



Growing Athens County

January | 2018



Tolerating the Cold

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That time of year again

The picture above was taken a few years ago when we were living in Arkansas. Ice always seemed to be more of a problem than snow, but the pigs never seemed to mind. Now that I have been back in Ohio for a few years, I realize how much colder it gets, but the pigs still seem to be able to handle it. They just sleep all day and come out to eat when I get home from work. It's looking like below freezing weather for another week, but chores still need to be done and I have adapted. I guess that it is all about perspective and preparation. My friend, who is a missionary in Cambodia, posted last week that a national warning went out for people to prepare for the coming cold and that the Red Cross had been activated because temperatures were going to be in the mid 60's. My advice is to stay warm, get the work done and then sleep until supper is ready.

Ed Brown

Ohio Maple Days on Tap

This year's [Ohio Maple Days](#) are set for Jan. 18 in Morrow County, Jan. 19 for Wayne and Holmes Counties, and Jan. 20 in Geauga County (*new location*).

The programs, which are the same at each location, offer educational sessions on maple production. They are timed to help producers get ready for the coming season. Both hobby and commercial producers are welcome.

The locations:

- Jan. 18, Morrow County, 8 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Memorial Camp, 2790 State Route 61, Fulton, OH 43321.
- Jan. 19, Wayne and Holmes Counties, 8 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at the Mennonite Christian Assembly Church, 10664 Fryburg Road, Fredericksburg, OH 44627.
- Jan. 20, Geauga County, 8 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at Huntsburg Community Center, 12396 Madison Rd, Middlefield, OH 44062 **NOTE: this is a new location from past years**

Featured topics include:

- **Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and Ohio Department of Ag Updates:** The Food Safety Modernization Act contains a mandatory requirement for many food manufactures, which includes maple syrup producers, to register their operation. There have been many changes in the past few years and there are even more changes to take place in the next year or two. Every maple producer, no matter operation size, needs to hear what is happening, as their future as maple producers depends on it.
- **Maple Marketing is More Than Filling a Jug:** If you want to achieve the highest return for your maple syrup then just putting your syrup in a jug is not enough. Once in the jug you have to market it, by making the connection from the syrup within the jug to you the producer. Building the story of how it's made and who is making it are all critical for consumers to become invested in you and your products.
- **Tubing Help for Any Size Operation:** Tubing has done more to revolutionize the maple industry and create growth more than any other piece of equipment. Tubing has made the collection process easier on the maple producer and on the sugarbush due to less time spent in the woods with heavy equipment. Tubing systems are easily adapted to any size maple operation. Looking

back and forward to the newest technology, helpful hints will be presented to aid any size operation.

- **Sugarbush/Woodland Management Tips that Pay:** Your woodlands are a valuable resource. Learn how a professional forester can help you develop a woodland management plan to increase the benefits that YOU receive from your woodland. This session will focus on using crown touching release and other crop tree management concepts to improve the health and productivity of your sugarbush.

Featured speakers include:

- Mr. Tom McCrumm, owns a 5,000 tap operation and a 30 year sugaring season restaurant, and developer of diverse product marketing practices, Ashfield Mass.
- Mr. Dan Milo, Food Safety Supervisor, Ohio Department of Agriculture Division of Food Safety. Dan a hobby maple producer himself has been working with the federal rulings under the Food Safety Act.
- Mr. David Apsley, a Natural Resource specialist with Ohio State University with over 30 years of forest management experience.
- Dr. Gary Graham, coordinator of Ohio State's Ohio Maple Program, serves as the Ohio State University Extension Specialist for Ohio's Maple Syrup Industry.

Also, there will be a trade show; reports from OSU Extension and the Ohio Maple Producers Association; Free testing of hydrometers, refractometers and Vermont Temporary Maple Syrup Grading Kits. (bring them to the program); and a session called "Maple Nuggets" for sharing questions, ideas and information.

Pre-registration is required to receive lunch. Pre-registration cost is \$35 which includes lunch, refreshments and handouts, and is due before Jan. 12. Payment at the door is \$40 and may not include lunch.

Send your name, contact information, which day's program attending and check or money order (made payable to OSU Extension) to OSU Extension, Holmes County, 75 East Clinton Street, Suite 109, Millersburg, OH 44654.

For more information, go to <https://holmes.osu.edu/ohiomapledays> (with a link to the brochure and registration form) or call Ashley Gerber 330-674-3015.

Forage Planning for 2018 – *Chris Penrose*

Now is the time to set goals for next year. Goals are set each year to provide a benchmark for measuring your success. They are SMART: specific, measurable, attainable, rewarding, and timed. If you identified goals for 2017, now is a great time to see if they were achieved. I did achieve goals of putting up more hay, extending the grazing season, and helping my son with his 4-H feeder calf project. I did not achieve a goal of adding another paddock or fertilizing pasture and hay fields. If goals were not achieved this year, why? Can they be modified and accomplished next year?

