Hello Northeast Ohio Counties!

Our newsletter has a new look as well as a new editor! I’m Andrew Holden, the new Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator in Ashtabula County, and I will be editing alongside Lee Beers to bring you this newsletter. I'm excited about my new position and honored to continue this Northeast Ohio letter.

We had a short break from the nonstop rain the last two days, but it looks like that will resume tomorrow for the rest of this week. All the rain has slowed the end of soybean harvest and could cause issues when the fields are returned to.

Lee Beers  
Trumbull County Extension Educator

Andrew Holden  
Ashtabula County Extension Educator

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The 29th Annual Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association Banquet was held on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at the Lenox Community Center with 157 local beef producers and industry supporters in attendance to celebrate the achievements of the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association. It is no secret on what keeps people coming back to the annual beef banquet each year. It is the wonderful Prime Rib dinner prepared by Cherry Valley Processing owned by Joe and Laurie Mezinger.

Elizabeth Harsh, Executive Director for the Ohio Cattlemen’s Association was the keynote speaker for the event. She updated the crowd on the benefits of membership in the Ohio Cattlemen’s Association and provided details on their activities.

Andrew Holden, the new Ashtabula County Extension Educator for Agriculture was introduced at the banquet. He replaces David Marrison who has left Ashtabula County after 21 years to become the Coshocton County Extension Educator.

A recap of the Cattlemen’s activities from the past year was provided. These activities include: Winter Calving Workshop, 21st Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show, ACCA Beef Scholarship Program (Allison Magyar) Jr. Fair Beef Awards (Best of Show Steer, Best of Show Heifer, Best of Show Carcass, Best Rate of Gain, Supreme Female in Open Class & Champion Bull), and 29th Annual Beef Banquet.

An election of directors was also held during the banquet. David Nye of Austinburg was re-elected to the board and Evan Flack was elected to his first term. Both will serve a three-year term. Current Director Bart Kanicki has served 2 consecutive terms and due to the group’s by-laws must retire from the board for at least one year. David Marrison will also be replaced as the ACCA Secretary by Andrew Holden.

Directors presented door prizes and announced the winners of the special raffles. We are very appreciative of the local businesses who donated special gifts to the banquet. A special thank you is extended to Cherry Valley Processing for donating 6 sections of Prime Rib (5-6#) for the event. Two lucky winners were drawn to each receive one and then an auction was held for the remaining 4. Thanks to everyone who participated with each selling for $90 with the money to
be used for the youth scholarship program. The 50/50 and over 10 special raffles were held.


**Wet Weather Ahead**

By Jim Noel, NOAA


The weather pattern will support wet weather into the middle of November with a series of storms now every several days. With clay type soils and reduced evaporation this could lead to standing water in fields in the next few weeks. We expect a wet weather system for the middle of this week followed by another next week.

November will be marked with above normal rainfall and temperatures trending from near normal to above or much above normal for the second half of the month.

Rainfall for the next two weeks will average 2-4 inches across the state with isolated higher totals in the south and east sections. A few
spots in the northwest sections may be below 2 inches. This is above normal in all areas of the state though and much above normal in eastern and southern sections. See attached graphic for the two week rainfall outlook from NOAA/NWS/OHRFC.

The pattern remains in place with overall wetter conditions into December (though the second half of November may dry out some). It still appears January into February and possibly March will experience normal or slightly below normal rainfall before more wet weather returns sometime in April of 2019.

Much of the state has seen freeze conditions already with only pockets of the state not seeing a freeze yet (like near Lake Erie in northeast Ohio). However, much of the state has not seen a hard freeze yet (though parts of Northwest Ohio have). There is a chance we will go well into November before we see a hard freeze widespread across the state of Ohio.

