollen containing corn seed treatment insecticides. While no spectacular bee-kills were observed in our colonies, we did observe a significant increase in the number of dead bees appearing in front of colonies during the week of corn planting in 2015. While the long-term consequences of planting-related mortality are not clear, it is an unwelcome additional stress on bee colonies that are already under stress from mites, diseases and nutritional problems.

Corn growers can limit exposure of seed treatment dust to honeybees by 1) starting with clean and weed-free fields; 2) following recommendations for using talc; 3) avoid planting on windy days; and 4) following proper disposal procedures when finished.

Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training Materials Available Online
By Greg LaBarge & Harold Watter, CPAg/CCA

The number of individuals who have been trained for the Ohio Fertilizer Applicator Certification by Ohio State University Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources staff has reached 11,859 as of April 30, 2016. The ongoing training has generated a lot of positive response from farmers who attended. Requests have come in to make short review videos of key parts of the training available for review. The videos which range from 5 to 15 minutes in length have been posted to http://agcrops.osu.edu/video/fact-videos. In addition to the videos, the website also has copies of the training manual and other materials that can be printed from the 2016 sessions.

These videos are provided as review materials for anyone interested in soil fertility information related to plant production, water quality impacts and have completed the necessary Ohio Department of Agriculture forms. To attain Fertilizer Applicator Certification you must attend a workshop where training is offered. To learn more about who needs certification, and trainings near you, visit the Ohio Nutrient Education website
The current video series covers the following topics:
1. Introduction: Fertilizer Applicator Certification Laws-- SB150 and SB1
2. Calculate 12 and 24-hour Precipitation Forecasts
3. Water Quality and Agriculture
4. Agriculture and Types of Water Quality Impairments
5. Why the Focus on Agriculture?
6. Edge of Field Studies
7. Soil Sampling
8. Soil Sampling and the Lab
9. Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations and Phosphorous Management
10. Training Exercise 1: Reading a Soil Test Result for Phosphorous
11. Training Exercise 2: Making a Fertilizer Recommendation
12. Water Quality and the Fate of Nitrogen
13. Determining the Nitrogen Rate and Timing for Ohio
14. Tools for predicting Crop Nitrogen Need

Rainy Day Entertainment – Get Up to Speed on Pigweed ID
By: Mark Loux
Source: http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/rainy-day-entertainment-%E2%80%93-get-speed-pigweed-id

When you finish every possible indoor task during this rainy spell, take a few minutes and check out our latest video on pigweed identification. The video compares four aspects of pigweed biology that we use to differentiate between redroot pigweed, waterhemp, and Palmer amaranth – pubescence, petiole length, leaf shape, and inflorescence (seedhead) characteristics. Find it at the OSU weed management website – http://u.osu.edu/osuweeds. There are far worse ways to spend a few minutes.

June Small Grains Field Days
By: Greg LaBarge
Source: http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/june-small-grains-field-days

There are three excellent field day opportunities being planned for small grain producers across the state. The three days cover a variety of production issues, nutrient management practices, and small grain uses. Locations are in Pickaway, Wayne and Wood Counties. Be sure to check out the location closest to you! For detailed information visit: http://agcrops.osu.edu/events

June 1, Pickaway County, On-Farm Wheat Field Day, 19076 Florence Chapel Pike, Circleville at 9 am.
Topics include: Wheat freeze tolerance, minimum wheat stand, wheat fertility, Wheat disease identification and management and Ohio Wheat Performance Test. Registration is free, but we are requesting registration by Friday, May 20 for lunch count. Lunch will be held at Jackson Township Hall. Please register through the Pickaway County Extension office (740-474-7534 or estadt.3@osu.edu).

June 14, Wayne County, Small Grains Field Day, OARDC Schaffter Farm at 3240 Oil City Rd., Wooster. Registration at 9:30 am with program starts at 10:00am.
Topics that will be covered at the Small Grains Field Day include: Malting Barley, Small Grains as Cover Crops and Alternative Forages, Wheat Production Agronomics, Wheat and Barley Disease ID and Management, Wheat Breeding and Evaluation Update and demonstration on Small Grain Crimping and Soybean Seeding Demonstration plus
Modified Relay Intercropping of Soybeans into Wheat Demonstration. Pre-registration is requested. The cost is $25/person if registered by June 3. Late registration after June 3 is $35/person. Registration includes handout materials, lunch and refreshments. Registration should be sent to the Wayne County Extension office at 428 West Liberty Street, Wooster OH 44691.

