

Coshocton County Extension

2022 Agriculture & Natural Resources Highlights

David Marrison, Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator

Since 1919, Ohio State University Extension in Coshocton County has been providing educational outreach and research dedicated to improving the profitability of Coshocton County farmers and the agribusiness industry. Additionally, education is provided to Coshocton County residents in residential horticulture.

Programming Highlights

Pesticide & Fertilizer Re-Certification: David Marrison & Chris Zoller taught 10 workshops for 236 producers to obtain their private pesticide applicator and/or fertilizer re-certification in 2022.



Ohio Agronomic Weeds University: Coshocton County hosted this regional workshop on February 2 with 16 producers and crop consultants attending to learn about weed biology, agronomic weed control options, noxious weeds, and cover crop weed control.



National Ag Day Lunch: OSU co-hosted this luncheon on March 22 with the Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District and Farm Credit Mid America to honor our local farmers. 113 farmers and industry supporters attended this event. Phyllis Debnar and Kyle & Kurtis Croft gave excellent presentations on Farming from the Past and Farming for the Future.



Beef Quality Assurance: Sixteen beef and dairy producers renewed their beef quality assurance certification at 3 workshops taught by David Marrison. 100% of the attendees indicated the sessions increased their understanding of beef quality assurance.

Home Fruit Production Workshop: Thirty-four persons attended this workshop on April 25 to learn about raising brambles, strawberries, and fruit trees. Sabrina Schirtzinger from Knox County Extension taught the program with 96.7% of the participants reporting they were more confident in their ability to grow fruit crops in their home landscape as a result of attending the workshop.



Earth Day: OSU Extension participated in the Coshocton County Earth Day event on May 11 at Wills Creek Dam. During the day, we taught on the history of victory gardens, how to plant cucumbers, carrots, lettuce and sunflowers, and how to make healthy vegetable snacks to 140 sixth graders.



Summer Pasture Walks: Two summer pasture walks were co-hosted with the Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on June 28 at the Mike Rettos Farm and on August 30 at ASB Farms with 26 persons attending.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

COSHOCTON COUNTY

First Farm Friday: OSU Extension was pleased to be part of First Farm Friday on August 5 on Main Street in Coshocton to highlight agriculture to our community. We taught about Extension, agriculture, and 4-H. It was estimated that close to 2,000 people attended this year's event.



Coshocton County Fall Foliage & Farm Tour: Bright sunny skies and 70-degree temperatures provided for a picture-perfect weekend on October 22-23 for the 51st Coshocton County Fall Foliage & Farm Tour which featured the southwest townships of Virginia, Washington, Pike, Perry, Bedford, and Jackson. Over 1,600 people attended this year's tour.



Attendees traveled from 7 states and from 34 of Ohio's 88 counties. Stops included: Coshocton County Fairgrounds, Wells Sheep Farm, Chalfant Church, Killing Tree Winery, ASB Farm, Donaker Farm, Echoing

Hills Village, Hidden Spring Farm, Woodbury Wildlife Area, and Mill Creek Central Railroad.

Beginner and Small Farm College: The 2022 Beginner & Small Farm College was held on October 24 & 31 and November 7. This college was designed to help landowners examine potential ways to increase profits on small acreage. Eighteen small farmers owning 1,245 acres in Coshocton County participated with 100% indicating their ability to manage their small farm increased as a result of their attendance.



6th Annual For the Love of Lamb Dinner: A sold-out crowd of 54 persons attended the Love of Lamb Dinner held on November 5 at Heritage Vineyard Winery. Brianna Burdette from Tuscarawas County was crowned as the 2023 Coshocton/Tuscarawas Lamb & Wool Queen.

Research Efforts

Soybean Weed Survey: Each fall OSU Extension Educators complete a state-wide survey of soybean fields to determine what weeds were the most prevalent right before harvest. The goal is to look at fields over a 100-mile route. David Marrison completed this survey in September with 106 fields or 3,106 acres of soybeans surveyed. Overall, 55.7% of the fields were rated clean (52.9% in 2021). The top weed observed was marehail in 21.7% of the fields followed by giant foxtail and other grasses at 12.3%.



Insect Monitoring:

OSU Extension participated in state-wide insect monitoring studies for western bean cutworm, squash vine borer, fall armyworm, and the spotted lanternfly. Each of these traps were checked weekly during the summer by David Marrison and data was uploaded to state data bases.



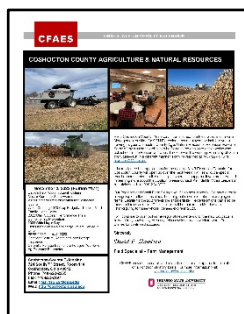
Crop Reporting and Harvest Yields: In 2022, David Marrison served as a crop weather reporter for the National Ag Statistics Service and completed a weekly county field crop progress and crop/field condition report. He also supervised the harvest of six yield contest entries for three different farm operations from Coshocton County for the 2022 National Corn Growers Association corn yield contest.



Other County Program Efforts

Coshocton County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter:

In 2022, David Marrison published 43 issues of the Coshocton County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter. The newsletter was typically 14 pages in length and emailed to 514 persons. Issues can be accessed on-line at: go.osu.edu/coshocton-agnews



Newspaper: Ten personal columns were published by David Marrison in The Beacon Newspaper in 2022.

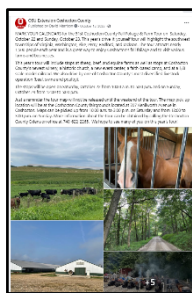
The articles highlighted upcoming extension programs and provided information on such topics as farm succession, ag policy, victory gardens, labor management, land rental, budgeting, and a view from a hill. David also wrote six "Dairy Excel" columns for the Farm & Dairy Newspaper as a member of the OSU Extension State Dairy Team. Topics for this column included: farm succession, labor management, retirement planning, and farm taxes.



