Hello, Northeast Ohio Counties!

What a great weekend for the Covered Bridge Festival in Ashtabula County. It also appears that this will a super week for harvest in northeast, Ohio. Jump on it this week, as rain is in the forecast for beginning next week!

The program payments from the Farm Service Agency should have hit your mailboxes by now. We included an article on the program payments as they are big differences between county payments (especially for Ashtabula County farmers).

Have a great and safe harvest week.
2016 Crop ARC/PLC Payments Released for Crop Commodity Programs- Small Payments for Northeast Ohio Farmers

By David Marrison, Ashtabula County ANR Extension Educator

Many farmers, especially those in Ashtabula County, received a shock when they received their 2016 farm commodity program payment notifications in the mail this week. This article will share details on these program payments.

The 2014 Farm Bill made several changes to U.S. farm programs. The most notable were the elimination of the Direct and Counter Cycle Payment (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) programs. In place of these programs, farmers were able to enroll in the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) program, the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program, or the Agricultural Risk Coverage Individual Coverage (ARC-IC) program on a crop by crop basis. Producers made their elections by April 7, 2015. Most producers selected the ARC-CO program with fewer selecting the PLC program. The ARC-IC program was selected by only a handful of farmers in Ohio. Across the nation, the average annual payments (in aggregate) under the ARC/PLC program have been larger than the previous direct program payments.

Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) Program

The Agricultural Risk Coverage County Option (ARC-CO) program is a revenue-based program with payments being made when the actual revenue calculated using the county average yield falls below the county benchmark revenue. The majority of farmers in northeast Ohio enrolled their crop acreage into the ARC-CO program as the program prediction models indicated this was the most favorable program for producers. This has been the case (watch for future article comparing the programs over the past 3 years). However, while ARC-CO payments were significant for the 2014 & 2015, the 2016 payment (received this week) was significantly lower.

For 2016, Ashtabula County ARC-CO payments were made for oat ($22.97/acre) and for grain sorghum ($36.73). Both corn and soybeans received $0 payment. Given the majority of a farmer’s base acres are typically enrolled in corn and soybeans, the zero payment caught most farmers off guard. Especially since corn paid $76.18/acre and soybeans paid $55.22/acre for Ashtabula County for the 2015 program year. The zero payments for corn and soybeans can be attributed to the increased yields received in 2016.

For Geauga County, ARC-CO payments were received for corn ($57.96), wheat ($32.16) and oat ($22.17). For Lake County, ARC-CO payments were received for corn ($66.10), wheat ($38.19) and oat ($20.75). For Trumbull County, ARC-CO payments were received for corn ($29.15) and wheat ($24.72). No payments were made for soybeans for any of the counties.
Table 1: ARC-CO Payment History for Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake & Trumbull Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>2016 ARC-CO Payment</th>
<th>2015 ARC-CO Payment</th>
<th>2014 ARC-CO Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashtabula</td>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$76.18</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grain Sorghum</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$55.22</td>
<td>$40.55</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geauga</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Oats</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$56.44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wheat</td>
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<td>$32.16</td>
<td>$8.57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
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<td>Oats</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Soybeans</td>
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<td>$20.80</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wheat</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>$56.44</td>
<td>$30.90</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>$24.72</td>
<td>$39.39</td>
<td>$22.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program**

The Price Loss Coverage program is a price based program with payments being made when the effective price of a covered commodity (marketing year average) falls below the commodity’s reference price. The reference prices are wheat ($5.50), oat ($2.40), corn ($3.70), grain sorghum ($3.95) and soybeans ($8.40).

If a PLC payment is triggered, the farmer is paid by multiplying the PLC payment price times the farmer’s base yield per acre. For the 2016 program yield, the following PLC payments were triggered based on commodity prices. These were:

- Wheat- $1.61
- Grain Sorghum- $1.16
- Oat- $0.34
- Corn- $0.34

Using Ashtabula County plug yields, we can calculate a potential PLC payment (on the low end) per acre for an Ashtabula County farmer for the 2016 program year.

