Greetings,

Spring has finally arrived; at least we hope it has. We are still experiencing fluctuations in the weather but now is the time for fertilizing, tilling (or no-tilling), planting and new life on the farm. It’s time to plant trees (but you may want to hold off on that for a while due to the Cicadas – article included inside newsletter) and your garden.

We now have a full staff here in the Carroll County Extension office, so our Extension Educational offering are expanding. We will be having an Open House soon, stay tuned for details.

May is National Beef Month and June is Dairy Month so make sure you support these two industries during this time!

Until next time (July/August),

Sandy Smith
ANR Educator/County Director

Ohio Farm Bureau & Friends Days at Bob Evans

Save the date as Ohio Farm Bureau and Bob Evans partner to support a trio of organizations that enhance education and experience of youth in agriculture.

Ohio Farm Bureau and Friends Days at Bob Evans restaurants throughout Ohio are set for May 16 and 17. The event is expected to be the largest community fundraiser program held in the history of Bob Evans Restaurants.

The goal of the fundraiser is to increase awareness of the importance of agriculture education programs supported by Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio 4-H and Ohio FFA. Bob Evans will donate 15 percent of sales May 16 & 17 to the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation, Ohio 4-H Foundation and Ohio FFA Foundation. To participate, take the flyer on the last page of this newsletter to the restaurant with you.
Backyard Food Production Program

Make plans now to join us as we continue with our monthly sessions of the Backyard Food Production Program. We have some great topics lined up. Be sure to call the Carroll SWCD office or the Extension office to let us know you are coming so that we can have enough handouts ready for everyone.

PLEASE NOTE: There will NOT be a session held in July – However – be sure to visit us during the Carroll County Fair where we will be holding daily sessions on interesting topics!

THURSDAY
MAY 12th
6:00PM

LOCATION:
Carroll County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall

Topics:
- How to Create a Pollination Garden
- Intro to Beekeeping
- Pallet and Container Gardening
- Let’s Build a Low Tunnel

Topics:
- Properly Watering Your Garden
- Bat Houses
- Natural Insect Control
- Goat Products
- Livestock Series:
  - Raising Backyard Goats

THURSDAY
JUNE 9th
6:00PM

LOCATION:
Carroll County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall

4-H General Livestock Judging Team

Do you know of a youth that is interested in learning how to evaluate and identify a quality animal? The Carroll County 4-H Program is currently looking for youth ages 9 thru 19 (and still in 4-H) to compete at the Ohio State Fair this year on July 29th. Practices will be starting soon! Please call the office to register and become a member of this team. Sandy Smith, ANR Educator is the coach for this team. (330-627-4310)

8th Annual Jr. Fair FIC Chicken BBQ

June 25, 2016 4 – 7 PM
Menu:
BBQ Chicken
Scalloped Potatoes
Green Beans
Roll & Butter
Dessert
Drink
Tickets are $10 and can be purchased by calling Wes Frew 330-627-4723 or Vera Fox at 330-627-0388.
Pre-Sale Tickets only
Located at the Carroll County Fairgrounds
Carroll County Beef Producers
Present

Education Night on the Farm

Topics:

- Spring Vaccinations and Fly Control
  - Dr. Jason Marteney of Eastern Buckeye Veterinary Services
- Synchronization Methods and Using Ciders
  - Chuteside Demonstration with Sandy Smith, ANR Educator

Wednesday
May 18th

LOCATION:
Burgett Angus Farm
1246 Antigua Rd SW
Carrollton, OH
Dinner at 6pm

PRE-REGISTRATION is requested by Monday, May 16th. Cost for this event is $5.00 for members of the Carroll County Beef Producers and $10 for non-members and will be collected at the event.