Wednesday Ag Update on WTNS Radio: In 2022, David Marrison provided 43 radio updates focused on current agricultural issues and events on WTNS radio. These 5-minute updates typically aired at 12:35 p.m. each Wednesday afternoon. David also assisted the Master Gardeners with 8 of their monthly 1-hour call-in gardening show on WTNS.



Social Media: The Coshocton County staff maintains the OSU Extension Coshocton County Facebook page which currently has 1,126 followers. In 2022, David Marrison made 42 posts to this page with the top post about the Coshocton County Fall Foliage & Farm Tour reaching 25,764 persons.



Individual Instruction: An important outreach effort of OSU Extension is to provide individual instruction to farmers and homeowners. During 2022, David Marrison assisted 308 individuals with 426 calls or walk-in consultations. These included 135 farm management, 92 production agriculture, 62 home horticulture, 35 pesticide/fertilizer, 24 natural resources, and 6 commercial horticulture questions.

Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer Program:

In 2022, David Marrison and Alonna Hoffman, OSU Extension Program Assistant, served as co-coordinators of the Coshocton County Master Gardeners Volunteers. The Master Gardener program was started in Coshocton County in 2001 to help OSU Extension answer residential horticulture questions. There were 7 active Master Gardeners in 2022. Some of the group's accomplishments included:

- Conducted the "Real Dirt" Gardening one-hour Monthly Gardening Program on WTNS radio.
- Had educational displays at First Farm Friday, Coshocton County Fair, and the Fall Foliage & Farm Tour.
- Distributed 300 Victory Garden seed packets in a state-wide effort by OSU Extension and the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
- At the 2022 State Master Gardener Volunteer Conference, the Master Gardener Volunteers were awarded the "Outstanding State Volunteer Project for Small Groups" for their Fall Foliage and Farm Display. The group was also very pleased that Mr. Mike Bechtol from WTNS Radio was selected as one of the three "Friends of the Ohio State University Master Gardener Volunteers Program."



Scholarly Work & Service

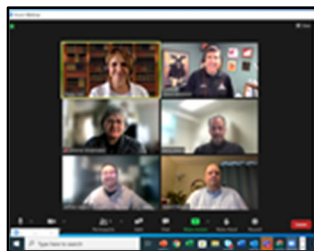
OSU Extension County Educators are expected to complete up to 75% of their time in their county and at least 25% is to be dedicated to a specialization which can be utilized in any county in Ohio or nationally. David Marrison is a Professor in the Department of Extension and his specialization area is farm management; specifically in farm succession and tax management. Some of his scholarly works and service in 2022 included:

Farm Succession: In 2022, David taught 28 farm succession programs reaching 926 individuals across Ohio, New York, and West Virginia. New for this teaching effort was being part of a team which provided a “Farm Stress Certified Program - Managing the Farm” training for Ohio mental health professionals. In total, David Marrison taught 7 programs to 425 professionals on the stressors of farm succession and estate planning.



NRCS Climate Smart Commodities Grant: David Marrison was the co-principal investigator on a \$805,457 grant titled “Developing Climate Smart Agriculture and Markets Amongst Socially-Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, and Urban Farmers in Ohio and Michigan” awarded in December, 2022. In this effort, OSU Extension will be collaborating with Central State University, Wilmington College, and AB Porteus Beef Farm (Coshocton County farm) for the next 5 years to analyze the impact of utilizing climate-friendly practices in beef feedlots.

Farm Office Live: David Marrison was a member of a team which provided 12 farm management webinars for Ohio producers. These monthly webinars were designed to provide farm management, tax, federal farm program, and agricultural law updates. Over 600 farmers and ag professionals attended the live webinars or watched the recording.



Farm Taxes: David Marrison provided state-wide outreach in tax management for Extension programs and served as an Instructor for the OSU Income Tax Schools. In 2022, David taught at three OSU Income Tax Preparer's Schools and for two webinars reaching 249 tax professionals and agricultural producers.

NACAA: David Marrison is a member of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA). David served as the National Program Recognition Council Chair (term 2019 to 2022). There are 3 National Council Chairs which direct the committee work of NACAA. During the year, David worked with the 30 National Chairs & Vice Chairs of the following committees: Communication, Professional Excellence, Public Relations, Recognition & Awards, Scholarship and Search for Excellence.



Recognition and Awards: David Marrison received the following Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) awards in 2022: 1st Place Individual Newsletter, 2nd Place Personal Column, and 2nd Place Instructional Audio.



Service: In 2022, David was a member of the Coshocton Port Authority Board of Directors, International Farm Transition Network Board of Directors, President of the ATZ Farmhouse Alumni Association and a member of the Ohio Ag Manager Team, OSU Agronomy Team, Farm Office Team, Dairy Working Group, Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) and the OSU Extension Faculty Promotion & Tenure Committee.



Farewell From David Marrison: On November 1, David Marrison transitioned from his position in Coshocton County to begin service as one of three Field Specialists in Farm Management for OSU Extension. In this new capacity, he will have the opportunity to provide education in farm succession and estate planning, tax management, and business planning across Ohio. He also was appointed as the Interim Director for the newly created Farm Financial Management and Policy Institute (FFMPI). Funding from the Ohio Legislature, ag commodity groups, and gracious benefactors has provided a unique opportunity for Ohio State to transform its farm management and ag policy presence across Ohio.

