

NORTHEAST OHIO AGRI-CULTURE NEWSLETTER

Your Weekly Agriculture Update for
Ashtabula, Portage and Trumbull Counties

November 30, 2021



Fall armyworm are turning out to be hardier than we thought

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Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

The Alberta Clipper brought us a good amount of snow over the past few days. The cold weather should have killed off any remaining fall armyworm, but they are still holding on.

Here at our OSU Extension offices, we are gearing up for our programming season so check out our upcoming events on the last page. Also, mark your calendars for February 23, 2022 for the return of the NE Ohio Agronomy School! More details will be available in the coming weeks.

Stay healthy, and good luck with deer season!

Lee Beers
Trumbull County
Extension
Educator

Andrew Holden
Ashtabula County
Extension
Educator

Angie Arnold
Portage County
Extension
Educator

Falling Leaves Poison with Ease

By: Haley Zynda

Source: <https://u.osu.edu/beef/2021/11/24/falling-leaves-poison-with-ease/#more-11810>

Even though we're only a couple weeks away from the true start of winter (hard to believe, I know), some trees are still clutching onto their leaves as if the dying foliage will be enough to fortify their soon-to-be bare branches against the frigid temperatures. It's important to take note of the trees that have leaves yet to fall, especially if you house livestock outside in pastures or sacrifice lots. I'm sure most heard of the dangers of black/wild cherry and leaves for cattle, but there are several other trees and shrubs that can cause negative impacts on cattle, horses, sheep, and goats.



Even some leaves yet to fall are potentially toxic! have limbs

Wild Cherry. Poisonous to all classes of livestock, wilted cherry leaves and branches can cause prussic acid poisoning, the same poisoning as seen in frosted sorghum-sudangrass. It's best to remove downed limbs and leaves from pastures to prevent incidental intake, or keep animals off the lot until the leaves have completely dried and become brittle.

Red Maple. Poisonous to horses, wilted red maple leaves can destroy red blood cells, which ultimately leads to decreased oxygen supply to the horse's organs and extremities. Similar to the wild cherry, make sure to remove downed limbs and leaves. If total leaf removal isn't possible (i.e., too many trees to adequately clean up after), ensuring there is plenty of forage such as pasture, or hay in the winter, should occupy the horses to keep them away from the leaves. Keeping horses off the pasture is another option.

Oak. Oak leaves are most dangerous in their green form and are most toxic to cattle and sheep, but can affect horses if enough leaves and acorns are eaten. Gallotannin is the compound found in all parts of the oak tree, which is broken down into tannic acid in the digestive tract. This can cause ulceration in various parts of the tract as well as kidney failure, which is typically the cause of death in acorn poisoning. An overload of acorns in the diet can also cause compaction colic in horses.

Yew. This evergreen is extremely toxic to all classes of livestock and all parts of the bush, with the exception of the berry flesh, are poisonous. As little as 1 pound of yew

leaves or branches is enough to kill a 1000-pound animal. Taxine is the primary toxin in yew bushes and affects the heart. Removing yew shrubs from fence lines is a way to prevent poisoning, and never dump shrub trimmings into the pastures where animals graze. With the holidays upon us, this evergreen is found in outdoor décor, so take care when disposing of the branches after the holiday season.

Black Walnut. Mainly affecting horses, black walnut toxicity manifests as laminitis and colic. Horses are not only be affected through eating black walnut leaves, but also through sawdust or wood shavings that contain black walnut wood. The mechanism of laminitis is not yet entirely known in black walnut bedding cases, but the toxin juglone may be absorbed through the coronary band (when the hoof meets the pastern) and interrupts blood flow. Shavings containing 20% black walnut are known to cause ill effects; rapid breathing may also accompany bedding-type poisoning.

In summary, take inventory of the trees and shrubbery around the barn and pastures. In some instances, only a few mouthfuls of leaves is enough to harm or kill livestock, leading to profit losses and replacement costs. Clean pastures and fence lines can do wonders to keeping your livestock safe.

The Ohio Soybean Council is Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

Source: <https://www.soyohio.org/council/scholarships/>

Every year the Ohio Soybean Council Foundation has several scholarships for undergraduates and graduates. For the 2022-2023 academic year the Foundation is pleased to offer \$44,000 in scholarships.