- Corn yield of 107 * $0.34 = $36.38 per acre
- Oat yield of 53 * $0.34 = $18.02 per acre
- Wheat yield of 36 * $1.61 = $57.96 per acre
Table 2: PLC Payment History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>2016 PLC Payment</th>
<th>2015 PLC Payment</th>
<th>2014 PLC Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>$0.34</td>
<td>$0.09</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Sorghum</td>
<td>$1.16</td>
<td>$0.64</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oat</td>
<td>$0.34</td>
<td>$0.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>$1.61</td>
<td>$0.61</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notable:
The payment figures per acre shown for the ARC-CO and PLC are not the actual per acre payment which will be received by the producer. It will be lower as the final payment will be reduced by 6.8% due to The Budget Control Act of 2011 and payments are limited to 85% of the base acres.

Summary:
Farmers who enrolled their corn and soybean base acres in the ARC-CO program may feel the shock of not "receiving" a big payment for 2016. However, over the three year period of the farm program this program has been superior to PLC. All indications are pointing that similar payments will be received for the 2017 program year (payment made in October 2018).

**EPA and States' Collective Efforts Lead to Regulatory Action on Dicamba**

On Friday, October 13, 2017 the EPA has reached an agreement with Monsanto, BASF and DuPont on measures to further minimize the potential for drift to damage neighboring crops from the use of dicamba formulations used to control weeds in genetically modified cotton and soybeans. New requirements for the use of dicamba "over the top" (application to growing plants) will allow farmers to make informed choices for seed purchases for the 2018 growing season.

"Today's actions are the result of intensive, collaborative efforts, working side by side with the states and university scientists from across the nation who have first-hand knowledge of the problem and workable solutions," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "Our collective efforts with our state partners ensure we are relying on the best, on-the-ground, information."

In a series of discussions, EPA worked cooperatively with states, land-grant universities, and the pesticide manufacturers to examine the underlying causes of recent crop damage in the farm belt and southeast. EPA carefully reviewed the available information and developed tangible changes to be implemented during the 2018 growing season. This is an example of cooperative federalism that leads to workable national-level solutions. Manufacturers have
Voluntary label changes have been agreed to for "over the top" use of dicamba next year including:

- Classifying products as "restricted use," permitting only certified applicators with special training, and those under their supervision, to apply them; dicamba-specific training for all certified applicators to reinforce proper use;
- Requiring farmers to maintain specific records regarding the use of these products to improve compliance with label restrictions;
- Limiting applications to when maximum wind speeds are below 10 mph (from 15 mph) to reduce potential spray drift;
- Reducing the times during the day when applications can occur;
- Including tank clean-out language to prevent cross contamination; and
- Enhancing susceptible crop language and record keeping with sensitive crop registries to increase awareness of risk to especially sensitive crops nearby.

Manufacturers have agreed to a process to get the revised labels into the hands of farmers in time for the 2018 use season. EPA will monitor the success of these changes to help inform our decision whether to allow the continued "over the top" use of dicamba beyond the 2018 growing season. When EPA registered these products, it set the registrations to expire in 2 years to allow EPA to change the registration, if necessary. For more information: https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/registration-dicamba-use-genetically-engineered-crops

**Good Harvest Weather This Week With Worsening Harvest Weather Next Week**

By Jim Noel, NOAA

Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2017-35/good-harvest-weather-week-worsening-harvest-weather-next-week

**Temperatures** into November: The warmer than normal weather pattern will continue. However, it appears we will get a burst of colder weather next week. Confidence in the temperature forecast is high.

