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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hops Open House July 22

Have you ever wondered more about growing Hops? Have you ever considered growing Hops? If you would like to grow Hops or want to know more the opportunity is this Saturday. There will be an open house at some of the local growers that are already producing the crop. You can visit, look and ask questions.

There are 10 growers in Ohio that will be open for this event this Saturday, July 22 from 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Of the nine, three are right here in our area. One in Batavia, one in Georgetown and one in Hillsboro. They are not all the same, so you may want to visit all 3. The locations are:

Hoppin Wheel Farm
 4030 Hill Top Lane
 Batavia, OH

Scott Farms
 9681 US 68
 Georgetown, OH

Old Dutch Hops
 6550 Pence Road
 Hillsboro, OH

Scout the Corn Silks

As you scout your fields you may want to check the silks on the corn. Many fields are in or near the silking stage. OSU Extension Specialists Andy Michel and Kelley Tilmon provided this information in this week's CORN newsletter. You can see the entire letter at corn.osu.edu

We have received many reports of Japanese beetles and other defoliators munching on soybean over the past few weeks with some reaching economic levels of defoliation. Like a few other insects Japanese beetles are “buffet style” eaters, they have many plants that they can feed on, including corn. On corn, much of the feeding occurs on silks where they chew the silks back to the ear tip and can interfere with pollination. Another well-known insect that can feed on silks is the adult corn rootworm (mainly the Western corn rootworm) that should begin emerging soon, if not already. As tasseling begins and silk emerges, growers will want to make sure that the silk feeding does not reach economic threshold and impact pollination. Common thresholds are: 1) if 5 or more rootworms or 3 or more Japanese beetles are found per ear, 2) if silks have been clipped to within 1/2 inch of the ear tip, and 3) pollination is less than 50% complete. As silk clipping is highest along the edges, growers should check at least 100 plants, (10 plants in 10 different areas) to sample the entire field for any signs of silk clipping.



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Swine Flu at Clinton Co. Fair

I am sure by now, most everyone has heard about the issue that popped up at the Clinton Co. Fair on July 12, or I believe that is the day. There have been many rumors as the news spread. Below is information that I think will provide answers that will help clarify the situation, from OSU Extension Specialists.

As you are likely aware, the Ohio Department of Agriculture discovered Influenza A Virus Infecting Swine (IAV-S) at the Clinton County fair last week. As a result, ODA closed the Junior Fair Market Hog show, with only exhibitors and their parents allowed to attend, and made the show terminal, with all animals going to slaughter. While the hog barn was quarantined and will be disinfected, news reports that the building would be burned are not true.

Andy Bowman, veterinarian with Ohio State's Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, is in the midst of a seven-year study of 100 county fairs in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, checking for incidences of IAV-S. So far, at least one animal in 25 percent of county fairs test positive. That means there's a good chance this influenza will visit other fairs.

We are leaving the specific reporting of what is happening in Clinton County to that fair, the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Health.

Our role is to help people do what they can to protect themselves, their animals and other animals, and calm fears. Dr. Bowman recommends information from the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians: http://nasphv.org/Documents/Influenza_Transmission_at_Swine_Exhibitions_2016.pdf and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/index.htm>

Key information to know as we move forward into fair season in other counties:

- IAV-S can pass from animal to animal or animal to human, and spreads like other flus – from sneezes or coughs that release droplets.
- Visitors to hog barns can minimize the risk of catching the flu by washing their hands after leaving the barn, and by not drinking or eating in the barn. That includes no pacifiers, bottles, toys or strollers in the barn.
- Exhibitors can minimize the chance of spreading the flu by keeping sick animals at home, by protecting themselves if their hogs are sick, and by disinfecting any tools or show supplies before the shows. At home, sick hogs should be quarantined from healthy ones for at least seven days.
- At the show or fair, keep an eye on your swine and check regularly for signs of flu – off feed, lethargic, sneezing, coughing. Avoid sharing tack with other exhibitors, but if you do, cleanse and disinfect before using. If animals become sick at the fair, report to the fair's veterinarian or other fair staff.
- According to the CDC, IAV-S acts like other flus. While most people recover easily, those under 5, over 65, pregnant or immune-compromised are more at risk. These people should avoid pigs and swine barns at fairs. Exhibitors or their family members who are at a higher risk should also avoid pigs and swine barns at fairs while they are at risk.
- IAV-S does not affect meat safety or quality. People cannot get the flu by eating pork.

Dates to Remember

- July 27 Hops Pre-Harvest Field Night at OSU South Centers at 5:30 p.m. Must call and pre-register at 800 297-2072.
- Aug. 15 Southwest Corn Growers Field Day in Fayette County at the County Farm.
- Sept. 14 Fertilizer Certification opportunity at North Adams High School starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Round Room. Call to pre-register at least one week prior at the Adams Co. OSU Extension office, 937-544-2339 and ask for Barbie.