Tomorrow we will celebrate Veteran’s Day. Thank you to all of the men and women who have served or who are currently serving in our nation’s military. I am thankful for all the freedoms which our country grants us and appreciate the sacrifices that our military personnel give on our behalf. Thank you! There has been one bright spot for farmers in an otherwise dismal cropping year; this being the 2015 harvest has been one of the fastest harvests on record. It is amazing to see how many crops are off the fields. As I drove to teach for a breakfast group early last week, I only saw 4 small fields of corn left in the fields on Route 46 from Jefferson down to Cortland. That is amazing. I enjoyed speaking on GMOs at the Trumbull County Ag Breakfast last Friday and getting your reactions to the presentation...it is important to know what our critics are saying about agriculture so we can better educate the general public. On this note, take time to read the 20-Year Study on Pesticides article. Lots to ponder. Lastly, we are excited that Lee Beers has accepted the Trumbull County ANR Extension Educator position. Welcome Lee!

David Marrison, AG Educator

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OSU Agriculture & Natural Resource Extension Educator Hired for Trumbull County
The Trumbull County Extension office is pleased to announce that Lee Beers has been hired to be the Agricultural & Natural Resources Extension Educator for Trumbull County. Lee will begin his work in Trumbull County on December 14, 2015.

An Introduction from Lee Beers
By Lee Beers

Hello! I am very excited to start working with communities in Trumbull County as the Ag & Natural Resources Extension Educator in December! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share some information about my background. I am originally from the rural community of Wattsburg, PA where I grew up milking cows, baling hay, and pruning grapes.

I completed my Bachelor’s degree in Biology at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, but for the last 9 years I have been in Maine working on my graduate degrees at the University of Maine. In 2009, I completed my Masters degree in Botany and Plant Pathology, and this spring I will be finishing my PhD in Plant Science. As you can tell, I am very
interested in plants and it is this passion that has attracted me to OSU Extension. I am dedicated to getting research into the hands of people that can use the information to improve their farming or gardening practices.

I have a wife, Kelly, an Ohio native and two-time Ohio State alumnus. We also have a young daughter, Elsa (named before “Frozen”) that occupies most of our time. In my spare time I like to hike, fix old things, brew beer, and generally spend time outdoors. We are really looking forward to becoming members of the Trumbull County community.

I am sure you will be seeing me around, but please stop by the Trumbull County Extension office to say “Hi” whenever you are in the area. Take care.

**Time to Comment on New Pesticide Applicator Rules Ends on November 23**
Ohio pesticide applicators have until Nov. 23 to voice their opinions on a set of proposals from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to increase the requirements for the certification of pesticide applicators nationwide. The proposed rules, if they were to go into effect as they are currently written, would impose significant changes to the process for both certification and recertification, said Mary Ann Rose, program director for Ohio State University Extension’s Ohio Pesticide Safety Education Program.

The proposed changes will impact individual states differently because the requirements for certification vary according to states, Rose said. “For Ohio, the proposed changes would more than double the training time required for recertifying commercial pesticide applicators, and would triple the requirement for private applicators,” Rose said. “Licensed applicators would still have the option of retesting instead of taking recertification training.”

Other changes include:
- Requiring a minimum age of 18 for licensed pesticide applicators and trained service persons.
- Requiring annual training for trained service persons, who in Ohio may work under the direct supervision of licensed applicators without a license.
- Requiring applicators to present identification at both exams and recertification programs.

The changes are proposed as part of an effort by the EPA to make certification rules more uniform among the states, allowing applicators who work across state borders to more easily meet all certification requirements, she said. “The proposed changes are also part of the EPA’s strategy to increase the competency of pesticide applicators and reduce harmful pesticide exposure events,” Rose said.

Comments on the proposed changes may be submitted to the EPA at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) in docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0183. Rose said Ohio’s pesticide applicators should take time to review the proposals and comment on the changes now if they wish their voices and opinions to be heard. “It’s important for the people who are directly impacted by these proposed rules to have a voice in the decision-making process,” she said.

**20-Year Study Finds Pesticides Linked to Depression in Farmers**
By Dan Nosowitz on November 7, 2014

Earlier this fall, researchers from the National Institute of Health finished up a landmark 20-year study, a study that hasn’t received the amount of coverage it deserves. About 84,000 farmers and spouses of farmers were interviewed since the mid-1990s to investigate the connection between pesticides and depression, a connection that had been suggested through anecdotal evidence for far longer. We called up Dr. Freya Kamel, the lead researcher on the study, to find out what the team learned and what it all means. Spoiler: nothing good.
“There had been scattered reports in the literature that pesticides were associated with depression,” says Kamel. “We wanted to do a new study because we had more detailed data than most people have access to.” That excessive amount of data includes tens of thousands of farmers, with specific information about which pesticides they were using and whether they had sought treatment for a variety of health problems, from pesticide poisoning to depression. Farmers were surveyed multiple times throughout the 20-year period, which gives the researchers an insight into their health over time that no other study has.