Please call the Carroll County Extension office to register at: 330-627-4310
Soil Health Field Day  
June 16, 2016

The Crop Production Partnership and the Eastern Ohio Grazing Council are holding a field day for landowners, producers, and agricultural employees, June 16th. The morning session will begin at 10am at the Rosebud building at the Carroll County Fairgrounds and feature guest speaker Frank Gibbs, presenting how to utilize soil health on your farm. A free lunch will follow and the first 75 people to register will receive a free soil probe. Afternoon sessions will begin at 1:30pm when attendees can choose between a field demonstration in a crop field or pasture at different farms in Carroll County. Both demonstrations will include soil pits and have examples of practices used to improve soil health on your farm. Results of the Solvita Soil tests that have been taken on 50 farms in Carroll County will be discussed. The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are encouraged by June 13th, but are not required to attend. Call the Carroll SWCD at 330.627.2852 to register or request a flyer. More information can also be found by visiting www.carrollswcd.org.

Ohio Sheep Day 2016

Saturday  
JULY 9, 2016  
LOCATION  
Rodger Sharp Sheep Farm  
27735 Winona Road  
Salem, OH  44460

This year, the Ohio Sheep Day will be hosted by the Rodger Sharp Family in Columbiana County. Mark your calendar for the 2016 Ohio Sheep Day. Registration will begin at 8:00am. NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. For additional information visit www.ohiosheep.org.
Listen for Cicada

By the Ashtabula County Master Gardeners

May 2016 should once again welcome the emergence of the 17-year periodical cicadas. The last time they emerged was in 1999. Brood V, as this group is known, will appear in most of eastern Ohio, including portions of Carroll County, parts of New York, Pa, Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia. They aren't found everywhere and there are large gaps in their range.

There are seven species of cicadas, which spend many years developing underground feeding on the fluid from roots of trees. These periodical cicadas are not seen for 13 or 17 yrs, depending on the species. The 17 year cicada, Brood V, which are set to emerge this year, are Magicicada septendecim, Magicicada cassini and Magicicada septendecula. The adult cicadas of Brood V have black bodies with red eyes, and are about 1 1/2 inches long. The wings are translucent and have orange veins.

There are also four species of 13-year periodic cicada and well as many species of the annual cicadas, with which we are much more familiar. Annual, or "Dog-day" cicadas, are larger with green to brown bodies with black markings and a whitish cast and appear every year during July and August. Cicadas are not locusts, as real locusts look like grasshoppers. They are more closely related to aphids.

The Brood V cicadas will begin to emerge when the soil about 8 inches beneath the surface reaches the temperature of 64 degrees Fahrenheit. A warm spring rain in May or June will often trigger the emergence and they will begin digging their way to the surface. They usually emerge during the night, through a 1/2 inch hole, climb up tree trunks or other vertical objects where they shed their nymphal skin and emerge as an adult. Their wings inflate with fluid and their adult skin hardens. It may take about 5 to 7 days for the insect to dry and become active. And that is when the mating chorus begins and the sound can be deafening.

Population densities with the synchronized emergence can be amazing. Cicadas numbering tens to hundreds of thousands per acre are common, even as high as 1.5 million per acre. Adults live about 4 to 6 weeks and do not eat, but suck fluid from the tender twigs of trees. During this time their only purpose is to mate and lay eggs. The male cicadas will sing to attract females by vibrating membranes on his underside, while the female cicadas are silent. After mating the female cicada cuts two parallel slits with her long ovipositor in small twigs high in the trees, where she lays 20 to 28 rice-shaped eggs. A female cicada can lay up to 600 eggs during her short life at various sites.

Damage to the tree is caused by this 'flagging' or breakage of the tips of the branches where the eggs have been laid. The pearly eggs hatch in about 6 weeks. The nymphs fall to the ground where they burrow 6-18 inches into the soil, spend the next 17 years feeding on small roots and undergo 5 instar stages. At the end of this time, the mature cicada emerges and the cycle begins again. These cicadas have the longest life cycle of any insect in North America.

Deciduous trees such as oak, hickory, maple, beech, apple, cherry and dogwood are the preferred hosts for egg laying. However, other woody plants, even grapevines, may be used during an emergence year. It is thought that cicadas may even benefit the health of trees by aerating the soil around the roots and 'trimming' the branch tips by flagging. After the cicadas have died, the decaying bodies add large amounts of nitrogen and other nutrients to the soil.

- Continued on page 6
Continued from page 5 - Listen for Cicada

In general the cicadas cause no permanent harm to plants and trees. However, very small or young trees could be vulnerable if too many of the females should choose to lay their eggs on the immature branches. To prevent this, simply cover the trees with bird netting or cheesecloth. However, it may not even be a concern if the cicadas do not emerge in your immediate area as they usually do not move more than a few hundred feet.

