

NEWSLETTER

NOBLE COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MAY | 2017



Dear Readers,

Our local farmers' markets are up and running!

This year, access to fresh, local, and healthy food in Noble County has expanded. Two local farmers' markets are now open within the Caldwell City Limits. Come out and visit them every week through the end of October. Details about each market are featured below.

These are wonderful opportunities to develop relationships with local producers and learn more about the food you eat. The markets also feature other goods besides food. You will find plants, flowers, home sewn items, soaps and lotions, crafts and more! Friendly faces will be waiting to greet you.

Remember, when you spend local, you support local. Whatever the product may be, when you spend your dollar in the area you live, a greater portion of that dollar will be returned to your community. Buying items through direct sale markets is a great way to maximize the proportion of your dollar that will stay locally invested. Direct sales eliminate the "middle man", which reduces overhead cost, because you are buying your goods and services directly from the producer.

Noble County OSU Extension is actively working to promote and support both of these markets. Learn more about our efforts on page 8. If you have questions about the ins and outs of farmers' markets, cottage foods, home farm markets, or any other related facets of our food system, we would be happy to share information with you.

Sincerely,
Christine Gelley
 OSU Extension Educator

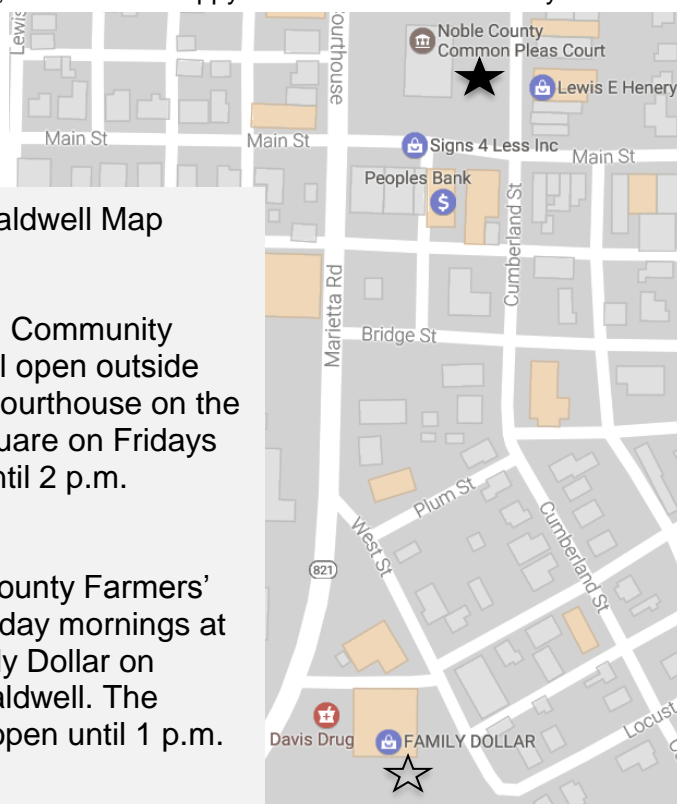
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Noble County Extension Office
 46049 Marietta Rd., Suite 2
 Caldwell, OH 43721
 Phone: 740-732-5681
 Fax: 740-732-5434
 Email: gelley.2@osu.edu
 URL: noble.osu.edu

Right: Downtown Caldwell Map

★ The Caldwell Community Farmers' Market will open outside the Noble County Courthouse on the Caldwell Village Square on Fridays at 9 a.m. and run until 2 p.m.

☆ The Noble County Farmers' Market will open Friday mornings at 8 a.m. next to Family Dollar on Marietta Road in Caldwell. The market will remain open until 1 p.m.



You are invited to:

Farm Talk Lunch

Identifying Common Agronomic Weeds

**Free
event!**

**Thursday,
May 25, 2017
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**RSVP by
May 22.**

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

To RSVP call 740-732-5681.

Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. with program and discussion to follow.

Planned Menu:

Meatloaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Salad, Rolls, Assorted Desserts, and Beverages.



