

**CFAES**

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

**New Jr Fair Rules! See pages 7 & 9**

# Morrow County SCARLET & GRAY News

Volume 16 Issue 1 • March/April 2020

## Introducing our new SNAP-Ed Program Assistant Kathy Whitmore!

Kathy Whitmore of Lexington is the new Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed), Program Assistant with the Ohio State University (OSU) Extension Office – Morrow County.

Whitmore will be working with and helping to educate residents who are eligible for the benefits of the program. She will be teaching all ages from pre-school to senior citizens. Whitmore will be doing a variety of programs and classes throughout Morrow County.

The SNAP-Ed programs are designed to increase the likelihood that people eligible for SNAP will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles.

If you are interested in a class or program series, please contact Kathy Whitmore at 567.876.0007 or whitmore.5@osu.edu, for more information.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education: Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program (SNAP-Ed)

SNAP-Ed is a free nutrition education program serving participants and low-income individuals eligible to receive SNAP benefits or other means-tested Federal assistance programs throughout Ohio. SNAP-Ed is funded by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and serves in partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Ohio State University Extension. The goal is to improve the likelihood that families and individuals who receive SNAP benefits (SNAP) will make healthy food choices and choose active lifestyles. Through SNAP-Ed classes participants learn to select, prepare and incorporate fruits and vegetables, whole grain, low-fat protein foods and low-fat dairy products into a healthy diet; to use limited resources to plan, purchase and prepare food for the family; to be physically active every day; and to store and handle food so it is safe for consumption.



## 2019 Morrow County 4-H Volunteers

The 2019 4-H Volunteer Appreciation Night was held on Jan. 18 at the Cardinal Center, Marengo.

The following volunteers were recognized:

### FIRST YEAR

Kimberly Anthony, Heather Clapham, Fether Dell, Lindsey Gallik, Erin Hall, Christina Keever, Abigail Kelly, Brooke LaRoche, Shannon Lasser, Shelby Perkins, Taylor Stepp, Jaime Zeger

### SECOND YEAR

Kari Adams, Brittany Arnold, Stacey Beck, Brent Bockbrader, Tolly Bockbrader, Sonya Brown-Morris, Kathy Dudley, Curtis Grimm, Sandy Kovacs, Charles McGee, Curtis Nelson, Lindsay Nelson, Rachelle Newson, Christy Orr, Candala Rogers, Riley Sherman, Kellie Squires

### THIRD YEAR

Jennifer Alexander, Ben Davis, Laura Fiant, Betsy Gallagher, Brian Gingerich, Christy LaRoche, Jennifer Morrison, Candi Rollins, Sarah Shaffer, Miranda Spoon, Tabitha White

### FOURTH YEAR

Erin Bender, Marcie Chamberlain, Mark Chamberlain, Wade Delawder, Jessica Dye, Melody Franklin, Katie Grandstaff, Lora Hamilton, Jacklynn Johnson, Robin Munday, Bridget Whetnall, Peggy Wolf, Tasha Zomes

### FIFTH YEAR

James Anderson, Linda Bowman, Cory Clark, Megan Davis, Stacy High, Justina Keebler, Mary Meimer, Rebecca Miller

### SIXTH YEAR

Jessica Anderson, Calina Barry, Kelly Beck, Matthew Beck, Sally Brokaw, James Eblin, Kristen Eblin, Terri Foster, Vanessa Gingerich, Robin Jordan, Megan Michels, Teresa Smith, Martha Wall

### SEVENTH YEAR

Jeff Copley, Carri Jagger, Darren May, Cherie Smith,

### EIGHTH YEAR

Cynthia Hartley, Ashley Smith, Kathleen Townsend

### NINTH YEAR

Tracy Gray, Brigette Kanagy, Emily Leibengood, Amy Walter

### TENTH YEAR

Shelby Emerson, Angie White

### ELEVENTH YEAR

Holly Gordon, Judy Mayer

### TWELTH YEAR

Don Burdall, Dale Clinedinst, Loren Coleman-Croncwell, Robin Conrad, Alca LaCroix, Florence Smith