Adult cicadas have no defense mechanisms, do not bite or sting and have no known toxic chemicals. They also do not carry diseases. Cicadas are usually considered a nuisance simply because of their sheer numbers and loud, piercing mating calls. There are no effective pesticides for controlling periodical cicadas. Many wild animals will eat the emerging cicadas. Birds, squirrels, raccoons, oppossum and wild turkey gorge themselves on the fresh imago or feast on the dead adults as they fall to the ground at the end of their life cycle. Fish love them and they are often used as bait. The fresh cicadas may also be consumed by dogs and cats. They usually cause no harm to these animals, although pets occasionally will consume so many of the cicadas that they regurgitate or become constipated. Just remember, they're only bugs.

What to Communicate to Your Banker Now

by Sara Schafer, Ag Web by Farm Journal

A farmer going dark on his or her banker is the first warning sign of trouble to come. That’s according to Curt Covington, senior vice president of agricultural finance at Farmer Mac and a 30-year veteran of ag banking. Today’s tight margins are cause for many ag lenders to be spooked about their farmer clients. For that reason, Covington preaches “constant communication.” Keep strong lines of dialogue with all key farm stakeholders—especially your banker, Covington advises. As with any other problem, a farm conflict is best dealt with sooner rather than later after it has festered or worsened, he says. Plus, trusted advisers can provide valuable intelligence. “Your vendors are servicing hundreds of your competitors and could provide you advice and new ideas,” he says. As you visit with your banker about your 2016 plans, don’t be surprised if they want more information and documentation than ever before, notes Chris Barron, a consultant at Ag View Solutions, an Iowa farmer and a Top Producer columnist.

“Lenders are looking at the risk level of their farmer customers,” Barron says. “Producers are typically optimistic about prices and yields. What the lenders will do is pull price projections and yield expectations down to stress-test your cash flow.” Because many farmers are borrowing a larger line of credit, Barron says, it’s important to develop a working capital improvement plan. “To improve working capital, there are only two things you can do: Spend less money or increase productivity and profitability,” he notes. Start with expense improvement. Barron suggests looking at these options:

- Enact a purchase freeze. Let everyone in the operation know that no major purchases can occur for the rest of the year. Agree that any expense over $500 must be approved by the management team.
- Take a hard look at compensation. You may have to trim salaries a bit in years like this or consider not replacing team members who have left the operation. If you hire part-time help, see if you could get by with your current team instead of outsourcing jobs.
- Look at restricting debt. If working capital is low, review your loan options. Be sure to talk with your lender about this decision so they understand why you want to restructure debt (and that you’re not just covering up losses).
- Liquidate unused machinery. Yes, selling machinery is tough right now, as equipment costs have gone down. But on the other hand, there’s cash sitting in assets that are not generating any revenue. Even unloading less- expensive equipment can add up to decent savings.

Above all, Barron says, you should look at your budget every month. “Pull the detail out every month and have everyone in the operation look at every single line item,” he says. “Paying attention to details isn’t an option any more—it’s an absolute necessity. Source: http://www.agweb.com/article/what-to-communicate-to-your-banker-now-naa-sara-schafer/
Milk Production of Ohio Dairy Herds

Dr. Maurice L. Eastridge, Professor & Extension Dairy Specialist, Dept of Animal Sciences, The Ohio State University

It is always important to monitor the yield of milk and the composition of milk, especially for the individual farmer, because the income of the dairy farm depends on this source of revenue. The yields of protein and fat are the primary determinants of the price received by farmers. The proportions of fat and protein are useful in monitoring cow health and feeding practices within a farm. The income over feed costs (IOFC) and feed costs per hundred of milk are important monitors of costs of milk production. The average production of milk, fat, and protein by breed for Ohio dairy herds in 2014 using the Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI; http://www.dhiohio.com) program are provided in Table 1. Not all herds on DHI are included in the table below because of the different testing options offered by DHI, some herds opt for no release of records, lack of sufficient number of test dates, and given that some of the herds consist of other breeds than the ones shown. In comparison, the average of milk yield for all cows (270,000) in Ohio for 2014 was 20,178 lb milk and 775 lb milk fat (3.84%).

