Happy Veteran’s Day. I would like to share a quote from Randy Neugebauer, who stated, “While only one day of the year is dedicated solely to honoring our veterans, Americans must never forget the sacrifices that many of our fellow countrymen have made to defend our country and protect our freedoms.” Thank you to all who have served our country so that we all can be free. The nice days of yesterday and today are allowing soybean harvest to finish up; which is a good thing due to all the snow in the forecast for the next week. It would be nice for the snow to miss us so our harvest can continue, I am also seeing a lot of corn being taken off; although drying costs are going to take a bigger bite out of the profit margin this year. We had 2 great banquets over the past 3 days. Congratulation to the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association and the Ashtabula County Master Gardeners for their successful banquets.

David Marrison, AG Educator

In this Issue:

- 25th Annual Cattlemen’s Banquet a Success
- Ashtabula County Master Gardener Recognition Banquet Held
- NAP Sign-up Deadline is November 20, 2014
- New OSU Extension Agricultural & Resource Law Web Site
- Preventing Combine Fires
- Stored Forage Production School on Wednesday Afternoons in January, 2015
- Northeast Ohio “Snow Bird” Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification Session & Commercial Fertilizer Application Certification to be held on Tuesday, November 25 in Burton, Ohio.
- Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteers Sought

25th Annual Cattlemen’s Banquet a Success

The 25th Annual Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association Banquet held on Saturday, November 8 at the Lenox Community Center was a huge success with 146 local beef producers in attendance. It was wonderful to see many of our producers at this event which is held each year to reflect on the achievements of the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association. We set an attendance record this year and it is no secret our sky rocketing attendance is due to the wonderful Prime Rib dinner prepared by Cherry Valley Processing owned by Joe and Laurie Mezinger. I have never had a larger or more delicious piece of Prime Rib. Anyone who attends the banquet is hooked and is sure to come back. We appreciate Joe and Laurie’s support of our beef industry.

Our banquet meal was followed by an outstanding concert by The Klein Family of Madison. The Klein Family is a family band who plays Bluegrass, Old-time, Gospel, Folk, Celtic, Cajun, and Country music. They played a great show.

Congratulations to Zach Ward and Tyler Brown for being elected to the Cattlemen’s Board of Directors. A special thank you is extended to Tim Gildersleeve of Austinburg and Rick Poff of Chardon for their service to the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Board. Both are retiring from their board.

A thank you is also extended to all of the door prize sponsors of the banquet. It is a nice surprise for attendees to take home a gift courtesy of these families and businesses: Andover NAPA Auto Parts, Austinburg Mill, Austinburg Vet Clinic, Bob’s Food Court, Bob & Kristen Brown, Boehringer Ingelheim-Greg Spear, Bortnick Tractor Sales, Brown Excavating, Century Acres Farm, Cherry Valley Processing, COBA Select Sires, Cope Farm Equipment, Country Doctor...
Ashtabula County Master Gardener Recognition Banquet Held

A recognition banquet was held on Monday, November 10, 2014 at Spring Hill Winery in Geneva to recognize the efforts of the Master Gardener in 2014. This far in 2014, the Master Gardeners have volunteered 1,462 hours; completed 317 hours of continuing education; and have driven over 9,785 miles to conduct horticulture outreach around the county. The Independent Sector rates volunteer service at $22.40 per hour. At this rate, our Ashtabula County Master Gardeners have provided over $32,749 worth of service to Ashtabula County over the past 11 months.

Congratulations to Encie Moroski who was selected as the 2014 Ashtabula County Master Gardener of the Year. Encie has been a Master Gardener since 2003 and has volunteered over 750 hours. Encie has led the MG newspaper column writing team, coordinated the 2014 Ashtabula County Fair Floral Show, and is one of the groups most accomplished teachers.

Members were also recognized for reaching volunteer hour milestones. Congratulations to the following Master Gardeners for being recognized: 50 hours: Lori Albrecht, Linda Alessi, Mary Belding, Laurel Brehler, Rose Mary Burns, Shelby Gynn, Joyce Kren, Beth Messner, and Jean Rogers; 250 Hours: Katy Bernardz and Cheryl Petro. 500 Hours: Bobbi Dalton; 750 Hours: Rees Davis and Hannelore Smith; 1,000 Hours: Meghan Davis and 1,500 Hours: Maxine Painter.

NAP Sign-up Deadline is November 20, 2014

The USDA’s Farm Service Agency sign-up period for the 2015 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is until November 20, 2014. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. An eligible natural disaster can be any of the following: damaging weather (drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes); an adverse natural occurrence (earthquake or flood); or a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence (excessive heat, disease or insect infestation). The natural disaster must occur before or during harvest and must directly affect the eligible crop. NAP covers the amount of loss greater than 50 percent of the expected production based on the approved yield and reported acreage.

