I cannot believe that October is coming to a close. Mother Nature really provided some great colors this fall. A lot of brilliant oranges and reds in the trees this year! What a great benefit to living in Northeast, Ohio. I know our farming community has also been pleased with the progress of harvest, in fact I have heard of a few who are already finished and are putting the equipment away. While our yields have been disappointing, it has been nice to have a nice month of October to make a huge dent into our harvest. But it sounds like we are in for a change in the weather with some high winds tomorrow and rain on the way. So it looks like the beginning of November will be a little soggy! Have a good and safe week!

David Marrison, AG Educator

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Develop Written Farmland Lease Agreements
By Rory Lewandowski, Extension Educator Wayne County

One piece of business that can be taken care of in the fall after harvest is completed is securing a cropland lease or rental agreement for the 2016 season. The purpose of this article is not to talk about what that rental price is, but rather the format of that agreement and lease/rental conditions included in that agreement.

A surprising number of cropland rental or lease agreements are nothing more than a verbal agreement. If you ask any agricultural law attorney they will tell you that lease agreements should be put in writing. According to Ohio’s “Statute of Frauds” a lease needs to be in writing and signed to be enforceable in a court of law. Of course very few, if any, persons enter a lease agreement intending to end up in court and many verbal agreements do work to the satisfaction of both parties. There are good reasons to put lease agreements in writing beyond the question of legal enforceability.

A written agreement reduces risk and supplies certainty. The rental price per acre is just one part of a lease agreement. A written agreement should also lay out other important provisions such as the duration of the lease, when and how a lease is renewed, termination notice, payment provisions, conservation practices, can the tenant
apply fall inputs, property maintenance, and dealing with improvements such as tiling. Some other questions that can be considered in a written lease include:

- Does property transfer terminate the lease?
- Does the death of either party terminate the lease?
- Can a tenant recoup expenses for tillage, nutrients, seed, cover crops or even a portion of a hay crop if those expenses were incurred before the landowner terminates the lease?

Some of these questions are not easy questions to ask or to consider, but they are questions developed from real life examples that caused disputes, and in some cases, legal action. It is easier to ask these questions and work through terms in a written agreement beforehand than relying upon good will and cooler heads to prevail when these situations arise.

The basic components of a legal, written lease agreement include a legal description, address and acreage of the land parcel, signature of all landowners and the tenant, any lease over 3 years must be acknowledged, preferably with a notary or official to certify signatures, and finally, the lease must be recorded in the county where the land exists. Ohio law does allow lease parties to file a shortened, “memorandum of lease” that only requires the names and addresses of the agreement parties, a legal description of the land, lease period and rights of renewal without having to reveal any other details or provisions of the lease.

Written lease agreements protect both the landowner and the tenant, remove the burden of trusting our memories, clarify terms and conditions and may prevent legal and relationship problems from arising. Resources and examples of written farm leases can be found on the North Central Farm Management Extension web site at: [http://aglease101.org/](http://aglease101.org/). For more information about cropland leases contact a member of the OSU Extension Ag Manager team; a team directory can be found on the web site at: [http://ohioagmanager.osu.edu/](http://ohioagmanager.osu.edu/).

References used in this article:

**EPA Proposes Changes to the Certification and Training of Pesticide Applicators**
By Mary Ann Rose

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a minimum age (18) and stricter standards for certifying applicators of restricted use pesticides (RUPs). For commercial applicators in Ohio, there is no distinction between RUP and non-RUP users, hence these new proposals potentially affect the certification and recertification of all licensed commercial pesticide applicators in Ohio whether or not they actually use restricted use pesticides. Private applicators are only required to be licensed in Ohio if they use RUPs.