Undergraduate applicants must be Ohio residents enrolled as full-time students at an Ohio college or university, having attained at least sophomore status by the fall of 2022, with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Eligible majors include: Agricultural business, agricultural communications, agricultural education, biochemistry, bioenergy, bioengineering, biofuels, biology, biotechnology, chemistry, crop science, engineering, environmental science, food science, molecular biology, or any of the agricultural disciplines or related fields.

For more information on undergraduate scholarships and how to apply please visit [here](#).

Graduate applicants must be enrolled as full-time graduate students at an Ohio college or university. Applicants must be conducting research in:

Bioproducts

Northeast Ohio Agriculture

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Biotechnology
Biobased materials
Bioengineering
Biopolymers
Or another related field

The research must be focused on advancing the soybean industry. Applicants must have proof of legal residency in the U.S.

For more information on graduate scholarships and how to apply please visit [here](#).

Please contact Madi Layman at mLAYMAN@soyohio.org with any questions.

The Ag Law Harvest

By: Jeffrey K. Lewis

Source: <https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/wed-11242021-1236pm/ag-law-harvest>

Did you know that female turkeys can lay a fertilized egg without mating? This process is called parthenogenesis, a type of asexual reproduction that can also occur in other types of animals including invertebrates, fish, and lizards. In turkeys, this process always produces a male chick. The likelihood of an embryo from parthenogenesis surviving to chick-hood is small, but possible.

In this edition of the Ag Law Harvest and in the spirit of Thanksgiving, we are thankful for the opportunity to present to you the newly proposed definition of “waters of the United States”, Kansas’s battle to protect agricultural facilities, and food labeling cases from across the country.

EPA and Army Corps of Engineers propose rule to establish the definition of “waters of the United States.” The EPA and Army Corps of Engineers [announced](#) a [proposed rule](#) to return the definition of “waters of the United States” (“WOTUS”) to the pre-2015 definition with a few updates to reflect Supreme Court decisions. In 2020, the [Navigable Waters Protection Rule](#) went into effect and interpreted WOTUS to include: “(1) territorial seas and traditional navigable waters; (2) tributaries of such waters; (3) certain lakes, ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters; and (4) wetlands adjacent to other jurisdictional waters (other than jurisdictional wetlands).” On January 20, 2021, President Biden signed [Executive Order 13990](#) directing all executive agencies to review and address any federal regulations that went into effect during the previous administration. After reviewing the Trump Administration’s Navigable Waters Protection Rule, the agencies determined that the rule is significantly reducing clean water protections. The new rule proposed by the agencies seeks to interpret WOTUS to include: (1) traditional navigable waters; (2)

interstate waters; (3) the territorial seas and their adjacent wetlands; (4) most impoundments of WOTUS; (5) tributaries to traditional navigable waters, interstate waters, the territorial seas, and impoundments, that meet either the relatively permanent standard of the significant nexus standard; (6) wetlands adjacent to impoundments and tributaries, that meet either the relatively permanent standard or the significant nexus standard; and (7) “other waters” that meet either the relatively permanent standard or the significant nexus standard. The agencies will be taking comment on the proposed rule for 60 days once the rule is published in the Federal Register.

Kansas Attorney General asks Supreme Court to review Kansas “Ag Gag”

Law. Derek Schmidt, Attorney General of Kansas, has asked the United States Supreme Court to review [the Kansas Farm Animal and Field Crop and Research Facilities Protection Act](#) (the “Act”) which criminalizes the unauthorized access to agricultural facilities without consent of the owner of the facility with the intent to damage the business of the facility. Under the Act, consent is not effective if it is “[i]nduced by force, fraud, deception, duress or threat.” Earlier this year, [the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals found](#) the Kansas law to be unconstitutional by violating the free speech clause in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and prohibited Kansas from enforcing the Act. Now, [Derek Schmidt has petitioned the Supreme Court](#) to review the Kansas law arguing that the Act does not violate the First Amendment because the Act regulates conduct not speech. The Attorney General goes on to argue that even if trespass by deception were to be considered a form of speech, it is a form of speech that is not protected by the First Amendment. The Attorney General reasoned that the Act protects a private property owner’s right to exclude and that the First Amendment does not provide a license to violate a person’s property rights.

