September finished with a bang. We had a nice dry of weather up until this morning. I hope this nice weather continues for the month of October! A lot of corn silage harvest was completed this week. I hope everyone schedules time to attend our fall beef twilight tour next Thursday. It will be an outstanding tour. Congratulations to Bissell Maple Farm for their grand opening of the Rock Creek Sugarworks this coming weekend. I hope many of you take the time to stop in and support this event. Have a good week!

David Marrison, AG Educator

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**Northeast Ohio Twilight Beef Tour to be held at R.J. Nye Family Farms in Hartsgrove, Ohio on October 9, 2014.**

OSU Extension and the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association are pleased to announce their annual Fall Beef Tour will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at R.J. Nye Family Farms from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The farm is located at 5800 State Route 534 in Hartsgrove, Ohio. Northeast Ohio beef producers will not want the chance to tour this really nice cow-calf operation.

The Nye family operates a 50 head cow-calf operation in which the majority of the calves are fed out through a vertically intergraded stocker-feedlot system. Beef breeds raised include Angus and Angus Hybrids crossed with Simmental, Shorthorn and Maine Anjou. Beef sales include feeder calves, breeding stock, as well as finished cattle sold custom. The Nye family farms over 700 acres in Hartsgrove and Orwell Townships and raises nearly 300 acres of hay, 300 acres of soybeans, 100 acres of corn, and manages 60 acres of pasture land harvested through rotational grazing each year.

During the tour, participants will be able to learn about the rotational grazing system which has been in use since 2008; tour the steer and heifer development facility; view the wintering and calving facilities for the cow herd; and learn more about their A.I breeding and herd health programs. Participants will learn how EQUIP cost share funds were used to help fence in the 6 pasture paddock areas and to build their manure storage structure. Attendees will also see their cattle handling and creep feeding systems, self-catching headlocks, and how feed is kept “pushed” up.

The Nye Family has a long history of farming in northeast, Ohio. The Nye family settled in Hartsgrove during the mid-1800s as dairy farmers and the farming practices have continued to date by the following generations. It is family oriented and heavily invested in 4-H and community programs. The farm is located on State Route 534 approximately 1.1 mile south of State Route 6 (Hartsgrove Circle) or 3.25 miles north of Route 322 in Windsor.
All beef producers are invited to attend. No reservations are needed. Dress for the weather as the tour will be held rain or shine! And as tradition, an all-beef hamburger and hotdog meal will be served compliments of the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association at the conclusion of the walking tour. This twilight tour is sponsored by the Ashtabula County Cattlemen’s Association, OSU Extension, and R.J. Nye Family Farms. Don’t miss the opportunity to visit this outstanding operation. A complete program flyer can be obtained by accessing http://go.osu.edu/ne-events or by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Confirmed in Northeast Ohio Horses
Source: Ohio Department of Agriculture

On September 23, 2014, Ohio Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Forshey confirmed at least four cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in horses in Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties and is urging horse owners to contact their veterinarian to ensure the animal’s EEE vaccine and boosters are up to date. “The most effective way to prevent EEE in horses is to have the animal vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian,” said Dr. Forshey. “Taking steps to manage the mosquito population, such as eliminating standing water, will also aid in the prevention of EEE and other vector-borne viruses that cause illness in horses and in people.”

The virus responsible for EEE is transmitted to horses by mosquitoes and attacks the animal’s central nervous system. In horses, onset is abrupt and usually fatal. Symptoms include unsteadiness, erratic behavior, a marked loss of coordination and seizures. Horses are particularly susceptible but the virus can also cause serious illness in people as well as other animals such as poultry and deer. Because EEE can also be transmitted to humans by the bite of infected mosquitoes, animals sick from EEE are a sign that people should also take steps to guard themselves against mosquitoes by applying repellent and wearing protective clothing. The disease is very rare in humans, and only a few cases are reported in the United States each year. There are no confirmed human cases associated with this outbreak in Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is working with the Ohio Department of Health and local health officials to monitor the outbreak. Suspect horse cases should be reported to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Citizens who are concerned about an illness should contact their physician. For more information on EEE, visit: http://www.cdc.gov/EasternEquineEncephalitis/gen/qa.html

Rock Creek Maple Festival & Grand Opening of Rock Creek Sugarworks on October 4, 2014
Bissell’s Maple Syrup will be hosting a maple festival and grand opening of their Rock Creek Sugarworks campus in Rock Creek, Ohio on Saturday on Saturday October 4, 2014. Visitors can stop in for some pancakes with maple syrup, live music, some pumpkins, and a gander at furniture made from used oak barrels. They will even have some cool refinished antique factory railroad carts for sale. Enjoy free pancakes and maple syrup from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The storefront is at 3119 W. Water St in Rock Creek, OH 44084. More information can be obtained at: http://bissellmaplefarm.com/

Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs on the Move into Homes and Buildings
By Andy Michel

With the cooler night temperatures, shorter day lengths and maturing crops, there is not much left for brown marmorated stink bugs to do except get ready for winter. The “marmies” prefer to spend the winter in homes or buildings, where they tend to be insulated from the cold temperatures. They overwinter as adults, and then emerge the following spring and lay eggs. Unfortunately, the marmies also overwinter in large numbers, which sometimes causes concerns from homeowners. The marmies are not harmful to people nor cause any damage to buildings, but many do not like their presence and odor (especially
when handled). A simple way to remove the stink bugs is to just collect them in a plastic bag or jar and put them in the freezer for a day or so to kill them. You can also vacuum them and toss them outside (do this quickly otherwise they may crawl out of the vacuum if not immediately killed). We do not recommend insecticides in the home, mainly because more will continue coming in, and just their presence does not justify an application. Like their name says, they do stink and can also leave a stain on skin or fabric, so be careful when handling.

