Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Mother Nature continues to deal us blows, with the latest coming as lake effect snow in some regions.

As harvest is winding down farmers are using every break in the weather to try and finish up.

The first Pesticide Applicator Training was successfully held last week. The next four Northeast Ohio dates are as followed:

- Trumbull County – January 16, 2019
- Geauga County – February 1, 2019
- Ashtabula County – February 28, 2019
- Geauga County “Last Chance” – March 28, 2019

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Farmer Focus – Vest Berries
By Ed Brown, OSU Extension Athens County
Source: https://u.osu.edu/vegnetnews/2018/11/09/farmer-focus-vest-berries/

Rick Vest, of Vest Berries farm, had a record sweet potato crop this year. The two largest specimens weigh 13 and 14 pounds each! They are Beauregard traditional orange variety; and the other big ones are Murasaki white sweet potatoes. His total sweet potato crop yield for this year was 10,000 pounds.

They were planted on May 21 during very good weather. No fertilizer or chemicals were used on the sweet potatoes. According to Rick, this was an exceptional year for sweet potatoes. They got the rain and sunshine needed at just the right times. Rick said he hilled this year’s crop extra high – up, fifteen inches. Due to the rainy hurricane season, namely Hurricane Florence, they were dug three weeks later than usual.

Sweet potatoes of all sizes are available at the Athens Farmers Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9am-noon. He also sells wholesale to local restaurants, and takes orders to sell to individuals.

Since the State does not keep official vegetable records, this is an unofficial record sweet potato.

Growing from a young age
Rick began his passion for farming as a young child, as he worked on a truck farm near his hometown of Harrison, Ohio. He moved to Nelsonville to attend Hocking College after high school and never left Athens County. Rick met his future wife, Terry, at Hocking College, and soon began a life together. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. The couple just celebrated 40 years of marriage.

Rick and Terry have owned and operated Vest Berries since the early 1980’s. While maintaining the farm, Rick also had a career as a graphic designer at McBee from 1978-2006. After McBee relocated, Rick rekindled his love for farming. He has been farming full-time ever since. During the spring/summer months, they operate a pick-your-own strawberry farm in Stewart, Ohio.
Over the years, Vest Berries has grown to include much more than just their staple crop, strawberries. On any given Saturday, Rick can be seen at the Athens Farmers Market selling carrots, beets, potatoes, lettuce, kale, squash, and berries, among other fruits and vegetables. He is an active member in the local farming community, serving as a member on the Athens Farmers Market executive committee, and previously on CFI’s Board of Directors. For those who know Rick, they know what a lively spirit he has. He enjoys talking to people and socializing with fellow farmers at the market. He is a hard-working family-man who would give the shirt off his back for anyone in need. His family is proud of his accomplishments in the community and appreciate the recognition of his gigantic sweet potatoes.

Giving Back
Vest Berries put in a call to the Community Food Initiative’s Harvest Hotline for help harvesting all of this year’s sweet potato crop. Together, they yielded approximately 700 pounds of Yukon potatoes and 1,100 pounds of sweet potatoes that may have gone to waste, but instead has gone to feed people facing food insecurity.

Ohio Agricultural Law Blog--Meat Law Continues to Sizzle in the News
By Evin Bachelor, Law Fellow, Agricultural and Resource Law Program
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/fri-11092018-1209pm/ohio-agricultural-law-blog-meat-law-continues-sizzle-news

Every year, we hear fascinating legal updates at the American Agricultural Law Association’s annual conference. Thanks to presentations by Todd Janzen and Brianna Schroeder of Janzen Ag Law in Indianapolis, we were inspired to learn a little more about trends in meat law. For readers with a livestock operation, these legal issues can present great challenges, and keeping up to date on legal trends helps farmers stay prepared.