Oklahoma’s meat labeling law on trial. Earlier this month, the Plant Based Foods Association and the Tofurky Company (“Plaintiffs”) [filed an amended complaint](#) challenging [Oklahoma’s Meat Consumer Protection Act](#) (the “Act”) alleging that the Act violates the dormant commerce clause, the due process clause, and the supremacy clause of the United States Constitution. Plaintiffs allege that the Oklahoma law “institutes a protectionist trade barrier” that is contrary to and preempted by federal law. According to Plaintiffs, the Act “forbids plant-based meat producers from using meat terms unless they include a disclaimer on their product labels in the same type size and prominence to the ‘name of the product’ that their plant-based products are not actually meat derived from animals.” Plaintiffs argue that the Oklahoma law would require plant-based meat producers to develop Oklahoma specific labels or abandon the Oklahoma market which is essentially interfering with interstate commerce and in violation of established federal law. This case is set for trial in 2022. But, this is not the first time the Oklahoma law has been challenged on constitutional grounds. Plant Based Foods Association and Upton’s Naturals Company also filed suit alleging the Oklahoma law violated the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the

Constitution. However, a [Federal District Court in Oklahoma denied an injunction](#) to prevent Oklahoma from enforcing the law. The court found that the disclosure requirement in the Act is reasonably related to Oklahoma's interest in preventing the confusion or deception of consumers. The court reasoned that the commercial speech at issue could potentially be misleading to reasonable consumer. The court argued that "the possibility of deception flowing from the use of meat-related terms for the plant-based products is self-evident from the natural inference a consumer would draw from the meat-related terms used." This not the end of the battle for the Oklahoma law, there will likely be appeals to higher courts to help settle the dispute.

Pepperidge Farm sued over "Golden Butter" cracker label. Hawa Kamara decided to file a lawsuit against Pepperidge Farm, Inc. after purchasing "Golden Butter" crackers at a local Target store in New York. According to the ingredients list attached to Kamara's complaint, the crackers were made with butter but also included vegetable oils. Kamara asserted that the presence of vegetable oils makes the "Golden Butter" packaging misleading and/or deceptive because a reasonable consumer would conclude the crackers were "all or predominantly made with butter." [A Federal District Court in New York, however, did not find the packaging misleading or deceptive.](#) The court reasoned that "the packaging accurately indicated that the product contained butter, and the ingredients list confirmed that butter predominated over other oils and fats." Further, the court argued that a reasonable consumer could believe the "Golden Butter" labeling described the product's flavor and not the ingredient proportions. Ultimately, the court decided to dismiss the case against Pepperidge Farm because Kamara's complaint did not plausibly allege that the "Golden Butter" packaging materially misrepresented the ingredients in the crackers.

Thank you for reading and we hope that everyone has a happy and safe Thanksgiving!!

EXTENSION TALK: Alternative Uses for Miscanthus

By: Andrew Holden, Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources

Hello, Ashtabula County! I hope everybody had a great Thanksgiving and that you were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. The holiday often aligns with the end of harvest and many of the county farms have completed their harvest for the year. While we still do have some fields yet to be combined, I am hearing reports of good yields, slightly above average in both corn and soybeans. Whether you are thankful for a bountiful harvest, or just thankful for the farmers who produce the great meals we enjoy every day, we all can be thankful for another year of agriculture and those who work in ag. During the holiday season I encourage everyone to shop local, especially on local ag products. Our county has great locally owned businesses that sell product made right here in NE Ohio. Honey, maple syrup, farm

raised meats, jams, apples, pears, and amazing Ohio wines are just some of the local ag products that make great gifts. Buying local supports our community, plus you won't have to worry about it not being shipped on time!

Today, I am sharing some information on miscanthus grass and a possible alternative use for it. We still have many acres of the grass around the county and people are looking to remove it or find other uses for the biomass. Read the rest of this article to see one way a local producer is repurposing miscanthus and let me know if you have any other uses to try.