**What About Higher Yields? A Closer Look at Changing Seed Expense**

This week’s post is a closer look at seed expense and the implication of higher yields. by David Widmar

Source: [https://ageconomists.com/2018/10/29/what-about-higher-yields-seed-expense/?fbclid=IwAR0GL2rNRDrq2Nrd2qnVjerqb_3lH9Hx5Lzvq0zxi8Jioo0Xq563XcwOw6k#.W9ciH1WpLWE.facebook](https://ageconomists.com/2018/10/29/what-about-higher-yields-seed-expense/?fbclid=IwAR0GL2rNRDrq2Nrd2qnVjerqb_3lH9Hx5Lzvq0zxi8Jioo0Xq563XcwOw6k#.W9ciH1WpLWE.facebook)

Our recent post reviewing [trends in corn and soybean seed expense](https://ageconomists.com/2018/10/29/what-about-higher-yields-seed-expense/?fbclid=IwAR0GL2rNRDrq2Nrd2qnVjerqb_3lH9Hx5Lzvq0zxi8Jioo0Xq563XcwOw6k#.W9ciH1WpLWE.facebook) received a lot of attention. A few readers reached out with questions and comments about the data, how it was presented, and potential implications. In answering their questions, we made a few additional observations worth sharing. This week’s post is a closer look at seed expense and the implication of higher yields.

**Cost Per Acre vs Cost Per Bushel**

While the earlier post presented data mostly in terms of expense per acre, we were asked about seed expense per bushel. The reason for considering the data in these terms is even though seed expense per acres increased, more bushels per acre have been raised. How has seed expense per bushel been impacted? This is a good question.

Corn (figure 1) and soybean (figure 2) seed expense is shown on a per bushel basis since 1975. Again, these are the USDA’s reported data. For a point of clarification, these are nominal (or reported) expenses divided by the trend yield for the given year. The trend yield was used – rather than reported yields- to avoid large swings from year to year due to yield variations. In a sense, using the annual trend yield is similar to using a budgeted yield.
In both cases, a dramatic increase in seed expense per bushel was observed. For corn, seed expense slowly increased through the early 2000s. While the expense previously remained less than $0.25 per bushel, it quickly exceeded $0.50 per bushel before reaching a high of $0.62 per bushel. In 2017, the expense reached $0.59 cents per bushel.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, soybean seed expenses were typically $0.40 per bushel. This jumped to a high of $1.37 per bushel in 2010. Since then, the expense has fallen to $1.26 per bushel in 2017.

For those interested in the Purdue crop budget data, corn seed expense per bushel is available here, and the soybean seed expense per bushel is available here. As a matter of preference, I find evaluating seed expense as a share of budgeted revenue most insightful (Figure 3 and 4 from the earlier post). By considering seed's share (slice) or total revenue (the total pie), meaningful conclusions can be made as revenues change over time.

What about Yield Gains? While our earlier post attempted to account for changes in the cost structure, we thought it would be helpful to consider higher yield – and revenue – expectations. For this, we specifically considered how much yields have increased, how much seed expense has increased, and what share of additional revenue did changes in seed expense consume.

Northeast Ohio Agriculture
Corn
Table 1 shows the data for changes in yields (revenue) and seed expense. The first column compares the averages for 1975-1979 with the most recent five years (2013-2017). Again, the idea is how much gains occurred, and what share of the gains was consumed by higher seed expense.

For the purposes of this post, we assumed each additional bushel of corn was worth $3.70 per bushel. Obviously this is a debatable point, but we'll use this as a starter.
Since the late 1970s, increases in the national trend yield have been 71 bushels per acre. At $3.70 per bushel this is a value of $261 per acre. Over the same time frame, seed expense has increased $89 per acre. Or, in other words, higher seed expense accounted for 34% of the gains from higher yields.

The second column shows the same data but compares the average of 2000-2004 versus 2013-2017. During this time, trend yields increased 24 bushels per acre, or a value of $89 per acre. The change in seed costs during this time was $67 per acre. Over the last two decades, changes in corn seed expense have accounted for roughly 75% of the gains from higher yields.

