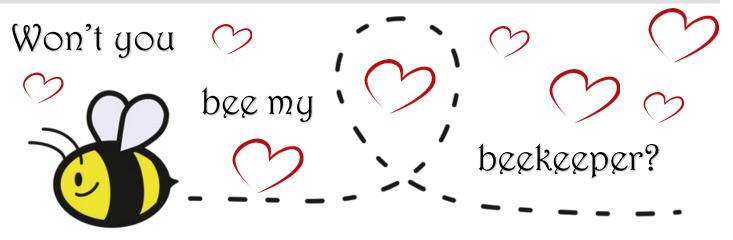
NEWSLETTER

NOBLE COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FEBRUARY | 2017



Dear Readers,

Pollinators are "the buzz" lately! They sure are worthy of all the attention. Bees are the major pollinators of many crops around the world that we enjoy regularly. Without bees, my favorite variety of coffee, Robusta, would probably not make it to my cup. Arabica, which is self-fertile would suffice, but yield and quality would dwindle without wild bees to assist in cross-pollination. A world without pollinators would be a world without apples, blueberries, strawberries, chocolate, and more. These are a few reasons why I am thankful for our pollinator friends.

There seems to be increased interest in preserving habitat for wild pollinators and keeping bees on local homesteads. The Guernsey-Noble Beekeepers are hosting a class for beginning beekeepers on the first weekend in February, and it is full to max capacity. Hopefully this trend will continue and new beekeepers will help find solutions to the troubles facing bee colonies today.

A great place to find news and educational materials about pollinators is Ohio State's Bee Lab. Visit beelab.osu.edu to find honeybee resources, webinars, research, and more. It would "bee" my pleasure to help you become a beekeeper, find a mentor, select plants for your landscape, or manage your existing system to protect pollinators while combatting problem pests like weeds and damaging insects. I hope you will join the movement and "bee" a friend to pollinators in 2017!



Sincerely Yours,

Christine Gelley



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Noble County Extension Office 46049 Marietta Rd., Suite 2

Caldwell, OH 43721

Phone: 740-732-5681 Fax: 740-732-5434

Email: gelley.2@osu.edu

URL: noble.osu.edu

Christine Gelley- OSU Extension Educator



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Farm Talk Breakfast

You are invited!

Farm Talk Breakfast will be held at the Southeast Region Extension Office on February 9, 2017 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. Farm Talk is held on a rotational basis around Noble County and serves as a chance for agriculturalists to meet for discussion about current events and pressing issues in agriculture.

RSVPs are appreciated by February 8th at Noon. A \$5 donation is suggested. Breakfast will accompany discussion. This month's menu will include homemade donuts, fresh fruit, coffee, tea, milk, and juice. For more information or to RSVP contact Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator-Christine Gelley at the Noble County OSU Extension office.

Discussion Topic: Oil, Gas, and Mineral Royalties

Presentation:

How to Read Your Royalty Stubs

By Dan Lima

ANR Extension Educator, Belmont Co.

Thursday,

February 9, 2017

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Location: Southeast Region OSU Extension Office 16714 Wolf Run Road Caldwell, OH 43724

Cost: \$5 donation

Contact: ANR Educator-Christine Gelley at 740-732-5681 or gelley.2@osu.edu to register by Noon on February 8th.

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For more information:

http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.



Agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification

3-hour training for those with & without a pesticide applicator license



Pre-registration is required.

Fulfills certification requirements

This meeting will fulfill the two-hour and three-hour requirement for applicators who need the agricultural fertilizer applicator certification.

Who needs the agricultural fertilizer certification?

Fertilizer certification is required if you apply fertilizer (other than manure) to more than 50 acres of agricultural production grown primarily for sale. If you hire a co-op or other custom applicator to make your fertilizer applications, you do not need the certification.

What will be covered in the training?

Best management practices will be the basis of the agricultural fertilizer certification training with a focus on fertilizer applications that have the appropriate rate, timing, placement and source.

There is NO COST for this program but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by calling the Guernsey County Extension Office at 740-489-5300.



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Beef School and Ag Crops Webinars Continue

All webinars will be broadcast live on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the OSU Extension Southeast Regional Office 16714 Wolf Run Road Caldwell, OH 43724 Call 740-732-5681. Please RSVP at least 1 week before the broadcast.

Beef School: The 2017 school will take a close look at each of the three primary areas of production: cow/calf, backgrounding, and the feedlot. There will be a \$10 cover charge to include attendance to your choice of one, two, or all three webinars:

February 7, 2017

Topic: Background/Stocker Cattle Management- Dr. Francis Fluharty, Research Professor, The Ohio State University Department of Animal Sciences, will compare grazing versus confinement growing systems for feeder cattle. Dr. Fluharty will evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of these two distinctly different management systems and explore how calf health and management impact the end product.

February 28, 2017

Topic: Managing Feedlot Cattle for the Consumer- Dr. Justin Sexten, Supply Development Director for Certified Angus Beef, discussing "Meeting consumer demand: Perspective from the feed yard to the consumer." He will challenge the audience to consider questions such as: How do feeder, packer, grocer and restaurateur demands influence the decisions the cow-calf manager makes? Does an end-user focused cow herd work on the farm? What opportunities exist to capture value added processes?