Veal, pork, and eggs: states battle each other on minimum confinement space regulations.
California voters passed Proposition 12 in the November 2018 election, which will require producers to comply with minimum confinement space regulations in order to sell certain products in California. The Prevent Cruelty California Coalition placed the proposition on the ballot, expanding a previous regulation on in-state suppliers, but the new law would apply to any producer trying to sell veal, pork, or eggs in California. By 2020, veal calves must be housed with at least 43 square feet of usable floor space, breeding pigs must be housed with at least 24 square feet of usable floor space, and egg-laying hens must have at least 1 square foot of floor space. However, by 2022, egg-laying hens must be cage free. Proposition 12 strengthens requirements approved by California voters in 2008’s Proposition 2 by imposing the requirements on out-of-state producers who want to sell their products in California.

In 2016, Massachusetts voters approved a ballot measure that would require eggs sold within the state to be cage free by 2022. Thirteen states, led by Indiana, have sued Massachusetts in the United States Supreme Court in an attempt to stop Massachusetts from enforcing the requirement. These states allege that the restriction is an attempt to regulate how farmers in other states operate, which violates the rights of other states to create their own regulations. This would be a constitutional question under what is known as the Dormant Commerce Clause, which prohibits states from unfairly regulating business activities that have impacts beyond a state’s border. Status updates on the lawsuit are available here.

Trying a legislative solution to slow the trend of cage-free restrictions, Iowa passed a law earlier this year that requires grocers that sell cage-free eggs to also sell conventional eggs if they want to receive benefits from the USDA WIC program. Supporters of the law argued that cage-free eggs are often more expensive and excluded from the WIC program. They argue that as a result, when grocers make commitments to sell only cage-free eggs, they make it more difficult for low-income families to purchase eggs.

**Beef: non-meat proteins continue to target beef.**

The “Impossible Burger” wants to convince consumers that a non-meat burger patty that tastes just like meat is just around the corner. Veggie burgers are not new to the grocery store shelves, but recent innovations that have allowed non-meat proteins to improve in taste and texture have raised concerns among meat producers that these products are becoming a serious threat. Given that many of these innovations have taken aim at the burger market, beef producers in particular have felt a target on their backs. As we reported in a previous edition of The Harvest, Missouri became the first state this year to regulate labeling of non-animal products as being derived from an animal, and the U.S. Cattlemen’s Association has petitioned the USDA to consider regulating labels involving animal terms like “meat.” Other speakers at the AALA conference indicated that the USDA
is currently debating how to regulate labels, but has yet to develop a comprehensive rule package.

*Dairy contracts: always know what you are signing.*

The market has been very tough for dairy producers. Having a long term supply contract in place is certainly preferable to no contract, but depending upon the terms of the contract, unfortunate surprises may be in store.

Purchasers often write the contracts, and include terms that favor them. For example, many contracts contain termination provisions that allow either party to end the agreement for essentially any reason with prior notice, often 30 days. When producers invest in their operations under the expectation that the contract will stand throughout the term specified, these termination provisions can result in devastating surprises. As another example, many contracts contain confidentiality agreements that make it difficult for a producer to determine whether the deal they are offered is great, average, or actually bad. Equally concerning for producers are provisions that shift liability for problems with the milk to the producer, and away from the purchaser who sells the milk on the market. With modern technology, tracking where milk originated makes this possible. Courts are likely to enforce these agreements because the law of contracts favors enforcement of private agreements.

Given the current market, many dairy producers felt that they are not in a position to negotiate better terms, for fear that another dairy close by will accept the terms as-is. This position is made worse by the inability of producers to talk about their contracts with one another because of confidentiality provisions.

What a producer can do is to read the contract carefully and make sure that he or she understands the terms of the contract. It may be wise to speak with an attorney to verify that the producer’s understanding of the contract matches how the contract is likely to be read by a court.

**Wheat Grower Breaches 200-Bushel Barrier in 2018 Wheat Yield Contest**

By Emily Unglesbee, DTN Staff Reporter


A 202.53-bushel wheat yield and a third consecutive win in the National Wheat Yield Contest would satisfy many growers, but Phillip Gross still sees room for improvement.
"I think by increasing seed population and trying to encourage more tillers in the fall, we could have done better," the Warden, Washington, grower told DTN. Each year, Gross paces his fields, scrutinizing tillering, pollination, spikelet number, kernel size, disease and insect pressure, as well as taking tissue and soil samples to check nutrient levels. "I personally think this is only half of its yield potential," he said of his winning irrigated winter wheat variety, LCS Jet.

