This is a busy time of year for extension programming and 2015 crop and livestock education programs are in full swing. See below all the available educational resources and trainings that are available to you.

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- Southwest Ohio Fruit and Vegetable School
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- Southwest Ohio Perennial School

**Corn College in Wilmington**
The Southwest Ohio Corn College will be held Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at the Clinton County Extension Community Room from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Deadline for registration is January 21, 2015 ([call or email today, they will work with you](#)). Please send registration for the Southwest Ohio Corn College to OSU Extension Clinton County, 111 S. Nelson Avenue, Suite 2, Wilmington, OH  45177. Make checks payable to OSU Extension. For more information contact Tony Nye ([nye.1@osu.edu](mailto:nye.1@osu.edu) or 937-382-0901).

Cost is $50 per person for the Corn College. Cost will include handouts, bulletins, refreshments, and lunch. [CCA Credits will be available that day](#).

Topics will include:
- Agronomic Practices that Optimize Profitability in Corn Production-Perception vs. Reality – Dr Peter Thomison, OSU Extension, Corn production
- Nitrogen Timing and Needs During Corn Development – Dr. Steve Culman OSU Extension, Soil Fertility
• **Influence of N Source on Timing of Application** – Dr. Steve Culman OSU Extension, Soil Fertility
• **Fungicide Effects on Disease, Ear Rot and Yield in Field Corn** – Dr. Pierce Paul, OSU Extension, Plant Pathology
• **Real Field Experiences with Variable Rate Nitrogen Applications** – Tim Norris, Ag-Info Tech

Sit back in your shop office or next to the wood stove and enjoy today’s technology at work while you learn through webinar connection on corn, soybeans and wheat during this winter series.

The 2015 Corn, Soybean and Wheat Connection Webinars are an outreach tool of OSU Agronomic Crops Team. There are two ways to participate in these programs. On the four dates scheduled below there will be a live presentation from 10:00-11:30 am. To access the programs go to the link [http://carmenconnect.osu.edu/cswconnection/](http://carmenconnect.osu.edu/cswconnection/). The second way to access the information will through recordings that will be made available by 5:30 pm on the day presented at [http://go.osu.edu/cswconnection](http://go.osu.edu/cswconnection).

The first one was on January 20, so unfortunately last week’s newspaper article was sent prior to the CORN newsletter release, but you should be able to view the taped version. If you would like to receive the CORN newsletter go to corn.osu.edu or drop me an email dugan.46@osu.edu

The remaining sessions are Feb. 3, 17 and March 10. The sessions will cover (Jan. 20) Precision Ag to Make Informed Decisions and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles as an Agronomic Tool; Feb. 3 is all Soybean Production including Maximizing Yields and Late Season Pests Issues; Feb. 17 is all Corn Production including Production Practices and Mold Issues; and March 10 is all about utilizing Manure as a crop nutrients including timing for best results.

If you have questions on accessing or in follow-up to the presentations contact Greg LaBarge at labarge.1@osu.edu.

**Small Farm College**
Are you interested in learning how to make the most of a few acres? If so, this eight-week course is just for you! Filled with practical knowledge on a variety of topics- you won't be disappointed!

- February 2 - Session 1: "Getting Started"
- February 9 - Session 2: "Sources of Assistance"
- February 16 - Session 3: "Legal issues / Insurance"
- February 23 - Session 4: "Natural Resources"
- March 2 - Session 5: "Financial and Production Record - Keeping and Taxes"
- March 9 - Session 6: "Crops, Horticulture & Soils"
- March 16 - Session 7: "Animal Production"
- March 23 - Session 8: "Marketing Alternatives"

Cost $150.00 per person

[Click here for the more information and the registration form.](#)
Registration deadline is January 30. Limited spaces available.
The OSU Extension Beef Team has announced the details for the 2015 Ohio Beef Cattle School. The dates for the school are **Tuesday, January 27 and continue on February 10 and February 24, 2015 and will start each evening at 7:00 p.m.** The programs will address some of the most important issues currently facing Ohio's beef industry. Rapidly changing forces are constantly shaping the beef industry's landscape and successful producers need to stay abreast of changes to remain competitive.