**Precipitation:** We will be slowly transitioning from the drier first half of fall to a wetter pattern over the next 1-2 months that will persist into next spring. Lake effect precipitation will be increasing starting next week in northern and northeastern Ohio. Confidence in the rainfall forecast is moderate.
**Freeze/frosts:** As forecast months ago...we expect a later than normal freeze this autumn, likely 1-2 weeks late. There has been some patchy frost to this point but nothing real significant. Typically we see our first freeze about now. It appears the first freeze may come sometime next week at least to some of the area which again will be 3 1-2 weeks late. Confidence in the first hard freeze being late is high.

**Outlook week of October 17-22:** Expect temperatures to turn above normal again this week. Normal highs are about 60 and normal lows about 40. Expect temperatures 10-15 above normal starting Wednesday. It will be a dry week with no rainfall so it would be good to harvest as fast as possible as soon as fields dry.

**Outlook Week of October 23-30:** Expect temperatures to drop with a blast of chilly autumn weather. Temperatures may end up a few degrees below normal to normal. Precipitation will occur early and late in the week. Overall, rainfall will average near normal from 0.25 to 1.00 inches.

The NOAA/NWS/OHRFC two-week rainfall graphic shows generally a dry week this week then a bit wetter pattern yielding a two week total near or just slightly below average over much of the corn and soybean region. In Ohio the greatest rain totals will be in northeast Ohio where some lake effect precipitation will kick in starting the week of Oct. 23 yielding a two week total of 2-3+ inches so the risk increases after Oct. 22 of more delays in harvest. You can get the latest high resolution rainfall estimates at 4km and 10 km resolution from NOAA and Environment Canada (ECCC) at: [http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/gismaps/naprecip.htm](http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/gismaps/naprecip.htm)

**Field Drying and Harvest Losses in Corn**

By Peter Thomison


According to the USDA/NASS ([https://www.nass.usda.gov/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/)) as of Sunday, Oct. 15, 21 percent of Ohio’s corn was harvested for grain, compared to 34 percent for last year and 32 percent for the five-year average. Wet weather delayed corn harvest across the state and is not helping with field drying. Some growers are delaying harvest until grain moisture drops further.

However, these delays increase the likelihood that stalk rots present in many fields will lead to stalk lodging problems. Some serious
stall rot and lodging problems have already been reported, as shown in the image submitted by Curtis Young in Van Wert County. Leaving corn to dry in the field exposes a crop to unfavorable weather conditions, as well as wildlife damage. A crop with weak plant integrity is more vulnerable to yield losses from stalk lodging and ear drop when weathering conditions occur. Additional losses may occur when ear rots reduce grain quality and can lead to significant dockage when the grain is marketed. Some ear rots produce mycotoxins, which may cause major health problems if fed to livestock.

Several years ago we conducted a study that evaluated effects of four plant populations (24,000, 30,000, 36,000, and 42,000 plants/A) and three harvest dates (early-mid Oct., Nov. and Dec.) on the agronomic performance of four hybrids differing in maturity and stalk quality. The study was conducted at three locations in NW, NE, and SW Ohio over a three-year period for a total of eight experiments. Results of this study provide some insight on yield losses and changes in grain moisture and stalk quality associated with delaying harvest. The following lists some of the major findings from this research.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- Results showed that nearly 90% of the yield loss associated with delayed corn harvest occurred when delays extended beyond mid-November.
- Grain moisture decreased nearly 6% between harvest dates in Oct. and Nov. Delaying harvest after early to mid Nov. achieved almost no additional grain drying.
- Higher plant populations resulted in increased grain yields when harvest occurred in early to mid-October. Only when harvest was delayed until mid-November or later did yields decline at plant populations above 30,000/acre.
- Hybrids with lower stalk strength ratings exhibited greater stalk rot, lodging and yield loss when harvest was delayed. Early harvest of these hybrids eliminated this effect.
- The greatest increase in stalk rot incidence came between harvest dates in October and November. In contrast, stalk lodging increased most after early-mid November.
- Harvest delays had little or no effect on grain quality characteristics such as oil, protein, starch, and kernel breakage.

In this study, yields averaged across experiments, populations and hybrids, decreased about 13% between the Oct. and Dec. harvest dates. Most of the yield loss, about 11%, occurred after the early-mid Nov. harvest date. In three of the eight experiments, yield losses between Oct. and Dec. harvest dates ranged from 21 to 24%. In the other five experiments, yield losses ranged from 5 to 12%.

Grain moisture content showed a decrease from the Oct. to Nov. harvest dates but little or no change beyond the Nov. harvest dates. Grain moisture, averaged across experiments, hybrid, and plant population, decreased 6.3% points between the Oct. and Dec. harvest dates, with most of the decrease occurring between the Oct. and Nov. harvest dates (5.8 % points); only a 0.5 % point decrease occurred after early-mid Nov. Population effects on grain moisture content were not consistent. Differences in grain moisture were evident among hybrids on the first harvest date in early-mid Oct. but were generally negligible on the later dates.
A Field Loss Calculator for Field Drying Corn
Agronomists at the University of Wisconsin have developed a “Field Loss Calculator” Excel spreadsheet available at: http://corn.agronomy.wisc.edu/Season/DSS.aspx that allows producers to calculate the costs of harvesting today versus allowing the crop to stand in the field and harvesting later. The spreadsheet accounts for higher drying costs versus grain losses during field drying. It allows the user to account for elevator discounts and grain shrink.

28th Annual Ashtabula County Beef Banquet to be held on November 11, 2017 in Lenox, Ohio
OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association will be holding their 28th annual banquet on Saturday, November 11 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; Tyler Brown, Dorset Township; and Dr. Bryan Elliott, Cherry Valley Township. Tickets are $25 per person. Call the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008 for more information. Pre-reservations should be made by November 3, 2017. A program flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

Snowbird Pesticide & Fertilizer Re-certification Session to be held on November 16
For the farmers who head south for the winter, it always conflicts with getting their private pesticide applicator license renewed. To help our snowbird farmers with this predicament, the OSU Extension offices in Northeast Ohio have planned a special private pesticide applicator and fertilizer re-certification session. This year’s session will be hosted by the Lake County Extension office on Thursday, November 16, 2017 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Perry Community Center at 2800 Perry Park Road in Perry, Ohio

The pesticide re-certification session will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and it will offer 3 credits for pesticide re-certification for CORE and All Categories (1-7). The cost of this session is $35 per registrant. Then immediately following, producers can stay to renew their fertilizer certification from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The cost of this session is $10 per person. The registration deadline for this program is November 8, 2017. Registration is requested to be made on-line at: http://www.cvent.com/d/5tqjgb  If a producer is unable to register on-line, they are asked to contact the Lake County Extension at 440-350-2582 for assistance.

For the producers who will be here all winter, we have four additional sessions planned. The 2018 private pesticide re-certification and commercial fertilizer certification sessions will be held on January 12 in Williamsfield, February 2 in Burton, February 9 in Ravenna and March 9 in Cortland. Registration links and flyers for these events can be obtained at: http://go.osu.edu/neohio-pat
Snowbelt Woodland Owners Tree Farm Tour to be held on October 28, 2017
By Dr. Paul Mechling

The Snowbelt Woodland Owner group will be sponsoring a tree farm tour at the Fred & Rebecca Pierce-Ruhland woodland located at 4352 Fox Road in Kingsville, Ohio on Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The purpose of this tour is to view a recent 32 acre timber harvest on the 220 acre Pierce-Ruhland property.

Consulting forester Jim Elze, who administered the harvest, will discuss marketing timber, timber contracts, selecting a logger, monitoring harvest progress, log landing sites, best management practices, forest sustainability, and income tax implications. Woodland owners in Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, and Trumbull counties who appreciate and value their forests are welcomed to attend. This will be an educational and informative meeting.

A light lunch will be served and a $10 donation per person is requested to cover food, drinks, and mailing costs. Please RSVP by October 27, 2017 to Fred Pierce-Ruhlan at 440-813-1030 or fpierceruhland@gmail.com. Dress according to the weather as this will be an extensive walk in the woods.

U.S. Is Said to Make Dairy Proposal That Canada Flatly Rejects
Source: https://www.agweb.com/article/us-is-said-to-make-dairy-proposal-that-canada-flatly-rejects-blmg/

The Trump administration is proposing to dismantle a Canadian system of quotas and trade barriers for dairy and other foods that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s government has regularly defended, setting up another flash-point in Nafta negotiations.

The U.S. proposal, delivered Sunday during North American Free Trade Agreement talks, would fully eliminate tariffs over 10 years on so-called supply-managed products, according to two officials familiar with the measure, who spoke on the condition of anonymity as negotiations continue.

The U.S. is also seeking increased access to Canada's milk and poultry markets, the officials said. In the case of milk, the U.S. is seeking roughly eight times the market share it agreed to in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned shortly after taking office, one of the officials said. U.S. Nafta negotiator John Melle confirmed the country is seeking to expand access for U.S. farmers to the Canadian market. “We made a request
of Canada for improved access for dairy, poultry and eggs on Oct. 15,” Melle said in an emailed statement on Monday.

The Canadians have flatly rejected any mention of doing away with the supply-management system, which Canadian officials say prevents over-supply and guarantees stable pricing and production. Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay reiterated Ottawa’s long-standing support for the system earlier on Monday.

“It’s a model for the world, and that’s in fact where we are. To deal with anything else is simply a non-starter,” he told reporters. “What’ll happen is difficult to know. We have very capable negotiators at the table, and it’s going to be done fair. We need a ‘right’ deal, and we’re not going to sign any deal.” Canada’s supply-management system has long been controversial in trade talks, and was among the last issues resolved in TPP negotiations. The issue of dairy was left out of the original Nafta accord.

**New Report Recommends Changes to County Crop and Cash Rent Estimation Methods Used by the NASS**

Producing more precise county-level estimates of crops and farmland cash rents will require integrating multiple data sources using model-based predictions that are more transparent and reproducible, says a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The report provides a vision of how the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) can accomplish this.

NASS surveys are the basis of crop and cash rent estimates, which are vital to efficiency in the agricultural market and the evaluation of farmland, helping industry participants decide on what to grow, how to determine sales, and the availability of food, as well as rental and loan rates for farmland. But over time, survey response rates have declined, creating challenges for county data users including the USDA’s Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency, who use the county estimates as part of their processes for administering USDA programs, including providing farm insurance and determining farmland rental rates and farm subsidies. As a result, when official NASS estimates are not reliable due to low survey response, alternative estimates may be used that are neither transparent nor reproducible.

Currently, the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) of NASS determines county estimates, using survey responses along with other available information. To achieve transparency and reproducibility, the report recommends developing, evaluating, validating, documenting, and using model-based estimates that incorporate both survey data and complementary data such as administrative data, satellite and other remote sensing data, and precision agriculture data. The recommended inclusion of measures of uncertainty with the model estimates allow users to determine the utility of the estimates. The report further recommends that NASS shift the ASB role from integrating multiple data sources to ensuring that the models used for the integration are continually assessed and validated via a feedback loop that suggests modifications to improve model performance. A key factor in combining survey data with complementary data is
the development of a geo-referenced list frame from which the farms to be surveyed are selected. Then the location of the farm can be used to tie the multiple data sources about the farm together with the survey response.

The report acknowledges that given its limited resources, it may take NASS many years to develop a geo-referenced list frame, appropriate models, and other components needed for this vision of improved county level estimates. The report suggests a two-part plan of action that could be completed by 2025, as well as breaking down each stage into individual projects to be executed by different groups within NASS, each over the course of three years. This allows NASS to continue its ongoing schedule and workload while implementing gradual change to their estimation practices.

The study was sponsored by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine are private, nonprofit institutions that provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions related to science, technology, and medicine. The National Academies operate under an 1863 congressional charter to the National Academy of Sciences, signed by President Lincoln. For more information, visit http://national-academies.org.

**Annie’s Project Retreat for Women in Agriculture**

OSU Extension will offer an Annie’s Project Retreat December 1-3 at Salt Fork State Park Lodge and Conference Center, 14755 Cadiz Road, Lore City, OH 43755. Annie’s Project provides education and a support network to enhance business skills of women involved in all aspects of agriculture.

Annie spent her lifetime learning to be an involved farm business partner with her husband. Annie’s life experiences inspired her daughter, a university Extension agent, to create a program for women living and working in the complex, dynamic agriculture business environment. Annie’s Project fosters problem solving, record keeping, and decision-making skills in farm women. Women will receive training in five areas of agricultural risk management: financial, marketing, production, legal, and human resources.

The participant fee is $105 per person, which includes all materials and meals. Lodging is $99 per room per night with up to four people per room. Details can be found on the Annie’s Project Registration Flyer. Sponsors of the program include Farm Credit and Nationwide. Registration deadline is November 17. For more information please contact Emily Adams at the Coshocton County Extension Office at 740-622-2265 or adams.661@osu.edu .

**NRCS Announces Ohio EQIP Application Deadline**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced Friday, November 17, 2017, as the deadline to submit applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Ohio.
EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers protect the
environment while promoting agricultural production. With EQIP, NRCS conservation experts
provide technical assistance to implement environmentally beneficial conservation practices on
working agricultural land.
Financial assistance is now available in a variety of agricultural categories such as cropland,
forestry, pasture operations, high tunnels, organic, and many more listed on the Ohio NRCS
website under “EQIP Application Deadlines.”

To participate in USDA conservation programs, applicants should be farmers or farm or forest
landowners and must meet eligibility criteria. Applications signed and submitted to NRCS by the
November 17 deadline will be evaluated for fiscal year 2018 funding.

Applications for EQIP submitted by entities, such as agricultural producers applying as a
corporation, must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number and an active
SAM (System for Award Management) registration status when applying, a process that may
take several weeks. Applications cannot be processed without this information. Information on
obtaining a DUNS number and registering with SAM is posted at:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/home/?cid=stelprdb1257063

To learn more about EQIP or other technical and financial assistance available through NRCS
conservation programs, visit Get Started with NRCS or visit your local USDA Service Center.

**David’s Weekly News Column**

Hello, Ashtabula County! What a beautiful month it has been in Ashtabula County! I just love
the sights, smells and sounds of harvest time. As harvest progresses, I caution all of us to be
safe on our roadways. Working together, we can make this harvest a safe one for all of us. In
addition, I would like to encourage our snowbird farmers to get their pesticide and fertilizer re-
certifications completed before heading south for the winter.

Our farmers are currently harvesting crops all across our county. Road safety is especially
important as farmers and motorists have to share the road during harvest season. This is a
good time to refresh both the motoring public and farmers about some safe practices on public
roads.

Vehicle collisions are often the result of the speed difference between slower-moving farm
equipment and passenger cars and trucks. Many times the vehicle driver simply does not react
fast enough to farm equipment traveling on roadways. It is critical for both farmers and
motorists to do their part. Accidents can be negated if everyone takes the responsibility to have
extra patience, careful driving habits, and use high-visibility markings and lighting.

For farmers, make sure your equipment has proper lighting and that a slow moving vehicle
(SMV) emblem is mounted to the last piece of equipment being hauled. Make sure to stay alert
at all times to avoid a serious accident. Always keep a constant lookout for pedestrians,
animals, mailboxes, steep ditch embankments, and other roadway obstacles. It may be wise to use an escort vehicle to follow behind especially during high traffic times in the mornings and late afternoons.

