Farm Science Review visitors can plan ahead with online directory and app

The 55th annual Farm Science Review will feature a new online directory and a new app to help visitors navigate among the hundreds of exhibits, demonstrations and educational workshops.

With the new online directory, visitors to this year’s Review at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center, two miles north of London, Ohio, won’t have to dog-ear and mark up pages of the Review’s program to help organize which exhibits they want to see.

Instead, visitors can perform a keyword search within the new app to locate and get walking directions to reach exhibitors, and to organize events they want to attend. They can also browse the app’s interactive map and search for specific exhibitors or product categories.

Hosting more than 600 exhibitors, the Review, a three-day agricultural trade show, features business advice for farm businesses of all sizes, demonstrations of new equipment and workshops on topics ranging from cover crops to strategies on managing farm labor. Visitors can talk one-on-one with agronomists, view demonstration plots comparing the timing and placement of fertilizer and manure, and watch experts actively restoring a streambank and a prairie.

More than 120,000 people typically attend the Review, an event hosted by Ohio State’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Show hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. September 19–20, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. September 21.

With so many exhibits and workshops at the Review, using the online directory as well as the free app could make it easier for people to organize their trip, said Nick Zachrich, the Review’s manager. By registering for a free account, a plan created on the desktop directory is synced to the mobile app.

“There’s a lot to see in one day over our entire show site. The mobile app will assist you in seeing the exhibitors and events you care about most,” Zachrich said.

The Review’s app, which is available for both Apple and Android smartphone and tablet users, includes interactive maps, a schedule of events, and general information on the show and exhibitors. It’s available on the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.

Story continues on next page
“Many farmers are tech savvy,” Zachrich said. “And some prefer to organize their trip on a phone or a mobile app.”

The Review offers visitors a wide range of educational sessions, hands-on workshops, and live demonstrations presented by educators and specialists from OSU Extension and Purdue Extension, as well as from the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.

“Farmers in 2017 need to find a way to increase their profits, not just their yields. At the Farm Science Review, they’ll find products and services that will make their operations more efficient,” Zachrich said.

Tickets for the Review can be purchased for $7 preshow (or $10 at the gate) from OSU Extension offices, local agribusinesses, or fsr.osu.edu. Children 5 and under are admitted free.

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**Tips to Live Smart Ohio**

**Wondering how to better manage stress? Want to learn more about how to budget your finances to make sure your money lasts longer? What about gluten-free eating? Or do you want to learn how to stop procrastinating?**

Answers to these questions and more are available through the Live Smart Ohio website, which offers a consumer blog written by OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences professionals. The blog is focused on promoting health and wellness statewide.

The livesmartohio.osu.edu site offers consumers research-based information on topics including money, food, mind and body, and family and relationships. All topics are focused on helping Ohioans live smarter, said Amanda Woods, healthy finances program specialist for OSU Extension.

The blog and website are designed to educate consumers on practical, research-based topics through timely, informative posts, Woods said.

“Live Smart Ohio is a dynamic, educational blog focusing on building healthy people, healthy relationships and healthy finances,” she said. “The site is intended to engage our audiences in the various content we cover in Extension, and to connect with consumers on issues beneficial to communities.”

To get the word out about the Live Smart Ohio resources, Woods and other OSU Extension program specialists are attending county fairs around the state this summer to talk directly to farmers, growers, homemakers, parents and other Ohio consumers.

“In addition to the blog, we offer fact sheets, webinars and classes on topics including food preservation, homeownership, money management and Dining with Diabetes,” she said. “We’ve found that this blog is a great way to share our content, stay relevant and offer research-based content that is valuable to residents of our state.”

Some of the recent topics on the site include posts on safe poultry handling, eating disorders, energy conservation, exercise, financial support, budgeting, credit unions and taxes.

Live Smart Ohio will also have information and resources available during Farm Science Review. For more information on the Review, see the story on page one.
Two CFAES agriculture experts have redesigned a metal tractor attachment, allowing farmers to put manure on a field while crops are emerging.

Applying manure to growing crops, which is not widely done in Ohio or nationwide, can boost yields, reduce nutrient losses, and give livestock producers and commercial manure applicators another window of time to unload animal waste and enrich their crops.

Made by Bambauer Equipment in New Knoxville, Ohio, the metal toolbar, which is attached to a tractor, receives waste pumped through a hose from a livestock facility manure pit. The manure is fed through the toolbar, which injects the manure 3 to 5 inches into the soil between the rows of growing corn, then covers the manure with soil.

The manure sidedress toolbar attachment was built with contributions from the Columbus Foundation; the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation; and Goodfield, Illinois-based DSI Inc., a manufacturer of manure- and nitrogen-injection systems.

