I hope everyone had a good Labor Day! I know many of our dairy farmers were “laboring” quite a bit yesterday as corn silage harvest really picked up steam this past week. I guess “steam” was the key word for last week as our temperatures hit 90 degrees with a touch of humidity thrown in. I ran across a couple good articles from our Buckeye Dairy State Newsletter which I shared in today’s issue. I would encourage our dairy farm families to participating in the dairy needs survey. It is a quick survey and will give some valuable feed back to our state dairy team. Stay tuned for next week’s newsletter which will highlight our Fall Beef Twilight Tour. Have a good and safe week!

David Marrison, AG Educator

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NEWBio Webinar on September 9 Highlights Biomass Crop Assistance Program
The USDA Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) was reauthorized for new enrollment targets to establish shrub willow, giant miscanthus, and switchgrass for energy. Aloterra Energy LLC, based in northeastern Ohio, and ReEnergy Holdings LLC in upstate New York are among the project area sponsors who qualify for a recently announced $7.7 million allocation toward the establishment of new acreage in existing BCAP project areas.

Both companies are looking for landowners interested in growing energy crops and receiving BCAP incentive payments. This webinar is an opportunity for landowners, farmers and those in the bioenergy industry to hear about this new BCAP opportunity. The webinar will include presentations from Virginia Green (USDA Farm Services Agency), John Griswold and Courtney Spencer (Aloterra) and Mike Buckley and Sarah Boggess (ReEnergy) about enrollment procedures and their companys’ objectives and activities. Landowners may enroll for biomass establishment and maintenance payments through September 25, 2015.

NEWBio industry partners Aloterra Energy LLC, based in northeastern Ohio, and ReEnergy Holdings LLC in upstate New York are among the project area sponsors who qualify for a recently announced $7.7 million allocation toward the establishment of new acreage in existing BCAP project areas. BCAP, or the Biomass Crop Assistance Program, was reauthorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and provides financial assistance for growing new sources of biomass for energy or biobased products within designated projects areas. The new enrollment incentive targets the establishment of an
additional 10,500 acres of shrub willow, giant miscanthus, and switchgrass for energy. Landowners may enroll for biomass establishment and maintenance payments for these four sites through September 25. Aloterra is actively recruiting new landowners to join its project, hoping to plant 3,000 more acres to supplement its existing 4,000. Aloterra Energy recently completed work on a new facility in Ashtabula, OH that will process miscanthus into fiber packaging products.

Landowners, producers, and growers interested in biomass establishment and maintenance payments should plan on participating in this webinar. The webinar will be offered two different times on Wednesday, September 9, 2015. You are encouraged to participate in the one which is most convenient for you. The times of the webinar will be from Noon to 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please join the session 10 minutes prior to start. The webinar can be accessed at: [http://www.newbio.psu.edu/Extension/Webinars.asp](http://www.newbio.psu.edu/Extension/Webinars.asp)

**Recap of 2015 Western Bean Cutworm Sampling**

For the 5th consecutive fourth year, we participated in a state-wide monitoring effort of the Western Bean Cutworm in Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties. During early July through early August, the adult moths fly into Ohio and have the potential to lay eggs on the upper leaves of the corn plants. If these eggs hatch, the larvae then feed on the tassels, silks or ears of the corn. Depending on the crop’s growth stage, yield losses could be significant. In our monitoring for western bean cutworm adults, 6 traps were placed in various locations across Ashtabula & Trumbull Counties. Thank you to Howard Seavey, Joel Baldwin, Tony Stocker (Ashtabula) and WI Miller & Sons, Schwartz Farm, and Barnett Family (Trumbull) for allowing us to place traps on their property for this research. These traps were checked from June 25 through September 1 with 982 moths detected in Ashtabula County and 91 in Trumbull County. Les Ober did find larvae feeding in a field in Geauga County but we did not find any in our scouting.

**2016 Dairy Margin Protection Program Decision Time-Clock Winding Down**

**Ms. Dianne Shoemaker**, Dairy Farm Management Specialist, The Ohio State University Extension

We are nearly to the final quarter of the first year of the Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP). Instituted as part of the 2014 Farm Bill, the MPP replaced the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program and the $9.90/cwt minimum Class III support price programs for US dairy farmers.

