September is off and running. I saw a lot of corn silage being harvested last week and it was great to see how much hay was mowed down on Sunday. Now to keep the dry weather and heat in the forecast! I am hearing predications of the F-Word (frost) for the Upper Mid-west this next week. We definitely do not need to see an early frost in Northeast Ohio! A reminder to buy you Farm Science Review tickets this week. We have lots of great meetings coming up over the next month (CAUV Task Force, Small Farmer College, & Beef Twilight Tour). Also, applications for our 2015 Master Gardener Training Class are now available. I hope each of you has a safe harvest season.

David Marrison, AG Educator

In this Issue:
- Last Week to Purchase Farm Science Review (FSR) Tickets
- CAUV Task Force Meeting to be held on September 22 in Jefferson
- Northeast Ohio Small Farm College to be held this Fall
- Northeast Ohio Twilight Beef Tour to be held at R.J. Nye Family Farms in Hartsgrove, Ohio on October 9
- Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteers Sought
- September 8th - Northeast Ohio Agronomic Crop Report (Frost..Stay Away from NE Ohio)
- Assessing the Risk of Frost Injury to Late Maturing Corn
- Leasing Your Land for Hunting: Legal Considerations
- Staying Safe on the Road During the Fall Harvest
- 2014 Ashtabula SWCD Fall Amur Sale is Now in Progress
- Trumbull County Searching for Full-Time OSU Extension Educator for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Last Week to Purchase Farm Science Review (FSR) Tickets
Make plans to attend the Farm Science Review this September. Pre-sale tickets are now on sale at the Ashtabula and Trumbull County Extension offices for the Farm Science Review in London, Ohio from September 16-18, 2014. Pre-sale tickets are $7.00 per person or $10 at the gate. Tickets will be on sale until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2014. The FSR show hours are: Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. More information about the Farm Science Review can be found at: http://fsr.osu.edu/ A complete listing of the show schedule can be found at: http://fsr.osu.edu/resources/documents/pdf/2014-docs/2104-show-schedule

CAUV Task Force Meeting to be held on September 22 in Jefferson
The “CAUV Rates Are Increasing Meeting” held on August 28, 2014 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds generated a lot of discussion with the over 400 landowners in attendance. Ashtabula County CAUV rates were updated in 2014 due to a state mandated sexennial reappraisal. Because of many factors (including higher crop prices, higher crop yields and a lower capitalization rate) property owners with land enrolled in CAUV will have their property taxes increase over 300% this year. This translates to an increase of approximately $15 to $20 per acre. Dr. John Patterson, Ohio House of Representative-District 99, was in attendance and announced he would like to start a CAUV Task Force. The goal of this task force is to provide landowners/farmers a chance to examine potential solutions in strengthening the CAUV tax program (solutions not gripes!). The first meeting of this task force will be held in the downstairs meeting room of the Ashtabula County Extension office on Monday, September 22, 2014. Interested landowners who would like to be on this task force can contact David Marrison at 440-576-9008 or marrison.2@osu.edu for more information.
Northeast Ohio Small Farm College to be held this Fall
The OSU Extension Offices in Northeast Ohio are pleased to be conducting the Northeast Ohio Small Farmer College for new and aspiring farm businesses. The college will be held on Monday evenings October 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. This college is designed to help landowners examine potential ways to increase profits on their small acreage. This college is open to all new or aspiring farmers, new rural landowners, small farmers, and farm families looking for new ideas. The small farmer college is split into 4 sessions designed to challenge participants to plan for success.

The first session on Monday, October 6 titled “Getting Started” is designed to help participants build the foundation for their farm business. Some of the session topics will include: developing real-life expectations for your small farm, developing goals and objectives, developing an agricultural business plan, and tax and financial management of small farms. This class will be held at Grand River Cellars Winery located 5750 South Madison Road in Madison, Ohio.

The second session on Monday, October 13 titled “Enterprise Selection” will help participants decide what to raise/grow on their farm and how to develop realistic budgets for these enterprises. This session will be tailored-made based on the interests of the group. Learn more about vegetable, greenhouse, fruit, nursery and bio-fuel crops, as well as aquaculture, livestock, hay, traditional and alternative farm enterprises. Let your passions lead you to the right agricultural enterprise to raise or grow. This class will also be held at Grand River Cellars Winery.