Ag Crops: The Corn, Soybean and Wheat Connection Webinars are an outreach tool of the OSU Agronomic Crops Team that are of interest to producers and Certified Crop Advisors across the state. These webinars are free to attend.

February 21, 2017

 Topic: Cover Crops & Soil Health- Dr. Steve Culman and Dr. Ryan Haden, Ag/Eng Technologies, OARDC, will speak on "Improving Soil Health and Using Cover Crops"

Noble County

MASTER GARDENER

VOLUNTEERS



- Do you want to learn more about plants and gardening?
- Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge with others?
- Are you eager to participate in a practical and intensive training program?
- Do you have the time to attend training and serve your community as a volunteer educator?

If you answered "YES!" to these questions, then you may enjoy joining the Noble County Master Gardner Volunteers in 2017!

For more information, visit noble.osu.edu or call: 740-732-5681.



Do you want to learn more about what can take your farm market stand from good to great? Join us for a workshop on ways to make it happen!

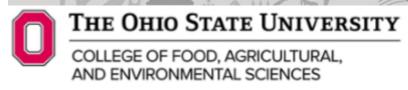
Wednesday February 22, 2017 1-3 PM

Noble County Extension Office 46049 Marietta Rd., Suite 2 Caldwell, OH 43055 Call: 740-732-5681 to RSVP

Featuring Special Guest:

Amanda Osborne
Cuyahoga County OSU Extension

Amanda is a Community Development Educator with expansive experience in food access and farmers' markets. Amanda is also member of the Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association and the American Community Garden Association.



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Kindred Gardens

Gardening for Seniors



Kindred Gardens is a program that offers stimulating gardening activities to seniors through a series of hands-on classes. All activities will be offered at no charge, but space may be limited. Please RSVP for each session. Programs will be held at the Noble County Senior Center- 300 Cumberland St, Caldwell, OH 43724.

Five series segments will be offered throughout 2017, each including an activity associated with gardening. Sessions will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude by 11:30 a.m. Events are as follows:

- February 23rd Fighting Cabin Fever
- April 18th April Showers Bring May Flowers
- June 1st -Homegrown Healthy Helpings
- September 14th Abundant Harvest
- November 9th -Winter Windowsill Wonders

To find out more about Kindred Gardens call Christine Gelley at the Noble County OSU Extension Office 740-732-5681 or email gelley.2@osu.edu.

The first session on February 23rd is limited to 20 participants.

Please RSVP by phone to 740-732-5681 or by filling out this form and returning it to the Senior Center or to the Extension Office at 46049 Marietta Rd., Suite 2, Caldwell, OH 43724.

| Name | Age |
|------------------|-----|
| Address | |
| Phone &/or Email | |

Lunch is available at the Senior Center with a reservation made by 9 a.m. the day of the event. Lunch is \$4.00 for those under 60. For those over 60, a \$2.50 donation is suggested. Call 740-732-5129 for reservations.

Personal identifiers such as name and contact information will only be used to provide you with program updates. Information such as age and gender will be anonymously reported to summarize program impacts to The Ohio State University and the Senior Center.

noble.osu.edu



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Staying Positive in a Pessimistic World By Christine Gelley First Published in The Journal on Jan. 30, 2017

We all have those days when everywhere you turn there seems to be bad news. Without a chance to refresh your spirit those days could drag on for weeks or months. With so many real problems facing us day to day, how can we stay positive when the atmosphere around us is heavily pessimistic? Let's look at one problem were facing right now in the realm of agriculture and take a chance to look on the bright side.

"Livestock sale prices are so low!"

It's true. There are many producers that are selling livestock for far less than their desired price. If you're one of them, you're not alone. According to the National Weekly Feeder and Stocker Cattle Summary tallied on January 20, 2017 by the USDA AMS, the national average price for feeder calves is about 40 cents below the five-year average. The current average selling price is about \$1.30/lb. That's 20 cents lower than this time last year. On the bright side however, the current price is 15 cents higher than it was in November. Fluctuations like this can be incredibly frustrating. So what can we do to cope?

One of the keys to staying positive during the rough times is to save during the good times. Plan for the worst, but hope for the best, so that when the hard times hit, you're prepared. If we live too "high on the hog" when the market is abnormally good, we'll be in shock when it returns to normal. Market prices are not static, so our management strategies can't be either. When times get tough, we need to find new ways to improve. That may mean improving overall efficiency in animal health, nutrition, and reproduction or thinking outside the box to make your operation more unique, with the end goal being to increase your profit margin. Every market experiences peaks and valleys in producer profits. Commodity prices change because of supply and buyer demand. How can we, as individuals within the industry, increase demand?

Not everyone is facing hard times in the market. Some niche markets (such as directly selling to local business and families, certified organic, and grass-fed meats) are doing nicely. What makes them different? The biggest factor is probably consumer preferences. There has been a push for more "local" and "natural" products from the consumer. Recent taste test panels and consumer surveys show some interesting data about those preferences.

