I was very pleased to see close to 120 beef producers at last Thursday’s Northeast Ohio Beef Twilight. What a great response! Ron Novak did an excellent job in explaining his grazing operation. It was a really nice event. I have included an article I shared last year at this time on leasing your land for hunting as we have had a couple of calls this past week about leases. You can tell the Hunters are coming out of the wood work (where were they during haying season?). Our sympathies are extended to the Bob Spellman family for their loss of Bob early this week. Bob fought a courageous battle with cancer and was a long term member of the Ashtabula County Fair board. He was a great member of the fair board and he will be missed. I hope that we get an extended fall season. It was a little soggy this past weekend but things are looking good for this week. Have a good and safe week.

David Marrison, AG Educator

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Northeast Ohio Fall Twilight Beef Tour a Success
We were very excited that 120 beef producers from across Northeast Ohio and Northwest Pennsylvania attended the 2015 Northeast Ohio Fall Twilight Beef Tour on Thursday, October 1, 2015 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Novak Town Line Farm in Burghill, Ohio. It was a cool, crisp evening and Ron Novak gave participants a great tour of his Angus Cattle operation.

During the tour, participants learned how the Novak’s established 80 acres of intensively grazed pastures. It was great to learn how set up the pastures and how water hydrants have been placed every 200 feet to supply water to each paddock. Participants also learned how customized color coded Ritchey Livestock tags are used to track the genealogy of each cow and how the Novak’s winter house their animals, both inside and outside.

Thanks to the Ron and Karen Novak for hosting an excellent tour! I heard lots of positive comments about the tour! It was outstanding. And as tradition, an all-beef
hamburger and hotdog meal was enjoyed at the conclusion of the tour courtesy of Cherry Valley Processing. We thank Joe and Laurie Mezinger for their hospitality of cooking and treating participants to this great meal!

**October 5th Fall Weather Outlook**
By **Jim Noel**

There are no changes to recent weather outlooks. Overall, it looks warmer than normal for October with rainfall at or below normal. It does look like November may turn somewhat wetter than normal as an early indication.

**October RISK:**
Temperatures - Above Normal (+3 to +5F)

Rainfall - Normal to below normal

Freeze - Below normal - Typically first freeze often occurs from north to south between Oct. 10 to 20. It will likely be delayed 1-2 weeks. See the typical freeze dates from the NOAA Midwest Regional Climate Center here: [http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/VIP/frz_maps/freeze_maps.html#frzMaps](http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/VIP/frz_maps/freeze_maps.html#frzMaps)

The NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center 16-day rainfall outlook suggests normal ot drier than normal conditions in Ohio. [http://www.erh.noaa.gov/ohrfc/HAS/images/NAEFS16day.pdf](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/ohrfc/HAS/images/NAEFS16day.pdf)

With a significant El Nino expected this fall and winter, everything suggests warmer conditions with below normal precipitation across western Ohio and normal precipitation in eastern Ohio into winter.

**Leasing Your Land for Hunting: Legal Considerations**
Caty Daniels, Attorney, (originally published September 8, 2014)

With fall quickly approaching, now is a good time to consider whether you should lease your land for hunting. Leasing your land for hunting can be beneficial by giving you an extra source of income as well as managing wildlife populations and decreasing crop damage. However, there are some considerations to make before granting that lease to someone.

Your first concern should be whether or not you would be liable for hunting accidents on your property. You likely wouldn’t be, thanks to Ohio’s Recreational User Statute. In certain situations, Ohio’s Recreational User Statute provides immunity from legal liability for someone harmed on your property during recreational activities. The types of recreational activities included in the Recreational User Statute include: hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, swimming, operating a snowmobile, all-purpose vehicle, or four-wheel drive motor vehicle, or engaging in “other recreational pursuits.”

Under the Recreational User Statute, those who lease nonresidential property for hunting do not have any duty to keep the premises safe, do not give any promises of safety by granting permission, and do not assume responsibility or liability for injuries caused by any act of the hunters.