Much of what is proposed for the stricter federal standard is already required by Ohio Law; for example, Ohio pesticide applicators already take closed book exams, must recertify on a three-year schedule, and keep pesticide records. The proposed changes would however significantly increase the recertification requirements for Ohio pesticide applicators. The EPA has proposed that all applicators will be required to take six units (50 minutes) of core plus three (private) or six (commercial) units per category every three years. An Ohio commercial applicator licensed in one category who is now required to take five hours of recertification would have to attend twelve 50-minute sessions every three years. An Ohio private applicator licensed in one category who now needs 3 hours of training to recertify would have to attend nine 50-minute sessions every three years. Applicators would be required to present identification at exams and recertification programs. For private applicators, the fumigation category would be split into soil and non-soil fumigation categories. There also would be an annual training requirement and
minimum age of 18 for trained service persons, who under current Ohio law only require a single, verified training prior to occupational exposure to pesticides.

The public may comment on the EPA’s proposal through November 23, 2015; there have been formal requests for an extension to the deadline. Comments may be submitted to the EPA at http://www.regulations.gov in docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0183. Learn more about the proposal and certification for pesticide applicators: http://www2.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/epa-proposes-stronger-standards-people-applying-riskiest-pesticides

Weather Pattern Change is Coming
By Jim Noel

**Temperature RISK:** Temperatures will continue to be several degrees above normal into much of November. However, the real change comes with a wetter pattern as has been discussed for several weeks now. The drier pattern of the last few months is about to end for a while.

**Storm RISK:** The first storm Oct. 27/28 will bring widespread 1 inch rain to Ohio with isolated totals of 2 inches. The next storm will arrive about Nov. 1 with another near 1 inch event possible. Another storm will arrive later in the first week or November.

**Rain RISK:** Expect the wetter than normal pattern to last until at least mid-November before some drying returns. Rainfall through mid-November will average 2-4+ inches with normal being 1.25-1.75 inches. On average we should expect about twice the normal rainfall.

**Snow RISK:** With the warmer than normal temperatures, little if any snow is expected the next several weeks.

**Freeze RISK:** The risk for freezes remains at or below normal the next several weeks. We will see a few freezes but they will be limited in nature.

**Wind RISK:** The risk for autumn wind storms which has been limited to this point will increase the next 1-2 weeks with plenty of energy coming from the Pacific Ocean.

**Winter Outlook:** All indications are for a warmer than normal winter with precipitation near or slightly below normal.

**El Nino RISK:** A major El Nino will continue into winter and linger into spring. Early indications are for normal or drier than normal spring.

You can get the latest 16-day rainfall outlook from the NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center at: http://www.erh.noaa.gov/ohrfc/HAS/images/NAEFS16day.pdf

**Corn Stalks Can Stretch Feed Supplies**
By Rory Lewandowski, Extension Educator, Wayne County

There were a lot of corn acres harvested around the state this past week. Those acres represent an underutilized feed source that could help stretch feed supplies. This corn residue feed source is best used within the first 30 to 60 days after harvest. According to an October 2014 article on grazing corn residues by Rick Rasby, University of Nebraska beef specialist, for every bushel of corn (56 lb. per bushel) there is about 45 pounds of residue on a dry matter (DM) basis. Research shows that for every bushel of corn there is about 16 pounds of husk and leaves on a dry matter basis. Using those figures, a 170 bu/acre corn crop will leave 7,650 lbs. DM of total residue with the husks and
leaves accounting for about 2720 lbs. of that total. In addition to the plant residues, typical harvest losses leave about 1 bu/acre of corn grain. Livestock will selectively graze the most palatable portions of the residue first, starting with the grain, leaves, and husks and then the cobs and stalks.

The livestock classes that match up the best for grazing corn stalks are non-lactating mature beef cows in mid-gestation and ewes in the middle trimester or earlier of gestation. The other note is that these animals should not be thin going into grazing corn stalks. Although selective grazing combined with low grazing density can allow for higher diet values, on average livestock will be consuming a diet of approximately 6% crude protein and 50 to 55% TDN.