A research study done by Jared Jaborek, a current graduate student at OSU, showed that when submitted to a blind taste test comparing corn-finished lamb to grass-finished lamb, consumers preferred the taste of the corn-finished lamb. However, in the survey taken before the taste test, consumers indicated that they preferred to buy grass-finished lamb rather than corn-finished. These results go to show that the consumer may not be completely educated on the product they are purchasing. They are more likely to buy a product based on the social image around the product rather than the product its self.

Now, to be clear, I am not suggesting that everyone switch over to grass-fed, organic, or all natural systems. What I am suggesting is: Investigating the possibility of new opportunities in the existing market may set you apart from the rest. Finding your niche may be just what you need to create a more positive outlook in a pessimistic world.

You can learn more about these and other related topics at the upcoming **Beef School Webinars**. Flip back to page 4 for details!

Farmland Tax Workshop

Thursday, March 9, 2017, 7:00 p.m. OSU Extension Office, Guernsey Co. Fairgrounds, Old Washington, Ohio

Tax Management will be presented by David Morrison,
OSU Extension Tax Specialist. He will discuss important aspects of farm tax management, royalty payments, depreciation, pipeline payments, and other important farm tax changes.



Cost: \$5 per person.

Pre-registration required by March 6, 2017.

For more information contact Clif Little at 740-489-5300

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Farmland Tax Workshop

Return this section with fee by March 6, 2017

Make checks payable & send to: OSU Extension PO Box 300 Old Washington, OH 43768

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A-I School

Eastern Ag Research Station, Belle Valley, Ohio 16870 Township Road 126, Caldwell April 25, 26, & 27, 2017

April 25 9 am - 2:00 pm

Mark Landefeld, Ag/NR Educator, Monroe County Clif Little, Ag/NR Educator, Guernsey County Carol Wheeler, Extension Emeritus

Basic A.I. Instruction

April 26 9 am - 2:00 pm

Clif Little, Ag/NR Educator, Guernsey County Wayne Shriver, EARS Farm Manager

- Reproductive Tract Anatomy & Physiology
- Estrous Synchronization

April 27 9 am - 2:00 pm

Dr. John Groah, DVM, McConnelsville, Ohio Clif Little, Ag/NR Educator, Guernsey County Carol Wheeler, Extension Emeritus

Cattle A.I.



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For more information contact: Clif Little, OSU Extension, Guernsey County at 740-489-5300

Registrant is accepted for class (if space available) when registration form & check are received.

Registrant will be notified when they are accepted into the class. Pre-Registration Required with money by April 21. Registration money is non-refundable.

Space filled on a first come/first served basis. Limited to 20 registrants.



A-I School

Return this section with fee. Required by April 21 ___# of participants @ \$100. = _____ enclosed

Make checks payable & send to: OSU Extension PO Box 300 Old Washington, OH 43768 Name Address

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association Annual Conference will take place in Dayton from February 9th-11th. Keynote speakers will address the topics "Transform Organic Today, Grow with Integrity Tomorrow" and "Building the 21st Century Food System: Capitalizing on the New Food Economy." Exhibit halls will be open to the public for limited hours on Feb. 9th & 10th at no cost. Registration will be accepted on-site for seminars and activities with pro-rated prices for children and teens. Find out more at www.oeffa.org/conference2017.php.
- The Ohio Woodland, Water, and Wildlife Conference will be held on March 1st at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center in Mansfield, OH. This is a conference for land managers and natural resource professionals that will feature 15 presentations and lunch. Early registration is available for \$60 until Feb. 14th and the final date to register is Feb. 22nd. You can register and pay online at woodlandstewards.osu.edu.
- The Conservation Tillage & Technology Conference will take place at Ohio Northern University on March 7th & 8th. The CTC program is packed with topics. It will feature 60 presenters with farming, industry, and university backgrounds, CCA and CLM credits, and an awards program. Registration is accepted until March 3rd. Visit ctc.osu.edu for details.
- The Noble County Cattlemen's Association *Annual Meeting* will be March 30th at 6 p.m. and the *2017 Spring Classic* will be on April 29th beginning at 8 a.m. Mark your calendars!
- The Noble Soil and Water Annual Tree & Seed Sale has begun! Supplies are limited and available on a first come, first serve basis. The deadline for all orders is March 17th.
 Products will be available for pick-up in April. Forms are available at the office or at www.nobleswcd.org. Call 740-732-4318 for more information.
- Pesticide & Fertilizer Applicator Courses are available in neighboring counties if scheduling conflicts arise for our local classes. Call for additional locations and dates.
- Forms and schedules are available for these events at the Noble County Extension Office. Drop by to learn more or visit us online.
- You can now follow Noble County OSU ANR on Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest! Links to these sites can be found at the county website: <u>noble.osu.edu</u>.
- Check out Christine's ANR blog at <u>u.osu.edu/gelley.2</u> and the Buckeye Hills ANR blog at <u>http://u.osu.edu/bhanr/.</u>