But Gross, like the contest's sponsor, the National Wheat Foundation (NWF), has a lot more than big numbers on his mind.

"Quality is extremely important," he said. "We don't want to flood the market with cheap feed wheat and lose our edge in the export market." To that end, NWF has changed the contest to include a quality component this year. To be eligible for competition, wheat entries had to be Grade 1 or 2, the grades required for food-grade wheat. They were also tested for a variety of components, such as protein, test weight, falling number, hardness and 1,000 kernel weight. The results were eye-opening, said Steve Joehl, director of research and technology at the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and director of the contest for the NWF.

Of the 163 wheat entries analyzed, only 11 didn't make Grade 1 or 2. Milling quality was high and protein levels held strong among even the highest-yielding fields, he said. "Some people are concerned that if you drive yield, you will do it at the sacrifice of quality," Joehl said. "What we're seeing from these test results is we had really good production of high-quality wheat, and if I were a miller, I'd be camping out next to every one of these winners asking to buy their wheat."

In addition to the high yield award, the contest recognizes national and state yield winners in four categories: dryland winter wheat, irrigated winter wheat, dryland spring wheat and irrigated spring wheat.

These category winners are calculated not by raw yield numbers, but by the percentage they yield above their county's five-year average. This puts growers from a wide variety of
geographies and soil types on a more even playing field, Joehl noted. For example, several entries brushed close to 200 bushels per acre (bpa) but didn't place first in their category because their yield wasn't quite as far from their county's norm as lower-yielding entries.

This year the top national winners for each category were:

IRRIGATED WINTER WHEAT: Ken Horton, of Horton Seed Services in Leoti, Kansas, for a 111.28-bpa field in Kearny County, 312% above the county average, with WB-Cedar, from WestBred.

DRYLAND WINTER WHEAT: Travis Freeburg, of R&K Farms in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, for a 124.46-bpa field in Kimball County, Nebraska, 398% above the county average, with SY Monument, from AgriPro.

IRRIGATED SPRING WHEAT: Larry Carroll, of Holzapfel Ranch in Hermiston, Oregon, for a 158.93-bpa field in Morrow County, 413% above the county average, with Expresso, from WestBred.

DRYLAND SPRING WHEAT: Jon Wert, of Wert Farms in New England, North Dakota, for a 103.98-bpa field in Hettinger County, 126% above the county average, with LCS Trigger, from Limagrain.

"YOU JUST HAVE TO LISTEN"
As the scrappy, resourceful relative to its prima donna cousin, corn, wheat can sometimes get short shrift when it comes to crop management. The wheat yield contest was designed to show that when farmers take time to scout and apply fertilizer, nutrients, fungicides and insecticides at just the right time, the crop shines.

Even after supplementing his winter wheat with nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and sulfur, based on carefully timed tissue and soil tests, Gross was astonished at the kernels from his winning winter wheat field.

"The kernel size was just huge -- they were humongous and heavy," he said. "You could take two or three small or semi-filled kernels and fit them in the same area as these big, plump ones. That was a pleasant surprise."

Nor did the quality suffer; the field's milling characteristics were excellent and protein held to a respectable 11.8.
Like Gross, the contest's other national yield winners are devoted to their wheat fields. "When that crop asks for something, be prepared," said Carroll, of his Oregon spring wheat fields. "It's going to talk to you; you just have to listen."

Carroll "listens" via biweekly petiole tissue tests during the growing season. If the petioles say they need micronutrients, he runs that through his sprayer and applies it to the foliage. This year, his winning field got liquid cow manure in the fall, on top of nutrients and fungicide in the spring.

Scouting is a chore to some, but not to Wert, who grows spring wheat in North Dakota. "What I love to do is walk my fields," he said. "It's my favorite thing to do all summer." That diligence allowed him to knock down weeds like kochia and wild oats promptly, stave off disease with multiple fungicide passes and save on insecticide this year -- and win best dryland spring wheat yield in the country.