University of Nebraska research suggests that designing a grazing strategy to remove about 50% of the leaf and husks, leaves plenty of residue on the field, while allowing good animal performance. Applying this guideline to the earlier 170 bu/acre corn field, if I have a 1400 lb. beef cow eating 2.5% of her body weight in dry matter per day, one acre will provide approximately 38 days of grazing.

**Drone Use in Agriculture- Are New Rules Coming?**

**By Tracy Turner, OSU**

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Users who fly drones for fun may soon have to register their machines. A new task force announced Monday (Oct. 19) has been charged with recommending a registration process for unmanned aircraft systems used for recreational purposes.

But farmers who want to use drones in their operations for activities like crop scouting and checking on livestock will still have to wait until the Federal Aviation Administration issues its final rules that would govern the use of small UAS in agriculture and other enterprises, said Peggy Hall, Ohio State University Extension’s agricultural and resource law field specialist.

The proposed regulations, which FAA published last spring, would require commercial operators to comply with a certification process, which includes passing an exam. Operators would also have to register and maintain the aircraft and follow limitations on aircraft operation, said Hall, who is also an assistant professor for OSU Extension. “Those rules for using small UAS in agriculture and other enterprises likely won’t be announced until sometime in 2016,” Hall said. “FAA is working to create a special category that allows for small drone usage, which right now is not permitted unless you have a special exemption from FAA.

“The primary concerns for agriculture use are the proposed visual line-of-sight requirement, which requires that operators maintain visual contact with aircraft, a flight ceiling of 500 feet above ground level and no nighttime flights.” The task force that was announced Monday by the U.S. Department of Transportation and FAA is charged with advising federal authorities by Nov. 20 on a process for drone registration for hobby and recreational drones that would include both new and previously purchased drones, according to the U.S. transportation department.

Hobby and recreational drone flights are those that are purely for recreational purposes, as opposed to commercial purposes like agriculture, Hall said. Federal authorities said pilot sightings of UAS doubled between 2014 and 2015, with incidents reported at major sporting events, flights near manned aircraft and interference with wildfire operations, the transportation department said in a statement.

The task force will be composed of 25 to 30 representatives from the UAS and manned aviation industries, the federal government and other stakeholders, the transportation department said. The group will advise the department on which aircraft should be exempt from registration due to a low safety risk, including toys and certain
other small UAS, the statement said. The task force also will explore options for a streamlined system that would make registration less burdensome for commercial UAS operators, it said.

**No Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2016**


Social Security’s annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is an increase in the benefit amount people receive each month. By law, the monthly Social Security and SSI federal benefit rate increases when there is a rise in the cost of living. The government measures changes in the cost of living through the Department of Labor’s Consumer Price Index (CPI-W).

The CPI has not risen since the last cost-of-living adjustment in 2015. As a result, your SSI benefit rate and, for most people, your Social Security benefit amount will stay the same in 2016. This news isn’t necessarily bad. When inflation stays at the same rate, your cost of living also stays the same. Prices for goods and services, on average, haven’t increased enough to affect the COLA.

Other changes that would normally take effect based on changes in the national average wage index also won’t begin in January 2016. Since there is no COLA, the statute also prohibits a change in the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax, as well as the retirement earnings test exempt amounts. These amounts will remain unchanged in 2016. The [new fact sheet](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/cola) provides more information on 2016 Social Security and SSI changes.

For additional information about the 2016 COLA, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/cola](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/cola). For additional information about changes in the national average wage index, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/COLA/AWI.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/COLA/AWI.html).

**Farm Bill: Producers Still Have Time to Enroll in Dairy Program**

Published on October 22, 2015

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Dairy producers still have time to enroll in the dairy Margin Protection Program for coverage in 2016 and can use an online tool developed by dairy economists with the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University to aid in their decision-making.

Cameron Thraen, emeritus professor and formerly an associate professor in the college’s Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, and John Newton, formerly a Ph.D. graduate student working with Thraen and now senior director, Economic Research, National Milk Producers Federation, collaborated with members of the Dairy Markets and Policy (DMaP) team in 2014 to create the online decision tool.

