Hello, Northeast Ohio Counties!

It’s that time of year again that you may see our little green traps throughout Northeast Ohio as we monitor the populations of western bean cutworm (WBC). The traps contain a pheromone that attracts cutworm moths and are killed by an insecticide strip inside. We will be checking the traps weekly from now until mid August when the populations decline.

We will keep you updated each week with our trap counts as the WBC caused significant damage to some corn fields in Northwest Ohio last year. Fortunately, we did not see extensive damage in 2016 in our area but we need to keep on top of the counts in case the populations spike. Call any of the Extension offices if you have any questions or notice damage in your fields.

Stay safe and have a great week!

David Marrison
Extension Educator
Ag & Natural Resources
Ashtabula County

Lee Beers
Extension Educator
Ag & Natural Resources
Trumbull County
Ohio Legislature Continues to Consider Two Separate CAUV Bills

Written by Chris Hogan, Law Fellow, OSU Agricultural & Resource Law Program
Source: https://ohioaglaw.wordpress.com/2017/06/26/ohio-legislature-continues-to-consider-two-separate-cauv-bills/

Two separate bills concerning CAUV continue to be debated in the Ohio Legislature: Senate Bill 36 and House Bill 49. Ohioans may see changes to the CAUV program, if either bill passes the Legislature. Both bills aim to address rising CAUV rates for Ohio farmers. SB 36 changes the CAUV formula, making alterations to the capitalization rate and addressing the rate used for conservation land values. SB 36 passed in the Senate and is under consideration by the House Ways and Means Committee. The other bill that would address CAUV values—HB 49, is Ohio’s bi-annual budget bill. HB 49 similarly addresses Ohio’s rising CAUV values through proposed changes to the CAUV capitalization rate.

The difference between the two bills is that the budget bill will undoubtedly pass. That being said, the budget bill’s CAUV provisions may be cut from the final version. On the other hand, there is no guarantee that the House will pass SB 36. There are several scenarios that may occur regarding the two CAUV bills in the Ohio Legislature.

Scenario #1: HB 49 (the Budget Bill) Passes with CAUV Provisions Included

In an earlier post (https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/thu-04272017-345pm/cauv-changes-proposed-again-time-state%E2%80%99s-budget-bill), we explained HB 49’s proposed changes to the CAUV program. HB 49 proposes changes to the CAUV program similar to those proposed in the standalone CAUV bill, SB 36. Although HB 49 currently contains amendments to the CAUV program, it is subject to change.

Passing a budget bill is a long and complex process. Budget bills must start in the Ohio House of Representatives. The main purpose of a budget bill is to set the state’s operating budget, but such a bill may also include changes to Ohio laws. After the House passes a budget bill, the bill goes to the Ohio Senate. The Senate can pass the bill as written by the House, or the Senate may amend the bill and send their amended version back to the House.

The Senate passed their amended version of HB 49 on June 21. However, the House did not agree with the amendments. Therefore, the Senate and the House will soon hold a conference committee where both houses will meet and settle the differences between the two bills. Ohio’s budget is based on a fiscal year which ends on June 30. If passed, a new budget will go into effect July 1, 2017. Ohioans may soon learn if the state’s budget bill will enact changes to the CAUV program.

Scenario #2: SB 36 Passes and Changes the CAUV Program
Ohioans will soon find out if changes to the CAUV formula will be passed as part of HB 49. However, the CAUV provisions of HB 49 could still be removed before the bill passes. If CAUV changes are not passed via the budget bill, the CAUV formula could still be altered via SB 36.

SB 36 recently passed the Ohio Senate and is currently under consideration by the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee. The bill would make changes to Ohio’s CAUV formula, including the capitalization rate calculation and the rate used for calculating the value of conservation lands. For more information on SB 36, see our earlier blog post at https://farmoffice.osu.edu/blog/thu-05112017-1032am/ohio-senate-passes-cauv-bill

The Ohio House can consider SB 36 until the end of the legislative session. The current legislative session ends on December 31, 2018. The House Ways and Means Committee may vote on SB 36 before the end of the session, or the bill could expire if it does not leave the committee before the end of the session.