IT ALWAYS COMES DOWN TO WATER
The wheat contest draws applicants from all over the country -- from the Pacific Northwest to the Dakotas and down to the southern Great Plains.

But each winner interviewed scarcely hesitated when asked what the biggest challenge for their winning wheat fields was: water.

Some, like Gross and Carroll, have aquifers lurking under their fields to feed pivots; others, like Wert, depend on unpredictable rainfall from the skies.

This year, Wert's North Dakota dryland spring wheat fields were helped along by good soil moisture in the spring, and an unusually wet June. But when the big spigot in the sky turned off on July 2, and no more rain fell before harvest, Wert credits his family's four-decade devotion to no-till with nursing the bin-buster crop along.

"No-till absolutely helps hold moisture in the soil," he said. "North Dakota State University says you can see five to seven bushels produced with every inch of rainfall, so when we're a couple inches short, that extra soil moisture makes a big difference."

Even the majority of Gross' irrigated winter wheat fields have sparse access to water. The Odessa Aquifer his operation pulls from is dropping lower every year, and the region's farmers have state-regulated water meters tracking and limiting their water use.

"Farmers here are actually preserving their water for high-value crops such as potatoes and onions," Gross said. "Wheat, which is a rotation crop for us, just gets what's left over."
For Carroll, the timing of his irrigation water is his most important wheat management tool. "Water usage at flowering time will make or break a wheat kernel," he said.

His soils turn to sand about 2.5 feet down, so Carroll can't depend on soil moisture storage to feed the wheat plant at flowering, and like Gross, he has a meter-limited water supply.

"When the wheat is just starting to flower, you have to make sure the moisture profile is full," he said. "You have to walk out for days and watch ahead of time."

**A DATA BONANZA**

The decision to test wheat entries for quality components this year added a lot of work for the contest organizers. But Joehl expects it to pay huge dividends in the years to come.

"What's unique about this contest is farmers have to put down every little management practice -- planting date, fertility, variety, and more," he explained. "So every sample we have -- and its quality results -- is correlated to those management practices."

In just a few years, the contest should be able to use that aggregated data to make interesting conclusions on how each management practice affects crucial milling and baking characteristics like protein and falling number, Joehl said.

"That's a lot of data power," he said.

Those results will be a welcome source of information both to contestants and the larger wheat industry, said Gross.

"I hope it will really encourage growers to focus more on quality and not just yield by itself," he said. "Wheat acres are really dwindling and in order to keep the markets we do have, we need to make sure that our buyers know that they're getting a premium quality."

You can find more details on the National Wheat Yield Contest and its winners from NWF here: [https://wheatfoundation.org/…](https://wheatfoundation.org/…).

**Corn Prices Expected to Improve**

By: Alayna DeMartini

Farmers rattled by the dip in value of their soybean crop likely will see prices for their corn go up next year, one of the few optimistic projections made at a recent conference on future profits in farming.
Most of the graphs presented at the Nov. 2 event hosted by the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics (AEDE) at The Ohio State University offered a grim outlook: a decline in soybean crop prices resembling a steep ski slope, shrinking pie slices representing Chinese demand for U.S. soybeans.

But there were a few bright spots noted at the Agricultural Policy and Outlook Conference, including a projection that corn prices could improve in 2019.

As the world supply of corn shrinks, that will drive up corn prices, said Ben Brown, manager of the farm management program in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

The per bushel marketing average price of corn was $3.36 in 2018, and that likely will rise above $3.60 in 2019, Brown said.

Though seemingly a small increase, every 10-cent hike in corn prices results in about $19 more in earnings per acre of corn.

Crop prices for corn and soybeans have plummeted since the summer, but corn prices have begun to rebound, Brown said.

The current low price of U.S. corn spurred exports of the crop beginning in September, Brown said.

“There’s some bargain shopping going on with countries including the European Union, Vietnam and Israel,” Brown said. “The question is if it will continue.”

Another factor could boost corn prices.