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Four County Pasture Walk Series 2017



♦ **May 18** near Belmont, OH 11am-1pm (light lunch provided)

Bill Watkins-Dairy Farm
43636 Foxtrail Rd.
Belmont, OH 43718

Topics: Manure analysis and use options, Soil test results from 3 fields & discussion, wet wrapped hay bales

♦ **May 23** Guernsey County

Time, Location & Topics TBD

♦ **Sept 11** near Caldwell, OH 6pm-8pm

Nobleland Farm-Beef Operation
13090 Lincoln Hwy.
Caldwell, OH 43724

♦ **Sep 12** near Barnesville, OH 6pm-8pm

Brad & Mindy Thornburg-Beef Operation
56201 Boston Road
Barnesville, OH 43713

Topics: Soil tests of various paddocks, Reseeding pipeline right-of-ways, Forest conversion to pasture land

♦ **Sep 26** Guernsey County

Time, Location & Topics TBD

SPONSORED BY:

OSU Extension, Belmont, Guernsey,
Monroe & Noble Counties

USDA NRCS Services

SWCD's, Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe &
Noble Counties

**The meetings are FREE and open to
anyone interested:
Call for directions and questions.**

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**OSU Extension,  
Belmont: 740.695.1455  
Guernsey: 740.489.5300  
Monroe: 740.472.0810  
Noble: 740.732.5681**

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# Tips for First Cutting Hay

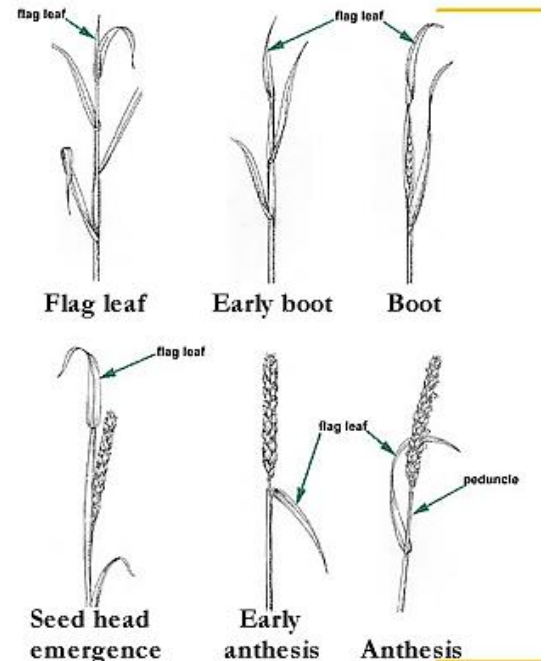
From Dr. Mark Sulc, OSU Extension Forage Specialist

Adapted from his originally published article in the May 3, 2017 Ohio Beef Cattle Letter.

- The warm temperatures this spring have stimulated growth of hay crops in Ohio and they are well ahead of normal development for early May. The only exception is where spring freezes significantly damaged the crop a few weeks ago. But for most stands, timing for first harvest of high quality forage is coming earlier than normal.
- Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF) levels are distinct indicators of forage quality. Optimum NDF targets are listed below:

- Legumes: <44 (<42% is ideal)
- Grasses: < 53% (50% is ideal)
- Mostly legume mix: 42 to 45%
- 50/50 Mix: 44 to 48%
- Mostly grass mix: 46 to 49%

- As the forage stand shifts from mostly leaves to more stems and seed heads, NDF increases, which lowers forage quality. As soon as you see seed heads, NDF levels are past their prime.
- A timely first and second cutting is critical for high quality forage. Fiber accumulates faster in the first two growth cycles in May and June than it does later in the summer. So for high quality forage, take your first and second harvest early if at all possible.
- Later in the summer (July into August) you can extend the cutting interval because the quality decline with delayed cutting is much less than it is this time of the year.
- If high quality is not such a concern, a later first harvest will provide more yield. For beef cows or other animals with lower nutrient requirements, you can harvest forage in the heading (grass) or flower (legumes) stages for adequate quality. But don't get too comfortable waiting. Watch for harvesting weather windows, because forage quality changes fast this time of year.



Above: The ideal time to harvest grasses for forage is in early boot. Illustration Credit: [forages.oregonstate.edu](http://forages.oregonstate.edu)

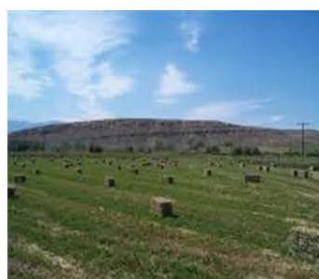
Right: The ideal time to harvest legumes is in early bud. Photo Credit: [forages.osu.edu](http://forages.osu.edu)



Alfalfa in early bud stage (left) and flower stage (right).