The sign-up period for 2016 participation opened July 1 and is scheduled to run through September 30, 2015. With this “regularly scheduled” sign-up period, farmers now have to make their decisions a full quarter before the coverage period of January 1 through December 31, 2016. The 2014/2015 sign-up was uniquely late (September 2nd through December 19th) due to the time needed to establish rules for the program following the 2014 Farm Bill’s passage and deadline extensions.

The advantage of that later sign-up was that we had a better feel for what 2015 might look like than we will have for 2016 when the coverage decisions have to be locked in by September 30th. The bottom line is that none of us can predict what milk prices will be 3 to 15 months away. The futures and options markets predict what milk prices might be based on today’s known facts and somebody’s guesses about the future.

During the 2016 sign-up period, farms that enrolled in the program for 2015 have the opportunity to change their coverage level and how much of their production history they want to cover. Participating farms that do not go to their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office and select a coverage level for 2016 will default to the “catastrophic” coverage level of $4/cwt on 90% of their production history (no matter what they selected for 2015). They will be charged the $100 per farm administrative fee. If you want to buy-up coverage for 2016 to a margin between $4.50 and $8.00/cwt (in 50-cent increments), on a specified percentage of your base production between 25 and 90% (in
5% increments, you need to set up an appointment with your county FSA office before September 30, 2015.

An important change from the 2014/2015 sign up is that premiums for the first 4 million pounds of covered milk will be charged at the full rate. There was a 25% reduction in these premiums for $4.50 through $7.50/cwt coverage levels in place for the first sign-up period.

If you enrolled in the program in 2015, your 2015 production history (PH) was calculated using your farm’s highest annual production from 2011, 2012, or 2013. The highest year’s production was then increased by 0.87% to establish the 2015 PH. Your 2015 production history will automatically be increased this year by a recently-announced 2.61% to calculate your 2016 PH.

Farmers that chose not to participate in 2015, but would like to participate in 2016, should work with their FSA office to establish their PH and make their coverage selections. Their PH also will still start with the highest annual production for 2011, 2012, or 2013 but will not include the 0.87% increase received by farms that enrolled in 2015.

Want to brush up on the MPP before you make these decisions? A couple options:

- Contact your Extension and FSA office for resources or to talk through the program.
- Basic and advanced MPP decision tools are available at http://dairymarkets.org. Use these to plug in your farm’s production history to look at projected premium costs and possible coverage if the markets for feed and milk perform as projected. (They won’t, as they are impacted by national and international factors that will change constantly over the coverage period. Use the historic options to see how the MPP would have performed if in place and compare that to your farm’s ability to handle catastrophic price issues.)
- Also visit http://dairymarkets.org for an extensive library of fact sheets and videos covering participation in MPP.

**Dairy Commodity and Milk Price Outlook**

Dr. Cameron S. Thraen, Associate Professor and OSUE State Dairy Markets and Policy Specialist, Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics, The Ohio State University

- What is ahead for the markets?
- How much safety in the Margin Protection Program (MPP) safety net?
- MPP margin forecast for 2015-2016

As I write this, the market focus is squarely on the international markets. Right at this moment, the turmoil in the U.S. equity market driven by concerns over the economic prospects for China is paramount. Economic growth rate for China has slowed from double digits to around 7%. While the rest of the developed countries would love a 7% growth rate, this is a much reduced level for China which needs a rate of economic growth in the range of 10 to 12% to manage its huge economy. The equity market in China has declined by 35%. Troubles with the China economy are certainly causing troubles for the rest of the world economies and only time will tell how this will all play out for the rest of us.

To the U.S. dairy industry, China’s economic impact on world markets is well understood. Just a year ago, we all were jubilant as aggressive commodity buying by China in world dairy markets, particularly for whole and skim milk powders, was driving milk prices to record levels. In the U.S., dairy production was a bit slow to take off, but as usual, it did expand, reaching full potential just as the international market made a sudden shift. First, Russia, as a retaliatory political move, imposed a near 100% ban on imports of key dairy products from the European Union countries, Oceana, and the U.S. Unable to sell cheese and butter to Russia, the European Union and Oceana moved aggressively into the milk powder market. This was the dropping of shoe number one.
The other shoe dropped when China began to pull back dramatically on import purchases in the milk powder markets. After importing a vast inventory of whole and skim milk powder in 2013 and 2014, China buying slowed considerably. With a glut of milk on the market, dairy product prices had nowhere to go but down, and down, and down. After peaking in the first quarter of 2014, nonfat and skim milk powders, whey, cheese, and butter prices on the international markets have fallen to levels not reached since 2009 to 2010. So how have U.S. dairy product prices fared during this period?