Last month President Donald Trump directed the Environmental Protection Agency to begin the process of allowing the year-round sale of E15, gasoline with a higher percentage of corn-based ethanol than standard gas at the pump. Most gas sold in the United States is mixed with 10 percent ethanol; E15 is mixed with 15 percent ethanol.

But Brown said he doesn’t expect an immediate increase in the demand for corn as a result of the potential expansion of E15 use because of the time it will take to put the new policy in place.

And while corn prices may increase, corn is still expected to bring lower profits than soybeans next year given the costs associated with planting the crop.
Price projections for soybeans aren’t as optimistic as they are for corn. Prices for soybeans, already low, could plunge even further, Brown said.

In June, China, the world’s top consumer of soybeans, imposed a 25 percent retaliatory tariff on U.S. soybeans, causing a dip in the world price of soybeans and cutting China’s demand for U.S. soybeans.

Chinese companies, which typically buy a significant portion of their soybeans from the United States, now buy more from Brazil, even though the price of American soybeans with the tariff is about the same as Brazilian soybeans, Brown said.

“Given the competitive nature of the prices, it is surprising we aren’t seeing more U.S. soybean sales to China,” Brown said. “It is possible that the Chinese government is discouraging the purchase of U.S. soybeans.”

The United States-China trading relationship soured in the spring after President Trump imposed a 25 percent tariff on foreign steel and 10 percent on foreign aluminum purchases in the United States. In response, China leveled the additional 25 percent tariff on U.S. soybeans.

“You in agriculture are caught in the crossfire of a trade war,” Ian Sheldon, an agricultural economist told the crowd at the Nov. 2 conference. Sheldon is the Andersons Professor of International Trade in AEDE where Brown also works.

Even with tariffs in the United States to deter purchases of Chinese products and tariffs in China to discourage purchases of American products, the United States still imports far more from China than it exports, and that gap continues to grow, Sheldon said.

That’s despite the fact that the tariffs imposed by the United States were partly intended to bring down the trade deficit by decreasing U.S. consumer purchases of products from China, Sheldon said.

“The tariffs are simply feeding into the trade deficit,” Sheldon said. “Tariffs against Chinese products will only work if Americans change their saving and consumption behavior.”

President Trump said in a tweet Nov. 1 that he had had a “long and very good conversation” with Chinese President Xi Jinping on trade and that it will continue later this month. Following the tweet, soybeans prices on the stock market increased 30 cents to close at $8.69 a bushel.

But Sheldon said he was skeptical the tweet means a trade resolution between the United States and China is close at hand. “I’ll believe it when I see one.”
Farmers’ Costs to Go Up
By: Alayna DeMartini
Source: https://cfaes.osu.edu/news/articles/farmers-costs-go

The price of fertilizer, energy, seed and other expenses are expected to go up in 2019 though income for Ohio farmers likely will not increase by much, if at all, a CFAES agricultural economist has projected. (Photo: Getty Images)

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The cost of producing a grain crop is expected to rise next year, but farm income is unlikely to increase, an agricultural economist with The Ohio State University has projected.

On average, profits for Ohio farmers next year will be “low to negative,” said Barry Ward, an assistant professor in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

For the past five years, farm income nationwide has been declining, with the exception of 2017 when it increased slightly.

Next year, fertilizer, seed, machinery, labor and energy costs likely will be “modestly higher,” Ward said.

“Nothing is really exploding, but we are going to see some increases,” said Ward, one of several faculty who spoke Nov. 2 at the Agricultural and Policy Outlook Conference hosted by the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics (AEDE), which is part of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

Borrowing money will come at a higher cost because interest rates have gone up and will continue to increase in 2019, Ward said.

“We know farmers are borrowing more money now,” he said.

Land owners likely will see a decline in the value of their farmland as a result of the Federal Reserve’s interest rate hikes as well as the uncertainty that has come with the future of corn and soybean crop prices, Ward said.

Crop prices for corn and soybeans have trended lower since 2013 and in recent months have plunged partly due to China’s imposition of 25 percent retaliatory tariffs on U.S. soybean imports.
But some positive changes are expected in 2019.