Thraen and Newton, working with a team of dairy economists from the University of Wisconsin, the University of Minnesota, Michigan State University, Cornell University and The Pennsylvania State University developed the web-based decision support tool and the educational programming materials for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency Margin Protection Program (MPP). The MPP online tool can be accessed on the following websites: [http://fsa.usda.gov/mpptool](http://fsa.usda.gov/mpptool), [http://dairymarkets.org/MPP](http://dairymarkets.org/MPP), and [http://farmbilltoolbox.farmdoc.illinois.edu/](http://farmbilltoolbox.farmdoc.illinois.edu/).

The deadline to enroll in the MPP was extended to November 20 to help accommodate farmers busy with harvesting, according to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “The fall harvest is a busy time of the year for agriculture, so this extension will ensure that dairy producers have more time to make their choices,” Vilsack said in a written statement. “We encourage all operations to examine the protections offered by this program, because despite the very best forecasts, markets can change.”
MPP is a new voluntary dairy safety net program created by the 2014 Farm Bill that provides financial assistance to participating farmers when the margin – the difference between the U.S. All Milk Price and calculated feed costs – falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer. Therefore, the more time producers have to make a decision on their participation level, the better they’ll be able to make the most informed choice, Thraen said. “The dairy market is pretty volatile, so another week, gives more time for the online decision tool to track out the direction in which the margin (milk price versus cost to feed) will trend in 2016,” he said. “The more hard data producers have at their disposal, the better. “It is in a producer’s interest to wait as long as possible before they make program decisions.”

The tool helps producers calculate total premium costs and administrative fees associated with the program, as well as forecast MPP payments that will be made during the coverage year and the total MPP benefit that the producer can anticipate, Thraen said. Recently the tool added an advanced feature, one that lets a dairy farmer use her or his own farm milk production, milk price, feed cost, and financial data to customize the decision framework and stress-test their dairy business, he said. “This feature can be found on the online decision tool in the upper left section,” Thraen said. “The DMaP website has complete details on the use of the advanced feature. “Producers who feel that the national data does not reflect their own business experience can use this advanced feature to their advantage.” Currently the online decision tool forecast shows a margin for 2016 that will be above the long-term average, he said. “In great part this is due to very strong demand for cheese and butter here at home,” Thraen said. “However, world dairy markets are volatile, and any decline in the U.S. All Milk Price in the coming weeks could send the dairy margin tumbling. “Ohio dairy farmers need to monitor international dairy prices as well as the continued strength in U.S. domestic demand in the coming weeks. A critical period will be just prior to the decision deadline of Nov. 20.”

A Huge El Nino Is Spreading All Kinds of Mayhem Around the World
Source: http://www.agweb.com/article/a-huge-el-nino-is-spreading-all-kinds-of-mayhem-around-the-world-blimg/?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWf9wsRoiuK7PZKXonjHpsX97usuUKag38431UFwdcjKPmjir1YYCRc0aPyQAgobGp5I5FEATrPYRadit6JEWA%3D%3D
October 22, 2015 09:00 PM

It has choked Singapore with smoke, triggered Pacific typhoons and left Vietnamese coffee growers staring nervously at dwindling reservoirs. In Africa, cocoa farmers are blaming it for bad harvests, and in the Americas, it has Argentines bracing for lower milk production and Californians believing that rain is finally, mercifully on the way.

El Nino is back and in a big way.
Its effects are just beginning in much of the world -- for the most part, it hasn’t really reached North America -- and yet it’s already shaping up potentially as one of the three strongest El Nino patterns since record-keeping began in 1950. It will dominate weather’s many twists and turns through the end of this year and well into next. And it’s causing gyrations in everything from the price of Colombian coffee to the fate of cold-water fish.