The third session on Monday, October 20 titled “Marketing & Resources for Small Farms” will help participants build a marketing direction for their business. Learn how agricultural products are being marketed across northeast Ohio. Learn about product pricing, selling at farm markets, and Community Supported Agriculture subscriptions. This class will again be held at Grand River Cellars Winery.

The fourth session titled “Learning from the School of Hard Knocks” will be held on Monday, October 27 at Sirna’s Farm Inc operated by Craig & Anne Marie Sirna. Since 1997 Sirna’s Farm Inc, has been offering quality fresh home grown, seasonal vegetables, herbs and local products. They operate a seasonal market, two hydroponic greenhouses, and 4 high tunnel greenhouses. The farm also raises pasture-grazed cattle and chickens. This farm also operates a Community Supported Agriculture subscription program.

Participants will receive a light meal prior to each session of the first three sessions beginning at 5:30 p.m. and for the final session, we will end the tour with Sirna’s own over-fired pizza! The registration fee for this college is $100 for the first registrant from each family and $60 for each family registrant thereafter. Call the Ashtabula County OSU Extension office at 440-576-9008 to make your reservations. Reservations are requested by Monday, September 25, 2014. Space is limited to the first 35 registrants. A registration flyer can be found at: http://go.osu.edu/ne-events

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.

**Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteers Sought**

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

To become an OSU Extension Master Garden volunteer, you must attend 11 training sessions held from January to April 2015 and volunteer 50 hours of horticultural service to the community through Extension educational programming. Such service could include teaching 4-H youth gardening, planting and maintaining Extension demonstration gardens, answering gardening questions from the public, judging flower and vegetable projects at local fairs, and assisting community garden participants. As a benefit of becoming a Master Gardener, you will increase your knowledge and understanding of such varied horticultural topics as best cultural practices for growing flowers and vegetables, house plant care, plant disease, and insect pest identification and control and much, much more.

Course topics include: history of OSU Extension, plant physiology, soils, composting, fertilizers, herbs, houseplants, plant propagation, plant pathology, diagnostics, entomology, integrated pest management, vegetables, lawns, woody ornamentals, fruits, landscape maintenance, and making effective presentations.

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

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

September 8th - Northeast Ohio Agronomic Crop Report (Frost..Stay Away from NE Ohio)
By Les Ober, CCA & OSU Extension Program Assistant-Geauga County

Corn Crop Maturity What Are The Risks?
As we move into September the focus of corn and soybean growers moves from fertilization and weed control to the ability of your crop to mature on time. Two very important issues are at stake here. If the crop is frosted off before it is mature there is the likelihood of yield reduction and even more important the overall grain quality. Immature corn at harvest time will not make test weight and there is the risk of mold severally compromising grain quality. Another issue is the amount of fuel that will be needed to dry the crop.

Much of the corn Crop in Northeast Ohio has been late maturing. As of September 1st a good portion of the crop was just entering the dough stage (R-4) about 24 to 28 days after silking. Once the corn is in R-4 is takes another 10 to 14 days to reach the Dent Stage or R-4. This is usually the time that we look at for making corn silage. After the corn has dented it will take an additional 20 days to reach physical maturity (R-6). This is referred to as black layered. At this point the crop is safe from frost and Yield loss. The moisture levels can be anywhere from 25 to 40 % moisture. The crop still has a lot of drying down to do once it reaches black layer. At this point if you go out into the field and your corn has not dented you can assume that it will take most of the month of September for the crop to mature. An early frost would not be good. Bob Nielson did an article in 2003 at time when there was an early frost in Northern Indiana on September 29th. There was varying degrees of damage but he based the article on the work of Carter and Hesterman at Purdue University in 1990 and it still applies today. They found: Estimates of potential yield loss due to frost/freeze injury at several kernel development stages are:

- Soft dough stage ...55 % if whole plants killed ... 35 % if only leaves killed
- Full dent stage ... 41 % if whole plants killed ... 27 % if only leaves killed
- Late dent ... 12 % if whole plants killed ... 6 % if only leaves killed

(late dent is essentially equal to kernel milkline halfway down the kernel face)

This gives an indication of what a grower can expect on late planted corn although the likelihood of this occurring in NE Ohio is minimal. However in the upper mid-west the threat of a frost is very real. In fact there is a high probability of an early frost may occur in the next 10 days based on NOAA Weather models for that region. To say this has been an unusual year is an understatement. To follow up on this topic I have include an article in last week’s CORN Newsletter by OSU Corn Specialist Peter Thomison that will further relate corn maturity to growing degree days. Another issue is grain quality and possible mold issues. Look for articles on this topic from OSU Extension Pathologist Pierce Paul in future CORN Newsletters.