### THIRTEENTH YEAR

Darla Clinedinst, DeAnna Collins, Tammy Cooper, Toni Stepp

### FOURTEENTH YEAR

Lisa Beck, Gena Dutton, Russ Mayer, Barb McElwee, Jason Ruhl

### FIFTEENTH YEAR

Sue Miller, Martha Osborne, Richard Sears, Kelly Weikel, Mike Wilgus

### SIXTEENTH YEAR

Candida Doubikin, L. Beth Gress, Mike Ruhl, Jana Warner

### SEVENTEENTH YEAR

Sheila Beck

### EIGHTEENTH YEAR

Robin Brandum, Mary Neviska

### NINETEENTH YEAR

Angie Bush, Peggie Van Horn

### TWENTIETH YEAR

Missy Kidwell

### TWENTY-FIRST YEAR

Lynn Fraizer, Kim Hessey, Linda Hill, Julie Logan

### TWENTY-SECOND YEAR

Leontine Van Dyke

### TWENTY-THIRD YEAR

Carol Holsinger, Renee Ness

### THIRTIETH YEAR

Betty Brandum, Mike Fry

### THIRTY-FIRST YEAR

Charlene Pace

### FOURTY-SECOND YEAR

Betty May, Steve May

### FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR

Gene Dumbough

### SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR

Jan Johnson

### SIXTHIETH YEAR

Bill Hershner

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agricultural News .....Pages 2-5  
4-H News.....Pages 6-9  
Family & Consumer  
Sciences .....Pages 10-11  
Calendar of Events .....Page 12

## OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION MORROW COUNTY

5362 US Hwy. 42 • Suite 101 • Mt. Gilcad, OH 43338  
Phone: (419) 947-1070 Fax (419) 947-1071

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am-12 noon, 1-4:30 pm

OSU Extension-Morrow County <http://morrow.osu.edu>

Like us on Facebook: Ohio State University Extension - Morrow County

## OFFICE STAFF:

Becky Barker - 4-H Youth Development Educator ([barker.157@osu.edu](mailto:barker.157@osu.edu))  
Amanda Forquer - 4-H Youth Development Educator ([forquer.13@osu.edu](mailto:forquer.13@osu.edu))  
Cari Jagger - Ag & Natural Resources Educator ([jagger.6@osu.edu](mailto:jagger.6@osu.edu))  
Candace Heer - Family & Consumer Sciences Educator ([heer.7@osu.edu](mailto:heer.7@osu.edu))  
Kathy Whitmore - SNAP-Ed Program Assistant ([whitmore.5@osu.edu](mailto:whitmore.5@osu.edu))  
Liz Ufferman - Office Associate ([ufferman.1@osu.edu](mailto:ufferman.1@osu.edu))  
Barb Hildebrand - Office Associate ([hildebrand.2@osu.edu](mailto:hildebrand.2@osu.edu))

Current Resident or

Mt. Gilcad, OH 43338

Suite 101

5362 US Highway 42

Ohio State University Extension

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## AGRICULTURE



# 10 things you need to know before growing hemp

# Spring Is In Sight

I have received several questions about growing hemp and what folks need to do to get started. The first thing that folks should do is to find an outlet for the hemp they are wanting to produce. If there isn't anywhere to sell it then the thought of growing it should be reconsidered. Below is a list of ten things you need to know before growing hemp compiled from OSU Extension. I highly encourage anyone who is thinking about growing hemp to do research and attend educational sessions about growing and marketing it.

1. Hemp is a sibling to marijuana and looks exactly like marijuana. The only difference between the two is in the level of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), which causes hallucinogenic effects.

2. Hemp seed can be hard to find and expensive. Buying seed from a reputable dealer is critical to prevent the crop from containing more than 0.3% THC.

3. Hemp growers and processors have to get a license from the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

4. The Ohio Department of Agriculture must test hemp before it is harvested to ensure the THC levels are below 0.3%. Then, the hemp must be harvested within 15 days of the test.

5. If farmers produce a crop of hemp that tests over the 0.3% limit for THC, the crop is considered to be marijuana and must be destroyed.

6. Grown for textiles or plastics, hemp has a planting rate of about 400,000 per acre. Hemp for CBD oil is grown at 1,000 to 2,000 plants per acre.

7. Growing hemp for CBD oil is more labor intensive and similar to growing tobacco, while cultivating hemp for fiber is more like cultivating a traditional row crop, planted much like corn or soy.

8. Hemp grown to produce CBD oil uses only female plants and farmers typically buy them as plants – not seeds. (The female plants focus on producing flowers, which is needed for CBD; the male plants focus on producing more seeds.)

9. Hemp thrives in warm weather and in soil that drains well. Hemp grown for CBD oil requires a lot of water and likely an irrigation source.

10. Having a signed contract with a buyer before planting is highly encouraged as current trends make the prospect of selling hemp on the open market unlikely, or at a reduced price.

(Source: OSU Extension, the outreach arm of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences)

This has been a long, unpredictable, wet winter. Thank goodness spring is in sight, Thursday March 19th will be the first day of spring. With this being said, it's time to start thinking about planning vegetable gardens. If starting a new garden, soil testing the site where the garden will go is a good idea. If it is an existing garden and the soil has never been tested, now would be a good time to think about testing it. Your local OSU Extension office can help you with soil testing. Another gardening task to be thinking about is seed starting. Growing plants from seed is a lot of fun and now is the time to be doing this. Seeds can be started indoors under a grow light or in a bright window. A few seeds that can and should be started indoors early are: Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, and Cauliflower to name a few. Tomatoes, Peppers and Eggplant should be started now and the others can be started later in March.