The Legislature will soon meet in a conference committee to try and reach a consensus on the budget bill. HB 49 could pass as written or in an amended form that does not include any changes to CAUV. SB 36 may pass as written or amended as well. Conversely, it is plausible that neither bill could pass.


1st Generation European Corn Borer Management in Non-BT Corn
By Andy Michel, Kelley Tilmon
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2017-19/1st-generation-european-corn-borer-management-non-bt-corn

European corn borer (ECB) was once our most important corn insect, but its population has decreased over the past 20 years, likely due to Bt-corn that provides excellent protection. For this and other various reasons, many farms have switched to corn that does not contain Bt proteins to control ECB and other caterpillar pests. Keep in mind that ECB is not an extinct species—we can find ECB still flying around. This year, we have seen ECB feeding in conventional corn.
ECB has 2 generations per year. Currently, we are seeing larval feeding on the leaves and in the whorl. Soon, and if not already, these larvae will tunnel through the stalk where they will usually continue to feed and pupate. Adults will emerge in late July-early August.

Growers of conventional corn should inspect their fields for the characteristic shot hole damage (see figure). If found, you may see larvae feeding in the whorl—you may need to pull the whorl out of a couple of damaged plants to check. Although challenging, larvae in the whorl that are in the 3rd instar or less (usually no bigger than 1/2 of an inch) are still vulnerable to insecticide application.

If the larvae are not in the whorl, they may have died, or worse, tunneled in the stalk. Look for the appearance of sawdust like frass, which ECB larvae leave on the outside while tunneling. Once they bore into the stalk, then control is difficult, if not impossible. As a guide, we recommend treatment for 1st generation ECB when 75% -80% of the corn shows shot hole damage, and that larvae can be seen in the whorl (i.e. have not bored into the stalk). There are many chemicals that can control ECB (see our bulletin: https://agcrops.osu.edu/publications/control-insect-pests-field-crops-bulletin-545), although granular forms tend to be more effective than liquid.

**Bill Before Ohio Legislature Proposes More Funding for Plugging Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells**

Written by: Chris Hogan, Law Fellow, OSU Agricultural & Resource Law Program  

The Ohio House of Representatives is considering a bill that would affect farmers and rural landowners by requiring the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management (ODNR) to plug abandoned oil and gas wells within 60 days, under certain circumstances. Introduced by Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta), House Bill 225 would permit a landowner to report an idle or abandoned well to ODNR, who then must inspect the well and plug it if it’s deemed “distressed-high priority.”

*Inspection of Idle or Abandoned Wells*
Under HB 225, ODNR would be required to inspect an idle or abandoned well within 30 days after a landowner reports the existence of such a well on their property. No later than 60 days after the inspection, ODNR would be required to provide the landowner with a report concerning the idle or abandoned well that categorizes the well as one of the following:

- Distressed-high priority;
- Moderate-medium priority; and
- Maintenance-low priority.

HB 225 would require ODNR to adopt rules to define these three categories. In adopting these rules, ODNR must include a description of the criteria for an idle or abandoned well to fit within a particular category.

**Plugging an Idle or Abandoned Well**

If a well is categorized as distressed-high priority, it must be plugged by ODNR within six months after the report. Perhaps most interesting for Ohio landowners, HB 225 could increase the amount of funding available for landowners who choose to plug a well on their property themselves. Currently, landowners may arrange to have the well plugged by a third party. Under current Ohio Revised Code 1509.071(D), a landowner may be reimbursed for plugging costs; however, wells are plugged on a priority basis until the funds for the program are depleted. ODNR administers this law, otherwise known as the Orphan Well Program. More information on the current program is [here](#).

Under HB 225, landowners would be permitted to take an income tax deduction for compensation paid by ODNR to reimburse landowners’ costs to plug an abandoned or improperly plugged oil or gas well. Current law requires ODNR to approve an application for reimbursement by a landowner. A landowner’s application must comply with oil and gas plugging laws and regulations for safety and environmental reasons.