Next, you should consider the lease itself. To create an enforceable lease, the lease must:
- Be in writing
- Identify the land being leased by legal description, address, and acreage
- Properly name the lessor (the owner of the land) and the lessee (the person leasing the land to hunt)
- Be signed by both parties
Be acknowledged and certified by a notary public or local official if the lease is over three years

It is also important to consider what should be included in the lease. Some terms and conditions you should consider including are:

- **A description of the property**
  - Clearly defining what property is/is not included in the lease will set clear boundaries for the lessee
- **A description of what activities are/are not allowed**
  - Fishing, camping, tree stand or duck blind construction, etc.?
- **Allowance or restriction of sub-leasing**
  - Do you want to give permission to the lessee to sub-lease or is the lease strictly between you and the lessee?
- **Who is allowed to hunt or access the property**
  - Just the lessee? Or may the lessee bring guests? Is there a limit to the number of people allowed to hunt at any given time? Do you want the lessee to ask permission to bring guests?
- **Amount of payment and payment dates**
  - How much will you charge for the lease and when do you want paid?
- **Termination clause**
  - When will the lease end? On a specific date and/or if a violation of the lease agreement occurs?
- **Deer Killed**
  - Limiting the number of deer that may be killed? Requiring a certain number of female deer killed?
- **Landowners reserving some rights to hunt on their land**
  - When leasing your land for hunting, you give up your right to hunt the land yourself unless you reserve some rights to hunt for yourself
- **What season is the lease in effect?**
  - Only deer, deer and turkey, etc.
- **Vehicle access to the property**
  - Where can vehicles drive and park on your property? What vehicles are permitted – will you allow ATV’s?
  - Requiring hunters to maintain liability insurance

These are important considerations to think about including in a hunting lease, but this is not an exhaustive list. You should really consider what your goal is for leasing your land for hunting. Make sure the terms and conditions you include in your lease will help accomplish those goals. While hunting lease templates can be found online, you should consult with an attorney to create a hunting lease that will satisfy the goals and needs of your particular situation.

To read Ohio’s Recreational User Statute, visit: [http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/1533.181](http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/1533.181)

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**Farm and Dairy Editor receives the National Friend of Extension Award**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — When Susan Crowell first started reporting about farm and rural issues in the mid-1980s, she knew where to turn for information. “As a reporter, I am always looking for sources — people who have the best information and can be objective,” she said. “So, naturally, whenever I’ve written about anything rural, environmental or agricultural, even as a newbie reporter, my first go-to was always Extension.

“Then I quickly learned the depth and breadth of programming, knowledge and research that Extension has to offer.” Over the years, Crowell began volunteering her time and energy to serve on Ohio State University Extension advisory boards and committees, first at the county level and then at the state and national levels.
Now the longstanding editor of Farm and Dairy, a regional newspaper based in northeastern Ohio, is being honored along with two other recipients with the National Friend of Extension Award from Epsilon Sigma Phi for her outstanding support and personal involvement in Extension efforts.

The award is the highest recognition for non-Extension laypersons, companies or organizations presented by ESP, the national Extension professional organization. Every state in the U.S. has an Extension program through the land-grant university system.

Crowell will attend ESP’s national conference Oct. 4–7 to receive the honor. “Susan is very well respected, not only within her own professional circles, but I can tell that members of the state OSU Extension Advisory Committee look up to her quite a bit,” said Greg Davis, interim director of OSU Extension. “She has also been a key voice for stakeholder input on our (college) vice president’s Conversations on the Future of Extension.” OSU Extension is the outreach arm of The Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Besides being “super polite,” Davis said, Crowell is both tough-minded and passionate about Extension and is strongly committed to the organization.

“I think that’s what makes her such a good advocate,” he said. “She’s just a big believer in what we do, bottom line. She is the epitome of a ‘friend.’” When she was young, Crowell was a member of 4-H — the youth development arm of Extension. But she said she isn’t sure she realized then that 4-H is associated with Ohio State as part of Extension. Later, as she became an adult and her involvement in Extension increased, she grew aware of programs “that I might not necessarily be writing about — things like urban programming or youth-at-risk programming.