Expect “major disruptions, widespread droughts and floods,” Kevin Trenberth, distinguished senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. In principle, with advance warning, El Nino can be managed and prepared for, “but without that knowledge, all kinds of mayhem will let loose.” In the simplest terms, an El Nino pattern is a warming of the equatorial Pacific caused by a weakening of the trade winds that normally push sun-warmed waters to the west. This triggers a reaction from the atmosphere above. Its name traces back hundreds of years to the coast of Peru, where fishermen noticed the Pacific Ocean sometimes warmed in late December,
around Christmas, and coincided with changes in fish populations. They named it El Nino after the infant Jesus Christ. Today meteorologists call it the El Nino Southern Oscillation.

**Record Event**
The last time there was an El Nino of similar magnitude to the current one, the record-setting event of 1997-1998, floods, fires, droughts and other calamities killed at least 30,000 people and caused $100 billion in damage, Trenberth estimates. Another powerful El Nino, in 1918-19, sank India into a brutal drought and probably contributed to the global flu pandemic, according to a study by the Climate Program Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. As the Peruvian fishermen recognized in the 1600s, El Nino events tend to peak as summer comes to the Southern Hemisphere. The impact can be broken down into several categories. Coastal regions from Alaska to the Pacific Northwest in the U.S., as well as Japan, Korea and China may all have warmer winters. The southern U.S., parts of east Africa and western South America can get more rain, while drier conditions prevail across much of the western Pacific and parts of Brazil.

**Threshold Level**
During the first full week of October, temperatures across a portion of the central Pacific most watched by researchers reached 2.4 Celsius (4.3 Fahrenheit) above normal, the U.S. Climate Prediction Center said. The threshold at which the Australian Bureau of Meteorology considers an El Nino under way is 0.8 degree Celsius, said Andrew Watkins, supervisor of Climate Prediction Services for the agency. While the effect on the U.S. may not reach a crescendo until February, much of the rest of the world is already feeling the impact, Trenberth said.

“It probably sits at No. 2 in terms of how strong this event is, but we won’t be able to rank it until it peaks out and ends,” said Mike Halpert, deputy director of the Climate Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland. “We are definitely hurt by the El Nino,” said Mai Ky Van, deputy director at October Coffee-Cocoa One Member Ltd., a state-owned plantation company in Vietnam’s Dak Lak province. The water level in reservoirs there is down about 67 percent from normal, and while there is enough for the current harvest, “I’m afraid we won’t have enough water for irrigation in the next growing cycle,” Van said.

**Coffee, Cocoa**
Southern Sumatran and Javanese coffee and cocoa crops will probably be hurt, said Drew Lerner, the president of World Weather Inc. in Overland Park, Kansas. In addition, fires burning in rain forests in Sumatra, Borneo and New Guinea, many of them set to clear land, have pushed air quality in Singapore to unhealthful levels, and the lack of rain resulting from El Nino is making the situation worse, said Robert Field, an associate research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies at New York’s Columbia University. So far this year, about 125,000 people have suffered haze-related ailments, Indonesia’s disaster relief agency said this month. While much is made of the negative side of El Nino, the phenomenon is more complex. “It will be a feast or famine climate pattern,” said Scott Yuknis, president of Climate Impact Co. in Plymouth, Massachusetts. “Some crops will suffer too much rain and other regions will be hot and dry. The timing of the peak in this El Nino and how quickly it weakens will also determine the final crop impact.”

**Tea, Too**
A drought in Kenya may cut tea production by 10 percent. However, El Nino-spurred rains may end up boosting next year’s harvest, Lerner said. As the atmosphere changes, storm tracks in the U.S., for instance, are pushed down from the north, so the region from California to Florida could get more rain. This is reflected in the latest three-month outlook from the Climate Prediction Center, which sees high odds that heavy rain will sweep from California into the mid-Atlantic states through January. Texas and Florida have the greatest chance for downpours. While this isn’t likely to end California’s four-year drought, it would improve conditions. Eliminating the dryness completely will be difficult because the state is so far behind on its normal rainfall.
Deficit Remains