Miscanthus is a tall, warm-season grass that was planted here in Ashtabula County almost 10 years ago in hopes to use as a biofuel. Over the years there has been a couple different uses for it and a lot of research into other possible uses. When the company that was harvesting this biomass went bankrupt, it left NE Ohio with a lot of grass, and no real way to harvest it, let alone a realistic use for it. Since then, landowners and farmers have been trying to remove the grass to plant traditional row crops. This has seen varied success, as it often takes a lot of time, investment, and horsepower to remove miscanthus.

One area farmer has decided to try and use the grass for something, instead of removing it. They have baled their miscanthus and are going to use it to bed their beef herd this winter. This was done by mowing the miscanthus in the spring before it started growing new shoots. The grass was then round baled and stored until winter. As miscanthus can be quite ridged and contain long pieces, the bales were ran through a bale chopper. This broke down the material as well as exposed the absorbent fiber found inside the grass. One previous use for miscanthus was as an oil field absorbent that could hold many times its mass in liquid. The chopped miscanthus was then spread out in the barn and the cattle seemed to enjoy their new bedding.

If anyone is interesting in perusing miscanthus for bedding and wants to learn more about this process, please feel free to give my office a call at 440-576-9008. If you are looking to remove miscanthus please check out my webpage: www.go.osu.edu/miscanthus On this webpage you will find a video of a zoom webinar discussing the current status of miscanthus in the county as well an update from the auditor's office. When more information becomes available, it will be posted to that webpage so keep watch for updated guides and articles there. Finally, if anyone discovers alternative uses for or finds a better way to remove miscanthus, please share with our office so that the information can be distributed broadly. I want to thank the Paul family for sharing their experience and pictures of using miscanthus for bedding.

Have a great holiday season, and good luck to all the deer hunters this year!

Andrew Holden is an Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator for Ohio State University Extension. Andrew can be reached at 440-576-9008 or Holden.155@osu.edu

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Now Hiring: Portage County Program Assistant

Ohio State University Extension (OSUE) seeks a Program Assistant to work programmatically with county staff and volunteers to conduct and teach programs in Portage County. The Program Assistant will support the Extension and 4-H Youth Development programs by assisting with specific educational programs, including 4-H Carteens program, youth and adult volunteer training programs, a smoking/vaping cessation program, 4-H school enrichment programs, and 4-H project evaluation events. The Program Assistant will work with partner agencies to schedule events and

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activities and assist with other 4-H information. **This is a 2-year term position.** This position is located in Ravenna, Ohio.

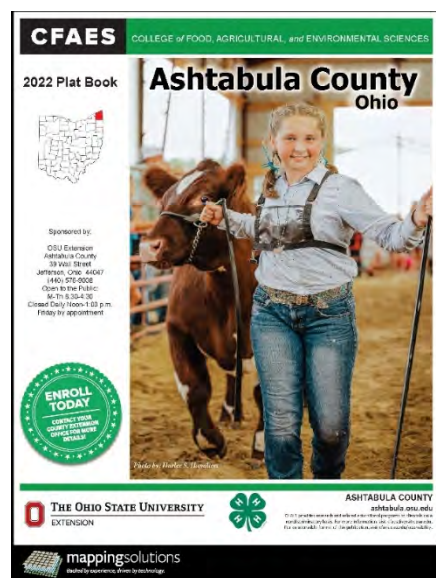
Deadline for applications is Friday, December 3, 2021.

To apply, go to: <http://go.osu.edu/portagejob>

NEW 2022 Ashtabula County Plat Book NOW Available

The NEW and updated 2022 version of the Ashtabula County Plat Book is now available for \$25 + tax at Ashtabula County - OSU Extension Office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson. This full color edition makes the perfect gift for the hunter, hiker or outdoorsman! Traditional landownership maps by township and range, a landowner index for easy cross referencing, and other county information is all available in the new plat book. Premium wall maps are also available. Visit mappingsolutionsGIS.com for digital versions of Ashtabula County landowner maps. Mapping Solutions is the publisher. Proceeds from the sale of the books benefit the 4-H program.

Limited 2019 books are also available ON SALE for \$10 OFF the original price of \$25 + tax. For more information contact the Ashtabula County Extension Office at (440) 576-9008.



Lee's Monthly News Column

Hello Trumbull County, and Happy Thanksgiving! In a year with a lot of uncertainty, negativity, and unease I hope you are able to take a minute to reflect on the positive things that have happened in 2021. Let's be thankful for our friends and family, a successful harvest (big or small), and for what we already have.