To be eligible for NAP assistance, crops must be non-insurable crops and agricultural commodities for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. Some of the local crops in Northeast Ohio which producers may wish to obtain NAP coverage for include: vegetables, hay, honey, maple sap, aquaculture, Christmas trees, ginseng, and grapes.

All grape varieties in Geauga and Trumbull counties are eligible for NAP coverage because no varieties are eligible under Federal Crop Insurance. However in Ashtabula County the following grape varieties are not eligible for NAP: Buffalo, Clinton, Concord, Elvira, Fredonia, Missouri Riesling, Steuben, Catawba, Delaware, Diamond, Dutchess, Isabella, Ives, Niagara and French Hybrids. These varieties are not eligible for NAP as producers can purchase crop insurance coverage. Ashtabula County is known for raising high quality Riesling, Chardonnay, Pinot gris, and Pinot Noir (to name a few). These varieties are eligible for NAP coverage!
The NAP service fee is the lesser of $250 per crop or $750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of $1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. According to FSA procedure, all grape varieties are grouped into two categories; therefore the maximum administration fee for all your grape varieties grown in one county is $500.

Under standard NAP coverage, the producer is covered at a 50% loss and 55% price election. New in the 2014 Farm Bill is a provision which allows for producers to pay a premium to increase from the standard coverage. Details on the buy-up provision have not been announced by the FSA yet. More information about the NAP program can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula/Lake Geauga FSA Office at 440-437-6330 or the Trumbull County FSA office at: (330) 637-2046

**New OSU Extension Agricultural & Resource Law Web Site**
The OSU Extension Agricultural and Resource Law Program has updated their website: http://aglaw.osu.edu. The law library portion of the web site has dozens of fact sheets and bulletins on a variety of topics including line fences, farm leases and food laws. The website also has information about Ohio taxation issues.

**Preventing Combine Fires**
One of my former students in Indiana posted this horrific picture of his combine on fire on November 1, 2014. He and his daughter who was riding along with him were lucky to get out of the combine and safely award before the fuel tank exploded. Always remember that a machine can be replaced but you can’t! So as you are making your way through the 2014 harvest, make sure to take some time to prevent and prepare. When it comes to preventing combine fires, there are just two key points to remember: prevention and preparation.

**Prevention**
- Remember the old saying, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Cleanliness and maintenance are essential for combine fire prevention. Power-wash or use a compressed air blowgun to remove dust, dirt and caked-on grease, oil and crop residue. During harvest, frequently blow dry chaff, leaves and other crop materials off the machine. Remove any materials that have wrapped around bearings, belts and other moving parts. Be sure to check those pockets where wires or lights are housed and chaff accumulates.
- Eliminate heat sources. Exhaust systems surfaces, exposed electrical wiring and worn bearings, belts and chains can potentially generate enough heat to start dust and crop residue on fire. Check these areas daily and make repairs if there are problems.
- Check lubricant levels often, and grease fittings regularly. Fix leaking oil, fuel, or hydraulic lines promptly. Check belts for proper tension and wear to reduce friction. Check valve covers for oil leaks that can ignite as oil runs down manifolds. Check for cracked or loose exhaust pipes, ports and check the manifold.
- Pay particular attention to the exhaust system, checking for leaks, damage, or an accumulation of crop residue.
- Keep wiring and fuses in proper operating condition and position. Properly route and insulate all replacement wires. Use heat-resistant insulation.
- Regularly inspect fuel lines. Keep fuel lines in good condition with tight connections. When refueling, always shut off the engine and let the equipment cool for 15 minutes before you refuel. Never fill the gasoline
supply tank near an open flame, while smoking, or with the engine running. Wipe up oil and fuel spills as they occur. This prevents chaff and trash from collecting and combining to start a fire.

✓ Don’t park a hot combine in the shed or shop. After a long day of harvesting, smoldering hot spots may be present in the combine. If those spots suddenly flare up, at least you won’t lose the building!

Preparation

✓ Keep at least one fully-charged, 10-pound ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher with an Underwriter’s Laboratory approval in the combine cab.
✓ Mount a second fire extinguisher on the outside of the machine that can be reached from ground level.
✓ Visually check your extinguishers monthly, looking for cracks in the hose and inspecting the gauge to see if the extinguisher is fully charged. Recharge partially discharged extinguishers.
✓ Have a cell phone (and it is charged!) or two-way radio with you at all times so you can summon help.
✓ Have a plan. Turn off the engine, get the fire extinguisher and your phone. Get out and get help.
✓ Approach the fire with extreme caution. Small fires can flare up quickly with the addition of air (by opening doors or hatches).
✓ Stay a safe distance away.
✓ Know when to wait for help.