Assessing the Risk of Frost Injury to Late Maturing Corn
by: Peter Thomison

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (http://www.nass.usda.gov/) as of August 31, 87 percent of Ohio’s corn acreage was in the dough stage (R4), nearly the same as the five-year average of 88 percent. Forty-one percent of the corn acreage was in the dent stage (R5), compared to 49 percent for the five-year average. In some areas of the state corn is considerably behind the five-year average because of late planting ( the result of persistent rains and excessively wet soils that delayed planting in some localized areas) and cooler than normal temperatures in July. This later than normal maturation of the corn crop had led to questions about the likelihood for frost damage and whether
more fuel will be needed to dry corn.

In Ohio, physiological maturity (when kernels have obtained maximum dry weight and black layer has formed) typically occurs about 65 days after silking. At physiological maturity (kernel moisture approximately 30-35%), frosts have little or no effect on the yield potential of the corn crop. Dr. Bob Nielsen at Purdue University has summarized research findings from Indiana and Ohio that provide insight into both the calendar days and thermal time (growing degree days, GDDs) typically required for grain at various stages of development to achieve physiological maturity (kernel black layer, R6). This research was conducted at two locations in Indiana (west central and southeast) and two locations in Ohio (northwest and southwest) with three hybrids representing 97, 105, and 111 "day" relative maturities planted in early May, late May, and early June. The calendar days and thermal time from silking to black layer for the 111-day hybrid maturity are shown in Table 1 (from http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/timeless/RStagePrediction.html).

The study indicated that corn planted in early June compared to early May requires 200 to 300 fewer GDDs to achieve physiological maturity. According to Dr.Nielsen, while slightly different responses among the four locations of the trial existed, there did not seem to be a consistent north / south relationship. Therefore, growers can use the results summarized in the following table to "guesstimate" the number of calendar days or heat units necessary for a late-planted field at a given grain fill stage to mature safely prior to that killing fall freeze.

How many GDDs can be expected from now until an average date of a killing frost for an adapted 111 day hybrid planted in mid June? To answer this question, estimate the expected GDD accumulation from Sept. 2 until the average frost date (50% probability) for different regions of the state (Table 2). These GDD expectations are based on 30-year historical normals reported by the Ohio Agricultural Statistics Service. The GDD accumulation was calculated using the 86/50 cutoff, base 50 method.

If you want to determine the "youngest stage of corn development" that can safely reach black layer before the average frost date at a given weather station, use the information in Table 2 on remaining GDD in conjunction with Table 1 which indicates GDDs needed to reach black layer at various stages of grain fill. Compare "GDDs remaining" for the site with the GDD required to achieve black layer depending on the corn’s developmental stage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Median Frost Date (50% probability)</th>
<th>Estimated GDDs Remaining From Sept. 2 to Fall Frost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Oct 10 – Oct 20</td>
<td>412 - 462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>Oct 10 – Oct 25</td>
<td>400 - 485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Sept 30 – Oct 25</td>
<td>351 - 497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Central</td>
<td>Oct 10 – Oct 15</td>
<td>447 - 504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Oct 5 – Oct 15</td>
<td>461 - 522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Central</td>
<td>Sept 30 – Oct 15</td>
<td>377 - 495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>Oct 10 – Oct 15</td>
<td>473 - 536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>Oct 15 – Oct 20</td>
<td>554 - 606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Oct 5 – Oct 15</td>
<td>447 - 507</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If your corn is in the dent stage (R5) as of Sept. 2, will it be safe from frost? Table 1 indicates that corn planted in mid-June required about 217 GDDs to reach black layer from R5 and Table 2 indicates that all regions of the state are likely to accumulate sufficient GDDs before the 50% frost date. However, if your corn is in the “milk” stage (R3) as of Sept. 2, it might be a different story. The kernel development - GDD accumulation relationships in Table 1 indicate that corn planted in mid-June that is at R3 needs about 681 GDDs to reach black layer. Table 2 indicates that only one region of the state (south central Ohio) comes close to accumulating that number of GDDs before the 50% frost date with the East Central and Northeast regions least likely to accumulate the GDDs required to achieve physiological maturity.