As I was thinking about a topic for my column this month, I considered the supply chain disruptions to agriculture (and life), the effects of COVID, inflation, and a variety of other topics that have already been covered ad nauseam. I think I am safe to say that we are all exhausted from those topics, and the stress that comes with it. I know going into the holiday season has only amplified that stress, so I am not going to add to it. So instead, I am going to talk about one of my favorite subjects – hay.

Depending on your location in Trumbull County, it was a challenging year to make hay. Some locations had heavy rains on a regular basis, and other areas had long periods of

dry weather that were perfect. Taking my own advice, I am reflecting on the positive for the hay season – hay was made. Some hay was made at the perfect maturity, moisture, and no weeds. Other hay was just the opposite.

When you are buying hay you can get a pretty good idea of the quality based on the physical appearance of the hay. You can lump the hay into good, ok, or poor categories based on the color, smell, and feel of the bales. This will work most of the time, but if you are looking to tailor a nutrition program for livestock you will need more than the physical appearance of the hay. Forage or hay testing is the best and only way to know the nutrient value of hay. This analysis will typically provide data about the fiber and protein content, feed value and more. You can then use this data to determine how to incorporate hay into a feeding program.

You may hear some folks use the term “better than a snow ball” when it comes to hay. By this they mean that any hay, even poor quality, is better than no hay at all. While this may be true, it is not the best case scenario. While it is possible to feed low quality hay without harming livestock, it may not provide all the nutrition needed for your animals. This is especially true for pregnant or lactating animals. If you do have low quality hay, knowing the exact nutritive value will allow you to supplement with grain or minerals to provide a good feed ration. There are many cases where animals starved to death with a full belly because low quality hay was not supplemented to meet the needs of the animal.

Hay testing sounds more difficult than it really is. Basically, you take a sample of hay from 15-20 bales (small squares), or a good representation of the field if they are round bales or big squares, and send it off to a lab. To obtain a sample it is ideal to use a hay probe, especially for large square or round bales, but probes are not cheap and not everyone has one. You can borrow a hay sampling probe from our office, but for small square bales you can also reach into the bales and pull out a handful of hay without a probe.

Once you get a good representative sample of the hay you will need to send it to a lab. There are a variety of testing labs available – Penn State, A&L Great Lakes, Holmes, Equi-Analytical to name a few – and they will all have different sample submission requirements. Be sure to pick a lab before you take a sample to make sure you prepare the sample correctly. One deciding factor for choosing a lab will be based on what information you want to receive. For example, if you have a horse with Cushing's you will want to make sure the analysis will provide carbohydrate information. Most labs will provide the basic information (TDN, protein, ash, RFV, etc.), or they may have a testing package specific for small ruminants, dairy, or equine that is offered. You should expect to pay between \$20-\$100 for a hay test depending on your needs.

If you have any questions about hay quality or testing feel free to call me at 330-638-6783. Also give me a call and I'll reluctantly answer your questions about the supply chain issues, or inflation in the agricultural sector. Just kidding, I will happily complain about high fertilizer and equipment prices to anyone that wants to listen.

Take care, and stay healthy!

Upcoming Extension Programs

The following programs have been scheduled for NE Ohio farmers. Check back each week as more programs are added to the calendar

Growing The Idea of Healthy Soil

December 3rd 9:00AM – Ashtabula County

Farm Record Keeping 101

December 9th 6:30 PM – Ashtabula County

Beef Quality Assurance –

December 13th 4:00 PM – Portage County

Private Pesticide/Fertilizer Applicator Training

January 19, 2022 – Trumbull County

February 2, 2022 – Geauga County

March 1, 2022 – Portage County

March 28, 2022 – Ashtabula County

Fertilizer Certification Training

February 16, 2022 – Trumbull County Extension Office

Northeast Ohio Agronomy School

February 23, 2022 – Colebrook Community Center

Ohio Small Farm Conference

March 12, 2022 – OSU Mansfield Campus

Backyard Chickens

March 16, 2022 – Trumbull County Extension Office

Women in Ag Conference

March 25, 2022



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2022 Northeast Ohio Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification & Fertilizer Application Re-Certification Sessions

