Hello, Northeast Ohio Counties!

Soybean harvest is rolling on in NE Ohio! Dry weather over the past 4 days allowed many farmers to get back into the field. While scouting soybean weeds last week, I wasn’t able to find a single harvested field.

I did happen to find lots of weeds, but generally not as bad as the past two years of surveys. I will be finishing up the weed survey for Trumbull and Ashtabula Counties this week. So far common ragweed, marestail, and grass species (foxtail, volunteer corn, barnyard grass, etc.) have been the most prevalent. Look for updated numbers in next week’s newsletter.

Lee Beers
Extension Educator
Ag & Natural Resources
**Warm and Wet October Expected**

By Jim Noel  
Source: [https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter](https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter)

After a very wet September across all but northwest Ohio in the Maumee River basin, we can expect more of the same in October. September saw some locations in the top 5 wettest on record for Ohio like Columbus and Dayton.

We expect the first two weeks of October to average 5-15F above normal with a few days almost 20F above normal. There will be a few days this week with lows of 65-70 degrees which is almost unheard of in October with normal lows in the 40s. The latest low of 70 at Cincinnati is Oct.9 in 1982, since 1947. It is possible to be near that level a few days this week across especially southern Ohio.

Overall, temperatures the first two weeks of October will average 5-15F above normal with the last two weeks 0-4F above normal. Rainfall will average 1-4 inches the first half of October. The 1 inch will be in southern Ohio and the 4 inches would likely be in the north part of the state. Normal is 1-1.5 inches for two weeks.

See rainfall map above.

Rainfall may relax to more normal with a chance of below normal the second half of the month. The worst of the rain will be in the central and western corn and soybean areas where rainfall of 3-7 inches is possible so harvest delays are possible.

It continues to looks like frost will be no earlier than Oct. 10-20 range which is normal for Ohio but chances are growing it may be more in the Oct. 20-30 range.
ODA again revises "watersheds in distress" rule
By Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Law
Source: https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/tue-09252018-955am/oda-again-revises-watersheds-distress-rule

In an ongoing attempt to carry out Governor Kasich's executive order to establish nutrient management requirements for agricultural nutrients within "watersheds in distress," the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has made a second revision to its proposed rule package. According to ODA, the proposed watersheds in distress rules "create a uniform, state-wide standard that governs the application of manure and fertilizer on frozen, snow-covered and rain-soaked ground" within areas designated as "watersheds in distress." pursuant to Ohio Admin. Code 1501:15-5-20. Those proposed standards include the following:

- **Manure and nutrient application restrictions.** Owners, operators and applicators shall not surface apply manure and nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) on more than 50 acres of land used for agricultural production on snow covered, frozen and saturated soil or when there's a greater than 50% chance that precipitation would exceed one-half inch in 24 hours, unless the manure or nutrients are injected, incorporated with 24 hours or applied to a growing crop.
- **Compliance with 590 standards.** Owners, operators and applicators must follow the conservation practices in USDA's "Field Office Technical Guide," also known as the "590 standards."
- **Nutrient management plan (NMP) requirements.** Owners and operators within watersheds in distress must develop and comply with NMPs if applying nutrients on more than 50 acres or producing, applying, or received more than 350 tons or 100,000 gallons of manure annually by deadlines established by ODA, must submit an attestation of NMP completion to ODA, and must produce a copy of the plan within five days of a demand by ODA. The rule outlines the requirements and standards for NMPs.
- **Ongoing compliance.** Owners and operators must update NMPs and attestations once every three years or when conditions change.
- **Enforcement.** The rule includes penalties for failure to comply with rule provisions.

ODA proposed the first rule package in July, accepted public comments on the rule, and published a revised rule package for public comments. In response to the second round of comments, ODA has made another revision to the rule. The agency states that it is now amending the rule "to require the Department to conduct an audit of at least 5% of the attestations submitted to determine compliance regarding completion of nutrient management plans." Explaining the purpose of the revision, ODA states that "support was voiced from certain stakeholders regarding the flexibility of farmers to apply manure and
nutrients during the winter months when conditions were favorable and safe to apply. In contrast, other stakeholders raised concerns that agricultural operations would no longer have any restrictions on the application of manure and nutrients. Stakeholders also raised concerns regarding the Department’s ability to enforce the new proposals."