A few supplies will be needed when starting seeds.

- Seed starting soilless mix
- Seed starting containers
- Labels
- Spray bottle
- Plastic wrap
- Seeds

When starting seeds special seed starting kits can be purchased, however creativity is more fun. A simple egg carton with popsicle stick labels will work, just make sure to poke holes in the egg carton for drainage. Place the seed starting mix in egg cartons or seed starting trays then premoisten the soil. Pick out seeds and poke them in the soil one seed per cell. Make sure to label the seeds so that it isn't a mystery when it's time to transplant them. Lastly cover the seeds with plastic wrap and this will create a mini greenhouse to help hold moisture and heat in the soil until the seeds germinate. Once the seeds germinate take the plastic wrap off and keep in a bright window or under grow lights. Trays may need to be turned if the plants start to stretch towards the light. Plants should also be given a little brush with your hand every day to help strengthen them up, this mimics the wind.

Once plants have gotten one set of true leaves transplant them to a larger container with one plant per container. When the temperatures start to warm up gradually introduce the plants to the outdoors where they will become hardened off.

For more information about seed starting visit: <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/starting-plantsseed-fact-sheet>

### OSU Extension Mid-Ohio Small Farm Conference - Sowing Seeds for Success scheduled for March 14th

*Do you own a few acres that you want to be productive  
but you're not sure what to do with it?*

*Do you have a passion for farming and turning your piece of this  
wonderful earth into a good producing oasis?*

*Do you own land or forest that you're not quite sure how to manage?*

*Do you want livestock but have questions about fencing and forage?*

*Do you raise or produce products that you would like to market and  
sell off your farm but you're not sure how to make it successful?*

If you're asking yourself these questions, you should think about attending the 2020 Small Farm Conference - Sowing Seeds for Success on March 14 from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Mansfield OSU Campus in Ovalwood Hall. The campus is just minutes from I-71 and US Rt. 30.

Please visit: [go.osu.edu/osufarmconference2020](https://go.osu.edu/osufarmconference2020) for class and registration details or call OSU Extension Morrow County 419-947-1070.



**Tuesday March 31st @ 6:00 p.m.**

Dr. Tim McDermott has been an Extension Educator in Agriculture and Natural Resources for the past four years after twenty years in private practice veterinary medicine and surgery. He lectures state wide to audiences on poultry topics including nutrition, husbandry, biosecurity, and disease management. He is a visiting instructor to the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine teaching 4th year veterinary students the poultry component of the Veterinary Preventative Medicine rotation.

**Where: AgCredit Building 5362 US HWY 42 Mt. Gilead Ohio  
Second Floor Conference Room**

Questions:  
OSU Extension Office  
419-947-1070 or  
[jagger.6@osu.edu](mailto:jagger.6@osu.edu)

OSU EXTENSION MORROW COUNTY [MORROW.OSU.EDU](https://MORROW.OSU.EDU)  
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# AGRICULTURE



## Choosing a Supplement for the Cowherd

By Jeff Lehmkuhler, PhD, PAS, Beef Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

The spring of 2019 delayed hay harvest in many parts of the state. This delay resulted in much of the hay being harvested at mature stages. Fescue was in full flower to soft-dough stage or even more mature in some cases. Mature forages have greater cell wall and lower digestibility.

I tried to demonstrate the impact of late cutting on feed value by clipping non-fertilized fescue plants the 3rd week in June. These plants were over three feet tall when I cut them. I proceeded to separate the bottom leaves, stem and seed head for yield and quality. The stem and seed head represented approximately 50% of the biomass. The stem had already matured to the point that it was tan in color. The leaves comprised the remaining 50% of the biomass and contained 10% crude protein and a calculated TDN of 54%. The stem itself was only 3.1% crude protein with a TDN of 45%.

Let me give you a reference to better relate the fescue stem quality (about half the biomass). As we all know, wheat straw is the aftermath from harvesting the grain. Wheat harvest often occurs in late June through July. Did you catch that? The book values for crude protein and TDN of wheat straw are 3.6% and 43%, respectively. Yes, that stem fraction on the hay cut in late June is similar in quality to straw! I know we can't control weather, and many of you are just trying to make the best out of what you have to feed.

Let's make an action plan.

Step 1) Test the hay for nutrients so we know what we have in the hay. Surprisingly much of the hay may be sufficient in protein for dry, mid-gestation beef cows and only need energy supplementation. However, cows that came into the winter thin, may need additional protein supplementation to regain body condition.

