

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Update: As we move through bird migration and enter 4H poultry livestock season and new chick season for small farmers, I want to provide a bunch of links and helpful information that I would greatly appreciate if you could share to your and clients. The 2022-2023 HPAI outbreak is ongoing and there are still detections of disease in neighboring states. We are heading towards peak migratory bird migration in the next month, so it is crucial that we practice our very best biosecurity.

A great super short video on how to keep your flock safe from HPAI: [An Update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#)

Native Plant Month: Its early in the year, you have taken your beekeeping class, done your research, and now you are ready to buy your bees. Between the months of January and February is the best time to order bees and to begin preparing hives for a productive season. Spring is a great time to start planning and preparing a pollinator garden and as April is Native Plant Month, this is the time to learn about [native plants](#) and their benefit to your bees. Pesticides can have negative effects on bees and other insects, killing them outright or affecting behavior, longevity or susceptibility to disease. Limiting pesticide use in the garden, through integrative pest management practices, by planting natives can help alleviate this negative affect.

You can learn more about attracting pollinators and pollinator health by reading this [factsheet](#) as well as by visiting the OSU Bee Lab website <https://u.osu.edu/beelab/> and exploring their resources and webinars.

Ohio CAN, a collaboration between ODA, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, and the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services: Ohio CAN is connecting producers with communities! The Ohio CAN program was established with the USDA AMS Local Food Purchase Assistance Program grant funds. The mission is to provide food to those in need, from historically underrepresented regional producers. Through this program, producers will be able to sell food to the Ohio Association of Foodbanks at fair market price and the products will be distributed to Ohioans in need through the 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,600 member charities across all 88 counties. Information about the program, including eligibility, accepted products and how to apply, can be found at the Ohio Department of Agriculture website or through this [link](#).

The Beginning Farmer Tax Credit: The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is helping to ensure the next crop of Ohio producers has the resources to provide for their

families and those across the state. "Agriculture and food is Ohio's number one industry," said ODA Interim Director Tracy Intihar. "The Beginning Farmer Tax Credit will help keep costs down for new producers and encourage others to help them. This incentive ensures that our state will continue to provide for local communities, the country, and even the world." Visit the [link](#) to find out who qualifies, benefits of the program, and how to apply.

Food Preserving: For some of us our pantries emptied over the winter and as we start planning for harvest, now is the perfect time to learn about food preservation. The OSU Extension Food Preservation Team is offering a food preservation webinar series, you can join them every other Tuesday from April 11 through June 6 to gain insight on canning techniques, freezing and drying, as well as top considerations for preserving food. Click [here](#) to register for this free webinar series.

Ohio Victory Garden: Victory Garden Seeds are now available for pickup in the extension office 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

In The Market Speaker Series - Cleveland's West Side Market: With the West Side Market's transition to a non-profit underway, they are in the market for progress, opportunity, and so much more. Join the West Side Market for a multipart speaker series discussing the many ingredients needed to help Cleveland's public market thrive for generations to come.

These events are free and open to the public. Registration is required and will be available one month prior to each event. Follow this [link](#) to learn more.

Happy Earth Month and good luck growing!



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