Because the data is so excessive, the researchers have mined it three times so far, the most recent time in a study published just this fall (read complete research study at: http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1307450/#tab1). The first one was concerned with suicide, the second with depression amongst the spouses of farmers (Kamel says “pesticide applicators,” but most of the people applying pesticides are farmers), and the most recent with depression amongst the farmers themselves.

There’s a significant correlation between pesticide use and depression, that much is very clear, but not all pesticides. The two types that Kamel says reliably moved the needle on depression are organochlorine insecticides and fumigants, which increase the farmer’s risk of depression by a whopping 90% and 80%, respectively. The study lays out the seven specific pesticides, falling generally into one of those two categories, that demonstrated a categorically reliable correlation to increased risk of depression.

These types aren’t necessarily uncommon, either; one, called malathion, was used by 67% of the tens of thousands of farmers surveyed. Malathion is banned in Europe, for what that’s worth.

I asked whether farmers were likely to simply have higher levels of depression than the norm, given the difficulties of the job — long hours, low wages, a lack of power due to government interference, that kind of thing — and, according to Kamel, that wasn’t a problem at all. “We didn’t have to deal with overreporting [of depression] because we weren’t seeing that,” she says. In fact, only 8% of farmers surveyed sought treatment for depression, lower than the norm, which is somewhere around 10% in this country. That doesn’t mean farmers are less likely to suffer from depression, only that they’re less likely to seek treatment for it, and that makes the findings, if anything, even stronger.

The study doesn’t really deal with exactly how the pesticides are affecting the farmers. Insecticides are designed to disrupt the way nerves work, sometimes inhibiting specific enzymes or the way nerve membranes work, that kind of thing. It’s pretty complicated, and nobody’s quite sure where depression fits in. “How this ultimately leads to depression, I don’t know that anyone can really fill in the dots there,” says Kamel. But essentially, the pesticides are designed to mess with the nerves of insects, and in certain aspects, our own nervous systems are similar enough to those of insects that we could be affected, too. “I don’t think there’s anything surprising about the fact that pesticides would affect neurologic function,” says Kamel, flatly.

Kamel speaks slowly and precisely, and though her voice is naturally a little quavery, she answered questions confidently and at one point made fun of me a little for a mischaracterization I’d made in a question. The one time she hesitated was when I asked what she thought the result of the study should be; it’s a huge deal, finding out that commonly used pesticides, pesticides approved for use by our own government, are wreaking havoc on the neurological systems of farmers. Kamel doesn’t recommend policy; she’s a scientist and would only go so far as to suggest that we should cut down on the use of pesticides in general.

Others are going further. Melanie Forti, of a farmer advocacy group based in DC, told Vice, “There should be more regulations on the type of pesticides being used.” With any luck, this study will lead to a thorough reexamination of the chemical weapons allowed by farmers.
Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands Compliance Rules Workshop to be held on December 15 in Cortland

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are hosting a workshop on December 15th in the Cortland Field Office (Ag Center) Meeting Room from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm to discuss Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands Compliance rules as they apply to farm subsidies, program eligibility, and crop insurance subsidies.

This workshop is aimed to inform and educate Trumbull County producers about the rules surrounding Highly Erodible Lands and Wetlands compliance with respect to eligibility for FSA subsidies, Farm Loans, NRCS Conservation Programs, and Crop Insurance Subsidies.

Anyone with pending wetlands or HEL determination requests pending should consider attending. Learn the details on how to go through the process of what to expect, who does what, and when certain paperwork needs to be completed. More information about this program can be received by calling the NRCS office at (330) 637-2046

Hold the Dates February 15 & 16 - for two Agronomy Workshops in Wooster

By Pierce Paul

Two Agronomy Workshops will be held February 15 and 16, 2016 at Selby Hall on the Ohio State University OARDC Wooster campus. Titled as Field Crops Management 201 – a basic to general look at the topics and Field Crops Management 401 – builds on day one to more advanced levels.