First off, nonfat and skim milk, and whey prices have followed international prices right on down. After peaking near $2.10/lb in the first quarter of 2014, nonfat and skim prices have fallen to $0.80/lb. Whey price hit its high at the end of the second quarter of 2014 near $0.70/lb and has declined to near $0.35/lb.

However, two key U.S. dairy commodity prices are showing signs of domestic strength driven by a strong U.S. retail economy and the assistance of the Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) export assistance program. The CWT program has provided export assistance for an equivalent 1.294 billion pounds of milk in the form of cheese (45.3 billion lb, butter 28 billion lb, and whole milk powder 33.4 billion lb). As a result the U.S. cheese price, while trending down with world markets, appears to have found a floor near the $1.70/lb. The U.S. butter price appears to be a market disconnected from the international scene. While butter prices in Europe and Oceana have tumbled to the $1.10 to $1.30/lb range, the U.S. butter price has gone up from its recent 2015 low of $1.50/lb to the level of $1.90/lb now.

So how does all of this translate into farm level prices in the U.S. versus the EU and Oceana? In the August 2015 podcast by dairy economists Mark Stephenson and Bob Cropp, they show a slide depicting equivalent farm level prices (go to this site to listen to the podcast: http://dairymarkets.org/PubPod/Podcast/Outlook/). The current U.S. milk price, at $18.38/cwt compares to an EU price of $13.61/cwt and a Oceana (NZ) price of $10.61/cwt. Clearly, the economic impact is being felt much more strongly by dairy farmers in the EU and Oceana. How quickly the excess supply adjusts to the relative level of demand will depend for the most part on rapid the adjustment in milk production coming from the EU and Oceana rather than the U.S. From my reading of the international news, their economic pain is significant and the draw back could be rather swift. Some good news is that latest Global Dairy Trade Index, a composite price index of the eight traded dairy commodities, trading on September 1, is up 10.1% and this follows a 15% increase from the August 18th trading event. Perhaps a bottom to the international market has arrived.

The value of the U.S. dollar remains historically high. This makes it much more difficult for export products from the U.S. to be price competitive in international markets. The current turmoil across the international economic landscape will only serve to add strength to the U.S. dollar in coming months. The strong U.S. dollar also has a positive side in that it limits international demand for U.S. grain exports and helps keep the prices of feed lower. Prices in the key grain and feed commodity markets are at five year lows. Cash corn remains below $4/bu, with the futures market forecasting this level well into 2016. Soybeans are under $10/bu and soybean meal, while strengthening a bit, remains under $375/ton. Alfalfa hay is under $180/ton.

A natural question to ask is: “How long will the down turn in market prices last and when will prices reach bottom and turn upward? “ I do not know. A couple of dairy economists who have put their collective efforts to understanding the milk price cycle have an informative paper on the topic available on the Dairy Markets and Policy website. To read the information paper, go to Stephenson and Nicholson at: http://dairy.wisc.edu/PubPod/Pubs/IL15-03.pdf. As their conclusion, these two dairy economists state “Forecasts for the margins during the current cycle through 2017 vary from quite optimistic------

- short cycle with a limited number of months with an MPP margin below $8.00/cwt (the statistical forecast)

- to a cycle close to the average length of 40 months, with a prolonged period of where the MPP margin is
below $8.00/cwt (the simulation model). Futures market forecasts are similar to the statistical forecasts through early next year, then shows more moderated increases.” This puts the bottom of the price cycle sometime between January 2016 (statistical and futures market models) and January 2017 (dynamic simulation model).