Step 2) Determine the nutrient needs of the class of cattle fed. Fall calving cows that are nursing 90-100-day old calves need more nutrients than a dry, gestating cow that won't calve until April. Match up lower quality forages with cattle that have lower nutrient requirements.

Step 3) Develop a supplement program to meet the nutrient needs. Having the forage test will let you see if you need to supplement energy, protein or both. A protein tub may balance the protein needs but still not provide enough energy due to limited intake. Focus first on meeting the nutrient needs and then determine what supplement is the most cost effective and/or easiest to handle to provide to the cattle.

Protein source generally is recommended to be a plant-based product. Soybean meal, corn gluten feed, dried distillers grains, cottonseed

meal, and other plant protein sources can be utilized. Non-protein nitrogen sources (i.e. urea and biuret) can be utilized but may not be as efficient as plant sources. However, providing non-protein nitrogen on very low-quality forages is better than not supplementing if protein is needed to meet the rumen degradable protein requirements.

In many instances, energy is deficient in the forages and will need to be supplemented to meet the needs of the cows. The energy may be from about any source such as starch, sugar, highly digestible fiber, protein or fat. However, the level or amount supplemented from these sources have limits to avoid digestive upsets. For instance, this year corn may be a cost-effective energy supplement. However, the starch from corn can reduce fiber digestion if there is insufficient degradable protein in the rumen. As a rule of thumb, cows should be limited to not more than three pounds of corn per 1,000 lb of body weight to reduce the risk reducing fiber digestion. Sugars from molasses tend to have less of impact on fiber digestion in the rumen.

However, excessive amounts of sugar consumption can lead to reduced fiber digestion. Fat supplementation can also have a negative impact on fiber digestion at higher intakes. Total dietary fat is typically recommended to not exceed 6%. Forages when often contain 2-3% fat. Fat intake from supplement then should be limited to around 0.75 lb/d for mature cows. Let's say you had some whole soybeans in the bin that you wanted to feed rather than sell. Soybeans will contain around 18% oil or fat. The amount of whole soybeans that would be recommended to be fed would be four pounds or less. Four pounds supplies about 0.7 lb of fat to the diet. Limiting intake based on fat applies to distillers syrup and other high fat feeds. Feedstuffs with highly digestible fiber work well on forage-based diets. Soyhulls, rice bran, beet pulp, corn gluten feed, wheat middlings and other feeds can be utilized. Feedstuffs with low starch and highly digestible fiber can be fed at higher rates with minimal risk of digestive upsets. These feeds can be blended with cereal grains and protein sources to develop supplements for the cow herd.

When choosing a supplement to provide to beef cows, begin with a plan. Once the forage nutrient content is known along with the nutrient needs of the cattle, the supplement that will balance the supply and needs can be selected. Several choices will be available. Cost and ease of handling narrows the selection for many. Always work with a nutritionist to ensure to develop a strategy for supplementing your herd. For more information contact your nutritionist or local county extension office.



Morrow County Scarlet & Gray News

## Pastures For Profit Grazing School

Wednesday April 3, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., workshop at The Longview Center, 1495 W Longview Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44806  
Thursday April 4, 9:00 - 12:00 p.m., workshop at the Longview Center  
Saturday April 6, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Pasture Walk at a Richland County Feeder Beef and Goat Operation

Register by March 25 at [www.ohioextension.org](http://www.ohioextension.org) or 614.747.8686

Cost: \$50 per person includes Resource Notebook and dinner Wednesday and Thursday. One evening will be pizza and the other will be deli food.

\$20 per person without notebook

Participants who attend all 3 sessions will receive a grazing stick at the Pasture Walk. The resource notebook and grazing sticks are provided by the Ohio Extension and Grassland Council. Online registration payments are with credit card and convenience fee will be applied. All materials are subject to cost of materials.

### Session 1:

- Getting Started/Understanding Your Resource
- Pasture Soil Fertility
- Pasture Plant Growth
- Forage Species Selection
- Meeting Animal Husbandry Requirements on Pastures

### Session 2:

- Environmental Considerations
- Fencing Systems
- Livestock Weaning Systems
- Pasture Layout and Design
- Economics of Grazing

Sponsored by the, 4-H End, Commodities, University and National Soil and Water Conservation Districts, USDA - National Resources Conservation Service, Ohio Department of Agriculture, and Ohio Forage & Grassland Council. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



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## Adult & Youth BQA Training

**March 11, 2020 • 6:00- 7:30 pm**

In today's market, it is important to take advantage of any and all opportunities that make our cattle more desirable to the buyer sitting in the stands. As of now, Wendy's restaurant, Tyson Foods and multiple auctions have announced that they will require producers to be certified in BQA in order to market their cattle or serve their product. To learn more and become certified, join us March 11, 2020.