June 21, Small Grain Field Day, Northwest Agricultural Research Station, 4240 Range Line Road, Custar. at 9 am. Topics include wheat breeding, nitrogen and sulfur management, disease identification and management and determining minimum stand requirements. The event is free and open to the public. No pre-registration is required.

Ohio Legislature Passes Agritourism Legislation
By: Peggy Kirk Hall
http://aglaw.osu.edu/blog

An agritourism bill first introduced over a year ago has finally received approval from the Ohio General Assembly. The Senate passed SB 75 last November, but the bill did not pass the House of Representatives until May 4, 2016. The House had passed a similar bill last May, but the Senate failed to act on that bill. If signed by Governor Kasich, SB 75 will be in effect in time for the fall agritourism season.

The legislation addresses civil liability risk, property taxation and local zoning authority for “farms” that provide “agritourism” activities. It’s important to understand several definitions in the law:

- A “farm” is land that is devoted to commercial agricultural production, either at least 10 acres in size or grossing an average income of $2500 from such production.
- "Agricultural production" means commercial aquaculture, algaculture, apiculture, animal husbandry, poultry husbandry; the production for a commercial purpose of timber, field crops, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, nursery stock, ornamental shrubs, ornamental trees, flowers, or sod; the growth of timber for a noncommercial purpose if the land on which the timber is grown is contiguous to or part of a parcel of land under common ownership that is otherwise devoted exclusively to agricultural use; or any combination of such husbandry, production, or growth; and includes the processing, drying, storage, and marketing of agricultural products when those activities are conducted in conjunction with such husbandry, production, or growth.
- "Agritourism" is an agriculturally related educational, entertainment, historical, cultural, or recreational activity, including you-pick operations or farm markets, conducted on a farm that allows or invites members of the general public to observe, participate in, or enjoy that activity.
- An "agritourism provider" is anyone who owns, operates, provides, or sponsors an agritourism activity, whether or not for a fee, including employees at agritourism activities.

For agritourism providers on farms, the legislation offers the following protections:

Civil liability immunity. The new law protects an agritourism provider from liability for injuries to agritourism participants in certain situations. The law states that a provider does not have a legal duty to remove risks that are “inherent” in agritourism activities and will not be liable for any harm a participant suffers because of such risks. “Inherent risks” are dangers or conditions that are an integral part of an agritourism activity, including surface and subsurface conditions of land; ordinary dangers of structures or equipment ordinarily used in farming; behavior or actions of domestic or wild animals, except for vicious or dangerous dogs; the possibility of contracting illness from physical contact with animals, animal feed, animal waste, or surfaces contaminated by animal waste; and a participant’s failure to follow instructions or exercise reasonable caution while engaging in the agritourism activity.

Warning sign requirement. An agritourism provider must post and maintain warning signs on the farm to receive the law’s civil liability protection, and a provider who fails to post or maintain these signs can be liable for a participant’s
harm. At or near each entrance to the agritourism location or at each agritourism activity, a provider must post and maintain a sign that states: "WARNING: Under Ohio law, there is no liability for an injury to or death of a participant in an agritourism activity conducted at this agritourism location if that injury or death results from the inherent risks of that agritourism activity. Inherent risks of agritourism activities include, but are not limited to, the risk of injury inherent to land, equipment, and animals as well as the potential for you as a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to your injury or death. You are assuming the risk of participating in this agritourism activity." This warning must be printed in black letters that are at least one inch in height.

Exceptions to immunity. An agritourism provider will not be immune for harm caused by the provider’s willful or wanton disregard for a participant’s safety; if the provider purposefully caused harm to the participant; if the provider's actions or inactions constituted criminal conduct and caused harm to the participant; or if the provider had or should have had actual knowledge of an existing dangerous condition that is not an inherent risk and the provider did not make the dangerous condition known to the participant.