Using the current (6/02/2015) futures market price data on milk and feed input prices, the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) Decision tool for MPP (http://dairymarkets.org/MPP/Tool/) shows an anticipated July-August margin of $7.71/cwt. Anticipated margins for the remaining two calculation periods are: September - October ($8.67/cwt) and November – December ($8.88/cwt). Looking out into 2016, the USDA/FSA tool shows anticipated margins staying above $8/cwt for the first half of 2016 and then increasing to the upper $9.00/cwt level in the last quarter of 2016. With the 2016 sign up period for MPP ending on September 30, 2015, now is the time to pay close attention to the market forecasts. Use the Decision Tool to work out your best option if you intend to purchase up from the $4/cwt level. Remember, the MPP is not a price or margin risk management program, rather it is a catastrophic loss safety-net program, operating much like a way out-of-the-money PUT option with premiums that do not adjust to market conditions. As a national program, there is neither consideration for management style, scale of dairy, nor geographic location. While the national average price for milk has fallen from the peak, so have feed prices, and by the logic of MPP, this does not qualify as a ‘catastrophic loss event’. If you are looking to manage price risk volatility, you should look to the Livestock Gross Margin-(LGM) Dairy program and the futures and options markets. If you have already signed-on to the MPP, then LGMM-Dairy is off the table and then the futures and options markets remain as a viable price risk management tool that can be used along with MPP.

So what is the ‘glass half full’ take on all of this? If the U.S. economy can shake off the China troubles, gasoline prices fall as forecasted to the $2/gal mark, and U.S. retail demand remains strong for cheese and butter, then the U.S. milk price will remain substantially above that of our competitors out in the international markets. Significant production pull back will come not from the U.S. but from the EU and Oceana. And the ‘glass is half empty’ view? We become infected by the China contagion, the U.S. equity market turns to a bearish market, and retail demand weakens as U.S. consumers pull back. Cheese and butter prices move down by $0.50/lb or more, and with these, the farm price for milk declines by another $2/cwt.

For up-to-date market and policy information on the Ohio dairy industry, as well as informative charts, research papers on many industry issues, and for useful links to other sites, please visit and bookmark the Dairy Markets and Policy website: http://dairymarkets.org/ to which I contribute.

**Your Input Is Vital: Dairy Farmers Needs Survey**

Mr. Jason Hartschuh, Crawford County Extension Educator, The Ohio State University Extension

The OSU Extension Dairy Working Group is comprised of County Extension Educators, University Professors, and OARDC Research Scientists working together to bring the latest information to Ohio’s dairy producers to help them be more successful. In order to do this, we need your help in determining what you would like more information about and the best way to get that information to you. We ask that you follow this link [http://go.osu.edu/osudairy](http://go.osu.edu/osudairy) to a short survey about meeting times and the areas of information for which you are most interested. This survey will only take about 10 minutes, and it will be anonymous to the users of the information. We will do our best to provide programming over the next year on the most preferred topics. Thanks in advance for your taking time to complete the short survey.

**Digital Weed ID Guide Available**

The 2015 Ohio State University Guide to Weed Identification is now available for free as an iBook and can be downloaded through Ohio State’s Digital Bookstore at [http://go.osu.edu/idweed](http://go.osu.edu/idweed). The guide, which is offered in a digital format that offers pictures of various weed species at different stages of maturity and 360 degree movies for most
species, was written by Bruce Ackley, an OSU Extension program specialist in weed science. This guide helps growers identify weeds in order to manage them before they take over. Requirements: To view this book, you must have an iPad with iBooks 2 or later and iOS 5 or later, or an iPhone with iOS 8.4 or later, or a Mac with OS X 10.9 or later.

**OSU Searching for OSU Extension Educator for Trumbull County**

OSU Extension in Trumbull County is now taking applications (until September 20, 2015) for an Agricultural & Natural Resources Extension Educator. The ANR Educator will provide overall leadership to developing and conducting a proactive applied research and education program in agriculture and natural resources to meet current and future needs in farm management, livestock and crop production, food security, home horticulture/Master Gardeners, commercial horticulture, farm land use issues, innovative agricultural business opportunities, environmental quality and sustainability, renewable energy, and bio-based products.