Table 1. Changes in Corn Yields and Corn Seed Expense.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in Trend Yields</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Revenue (@ $3.70/bu.)</td>
<td>$261</td>
<td>$89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Seed Expense</td>
<td>$89</td>
<td>$67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Seed Expense/Change in Revenue</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soybeans
Table 2 shows the same data, but for soybeans. Considering changes since the late 1970s, trend yields have increased by 16 bushels per acre. Assuming a soybean price of $9.90 (yes, this is high, but is consistent with prices observed in recent years), the value of those yield gains were $161 per acre. Seed expense over this time changed by $50 per acre, or 31% of the yield gains.

Recently, soybean yield gains have been $55 per acre, while changes in seed expense were $34 per acre. Similar to corn, recent changes in soybean seed expense have accounted for a
larger share of yield gains. Since the early 2000’s, 61% of yield gains have been offset by higher seed expense. If you assumed the value of those additional soybeans was less, say $8.50 per bushel, the share would be even higher.

Table 2. Changes in Soybean Yields and Soybean Seed Expense.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in Trend Yields</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Revenue (@ $9.90/bu.)</td>
<td>$161</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Seed Expense</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Seed Expense/Change in Revenue</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wrapping it Up
This week’s post is another look at how seed expense has changed over the last two decades. Specifically, seed expense accounts for an increased share of total expenses of total production expenses (figures 1 and 2 from last week’s post), or budgeted revenue (figures 3 and 4 from last week). This week’s post considers increasing seed expense relative to trend yield gain.

It is not surprising the the overall share of seed expenses increased as there has been considerable substitution created via traits added to seed. These traits have resulted in some chemical and pesticide expenses being avoided and added to seed costs. The magnitude of this substitution is open for debate. We will look at some of the trends in chemical expenses in a later post.

In light of the Margin Squeeze and tough crop budget outlook, many of our posts have focused on costs of production trends. You can read more about fertilizer (most recently here), family living, cash rental rates, and machinery, to link to a few.
In our presentations at farmer meetings, the chart we share the most is figure 3. This shows the allocation of total expense for a 50/50 corn-soybean rotation in Indiana. In our opinion, a lot of attention and focus goes into fertilizer, seed, and pesticides expense. This group, however, only account for 26% of total production costs. For operators serious about managing their costs and, when necessary, making adjustment lower, they must focus on all slices of the pie. Perhaps the most variability in expenses among producers is land and machinery expense (Brent previously wrote about this machinery variation).

We’ll continue with cost trends in an upcoming post that considers chemical expenses. Finally, we’ll reiterate a point on seed. These data, seed expenses, are a function of prices paid, the traits purchased, and the seeding rate. Producers will need to consider all factors when making decisions for 2019.

**Livestock Building Rental Considerations**

By Rory Lewandowski, Extension Educator Wayne County


Recently I have gotten some questions about rental of livestock buildings, specifically dairy facilities. Typically, callers want to know a charge per square foot or a rental rate based on a per head basis or, for a dairy facility, based on number of free stalls. The reality is that there is no one right or correct answer. Several methods or approaches generate a dollar figure for rental. However, view that number as a starting point in a rental negotiation. There are additional factors that affect the final rental rate. Those factors include the age and condition of the building, location of the building, the functionality or obsolescence of the building, the demand for rental of this type of building and the character and personality of the parties involved in the rental agreement.
The simplest and most direct way of calculating a building rental rate is to use a commercial rate, a known market. While these types of figures are available for grain storage and some equipment storage markets, they are not available for livestock building rentals. We don’t have a commercial livestock building rental market. A second method is to use survey data. Survey data is commonly used to provide rates for custom farm work and cropland rental. The reliability of those numbers is dependent upon getting significant numerous responses. The issue with livestock building rental surveys is that there are a very limited number of surveys and those surveys generally have a small number of responses, so use results with caution. You can get an answer that is fast, easy and very wrong for your situation. The most recent farm building rental survey that I know of is a May 2014 document by the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee. It is available on line as a pdf document at http://tiny.cc/farmbldgrentalsurvey. The number of responses for dairy building rental varies between three and nine.