Table 1. Number of herds, milk yield, milk fat, and milk protein by breed for Ohio herds on DHI during 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Number of Herds</th>
<th>Milk (lb/lactation)</th>
<th>Milk Fat (%)</th>
<th>Milk protein (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17,246</td>
<td>3.84</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Swiss</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20,440</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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<td>Guernsey</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17,312</td>
<td>4.8</td>
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<td>Holstein</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>24,552</td>
<td>3.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jersey</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>17,171</td>
<td>4.96</td>
<td>3.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19,666</td>
<td>4.13</td>
<td>3.36</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Armyworm and Cover Crops

Author(s): Kelley Tilmon, Andy Michel

True armyworm (Pseudaletia unipuncta) overwinters in the southern U.S. and adult moths migrate northward in April and May. Females lay eggs in grassy fields including rye cover crops, and the young caterpillars feed there, typically attacking corn from early May through June. Corn planted into rye cover is at greater risk for early season armyworm feeding because the caterpillars may already be in the field and move to the corn after the rye is killed. Armyworm can also move into corn from other fields such as wheat, in which case infestation usually occurs along field edges. Though some growers include an insecticide in their rye burndown herbicide, this prophylactic application is not recommended because in many years the armyworm populations will not be sufficient to warrant it or its cost. Foliar insecticides work well as a rescue treatment and can be applied in years when scouting indicates it will help. Corn fields planted into rye cover or into other no-till grassy habitats should be scouted beginning in early to mid-May in southern Ohio and mid to late May moving further north. Armyworms take shelter during the day in corn whorls or under debris so it can be difficult to find them. Their feeding damage is more obvious, with ragged edges that progress towards the midrib. When 15 to 20% of the stand has feeding damage the field should be re-checked within a few days to determine if defoliation is increasing. Rescue treatments in corn may be needed if stand infestation is greater than 50% and larvae are not yet mature. If defoliation remains less than 50% and the new growth shows minimal feeding injury, the stand will likely recover with minimal impact on yield. Early scouting is important because the caterpillars are easier to kill when small, and also because larvae nearing maturity have already done most of their feeding.

A number of labeled insecticides are available for armyworm(http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/ag/images/Corn_2013_ArW.pdf), and certain Bt trait packages are also labeled for true armyworm control (http://www.msuent.com/assets/pdf/28BtTraitTable2016.pdf).
The Clock Is Ticking

John F. Grimes, OSU Extension Beef Coordinator

This is truly exciting time for cow-calf producers across the state. Winter finally appears to be in the rear view mirror and the signs of spring are all around us. Temperatures are rising and pastures and hay fields are starting to grow. More importantly, spring calving herds have been busy delivering the 2016 calf crop.

This exciting time for cattlemen is also an extremely critical time for the future profitability of their operations. It is important to recognize that the transition from late winter to early spring is the most challenging time of the year for the nutrition of the spring-calving beef cows. As pastures begin to green and grow, beef cattle quickly begin to show their preference for lush, green grasses as opposed to dried, cured forages. While we may welcome the idea of not having to feed hay after months of winter drudgery, the cow’s preference for green grass may not be in her best interest.

It has been well-documented that body condition at the time of calving is an important factor that can impact rebreeding performance of beef cows. Body condition scores (BCS) are an important indicator of potential reproductive efficiency. Body condition score ranges from 1-9 where 1 is emaciated while 9 is extremely obese. Numerous research studies have shown that BCS scores of 5-6 at calving and through the breeding season give females the greatest opportunity for reproductive success. A change in a single BCS (i.e. 4-5) is usually associated with about a 75 pound change in body weight. Evaluation of BCS prior to calving and from calving to breeding is important to ensure reproductive success.

Body condition changes from the time the cow calves until she begins the breeding season can play a significant role in the rebreeding success story. This appears to be most important to those cows that calve in the marginal body condition score range of “4” or “5”. If nutritional needs are not met from calving to breeding, this can result in reduced BCS which can yield disastrous rebreeding performance. Research from Oklahoma State (Wettemann, et al., 1987 Journal of Animal Sci., Suppl. 1:63) demonstrated that cows that lost almost one full condition score from calving to breeding season had dramatically lower rebreeding rates (73% vs 94%) compared to cows fed adequately to maintain the body condition that they had prior to calving.

