OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

# ANR EXTENSION CONNECTION

Agriculture & Natural Resource **News and Events for Jefferson County**

**June-July | 2016**

# Cicadas Are Here

*This Issue:*

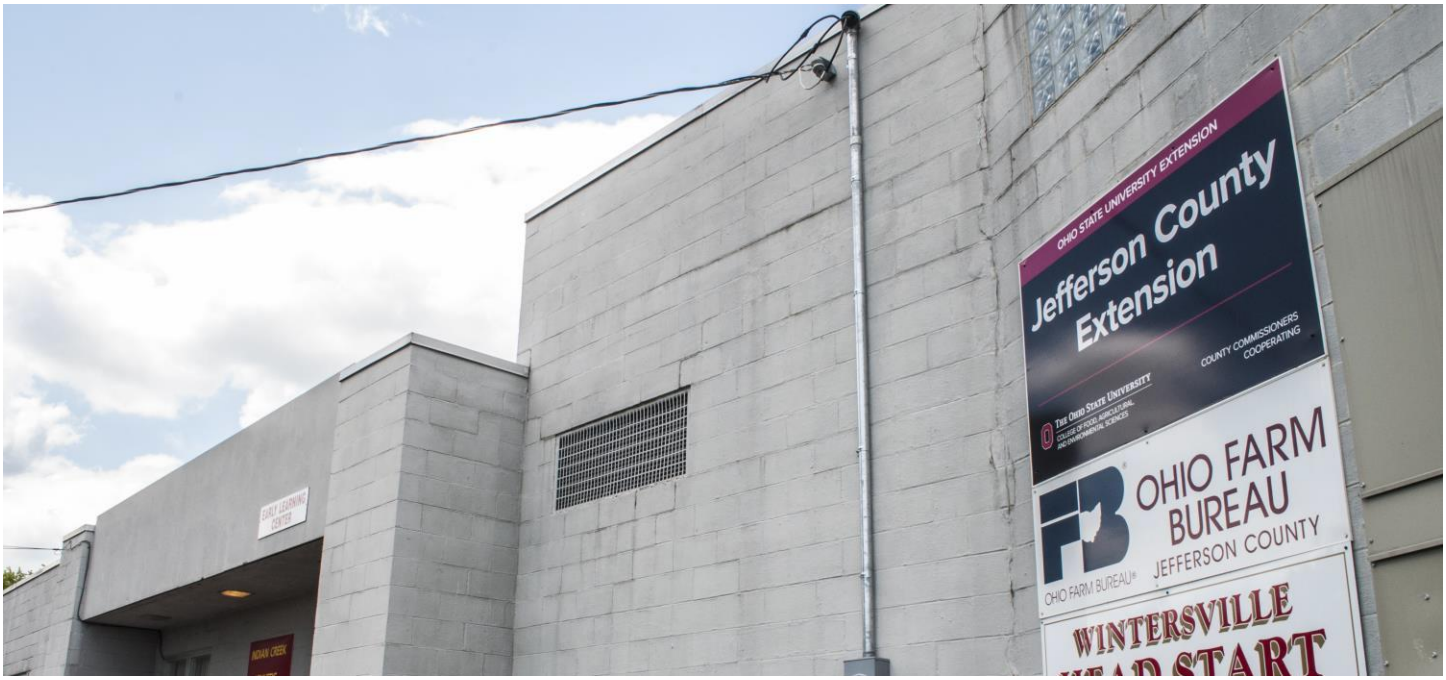


## Greetings from your local Extension Office,

If you haven't already noticed, your backyard may be humming with the sound of the periodical cicadas! If you are unfamiliar with these large insects, you will soon become acquainted as periodical cicadas appear in mass once every 17 years (and this year happens to be the 17th year since the last occurrence). If you have any questions regarding cicadas, see page 3 for cicada facts or contact your recently hired Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator.

This month's newsletter includes information on cicadas, forages, pollination, and so much more, as well as several fantastic events being held in the area. If you have some free time in your schedules, I would love any opportunities to get to know you and what you would like to see from the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program. Take the survey on the last page of this newsletter and feel free to stop by the Jefferson County Extension office or give us a call!

Erika Lyon, ANR Educator




# We are Extension, but, what's that?

***By Stan Smith, OSU Extension Fairfield County***

Our mission says that OSU Extension engages people to "strengthen their lives and communities through research-based educational programming." When I started with Extension 30 years ago I wasn't quite sure what that meant. The one thing I can say I know for sure today is there are certainly a far ranging variety of ways that Extension accomplishes its mission. Perhaps that's not always been the case.