Property taxation. The new legislation ensures that agritourism parcels are eligible for Ohio’s Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) program, which provides reduced property taxation on qualifying agricultural lands. According to the new law, the existence of agritourism on a tract, lot, or parcel of land does not disqualify land that otherwise qualifies for the CAUV program.

Local zoning authority. The new legislation expands Ohio’s “agricultural exemption” from local zoning to include agritourism activities. The “agricultural exemption” limits the ability of townships and counties to use zoning to prohibit or regulate certain agricultural land uses in any zoning district. Under the new law, agritourism becomes part of the agricultural exemption and is an agricultural land use that zoning officials cannot prohibit by way of zoning. The legislation does allow townships and counties to regulate some factors related to agritourism land uses if the regulations are necessary to protect public health and safety, however. These factors include the size of structures used primarily for agritourism and setback lines for such structures, egress or ingress into a parcel, and the size of parking areas. This limited authority does not include the power to require improvements such as drainage or paving for agritourism parking areas.

The legislation also clarifies that county and township zoning may not prohibit the use or construction of structures for vinting and selling wine if located on land where grapes are grown.

Implications of the new legislation
1. Not everyone who engages in agritourism will benefit from the new law. The law is designed to address agritourism activities that diversify an existing farm—where the activities occur on land that is otherwise engaged in agricultural production. For example, a person who purchases 10 acres of vacant land with the intent of creating a corn maze and petting farm will not benefit from the law because there is no agricultural production already taking place on the land. If the land is first involved in agricultural production, added agritourism activities will fall under the new law.
2. Visitors to agritourism operations must take more responsibility for their own safety. The law recognizes that there are inherent dangers on farms that can be beyond the control of agritourism providers. Visitors who wish to participate in an agritourism experience must be aware of these dangers and be prepared to protect themselves by following directions, paying attention to surface conditions, being cautious around animals and equipment, supervising their children and generally exercising reasonable care while on the farm.
3. Agritourism providers must be prepared to meet the law’s signage requirements. When the law becomes effective, agritourism operators should have proper warning signs posted. Providers who fail to post the right sign in the right place will lose the law’s immunity protections.
4. Local officials must treat free and fee-based agritourism activities equally. Unlike some agricultural laws, there is no distinction in the new law between commercial agritourism businesses and free agritourism
activities like educational farm tours; the law applies in the same way regardless of whether the activity is fee-based or free, as long as it’s conducted on a “farm.”

5. Counties and townships must identify public health and safety issues and develop appropriate zoning standards. Counties and townships must be prepared to recognize agri-tourism situations that pose health and safety concerns due to the size and location of a structure, ingress and egress on the property or the size of a parking area. If a public health or safety issue is identified and the county or township wants to regulate the issue, it must have enacted zoning standards that address the issue.

Read SB 75 on the Ohio General Assembly’s website at: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-75

Ohio Department of Agriculture Notifies Pesticide Businesses of Insurance Requirement Updates
The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) announced on May 3, 2016 updates to Ohio’s rules regarding insurance requirements for pesticide businesses. These updates are scheduled to become effective on May 5th. As businesses renew their insurance policies it is important they ensure their policies reflect these updates so as to avoid any potential interruptions in the status of their pesticide business license.

As part of Ohio law, businesses are required to maintain liability insurance policies or other evidence of financial responsibility if they are applying pesticides for hire. Insurance policies that do not reflect the requirements detailed in the law can potentially result in the business having their pesticide business license suspended. Some of the changes in the rules for businesses include:

Updates that a business needs to have a commercial general liability policy and either a separate professional liability policy or endorsement covering the properties under the care, custody and control of a pesticide application. This also includes aerial pest control applications. To obtain a pesticide business license either a certificate of insurance or binder must be provided to ODA that includes a statement that the policy provides the required coverage.

“We had many meetings with pesticide application associations, insurance associations and insurance companies to figure out what improvements were needed,” said Matt Beal, Chief of ODA’s Division of Plant Health. “We are confident these updates will further benefit and protect both businesses and consumers moving forward.”