Will also cover Morrow County Annual Quality Assurance

OSU Extension Morrow County  
5362 US HWY 42  
Mt. Gilead Ohio 43338  
2nd Floor Conference Room

Please RSVP to the OSU Extension Office  
419-947-1070 or  
[Jagger.6@osu.edu](mailto:Jagger.6@osu.edu)  
by March 6th 2020



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## AGRICULTURE



### When to start grazing: Don't rush it!

By Chris Penrose, Extension Educator, Ag and Natural Resources, Morgan County (originally published in the *Ohio Farmer on-line*)

Stockpiled fescue can be an excellent place to accomplish early turnout, and begin calving.

One goal I have had with livestock grazing over the years is to start as soon as I can. I put spring calving cows on stockpiled grass in early March to calve with the hope of not having to feed any more hay. Many years this works and some years it does not. The best I have been able to do over the years is to do a rapid grazing of paddocks that are starting to grow that were not grazed close last fall or during the winter. I would then hope that by the time I went through the paddocks, the spring flush of growth was well underway.

If the winter continues into spring like the way it began, I suggest we don't rush things as we have a couple issues that could be going on. First, growth may be slow this spring, and second, many pastures have sustained abnormal damage this winter from the wet conditions.

As mentioned, if you have fields that were not grazed in the late fall or over the winter and are in good shape, you may be able to do a fast rotation through them when growth allows it. However, if fields are not in good shape and growth is just starting, waiting is a better option. Grass starts growing from the roots and needs enough leaf surface to start putting energy back into the

roots and if it is grazed off before this can happen, it will weaken or kill the plant.

In addition, if the field does not get enough time to recover and grow desirable grass and legumes, summer annual weeds are likely to germinate and grow in the next couple months. How many of us had weeds like foxtail, horseweed, cocklebur, and ragweed in our fields last year? A likely contributor could be the fields were grazed too close and too soon in the spring. I have had success reducing weed issues – ragweed in particular – by skipping the first rotation or two in fields that had notable damage from feeding hay over the winter. If you do plan on doing early grazing when growth starts with the hope that by the time that is done the spring "flush of growth" will have started, don't keep them in paddocks too long. The fast rotation will reduce the chances that the cows will graze too close, and if the ground is wet, pugging will be minimized. Also skip paddocks at least once where you fed hay this winter to allow them to recover and reduce the amount of summer weeds you will have.

If you have damage to paddocks, there are a several options: do nothing, frost seed, or smooth up and re-seed. If damage is not too bad, you can simply do nothing. Production may be limited for the year and you may need to monitor weed issues. If damage is not too bad and some re-seeding may be appropriate, frost seeding may still be an option.

If you need to smooth up ground and re-seed,

determine if you want to plant annual or perennial plants, I generally lean towards perennials. Many situations, a mix of grass and legumes works well. If it is in a field that will have abuse in future years, a persistent grass like endophyte fescue or a novel endophyte fescue will provide a denser more persistent sod.

The bottom line is the less we have to feed hay in fields, the less damage we will potentially have. In the perfect world, we would be able to stockpile enough forage and even plant some crops like turnips, oats and cereal rye to meet most of the feed requirements for the winter. When we have to feed hay, a heavy use pad is an excellent option.

So much of this is an art based on science. I remember my teacher and friend Lorin Sanford say "It is the eye of the master that fattens the cow". There are a lot of variables in each producer's operation. Everyone's situation is a little different, but resist the temptation if hay is running short to put cattle out on fields that are just starting to grow that have been under any stress from close grazing or winter damage. It will allow for less hay fed in the long run and a more productive field this summer. If areas need to be re-seeded from damage, they will also need additional time to recover and grow as well. Finally, now is a good time to evaluate ways to reduce the need for stored feed next winter.

### Ohio Swine Health Symposium Mar. 18

The Ohio Swine Health Symposium will be held Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at Der Dutchman Restaurant, 445 S. Jefferson, SR 42, Plain City, OH.

Registration should be made by March 13 to OSU Extension - Putnam County, 1206 E Second St/PO Box 189, Ottawa, OH 45875 or meyer.524@osu.edu. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Scheduled topics include:

- An Update From the State Veterinarian (Dr. Tony Forshey, State Veterinarian, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industry, Reynoldsburg, OH)

- Flu: Vaccination Strategies and Control (bill Minton, DVM, Four Star Veterinary Services)

- Current Efforts Toward Improving Pig Livability (Chris Rademacher, DVM, Iowa State University)

- Secure Pork Supply: Farm Level Changes We Implemented With Our Plan (Terri Specht, DVM, and Christine Snowden, Heimerl Farms)

- Strep Suis: New Ways to Think About Vaccines (Dwain Guggenbiller, DVM, Phibro Animal Health)

For questions, please contact Dale Ricker at 419-523-6294 or ricker.37@osu.edu.

