

**NOBLE COUNTY ANR NEWSLETTER****SUMMER | 2021***Dear Readers,*

Noble County OSU Extension has been back to business as usual since June observing open office hours and offering in-person programming without restrictions. We are excited to resume the traditional types of service and programs that we have offered for years, while also expanding to offer new and improved learning experiences on a local and statewide level! I hope that while browsing the pages of this Summer 2021 ANR Newsletter you will find helpful advice, interesting facts, events to attend, ways to share what is important to you with influential partners, and information on how to connect in depth with the library of resources we have available through OSU Extension. Expect another newsletter in August with details about the Noble County Fair, Farm Science Review, and many more fall programs addressing livestock, crops, forestry, home horticulture, wildlife conservation, and more.

*Sincerely Yours,**Christine Gelley*

Noble County OSU Extension ANR Educator

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Email: [gelley.2@osu.edu](mailto:gelley.2@osu.edu)URLs: [www.noble.osu.edu](http://www.noble.osu.edu)[www.facebook.com/osuenoble](https://www.facebook.com/osuenoble)**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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

# Savor Summer While It Lasts

Garden harvest is well underway and as a result, the season of zucchini gifting has begun. One of my favorite parts of summer is witnessing how the gardener responds to the growth of their garden and how they share their gardening adventure with those around them.

In fact, you can join a national celebration of zucchini abundance on August 8, 2021- Sneak a Zucchini onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day. I promise, I am not joking. It is a real day. If you have an abundance of summer squashes, I encourage you to join in the fun, while respecting your neighbor's privacy, of course.



Speaking of summer squash, this week a local gardener visited the Extension office with a crossbred volunteer squash that grew in her garden this year. It had the shape of a pumpkin but had the flesh of a squash. The fruit weighed about 20 pounds, and we affectionately named it "Squashkin." Kim Ray of Cumberland brought in the squashkin and reported that she and her husband had enjoyed it recently prepared through panfrying with zucchini, onions, garlic, and parmesan cheese. She thought I would find it interesting and brought by the massive veggie for me to experiment with.

That night, I took her advice and prepared it as described, but substituted carrots for zucchini. One quarter of the squashkin was all I could fit in the pan to cook. Once cooked and the water reduced, the amount of squash left in the pan was about a quarter of what I started with. The flavor was mildly sweet, and the raw seeds were particularly tasty. With 75 percent of the squashkin left in the fridge, the next thing I plan to try is grilled squashkin.

Many members of the squash family can be cross-pollinated and fruitful the following year if the seeds are fully ripe and planted. Many emerge simply from fruit left in the garden at the end of the previous season. If you try to crossbreed squashes, it would be best to cross summer squash with summer squash and winter squash with winter squash, as the texture of the rind and ability to store the fruit long-term is dramatically different.

Through the process of preparing the squashkin, I was reminded that summertime is fleeting. We only have so many summer evenings left before school starts again and only so many weekends left to swim at the lake. I was relieved by the thought of vacation. For the next two weeks, I will be out of state with my daughter enjoying some of these precious days. We hope to savor every day we have. While I am away, the OSU Extension office will be happy to connect you with a neighboring educator if you have an urgent need in the field of agriculture and natural resources.

We have many in-person events coming up in August! Mark your calendars and call in your RSVPs. We look forward to seeing you there.





*Southeast Ohio*

# Fecal Egg Count Workshop

**Wednesday, August 4, 2021****6:00-8:00 PM****OSU Extension Operations Building  
16714 State Route 215, Caldwell, Ohio 43724**

Parasites are among the top issues facing sheep and goat producers in the Eastern United States. Fecal egg counts are helpful tools for small ruminant producers seeking better parasite control in their flocks. This workshop will provide hands-on training for producers to conduct fecal egg counts at home.