Any persons with questions regarding insurances requirements should contact ODA by calling 614-728-6987 or email pesticides@agri.ohio.gov.

Managing the Spring Flush
Chris Penrose, OSU Extension Educator, Morgan County
Source: http://u.osu.edu/beef/2016/05/04/managing-the-spring-flush/#more-1878
(This article first appeared in the May, 2016 issue of The Ohio Farmer magazine)

For most of us, forage growth is here and we are in the spring “flush” of growth. For pasture and hay fields that are primarily grass based, we may get up to 70% of our growth in the next month or so. One reason we have so much growth now is that we generally have ideal growing conditions and our forages are in the reproductive stage of growth. The priority for our perennial grasses and legumes in this stage of growth are to make seed heads. For most of our grasses, this month will likely be the only time seed heads are made. As forage managers, we have two tasks to improve our grazing during this time of the year.

First, if we can remove the seed heads, the forages will move from the reproductive stage into the vegetative stage. This will stimulate new leaf growth and encourage the plants to start storing energy in the roots to help them
through the summer stress and into the winter. A mature plant with a seed head on it will not grow as well and be of lower quality from being mature and having lower feed quality stems.

How do we remove seed heads? There are two options: have the animals remove them or cut them. Unfortunately, many grasses set seed all at once and that becomes a challenge for livestock to graze off. If the plant is starting to develop the stem that has the seed head in it, livestock may graze the tender seed head within the young stem. Some animals like goats may enjoy grazing the seed heads, but cattle may not graze the stems and seed heads in favor of the leaves at the base of the plant. Forcing animals to graze mature forages can adversely affect animal performance. If pastures get too mature, a good alternative is to simply clip them after seed heads have emerged. Another option if forages are growing too fast may be to not graze the field now and remove the crop for hay.

What is the other way to improve our grazing this time of the year? Try to stretch out this flush of growth. If your pastures are healthy enough after last year’s drought and growing well, you can do a rapid grazing through the paddocks and slow down slightly the rapid growth. Another option may be to set stock (giving the animals the run of some to all of the paddocks). Then as the rapid growth slows, initiate a rotation, possibly leaving some paddocks for hay removal if you anticipate excess pasture but need hay.

It is likely too late this year, but in future years if you are short on pasture and have available hay fields, a light grazing over some of those fields, especially predominantly grass fields may be an option. I have grazed grass hay fields for over twenty years early in the spring and as long as I get livestock out prior to stem elongation, I still get a decent hay crop. Another advantage to this is the hay will likely mature a little later providing a better quality hay crop. If you do this, do not overgraze, and if cattle are grazing on the hay fields, avoid keeping on too long during wet weather to avoid “pugging” of the field.

A third option, which is more long term, would be to use different cultivars of the same species in in different paddocks as you reseed fields. As you can see in the picture of orchard grass, different cultivars can have different maturity dates which can stretch out the flush of new growth. In addition, new and improved varieties have improved quality, persistence, and insect and disease resistance. If you are considering a new planting, I highly recommend purchasing the best seed available. The additional cost is minimal when you consider the total cost of the seeding and how many years the forage should be in a stand. This will allow different maturing dates and lengthen the spring flush of new growth.

Each of us is in a different situation. Some may be very short on hay ground and have plenty of pasture, some may be just the opposite. One of the most important aspects of Managed intensive Grazing is to be flexible and try to anticipate what the forage needs and availability will be over the course of the season. Hopefully a few of these options will allow you to have a more successful grazing season.

**Selling Eggs and Meat from Your Farm or Home**  
By Emily G. Adams, OSU Extension Educator for Coshocton County

Are thinking of selling agricultural products direct to the consumer? One common question I get relates to selling eggs and meat from the farm or home. So today I will highlight some of these rules.

**Eggs**: In Ohio we can sell eggs from our farms without an inspection or license as long as we maintain 500 or fewer birds. If you decide to sell eggs off your farm, at a Farmers Market or restaurant or retail store, then requirements are different. The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will need to inspect your farm. They will make sure that water quality is acceptable for washing eggs, that the refrigerator is in working order, and that egg cartons are labeled properly. The only time that a license is required to sell eggs is when selling off farm at a Farmers Market.
This Mobile Retail Food Establishment (MRFE) license can be obtained from our local County Health Department for $157.