The best method to determining a rental rate for livestock buildings is to actually calculate some building ownership costs and use those figures as a starting point in coming to a rental rate agreement. There are two basic categories of building ownership costs, variable and fixed. Variable costs are dependent upon building use and the level or intensity of building use. Those costs include utilities, use-related repairs and maintenance, and possibly costs of additional wear and tear beyond depreciation. Often variable costs increase as the number of animal units or production level in the building increases.

Fixed costs are incurred regardless of the level of building use. Fixed costs remain even if the building sits empty. The fixed costs of building ownership include depreciation, interest, repairs (maintenance not related to building use), taxes and insurance. The low end of any building rental agreement must cover at least the variable costs of using the building. There must be some way to measure these costs, especially costs such as electricity, fuel, and water. However, the building owner realizes no gain until at least some portion of the fixed costs are included in a rental agreement.

The North Central Farm Management Extension Committee publication “Rental Agreements for Farm Buildings and Livestock Facilities” (http://tiny.cc/NCFMfarmbldgrental) contains a good worksheet to help building owners estimate ownership costs. A basic starting point for determining ownership costs requires an estimate of the current value of the building to calculate depreciation. One method commonly used is to determine a replacement cost for the current building along with an estimate of the useful life, generally in the 15 to 25 year range. Next, determine how many years of useful life remain in the current building. Depreciation is the replacement cost divided by useful years of life remaining in the current building. If the building is under loan, then the interest cost is the actual interest payments on the building loan. With no loan, calculate interest costs as a return on investment.
by multiplying an annual interest rate times the current value of the building. The interest rate used could be the current rate to borrow money, the rate for invested dollars or possibly an average of the two. The county auditor’s office can provide the building tax rate. Use the actual insurance policy for insurance costs. Alternatively, multiply the current building value by 1.5% to get an estimate of tax and insurance costs. The most accurate way to get cost of building repairs is from farm records. According to an Iowa State University publication entitled “Computing a Livestock Building Cash Rental Rate” (https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/html/c2-26.html), a value of two to four percent of the replacement (not current) value of the building provides a reliable estimate if records are not available.

For example, let’s say I investigate and find that it would cost $325,000 to build a new free-stall dairy barn of similar size, function and with comparable technology and features to what is currently present on the farm. That building would have a 20-year life. My current building is 8-years old, so I have 12 years of useful life remaining, equivalent to 60% (12 divided by 20) of the building replacement value. The current value of my building is therefore $325,000 x 0.60 or $195,000. The annual depreciation cost is $325,000 divided by 12 (years of useful life left) equals $27,083. Note that in some cases, buildings may still be serviceable after their useful life and so depreciation expense could be zero. For this example, assuming no outstanding loan on the building, I am going to calculate a conservative return on investment using an interest rate of 3% times the current value of the building ($195,000) equals $5850. To calculate taxes and insurance costs ideally I use actual values, but in this example I will use 1.5% times the current building value equals $2925. Next, I need to estimate repair costs. I will use 3% times the replacement value ($325,000) equals $9750. My total estimated fixed cost of building ownership is the sum of these calculations or $45,608 annually.

Knowing the fixed costs of building ownership can guide a rental negotiation. The ideal situation is that the building renter, in addition to paying all the variable building costs, will cover the fixed costs as well. In most markets that may not be realistic. The next best-case scenario is that the cash costs of building ownership are covered after building variable costs. Those costs include taxes, insurance and repairs. In our example, those cash costs equal $12,675. From a purely economic point of view, if an empty building can’t generate enough rental income to cover cash expenses in the foreseeable future, it is reasonable to consider demolishing the building.