When I started we did lots of newsletters and large group meetings. Typically many of these newsletters and programs were repeated in several counties across Ohio. Back then, desk top computers were rare, and very expensive. Most newsletters were done with a typewriter, run off on a mimeograph machine, and then mailed via the U.S. Postal service. Fax machines were even rare then, and not an option for most county offices, or, our clientele.

Today much of our education is shared with clientele via technology. What used to be monthly or even less frequent newsletters are now often times daily electronic distributions via a webpage, email, blog, or social media. Many of our Extension programs such as the winter Ohio Beef Cattle Schools are no longer hosted "live" but rather are distributed via webinar format.

All that being said, when its needed and also happens to be the most effective way to deliver a program, we do still offer "boots on the ground" live, hands on, programs. One great example of that is a livestock handling training that OSU Beef Extension Beef Specialist Steve Boyles and a few of his colleagues recently hosted on campus for an Army Reserve unit.

In a recent article, Ohio's Country Journal editor Matt Reese told the story of how and why the U.S. Army Reserve 412 Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), based in Columbus, Ohio, recently spent part of a day at Ohio State University's Columbus livestock facilities. I think you'll enjoy what Matt had to say about that program: http://ocj.com/2016/04/livestock-training-for-the-military-extends-reach-of-extension/.

While technology will continue to be a huge part of accomplishing our mission, indeed much of the traditional teaching that Extension has always done remains alive and well! When it's the best way to do it, that's just what we do.


You may have noticed in the last couple of weeks the sudden appearance of rather large, red-eyed insects here in Jefferson County. These are the periodical cicadas, which have begun the relatively short above ground period of their life cycle. Here is what you should know about the periodical cicada:

1: Cicadas are not locusts, although periodical cicadas do appear in mass.

2: Periodical cicadas are found only in North America. They are not newly introduced species.

3. The life cycle of these cicadas last 17 years. Much of this time is spent underground, but for several weeks on the 17th year, periodical cicadas emerge to produce the next generation.

3. Cicadas do not bite. Cicadas do not sting.

4. Damage to plants caused by cicada emergence is typically minimal, although female cicadas do lay eggs in young branches that are approximately ¼ to $^1/_2$ inch in diameter.

5. If you have young trees or bushes in your yard, it is recommended that you cover these plants with netting beginning when the males begin their call. Netting may come off of plants after the adults die.

6. Your pets may find these cicadas tasty. Other than causing occasional constipation, cicadas are not known to be poisonous.

7. For more on cicadas, including differences between periodical and "dog day" cicadas, check out factsheet ENT-58: http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ENT-58

## THERE'S AN APP FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RECORD KEEPING

***By John Barker, OSU Extension Knox County***

Ohio Nutrient Management Record Keeper (ONMRK) is a computerized recordkeeping system that syncs with your smartphone or tablet to create a simple, easy, and quick way to record all of your fertilizer and manure applications from the field. The free app works on tablets, iPads, and smartphones. It can be downloaded from the Google Play Store for Android devices and App Store for Apple devices.

To get started, simply go to the app's website www.onmrk.com. After setting up your account, enter your farm and field information. Download and open the app on you smartphone or tablet and enter your applicator key. All of the data that has been entered on your computer will now synchronize with your smartphone or tablet. The app features drop-down menus and quick entry fields which make it fast and easy to enter the required information.

The application information you enter from the field is combined with the GPS Location data from your smartphone or tablet. Both the current weather data and the weather forecast for this location are recorded. Once the application is saved the data is synced with the website. From the website you can print your application records or export them to a spreadsheet.

The app was developed with input from OSU Extension Knox County, Ohio Farm Bureau, and Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District to meet the new state recordkeeping requirements for both Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) and Senate Bill 150 (SB 150).

A detailed set of instructions can be downloaded from: http://knox.osu.edu/sites/knox/files/imce/Ohio%20Nutrient%20Management%20Record%20Keeper%20Instructions.pdf

# Protecting Pollinators: Some New Resources

***By Jim Jasinski, IPM Program Coordinator***

Over the past few years there have been plenty of articles detailing the decline of honey bees and pollinators in general, much of it revolving around varroa mite infestations, environmental stresses, viruses, and pesticides. Since pollinators are responsible for about one out of every three bites we take, it is important to understand how to protect these insects and our food supply.

To that end, Oregon State University has published a smartphone app, in both iOS and Android platforms, as a companion piece to their publication "How to Reduce Bee Poisoning from Pesticides (PNW 591)" to help growers determine the risk a specific pesticide presents to pollinators. This is done through simple color codes (red, yellow, green) for each active ingredient or common name in their database. It's pretty quick and simple, and worth a look.