Topics of each day:

- How to Use and Interpret Statistics — Drs. S. Culman and P. Paul
- Wheat and Corn Pathology — Dr. P. Paul
- Troubleshooting Corn Ear Abnormalities — Dr. P. Thomison
- Corn Root Worm Resistance and Management — Dr. A. Michel
- Soil Fertility — Dr. Steve Culman
- Soybean pathology and SCN Demonstration — Dr. A. Dorrance
- Soybean Insect Seed Treatment Demonstration — Dr. K. Tilmon
- Soybean Inputs — Dr. L. Lindsey

While the days are planned to build on each other, you may attend one or both days. The program will start with registration at 8:30. Lunch, breaks, handouts and recertification credits for Pesticide Education and CCA-CEUs will be included. Registration cost and details will follow soon – for now hold the dates! For more information contact Dr. Pierce Paul at paul.661@osu.edu or by phone 330 263-3842.

2015 Ohio Soybean Performance Trials Available Online

By Laura Lindsey

The purpose of the Ohio Soybean Performance Trials is to evaluate soybean varieties for yield and other agronomic characteristics. This evaluation gives soybean producers comparative information for selecting the best varieties for their unique production systems. Varieties were grouped, tested, and analyzed by maturity (early and late). Conventional, Liberty Link, and Roundup Ready varieties were tested together and sprayed with conventional herbicides to allow for head-to-head comparisons. Conventional, Liberty Link, and Roundup Ready entries are statistically comparable within a maturity range (early or late).
A pdf of the 2015 Ohio Soybean Performance Trials can be found here: http://stepupsoy.osu.edu/node/46
The sortable version of the 2015 Ohio Soybean Performance Trials will be uploaded to the OARDC website in the next few days: http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/soy2015/

Why Many Choose Not to Farm
By: Katie Hancock

Rural America isn’t the hot spot for young adults. According to the latest USDA Ag census, the number of beginning farmers is down 20%. Where are America’s future farmers? The root of the problem is they’re migrating away from rural communities. It’s a complex issue and I have several thoughts as to why farming isn’t as appealing to many as urban job opportunities.

Better financial opportunities elsewhere. Jacob C. Toews’ article, The Disappearing Family Farm, on realtruth.org, states “Many young couples are unwilling to invest $500,000 in a business that requires them to work 12-16 hours per day throughout most of the year and then get a return that amounts to the equivalent of what a farmers’ wages would have been 30 years ago.” While I don’t believe wages are THAT low, it does hold some truth. USDA’s Rural America at a Glance, 2014 Edition, writes “Many young adults leave rural areas to attend college, and many of these people remain in urban areas after college due to the higher earnings available to them in those areas.” This suggests better financial opportunities in urban living—possibly with no investment.

Time may not be the issue. Working 12-16 hours a day may not be the problem. Many young adults choose time-demanding occupations similar to agriculture, but not in rural areas. Quality of life is viewed as better in urban areas. Cities offer better entertainment, technology, health care, and schools. Not to mention the younger generation is reputed for wanting more “play” time that many rural communities don’t offer. I fight to defend my generation, but we do demand a work-life balance more so than previous generations.

The population is detached from agriculture. Food, for example, is taken for granted because it’s readily accessible. City-dwellers may even eat better due to more groceries and restaurants. Children are growing up thinking food comes from a store and not a farm because that’s all they’ve ever experienced. It’s important to appreciate where food comes from. Last year, I struggled to eat a deer killed in a nearby field. Why? Because it was too real. I’m surrounded by nature and still struggle with the reality of where my food comes from. It’s psychologically easier to buy meat in a store.

It takes two. Another consideration is the family unit. It takes both spouses to want to live in rural areas. Production agricultural businesses are called “family” businesses because it’s a lifestyle in which everyone is impacted—both for good and bad. As fewer people come from rural areas, it’s more difficult to find a spouse willing to make that transition because it’s not what he or she has ever experienced. It may also be more difficult for the off-farm spouse to find work.

Farmers aren’t looking for successors. My father said he didn’t feel he had a choice but to farm. It was expected of him and he didn’t force that upon me. I’ve heard many in the older generation of farmers say they don’t want their children to have to work as hard as they did. The younger generation is not being forced to farm and sometimes even discouraged from it. The successors may be seeking farm opportunities, but the older farmers are dragging their feet in many cases. The older farmers aren’t explaining the benefits of farming and the love they have for the community. Most never wanted it any other way, yet aren’t telling that side of the story.
The rite of passage is challenging in rural areas. Small communities are welcoming, but it often takes ties to both the location and farming to move and work there. You need a specific education and large assets to farm with or without ties to a farm operation. It’s difficult to start farming from scratch if you don’t have someone to help get started. I would not have moved to a small community to farm had I not had my dad to get me started.