I have found a couple of spreadsheets available on-line that can help to calculate building costs and potential rental rates. They are available at https://www.agmanager.info/ksu-building-cost-rent, and https://dunn.uwex.edu/agriculture/farm-management/farm-lease-information/. Click on “Lease Payment Evaluators”, then “Building Rental Evaluator”.

The most important piece of any building rental is a written lease. The lease spells out not only the rental rate but also specifies dates of rent payments, what happens if rent is late, and how the rental agreement is renewed or terminated. The lease contains provision about how repairs
are handled, how water and utilities are paid for and maintained, limitations on modifications to
the building, how many livestock can be housed, rights of entry and inspection and even how
manure will be handled and where it will be applied. The North Central Farm Management
Extension Committee publication “Rental Agreements for Farm Buildings and Livestock
Facilities” contains a sample lease agreement that can serve as a starting point.
Finally, the characteristics of the potential renter are another consideration in a lease
agreement. Things like how they care for property, personal habits, reliability, honesty,
temperament, how you get along with them, can all matter and might influence the rental price
either upwards or downwards.

References and Livestock Building Rental Resources:
Computing a Livestock Building Cash Rental Rate, Iowa State University Extension publication
C2-26.
North Central Farm Management Extension Committee publication “Rental Agreements for
Farm Buildings and Livestock Facilities”, NCFMEC-04.
Figuring Rent for Existing Farm Buildings, Purdue University publication EC-451

Now is a Great Time to Manage Fescue
By Chris Penrose, OSU Extension Educator ANR, Morgan County
Source: http://u.osu.edu/beef/2018/10/24/now-is-a-great-time-to-manage-fescue/

If fescue is a problem on your farm, now is a great time to get it under control. I think it is good
to start off talking about why it is a problem, how did it get to be a problem, are there some
redeeming qualities, and finally, how to get it under control if it is a problem.

Why it is a problem?
If you have “infected” fescue, animals may develop health problems and result in reduced
performance. This is caused by a microscopic fungus (endophyte) in the plant that produces
alkaloids and problems for animals. Horses can have prolonged pregnancies, little milk
production, abortions, and other problems. Ruminants can have hoof loss, increases body
temperatures, rough hair coats or fleeces, and other internal issues.

How did it get to be a problem?
Tall fescue (especially Kentucky 31) was quickly recognized in the 1940’s for its conservation
qualities of establishing on poor soils and holding the soil. In addition, it was recognized for the
year-round grazing value. By 1946, Kentucky growers were harvesting 4,000,000 pounds of
seed per year, so a lot was planted.

If you do not want fescue on your farm, the problem of having it happens for a couple reasons.
First, infected fescue is insect, disease, and drought resistant. It is also a nitrogen scavenger.
This gives it an advantage over other forages, especially on poor soils (which makes it a great crop for conservation purposes). Also, during the grazing season, animals will graze other crops before they will graze fescue. So, if you have poor soils and do not rotationally graze so animals can selectively graze, you are inadvertently selecting for tall fescue.

Are there some redeeming qualities?
As mentioned, it grows well on poor soils and it stockpiles well (stockpiling is making a final graze or clipping in summer or early fall then letting it grow until late fall/winter to graze). During the fall, several good things happen to the fescue. After a frost, the endophyte levels start to drop and will become less of an issue. In addition, the sugar content will increase, making fescue more palatable for livestock. Fescue is an excellent grass to stockpile due to the waxy coating on the plant allowing it to tolerate colder temperatures.

Yields of over a ton per acre can be expected when stockpiling with acceptable protein levels. When 50 pounds of nitrogen is added when stockpiling begins, one can expect an additional 1500 pounds of yield and an increase in crude protein content (assuming adequate and timely rainfall). The earlier stockpiling starts, the larger the yield and lower the protein content will be when feeding begins. The later stockpiling begins, the lower the yield and higher the protein will be.