**Proposed Increase in Funding Under the Oil and Gas Well Fund**

HB 225 would likely increase the funds available to Ohio landowners for plugging idle or abandoned wells. Ohio law currently requires that 14% of the current Oil and Gas Well Fund be dedicated to plugging idle and abandoned wells. HB 225 would require ODNR to dedicate 45% of the fund to plug idle and abandoned wells. ODNR would also be required to issue quarterly reports regarding expenditures associated with plugging wells. ODNR may therefore offer more funding to landowners to plug wells, because of the increase in funding and the requirement to show expenditures on the plugging of wells.

However, the proposed increase in funding may lead to an increase in ODNR’s expenditures on plugging wells. The proposed increase could also drive the number of wells that the state plugs. Under the strict timeline requirements that HB 225 proposes, ODNR may subsequently plug more wells after a landowner notifies ODNR of abandoned wells on their property.
The Future of HB 225

At a committee hearing earlier this month, witnesses testified that there are likely hundreds of wells that haven’t been discovered because they’ve been farmed over and covered by urban development. According to Rep. Thompson, most of the orphan wells that have been identified emit methane gas in addition to often contributing to the runoff of oil and brine into the soil. Rep. Thompson also noted that it is estimated that the current program for plugging abandoned wells in Ohio would take 20 years or more to plug the more than 600 known orphan wells in the state. Members of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association voiced support for HB 225, noting that the taxes levied on oil and gas production should be used to correct problems that have arisen from the early days of the industry.

More information on HB 225 can be found at:

Ohio’s current law regarding plugging idle and abandoned wells can be found at:
http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/1509.071 under R.C 1509.071(D).

Is Dannon guilty of marketing flimflam?
By Leisa Boley-Hellwarth, a dairy farmer and an attorney from Celina
Source: http://ocj.com/2017/06/is-dannon-guilty-of-marketing-flimflam/

Dannon claims they are merely giving the consumers what they want. Many in agriculture, including American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, American Sugarbeet Growers Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Milk Producers Federation and U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance disagree and assert that Dannon’s actions are merely “marketing flimflam” and “fear-based marketing.”

Dannon recently released a pledge to provide non-GMO milk from cows fed non-GMO feeds for three of their brands. In so doing, Dannon felt the need to state that they were “striving for a better approach for the supply of our products so key issues like farmers’ independence, natural biodiversity, soil health and carbon sequestration, water usage and fossil energy efficiency are better addressed.”

The previously mentioned farm groups were outraged because the Dannon pledge implies that GMO seeds are responsible for damaging the key issues Dannon named. Nothing could be further from the truth, which the farm groups explained in a letter to Dannon. The coalition asserted that Dannon’s allegations about the impacts of GMO feed are unfounded and misleading consumers.

Dannon, of course, countered. We are now at the grade school level is so/is not discourse. What Dannon is actually hoping to do is capture the Whole Foods Market crowd.
The company freely admits that there is no way to test non-GMO milk against regular milk from cows fed GMO feed. That means there is no scientific difference between the two. Yet, the company is building an entire marketing program for three of their brands over emotion and misinformation. I am just glad we are talking about milk, not childhood immunizations or treatments for cancer.

I’m sure Dannon has a team of very qualified attorneys advising them. There has been much interest in the non-GMO label by the class action plaintiff’s bar. Even attorneys who know nothing about agriculture have figured out that there really is no such thing as non-GMO. We have been hybridizing for so long, that non-GMO does not exist.

The problem with a “non-GMO” label is that it implies the product is different from the GMO counterpart. How can this be when you cannot perform a test that verifies the difference? This may arise to a dispute over truth in advertising.

Dannon’s approach to this issue is to involve a third party verifier who identifies and blesses non-GMO sources of feed. I have yet to locate Dannon’s definition or the third party verifier’s definition for non-GMO feed or milk. To a lawyer, definitions are essential. If you ask Dannon to define non-GMO milk or non-GMO feed, you will be directed to the third party verifier. There, you can obtain lists of qualified providers of non-GMO feed. It appears to be a paper process. In essence, non-GMO is non-GMO because the third party verifier says so.