The research results in Table 1 demonstrate that late planted corn has the ability to adjust its maturity requirements, and most of this adjustment occurs during the late kernel development stages. In previous growing seasons when GDD accumulation was markedly less than normal, the corn crop has usually achieved physiological maturity before the first frost occurred.

References: Nielsen, R.L. 2011. Predicting Corn Grain Maturity Dates for Delayed Plantings

Leasing Your Land for Hunting: Legal Considerations
By: Caty Daniels

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)

**Stay Safe on the Road During the Fall Harvest**

Kathy Mann – Program Coordinator

As we approach the fall season, there will be an increase of farm equipment traveling on the roads. This is a good time to refresh both the motoring public and the farm equipment operators of safe practices for traveling on public roads. Vehicle collisions are often the result of the speed differential between slower-moving farm equipment and passenger cars and trucks. Many times the vehicle driver simply doesn't have enough time to react if they do not recognize the farm equipment soon enough. It is critical for SMV operators to do their part to be seen. Safety reminders for both SMV operators and the motoring public drivers are below. Rural road rage can be negated if everyone takes the responsibility to have extra patience, careful driving habits, and use high-visibility markings and lighting. Drive safe, and enjoy those beautiful county roads this fall season.

**Sharing the Road with Motorists – Tips for SMV operators**

When traveling on public roads:

- Mount a SMV emblem to the last piece of equipment being hauled. The emblem should be pointed up, placed 2-6 feet above the ground, as near to rear center as possible.
- Stay alert at all times to avoid a serious accident. Do not use the cell phone or two-way radio while operating equipment on public roads.
- Keep a constant lookout for pedestrians, animals, mailboxes, steep ditch embankments, and other roadway obstacles.
Slow down for sharp curves or when going down a hill.
Consider using an escort vehicle to follow behind.
Be cognizant of high traffic times, usually mornings and late afternoons.

Sharing the Road with Farm Equipment – Tips for Every Motorist
When traveling on public roads:

- Farm machinery has a legal right to use public roads just as other motor vehicles.
- Farm machinery can unexpectedly turn onto a public road from a field or driveway.
- Farm machinery travels slower than normal traffic, often at speeds of 25 miles per hour or less. Automobile drivers must quickly identify farm equipment and slow down immediately to avoid rear end crashes.
- Farm machinery operators may not be able to see you because the large equipment or a load can block part of their rearward view. If you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you.
- Slow moving farm machinery traveling less than 25 miles per hour should display a slow moving vehicle emblem on the back of the equipment. This is a quickly identifiable sign to other motorists.
- Machinery that is half on the road and half on the shoulder may suddenly move completely onto the road.
- Extra-wide farm machinery may take up more than one lane to avoid hitting obstacles such as mailboxes and road signs.

For more information about rural roadway safety, see “Boosting Visibility of Ag Equipment, http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/pdf/AEX_598_08.pdf or visit the OSU Ag Safety and Health website, http://agsafety.osu.edu

2014 Ashtabula SWCD Fall Amur Sale is Now in Progress.
Are you looking to control weeds in your pond? If so, you will be interested to know the Ashtabula County Soil & Water Conservation District is conducting their annual Triploid White Amur Sale. This fish are a great natural way to control those pesky weeds in your pond. SWCD will be taking orders until September 19 and each Amur sells for $14.00 each and are between 10-12” in length. Fish will arrive at the Ashtabula County Fair Grounds west-side parking lot on Tuesday, September 23 and must be picked up between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. You may obtain an order form from our SWCD website at www.ashtabulaswcd.org, or call their office at (440) 576-4946.

Trumbull County Searching for Full-Time OSU Extension Educator for Agriculture & Natural Resources
OSU Extension in Trumbull County is now taking applications (until September 14, 2014) 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 learn more about this position (Job #400890) or to apply, go to: https://www.jobsatosu.com/postings/57553

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