The school begins on **January 27, 2015** by addressing a pair of topics in the thoughts of many beef producers today. John Grimes, OSU Extension Beef Coordinator, will present the topic **“Capitalizing on the Historic Beef Economy.”** This presentation will discuss specific management decisions that a producer can make to take full advantage of the beef economic outlook in the present and for years to come. Troy A. Brick DVM, Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine will discuss a frequently debated topic in the popular press today, **“The Future of Antibiotic Use in Beef Cattle.”**

The **February 10, 2015** session will examine a pair of subjects that will impact the direction of beef production locally, nationally, and globally for years to come. Kim Stackhouse-Lawson, PhD, Director of Sustainability Research for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association will address **“Sustainable Beef Production.”** She will highlight how beef industry has used funding from the Beef Checkoff Program to document the economic, environmental and social impacts from the beef industry and is identifying practical ways to improve the sustainability of beef and remain on the path of continuous improvement over time. In Ohio, water quality concerns have led to new legislation regarding nutrient management in agriculture. Kevin Elder, Chief of the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting, will cover **“Manure Management and Fertilizer Application Issues for Beef Producers.”**

The final installment of the school will be held on **February 24, 2015.** Dr. Monique Pairis-Garcia, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Steve Boyles, Professor, both of the OSU Department of Animal Sciences, will discuss **“Beef Animal Handling and Facility Design.”** Videos will be used to demonstrate the positive and negative aspects of animal behavior and they will discuss how facilities can improve animal handling concerns. Dr. Bill Weiss, Professor, OSU Department of Animal Sciences will also address **“Forage Evaluation and Making Quality Dry Hay, Balage, and Silage.”**

These sessions will follow a similar format used in the past as each session will be broadcast locally via an internet link at a variety of locations around state. Clermont County is partnering with Brown County at Southern Hills Career and Technical Center, 9193 Hamer Road, Georgetown, OH 45121. If you have any questions feel free to contact Gigi Neal at Clermont County Extension at 513-732-7070 or by email at neal.331@osu.edu.

**Selling Timber**
A program is being planned in conjunction with Clermont SWCD in March. More information will be presented when details are finalized. Selling timber isn't something that woodland owners should take lightly. The decisions that you make now will not only affect you financially, but will alter the course of your woodlot for a long time to come. This program is designed to help you make decisions that will have a positive influence on you and your woodland.
**Pesticide/Fertilizer**

A combined pesticide recertification and fertilizer certification with a pesticide license will be on February 3, 2015 at 2642 State Route 232, Bethel, Ohio beginning at 9am with categories 1, 2, 3 and 6 plus Core. Pesticide recertification course is $35. Fertilizer Certification will be offered beginning at 12:30pm at no additional expense. Registration is required please register at www.pested.osu.edu. Contact Gigi at 513-732-7070 or Tyler at 513-827-2193 for further information.

A second combined pesticide recertification and fertilizer certification with a pesticide license will be held on March 17, 2015 at the Clermont County Fairgrounds in the 4-H Hall. Fertilizer Certification, must have a pesticide license, will begin at 4pm and Pesticide Recertification at 6:30pm with all categories offered plus Core. A light meal will be served. Pesticide recertification course is $35 with Fertilizer Certification at no additional expense. Registration is required, please register at www.pusted.osu.edu.

Fertilizer certification for those who do not have a pesticide license, you will need to attend a different training. It will be a 3 hour session. The OSU Extension Miami Valley Educational Extension Research Area has scheduled the certifications in Clermont and Clinton Counties. Clermont County will host on February 3, 2015 at 2642 State Route 232, Bethel, OH beginning at 12:30pm, co-sponsored by Singleton Farms and Pioneer Seed. Registration is required, please register at www.nutritioneducation.osu.edu. The Clinton County session will be March 4, 2015, co-sponsored by the Southwest Ohio Corn Growers Association. Time and location are to be determined for Clinton County program. Contact Tony Nye at 937-382-0901 for further details.