**Cost: \$20 per person**  
**RSVP by July 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Class is limited to 20 people. Payment due by cash or check at the class.*

**To enroll in the class contact:**

**Noble County OSU Extension**

**Phone: 740-732-5681**

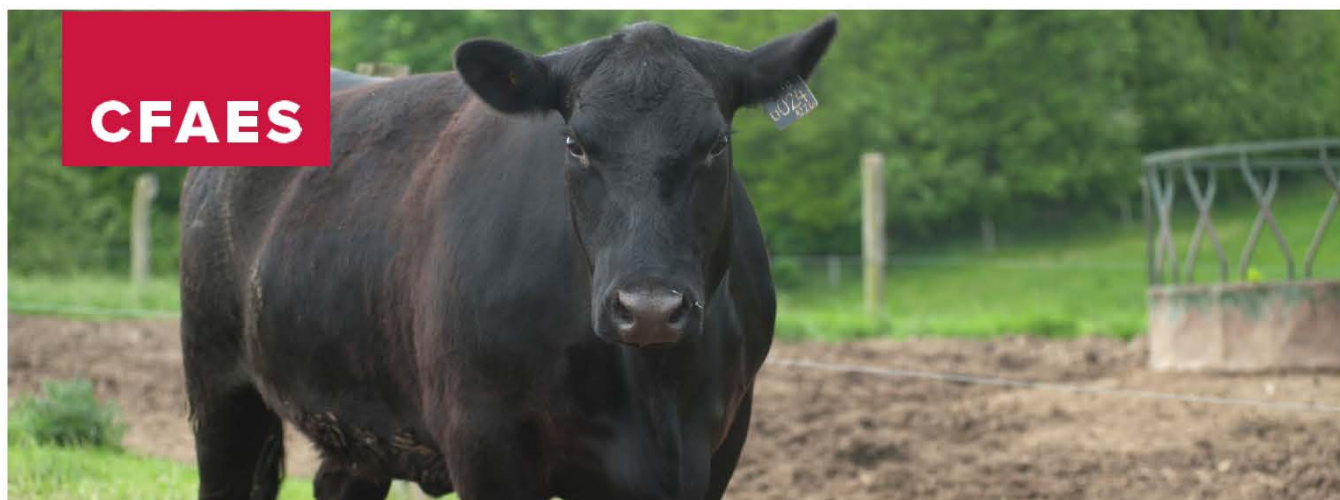
**Email: [gelley.2@osu.edu](mailto:gelley.2@osu.edu)**

**Learn more online:**

**[noble.osu.edu](http://noble.osu.edu) | [sheep.osu.edu](http://sheep.osu.edu)**

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## **BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE RECERTIFICATION**

**Are you selling beef animals to be harvested for meat and need to update your Beef Quality Assurance Certification? Options are...**

1. If you have internet resources, we recommend that you take the online course available at [www.bqa.org](http://www.bqa.org).
2. Attend an in-person training. The next available in-person training will be:

**Thursday, August 12, 2021 from 9:00-10:00 AM**

**OSU Extension Operations Building  
16714 State Route 215, Caldwell, Ohio 43724**

Registration is REQUIRED. No fee to recertify.

*Registration is open until max location capacity is reached. We are committed to the safety of our guests and volunteers, as such, we will agree to best practices in the prevention of COVID-19. Do not attend if you or anyone living in your household is experiencing symptoms associated with the coronavirus, or any other communicable illness.*

**Call Noble County OSU Extension to register: 740-732-5681**



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*—We Sustain Life—*  
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[guernsey.osu.edu](http://guernsey.osu.edu)

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You are invited to the Caldwell Community Seed Library Event:

# CULTIVATING CARROTS & SAVING SEEDS



**OFFERED TWICE IN AUGUST**

**FRIDAYS 8:30–10:00 AM**

**FREE TO ATTEND**



**AUGUST 20, 2021:**

Noble County Multi-Agency Pavilion  
46049 Marietta Rd. Caldwell

*This event will occur as part of the OSU Extension reoccurring Farm Talk Breakfast Program offered on the third Friday monthly.*

**AUGUST 27, 2021:**

Caldwell Public Library Annex  
517 Spruce St. Caldwell

*This event is planned to be outdoors on the library lawn but will be moved inside to the annex building if weather is problematic.*

**Everyone in attendance will take home a carrot growing kit and instructions on how to save seeds from this year's harvest for next year's gardening adventure.**

**RSVPs appreciated to 740-732-5681.**

Seed library questions? Give us a call or email us:

**Christine Gelley** – Noble County OSU Extension Educator, Ag. and Natural Resources  
Direct Line (740) 305-3173 | Email [gelley.2@osu.edu](mailto:gelley.2@osu.edu)