The proposed watersheds in distress rule package is [here](#) and the business impact analysis for the rules is [here](#). The public may submit comments on the proposal to ODA at AGReComments@agri.ohio.gov until **October 5, 2018.**

### Annie’s Project Course- Empowering Women in Agriculture

By: Jacqueline Kowalski & Robin Christensen, Extension Educators


OSU Extension in Summit and Portage Counties are teaming up to offer Annie’s Project from October 9th – November 13th, 2018. Annie’s project is a six-week program designed to address risk management education for farm women. Its objective is to educate women entrepreneurs so that they are more prepared to make farm management decisions. While a large number of farm women own and operate farms, others play a major role in the decision-making process of farm operations for farm families. Annie’s Project provides in-depth sessions on topics that are important for decision-making of the family farm. The program topics covered include human resources, legal risks, financial risks, marketing risks, and production costs and risks. Sessions are designed to be very interactive between the presenters and the participants. Information presented is tailored to meet the needs of participants in their own geographical areas.

Annie was a woman who grew up in a small rural community with the life-long goal of being involved in production agriculture. She spent her lifetime learning how to be an involved business partner with her husband, and together they reached their goals and achieved success. Annie’s daughter, Ruth Hambleton, a former Extension Educator for the University of Illinois, founded Annie’s Project in 2000 in honor of her mother. Annie’s Project is designed to take Annie’s life experiences and share them with other women in agriculture who are living and working in this complex, dynamic business environment. Additional details on Annie’s life can be found [https://www.anniesproject.org/](https://www.anniesproject.org/)

The 6-week training will begin on Tuesday October 9th at 6:00pm, with dinner starting at 5:30pm. Registration is due October 5th, 2018. Classes will rotate between the Summit and Portage County Extension offices in Stow and Ravenna. The course fee is $100.

Please contact Robin Christensen with questions or for an application at 330-296-6432 or e-mail at Christensen.227@osu.edu
**Premature Sprouting of Corn Kernels**

By Pierce Paul and Peter Thomison

Source: [https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter](https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter)

We have received several reports of premature corn kernel sprouting across Ohio. The ear in the picture exhibiting premature sprouting was sampled from one of the Ohio Corn Performance Test plots at the NW Research Station and was associated with Trichoderma ear rot. In this particular case, the fungus that causes the ear rot produces compounds that stimulate early germination. However, not all ear rots are commonly associated with premature sprouting. In fact, under the right set of conditions, this phenomenon may occur in perfectly healthy ears, without visual disease symptoms. In addition to ear rots, a combination of other factors, including erect ears, bird damage, and wet weather, may contribute to premature sprouting.

Premature sprouting is most likely to occur when reasonably dry kernels (less than about 20 percent grain moisture content) are re-wetted, especially when temperatures are warm and ear dry-down in an upright position. Rainfall collected by husk leaves on upright ears often leads to kernel sprouting near the butt of the ear. Premature sprouting also occurs when ears are lying on or near the soil surface due to severe stalk breakage or lodging. In such situations, the proximity of ears to moist soil allows a similar re-wetting of the kernels and extensive germination on the cob. The problem is usually limited within fields but if it's evident across a field it has the potential to cause drying and storage problems.

Ears with sprouted kernels are usually lighter than healthy ears. In some cases, this “lightness” can reduce grain yield and test weight. Sprouted kernels are also more likely to develop molds that are associated with mycotoxins. This could result in price discounts if the problem is extensive. Often, during the harvesting and drying processes, sprouts will disappear, and grain will appear normal. Fields showing widespread sprouting should be prioritized for early harvest. Dry grain at to prevent further growth of the young seedlings.
and screen the grain prior to storage to reduce the amount of damaged grain and seedling tissue.

For more details on premature kernel sprouting, check out the following articles from Ohio State, Purdue, and Missouri.

https://u.osu.edu/mastercorn/premature-sprouting-of-corn-kernels/


**Plant genetic resources ensure ag’s future**

By Kaine Korzekwa


Imagine a gardener, plant explorer, geneticist, and computer specialist all rolled into one job. You might call that person a steward of plant genetic resources.

Plant genetic resources are any plant materials, such as seeds, fruits, cuttings, pollen, and other organs and tissues from which plants can be grown. The stewards are the breeders, researchers, farmers, genebank staff, and many others who keep them safe and utilize them. Peter Bretting, a National Program Leader for the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service, says these plant genetic materials and those who care for them are important for human survival.

“These are the materials for crop breeding which play a role in food security and plant research,” he says. “Crops make up the thin green line standing between humanity and calamity. To feed the growing world population, breeders must develop new crop types that yield more on less land with less materials such as water and fertilizer.”