“If the wettest year were to occur, we still wouldn’t erase the deficit we have seen in the last four years,” said Alan Haynes, service coordination hydrologist at the California Nevada River Forecast Center in Sacramento. A lot of rain in Florida could exacerbate orange crop damage from citrus-greening disease, as the psyllid that carries it thrives on moisture, Lerner said. Production will shrink to a 52-year low in the season to Sept. 30 next year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cold-water species of fish will move north or into deep water, while others will disperse, NOAA said. This in turn can hurt birds that feed off those fish, causing many to die of starvation or fly far from their usual territories, said Andrew Farnsworth, researcher at Cornell University’s Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, New York. For Australia, El Nino can often mean drought. “In broadest terms, though, we have had 26 past El Nino events since 1900, of which 17 resulted in widespread drought, so we in Australia have to manage for drought in any El Nino event,” Watkins said. The weather in Australia is also affected by how warm the Indian Ocean gets, which can lead to rainier conditions. Right now, that ocean, like the Pacific, is warm; however, all the other signals point the other way. “The drys are winning out over the wet,” Watkins said.

Hurricane Impact

Another aspect of El Nino’s scope that would seem positive at first is that there are typically fewer tropical cyclones, the class of storm that includes hurricanes and typhoons, making landfall in Australia during years the phenomenon is active. “But there is a downside to that -- inland tropical areas get some of their best rainfall from ex-tropical cyclones that cross the coast and head inland as tropical depressions,” Watkins said. This would have been a benefit for places such as western Queensland, which like California is in the midst of drought.

The Atlantic Ocean also sees fewer tropical systems because of El Nino. Wind shear increases across the basin, tearing at the structure of storms and keeping their number down. While the Atlantic has produced two killer storms this year, the total number of hurricanes and tropical storms has been below the seasonal average. Trenberth said he hopes all the warning helped people prepare for this El Nino. Planning could help agricultural economies weather the event better than the El Ninos in 1982-83 and 1997-98, perhaps leading to more water being captured for future use and prevent deaths. “The general thing about these things is, if you are prepared, it doesn’t have to be a negative,” Trenberth said. “One of the biggest challenges that may not be to individuals but to organizations is water and water management. Can you save that water and manage that water so that, when it stops, you can still use it?”

Deer-Vehicle Collisions Peak in the Fall

Author: Marne Titchenell; titchenell.4@osu.edu

WHITE-TAILED DEER (*Odocoileus virginianus*) provide abundant recreation opportunities for hunters and wildlife watchers, they can unfortunately cost us millions of dollars every year through deer-vehicle collisions. So listen up motorists, now is the time when deer are on the move and extra caution is advised when out on the roadways.

So what is happening during October and especially November that increases the chances of Ohio motorists colliding with deer? Some people may think that hunting causes an increase in deer movement, particularly across roads and highways (Ohio’s deer hunting season runs from Sept. 26 - Jan. 12), but this isn't always the case. For example, movements of antlered deer in Pennsylvania wearing GPS radio collars were tracked during the weeks before, during, and after muzzleloader and firearms seasons and there were no changes in activity patterns due to the hunting season. Deer movement due to hunting depends on the amount of hunting pressure, and while intense pressure can cause an increase in deer activity, typically deer stay within their normal home ranges. The truth is, deer are on the move at this time of year for multiple reasons, both natural and human related.

Possibly the biggest reason for the increase in deer movement is the breeding season (rut), which takes place October through December in Ohio. In November, deer are entering the peak of their breeding season. Males are

![Deer](https://via.placeholder.com/150)
actively searching for mates which frequently bring them across roadways. The total distance a single deer moves during a 24-hour period varies from 1 - 4 miles, but that distance is increased dramatically in males during the breeding season. While some female deer may take a brief breeding excursion outside their normal range in search of a mate, the majority stay put and don't travel more than normal during the breeding season.