If it is a problem, how do you get it under control?
I would suggest a three-step approach. First, get the pH and fertility up to acceptable levels (this is where a soil test is important). Fall is an excellent time to lime fields so it can react with the soil prior to adding fertilizer next year. This will give other forages a better chance to compete with the fescue.

Next, graze the fescue hard this fall and winter. One of the most economical ways to introduce new forages (especially clover) is frost seeding in February and March, but there must be exposed soil. In addition, breaking up the sod cover will allow dormant seed in the soil an opportunity to germinate next spring. On sensitive areas such as along streams or slopes that can erode, this should be avoided.

Another option is to completely reseed a field. To eliminate most of the infected fescue from a field, no viable seed from existing plants should be allowed to develop for at least a year (the endophyte will usually die in the seed after a year). If you plan on reseeding a field (ideally late summer), clip or harvest the field in May before the seeds become viable, kill the vegetation and plant a summer crop. In early August, work the soil or apply a burn down herbicide in prior to establishing a new crop. Any remaining fescue seed in the soil will be over a year old and should be endophyte free.
Finally, if you do not make management changes, in four years you will have the same thing in your field as you have now. Maintain fertility as recommended by soil tests and rotational/intensive grazing will reduce selective grazing by your livestock, allowing other forages to compete more aggressively with fescue.

For many of us, we will never eliminate fescue from our fields, but we can utilize it when it is at its best in the fall and winter, which will allow for more competition from other crops next year. If we can maintain fertility and add other forages to the mix, we should develop a good balance in our pastures and hay fields.

**Hope for Ohio to be Held on November 3**

Hope for Ohio is a FREE event for teens, parents, teachers and 4-H and FFA advisers. This event will help participants to see warning signs, explain peer-to-peer drug prevention tactics and provide tools to address our community’s opioid epidemic.

The East Region Event will be held on November 3, 2018 at FFA Camp Muskingum (3266 Dyewood Rd. SW, Carrollton, OH 44615). Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the program will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Featured speakers are: Wayne Campbell, founder of Tyler’s Light, whose son Tyler died of a heroin overdose after becoming addicted to prescription painkillers. Dave Kohout, from Talk is Cheap, focusing on building character and instilling hope in the lives of young people and a panel discussion with Erik Frederickson.

Cost of attendance is FREE. All pre-registered participants receive a t-shirt.

To register email mmulligan@ofbf.org.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss transportation possibilities, please call the county Farm Bureau office at 440.426.2195.
Livestock Mortality Composting Program Scheduled for December 14 in Canfield, OH

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

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

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

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

Lee’s Monthly News Column

Hello Trumbull County! Harvest is rolling on in the county and throughout the region following several dry stretches. The dry weather helps in many ways, mostly to dry the soil out to prevent stuck equipment, and it also helps dry down the crops themselves. Soybeans will typically mature and dry down faster than corn, so as you drive around you will see more soybean fields harvested at this point compared to corn. I would estimate that the soybean harvest is about 65% complete. There were many late maturing beans (or double-crop) that were holding onto their leaves right up to our first frost that will still need to be harvested later this season.
There are a lot of early maturing corn varieties that have also been harvested so far this year. Corn can take longer to dry down, but once it is dry on the stalk it typically will not pick up too much more moisture from dew or light rain. Soybeans on the other hand could go from 13% moisture to 18% moisture just from a heavy dew. Harvesting wet grain will require drying in the grain bin with a fan, or with heat in a specially built grain drying system. Either of these options cost the farmer money in electricity or propane. Stored wet grain will also lead to spoilage, and lower quality that will demand a lower price.

Last month I talked about the shortage of grain storage in the Ohio. Higher than average yields for both corn and soybeans continue to put pressure on our storage infrastructure. Installing on-farm storage (or increasing current storage capacity) can be a costly expense, but depending on grain prices, marketing strategy, and your farm’s plan, it may pay for itself within a couple of years. If you are considering the purchase of a grain bin Kansas State and Iowa State have publications that will help you make your decision based on economics. You can find those publications here: https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf2474.pdf, and here: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/pdf/a2-35.pdf.