**Farm Bill Meetings**

Remaining close meetings:
- **You MUST Pre-Register** for the Farm Bill Meeting you plan to attend:
  - Adams County – 937-544-2339  February 2, 2015 Frisch’s in West Union at 1p
  - Brown County – 937-378-6716  February 2, 2015 Southern Hills Career Center in Georgetown at 6:30 p.m.

**Small Farm Conference**

Ohio State University Extension Announces Two Conferences to Help Small Farm Owners

Tony Nye is the state coordinator for the Ohio State University Extension Small Farm Program and has been an OSU Extension Educator for agriculture and natural resources for 25 years, currently serving Clinton County and the Miami Valley EERA. Tony and his family also own and operate a small livestock farm in Washington Court House, Ohio, raising purebred swine and meat goats.

The agricultural landscape of today is very different than it was 20–25 years ago. Farms today are getting fewer in number and the ones that are left are growing in acreage. However, as the Small Farm Program Coordinator for Ohio State University Extension, I continue to see a huge interest in small farm production.
The “Small Farmer” is a term used for individuals who are practicing agriculture on a small amount of acreage, usually less than 100 acres. These farmers are many times new to agriculture and are looking to begin a different lifestyle.

Since 2005, we at Ohio State have tried addressing producer needs for small farm production. Our two main efforts include an eight-week Small Farm College and the second is through Small Farm Conferences.

This month I want to highlight our two conferences in March 2015, which will be sponsored by OSU Extension’s Small Farm Program. These conferences are designed for small farm owners who want to learn more about how to make their farms work better for them or expand their operations, or those new to agriculture who are looking for ways to utilize acreage. Landowners can attend workshops and presentations on these issues and more during two small farm conferences: “Opening Doors to Success” and “Living Your Small Farm Dream.”

The two conferences, combined with a trade show, are set up to help participants learn tips, techniques and methods for diversifying their opportunities into successful new enterprises and markets as a way to improve economic growth and development on their farms.

Through the conferences, we try to give participants a smorgasbord of ideas that may interest them and opportunities to learn in-depth about an issue, gain resources, and study how to finance a new venture. Although similar in content, the two conferences are not set up to contain the same sessions nor are they located in the same location.

The “Opening Doors to Success” Conference and Trade Show will be held March 13-14 at the Wilmington College Campus Boyd Cultural Arts Center, 1870 Quaker Way. This conference will kick off Friday afternoon with hands-on workshops focusing on pastures and fence, new specialty crop production techniques looking at hoop house management, irrigation and grafting, and finally a workshop on woodlands management. On Saturday, the conference will feature 25-plus sessions from Ohio State and industry experts, as well as a trade show for small farmers that will offer information that can benefit a variety of growers.

The “Living Your Small Farm Dream” Conference and Trade Show will be held March 28 at the Shisler Conference Center on the Ohio State University Campus in Wooster, Ohio. Participants at this conference will be able to choose from more than 25 sessions led by Ohio State and industry experts, as well as question producer speakers on issues related to small farms.

OSU Extension is the outreach arm of Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. The overall goal of these events and the mission of the OSU Small Farms Program is to provide a greater understanding of production practices, economics of land-use choices, assessment of personal and natural resources, marketing alternatives, and the identification of sources of assistance.

I encourage you to attend both conferences as they will not cover all the same speakers or topics. We try to keep the two conferences different so we can reach more producers and help them with their operation needs.

Some of the topics (subject to change) we plan to cover at the two conferences are:

- Maple syrup
• Goat production
• Poultry production
• Forages and hay
• Livestock production
• Direct marketing
• Organics
• Starting a business
• Aquaculture
• Legal issues for small farms
• Soil basics
• Brambles
• High tunnels
• Beekeeping
• Vegetable and fruit production
• Financing/loans
• Tax issues

For more information about these two conferences, please visit http://agnr.osu.edu/small-farm-programs or contact Tony Nye at (937) 382-0901 or nye.1@osu.edu.

Resource Links:
Ohio Woodland Stewards http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/
Farm Bill Information http://agnr.osu.edu/resources/farm-bill-2014
Pesticide and Fertilizer Information http://pested.osu.edu/