In between breeding, deer also need to increase their food consumption this time of year in preparation for the winter months. Depending on the available food resources in their home range (such as acorns and other hard mast), deer may have to travel further to find enough food, which can lead to additional travel across roadways to reach alternate resources.

In addition to the increased activity brought on by the breeding season and the approach of winter, daylight savings time plays a role in motorists encountering deer on the roadways. As Ohioans "fall back" (on November 1 this year), the shorter days and longer nights force commuters onto the roads at dawn and dusk - the same times deer are most active. Also, motorists shouldn't make the mistake in thinking that deer will only be encountered crossing roads in rural parts of the state. In fact, urban and suburban areas are also prime sites for deer vehicle collisions.

To summarize, October through November is the prime time for deer vehicle collisions. Deer are sighted frequently during this time for a variety of reasons; breeding season, hunter avoidance, increasing deer populations, and lessening of daylight hours. What can drivers around Ohio do to remain safe and decrease their chances of an accident?

- Take special precautions this time of year to avoid collisions, especially at dawn and after sunset, and during the hours of 5 p.m. - 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. - 8 a.m. Be extra careful throughout November, as the number of accidents peak during this month.
- Remember that breeding season for deer is October - December, and although most accidents occur in October and November, remain vigilant through December.
- Often times when there is one deer, there are more. If one deer crosses the road, slow down because there may be more on their way across.
- If a deer runs in front of your vehicle, brake firmly but try not to swerve. Swerving can cause the loss of control of your vehicle, which can lead to more damage to you and your car. The Ohio State Highway Patrol reports that more people are injured trying to avoid hitting a deer than those that don't.
- Pay special attention to deer crossing signs. They are there for a reason - to alert you of a high deer density area.
- Stay alert and constantly on watch especially during the dawn and dusk hours. Deer can be very unpredictable, especially when frightened. If you pass a deer on the road side, flash your lights at oncoming traffic to alert the other drivers of potential danger - a little warning can go a long way in avoiding an accident.
- Perhaps you have heard of the hood-mounted deer whistles and ultrasonic devices designed to scare away deer? Skip the purchase - wildlife biologists have found no evidence these devices work.
- Finally, and possibly most important - because a deer-vehicle collision cannot always be avoided no matter how vigilant you are - wear your seat belt. Luckily, most deer vehicle collisions don't results in human fatalities; however the number of crash deaths is increasing in almost every state, including Ohio, which is one of the top 5 states with the highest fatalities. In a study completed by the Highway Loss Data Institute, 60% of the people killed in an animal collision accident were not wearing their seat belts. So be sure to buckle up.

Be safe on the roads this fall season!
Webinar to Help Veterinarians, Farmers, and Livestock Professionals Successfully Manage Dairy Cow Nutrition

Dairy cows must consume enough high quality dry matter to get the nutrients needed for late gestation and milk production in early lactation. Gain practical information to help you maximize dry matter intake during a free webinar on Monday, November 9 at 12 p.m. ET, "Managing Dry Matter Intake in Pre- and Post-Partum Dairy Cows."

Dr. Bill Weiss will explain factors to consider during the weeks before and after calving, and how to prevent metabolic disease and the subsequent negative immune system effects in lactating dairy cows. Weiss is a professor and dairy Extension specialist with The Ohio State University Department of Animal Sciences, focusing in forage and feed utilization and nutrition. He received the 2015 American Dairy Sciences Association Fellow Award and has served as editor of the Journal of Dairy Science. The session is geared toward veterinarians, Extension educators, farmers, and other animal health professionals who work with certified organic livestock.

There is no cost to attend the webinar, but pre-registration is required. To register, [https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7019897228775731202](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7019897228775731202)

Veterinary Continuing Education (CE) credits will be granted on an “hour for hour” basis. This event is part of an educational livestock health series offered by Veterinary Extension at The Ohio State University and OEFFA. For more information about the series or to see other scheduled events, click here, call (614) 421-2022 Ext. 209, or email education@oeffa.org.