More details about the bulletin and app can be found here: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/release/2016/04/protecting-bees-pesticides-now-there's-app

Another publication that was released last year is "Minimizing Pesticide Risk to Bees in Fruit Crops" by Emily May, Julianna Wilson, and Rufus Isaacs at Michigan State University. This extension bulletin E3245 talks about the biology of five common bee species, pesticide exposure, approaches to reduce pesticide risk, and a pesticide risk chart at the back of the bulletin. There were rumors that a vegetable equivalent was also being developed but it has not been released yet.

This publication can be found online at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/Minimizing_Pesticide_Risk_to_Bees_in_Fruit_Crops_(E3245).pdf

Lastly, if you are interested in identifying pollinators around your fields and landscape, try consulting this colorful two page handout by Scott Prajzner and Mary Gardiner at Ohio State University (http://ale.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/outreach/bee-healthy-landscapes/bee-identification-guide).

## How to Contact the Jefferson County Extension Team:

**587 Bantam Ridge Road**
**Suite C**
**Wintersville, OH 43953**

**Website: jefferson.osu.edu**
**Phone: (740) 264-2212**

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***Erika Lyon***
**ANR Educator**
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***Katrina Bleininger***
**SNAP-Ed Program Assistant**
**Email: bleininger.2@osu.edu**

***Cheryl Lightfritz***
**Office Associate**
**Email: lightfritz.1@osu.edu**

## *It's Fair Time…*

***Harrison (Cadiz)***
***July 4-9***
***Carroll (Carrollton)***
***July 19-24***
***Ohio State***
***July 27-Aug 7***
***Columbiana (Lisbon)***
***Aug 1-7***
***Jefferson (Richmond)***
***Aug 16-21***

## Outdoor Photo Tips:

Photography has been a hobby of mine since 8 years old. There is just something magical about capturing a single moment in time, whether it is a honey bee pollinating a flower, a loon taking flight, or a still of a family gathering. I know my fascination with photography is shared by many, so I will be posting on what I have learned since I first picked up a camera.

**Photo Tip: Get to know your camera. Getting the perfect photo takes time, and understanding how to control shutter speed, aperture, and ISO are absolutely necessary. Read the manual and experiment indoors and outdoors. Practice makes perfect!**

# Make Hay When the Sun Shines . . . What Sun?

***By Mark Sulc, OSU Extension Forage Specialist***

Getting our first cutting of forages this year seems to be shaping up to be another frustrating experience, although we can only hope it won't be as bad as last year. The outlook for the end of May does not look very promising for a nice stretch of dry weather. While the recent cool weather has slowed development and growth of our forage crops, in central Ohio forage grasses are entering or already well into the heading stage and alfalfa is beginning to show buds. So it is time to start thinking about that first harvest soon, along with getting corn and soybeans planted!

Last year in the midst of very rainy weather I urged hay producers to "be patient, to make sure their hayfields were dry enough to support their equipment before they try to get out on them once the sun starts to shine again." I heard how some tore up their fields and lost stands. The alternative is to be patient and to lose forage quality as the stand matures. But I still think the complete loss of the value of one cutting is a better choice than ruining a forage stand for the remainder of its potential productive life by running equipment on ground that is too soft, especially if it is a younger stand. So let me repeat what is indeed easy for me to say, but super hard to put into practice – be patient, take the long look and wait until the field is dry enough to support the equipment without damaging the forage stand.

There are some management steps that can reduce the field curing time once the hay is cut. First, adjust your mower to lay as wide a windrow as possible in order to maximize the surface area exposed to the sun. Try to get windrows that cover 65-70% of the cutting swath. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines to adjust the crimping rollers or the clearance of the flails on flail conditioners. Do not assume the mower is adjusted correctly for this spring's crop, check it and make sure the mechanical conditioner is doing a good job. Tedding soon after mowing (usually the same day or early the second day) can also be a good option to maximize forage surface area exposure to the sun. Tedding is especially a good option for grasses because it does not cause the leaf loss in grasses that can result with legumes.

Using chemical desiccants this time of year tends to be risky because they are less effective under cool and moist conditions than under good drying conditions. A more reliable option in the spring is to apply a proprionic acid preservative as the crop is being baled because it allows you to bale at slightly higher moisture contents. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for recommended rates (product formulations vary), but you should be applying the equivalent of 10 lbs of actual proprionic acid per ton of forage being harvested.