**FDA Releases Updated FSMA Food Safety Proposals**

Based on extensive outreach and public comment, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently proposed revisions to four proposed rules designed to help prevent food-borne illness. When finalized, the proposed rules will implement portions of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), which aims to strengthen food safety by shifting the focus to preventing food safety problems rather than responding to problems after the fact. Since FSMA was signed into law in January 2011, the FDA has proposed seven rules to implement FSMA. The four updated proposed rules include: produce-safety; preventive controls for human food; preventive controls for animal food; and the foreign supplier verification program.

In response to public comments, the FDA is proposing to revise the water quality testing provisions in the proposed produce safety rule to account for natural variations in water sources and to adjust its approach to manure and compost used in crop production pending further research on this issue.

The FDA is also proposing a new definition of what farms would be subject to the produce-safety rule. The proposed rule would not apply to farms with $25,000 or less in produce sales, rather than setting the threshold based on sales of all foods produced on the farm. The updated proposed rules also propose to simplify which entities are covered by the produce safety rule and which would be covered by the preventive controls rules.

The revisions also address the issue of the use of spent grains or the by-products of alcoholic beverage brewing and distilling that are commonly used as animal food. Concerns were raised that the proposed rules would require brewers and distillers to comply with the full human food and animal food rules if they made their wet spent grains available for animal feed. The updated proposed rule would clarify that human food processors that create by-products used as animal food and are already complying with FDA human food safety requirements — such as producers of wet spent grains — would not need to comply with the full animal food rule if they are already complying with the human-food rule.

Lastly, revisions to the foreign-supplier verification proposed rule give importers more flexibility to determine appropriate supplier verification measures based on risk and previous experience with their suppliers.

The FDA will accept comments on the proposed revisions of the four proposed rules for 75 days while continuing to review comments already received on the sections of the proposed rules that are staying the same. The agency will consider both sets of comments before issuing final rules in 2015. The revised draft rules are available at [https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection](https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection) under the Food and Drug Administration section.

**Representative Patterson to Host Lyme Disease Symposium**

Area residents are invited to join State Representative John Patterson and tick and Lyme disease experts on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at Great Lakes Outdoor Supply in Bainbridge for an evening of discussion about Lyme in our community and across Ohio. This program will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and includes the following featured speakers: Dr. Glen Needham, Dr. Charles Curie, and Dr. Phillip DeMio. Please RSVP by October 6 to Stephen Harris, Legislative Aide to Rep. Patterson, at Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov or (614) 466-1405. Great Lakes Outdoor Supply is located at: 8560 Bainbridge Road in Bainbridge, Ohio.
Northeast Ohio Vegetable School to be Held on Wednesday, November 19 in Canfield, Ohio

OSU Extension in Mahoning County will be hosting the Northeast Ohio Vegetable School on November 19, 2014 from 10:00 to 2:30 p.m. This program will be held at the Mahoning County Extension office located at 490 S. Broad Street in Canfield, Ohio. This program is geared to commercial vegetable farmers. Dr. Sally Miller will be the featured speaker of the morning session speaking on the vegetable diseases of 2014 including viruses and bacterial diseases. Dr. Matt Kleinhenz will be the featured afternoon speaker. Dr. Kleinhenz will speak on winter to spring harvest from tunnel production and grafting vegetables—who, how and why. A registration fee of $30 per person is required and it includes lunch and handouts. Participants will receive 2 hours of recertification for ODA private applicator pesticide license in Category 3. The registration flyer for this program can be located at: http://go.osu.edu/fallvegschool. More information can also be obtained by calling the Mahoning County Extension office at: 330-533-5538

Ohio Farmers Help Schools Enhance Math and Science Programs

Ohio school districts have received $125,000 in grants this year from America’s Farmers Grow Rural Education, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. The program partners with farmers to support rural public school districts with innovative approaches to teaching math and science. Given the technological progress in agriculture over the past 20 years, farmers are very aware of the need for superior math and science education, especially for students in their rural communities.

Winning districts have designed many innovative programs supported by the grant funds, including the Food for Today, Sustainability for Life project at Marling Local in Ohio. This project will allow the school district to provide fresh produce to the schools and community year-round, and create small business opportunities for students to learn the work skills necessary to be successful after graduation. Students will use the core content obtained in their math and science courses in a real-world situation, setting up a business to grow, package and sell produce through the horticulture department. A set of iPads will be purchased to document the process, research information on the growing and care of the plants, and communicate with the business department, which will be responsible for the financial accounting piece.

The program starts with farmers, who can nominate a public school district in their community to apply for a grant of up to $25,000. Once all of the school district applications are submitted, a panel of math and science teachers reviewed each application and selected finalists. The Grow Rural Education Advisory Council, composed of farmer-leaders with an interest in agriculture and education, then selects the winning grant applications from a pool of finalists. This program is part of the America’s Farmers initiative, which partners with farmers to support education, service organizations and youth in rural America. Visit www.GrowRuralEducation.com to see the full list of winners for this year. A sister program, America’s Farmers Grow Communities, is currently in its enrollment period. To sign up, visit www.GrowCommunities.com.

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 and 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](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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