### Home Gardener Vegetable Research Trials

"The Ohio State University is conducting vegetable trials with home gardeners. We want your opinion as to what grows well in Ohio and what Ohioans prefer (including the taste). There will be two sets of trials this year; spring trials and summer trials. Each will have five vegetables to choose from. You may choose how many of these that you would like to try in your garden. For each vegetable there will be two varieties to test side-by-side. Each vegetable trial will cost \$3 and will include enough seed to grow a 10 foot row of each variety, growing instructions with garden layout options, and row markers. You are asked to report your results either on the provided paper form or by using our online system. Additionally, we are asking you to submit photos for us to share with others in the project as we go through the season.

If you are interested in participating, go to our sign up page <https://go.osu.edu/veggies2020>

If you have questions please call Carri Jagger 419-947-1070

### Morrow County Pork Producers Brunch Banquet

The Morrow County Pork Producers will have their Brunch Banquet on April 25, 2020 starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Handlebar Ranch, Mt Gilead, Ohio. The cost is \$10 per person.

Please RSVP to the OSU Extension Office -- Morrow County -- (419) 947-1070.

### Overwintering of Pathogens and Insects - What do Winter Temperatures Tell Us About Next Season?

Over the years we have developed databases of winter temperatures followed by scouting to indicate starting pathogen populations for Ohio.

Frogeye leaf spot – We have documented early infections and overwintering ability of the fungus, *Cercospora sojina*, that causes frogeye leaf spot. It appears that when there are less than 10 days during the months of December, January and February of less than 17 F, we have had reports of outbreaks of frogeye leaf spot. This oc-

curred in fields where there was a high level of inoculum at the end of the season the same or similar moderately to highly susceptible cultivar was planted into the same field again which then initiated the epidemic that much sooner. Losses of greater than 35% in yield or very early fungicide applications were necessary.

Expecting continued warmer winter temperatures, for fields with a history of frogeye leaf spot, and no-till production systems, the first

thing for farmers is to do now to mitigate losses in 2020:

1. Rotate fields with high levels of frogeye leaf spot into corn or another crop.

2. If it is still targeted for soybean, look at their soybean varieties frogeye leaf spot resistance scores. Your seed dealer will have more information. Plan now for what fields they will go into.

3. Scout the susceptible cultivars much earlier than what we have called for in the past and monitor levels.

Another pathogen that may be more prevalent after a warm winter is Stewart's bacterial wilt. This disease is transmitted to corn by corn flea beetle which survives in greater numbers in warm winters. This is a greater problem in popcorn and sweet corn as most field corn has high levels of resistance to the bacterium.

Most other field crop insect pests in Ohio are not highly influenced by winter conditions as they are well-adapted to withstand cold overwintering conditions.

One exception is Mexican bean beetle, an occasional pest of soybean (especially in central Ohio). Warm winter conditions may cause higher populations of this insect the following field season.



Morrow County Scarlet & Gray News





## AGRICULTURE



# Tar Spot of Corn Compost Workshop Series Offered

Tar Spot, a new disease of corn caused by the fungus *Phyllachora maydis*, was reported for the first time in Ohio at the end of the 2018 growing season. At that time, it was found mostly in counties close to the Indiana border, as the disease continued to spread from the middle of country where it was first confirmed in 2015. Over the last few weeks, there have been several new, confirmed reports of Tar Spot in Ohio, this time not only in the northwestern corner of the state, but also from a few fields in central and south-central Ohio. As was the case last year, disease onset was late again this year, with the first reports coming in well after R4. However, some of the regions affected last year had more fields affected this year, with much higher levels of disease severity. It could be that Tar Spot is becoming established in some areas of the state due to the fungus overwintering in crop residue from one growing season to another. This is very consistent with the pattern observed in parts of Indiana and Illinois where the disease was first reported. We will continue to keep our eyes out for Tar Spot, as we learn more about it and develop management strategies. You can help by looking for Tar Spot as you walk fields this fall, and please send us samples.

### Tar Spot What does it look like?

Even though corn is drying down, if Tar Spot is present, you can still detect it on dry, senescent leaves almost as easily as you can on healthy leaves. So, please check your fields to see if this disease is present. "Symptoms of tar spot first appear as oval to irregular bleached to brown lesions on leaves in which raised, black spore-producing structures called stroma are formed... giving the symptomatic areas of the leaf a rough or bumpy feel to the touch... resembling pustules on leaves with rust. Lesions... may coalesce to cause large areas of blighted leaf tissue. Symptoms may also be present on leaf sheaths and husks." As the name of the disease suggests, symptoms look like the splatter of "tar" on the leaves. In some cases, each black tar-

like spot may be surrounded by a necrotic halo, forming what is referred to as "fish-eye" lesions.