Private Pesticide Applicator Re-certification:

Does your Private Pesticide Applicator's License expire on March 31, 2022? If so, OSU Extension in Northeast Ohio has planned five pesticide re-certification sessions for producers. Each of these sessions will offer 3 credits for pesticide re-certification for CORE and All Categories (1-7). Private Pesticide Applicators are encouraged to choose the session which best fits their schedule. **Cost: \$35/Person**

Fertilizer Applicator Re-Certification:

Does your Private or Commercial Fertilizer Applicators Certification expire soon? A one-hour session will be held after the pesticide session for those who need to renew their Fertilizer Application Certification. **Cost: \$10/Person**

Re-certification Programs:

- **Trumbull Co. Extension Office in Cortland, Ohio - Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM**
 - Pesticide starts at 5:00 PM, Fertilizer starts at 8:00 PM
 - For more information call: 330-638-6783
- **Geauga Co. Extension Office in Burton, Ohio - Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**
 - Pesticide starts at 1:00 PM, Fertilizer starts at 4:00 PM
 - For more information call: 440-834-4656
- **Portage County Soil & Water Office in Ravenna - Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**
 - Pesticide starts at 1:00 PM, Fertilizer starts at 4:00 PM
 - For more information call: 330-296-6432
- **Ashtabula Co. Extension Office in Jefferson, Ohio - Monday, March 28, 2022, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**
 - Pesticide starts at 1:00 PM, Fertilizer starts at 4:00 PM
 - For more information call: 440-576-9008
- **Online via Zoom, Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM**
 - More information TBA

To register for this session, complete the registration form, make check payable to OSU Extension and mail to:

Trumbull County OSU Extension, 520 West Main Street, Suite 1, Cortland, Ohio 44410

You can also register and pay via credit or debit card at this

link: <https://go.osu.edu/2022recertificationpatfact>



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Farm Record Keeping 101

Office Mess to Management Success

Thursday, December 9th, 2021 - 6:30 P.M.

Are you looking to improve your records for your agribusiness? Many people would like to keep better records, but don't know where to start. The Farm Record Keeping 101 program can be that first step towards keeping better records, having a cleaner office, and making more informed management decisions. The program is designed for both those starting out and those who want to improve their current records system.

During this program we will discuss the importance of keeping good records on your farm or agribusiness. We will also go over best practices and record keeping strategies, as well as what to avoid. No matter your current style of record keeping we will provide ways to improve it. Online, digital, and paper resources will all be discussed.

Location: Ashtabula County Extension Office – 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH 44047

Cost: There is no cost to attend this event

Registration and Contact information: As seating may be limited and to plan for handouts, please RSVP by **December 7th**. To register for this event, please contact the Ashtabula County Extension Office at 440-576-9008, or email Andrew Holden at Holden.155@osu.edu

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Beef Quality Assurance Certification

Monday December 13th • 4-5PM

BQA covers a multitude of topics, including carcass quality, injection protocol, and animal handling, and will ultimately impact your success at marketing. Join us December 13th to gain your BQA Certification or to recertify your existing Certification.

DATE: December 13th

TIME: 4 – 5PM

LOCATION: Portage Soil and Water, 6970 St. Rt 88
Ravenna, OH 44266

COST: \$10

To Register: 330-269-6432 or go to <https://go.osu.edu/portagebqa>

Registration Information: Registration includes program and handouts. Please mail to 705 Oakwood St. Suite 103 Ravenna, OH 44266 The Program is filled on a "first come, first serve basis".

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Number Attending (\$10): _____



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Growing the Idea of
Healthy Soil

PLEASE JOIN US



Date: Friday December 3, 2021: 9:00AM to noon

Location: Deerfield Town Hall, 1450 OH-14, Deerfield, OH

AGENDA: Cover Crops: Sam Sluss, Sluss Family Farm

Ohio's Changing Climate: Aaron Wilson, OSU-CFAES

Carbon Credits: Mike Estadt, OSU-CFAES

Nitrogen Update: Deerfield Ag Services

Lunch provided immediately following program. To help us plan for food, please register by emailing Lynn : lvogel@portageswcd.org

or call (330)235-6815

Doors open at 8:30 (light refreshments served)