Ohio farmers’ tax bills could be lower. Across the state, farmland is being taxed at a lower rate due to a new law passed last summer.

The price of renting agricultural land in Ohio likely will be about the same or will go down slightly, about 2 percent, in 2019, Ward said.

And a new federal tax deduction allows farmers and other business owners to take a tax deduction of 20 percent on their qualified business income.

**New Study Will Track Ways to Cut Runoff from Elevated Phosphorus Fields**

By: Kurt Knebusch  

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Some farm fields in northwest Ohio’s Maumee River watershed have more phosphorus than their crops can use. Called “elevated phosphorus fields,” such fields may be at higher risk of contributing to Lake Erie’s harmful algal blooms.

That’s the premise of a new five-year, $5 million study that hopes to learn about those fields and lower that risk by creating new public-private partnerships.

Led by Jay Martin, an ecological engineering professor with The Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), the study plans to monitor and manage more than a dozen elevated phosphorus fields, all in the Maumee River watershed.

**PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

To do the work, the study is partnering with nutrient service providers — consultants who advise farmers on crop and soil matters, such as the types and rates of fertilizer to apply — and some of the farmers they work with. The nutrient service providers are helping find farmers to help with the study; the farmers in turn are allowing their fields to be used as sites for the study.

“I’m excited,” said Martin, a faculty member in CFAES’s Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering and a faculty researcher with Ohio State’s Ohio Sea Grant program and the college’s Stone Laboratory. “This is a way that the agricultural community, Ohio State and U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers, and nongovernmental organizations can work
together to address an important unknown. By doing so, this will improve water quality while supporting agricultural production."

MAUMEE RIVER WATERSHED

Phosphorus runoff from farm fields is a significant driver of the harmful algal blooms plaguing Lake Erie. The blooms are sometimes toxic, are often many miles wide, and threaten recreation, tourism, drinking water safety and people’s health. The Maumee watershed, which empties into the lake at Toledo, is the lake’s largest source of phosphorus loading.

Martin said the study has four main parts: recruit the partner farmers; measure phosphorus runoff on the farmers’ fields; use and evaluate best management practices on the fields — practices aimed at reducing the fields’ phosphorus runoff while also maintaining their yields; and then, by helping form further public-private partnerships, expand the adoption of the practices throughout the watershed.

The study includes partners and supporters from CFAES, the Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS), Ohio State’s Center on Education and Training for Employment, and 12 Ohio agricultural businesses and organizations.

USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture is funding the study, which started in September and will run through summer 2023.

LAKE ERIE ALGAL BLOOMS

Phosphorus, a nutrient, is needed for crops to grow. It’s an important part of the fertilizers and manures that farmers apply to their fields. But rain can wash phosphorus out of the soil and then into drainage ditches, rivers and eventually Lake Erie.

In 2016, Ohio, Michigan and the Canadian province of Ontario agreed to reduce the phosphorus entering Lake Erie by 40 percent, with a goal of doing it by the year 2025. Experts think that such a reduction will keep the lake’s blooms at safe levels. Ongoing efforts to meet that goal involve farmers, scientists and agencies, among others.

The new study, for its part, is specifically targeting elevated phosphorus fields, which bear that name because, after years of fertilizer or manure applications, they’ve accumulated more phosphorus in their soil than their crops need. The excess doesn’t hurt the crops; the crops just don’t take it up. But sometimes the phosphorus is released from the soil and ends up in Lake Erie, where it contributes to harmful algal blooms.
“The hypothesis is that these elevated phosphorus fields contribute disproportionately to nutrient runoff,” Martin said.

Until now, however, testing that hypothesis has been difficult. Locating an elevated phosphorus field requires soil test results, and those aren’t public information; they’re often kept only between a farmer and his or her nutrient service provider. The new study is solving that limitation by enlisting those individuals as partners.