Consider making balage or silage rather than dry hay on first cutting if at all possible. For upright silos or bags, wilt the crop to 30 to 50% dry matter (50 to 70% moisture) and for balage to 40 to 55% dry matter (45 to 60% moisture). This significantly reduces the curing time compared with drying down to 80 to 85% dry matter (15 to 20% moisture) that is necessary for dry hay, depending on the hay bale size. When making hay crop silage or balage from legumes in the spring (alfalfa and clover), consider using a lactic acid bacteria (LAB) inoculant to improve fermentation. Naturally occurring populations of LAB can be too low when legume crops are wilted under cool and/or short wilting periods.

# Be on the Lookout for Poison Hemlock

***By Marcus McCartney, OSU Extension Washington County***

Multiple farmers in Washington County have reported seeing hay and pasture fields being heavily infested with poison hemlock (Jefferson County also has had reports). Not only are the fields infested but the roadways in the county are littered with poison hemlock. As the name states, this weed is poisonous in both its vegetative growth stages and when dry. This was the plant used to poison and execute the Greek philosopher Socrates after he was found guilty of corrupting the minds of young Athenians and for not believing in the gods of the state. All parts of this plant are poisonous to humans and livestock so it is important to observe and remove any poison hemlock from hay or pasture fields.

Typically, grazing animals will avoid poison hemlock because of its unpalatable taste unless there is little other feed or forages available or when it's consumed through hay. When consumed, poisoning symptoms appear rather quickly which includes: bloody feces, vomiting, paralysis, trembling, loss of coordination, pupil dilation, coma and eventually death from respiratory failure.

Since poison hemlock is a biennial (a plant that takes two years to grow from seed to fruition and die) it can be fairly easy to control. The first step in control is being able to recognize the plant. During the first year, poison hemlock produces a basal rosette and in the second year, tall erect stems are formed and can reach heights of 10 to 12 feet in moist conditions. The tall stems are hairless, purple-spotted (distinguishing feature – Fig. #1), ridged, and hollow between the nodes. The leaves (Fig. #2) are dark glossy green, fern-like, triangular, and 3-4 times pinnately compound. Poison hemlock flowers are small, white and found in umbrella-shaped clusters (Fig.#3).

**Fig.#1 – Purple spotted stem**

**Fig.#2 – Fern-like leaf**

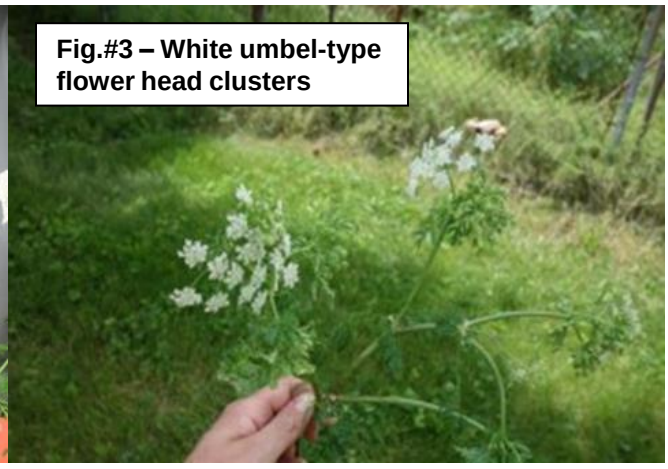

**Fig.#3 – White umbel-type flower head clusters**

**Fig.#4 – Poison Hemlock (left) Wild Carrot (right) comparison**

Sometimes poison hemlock often gets confused with wild carrot (a.k.a.: lace flower, Queen Anne's lace) due to its fern-like leaves, a single taproot, and a white umbel-type flower head . However, wild carrot has hair along its slender stem and leaf bases while poison hemlock's stem is smooth and purple-spotted. Peak bloom for poison hemlock is in late May and early June, whereas wild carrot is just beginning to produce flowers. Wild carrot will only reach heights of 3 feet or less. Also, poison hemlock is more branch-like than wild carrot (see fig. #4).

Once poison hemlock is successfully recognize and confirmed the next step is to take action to control it. Since poison hemlock is a biennial, it is best to control 1st-year plants by applying herbicides in the fall and for 2nd-year plants apply herbicides in the spring before the plant gets too large. According to the Ohio State University Weed Control Guide Crossbow and Remedy Ultra has the best rating for controlling poison hemlock ( rating of 9) followed by Glyphosate (8), dicamba (8), Cimarron Max (8), and 2,4-D (7). Remember these herbicides are either broadleaf killers (including legumes) or non-selective (kills both grasses and legumes). For light infestations, spot treatment may be the preferred method.