**What causes Tar Spot and how damaging is it?** In the past, the greatest impact of this disease in terms of yield loss were observed when *P. maydis*-infected plants were co-infected with a second fungus called *Monographella maydis*. In other words, the damage tended to be much more severe when the two fungi worked together to affect the plant. So far, only the first fungus, *P. maydis*, has been reported in the US, but based on work done in Illinois, this pathology alone is capable of causing substantial yield reduction on highly susceptible hybrids when conditions are favorable and infections occur early.

**Where did it come from and will it survive and become established?** At this point it is still unclear as to how Tar Spot got to the US in the first place and how it continues to spread. The fungus is not known to be seed-borne or infect other plant species, so corn seeds and weeds are unlikely to be the sources of inoculum. However, the fungus can survive and be moved around on fresh and dry plant materials such as leaves and husks. In addition, since spores of the fungus can be carried by wind, it could be blowing in from neighboring states/counties/fields. Although not yet confirmed through survival studies, it appears that the fungus could be overwintering in infected crop stubble between growing seasons.

**What should I do if I find Tar Spot?** If you see anything that fits the description of, or resembles (Picture) Tar Spot, please inform your state specialist, field specialist, or county extension educator, but most importantly, please send samples to my lab (1680 Madison Ave, Wooster, OH) for confirmation. We will also be using your samples to study the fungus in order to develop effective management strategies. Read more about Tar Spot of Corn at: <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/resources/articles/diseases/tar-spot-of-corn> <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-90-W.pdf>



In the United States, more than 267 million tons of waste was generated in 2017. The average person alone generated 4.51 pounds of waste per person per day. This number continues to rise each year and is now pushing 5 pounds. Do the math on how much you are generating in one year!

An even more alarming statistic is, In the United States, about 95 percent of food scraps are being thrown away and eventually end up in a landfill. Yard waste, grass clippings, leaves and branches—fair a little better, with more than half diverted to compost facilities instead of landfills (phys.org)

Needless to say, the top items being thrown in the landfill are all items that can easily be composted. 1. Paper and Cardboard; 2. Food Waste; and 3. Yard Trimmings. Compost is an inexpensive, natural process that transforms organic waste into a valuable and nutrient rich material, which can be used as a soil conditioner. Compost is commonly given a nickname of "Black Gold."

Would you like to learn how to make your own Black Gold? Come and learn how to turn your yard waste, garden weeds, food scraps and even animal manure into a valuable soil amendment for your home garden and beyond! A series of

five workshops will be co-led by Lindsey Grimm, Morrow County Recycling/Keep Morrow County Beautiful and Carri Jagger, Morrow County Extension - Agricultural & Natural Resources Extension Educator. The workshops are being offered free of charge and if a participant attends at least two of the five, they will be entered in a drawing to receive a compost bin (various types to choose from). Make plans to attend the last workshop on Aug 18, 2020 as you must be present to win.

### Compost Workshop Series

**March 18** – All about Composting – Kick-off event

**April 21** – All about Vermicomposting and Worms

**May 19** – All about Backyard Composting

**July 7** – Compost that Animal Waste!

**Aug 18** – Harvesting and how to use your "Black Gold"

All workshops will start at 6PM and be held at the OSU Extension, Ag Credit Building—Upstairs Conference Room. For more information of have questions regarding the compost workshop series, contact Lindsey Grimm at 419-946-6400 or Carri Jagger at 419-947-1070. Email: [recycle@morrowcountiohio.gov](mailto:recycle@morrowcountiohio.gov)

### The Morrow County Master Gardener Volunteers

presents:



## All About Composting!

**When:** Wednesday March 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm

**Where:** OSU Extension; Ag Credit Building—Upstairs Conference Room

**Cost:** Free

Join the Morrow County MGVs as they host Lindsay Grimm, Morrow County Recycling and Keep Morrow County Beautiful Coordinator. Lindsay will be teaching composting techniques home gardeners can use in small spaces as well as the county's resources for garden compost.

Come join us, and see what possibilities 2020 can bring!

Changing the World, One Garden at a Time!

 THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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MO 64646-4728  
PHONE: 417-947-1070

# OSU EXTENSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FEBRUARY 2020

- 26 Improve Beef Herd Genetics & Carcass Quality With AI, 6:30 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
27 2019 eFields Regional Meetings (Central Region), 9 a.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room

## MARCH 2020

- 2 Dairy Board Meeting, 12 noon, Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
2 Jr. Fairboard, Fairgrounds, 7 p.m.  
4 Cattlemen's Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
5 Seed Starting Class, Johnsville Perry Cook Memorial Library, 2 p.m.  
8-14 Ohio 4-H Week  
11 Adult & Youth BOA Training, 6 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room, RSVP  
12 Pork Producers Meeting, 7 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
12 Pesticide Applicator Exam, 9 a.m.,  
14 Ohio 4-H Conference  
14 2020 Small Farm Conference & Trade Show, OSU Mansfield, 8 a.m., Pre-Registration Required  
17 New 4-H Volunteer Training, 9 a.m., Extension Office, RSVP!  
17 New 4-H Volunteer Training, 7 p.m., Extension Office, RSVP!  
18 All About Composting, 6 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
18 Ohio Swine Health Symposium, Plain City, Ohio, Registration required  
18 Walk with A Doc: 12:00 PM, Mount Gilead Cherry Street Administration Building  
19 Horse & Pony, 7 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
19-22 Ohio Beef Expo  
24 CARTEENS, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
26 Ohio 4-H Dairy Judging Contest  
26 Senior Fairboard Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Fairgrounds  
28 OSU Jr. Swine Day, Registration Required  
30 Junior Leaders, 7 - 8 p.m.  
31 Backyard Poultry Production, 6 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room

## APRIL 2020

- 1 Cattlemen's Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
1 New Volunteer Training, 7 p.m., Extension Office Conference Room, RSVP!  
1 Quality Assurance Test-Out Opportunity, 4:30-6 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
2 Quality Assurance for 8-10 year olds, 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room, RSVP  
6 Junior Fairboard, 7 p.m., Fairgrounds  
6 Dairy Board Meeting, 12 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
7 Livestock Sale Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
8 Career Exploration Workshop - Construction & Automotive Trade Careers Registration Due  
9 Pork Producers Meeting, 7 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
9 Garden Site Selection & Prep, 2 p.m., Johnsville Perry Cook Memorial Library  
14 Make and Take Uncooked: 1:00 PM, Perry Cook Memorial Public Library  
15 4-H Enrollments Due On Line  
15 Walk with A Doc: 12:00 PM, Mount Gilead Cherry Street Administration Building  
16 Horse and Pony Committee, 7:30 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
18 Career Exploration Workshop - Construction & Automotive Trade Careers, 9-3 p.m., Tri-Rivers Career Center  
19 Fairy Gardens, Headwaters Outdoor Education Center, 2 p.m.  
21 Worm Bin Composting, 6 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
23 St. Fair Board, 7:30 p.m., Fairgrounds  
25 Trash Bash Drop Off At Fairgrounds  
27 Jr. Leaders, 7-8 p.m., Extension Conference Room  
28 Quality Assurance, General Livestock, 6:15 p.m., Fairgrounds  
28 The Occasional Quantity Cook Class - 6 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
28 The Occasional Quantity Cook: 6:00 PM, Ag Credit Building, Second Floor Conference Room

- 29 Constructing Your Woodworking Project In A Day Registration Due  
30 Last Day To Add/Drop Projects and New Member Deadline

## MAY 2020

- 4 Dairy Board Meeting, 12 noon, Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
4 Jr. Fairboard, 7 p.m., Fairgrounds  
6 Cattlemen's Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room Credit Building Conference Room  
6 Livestock Quality Assurance General, 6:15 p.m., Fairgrounds  
9 Constructing Your Woodworking Project, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Tri-Rivers Career Center  
11 Planting Your Garden & Container Gardening Workshop, 2 p.m., Johnsville Perry Cook Memorial Library  
14 Pork Producers, 7 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
18 Livestock Quality Assurance General, 6:15 p.m., Fairgrounds  
19 Yard Composting, 6 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
20 Hanging Baskets & Humming Birds, 6 p.m., Headwaters OEC  
20 Walk with A Doc: 12:00 PM, Mount Gilead Cherry Street Administration Building  
21 4-H Horse & Pony Committee, 7:30 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
25 Memorial Day, Office Closed  
26 CARTEENS, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ag Credit Building Conference Room  
27 Horse Quality Assurance Only/Safety Clinic, Fairgrounds, 6:15 p.m.  
28 Sr. Fairboard, Fairgrounds, 7 p.m., Fairgrounds

## JULY 2020

- 8 Registration Deadline for Youth Fitness Quest  
8 Registration Deadline for Cloverbud Fun Day  
18 Cloverbud Fun Day - Location TBA,  
21 Youth Fitness Quest - Buckeye Fitness & Training Academy

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: <http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity>.

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*Approximately \$1,200 each year is donated! Thanks for helping make the best better!*

**Central Ohio Farmer's Co-op, Inc.**

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