Here’s an example of how arbitrary the rules are. According to Dannon, a cow only needs to be on non-GMO feed for 30 days to produce non-GMO milk. A vet I talked to wondered how the 30-day interval was determined.

The timing for such corporate behavior is poor. Recently, the science community held a march on Washington because many value scientific research and principles in this country. Now is the time for agriculture to a prominent part of the science discussion. If science is valued in other industries, it should be revered in farming.

This is actually the inverse of an a position Fred Yoder explained to my Ag Policy students at the Lake Campus of Wright State University this past Spring Semester. He kindly agreed to talk about his involvement in national policy efforts and his role on the Trump Agriculture Team. As he explained to the class, you cannot believe in GMOs and disagree with climate change. Science is science.
Now is the time to promote that position with consumers, not appease their ignorant, uninformed opinions. Climate change is clearly on the minds of many, particularly consumers that may be misinformed on GMOs. You cannot believe in climate change and disagree with GMOs. Science is science.

To add insult to injury in Ohio, Dannon is bringing a new 3,600 cow dairy to Mercer County to provide their non-GMO milk to the Dannon plant in Minster. How is bringing 3,600 more animals to this area part of their commitment to conservation and renewability and water usage? There must be in excess of 150 family dairy farms in the Mercer/Darke/Auglaize area. Much research indicates that what consumers want is safe, locally produced food from family farms. This is commonly referred to as the local food movement. I think our grandparents just called it common sense.

Dannon insists that to protect their brand, the company needs to be able to trace the entire production of milk, from the seed of corn planted to the cup of yogurt that results from the cows fed the non-GMO corn. Perhaps. I think control is a more appropriate description. This strategy appears to be a form of vertical integration, which is not common in the dairy industry yet. Contracts like this are far different to review and negotiate and should not be entered into without serious discussion and consideration.

This is a big country with lots of opportunities and choices and options. Dannon is free to go rogue with the Whole Foods crowd. They just don’t need to legitimize bad science and perpetrate hysteria in the process.

Report Finds Lake Erie Deteriorating Due to Algae


Les’s Commentary

We are now approaching the end the of the 3 year cycle assigned OSU Extension Educators and others to certify the majority of farmers that spread fertilizer in the Lake Erie watershed. The process began in 2013 with meetings that highlighted the importance of working with farmers and agribusinesses to accomplish these goals. Along with the education came a massive push to ramp up research in the area of nutrient management, especially phosphorus. One of the real benefits of this project has been the fast tracked research in the area of nutrient management. We probably learned more about how nutrients react in the soil in the last 4 years than we would have learned in 10 years with no outside pressure. Many lawmakers and private citizens thought that if you stopped the application of phosphorus to the land the problem would correct itself. Research over the last 4 years clearly shows that the solution to the problem is not that easy. The cumulative problems caused by excessive nutrient loading from multiple sources resulting in Hazardous Algae Blooms did not happen overnight and it is not going to be fixed overnight.
The following article is a report card on the condition of Lake Erie. The report is not good but we have made progress in some areas. Not sighted in the report is the fact that we have also seen a dramatic decrease in the use of phosphorus fertilizers by Western Basin farmers. We are on track to reduce phosphorus levels by 40%. Farmers should not think their efforts to fix the problem are in vain, they are headed in the right direction. Everyone involved in this educational and research effort should be proud of what they have accomplished and what they will accomplish in the future. As stated before this is not an overnight fix, the solution will take time.

This report was published in the Ohio Agri-business Association’s weekly E-Newsletter.

**Source: The Hannah Report**

**Lake Erie’s ecosystem is in poor condition and the trend is deteriorating, according to a new report put out by the U.S. EPA and the Canadian government.**

The “State of the Great Lakes 2017 Highlights Report” ranked the condition of Lake Erie as the worst of the five Great Lakes, putting it in “poor condition.” According to the report, harmful algal blooms resulting from excessive nutrient inputs occur regularly in the western basin and Lake St. Clair during the summer, and have impacted drinking water treatment systems.

The report also noted concerns with beach closures, habitat loss and degradation, and beach fouling the eastern basin. There are also increased amounts of decaying algae creating depleted dissolved oxygen conditions and low oxygen conditions in the bottom waters of the central basin.