# Fertilizer Certification for Applicators



## **Fulfills certification requirements**

This meeting will fulfill the three-hour requirement for any 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.

**Thursday**  
**May 25, 2017**  
**6:00 – 9:00P.M.**

**Email Address:** [lima.19@osu.edu](mailto:lima.19@osu.edu)



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

## **Barnesville Library Annex**

**611 North Chestnut Ave., Barnesville, OH 43713**

**No Cost, but registration is required**

### **Phone :**

**740-732-5681 Noble Co**  
**740-489-5300 Guernsey Co**  
**740-472-0810 Monroe Co**  
**740-695-1455 Belmont Co**

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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.

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:

- **June 1<sup>st</sup> -Homegrown Healthy Helpings**

All generations are welcome for this session. Topics will include:  
How to know when it is time to harvest homegrown foods, simple recipes to make with them, and tips on watering, fertilizing, and controlling pests and weeds. Attendees will take home a gardening calendar and cookbook.

- September 14<sup>th</sup> -*Abundant Harvest*
- November 9<sup>th</sup> -*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.

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 by May 25th.

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.*



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# 2017 OHIO SHEEP DAY



**SATURDAY, JULY 15 • 8 A.M. – 4 P.M.**

**OARDC Sheep Research Unit  
5743 Fredericksburg Rd.  
Wooster, OH 44691**

## Program Topics

- OARDC Sheep Research Unit – Research Update – Francis Fluharty, Animal Sciences
- Pasture Walks With the Experts – Bob Hendershot, Green Pasture Services and Rory Lewandowski, OSU Extension
- Beginning and Novice Shepherd's Sessions – Doug Clevenger and Roger Shearer, Animal Sciences
- Current Research: The Effect Of Weaning Age on Lamb Health and Performance – Brady Campbell, Animal Sciences
- The Impact of Internal Parasites on the Sheep Operations – Jeff McCutcheon, OSU Extension
- Managing Primary Predator Issues on Ohio Sheep and Livestock Farms – Tommy Butler, USDA Wildlife Services

## Registration

**\$15** for Ohio Sheep Improvement Association members. Cost includes lunch.

**\$25** for non-Ohio Sheep Improvement Association members. Cost includes lunch.

Ohio Sheep Improvement Association memberships can be purchased during registration.

## For more information

Roger A. High

614-246-8299

[rhigh@ofbf.org](mailto:rhigh@ofbf.org)

[www.ohiosheep.org](http://www.ohiosheep.org)

## Major Sponsors



Ashland County Farm Bureau, Holmes County Farm Bureau and Wayne County Farm Bureau



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## **Assistance with Label Making**

Noble County OSU Extension will provide assistance with making labels to anyone who wishes to sell cottage foods through our local farmers' markets. Proper labeling of food products for sale in any capacity is required by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This service is free by appointment. Those who schedule an appointment may bring their own blank labels to print or purchase them by the sheet from the Extension Office. Electronic copies of the labels will also be yours to take home. Call 740-732-5681 to make an appointment with Christine.



## **Announcements & Reminders**

- Visit our local Farmers' Markets on Fridays in Caldwell. The Noble County Farmers' Market is open next to Family Dollar from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Caldwell Community Farmers' Market is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside the Courthouse on the Village Square.
- **Oil and Gas Meetings on the schedule:**
  - Understanding Oil & Gas Royalty Payment Stubs on May 23 6-8 p.m. at the Monroe County Senior Center. Call Monroe County Extension at 740-472-0810 for more details.
  - Oil & Gas Updates and Ad Valorem Reports will be the topic of the Noble County Lunch and Learn event on June 28 at the OSU Southeast Region Office. Further details will be announced in the near future.
- The Guernsey Noble Beekeepers Association will meet on June 5 at the Mid-East Career and Technology Center in Buffalo at 6:30 p.m. with a speaker discussing Mite Control.
- Ag School Days took place May 9 & 10 hosting 366 third graders from Noble and Guernsey Counties at the Eastern Agricultural Research Station. Thanks to all the volunteers & sponsors!