“It seems like there’s someone in Extension nationwide working to solve almost any problem,” Crowell said. “To me, that’s just amazing. For the most part, it’s free information. It’s reliable. It’s unbiased. I can trust it as being legitimate information for my readers.” She encourages new Farm and Dairy employees to make use of Extension’s resources.

“I have a stump speech for my new employees,” Crowell said. “On their first day, I tell them that there’s somebody with Ohio State or Penn State University Extension who can address almost anything they’ll be writing about.”

Crowell has served Extension in numerous ways, including:

- Member of the Columbiana County Extension Advisory Committee.
- Member, secretary/treasurer, vice president and president of the OSU Extension State Extension Advisory Committee, on which she has served for two decades.
- Member of the advisory council to Bruce McPheron, vice president for agricultural administration and dean of Ohio State’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.
- Ohio representative to the national Lay Leaders Conference of the National Association of Public and Land-grant Colleges, now known as the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, advocating on behalf of Extension to federal legislators.
- Delegate to the national Council on Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching. She currently serves as CARET’s liaison to the national Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, the governing body for Extension directors across the U.S.
- Founding member of the National eXtension Foundation National Leadership Council.

The time and energy Crowell spends on Extension efforts is well worth it, she said. “I do it because I believe in Extension,” Crowell said. “I tell people in Extension all the time that they are rock stars. And they don’t believe it — they’re just too close to it, they’re right in the middle of it. But I’m going to continue to say it until they start to believe it.”
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 Wildride 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

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

Ride with the Trumbull County Commissioners on October 10
On Saturday, October 10, 2015, the Trumbull County Commissioners and Trumbull County MetroParks are proud to announce the first Ride with the Commissioners on the Western Reserve Greenway. Starting at 9:00 am there will be refreshments at the Sunside Trailhead, on State Route 305 (547 Center Street East, Warren, Ohio), and then at approximately 10:00 am riders and the Commissioners will depart south to ride the Paul E Heltzel portion of Western Reserve Greenway (Phase 3) approximately a 7 mile bike ride. For any additional information please visit our
website at www.trumbullmetroparks.org or call Zachary Svette, Trumbull MetroParks Operations Director at 330-675-3072.

**Trumbull County’s Farm Foliage Tour Set for October 11th**
The Trumbull County Farm Foliage Tour will be held Sunday, October 11th from 1 till 5 pm. The free drive-it-yourself tour will feature 3 stops located in lovely Gustavus Township. At various stops there will be agriculture related exhibits, antique tractors, food and restroom facilities. Farm Foliage Tour brochures, including a map of the stops, will be available at each of the stops the day of the event and are currently available at the Trumbull County Agriculture and Family Education Center at 520 West Main Street, Cortland and for download at http://www.swcd.co.trumbull.oh.us/swcd_calendar.html This year’s tour features Logan Acres, W.I. Miller and Sons and the Gustavus Federated Church. More information can be received by calling the Trumbull County Soil & Water Conservation District office at 330-637-2056, ext. 111

**Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association Meeting to be Held on October 17**
The next meeting of the Ashtabula County Beekeepers Association will be held on Saturday October 17, 2015 will be held at OSU Extension Office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson, Ohio. The meeting will begin at noon with a pot luck dinner. Please bring a dish/dessert to share. The business meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. The meeting’s guest speaker will be Jim Davis, Lake County Bee Inspector. A reminder that a Beginning Bee Clinic will be held on November 7, 2015 and the next general meeting will be held on December 12, 2015. For more information or to register, please contact Sharon Riccio at 440-576-8818 to register.

**Calling All Ohio 4-H Alumni & Friends**
By Jenna Hoyt

If you are an Ohio 4-H alum or “Friend” that believes in the 4-H program and empowering youth, we would like to hear from you. Ohio 4-H is in the exploratory phase of determining how to engage alumni and friends. Please encourage friends, family and alumni to visit our office or www.ohio4h.org/alumni to complete a brief survey. We ask that you complete the survey to show your interest in becoming involved. Several opportunities are available and listed to choose from. Thank you for your interest in Ohio 4-H!