So as you are completing your 2014 harvest, take the right steps to prevent a combine fire, but be prepared just in case.

Stored Forage Production School on Wednesday Afternoons in January, 2015
Forages supply a significant part of the feed in most dairy and other ruminant animal operations in northeast Ohio. To help producers learn about new forage research and new technology, OSU Extension in Ashtabula County is pleased to announce they will be a host site for OSU Extension’s Stored Forage Production School on January 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2015. This workshop will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. each Wednesday.

During this four week school, OSU Researchers and OSU Extension Specialists and Educators will present cutting edge information on what is new in stored forage production. All sessions will be provided via a webinar format. The Extension offices in Adams, Brown, Highland, Ashtabula, Coshocton, Monroe, Morgan, Pickaway, Pike and Wayne Counties will all be hosting a site for this series.

Topic areas which will be covered during this workshop include: What’s new in forage genetics;
Small grains and double cropping; Fertility and manure utilization; What’s new in weed control; What’s new in agronomic products/additives; Precision agriculture technologies for forage production; What’s new in forage quality evaluation; Economics of Cutting management; Shrink in silage/hay making; Forage inventory management; and What’s new in corn silage.

During the workshop, participants will be able to interact with research experts and fellow producers from across the state of Ohio. Discover new, innovative ways of looking at forage production and what might work for your farm. Learn how to maximize profit per acre in Ohio’s variable weather. Explore forage cutting management strategies, double cropping options, and silage production within the context of income, harvest costs and potential impact on milk production.

There will be time for discussion and questions on each topic after it is presented. The registration fee for this program is $30 and includes a notebook of materials and school presentations. Registration is required by December 12, 2014. For more information about this program, contact the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008. A registration flyer can be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events
Northeast Ohio “Snow Bird” Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification Session & Commercial Fertilizer Application Certification to be held on Tuesday, November 25 in Burton, Ohio.

Do you head south for the winter? Does your Private Pesticide Applicator’s License expire on March 31, 2015? If so, OSU Extension in Northeast Ohio has planned this session with you in mind! This workshop will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 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 3:00 p.m. for private applicators 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. This session is open only to current licensed private pesticide applicators who wish to become certified.

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. A hearty farmers lunch will be provide for those who are staying for the afternoon session for $15/person. Pre-registration is required by November 17, 2014. An additional late registration fee of $25 per person will be added for any registration received after November 17, 2014. 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 2015 on January 16 (Williamsfield), January 30 (Burton), February 9 (Cortland) and February 26 (Perry).

Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteers Sought

If you have a strong interest in gardening and enjoy helping others, you are invited to apply to become an Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener volunteer for Ashtabula County. The main purpose of the Master Gardener Program is to help meet the horticultural needs of Ashtabula County.

To become an OSU Extension Master Garden volunteer, you must attend 11 training sessions held from January to April 2015 and volunteer 50 hours of horticultural service to the community through Extension educational programming. Such service could include teaching 4-H youth gardening, planting and maintaining Extension demonstration gardens, answering gardening questions from the public, judging flower and vegetable projects at local fairs, and assisting community garden participants. As a benefit of becoming a Master Gardener, you will increase your knowledge and understanding of such varied horticultural topics as best cultural practices for growing flowers and vegetables, house plant care, plant disease, and insect pest identification and control and much, much more.

Course topics include: history of OSU Extension, plant physiology, soils, composting, fertilizers, herbs, houseplants, plant propagation, plant pathology, diagnostics, entomology, integrated pest management, vegetables, lawns, woody ornamentals, fruits, landscape maintenance, and making effective presentations. The dates for this year’s training program are: January 22 & 29; February 12, 19, & 26 and March 5, 12, 19 & 26 and April 16. This program is taught in conjunction with the Lake County Master Gardener program. Five of the sessions will be taught at the Ashtabula County Extension Office in Jefferson and five will be taught in Lake County. All courses will be taught from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. There is a $200 course fee that covers course materials, refreshments, and speaker travel costs. Registration is limited and all applications are due by November 24, 2014. Please call the Ashtabula County Extension Office at 440-576-9008 for more information or for a complete application packet.

*****************************************************************************

*******************************************************************************************
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

Readers can subscribe electronically to this newsletter by sending an e-mail message to: marrison.2@osu.edu. If you would like to opt-out of receiving this newsletter, please e-mail marrison.2@osu.edu with the words: UNSUBSCRIBE

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES