Wet, wet, wet. I am thankful that a nice stretch of dry weather is in the forecast beginning tomorrow. The ground is pretty well saturated and we need a long stretch of nice weather or else it is going to be a very muddy harvest. We had another great CAUV Taskforce meeting on Monday and our next scheduled meeting is Monday, November 10 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashtabula County Extension office. Hope to see our beef producers at the November 8 Beef Banquet—you won’t get a better piece of Prime Rib anywhere!

David Marrison, AG Educator

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Ashtabula County Plat Books Available
The latest edition of the Ashtabula County Plat Directory is now available from Ashtabula County OSU Extension. Published by Great Mid-Western in 2013, the Plat Map Directory makes a great gift for the hunter, hiker, farmer or nosey family member! Supplies are limited so call 440-576-9008 or stop in today to pick up your copy for $35.00 plus tax. All proceeds benefit the Ashtabula County 4-H, where we are helping youth to develop citizenship, leadership, and life skills.

25th Annual Beef Banquet to be held on Saturday, November 8 in Lenox, Ohio.
OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association will be holding their 25th annual banquet on Saturday, November 8 at the Lenox Community Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. During the banquet, our Cattlemen’s Association will provide a recap on the past year and elect two members to the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s board of directors. We have invited back the Klein Family Singers of Madison, Ohio for this year’s banquet entertainment. They were in the middle of a great performance at last year’s banquet when power was lost due to a nasty thunderstorm. The Klein Family is a family band who plays Bluegrass, Old-time, Gospel, Folk, Celtic, Cajun, and Country music. Tickets for the banquet can be purchased from the Directors of the Cattlemen’s Association. Directors are: Bob Brown, Dorset Township; Tim Gildersleeve, Jefferson Township, Dr. Bryan Elliott, Andover Township, Bart Kanicki, Pierpont Township and Rick Poff, Geauga County. 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 31, 2014.

Dairy Farm Bill Programs to be held across Northeast Ohio
The dairy industry has been the cornerstone to our local agricultural economy for decades. As with typical agricultural commodity products, the prices established for milk are driven by market supply and demand. Ask any local dairy farmer and they will tell you how volatile the dairy industry can be.
The 2014 Farm Bill initiated a new dairy risk management program to help dairy farms overcome the highs and lows of producing milk. The new voluntary program is called the Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy) and will be in effect through December 31, 2018. Dairy farmers have until November 28, 2014 to decide whether or not to participate in this program for the remainder of 2014 and 2015. Locally, the MPP-Dairy program are operated through the USDA Farm Service Agency located in Orwell, Ohio and Cortland, Ohio.

The MPP-Dairy program offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and a calculated average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. A major difference between this program and past payment programs is that the MPP-Dairy is based on average national feed prices and milk prices. It is not based on a producer’s personal operation. Farmers will have to determine how the national margin relates to their own farm’s margin.

Farmers can elect the extent of the coverage that they will need for their operation. The beginning level of coverage is considered Catastrophic Coverage (CAT). This will trigger payments to dairy farms when the margin between milk prices and feed prices drops below $4 per hundredweight (cwt). The highest amount of coverage is 90 percent of the established production history from the farm. So if a farm produces 1 million pounds of milk, then 900,000 pounds will be used to calculate a payment. This CAT requires farmers to only pay a $100 administrative fee to be a part of the program at this level. Dairy farmers can annually select a higher coverage. The coverage level ranges from $4 to $8, and the percentage of the milk production base production history can be protected ranges from 25 percent to 90 percent.

It can be overwhelming to consider all the options and combinations of price points and percentages. To help local dairy farmers learn more about MPP-Dairy program, OSU Extension is partnering with Farm Service Agency to offer workshops on the MPP-Dairy program across the state. Some of the workshops which will be offered in Northeast Ohio include:

- October 22, 2014 from 10:30am - 12:30pm, at Ashtabula Co Extension, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH
- October 22, 2014 from 1:00 - 3:00pm, at Mahoning Co Extension, 490 S. Broad Street, Canfield, OH
- October 24, 2014 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm, at Carroll Co Friendship Center, 100 Kensington Road NE, Carrollton, OH
- October 27, 2014 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm, at Geauga Co Extension, 14269 Claridon-Troy, Burton, OH
- October 30, 2014 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm, at USDA Service Center, 2650 Richville Drive SE, Ste. 100, Massillon, OH
- November 10, 2014 from 10:00am - Noon, at Mahoning Co Extension, 490 S. Broad Street, Canfield, OH

Dairy producers can also sign up on-line at: [http://go.osu.edu/2014dairyfarmbill](http://go.osu.edu/2014dairyfarmbill) and Check out [http://dairy.osu.edu](http://dairy.osu.edu) for additional information on the MPP-Dairy program.

**Northeast Ohio “Snow Bird” Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification Session & Commercial Fertilizer Application Certification to be held on Tuesday, November 25 in Burton, Ohio.**

Do you head south for the winter? Does your Private Pesticide Applicator’s License expire on March 31, 2015? If so, OSU Extension in Northeast Ohio has planned his session with you in mind! This workshop will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at Geauga County Extension Office, 14269 Claridon-Troy Road, Burton, Ohio 44021

This workshop will offer 3 credits for re-certification for CORE and All Categories (1-7). Private Pesticide Applicators from any county in Northeast, Ohio are welcomed to attend this session. This session will be held from 9:00 to 12:00 noon. A special afternoon session will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for private applicators who would like to
complete their Commercial Fertilizer Application Certification. Due to Ohio’s new legislation, any producer who applies commercial fertilizer to 50 or more acres must be certified by no later than September 30, 2017. Attend this session to complete your certification. This session is open only to current licensed private pesticide applicators who wish to become certified.

The registration fee is $35/per person for the morning private pesticide applicator re-certification. There is no fee for the afternoon fertilizer certification session. A hearty farmers lunch will be provide for those who are staying for the afternoon session for $15/person. Pre-registration is required by November 17, 2014. An additional late registration fee of $25 per person will be added for any registration received after November 17, 2014. Make checks payable to OSU Extension and mail to OSU Extension-Geauga County, PO Box 387, Burton, Ohio 44021. More information can be obtained by calling the Geauga County Extension office 440-834-4656. Additional private pesticide re-certification and commercial fertilizer certification sessions will be held in 2015 on January 16 (Williamsfield), January 30 (Burton), February 9 (Cortland) and February 26 (Perry).

EPA Finds No Benefit with Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments
By Andy Michel

Last week, the EPA determined that there is no benefit from neonicotinoid seed treatments on soybean. There complete ruling can be read here (http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-10/documents/benefits_of_neonicotinoid_seed_treatments_to_soybean_production_2.pdf), and is based on an analysis of data published comparing treated and non-treated soybean. They conclude that “Published data indicate that in most cases there is no difference in soybean yield when soybean seed was treated with neonicotinoids versus not receiving any insect control treatment.” Furthermore, they find that the seed treatments only last during the first 3 - 4 weeks after planting, which does not overlap with activity of the more important soybean pests.

The EPA’s decision is also consistent with what we see in Ohio. There are three main pests to monitor during the first 3-4 weeks after planting. One pest is slugs, which are not insects and are not affected by insecticidal seed treatments. Two is bean leaf leaf beetle, which can cause defoliation of emerging soybean. However, severe defoliation which decreases yield is rare (often the plant can grow out of it), and we have good foliar applications which are very effective in extreme cases. The third pest is seedcorn maggot. As the picture shows, this can be an important pest. However, seedcorn maggots are only a major concern when a green cover crop (like alfalfa) is tilled under and planting occurs 5 - 8 days later (Indeed, the picture was a special case from one of our trials where we purposefully timed it right for seedcorn maggot infestation. If we had waited 2 - 3 days more to plant, it is likely that we would not have seen any damage).

It is important to note that this is not an outright ban of insecticidal seed treatments on soybean. Rather, it should be a reminder of the need to carefully use these tools in an integrated pest management manner and to encourage safe, and profitable, soybean production. This is especially critical since the big driver for EPA's report could be due to the harmful effects of neonicotinoids on honey bees and other beneficial insects. However, soybean seed treatments have never really been under much suspicion for causing bee kills. There is far greater concern about the effects of corn seed treatments on bees, since there are several, well-documented cases of honey bees being killed during corn planting. Until an official ruling on neonicotinoid seed treatments on corn, growers are urged to use caution next spring during corn planting to avoid bee kills. We will be sure to add updates to this important issue over the winter.
Potential for Corn Ear Rot and Mycotoxin Problems in Ohio
by Pierce Paul

It is already the third week of October and most of the corn is still standing in the field. Some of the earlier-planted fields are being harvested, but at relatively high moisture levels. This is causing some concern among producers as to the potential for ear rot and mycotoxin problems. In fact, we have already received several samples of moldy ears from some fields, but so far the problem does not seem to be widespread, with only a few fields affected. Moreover, not every ear rot is associated with vomitoxin or other mycotoxin contamination of the grain. However, ear rots could potentially become more of a problem if it continues to rain and the corn remains in the field for an extended period.

One of the very first steps to determining whether you will have a problem with vomitoxin or other mycotoxins is to know which ear rot you have in your field. Generally, it is fairly easy to tell ear rots apart based on the color of the fungal growth on the ear, where the moldy kernels are located, and how they are distributed on the ear. Other good indicators are the prevailing weather conditions and susceptibility of the hybrids. For the two most common ear rots in Ohio, Gibberella and Diplodia, both of these diseases develop best when wet weather conditions occur during the first few weeks after silking, with Gibberella being favored by slightly cooler temperatures than Diplodia. For both diseases, spores of the fungus are splashed onto the silk where they penetrate and grow into the ear. However, infection may also occur at the base of the ear, especially if it rains late in the season and the ears remain in an upright position, collecting water at the base between the husks and the kernels.

Diplodia causes a thick grayish-white mass of mold to grow on the ear, usually beginning from the base and growing toward the tip. With Gibberella, a visible white to pink mold usually covering the tip or more of the ears is characteristic of this disease. The Gibberella ear rot fungus produces mycotoxins that are harmful to animals. These include deoxynivalenol (Vomitoxin) and zearalenone and T-2 toxin, all of which may cause health problems in livestock. Therefore, suspect grain should be tested for these mycotoxins by chemical analysis before being fed to animals. As a general rule, do not feed any grain with 5% or more Gibberella moldy kernels. Hogs and young animals are particularly sensitive to these mycotoxins. Diplodia ear rot is less of a concern from a mycotoxin standpoint, but animals do refuse to eat grain with high levels of Diplodia-damaged kernels. Additionally, severely affected grain has low nutritional value.

Certain hybrids are more susceptible to one or more ear rots than others. Examine ears to determine the presence of ear molds. Make a note of which ear rots are present and hybrids that are most affected. Make future hybrid choices based on this information. Growers are advised to follow certain harvest and storage guidelines to minimize problems associated with kernel rots and mycotoxin contamination:
1. Harvest at the correct moisture and adjust harvest equipment to minimize damage to kernels. Mold and mycotoxins tend to be higher in (machine or insect) damaged kernels.
2. Dry harvested grain to 15% moisture and below to prevent further mold development in storage.
3. Store dried grain at cool temperatures (36 - 44F) in clean, dry bins. Moderate to high temperatures are favorable for fungal growth and toxin production.
4. Periodically check grain for mold, insects, and temperature.
5. If mold is found, send a grain sample for a mycotoxin analysis to determine if toxins are present and at what level. For more on moldy grain, mycotoxins, and mycotoxins sampling and analysis visit the following websites: (http://ohioline.osu.edu/ac-fact/pdf/0052.pdf).
**Tree-stand safety**  
*Source: Chris Penrose, Morgan County Extension*

With an archery deer season in full swing, many of the hunters hoping to repeat last year’s harvest of over 191,000 deer will be taking aim from tree-stands. Now is a good time to review a few safety reminders for hunters planning to use a tree-stand. When hunting from a tree stand only use one that has been tested and approved by the Tree-stand Manufacturer’s Association. Choose a healthy and straight tree. Verify that manufactured steps are in solid wood with thin bark. Always use a full body harness. 33% of hunters who use tree-stands will fall at some point in their lives. Single belt restraint systems are no longer approved because of the deadly circulation conditions that are created by them and because self-rescue is so much more difficult. Attach the climber and the tree-stand together. Practice the use of the tree-stand and full body harness at ground level before ascending the tree. Tree-stands should not be any higher than 15 feet from the ground. When buying a tree-stand, make sure to send in the product registration information to learn about any future product recalls. Finally, to learn more about tree stand safety, visit the Tree-stand Manufacturers Association and take a free online course at [http://www.tmastands.com/](http://www.tmastands.com/). According to the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, approximately 10 hunters are killed nationally every year in falls from tree-stands with even more than that severely injured. Taking a few precautions can help make sure that a successful hunt is the only excitement that happens when using a tree-stand.

**Improving Your Woodland Workshop to be held on Saturday, November 15 in Kirtland, Ohio**

We all own our woodlands for a variety of reasons. Understanding how your goals and objectives relate to your woods is part of what will be explored for the day. What can a landowner do to ensure a healthy and productive woodland into the future? OSU Extension is pleased to be hosting an “Improving Your Woodland” Workshop on Saturday, November 15 at the Holden Arboretum in Kirtland, Ohio. Attend this workshop to learn what items should be on a landowners radar when it comes to their woodland. How can our goals and objectives best be accomplished? We will spend the morning inside exploring these issues and the afternoon outside putting those ideas to work! The registration fee for this program is $35 per person. Lunch and materials are included in the class fee. This class will also cover some information on sugar bush management - how traditional forestry tools can be utilized to keep the forest healthy and thriving. This class is worth 4 credit hours for the Ohio Forest Tax Law Program. The Holden Arboretum is located at 9500 Sperry Road in Kirtland, Ohio. Registration is requested by November 10. More information can be found at: [http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/classes/events/improving-your-woodland](http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/classes/events/improving-your-woodland) or by calling 614-688-3421.

**Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteers Sought**

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

To become an OSU Extension Master Garden volunteer, you must attend 11 training sessions held from January to April 2015 and volunteer 50 hours of horticultural service to the community through Extension educational programming. Such service could include teaching 4-H youth gardening, planting and maintaining Extension demonstration gardens, answering gardening questions from the public, judging flower and vegetable projects at local fairs, and assisting community garden participants. As a benefit of becoming a Master Gardener, you will increase your knowledge and understanding of such varied horticultural topics as best cultural practices for growing flowers and vegetables, house plant care, plant disease, and insect pest identification and control and much, much more.
Course topics include: history of OSU Extension, plant physiology, soils, composting, fertilizers, herbs, houseplants, plant propagation, plant pathology, diagnostics, entomology, integrated pest management, vegetables, lawns, woody ornamentals, fruits, landscape maintenance, and making effective presentations.

**Three informational meetings will be held** for those interested in being selected for the 2015 training program. These meetings will be Tuesday, October 7, 2014 from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.; Tuesday, October 21, 2014 from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m. and Wednesday, November 5 6:30-7:15 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the OSU Extension office at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson. Specifics with regards to the application process, training schedule, course fee, and fingerprinting requirements will be shared at this meeting. It is recommended that applicants attend this orientation meeting.

The dates for this year’s training program are: January 22 & 29; February 12, 19, & 26 and March 5, 12, 19 & 26 and April 16. This program is taught in conjunction with the Lake County Master Gardener program. Five of the sessions will be taught at the Ashtabula County Extension Office in Jefferson and five will be taught in Lake County. All courses will be taught from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. There is a $200 course fee that covers course materials, refreshments, and speaker travel costs. Registration is limited an all applications are due by November 24, 2014. Please call the Ashtabula County Extension Office at 440-576-9008 for more information or for a complete application packet.

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PLEASE SHARE...this newsletter with farmers or others who are interested in agricultural topics in Ashtabula & Trumbull Counties. Past issues can be located at: https://go.osu.edu/ag-news. Please tell your friends and neighbors to sign up for the list. CONTACT: marrison.2@osu.edu

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