26th Annual Beef Banquet to be held on Saturday, November 14 in Lenox, Ohio.

OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association will be holding their 26th annual banquet on Saturday, November 14 at the Lenox Community Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. This banquet has grown over the years with nearly 150 beef producers and industry supporters attending last year. This is most likely due to the huge chunk of Prime Rib which attendees get to dine on. I can honestly say that I have never eaten anything better than this meal! The prime rib catered by Cherry Valley Processing is outstanding!

During the banquet, our Cattlemen’s Association will provide a recap on the activities of the Cattlemen’s Association for the past year and elect a member to the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s board of directors. We are also excited to have Kenny Acord, lead singer for the local band Wildrice for this year’s banquet entertainment. Tickets for the banquet can be purchased from the Directors of the Cattlemen’s Association. Directors are: Bob & Tyler Brown, Dorset Township; Dr. Bryan Elliott, Andover Township, Bart Kanicki, Pierpont Township and Zach Ward, Austin Township. Tickets are $25 per person. Tickets can also be purchased at the Ashtabula County Extension office in Jefferson, Ohio. Pre-reservations should be made by November 6, 2015. Additional information about the banquet can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008 or by accessing [http://go.osu.edu/ne-events](http://go.osu.edu/ne-events)

Northeast Ohio “Snow Bird” Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification Session & Commercial Fertilizer Application Certification to be held on Tuesday, November 24 in Burton, Ohio

Do you head south for the winter? Does your Private Pesticide Applicator’s License expire on March 31, 2016? If so, OSU Extension in Northeast Ohio has planned his session with you in mind! This workshop will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 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 4:00 p.m. for private pesticide applicators and area farmers 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.

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. Lunch will be provided for those who are staying for the afternoon session for $10/person. Pre-registration is required by November 16, 2015. An additional late registration fee of $25 per person will be added for any registration received after November 16, 2015. 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 2016 on January 15 (Williamsfield), January 29 (Burton), February 10 (Cortland) and February 25 (Perry). A registration can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

FSA Reminds Producers of Approaching NAP Deadlines for 2016 Crops
The USDA Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers who are interested in the 2016 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), of the need to apply for coverage by the following crop deadline dates.

- **October 1, 2015** is the deadline for 2016 NAP coverage on winter wheat, rye, barley and speltz.
- **November 20, 2015** is the deadline for 2016 NAP coverage on apples, asparagus, blueberries, caneberries, cherries, chestnuts, forage for hay and pasture, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, strawberries, honey, maple sap and hops. NOTE: Hops is a perennial crop and the application deadline moved from spring to fall for coverage.
- **March 15, 2016** is the deadline for 2016 NAP coverage on forage sorghum, oats, potatoes, Soybeans, Sunflowers and all spring planted specialty crops grown for food.

The 2014 Farm Bill provides greater coverage for losses when natural disasters affect specialty crops. Previously, the program offered coverage at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Producers can now choose higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price. The expanded protection is especially helpful to beginning and socially disadvantaged producers, as well as farmers with limited resources, who will receive fee waivers and premium reductions for expanded coverage.

Eligible producers can apply for 2016 NAP coverage at their local FSA Office using form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. The service fee for basic NAP coverage is the lesser of $250 per crop or $750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of $1,875 for a producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Producers interested in buy-up coverage must pay a premium, in addition to the service fee. The maximum premium will be $6,564.

Producer meeting the definition of a socially disadvantaged farmer, beginning farmer or limited resource farmer will have service fees waived. Producers meeting this definition that choose to purchase buy-up coverage will also have service fees waived and the premium will be capped at $3,282. To help producers learn more about the NAP program and how it can help them, USDA, offers an online Web tool at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap. The webtool allows
producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for coverage and gives producers an opportunity to explore a variety of options and levels to determine the best protection level for their operation. For more information on NAP coverage or obtain coverage, please contact your FSA County office.

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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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The Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

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