**Poultry Meat** – If a farmer raises fewer than 1,000 birds, they may slaughter and process these birds on farm to sell directly to the consumer. This can be done without an inspection or license. There is a state inspected poultry facility nearby in Baltic called Pleasant Valley Poultry. If your birds are processed in this facility then you may sell them on farm as well as off farm.

**Red Meat** – There is only one way that red meat can be sold to the public. It has been processed in a federal/state inspected processing facility. The meat package will bear the Ohio inspection identification mark. There are 227 fully inspected operators in Ohio. If you are interested in selling freezer beef, pork or lamb, you can work with a processor to have customers pick up meat directing from the processor. In this case there is no license required by the farmer. If you desire to sell cuts out of your farm or home freezer, then you are required to have a MRFE license from the County Health Department.

Please contact me anytime with questions regarding food rules, food marketing or food safety at 74-622-2265 or adams.661@osu.edu.

**USDA Unveils New ‘Urban Agriculture Toolkit’ for Urban Farmers and Agri-business Entrepreneurs**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today unveiled the **USDA Urban Agriculture Toolkit**, a new resource created by USDA’s Know Your Farmer team to help entrepreneurs and community leaders successfully create jobs and increase access to healthy food through urban agriculture. From neighborhood gardens grown on repurposed lots, to innovative mobile markets and intensive hydroponic and aquaculture operations, urban food production is rapidly growing into a mature business sector in cities across the country.

"Urban agriculture helps strengthen the health and social fabric of communities while creating economic opportunities for farmers and neighborhoods," Vilsack said. "USDA’s Urban Agriculture Toolkit compiles guidance from our Know Your Farmer team and many private partners into one comprehensive resource to help small-scale producers manage all aspects of their business. From protecting soil health to marketing to schools and grocery store chains, USDA has tools to meet the needs of this new breed of innovative urban farmer and small business owner."

Industry estimates show U.S. local food sales totaled at least $12 billion in 2014, up from $5 billion in 2008, and experts anticipate that value to hit $20 billion by 2019. The numbers also show that these opportunities are helping to drive job growth in agriculture, increase entrepreneurship and expand food access and choice.

USDA’s Toolkit is an electronic document that helps urban and small farms navigate more than 70 helpful resources, including technical assistance and financing opportunities. It focuses on some of the most pressing challenges confronting urban producers such as land access, soil quality, water resources, capital and financing, infrastructure, market development, production strategies, and applying for federal, state or private foundation grants. University extension service partners in Chicago and Indianapolis helped develop cost estimates for starting urban farms and the toolkit includes information on best practices and check lists for start-ups and early-stage producers planning outdoor or indoor operations.

Some of the USDA resources featured in the Toolkit include:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service technical and financial assistance for drip irrigation and seasonal high tunnels to extend the growing season.
- Farm Services Agency microloans that provide up to $50,000 in financing for equipment, working capital or other expenses.
- Food and Nutrition Service assistance to help urban farmers become authorized to accept SNAP, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program benefit cards.
➢ Agricultural Marketing Service Farmers Market Promotion Program grants that support direct-to-consumer marketing activities in cities, and Local Food Promotion Program grants that support food hubs, farm-to-retail, and related projects.

➢ National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program support for field trials in urban settings and urban farm planning and marketing guides.

Vilsack made the announcement at the end of April during an event opening a new school community garden at Frederick Douglass High School in Baltimore. The idea for the Toolkit was originally conceived at a USDA Urban Agriculture roundtable held nearby in Baltimore last spring. A key result of that meeting was the creation of USDA’s Urban Agriculture Working Group (UAWG) that has assembled an inventory of existing department resources and worked to make them more readily accessible. The UAWG continues to actively engage urban producers around the country to identify evolving needs and support their success as a positive socioeconomic force in their communities. Several Baltimore organizations in the vanguard of urban agriculture have developed resources that are included in the Toolkit as models for other communities like the City Farm Alliance’s Urban Agriculture How-To Guide, the Community Law Center’s Urban Agriculture Law Project Manual and the Green Pattern Book that helps local leaders map and identify productive new uses for vacant land.