While draglining manure, a process that involves applying manure through a hose that pumps it directly from the livestock facility, is not new to many Ohio farmers, it is rarely used to apply manure on a growing crop.

During the growing season, farmers have been concerned that running machinery over a field with an emerging crop could crush the crop and compact the soil, leaving less space among the soil particles for easy flow of water, air and nutrients, said Glen Arnold, a manure management specialist with OSU Extension. Arnold designed the modified toolbar with Sam Custer, an OSU Extension educator in Darke County.

Traditionally, the manure of pigs and cattle, which is primarily liquid, is applied on the surface of fields in fall, after harvest. But without a growing crop on the field to take in the nutrients, much of the nitrogen either runs off the field or percolates through the soil uncaptured, Arnold said.

“A growing crop will reach out and grab much of that nitrogen,” Arnold said. “It will love it.”

For three years, the manure sidedress toolbar has been tested on fields in Darke County, which annually produces the second highest number of hogs across the state — and a whole lot of manure. The manure-sidedressed fields produced 13 more bushels of corn per acre compared to fields where synthetic fertilizers were applied, Arnold said.

The savings in using manure instead of synthetic fertilizer are about $80 an acre, he said.

“There’s always a cost to the livestock farmer to apply manure to farm fields. By capturing more of the nitrogen in the manure, the farmer can reduce the need to purchase commercial fertilizer and make a bigger profit,” Arnold said.

Some Ohio farmers are concerned that the dragline could kill some of the newly emerging plants by crushing them as it is pulled through the field, Custer pointed out.

But the research on the Darke County fields does not show that, he said. When corn is about 3 inches high, running a dragline hose across a field is not going to hurt the corn plants — though they might initially appear to be bent over after the dragline goes across the field, Custer said.

“In a week’s time, they’ll be standing right back up,” he said.

Anyone who wants to try the manure sidedress toolbar can contact Glen Arnold at arnold.2@osu.edu or by calling 419-235-4724. Darke County farmers can contact Sam Custer at custer.2@osu.edu or by calling 937-548-5215.

For more information about the manure sidedress toolbar, and to watch a video on it, visit go.osu.edu/manureaplicator.
Ohio wins national 4-H competition

Congratulations to Ohio 4-H for winning $20,000 in the national Raise Your Hand initiative after more than 11,800 Ohioans identified themselves as 4-H alumni. The funds will be used by 35 top participating counties to offer programming for young people. It’s never too late to get involved with helping youth.

Visit 4-h.org/4-h-alumni-community.

Supporting Extension, education and research

When planning for your family farm’s future, consider tying your passions for agriculture or natural resources to the financial benefits of making a planned gift to CFAES. Contact the CFAES Office of Advancement at 614-292-0473 or faesdevcom@osu.edu for details.

Revised Ohio Agronomy Guide now for sale

The Ohio Agronomy Guide was just revised to offer the most up-to-date guidelines for planting corn, soybeans, wheat and forages in Ohio.

All the guidelines offered in the book are based on research in Ohio fields.

The newly revised publication is $15.75 and will be available soon at OSU Extension county offices or can be purchased online now through the CFAES Publications eStore at go.osu.edu/OhioAgronomyGuide.

5 ways the Gwynne is growing greener — and you can, too

Look for new players like riprap, blazing star and willow fascines in Ohio State’s Gwynne Conservation Area.

The nearly 70-acre facility, part of the Farm Science Review site, has two new projects underway — one to diversify its prairie plantings; the other to protect the banks of Deer Creek, which flows through the grounds.

1. Flower power
Blazing star is one example of the many forbs, or wildflowers, being planted via new seed mixes in the Gwynne’s 10-plus acres of prairie. Asters, milkweeds and coneflowers are others.

2. Bee and wildlife benefits
Previously, the Gwynne’s prairie plantings were mostly just two grasses: big bluestem and Indian grass. The new seed mixes, which add forbs to the grasses, offer more benefits to pollinators (like bees and butterflies) and wildlife.

3. Testing best management methods
The prairie project also is demonstrating forb-friendly management methods — involving disking, burning, removing residue or a combination. Mike Retterer, an Ohio-based biologist with the nonprofit Pheasants Forever, helped develop the strategies.

4. Bank guards
Riprap (large chunks of rock) and willow fascines (bundles of live stems that are planted, take root and grip soil) are two tools helping to restore Deer Creek’s stream bank at the Gwynne.

5. Excavation implementation
As a first step, however, members of the Ohio Land Improvement Contractors of America, a longtime Review partner, will excavate the stream bank, reduce its slope and eliminate an unstable undercut.

Visit the Review’s website at fsr.osu.edu.