**Lori Harris** – Noble County OSU Extension Program Assistant, SNAP-Ed.  
Direct Line (740) 305-3174 | Email [harris.2346@osu.edu](mailto:harris.2346@osu.edu)





## 2021 Statewide Sheep Shearing School – September 10-11, 2021

Sponsored by: Ohio Sheep Improvement Association

The Ohio Statewide Sheep Shearing School will be held **Friday and Saturday, September 10-11, 2021** from **9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** at the **Dave Cable Farm, 10491 Canal Rd., Hebron, OH 43025**. The cost is **\$75 per student**, which must be returned with the registration form **by Monday August 30, 2021**. As part of the registration fee, a box lunch and drinks will be provided each day of the school.

**Class Maximum: 10 participants – this maximum is due to COVID-19 restrictions**

If you decide to register after August 30, 2021 or have further questions, please call Roger A. High at 614-246-8299.

Make checks payable to: **Ohio Sheep Improvement Association**. Return bottom portion of this form with payment by Monday August 30, 2021 to Ohio Sheep Improvement Association – Sheep Shearing School, c/o Roger A. High, 280 N. High St. P.O. Box 182383, Columbus, OH 43218. Applications will also be available and can be printed off at [ohiosheep.org](http://ohiosheep.org) and mailed to the OSIA office. **Payment is nonrefundable after September 3, 2021.**

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### 2021 SHEEP SHEARING SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM – SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2021

*Please print:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Cellphone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide a cell phone and an email if possible, in case we would need to contact you prior to the school, for notification of class cancellation or reminders about the school.**

**Participants are invited to bring their own shearing equipment. We recommend that the shearing equipment is in working order and a minimum of three (3) sets of sharpened combs and cutters are available for use.**

*Shearing Experience (check one):*

Beginner \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_

Right-Handed \_\_\_\_\_ Left-Handed \_\_\_\_\_

***Payment of \$75 per student is due with registration form.  
Make check payable to Ohio Sheep Improvement Association.***

**Disclaimer (must be signed):** By signing this form I am hereby releasing the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association and any of its members of any liability for injury or accident as a result of participating in the Statewide Sheep Shearing School.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Help Bring Better Broadband to the Region:

State and federal agencies are preparing to spend billions on rural broadband. Here are two steps you can take to ensure your home or business gets the broadband it needs:

1. Run a speed test: The State of Ohio is using Speedtest by Ookla® to identify locations that need better broadband. Run a home speed test to increase the chances of an upgrade in your neighborhood.
2. Complete a survey: Decision makers need to know what rural internet access is really like. Share your experience in this 5 minute survey. Learn more at [www.ConnectingAppalachia.org](http://www.ConnectingAppalachia.org).

## BETTER BROADBAND FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

# 1



### **RUN A FREE SPEED TEST**

to increase the chances of an upgrade in your neighborhood.

# 2



### **TAKE A 5 MINUTE SURVEY**

to help decision makers understand what rural internet access is really like.



### **SHARE IT !**

Share the speed test and survey links with your friends and neighbors:

**[connectingappalachia.org/speedtest](http://connectingappalachia.org/speedtest)**

**[connectingappalachia.org/survey](http://connectingappalachia.org/survey)**



Connecting Appalachia





## Hay Judging Criteria

**Hay judging is important for determining market value of hay based on indicators of quality.**

**Decisions are made based on physical characteristics and chemical analysis.**

**Use your senses of sight, smell, and touch to help evaluate quality.**



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**Learn more: [go.osu.edu/Forages](https://go.osu.edu/Forages)**

### Leafiness

Leaves are the most digestible portion of the plant, both for grasses and legumes. Leaves should be plentiful and attached to the stems.

### Maturity

#1 Factor that impacts forage quality. As plants mature, fiber content increases and digestibility decreases. Over mature hay is stemmy and full of seed.

### Odor

Bad smells indicate problems like spoilage and mold growth. Animals will refuse hay that smells bad. Bad hay may smell sour, musty, be dusty, or damp.

### Color

Color is not a reliable indicator of quality. Green hay is usually a sign of good curing conditions. But, assuming that green hay is better than brown hay, could be wrong.

### Softness

The texture of the hay is important for animal intake. Pokey or brittle hay will decrease intake. Look for weeds that have thorns, spines, or awns.