During the event, Vilsack also highlighted expansion of a partnership between USDA and the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps, increasing the number of opportunities for young people in Baltimore to serve as AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates, earning valuable professional and life experience while serving their community. These AmeriCorps members will serve with the Maryland Out of School Time (MOST) Network to provide summer opportunities for Baltimore City residents. They will join the more than 1,400 AmeriCorps members currently serving institutions and organizations throughout the city, including Frederick Douglass High School.

The Urban Agriculture Toolkit and the UAWG are part of USDA’s Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative (KYF2) supporting the Obama Administration’s work to strengthen economic bonds between rural and urban areas. Launched in 2009, KYF2 breaks down silos and takes stock of USDA programs that support the growing demand for local and regional food systems. Visit the KYF2 website at www.usda.gov/knowyourfarmer to find local and regional food system resources in your community. Learn more about the $1 billion USDA has invested in 40,000 projects to develop local market opportunities at https://medium.com/usda-results as USDA celebrates Know your Farmer Month in April.

**OSU Extension in Lake County Seeking Agricultural & Natural Resources Extension Educator**

OSU Extension is searching for a qualified professional to fill the Lake County Agricultural and Natural Resource Educator position. This position is replacing Randy Zondag who retired at the end of April after serving in this capacity for over 33 years. The Educator will provide overall leadership to developing and conducting a proactive applied research and education program in agriculture and natural resources to meet current and future needs in farm management, livestock and crop production, food security, home horticulture/Master Gardeners, commercial horticulture, farm land-use issues, innovative agricultural business opportunities, environmental quality and sustainability, renewable energy, and bio-based products.

This position is located in Painesville, Ohio; Western Reserve EERA and the first round of interviews for selected candidates will be held in Columbus Ohio on Wednesday, June 1, 2016. The required qualifications is an earned Master’s degree at the time of hire is required with at least one degree in Agriculture, Natural Resources, or other related field; strong written and oral communication skills; experience working with diverse clientele and organizations; demonstrated success in working as part of a team and initiating collaborative partnerships; leadership ability and strong teaching and subject matter expertise in at least one area of agriculture; willing to work flexible hours with minimal supervision. The desired qualifications include a degree in Production Horticulture with two
years of experience; technical writing experience and computer skills; and experience working with statewide growers groups.

The deadline to apply for this position is May 15, 2016. The complete application can be found at: Jobsatosu.com— http://www.jobsatosu.com:80/postings/69539). For more information about this position contact Jackie Kirby Wilkins, Northeast Ohio Regional Director at 330-350-0512 or wilkins.201@osu.edu.

USDA Adds 800,000 Acres to CRP
The U.S. Department of Agriculture enrolled more than 800,000 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through the program’s 49th sign-up period. Through CRP, now in its 30th year, the ag department helps farmers offset the costs of restoring and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and strengthen wildlife habitat.

Participants in USDA’s Conservation Reserve Program establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, the USDA’s Farm Service Agency provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

According to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, the Conservation Reserve Program provides nearly $2 billion annually to land owners.

“Over the past 30 years, CRP has created major environmental improvements throughout the countryside,” Vilsack said while announcing the latest enrollment figures May 5. “The program has removed carbon dioxide from the atmosphere equal to removing 9 million cars from the road annually, and prevented 600 million dump trucks of soil from erosion.”

Raising the bar The ag department said this was one of the most selective sign-up periods in CRP’s 30-year history, with a record high Environmental Benefits Index cut-off and the lowest-percentage of applications accepted. The high bar means that the per-acre conservation benefits are being maximized and that acres enrolled address multiple conservation priorities simultaneously.

By the numbers
A nationwide acreage limit was established for this program in the 2014 farm bill, capping the total number of acres that may be enrolled at 24 million for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. As of March 2016, 23.8 million acres were enrolled in CRP, with 1.7 million acres set to expire this fall.