**RESEARCH ON FARMS**

Martin said that as a first step, a partnering nutrient service provider will invite a farmer to participate in the study. If the farmer is interested, Martin and his colleagues will work with them to determine if the field has the needed characteristics and to make sure the farmer is comfortable with the arrangements. The team will compensate the farmer and nutrient service provider for their time, will pay for implementing and maintaining the management practices, and will keep the farmer’s name and location confidential.

If, on the other hand, the farmer isn’t interested, “things end there, and no one finds out anything about their field that they didn’t know before we started,” Martin said.

The team is now working to identify the study sites, with a goal of having 14 fields.

**NEW WAYS NEEDED**

In the Maumee watershed and in other places, some farmers are reducing their phosphorus runoff by using the “4R” practices. The 4Rs stand for the right source, right rate, right time and right place when it comes to applying fertilizer and manure. But the 4Rs don’t help on an elevated phosphorus field because the farmer has probably already stopped applying additional phosphorus fertilizer.

Instead, other best management practices are needed — ones that keep nutrients in the field or that trap them at the edge of the field before they get into waterways.

Martin said the study will implement a variety of best management practices at the study sites and then will evaluate the practices using edge-of-field water sampling. The practices may include building wetlands, growing cover crops and installing phosphorus filters, among others. Based on the findings, the study will offer recommendations for farmers and nutrient service providers.
The Maumee River watershed covers an area greater than Connecticut: more than 4 million acres in parts of three states — Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. The majority of the watershed’s land use is agriculture. About 12,000 farmers live in the watershed.

**WHO’S INVOLVED**

Other CFAES researchers involved in the study are Margaret Kalcic, Ryan Winston, Mike Brooker and Nathan Stoltzfus of the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Robyn Wilson of the School of Environment and Natural Resources; Greg LaBarge of Ohio State University Extension; and Brian Roe of the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics. OSU Extension is the college’s outreach arm.

Key partners on the study also include Jessica D’Ambrosio of the Nature Conservancy, Kevin King of USDA-ARS’s Soil Drainage Research Unit, the Nutrient Stewardship Council and the Ohio AgriBusiness Association.

Collaborating on the study are four northwest Ohio nutrient service providers — Nester Ag, Legacy Farmers Cooperative, Nutrien Ag Solutions, and the Farmers Elevator Grain and Supply Association — and the following organizations: The Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association, the Ohio Soybean Council, the Ohio Pork Council, the Ohio Dairy Producers Association, Mercer County Community and Economic Development, and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

To learn more about the study, contact Martin at martin.1130@osu.edu.

**Livestock Mortality Composting Program Scheduled for December 14 in Canfield, OH**

While it’s likely not the most popular dinner table topic, a plan for dealing with mortality is something that needs addressed if you raise livestock. Composting is a viable option for various types of farms, and actually allows producers to recycle on-farm nutrients. While livestock mortality composting is similar in goal to backyard composting, it follows a different methodology and requires a more specific approach. These differences, along with facility design, area selection, operation and management will be covered in class. In Ohio, certification is required to compost livestock mortalities legally.

OSU Extension Mahoning County will be hosting Rory Lewandowski on December 14, 208 from 12P.M. to 2P.M. at the Extension office in Canfield, OH to lead the discussion. **Upon completion of the program, all participants will be certified in livestock mortality composting.** Cost for this program is $25/person, and registration includes lunch, LMC Book,
handouts, and other materials. To register see flyer at the end of the newsletter. For more information, call 330-533-5538.

**Become certified! Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) exam registration now open**

The Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) and Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) programs of the American Society of Agronomy are the benchmarks of professionalism. When you become certified, you join more than 13,000 of your peers in the largest, most recognized agriculturally-oriented certification program in North America. This program’s professional standards are widely respected by industry, academia, and government and are referenced in statutes. Get the recognition, opportunities, and respect you deserve. Exam registration is now open for the February 1, 2019 exam.