The report said there are some positive ecosystem trends, pointing to increased walleye across the lake and lake sturgeon in the St. Clair-Detroit River System; increased aquatic habitat connectivity due to dam removal and mitigation projects; and declines in Sea Lamprey wounding of fish since 2010. The report also noted Western Lake Erie Cooperative Weed Management Area partners in Ohio and Michigan have treated more than 13,000 acres of invasive phragmites, resulting in a 70 percent decrease in live phragmites in Ohio and a resurgence of native plants in Michigan and Ohio.

The report rated the condition of fish in the lakes as fair, and said that contaminants in edible portions of fish have declined over time. It did note that concentrations of certain contaminants including PCBs and mercury are stable or slightly increasing.

Drinking water indicators said the trend for both the U.S. and Canada is good and unchanging since the last report since 2011. The assessment of the lakes was based on nine indicators, including drinking water, beaches, fish consumption, groundwater quality and invasive species. The data for the report was assembled by 180 government and non-government Great Lakes scientists and other experts.

The only indicator to receive poor marks for all of the lakes was invasive species. The report said that while the number of new invasive species entering the Great Lakes has been significantly reduced, invasive species already in the lakes such as the sea lamprey, zebra
mussels and purple loosestrife continue to cause more than $100 million annually in economic impacts in the U.S. alone.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) said the report shows why funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative should not be cut. “As a kid, I can remember how polluted Lake Erie was. This report demonstrates that, while we have made huge strides in cleaning up our Great Lakes, there is still more to do,” said Brown. “I will continue to work with my Ohio colleagues – Republicans and Democrats alike -- to protect Lake Erie from dangerous proposals to zero out the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Any cuts to Great Lakes funding threaten the health of Lake Erie and the millions of Ohioans who rely on it, putting jobs and our water supply at risk.”


**If It Smells Like a Petunia or Shampoo, It Might Be a Pesticide**


A scent that petunias and snapdragons release to attract pollinators may be an environmentally friendly control for pests like the spotted wing drosophila fly (SWD) and the brown marmorated stink bug.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) chemist Aijun Zhang discovered the fragrant chemical methyl benzoate, which is also a popular ingredient approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in foods, cosmetics and shampoo, can kill these insects and others.

Few choices are available for controlling SWD, which is an invasive species from Asia. It has quickly spread across the United States and can cause significant damage to fruit crops, especially berries. Zhang, who is with the ARS Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, points out the possibility of a new bio-based pesticide—especially one based on an inexpensive chemical whose residue lasts a relatively short time in the environment—is exciting.

Recently, Zhang was granted a patent for insecticide use of methyl benzoate. ARS is seeking a company to license the technology and bring commercial products to market.

Originally, Zhang was identifying volatile compounds in apple juice that attracted fruit flies. Compounds found in rotting apples and other fruits usually attract flies. He found one
compound—No. 19—strongly repelled SWD, and later showed it killed them as well. Compound No. 19 turned out to be methyl benzoate, with its characteristic wintergreen-spicy, floral-fruity aroma.

Methyl benzoate proved to be 5 to 20 times more toxic to eggs of brown marmorated stink bug, diamondback moth and tobacco hornworm than a conventional pyrethroid insecticide, a sulfur and pyrethrin mixture, or some organic products currently on the market. Next, Zhang will test methyl benzoate’s effectiveness against mosquitoes, fire ants, gypsy moths and stored-product insect pests. All of these insects are developing resistance to standard pesticides.

Zhang is also investigating whether low doses of methyl benzoate could control Varroa mites, the No. 1 problem of managed honey bees today. You can read more about this research in the June 2017 issue of AgResearch magazine at: https://agresearchmag.ars.usda.gov/2017/jun/pesticide/

For more information contact Kim Kaplan, ARS Office of Communications.

Ohio Department of Agriculture Proposes Amendments to Maple syrup, Sorghum, and Honey Regulations

Written by Ellen Essman, Law Fellow, OSU Agricultural & Resource Law Program


The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will hold a public hearing on July 19, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. to accept written and oral comments on its proposed amendments to the maple syrup, sorghum, and honey rules in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC).