**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.

Plant of the Week – Osage-Orange (Maclura pomifera)
Author: Denise M. Johnson; johnson.2924@osu.edu

This fast-growing tree reaches heights of 30 - 50' with a similar width, yet has dense, decay resistant wood. A member of the Mulberry family (Moraceae) osage-orange is found in all 48 contiguous states thanks to its use as a living fence for livestock in the early history of the West. It provided a thick, thorny fence to contain animals until replaced by barbed wire in the 1870's. The American Indians also used osage-orange to make strong and very valuable bows. The tree has few insect problems, is deer resistant and has orange-colored bark for winter interest. The wood, bark and roots contain extracts that are being explored for their value as pesticides, medicines, manufacturing and other uses.

Osage-orange is gaining renewed interest in the urban landscape. According to the USDA Forest Service Bulletin 654, the osage-orange is "picturesque rather than beautiful, and possessing strong form, texture, and character." It is tolerant of most soils, is salt and drought tolerant, and is unaffected by urban air pollution. The deep glossy green foliage turns yellow late in the fall and drops it leaves almost simultaneous, late in the season. It grows best in full sun. Yes, it is gaining popularity - but this is not your grandmother's osage-orange with thorns and fruit.

There are distinct male and female osage-orange trees - it is dioecious. The female produces large round green fruit commonly called "hedge apples" that are 3 - 6" in diameter and may weigh over 2 lbs. It does require a male tree with flowers for pollination. These grapefruit-sized fruit ripen in September through October. You may have observed people collecting these hedge apples for placement in their basements to deter spiders. Joe Boggs emphasized that this is a myth; the best you can do is to use them to crush spiders. Recent research has found pesticide properties in the fruit but not in concentrations high enough to repel insects. If not collected, the fruit can be very messy, make walking difficult and provide unwanted seedlings.

Then why is there an increase in urban use of this tree? The answer is the male and thornless osage-orange (Maclura pomifera var. inermis). The thornless male eliminates the litter and scratches while providing the benefits already noted. Three well-known male and thornless varieties are 'White Shield,' 'Wichita' and 'Park.' One source preferred 'White Shield' because the young trees are without thorns; however, another source described 'Wichita' as particularly beautiful. Check these out and any newly developed varieties to add more diversity to your landscape. It is a tree highly prized in my landscape.
Vegetable of the Week- Spaghetti Squash (Cucurbita pepo)
Author: Jacqueline Kowalski; kowalski.124@osu.edu

Spaghetti squash is one of the true treasures of the fall harvest. It is low in calories and high in beta carotene and fiber. When baked or broiled, the flesh is scraped out and resembles spaghetti. Topped with butter or sauce, it is super tasty. Some recommended varieties are 'Vegetable Spaghetti', 'Orangetti' (semi-bush), 'Pasta' Tivoli' (bush) and 'Stripette'.

Spaghetti squash can be direct seeded or grown from transplants. To produce transplants, sow 2 - 3 seeds in 1 1/2 - 2" containers or trays 3 weeks before transplanting outdoors. Thin to 1 - 2 plants per cell with scissors. Spaghetti squash produces best in well-draining soils with a pH 6.0-6.5.

Plant spacing will differ with growth habit and are often planted in "hills". For vining types, plant seeds 1" deep per hill and thin to the best two plants and allow 5 - 6' between plants and 7 - 12" between rows. Plant semi-vining varieties plant seeds 1 deep and also thin to the best one or two plants. Allow 8' between rows. Plant bush varieties every 3' with 5' between rows. Thin to one plant per hill. Keep well weeded until the vines and foliage cover the ground.

Pests that can be problematic for spaghetti squash are squash bug, cucumber beetle (which can both damage maturing fruits) and squash vine borer. Disease issues can include powdery mildew, bacterial wilt and to a lesser extent, downy mildew.

Harvest the fruit when the skin has darkened to a medium or darkish yellow and the rind has hardened. Leave about 2" of the stem and complete harvest before the first frost. Cure the fruit by keeping at room temperature for 10 - 20 days and then transferring to a cool place such as a basement, but do not allow it to freeze. Spaghetti squash cannot be stored as long as other winter squash and should be used within two months of harvest.

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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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