### Purity

Pure stands of the same species, or collection of species are important for marketing purposes. Pure hay is easier to fit into a feed program and to describe for sale.

### Bale Condition

Bales should be uniform size and shape for easier storage. Wrapped bales should be adequately covered for protection from the weather and to prevent spoilage.

### Penalties

Contaminants in hay may include poisonous weeds, mold, dirt, and trash. These greatly reduce the quality and value of the hay.





# Milkweed and Hemp Dogbane- Who's Who?

Both milkweed and hemp dogbane have become more apparent in the area over the past month. These two plants are related but have some distinct differences that can help landowners identify them and implement control measures when needed.

Similarities between the two include having creeping roots; leaves that appear on opposite sides of the stem; and they produce a milky sap. Differences include that young milkweed leaves have fine hairs and hemp dogbane are nearly hairless; milkweed stems are generally thick and green, but hemp dogbane stems are usually red to purple and thinner in comparison; hemp dogbane frequently branches in the top canopy, while milkweed will typically not branch unless mowed; and seed pod shape is distinctly different after flowering with milkweed producing an upright tear drop shaped pod and hemp dogbane producing a long bean-like pod that hangs from the plant.

While the usefulness of milkweed in the landscape is often justified for monarch butterfly populations, hemp dogbane has fewer redeeming qualities. Historically hemp dogbane has been used by Native Americans to make rope, clothing, and baskets. Both have the capability of spreading rapidly by their creeping roots and seed production. Both are best controlled in agricultural settings by a combination of strategic mowing and systemic herbicide application.

Both milkweed and hemp dogbane are considered poisonous to livestock. Toxicities can occur from fresh or dried leaves, stems, and roots. While death from poisoning is rare, reduced production efficiency is common if consumed. Symptoms range from mild to severe and include vomiting, diarrhea, coordination loss, tremors, heart problems, respiratory distress, and death.

While eliminating milkweed and hemp dogbane from all ecosystems would be unwise, treatment of some kind is advised in situations where livestock are consuming forage from areas with high populations.

According to the 2021 Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois Weed Control Guide, both milkweed and hemp dogbane are significant agronomic weeds in no-till systems. Various postemergence herbicides can be effective on milkweed and hemp dogbane if the plants are less than eight inches tall. For the best control of the creeping root system, applications of translocated herbicides should be applied when the plants are in the bud to flower stage. Attaining complete control after one herbicide application is unlikely. The most appropriate time to treat and product to use depends on the situation. Commonly used herbicides for suppression or control include glyphosate, 2,4-D, dicamba, and triclopyr products. Always follow the directions printed on the herbicide label for application rates, methods, and concerns.