Required job qualifications include: Master’s degree and at least one degree in agriculture, natural resources, or a related field (plant science is preferred). The successful candidate will have strong written and oral communication skills, and experience working with diverse clientele and organizations; demonstrated success in working as part of a team and initiating collaborative partnerships is sought; leadership ability, and strong teaching and subject matter expertise in at least one area of agriculture is necessary. Candidates must be willing to work flexible hours with minimal supervision. To learn more about this position (Job #400890) or to apply, go to: [https://www.jobsatosu.com/postings/64757](https://www.jobsatosu.com/postings/64757)

**2015 Lake Erie Maple Expo Set for November 6-7 in Albion, PA.**

By Les Ober, Geauga County

It started with the need for an educational program that would serve the maple syrup producers living in the central and western maple producing regions. A program held at the time of the year that would accommodate outdoor workshops along with classroom seminars and a maple equipment trade show. A group of NW Pennsylvania Maple producers got together and took on the challenge. Along with help from New York and Ohio producers and a group of very dedicated FFA students from the Albion FFA Chapter they made the event happen. The Lake Erie Maple Expo was launched four years ago developing into one of the premiere maple syrup events in the country. The 2015 edition will be held on November 6th and 7th in Albion Pa at the Northwestern High School.

The 4th Annual LEME starts at 9:00 am on Friday morning November 6th with a series of producer workshops and a companion tour. Producers can choose from 6, four hour workshops; Maple Quality and Grading with, Ohio maple producer James Miller; Tubing Installation with Steve Bedard and Eric Miller from Lapierre Maple; Maple tubing and Vacuum Systems with Steve Childs and Les Ober from Cornell Univ. and The Ohio State Univ.; Maple Syrup Production for Beginners with Pa maple producer Laura Dengler; Boiling 101 with Bruce Gillillian from the Leader Evaporator Co. and Maple Confections 101 with NY maple producer Jake Moser. The Companion Tour will feature the Maple Syrup Museum at Hurry Hill with museum owner and historian Jan Woods. The Workshops will end at 2:00 pm and lunch is included in the registration fee of $25.00, which is separate from the program registration fee.

Friday evening will feature the maple equipment trade show held in the lobby of Northwestern High School in Albion Pa. The show will start at 5:00pm and will run until 8:00pm. During the show producers will have an opportunity to speak with representatives just about every maple equipment manufacture in the industry. The equipment is the star of the show but many of the workshop and seminar speakers will be on hand to answer your questions. The tradeshow always affords an opportunity to talk one on one with a maple expert and ask that question that has been on your mind since last season. It is also a good time to register for the Expo. Registration for both Friday night and Saturday is only $40.00 and this includes lunch. Other registration rates for only Friday evening or Saturday, and late registration fees are available online.
Saturday November 7th the LEME opens at 8:00 am with registration and the trade show. The seminar programs will start at 9:00 am after the opening ceremony by the Albion FFA Chapter. This year’s program features and all-star cast of speakers on just about any topic you can think of. Featured this year will be Dr. Tim Perkins from the Univ. of Vermont Proctor Research Center. Dr. Tim will be discussing how microbes affect your product from the tree to the evaporator, tapping below the lateral line and spout cleaning or replacement which gives better results. From Cornell University, the speakers will be NY Maple Specialists Steve Childs and Dr. Mike Farrell. Steve’s topics include research on 3/16 tubing, small RO’s and value added maple products. Mike will be discussing various ways people are using maple sap and pricing maple syrup and products. Several of the Friday’s workshop topics will be brought to the classroom. These include boil basics with Leader Evaporators Bruce Gillilan, and maple confections with New York Producer Jake Moser. Les Ober from Geauga County OSU Extension will take some of the mystery out of vacuum tubing systems and will hold a class for beginning maple producers. Other technical classes include RO management, Syrup filtering, and marketing. Scattered throughout the day will be value added maple products classes on Maple Mustard, Maple suckers Maple Peanut Butter, Gift Baskets, and more, put on by some of the top producers and maple contest winners in the area.

This year’s Lake Erie Maple Expo is packed with educational information, ideas and tips that will make you a better maple syrup producer. Who knows you just may run across that new Evaporator, RO or other item that you have always wanted. Remember the LEME comes just before Christmas; orders can be placed and delivered before the 2016 season. It happens every year, once the leaves fall on the maple tree in your back yard you will get the fever. There is only one cure, mark your calendar and plan on making the trip to this year LEME and get in on the fun. For more information and advanced registration go to http://www.pamaple.org.