Ag jobs are strong beyond farming. Even rural jobs opportunities in ag don’t favor being a producer. Input suppliers, for example, haven’t adjusted prices to lower commodity prices. This means they can pay excellent wages and compete for skilled workers that could have chosen farming. The jobs don’t require the huge investment of time and money like farming either.

Rural America is losing potential farmers to more enchanting opportunities in the city. Living in a rural area isn’t the standard of life many are seeking and those that are seeking it often choose a route other than farming. The USDA has programs to help beginning farmers because America needs farming for sustainability. We can still import goods from other countries, but need as many internal resources as possible. Support rural America and appreciate those willing to live and farm there. It’s a great place to be.

Email Katie at khancock@brockreport.com

OSU Extension in Ashtabula/Geauga County Searching for SNAP-Ed Program Assistant
OSU Extension is taking applications for a SNAP-Ed Program Assistant for OSU Extension in Ashtabula & Geauga Counties. This position will use standardized curriculum materials to teach food, nutrition, food resource management, and other related topics to low-income adults, youth, and/or families as part of the Education branch of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed). This position is 40 hours per week.

This is a grant-funded position which is renewable by the sponsor agency and by OSU Extension. The position is located in Chardon, OH with additional programming responsibilities in Jefferson, OH. Job requirements include: Bachelor’s degree in Nutrition, Family & Consumer Sciences, or other related field; experience working in low-income environments, teaching to a variety of audiences (youth/adults), and knowledge of nutrition or other health-related topics. The pay range for this position is $12.03 - $13.91 per hour. More information about this position can be obtained at: http://www.jobsatosu.com:80/postings/66399. Applications will be taken until November 15, 2015.

Webinar Series Offers Financial Tips & Management Information for Farms
With low crop prices, lower yields, and higher input costs, many farmers, may be faced with having to make hard financial choices to stem potential losses and lessen financial stress. To help farmers, OSU Extension is offering a free, four-part webinar series on managing risk and financial management. The goal of the “Ready, Set, Go: Preparing Farms to Successfully Manage Risk,” webinar series is to help participants better understand their financial situation by focusing on financial statements and using them to their advantage. The webinars will be held on November 16, 23, 30 and December 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This series will be taught by Dr. Chris Bruynis of OSU Extension.

Dr. Bruynis has indicated one of the goals is to help participants get their financial affairs in order so that they can weather these times. The information offered in the series will be of interest to many farmers and farm families, with crop prices going down over the past two years, leaving profits well below where they have been in recent years. He also indicates that it is critical to get our finances right as we are heading into a time where we need to watch our operating capital, not overextend our credit, and make sure we are paying a fair rent on land that allows us to make a profit. To register for the free series, go to go.osu.edu/farmwebsurvey. Those who registered will receive the login information and course material by email. For more information about the webinar, contact Bruynis at bruynis.1@osu.edu or 740-702-3200.
Northeast Ohio “Snow Bird” Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification Session & Commercial Fertilizer Application Certification to be held on Tuesday, November 24 in Burton, Ohio

Do you head south for the winter? Does your Private Pesticide Applicator’s License expire on March 31, 2016? If so, OSU Extension in Northeast Ohio has planned his session with you in mind! This workshop will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at Geauga County Extension Office, 14269 Claridon-Troy Road, Burton, Ohio 44021

This workshop will offer 3 credits for re-certification for CORE and All Categories (1-7). Private Pesticide Applicators from any county in Northeast, Ohio are welcomed to attend this session. This session will be held from 9:00 to 12:00 noon.

A special afternoon session will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. for private pesticide applicators and area farmers who would like to complete their Commercial Fertilizer Application Certification. Due to Ohio’s new legislation, any producer who applies commercial fertilizer to 50 or more acres must be certified by no later than September 30, 2017. Attend this session to complete your certification.

The registration fee is $35/per person for the morning private pesticide applicator re-certification. There is no fee for the afternoon fertilizer certification session. Lunch will be provided for those who are staying for the afternoon session for $10/person. Pre-registration is required by November 16, 2015. An additional late registration fee of $25 per person will be added for any registration received after November 16, 2015. Make checks payable to OSU Extension and mail to OSU Extension-Geauga County, PO Box 387, Burton, Ohio 44021. More information can be obtained by calling the Geauga County Extension office 440-834-4656. Additional private pesticide re-certification and commercial fertilizer certification sessions will be held in 2016 on January 15 (Williamsfield), January 29 (Burton), February 10 (Cortland) and February 25 (Perry). A registration can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

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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. Please tell your friends and neighbors to sign up for the list. CONTACT: marrison.2@osu.edu

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