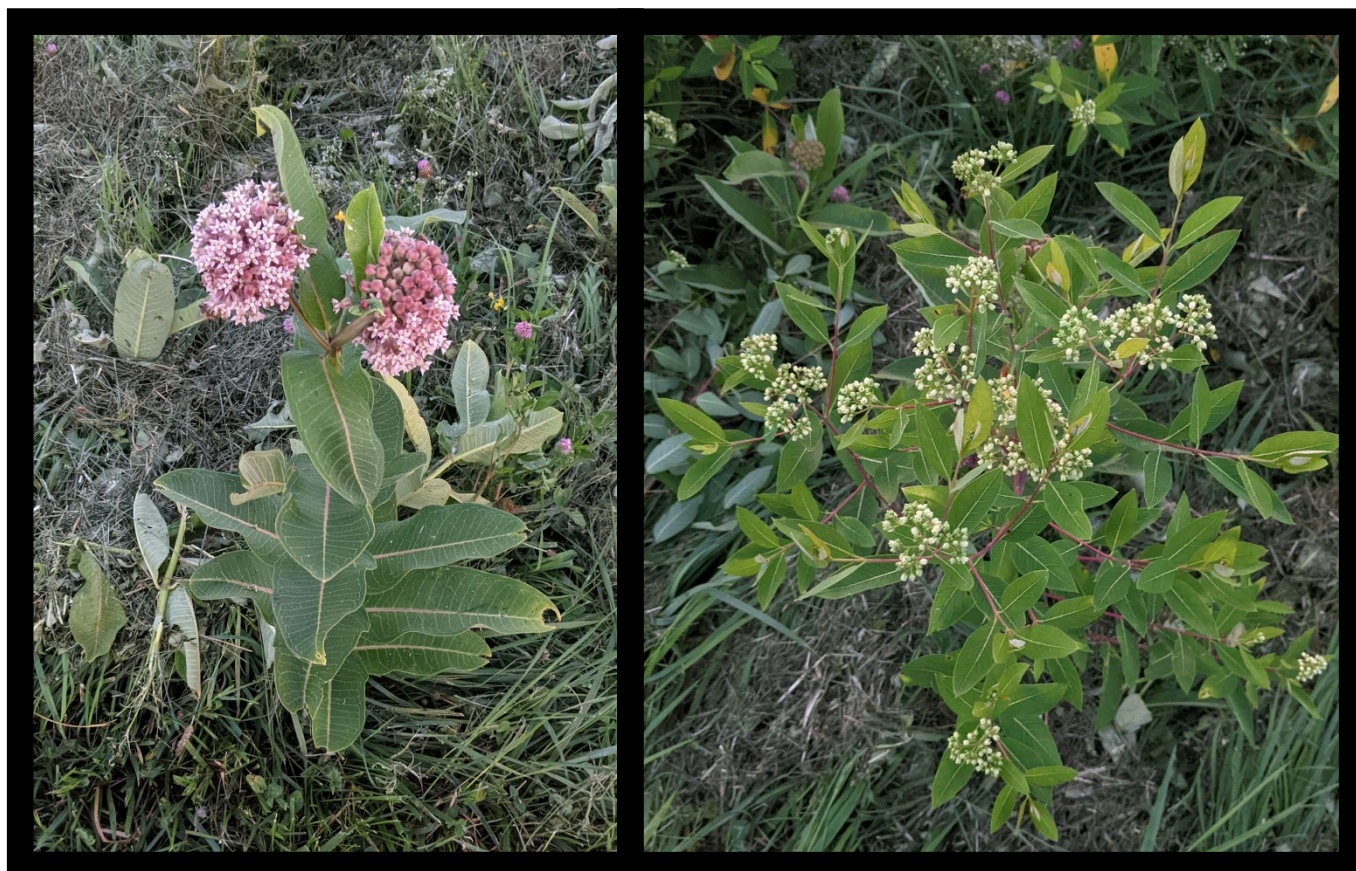
Learn more about milkweed and hemp dogbane by comparing the photos before and during flowering on the next page.



Left: Common milkweed before flowering. Right: Hemp dogbane before flowering.



Left: Common milkweed during flowering. Right: Hemp dogbane during flowering.





## Your Opinion Matters:



- Calling all Forage Producers and Consumers! Rising costs of testing and consolidation of forage seed companies have led to declining entries in public forage variety tests and many universities have discontinued their testing programs. The remaining tests are also at risk of vanishing unless all stakeholders--producers, industry, and public universities—can agree on modifications that improve the economic viability of public variety testing programs. The American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC) has developed this survey to collect information on what stakeholders expect from forage variety tests and what acceptable costs would be in relation to the expected results. This fall, an AFGC working group will summarize the survey results and use them to draft recommendations for improvements to the current system. It is our hope that based on these recommendations, universities, extension services, and forage breeders can come together and develop a coordinated forage variety test network that will benefit the development and use of improved forage cultivars across the USA. Please take the time to fill out the survey, which should take no more than 5 minutes. Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPXZB3Q>
- Whether you shop for local meat, raise livestock, operate a slaughterhouse, or create value-added products, the meat processing bottleneck affects you! The project Planning To Advance Mobile Meat Slaughter and Processing in Ohio and Central Appalachia, conducted by The Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, Inc. (ACEnet) and project consultants, aims to draft and support a plan for a possible solution. Will you commit ten minutes of your time to share your values and needs in a short survey? Visit: <https://acenetworks.org/lfp/> to learn more and take the survey.



# OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

## Noble County Agriculture & Natural Resources Clientele Meat Science Interest Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire. Dr. Lyda Garcia, Extension Meat Specialist at OSU, is interested in gathering information to provide programming and information that will be of value to your interests and/or needs. Personal information is optional.

Thank you for helping us better serve our community!

Please circle the areas below that you would be interested in receiving information/programming on in the future.