If you have some time, consider what some the longer term objectives for your family and operation are. This will help identify some goals for 2018 to achieve those plans. For example, if you have been considering an estate plan for your farm, make it a goal for next year. Several years ago, this became a goal for me and my wife, and we identified what we had in mind, picked a time to see an attorney, and then followed through. Now it is complete (it still may need to be revised as conditions change).

Some other goals could be reseeding a field, adding paddocks, improving genetics of the herd, developing new marketing strategies, or taking a trip with the family.

If you set your goals now, you can have a more focused plan for what you want to achieve in the next year. Don't forget to receive input from family members and employees so everyone is on the same page.

Finally, when I set my goals, I try to divide them into no cost, low cost, and high cost; and how much time they will take. This seems to help in the process of prioritizing goals.

Farmer/Landowner Income Tax Issues

You may have seen in the last edition of the newsletter that a webinar will be held on Jan. 29 from 10 AM – Noon. The cost is \$35 per participant or location. If you would like to save some money or you have poor or no internet service, you can join us here at the extension office. If at least 5 people let us know that they would like to attend, we will register our site and pay the \$35 location fee. Just register by Jan. 22.

Topics to be covered include:

- New and Proposed Tax Legislation
- Ag Income and Expenses
- Net Operating Losses
- Buying and Selling Farmland
- Rental Property
- Demolition of Structures

Presenters: Barry Ward, Director, OSU Extension Income Tax Schools
Chris Bruynis, Extension Educator, Ag & Natural Resources, Ross Co.
Dave Marrison, Extension Educator, Ag & Natural Resources, Ashtabula Co.

Calendar of Events

Please contact Ed Brown for additional information on all of these events

brown.600@osu.edu or
740-593-8555

- Jan.5 - Deadline for Master Gardener application
- Jan. 6 – Strawberry Open House, Columbus
- Jan. 17 – Master Gardener classes begin
- Jan. 15-17 – Ohio Produce Network, Sandusky, Ohio
- Jan 29, 2018 – Farm Tax webinar
- Feb. 5 – Deadline to return 2017 Census of Agriculture
- Feb. 13 – Food Safety Course for produce farmers
- Feb. 15 – 17 – OEFFA Conference, Dayton, Ohio
- May 1-3 - A.I. School, Belle Valley, Ohio

Athens County ranks 84th in the state of Ohio for total value of agricultural products sold \$9,548,000 (2012 Census of Ag.)

Grower Training Course

Produce Safety Alliance

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Food Safety is announcing a Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training on February 13, 2018 to be held at the OSU Extension Athens County office, 280 West Union Street, Athens, OH 45701. The training will be one day, 8:30AM-4:00PM (with an hour lunch, not provided). There is no cost for the training or training manual. Class size is limited to 30 and first priority will be given to growers that must comply with the Produce Safety Rules (§ 112 Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption). Regulation exempt growers are also welcome to apply for the training. Registration is limited to Ohio residents.

The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) which states *'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.'*

The course will cover basic produce safety; worker health, hygiene, and training; soil amendments; wildlife, domesticated animals, and land use; agricultural water (both production and postharvest); postharvest handling and sanitation; and developing a farm food safety plan. As a participant you can expect to gain a basic understanding of: microorganisms relevant to produce safety and where they may be found on the farm; how to identify microbial risks, practices that reduce risks; how to begin implementing produce safety practices on the farm; parts of a farm food safety plan and how to begin writing

one; and requirements in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and how to meet them. There will be time for questions and discussion, so participants should come prepared to share their experiences and produce safety questions. More information on the training can be found in the following internet link:

<https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/training/grower-training-courses>

To receive a completion certificate, a participant must be present for the entire training and submit the appropriate paperwork to their trainer at the end of the course.

To attend the training, fill out the application, and return it to the ODA, Division of Food Safety no later than February 2nd, 2018. ***Growers who have been approved to attend the training will receive a confirmation letter.*** If you don't receive a confirmation letter, your name will be added to a waiting list. We will be scheduling multiple trainings in your area throughout the next year.

If you know of someone that is interested in attending a training class in their area and they did not receive a registration form they can call (614)728-6250 to register.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (614)600-4272.

OEFFA Conference February 15-17, Dayton Convention Center

[Registration is now open](#) for Ohio's premier educational and networking event for ecological farmers, backyard growers, and others committed to sustainable agriculture, local food, and green living.

Keynote Speakers

Friday keynote speaker [Jeff Moyer](#) is a world renowned authority in organic agriculture. He is a past chair of the National Organic Standards Board and wrote *Organic No-Till Farming*. He is the Executive Director of the [Rodale Institute](#), which helps farmers make the transition to organic methods.