To do this, crops must have new genetic materials that enable them to produce more food. The materials for this are conserved and provided to stewards who keep safe the future of agriculture and humanity’s survival, Bretting adds.
An important part of these plant genetic resources is crop wild relatives. These are closely related to crop species but have not been domesticated by humans. They are often related to crops eaten today in some way and provide useful material for breeding, study, and preservation, says Bretting.

For example, breeders might find they want a trait like drought tolerance in a specific crop. It may be a rare quality only found in an ancestor. Luckily, breeders might be able to find what they need thanks to the stewards who are conserving the wild ancestors.

"Historically, plant genetic resource stewardship had focused on taking care of domesticated crop species," Bretting says. "Because of this, there have been fewer crop wild relatives in genebank collections than there should be, and not well-protected in nature. Thus, new plant genetic resource stewards must specifically try to safeguard crop wild relatives."

Plant genetic resources are carefully collected and stored. They are collected from the field in the form of seeds, fruits, bulbs, tubers, pollen, young plants, or cuttings. They are often selected to fill in gaps and make sure a collection covers as many plant types as possible.

Storing the plant genetic resources can take many forms. After drying, most are stored in cold or dry conditions. Depending on what they need, storage temperatures may vary between 41°F and -138°F (5°C and -150°C).
However, some cannot be kept in this way. Those must be constantly maintained as plants in field orchards or greenhouse plantings.

“Plant genetic resources are often distributed from genebanks as materials for breeding programs and as subjects of research,” he says. “Requests for plant genetic resources can include seeds, fruits, bulbs, tubers, vegetative cuttings, or young plants. They are then used in crop breeding, research, and, in the end, agricultural production.”

Bretting says the future of plant genetic resources and their stewards is bright and filled with new technologies. Areas like artificial intelligence could continue to improve how they collect, store, and conserve this important resource. He adds that the people behind this work are the key to its success and should be celebrated.

“Their devotion, often for decades, to conserving and providing plant genetic resources is wonderful,” he says. “They often develop state-of-the-art solutions to seemingly impossible challenges. They and plant breeders serve as the ‘first responders’ to new crop diseases, pests, environmental extremes, and human-caused disruptions which could harm food security.”

Read more about this work in Crop Science. Bretting received CSSA’s 2017 Frank Meyer Medal for Plant Genetic Resources.

To learn more about crop wild relatives, visit this page, Crop Wild Relative Week. There, you will find a collection of web stories, blogs, a video, and infographics explaining the importance of these wild relatives to our food security. CSSA celebrates Crop Wild Relative Week annually, September 22-29, with 2018 being the inaugural year.

2018 Ashtabula County Beef Banquet Tickets
OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association will be holding the 29th Ashtabula County Beef Banquet on Saturday, October 27 at the Lenox Community Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. Banquet activities will include a prime rib dinner; business meeting; election of two members to the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s board of directors; entertainment; door prizes; and fine fellowship.

Tickets for the banquet can be purchased from the Directors of the Cattlemen’s Association. Directors are: Bart Kanicki, Pierpont Township; David Nye, Hartsgrove Township; Zach Ward, Austinburg Township; Dr. Bryan Elliott, Cherry Valley Township and Garret Love, Linesville, PA. Tickets are $25 per person. Call the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008 for more information. Pre-reservations should be made by October 19, 2018. A program flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

Lee’s Monthly News Column

Hello Trumbull County, and welcome to Fall! This cold weather sure does make it feel like fall compared to the high temps we had in September of 2017. The dry weather we had for harvest last year is a stark contrast to our forecast for this harvest season. We will be wetter than normal heading into October and for most of the fall. That could mean higher costs for grain drying, stuck equipment, and of course ruts.

On-farm storage will be a huge advantage this year with low soybean prices. If you have the capacity to store your soybeans you may be able to wait until you can sell at a higher price. Even if Washington and Beijing come to an agreement on the trade dispute today, low soybean prices are expected to persist for several weeks or months. US soybeans have literally missed the boat since most cargo ships are booked until spring limiting the volume of export. That means that we have a glut of soybeans already in inventory and with an expected bumper crop our storage space will be pushed to the limits and keep prices low.