### EDUCATION

- US Meat Industry
- Carcass Evaluation
- What We Look for in Carcass Shows and What It Means
- Cutting Guidelines
- Meat Cuts – Retail ID
- Meat Quality
- Impacts of Animal Welfare on Meat Quality
- Careers
- OSU Animal Science / Meat Laboratory Tours

### INDUSTRY NEEDS

- Meat Processing
- Challenges of Meat Processing
- Starting a New Meat Processing Business
- Meat Inspection / Food Safety / HACCP
- Labor Workforce in Meat Processing
- Meat Cutting Workshops
- Meat Cutting Tests / Yields
- Value Added- Meat Products
- New Muscle Cuts
- List Additional Topics Below:

Name	Address	Phone/Email



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#### Return form to:

Christine Gelley, ANR Educator  
OSU Extension Noble County  
46049 Marietta Rd., Suite 2 Caldwell, OH 43724  
740-732-5681  
Email : [gelley.2@osu.edu](mailto:gelley.2@osu.edu)



# Forage Fertility: Where We Are and Why it Matters

– Garth Ruff, Beef Cattle Field Specialist, OSU Extension and Greg LaBarge, Agronomic Crops Field Specialist, OSU Extension

Hay and haylage crops are grown on just over 1 million acres in Ohio (NASS, 2019) and are grown on more Ohio farms (44% of all farms) than any other crop (Becot et al., 2020). In addition, there are over 1.3 million acres of pastureland on nearly 39,000 farms (50% of all farms) in the state of Ohio (NASS, 2017). Fertilizer costs represent 40 to 60% of the variable input costs of forage hay production (Ward et al., 2016, 2018), and so managing these costs is key to an Ohio forage producers' ability to stay competitive. Furthermore, water quality issues in the state underscore the need for Ohio farmers to manage on-farm nutrients as efficiently as possible. A farmer's ability to find this optimal balance between meeting crop nutrient requirements without over-application is highly reliant on the best available information.

In order to make better and up to date forage fertility recommendations, we want to hear back from producers as to what current practices are already implemented on farms across the state. Understanding current practices and limitations to forage fertility will guide us in determining the type and kind of related research to conduct in order to revise current recommendations.

Please take this short voluntary survey regarding current forage fertility practices. This survey is part of a research effort conducted by The Ohio State University and should take 10 minutes or less to complete. Once again your feedback is appreciated as we evaluate current forage fertility guidelines.

Survey Link: <https://go.osu.edu/ffsurvey2021>

QR Code Below:

Results from this survey in addition to forage fertility research will allow for revision of current recommendations for forage crops, grasses and legumes that follow guidelines already established in the Tri-State Fertility Guide. If you have any questions regarding the survey, contact Garth Ruff at [ruff.72@osu.edu](mailto:ruff.72@osu.edu).



## Keep in Touch with Noble County OSU Extension:

- Our Noble County Extension Office is open again as usual- Monday through Friday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM. We prefer that you call 740-732-5681 in advance to make an appointment with the staff member you intend to see. ANR Office Hours are typically Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM.
- Follow Noble County ANR on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/NobleCountyAgEd>, on the county page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/osuenoble/>, on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/osuenobleag/>, and on YouTube at <https://go.osu.edu/youtubejellybean>.
- Subscribe to The Journal Leader in print or by virtual means to read *Ag Line*- a column by Christine Gelley- Noble County ANR Educator, published weekly on page 3.
- Don't forget to visit and subscribe to the OSU Extension Teams that fit your interests. Many are offering virtual and in-person events. By subscribing to the pages, you will be notified when new articles or events post:
  - Beef Team- <https://u.osu.edu/beefteam/>
  - Sheep Team- <https://u.osu.edu/sheep/>
  - Agronomic Crops Team- <https://agcrops.osu.edu/home>
  - Swine Team- <https://porkinfo.osu.edu/>
  - Poultry Team- <https://u.osu.edu/poultry/>
  - Dairy Team- <https://dairy.osu.edu/>
  - Fruit & Vegetable Team- <https://u.osu.edu/vegnetnews/>
  - SE OH Woods- <https://u.osu.edu/apsley.1/>
  - Extension Energy Outreach- <https://energizeohio.osu.edu/>
  - Buckeye Yard, Lawn, and Garden Team- <https://bygl.osu.edu/>