Saturday keynote speaker [Stacy Malkan](#) is an author, journalist, and consumer advocate. She is co-founder and co-director of [U.S. Right to Know](#) which educates consumers about our food system's hidden practices. She served as media director for California's 2012 ballot initiative to label genetically engineered foods.



Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course
February 13, 2018
8:30AM-4:00PM

Location:
OSU Extension Athens County Office
280 West Union Street
Athens, OH 45701

Registrations to be submitted by February 2, 2018
 Registration is limited to Ohio residents. Covered farms will receive prioritization in the registration process.

****A confirmation letter will be sent if you are approved to attend****

Registration Information:

Name:	
Email Address:	
Phone:	
Farm Name:	
Farm Address:	

You **MUST** indicate farm size (below) to be considered for the training: (Please refer to the attached flow diagram)

- ☐ Exempt Farm – Under \$25,000
- ☐ Qualified Exempt Farm – \$25,001 - \$500,000
- ☐ Covered Very Small Farm - \$25,000 - \$250,000
- ☐ Covered Small Farm - \$250,000 - \$500,000
- ☐ Covered Large Farm - Over \$500,000

No fee required. Books are provided along with a certificate of completion.

RETURN FORM TO:

Ohio Department of Agriculture
 Division of Food Safety
 8995 E. Main Street
 Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

For Produce Safety questions contact
 Matt Fout at (614)600-4272 or
 mfout@agri.ohio.gov

OR EMAIL: Jordyn.brown@agri.ohio.gov

OR FAX to: (614)644-0720



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

for the

2018 Ohio Produce Network

January 15-17, 2018

Kalahari Resort and Convention Center

Sandusky, Ohio

WE WANT TO SEE YOU THERE!

The Ohio Produce Network

**Sponsored by: Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers
Association, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and The Ohio State
University Extension**

Better Together!

**If you are interested in attending or tradeshow information,
please contact the OPGMA Office or visit <http://www.opgma.org/>.**

Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association

Valerie Parks Graham

6870 Licking Valley Road

Frazesburg, Ohio 43822

(740) 828-3400

ohiopgma@gmail.com



Ohio Winter Strawberry Day OPEN HOUSE

Visit our greenhouse to learn how you can grow strawberry in soilless substrates!

**Date: Saturday January 6th, 2018
1PM - 3PM**

**Where: The Ohio State University Howlett Hall Greenhouse
(680 Vernon Tharp St., Columbus, OH)**

Costs: Campus pay machine parking (@\$2-\$4 per hour), No registration fee.

Please [RSVP](#) by 12/23/17

Hosts and Presenters:

Chieri Kubota & Mark Kroggel, Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science

Guest speaker:

Brad Bergefurd, Extension Educator, OSU South Centers

Strawberry Greenhouse Tour and Q&A

Contact for your questions: Chieri Kubota (kubota.10@osu.edu)



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PREMIER TECH
HORTICULTURE

A-I School

Eastern Ag Research Station, Belle Valley, Ohio

16870 Township Road 126, Caldwell

May 1, 2, 3, 2018

May 1 9 am - 2:30 pm

Mark Landefeld, Ag/NR Educator, Monroe County
Clif Little, Ag/NR Educator, Guernsey County
Wayne Shriver, EARS Farm Manager
Dan Lima, Ag/NR Educator, Belmont County
Christine Gelley, Ag/NR Educator, Noble County
Chris Penrose, Ag/NR, Morgan County
Carol Wheeler, Extension Emeritus

- Semen Handling
- Basic A.I. Instruction
- Preparing for Calving
- Pasture Management

May 2 9 am - 2:00 pm

Dr. Garcia Guerra Alvaro, OSU Animal Science Dept.

- Reproductive Tract Anatomy & Physiology
- Estrous Synchronisation

May 3 9 am - 2:00 pm

Dr. John Groah, DVM, McConnelville, Ohio
Clif Little, Ag/NR Educator, Guernsey County
Carol Wheeler, Extension Emeritus
Kevin Stottsberry, Manager- Animal Herds

- Cattle A.I.

Cost \$100.00
Includes
Program
materials
& lunch

Sponsored by:



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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.
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.

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

____ # of participants @ \$100. = ____ enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



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280 W. Union Street
Athens, OH 45701

(740) 593-8555 Phone
(740) 592-1113 Fax
brown.6000@osu.edu
athens.osu.edu

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

Extension Survey

It has been a great 3 years since I have been the agriculture and natural resources educator for Athens County. Now I am taking a look back at everything that we have done and looking forward as I plan for the future of the program. In order to do this, I need your input. It would help greatly if you would complete a short survey about your experiences with Athens County Extension. For those getting a paper copy of this newsletter, the survey was included. For those reading this electronically, you can go to <http://go.osu.edu/athensag> . You can also call the office, stop in and talk with me or I can come out and visit your farm. Also, don't forget to fill out your Census of Agriculture survey that you received in the mail



Having a little fun in the snow.

(Submit your livestock pictures for the newsletter)