Besides chemical control, mechanical control like hand-pulling or mowing is a viable option. Mowing can be used effectively to prevent weed seed production and over time will help reduce the weed seedbank in the soil. Mow in the second year of the life-cycle before or just at the start of flowering to reduce vigor and to prevent seed set. If hand pulling, it is important to remember to wear gloves. Handling the plant can cause toxic reactions in humans.

For more information on poison hemlock or help with identifying it, please contact your local extension office.



*Roger Rennekamp, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration; Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension; and Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership*

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# 2016 OHIO SHEEP DAY

## SATURDAY, JULY 9 • 8 A.M. – 4 P.M.

**Rodger Sharp Sheep Farm**
**27735 Winona Rd.**
**Salem, OH 44460**

### Program Topics

- New RFID and Equipment Technology
- Introduction to the Shearwell Data Animal Identification and Management Systems
- Sheep Flock Management and Nutrition In a Semi-Confinement Type Barn
- Basic Sheep Management Practices for the Beginner or Novice
- Key Considerations When Selecting Sheep Equipment
- Internal Parasite, Animal Welfare, and Animal Behavior Research Report
- Approved Practices for Successful Pasture Improvement and Renovation
- Working Border Collie Demonstrations

### 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

www.ohiosheep.org

### Major Sponsors

Carroll County Farm Bureau, Columbiana Farm Bureau, Harrison County Farm Bureau, Jefferson County Farm Bureau, Mahoning County Farm Bureau, Portage County Farm Bureau, Stark County Farm Bureau, and Tuscarawas County Farm Bureau

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# Small Grains Field Day

**June 14, 2016 • 9:30 am to 3:00 pm**

**OARDC Schaffter Farm**
**3240 Oil City Road**
**Wooster, Ohio 44691**

**Topics:**

- Malting Barley – Opportunities and Possibilities for Ohio
- Small Grains as Cover Crops and Alternative Forages
- Modified Relay Intercropping of Soybeans into Wheat
- Wheat Quality Factors
- Wheat Production Agronomics
- Wheat and Barley Disease ID and Management
- Wheat Breeding and Evaluation

**Other:**

- Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification credits available
- Certified Crop Advisor Credits available

**Registration cost:**

$25/person when pre-registered by **June 3**
$35/person for late registration

**Includes:**

Handout materials, lunch and refreshments

**For more information:**

Rory Lewandowski
330-264-8722
Lewandowski.11@osu.edu
wayne.osu.edu

**Sponsored by:**

- OSU Extension
- OARDC
- OSU ATI
- Ohio Soybean Council
- Ohio Seed Improvement Association
- Ohio Corn and Wheat Board

Pre-registration cost is $25/person. All registrations received after June 3, 2016 will be $35/person. Make checks payable to *Ohio State University Extension*. **Mail to**: Ohio State University Extension- Wayne County, 428 W. Liberty St, Wooster, OH 44691. Please detach and return this form with payment. Thank you.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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wayne.osu.edu

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION JEFFERSON COUNTY

# Agriculture & Natural Resources
# Clientele Information Sheet

Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire. We will use the information we receive to set up a communication platform that everyone may access in an effort to provide you with information that will be of value to your operation.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City _____ Zip: _____ Cell Phone: _____

County: _____ Farm Name: _____

Farm Address: _____ Farm Webpage: _____

Email: _____

Type of Operation: _____

Number of Acres: _____ Township: _____

How do you prefer to receive Extension communications (mail, electronic, etc.):

_____

**Please check the areas below that you would be interested in receiving information/programming on in the future:**

- □ Farm Markets
- □ Farm to School
- □ Health Issues/Education
- □ Ag Law/Taxes
- □ Ag Business Management
- □ Local Foods
- □ Energy (Oil, Natural Gas, Solar, etc.)
- □ Livestock
- □ Equine
- □ Dairy
- □ Pest Management
- □ Crops
- □ Bees/Aviary
- □ Aquaculture
- □ Natural Resources
- □ Sustainable Agriculture
- □ Fruits/Vegetables
- □ Green Industry/Horticulture
- □ Pesticide Applicator
- □ Small Farms
- □ CSA (Community Supported Ag.)
- □ Farm Finance
- □ Ag. Tourism
- □ Ag. Development
- □ Technology
- □ Forestry
- □ Other _____
- □ Other _____

*Thank you for helping us better serve your needs.*

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Return form to: Erika Lyon, Extension Educator,
Agriculture & Natural Resources
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740.264.2212, ext. 203
Email: lyon.194@osu.edu