Over three million acres have been offered for enrollment this year across the three main categories within CRP, with USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) receiving over 26,000 offers to enroll more than 1.8 million acres during the general enrollment period, and over 4,600 offers to enroll more than 1 million acres in the new CRP Grasslands program.

Coming off a record-setting 2015 continuous enrollment of over 860,000 acres, more than 364,000 acres already have been accepted for 2016 in the CRP continuous enrollment, triple the pace of last year. FSA will accept 411,000 acres in general enrollment, the most competitive selection in the history of the program, with the acreage providing record high conservation benefits. USDA selected offers by weighing environmental factors plus cost, including wildlife enhancement, water quality, soil erosion, enduring benefits, and air quality.

Grassland conservation
The results of the first-ever enrollment period for CRP Grasslands, FSA will also accept 101,000 acres in the program. More than 70 percent of these acres are diverse native grasslands under threat of conversion, and more than 97
percent of the acres have a new, veteran or underserved farmer or rancher as a primary producer. FSA continues to accept CRP Grasslands offers and will conduct another ranking period later this year. Acres are ranked according to current and future use, new and underserved producer involvement, maximum grassland preservation, vegetative cover, pollinator habitat and various other environmental factors.

**Dr. Lonnie J. King Appointed Acting Dean of College of Food, Ag, and Environmental Sciences**

On May 15, Dr. Lonnie J. King will step in as acting dean and vice president for agricultural administration for the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at The Ohio State University. He will assume the roles presently held by Ronald L. Hendrick, who will leave Ohio State in June to become dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University.

King will serve in this capacity while Bruce McPheron serves as interim provost for the university. King’s extensive leadership experience and countless scientific contributions align well with CFAES’s teaching and learning, research and innovation, and outreach and engagement missions, McPheron said. For example, in addition to serving as dean of Ohio State’s College of Veterinary Medicine (2009-2015), King had also served as a dean at Michigan State (1996-2006). Moreover, he had served as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne and Enteric Diseases and led initiatives in public health, disease prevention, policy development and research.

King also worked in global trade agreements and has testified before the U. S. Congress on issues of emerging diseases in his role as the nation’s chief veterinarian. Among his many distinctive honors, he is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

**Dine in to Make a Difference at Bob Evans Restaurants on May 16-17, 2016**

Looking for a great way to support agriculture and get a great meal? If so, mark May 16-17 on your calendar as the Ohio Farm Bureau and Bob Evans are partnering to support a trio of organizations that enhance education and experience of youth in agriculture. Ohio Farm Bureau and Friends Days at Bob Evans restaurants throughout Ohio are set for May 16 and 17. The goal of the fundraiser is to increase awareness of the importance of agriculture education programs supported by Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio 4-H and Ohio FFA.

Farm Bureau members in conjunction with 4-H and FFA member families have the potential to work together to make a huge impact on the future of agriculture education programs in Ohio. Plan to “dine to make a difference” at any of the 194 Bob Evans Restaurants in Ohio on May 16 or 17, 2016. When diners present a flyer at check-out, Bob Evans will donate 15 percent of the sale to the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation, Ohio 4-H Foundation and Ohio FFA Foundation. Dine in, carryout and catering orders will count toward the fundraiser. Catering orders must be placed by May 9.

*PLEASE SHARE...this newsletter with farmers or others who are interested in agricultural topics in Ashtabula & Trumbull Counties. Past issues can be located at: [https://go.osu.edu/ag-news](https://go.osu.edu/ag-news). Please tell your friends and neighbors to sign up for the list. CONTACT: marrison.2@osu.edu*

*Readers can subscribe electronically to this newsletter by sending an e-mail message to: marrison.2@osu.edu. If you would like to opt-out of receiving this newsletter, please e-mail marrison.2@osu.edu with the words: UNSUBSCRIBE*
Bob Evans will donate 15% of sales to Ohio Farm Bureau & Friends Days

May 16 and 17, 2016 | All Day
(dine in, carryout and catering* orders)

*Catering orders must be placed by May 9.

Bob Evans will donate 15% of sales to

when you present this flyer**
at your local Bob Evans (Ohio only).

#BE4AG

**Printed flyer must be presented at time of checkout. Electronic flyers will not be accepted.