Amendments and changes to the maple syrup, sorghum, and honey rules are proposed for parts of OAC chapters 901:3-44, 901:3-45, and 901:3-46, including substantive changes that address antibiotics in honey, grades and standards for maple syrup, labeling related to maple syrup grades, and requirements for food grade materials to be used for honey, maple syrup, and sorghum. With these proposed changes and amendments, ODA seems to be trying to make the rules for honey, maple syrup, and sorghum more in line with federal rules and standards. In addition, safety of honey, maple syrup, and sorghum products seems to be at the forefront with a broader antibiotic exclusion in honey products, and the requirement to use “food grade materials” for honey, maple syrup, and sorghum. The sections below will discuss each of these proposed changes in turn.

No antibiotics allowed in honey
It is proposed that OAC 901:3-44-01 be amended to remove references to specific antibiotics and to instead simply state that any antibiotics, in any amount, “render the honey” or its beeswax as “adulterated.”

Maple syrup rules to correspond with federal rules and standards

ODA has proposed striking the current OAC 901:3-45-01, which outlines voluntary grades and standards for maple syrup, and replacing it with language that incorporates the grading and color classifications put forth by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In other words, ODA is proposing that Ohio replace its current language with the grades and color classifications for maple syrup used by the federal government. What is more, if this amendment is adopted, it appears as though grading and color classifications would no longer be voluntary.

ODA’s proposed amendment for OAC 901:3-45-03 involves deleting “Ohio” and inserting “U.S.” This change would mean that the labeling requirements for grading maple syrup would follow federal standards instead of state standards. The adoption of federal grade labeling, as well as of federal grading and color classifications, would make it easier to sell and ship maple syrup produced in Ohio outside of the state.

Food grade materials for honey, maple syrup, and sorghum

The proposed changes to OAC 901:3-45-04, 901:3-45-05, 901:3-46-06, 901:3-46-07 all include the addition of the requirement that containers be made of food grade materials. Accordingly, the proposed changes would require that all of the following be made of food grade materials:

- Maple syrup packaging,
- Bulk containers (barrels, drums, etc.) for maple syrup,
- Packaging for products from maple syrup processors, sorghum processors, and beekeepers exempt from mandatory inspection, and
- Bulk containers for products from maple syrup processors, sorghum processors, and beekeepers exempt from mandatory inspection.

“Food grade material” is defined in OAC 901:3-46-01 as “a material that when in contact with food will remain safe, durable, free of rust, non-absorbent, and will not allow the migration of deleterious substances, impart color, odor, or taste to food under normal use.”

More information about attending the hearing or sending in comments (including when written comments must be received), and a brief overview of each change is available here. A draft of the proposed amendments and revisions is here.

David’s Weekly News Column

Hello, Ashtabula County! Ok, when I asked for rain…I meant just a little. It would be nice to turn the spigot off for a few days so that farmers can get their first cutting hay harvest completed.
and get back in the fields to spray for troublesome weeds and diseases. Today, I would like to share information on a great vineyard diagnostic workshop which will be held in July and let you know of some research which we are conducting once again this year.

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Our local grape producers will want to set Friday, July 21 aside to attend a great workshop which will be held at the Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station in Kingsville, Ohio. This program, “Wine Grape Disease, Insect and Weed Diagnostic Workshop,” will help grape producers learn how to scout and identify the major insect, disease and weeds found in grape vineyards. This workshop will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Ashtabula Agricultural Research Station located at 2625 South Ridge East in Kingsville, Ohio.

I am very excited about the team which will be leading this workshop. Dr. Melanie Ivey, Dr. Doug Doohan, and Dr. Elizabeth Long will be traveling up from the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster to teach this class. They are, respectively, Ohio State’s experts in grape diseases, weeds and insects. During this workshop they will teach how to scout and sample for various pests in the vineyard. Specific time will be spent on the diagnostics and management of vineyard diseases, insects and weeds. They will also demonstrate basic microscopy and imaging for pest diagnostics. Attendees will get a chance to try their hand at the station’s new digital microscope. Best of all, each participant will leave with a diagnostic tool kit to take home which will help them with their pest identification.