Have You Fertilized Your Hay Fields Yet?
Stan Smith, OSU Extension PA, Fairfield County
Yes, it may be considered adding insult to injury, but even that very mature, poor quality, lowly digestible, late made first cutting hay that was harvested this year took with it lots of soil nutrients. Fact is, each ton of hay that’s harvested and removed from a field in the harvest process takes with it roughly 13 pounds of P2O5 (phosphorus) and 50 pounds of K2O (potash). That’s regardless the calendar date or quality of the material that’s harvested.

To maintain productivity and plant health, fertility that’s removed needs to be replaced. Since P and K move slowly through the soil profile – perhaps only an inch or two a year – it’s probably best that what’s removed is replaced annually. And, since nearly all the phosphorus sources we presently have available include some nitrogen, those replacing fertility this fall will enjoy the benefit for grass based hay fields from the nitrogen that comes along with the P. That makes the next month or so a great time to replace the fertility that was removed this year.

The basics of fertilizing permanent hay fields are simple:
a) Soil Test, always soil test! Fertilizer is too expensive to apply if it’s not a yield limiting factor. If we don’t know what we presently have, we can’t possibly know what we might need! Contact your local OSU Extension office or fertilizer dealer for help finding a soil testing lab.

b) Read the soil test carefully or get help reading it. I’d discourage anyone from blindly accepting the fertilizer recommendations that sometimes are returned along with a soil test report. In some cases I’m not even certain I believe their little graphs that are sometimes found on the soil test results which indicate a sample might be high, medium or low in a certain nutrient. What I was told by one of Ohio’s labs when I asked how their recommendations are generated is that after they establish the nutrient levels in the soil through their laboratory procedures, the recommendations are typically generated based on the opinions of the company who might have submitted the sample for the land owner. This means, unless you send in the sample yourself, you may get back a recommendation based on data other than what Ohio State’s (or other midwest universities’) research might suggest is appropriate as
published in OSU Extension Bulletin E-2567, Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations. Ask your local Agriculture Educator for help in developing a recommendation if you have questions.

c) If one insists on fertilizing without the benefit of knowing the present fertility levels of the hay field, or if you know your present fertility levels meet or slightly exceed critical minimum levels, then it’s prudent to base your fertilizer application rates on actual or expected crop removal. As was mentioned earlier, each ton of hay removed takes with it 13 pounds of P2O5 and 50 pounds of K2O. No matter how you slice it, that’s a ratio of roughly 1 to 4, phosphorus to potash. Without benefit of a soil test to tell us otherwise, fertility needs to be replaced in that ratio when harvesting hay.

To put that into a little different perspective, consider that the average hay yield in Ohio is, and has been for decades a little less than 3 tons per acre per year. At a 1 to 4 ratio, that’s about 13 and 50 pounds respectively multiplied times the 3 tons of crop removal, or 39 pounds of P2O5 and 150 pounds of K2O per acre. As an FYI, since corn grain only removes about 0.27 pounds of K2O per bushel, it would take a yield of over 555 bushels of corn to remove the same amount of potash that an average Ohio hay yield removes annually!

To recap...you can’t starve a profit into any crop, sometime before winter dormancy is an excellent time to apply fertilizer to a hay field, and one ton of hay removes P and K in a ratio of roughly 1 to 4, or 13 pounds P2O5 and 50 pounds of K2O. To maintain fertility, health and the productivity of your forages, P and K must be replaced with either fertilizer or manure nutrients. . . . 1 to 4, 13 and 50, per ton of hay removed!

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) Announced by USDA
The Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced another Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) sign-up. Producers have until September 25th to sign-up for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) in northeast Ohio and parts of Pennsylvania. This program is not available in all counties but it does affect some of you. All acreage in Ashtabula County and parts of Geauga, Lake and Trumbull counties in Ohio and parts of Crawford, Erie and Mercer in Pennsylvania is designated to grow giant miscanthus under the BCAP program.

BCAP provides financial incentives to eligible landowners or operators to establish and produce a biomass crop of Miscanthus Giganteus. This is a sterile hybrid warm season grass that is cultivated by planting rhizomes and then harvested and then converted into bio-based products.