**Upcoming Events**

**Trumbull County Farmer Lunch**  
December 4, 2018 – Farm Tax Update  
January 8, 2019 – Beef Quality Assurance  
March 5, 2019 – Climate Impacts for Ohio Agriculture  
April 4, 2019 – Tillage and Soil Health

**Ashtabula County Dairy Banquet**  
March 26, 2019

**Pesticide Applicator Training Dates**  
Trumbull County – January 16, 2019  
Geauga County – February 1, 2019  
Ashtabula County – February 28, 2019  
Geauga County “Last Chance” – March 28, 2019
OSU Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Class

Thursday, November 15th
1 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Portage County OSU Extension
705 Oakwood St., Suite 101
Ravenna, OH 44266

An educational course that covers good agricultural practices or ‘GAPs’, which help reduce the risk of on-farm produce contamination

Topics Include:
• Water Quality
• Worker Training, Health & Hygiene
• Manure and Compost Handling
• Domestic and Wild Animals
• And More

Attending the OSU GAPs class does not equate to being “GAPS Certified” or fulfill the FSMA 7-hour training requirement. The class gives you the skills and knowledge to reduce on-farm food safety risks.

Preregistration is required by November 5th, 2018. Registration fee is $25/person. There must be 10 people registered in order to proceed with the training. Make checks payable to OSU Extension, and mail to Portage County OSU Extension office, 705 Oakwood St., Suite 103, Ravenna, OH 44266. If you have any questions, please call Robin Christensen at 330-296-6432 or email christensen.227@osu.edu.

Instructors:
• Ashley Kulhanek, OSU Extension Educator, OSU Fruit and Vegetable Team Member
• Jacqueline Kowalski, OSU Extension Educator, OSU Fruit and Vegetable Team Member

Sponsors:
• Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center
• Ohio State University Extension
• Ohio State Portage County Extension

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Address: ______________________ City/State: __________ Zip code: ________
County: ______________ Email: ___________________
Show the Extension office your Farm Bureau membership card to get your FREE test!

ONE FREE fall soil test*

OCTOBER 25 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2018

WHO SHOULD SOIL TEST
Anyone applying lime and/or fertilizer to gardens, yards, pastures, hay and crop fields, etc

WHY SHOULD YOU FALL SOIL TEST
According to OSU Extension fall is an ideal time to sample soil for several reasons:
1. Soils often have an ideal moisture range that makes sampling easy
2. It gives producers ample time to apply fertilizer or lime before the next crop
3. It helps ensure spring planting will not be delayed.

Soil testing can save you time and money but also plays an important part in water and environmental quality.

WHEN CAN YOU GET YOUR FREE TEST
October 25-November 30- During your county OSU Extension office’s regular business hours

HOW DO YOU OBTAIN YOUR FREE TEST
Go to your county OSU Extension office (see front for addresses)
Show your Farm Bureau membership card (Call us for your ID number if you don’t have a card)
Pick up your FREE soil test
Have Extension analyze your results if needed

QUESTIONS
Call Farm Bureau at 440.426.2195 or email us at nefarmbueofbf.org

PICK YOUR FREE SOIL TEST UP AT YOUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
ASHTABULA: 30 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH
GEAUGA: 14269 Claridon-Troy Road, Burton, OH
LAKE: 99 E Erie Street, Painesville, OH
TRUMBULL: 520 W Main Street, Cortland, OH

* ONLY VALID FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS
To register for the Trumbull Farmer Lunch program on December 4, 2018, please complete the form below and mail with payment to OSU Extension Trumbull County, 520 West Main St, Cortland, OH 44410. Please make checks out to OSU Extension. For questions or more information call 330-638-6783, or email beers.66@osu.edu.

Recent changes to the tax code could mean big changes to your tax bill. David Marrison, OSU Extension Coshocton County, will talk about the new updates and what that means in practical terms for your farm. David will discuss the economics of crop production and financial management in times of low crop prices. Pre-registration fee is $7 if received by Dec. 1, 2018. Cost is $10 at the door. Catered hot lunch, handouts, and other materials are included in the cost. We would like to thank Farm Credit Mid-America for their sponsorship of this program.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________
City and State: ___________________ Zip Code: ___________________
Phone: ____________________________ Email: ___________________
Number of Attendees: ___________________ x $7 each = Total Enclosed ___________________