I am also excited that Dr. Tim Weigle from Cornell University will be on hand in the afternoon to demonstrate how the Network for Environmental and Weather Applications (NEWA) can be used to improve Integrated Pest Management in vineyards. The NEWA system is a weather modeling system which can help predict when outbreaks of diseases or insects will occur. This portion would be great for local apple growers as well.

This program is limited to 25 participants and the cost is $25 per participant. Pre-registration is required by July 12. All participants will receive a diagnostic tool kit to assist them with pest identification in the vineyard! Lunch and snacks will also be provided. Registration can be completed by contacting Rachel Medina at the Ohio State University at 330-236-2865 or medina.72@osu.edu. We also have the registration flyer at our office which we would be happy to mail or email to you by calling us at 440-576-9008.

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Earlier this week, I placed out Western Bean Cutworm traps across northern Ashtabula County. This will be the seventh year in which we are part of a state-wide monitoring program for the Western Bean Cutworm. This corn pest just recently has become a concern in northeast Ohio so its biology and economic impact are something we are just learning about.

The western bean cutworm has been historically found in the western Corn Belt, where it was a common pest of dry beans and a sporadic pest of corn. Starting in the year 2000, economic damage from this pest was found on corn in Iowa and Minnesota. Since then, this pest has continued to rapidly spread eastward, reaching Ohio in 2006. The easiest way to monitor the presence of this pest is trapping of the adult moths.
During early July through early August, the adult moths will fly into Ohio and will lay eggs on the upper leaves of the corn plants, and once the eggs hatch, larvae begin feeding on the tassels silks or ears of the corn. Depending on the crop’s growth stage, yield losses can be significant.

In our monitoring for western bean cutworm adults, 3 traps were placed in various locations across the region. These traps will be checked weekly during our summer growing season. Last year we found 748 moths in the Ashtabula County traps. These numbers are always significantly higher when compared to other parts of Ohio. So it will be interesting to see the results again this year.

More information about the Western Bean Cutworm can be found at: http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ENT-40. This factsheet can also be obtained by calling the Ashtabula County Extension office at 440-576-9008.

To close, I would like to leave you with a quote from President Ulysses S. Grant who stated “The friend in my adversity I shall always cherish most. I can better trust those who helped to relieve the gloom of my dark hours than those who are so ready to enjoy with me the sunshine of my prosperity.” Have a good and safe day!

**Upcoming Extension Program Dates**

The following programs have been scheduled for Northeast Ohio farmers. Complete registration flyers can be found at: http://ashtabula.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/upcoming-educational-programs-deadlines

**Wine Grape Disease, Insect and Weed Diagnostic Workshop**
July 21, 2017

**Fertilizer Certification Sessions**
August 17 at Trumbull County Extension Office from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
September 14 at Geauga County Extension Office from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**2017 Ashtabula County Beef Banquet**
Saturday, November 11, 2017

**Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification Sessions**
November 16, 2017 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Lake County
January 12, 2018 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon in Ashtabula County
February 2, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Geauga County
February 9, 2018 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon in Portage County
March 9, 2018 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon in Trumbull County

**2018 Northeast Ohio Winter Agronomy School**
Wednesday February 21, 2018
21st Annual Joe Bodnar Memorial Northern Classic Steer & Heifer Show
Saturday, April 21, 2018

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Donate Crops To Support Charity

A tax strategy that helps local charities.

Donating crops, instead of money, can have significant advantages:

• The value of donated crops is not included on Schedule F, but the expenses are deductible on the form.
• There are no federal or state income taxes paid on the value of donated crops.
• There is no self-employment tax paid on the value of donated crops.
• Yield records are not affected by the donation.
• Savings exist whether you itemize or take the standard deduction.

Keep The Money In Our Community

The primary mission of the Northern Trumbull County Community Foundation is to help in keeping our community strong not only for its current residents, but also for future generations. All donations are invested back into the community with this purpose in mind.