Storage space will also be at a premium for corn. After a great crop in 2017, and stubbornly low prices, many farms still have corn in inventory taking up storage space. As corn harvest began in western Ohio, this mix of old corn and new corn has caused some problems for ethanol plants because it is treated differently in the ethanol production process. So Ohio farmers have new grain coming in, but they need to sell old grain to make room. Purchasing and erecting grain bins may not be economically or practically feasible at this time of year, but you may want to consider adding or increasing grain storage on your farm as a long term investment. This approach may not be appropriate for all operations, but OSU Extension has resources to help you determine if that is an economically viable option.
There has been a few farmers talking about how they can temporarily store their grain, and storing it in a shop or outbuilding being the most common proposals. This can be done, and has been done for years, but proper care must be used to prevent an accident or spoilage. Remember that shop walls were not designed to be a container, and the weight of piled grain against a wall may cause a structural failure. You may be able to consult the manufacturer of the building for engineering details, but in most cases whoever erected the pole barn won’t have those details. You can use the “Temporary Grain Storage” document at this link to help you get started on determining what loads you can safely store in a your buildings and how to reinforce your current buildings: https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/ageng/grainsto/ae84.pdf.

Another temporary grain storage option is to use grain bags. These are not too common in NE Ohio, but they are gaining popularity throughout the country because they can be an economical, and flexible way to store grain on the farm. However you choose to store your grain from this harvest make sure that it is free of pests and stays dry to maintain quality.

During harvest there are lots of large pieces of machinery using the road, so please drive carefully! Farm equipment is getting larger, and it can be hard to see beyond a combine or grain cart when you are trying to pass. Be patient as most tractors won’t be going too far. Farmers and truckers, remember to wear reflective clothing so traffic and other operators can see you from a distance especially while working near a roadway. Be safe out there!

For more information about farming, gardening, the Master Gardener program, or any other program, call the OSU Trumbull County Extension Office at 330-638-6783 or visit trumbull.osu.edu. Don’t forget to check out and “Like” OSU Extension Trumbull County’s Facebook page for current programs and up to date information.

**Upcoming Events**

**Ashtabula County Master Gardener Recognition Banquet**
October 15, 2018

**Ashtabula County Beef Banquet**
October 27, 2018

**Trumbull County Farmer Lunch**
December 4, 2018

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

**Pesticide Applicator Training Dates**
Lake County “Early Bird” – November 8, 2018
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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**Lee Beers**
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330-638-6783
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Thank you to our sponsors and Local Annie’s Project Collaborators!

Registration

Name________________________
Address______________________
City__________________________
State_______ Zip Code__________
County _______________________
Phone_______________________
Email________________________

Cost: $100 per participant. All materials and dinners are included.

Registration: Pre-registration is required by October 5th, 2018. Make checks payable to OSU Extension, and mail to Portage County Extension office, 705 Oakwood St., Suite 103, Ravenna, OH 44266. If you have any questions, please call 330-296-6432.

Registration limited to 25 women.

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CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clients on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.
About Annie’s Project

Mission:
Our mission is to empower farm and ranch women to be better business partners through networks and by managing and organizing critical information.

What women have said about Annie’s Project?

“I changed my mind about how to approach communication with my in-laws as business partners.”

“I have gained tools to help improve management of our farm and insight on how to communicate the resources to other members of the farm.”

“I appreciated getting to meet others with a shared interest.”

“I encourage any woman to attend one of these great programs!”

Who is Annie?
Annie grew up in a small farm community with a goal to marry a farmer, and she did. Annie spent her life learning how to be an involved business partner with her farm husband. Annie’s Project was designed by her daughter to provide risk management education for women involved in all aspects of the agriculture industry. Since 2000, well over 5,000 women have completed the workshop.

What will you gain?
Annie’s Project participants say they find answers, strength, and friendship – and also grow in confidence, business skills and community prestige through this program. Annie’s Project provides education and a support network to enhance business skills of women involved in all aspects of agriculture. Through the program, you will gain insight and knowledge about:

- Your personality temperament and how it affects communication
- The importance of organizational skills and goal setting.
- How to find resources and work with professionals to meet your goals.

2018 Class Schedule

Classes will be held at various locations throughout Portage and Summit Counties.

Tuesday Oct. 9th, 6:00 pm
- Human Resources Risk
  Introduction, Real Colors®, Family and Business Communication

Tuesday Oct. 16th, 6:00 pm
- Financial Risk
  Mission statement and goal setting, developing a business plan, balance sheets and credit scores

Tuesday Oct. 23rd, 6:00 pm
- Production Risk
  Farm Service Agency and USDA-NRCS, Crop Insurance, Pest and Disease Management

Tuesday Oct. 30th, 6:00 pm
- Market Risk
  Insurance for the farm family, utilizing markets, social media marketing

Tuesday Nov. 6th, 6:00 pm
- Legal Risk
  Value added foods, Liability issues, contracts, leases, CAUV

Tuesday Nov. 13th, 6:00 pm
- Work Life Balance
  Dealing with Difficult People, program evaluation.

Dinner will be provided at all dates. Schedule subject to change.