For motorists, please remember that farm machinery has a legal right to use public roads just as other motor vehicles. Farm machinery travels slower than normal traffic, often at speeds of 25 miles per hour or less. When you first see a tractor or combine on the road, your first instinct should be to slow down. A car traveling at 55 mph can overtake and close a gap of 300 feet with a tractor running 15 mph in just five seconds. This is about the length of a football field which does not give you much time. Watch for farm equipment and slow down immediately to avoid rear end crashes.

Farm machinery operators may not be able to see you because the large equipment or a load can block part of their rearward view. Remember, if you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you. Before passing farm machinery, make to check to be sure the machinery is not turning left. If the machinery slows and pulls toward the right side of the road, the operator is likely preparing to make a wide left turn. Likewise, sometimes to make a right turn with wide equipment, the driver must fade to the left. Be sure there is adequate distance for you to safely pass. Working together, we can keep everyone safe!

With our evening temperatures getting cooler, it reminds us that it is not too early to think about winter. For the farmers who head south for the winter, it always conflicts with getting their private pesticide applicator license renewed. To help our snowbird farmers with this predicament, OSU Extension in Northeast Ohio has planned a special private pesticide applicator and fertilizer re-certification session. This year’s session will be hosted by the Lake County Extension office on Thursday, November 16, 2017 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Perry Community Center at 2800 Perry Park Road in Perry, Ohio.

The pesticide re-certification session will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and it will offer 3 credits for pesticide re-certification for CORE and All Categories (1-7). The cost of this session is $35 per registrant. Then immediately following, producers can stay to renew their fertilizer certification from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The cost of this session is $10 per person. The registration deadline for this program is November 8, 2017.

Registration is requested to be made on-line at: [http://www.cvent.com/d/5tqjgb](http://www.cvent.com/d/5tqjgb). If a producer is unable to register on-line, they are asked to contact the Lake County Extension at 440-350-2582 for assistance. For the producers who will be here all winter, we have four additional sessions planned. The 2018 private pesticide re-certification and commercial fertilizer certification sessions will be held on January 12 in Williamsfield, February 2 in Burton, February 9 in Ravenna and March 9 in Cortland. Registration links and flyers for these events can be obtained at: [http://go.osu.edu/neohio-pat](http://go.osu.edu/neohio-pat)

To close, I would like to share a quote from Jeff Cooper who stated, “Safety is something that happens between your ears, not something you hold in your hands.” Have a good and safe day!
**Upcoming Extension Program Dates**

The following programs have been scheduled for Northeast Ohio farmers. Complete registration flyers can be found at: [http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/upcoming-educational-programs-deadlines](http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/upcoming-educational-programs-deadlines)

**2017 Ashtabula County Beef Banquet**
Saturday, November 11, 2017

**Private Pesticide Applicator & Fertilizer Re-certification Sessions**
November 16, 2017 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Lake County
January 12, 2018 from 8:00 to 12:00 noon in Ashtabula County
February 2, 2018 from 8:00 to 12:00 noon in Geauga County
February 9, 2018 from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Portage County
March 9, 2018 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Trumbull County

**Farm Management School**
January 15, February 19 & March 12

**Exploring the Small Farm Dream**
Saturday, January 20, 2018

**2018 Northeast Ohio Winter Agronomy School**
Wednesday February 21, 2018

**2018 Winter Beef School (Calving School)**
Thursday, February 22, 2018

**2018 Ashtabula County Dairy Banquet**
Saturday, March 24, 2018

**21st Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show**
Saturday, April 21, 2018
Ashtabula County
28th Annual Beef Banquet

November 11, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Lenox Community Center
2509 Lenox-New Lyme Road
Jefferson, Ohio

Tickets are $25 per person. Includes your farm’s 2018 membership into the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association.

Banquet will include the election of two ACCA directors, entertainment, door prizes, and a great Prime Rib dinner!

Call OSU Extension at 440-576-9008 for more details on how to purchase banquet tickets. Ticket reservations are required by November 3, 2017 so that adequate meal preparations can be made.