Once enrolled the contract will last for 5 years. Cost share is paid on up to 50% of actual cost not to exceed $356 per acre for rhizomes and $144 per acre for establishment of the crop. Annual payments for 5 years are paid based on the soil rental rate in the field(s) being offered. There will be a payment reduction based on the final conversion of the product.

Aloterra Energy, LLC is the sponsor of this project. Their phone number is 440-594-5896, this is a great starting place if you are interested in having miscanthus on your farm. Additional information can be found at http://www.alotterraenergy.com/ Producers interested in participating in BCAP should contact the Ashtabula/Geauga/Lake County FSA office at (440) 437-6330 for additional information or to set up an appointment to make an application. Information about BCAP can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/BCAP

Great Bulbs of Garlic Workshop to be held on September 10, 2015
Join the Ashtabula County Master Gardeners as they host an educational seminar titled “Great Bulbs of Garlic” on Thursday, September 10, 2015 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ashtabula County Extension office located at 39 Wall Street in Jefferson, Ohio.

This program will offer the opportunity for home gardeners to learn how to plant,
maintain, and harvest garlic. Learn the common pests and diseases of garlic and their solutions. Participants will also learn fun facts about garlic through the ages and highlights of cooking with garlic. This class is geared to the home gardener.

The registration fee for this workshop is $3 per person and registration is limited to the first 30 persons. Light refreshments will be served. More information about this program can be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008. A program flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

Farm Science Review Tickets Available at OSU Extension Offices and On-Line
OSU Extension is pleased to announce that Advance tickets for the Farm Science Review are available at all Ohio State University Extension county offices for $7. This year’s Farm Science Review will be held at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center in London, Ohio on September 22-24, 2015. Tickets are $10 at the gate. Children 5 and under are admitted free. The review hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 22 & 23 and from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2015.

Tickets can be purchased at OSU Extension offices through Monday, September 21, 2105. Tickets can also be purchased on-line at fsr.osu.edu/onlineticketform. Online tickets are available to purchase for $7 until Sept. 11. Tickets ordered online will be mailed to the buyer.

Farm Science Review is known as Ohio’s premier agricultural event and typically draws more than 130,000 farmers, growers, producers and agricultural enthusiasts from across the U.S. and Canada annually. Participants are able to peruse 4,000 product lines from roughly 620 commercial exhibitors and engage in educational workshops, presentations and demonstrations delivered by experts from OSU Extension and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, which are the outreach and research arms, respectively, of the college. More information about the Farm Science Review is at http://fsr.osu.edu/

Vegetable of the Week - Cabbage (Brassica oleracea var. capitata).
Author: Julie S. Crook; crook.46@osu.edu

Cabbage can be easy to grow if you choose suitable varieties and carry out good cultural practices and insect management. It is very cold tolerant and will withstand temperatures down to 20F. Cabbage grows best in fertile, well-drained soil with lots of added organic matter. Full sun is needed for the best yield but cabbage will tolerate light shade.

For a fall crop you can plant seeds outdoors 10-12 weeks before the first frost. There are many varieties available; by choosing ones with varying maturity dates you can prolong your harvesting period. Plants can be spaced 12 - 18" apart in rows depending on the variety and the head size desired. The closer the plants, the smaller the cabbage head. A liquid starter fertilizer applied at the time of transplanting is recommended. Adequate soil moisture is necessary throughout the growing season to produce good cabbage. Watering is especially important in fall plantings to help the young plants withstand the heat of summer and to supply the developing heads with ample water to develop quickly. Cabbage has a shallow root system so roots can be easily damaged by cultivation. Adding organic mulch will help to keep the soil cool and moist, protect the roots and help with weed control.

Harvest when the heads become firm, the size will vary with variety and spacing. When heads are mature they are prone to splitting in response to any stress or a sudden heavy rain. To avoid splitting you can space plants closer together, choose varieties that resist splitting or wait until the heads are firm and then twist the plant to break some of the roots. To help reduce disease, practice good crop rotation.
The Hamilton County Extension Office recently found an unwanted guest on the cabbage in their educational garden at the office. Joe Boggs identified it as the imported cabbageworm (Pieris rapae). As the common name indicates, it's another non-native; however, it's been with us since the 1800's. A foliar application of insecticides, including a bacterial insecticide like Bacillus thuringiensis, is highly effective in killing the imported cabbageworm.

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