I am excited to announce that Andrew Holden has been hired as the new Ashtabula County Ag and Natural Resource Extension Educator! Andrew is a 4th generation farmer from Pierpont, OH and has a background in agronomy and farm business management. OSU Extension is excited to have Andrew as part of our NE Ohio team. You will see him at many of our events so make sure to say hi when you see him.

OSU Extension Trumbull County, Trumbull SWCD, and NRCS have teamed up to offer a Trumbull Farmer Lunch series this winter to provide hour-long educational sessions on a variety of topics. Our first lunch series will kick off on Tuesday, December 4 at 11:30A.M. as we learn about tax updates and how they affect farmers. You don’t have to be a farmer to get something useful from this program. David Marrison will be here to go over all the changes to the tax law. Cost for this program is $10/person and includes lunch. Be sure to mark your calendars for the other upcoming events in this series, January 8, 2019 Beef Quality Assurance, March 5, 2019 Climate Impacts for Ohio Agriculture, and April 2, 2019 Tillage and Soil Health. Each of these programs will be at the Trumbull County Ag and Family Education Center, 520 West Main Street, Cortland, OH.

The Trumbull County Master Gardeners will continue to offer free evening programs this winter! The first of their “Wednesdays in the Classroom” series will be on November, 14 at 6P.M. in the Ag Center conference room in Cortland. The topic of this class will be Floral Arranging in Autumn Colors with Containers from Your House.

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**

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

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

**Pesticide Applicator Training Dates**
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
Hope for Ohio is for teens, parents, teachers and 4-H and FFA advisers. This event will help participants to see warning signs, explain peer-to-peer drug prevention tactics and provide tools to address our community’s opioid epidemic.

**Nov. 3**

**FFA Camp Muskingum**
3266 Dyewood Rd. SW | Carrollton, OH 44615

Registration: 9:30 a.m. | Program 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Lunch is included. There is no cost to attend.**

**FEATURING**

Wayne Campbell, founder of Tyler’s Light, whose son Tyler died of a heroin overdose after becoming addicted to prescription painkillers.

Dave Kohout, from Talk is Cheap, focusing on building character and instilling hope in the lives of young people.

Panel discussion with Erik Frederickson

**By the numbers**

The toll of the epidemic has contributed to the first decline in U.S. life expectancy since 1993. The US drug overdose mortality rate is 17.7 deaths per 100k ages 15-64; Ohio’s is 39.5.

**IN OUR COUNTIES**

Jefferson County 44.2 | Harrison County 22.5 | Carroll County 19.1 | Tuscarawas County 17.7

Carroll County alone saw a 76 percent increase in fatal drug and alcohol overdoses in the first six months of 2018 over the first half of 2017 according to the Carroll County Sheriff’s Department.

To register, email mmulligan@ofbf.org or scan the QR code.

All preregistered participants receive a T-shirt.

Learn more at ofb.ag/hope-carrollton

Data according to the Opioid Misuse Community Assessment Tool - NORC at the University of Chicago and the U.S. Dept of Agriculture’s USDA Rural Development
Show the Extension office your Farm Bureau membership card to get your FREE test!

**ONE FREE fall soil test***

**OCTOBER 25 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2018**

*ONLY VALID FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

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

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

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

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

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

**QUESTIONS**
Call Farm Bureau at 440.426.2195 or email us at nefarbueofbf.org

**PICK YOUR FREE SOIL TEST UP AT YOUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**

**ASHTABULA**: 30 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH
**GEauga**: 14269 Claridon-Troy Road, Burton, OH
**Lake**: 99 E Erie Street, Painesville, OH
**Trumbull**: 520 W Main Street, Cortland, OH
OSU Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Class

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name: _____________________________________ Phone: ______________________
Address: _________________________________ City/State: ______________ Zip code: ____________
County: ___________________________ Email: __________________________