Maintenance requirements for energy and protein can increase by 25% or more for most beef cows after calving. Cows currently grazing high moisture, low energy density grasses, instead of more energy dense hays can quickly lose body condition. First-calf heifers are at particularly high risk of losing body condition. It would be a sound management decision to provide extra feed such as moderate to good quality grass hay free choice and/or high energy feed grains to provide both the energy and protein that the lactating cows need. Given the beef animal’s current preference for lush grass over dried hay, offering grain over hay will probably be the more effective choice to supplement females. Yes, the feed will increase costs. However, the cost of losing 21% of next year’s calf crop is even greater!

The clock is ticking on the time you have to impact the number of calves that your herd may produce in 2017. Devote some time to evaluate the body condition of your cow herd. Take the proper steps to keep these females in the proper condition to achieve satisfactory reproductive rates.

UPCOMING FAIR DATES!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fair Name</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harrison County Fair (Cadiz)</td>
<td>July 4-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio State Fair (Columbus)</td>
<td>July 27-Aug 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holmes County Fair (Millersburg)</td>
<td>Aug 8-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carroll County Fair (Carrollton)</td>
<td>July 19-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbiana County Fair (Lisbon)</td>
<td>Aug 1-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAY is BEEF MONTH!

Beef & Vegetable Fried Rice

Recipe by: www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com

Ingredients:
1 pound Ground Beef
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp grated fresh ginger or ¼ tsp ground ginger
1 red bell pepper, cut into ½ in pieces
1 pkg (6 oz) frozen pea pods
3 cups cold cooked rice
3 Tbsp soy sauce
2 tsp dark sesame oil
¼ cup thinly sliced green onions

Directions:
1. Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add Ground Beef, ginger and garlic; cook 8 to 10 minutes, breaking into ¾-inch crumbles and stirring occasionally. Remove from skillet with slotted spoon; pour off drippings.

2. Heat 2 tablespoons water in same skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add bell pepper and pea pods; cook 3 minutes or until pepper is crisp-tender, stirring occasionally. Stir in rice, soy sauce and sesame oil.

3. Return beef to skillet; heat through. Stir in green onions.

Cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed ground beef. Ground beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160°F. Color is not a reliable indicator of ground beef doneness.

JUNE is DAIRY MONTH!

Potato & Cauliflower Soufflé

Recipe by: Midwest Dairy Association

Ingredients:
¼ cup plus 2 tsp unsalted butter
¼ cup plus 1 Tbsp freshly grated parmesan cheese
2 lbs russet potatoes, peeled & diced
½ cauliflower head, cut into small florets (3 cups)
1 cup smoked Gouda cheese, shredded
2/3 cup half and half
4 egg yolks
¾ tsp salt
¼ tsp paprika
1/8 tsp cayenne pepper
6 egg whites
½ tsp cream of tartar

Directions:
*Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter a 2-quart soufflé dish with 2 teaspoons butter. Sprinkle sides and bottom of dish with 1 tablespoon Parmesan cheese.
*Place potatoes in a steamer insert over simmering water. Cover with lid and steam for 10 minutes. Add cauliflower and cover with lid. Steam an additional 20 minutes or until potatoes and cauliflower pieces are tender. Remove from heat and transfer to a large bowl. Using a potato masher or ricer, mash potatoes and cauliflower until smooth. Cut ¼ cup of butter into pieces. Add butter, Gouda cheese, Gruyere cheese, and ¼ cup Parmesan cheese to warm potato mixture stirring just until melted. To half and half, whisk in egg yolks, salt, paprika, and cayenne pepper. Stir into potato mixture. If a smoother mixture is desired, use electric mixer to beat until smooth.
*I In a medium bowl, beat egg whites and cream of tartar until stiff peaks form. Fold egg whites into the potato mixture. Spoon mixture into prepared soufflé dish. Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until center of soufflé is just set. Remove from oven and serve immediately.